

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: April 30, 2003***

TROPICAL SURFACE ANALYSIS

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Tropical Surface Analysis is a graphical marine product that depicts isobars (either two or four millibar spacing), weather features such as fronts, tropical cyclones, high and low pressure centers, and wind barbs. The product is prepared by the Tropical Prediction Center (TPC) and the Honolulu Weather Forecast Office (WFO) covering the Tropical Atlantic and Pacific Ocean marine areas of responsibility (MAOR). The MAOR coverage for this product extends seaward from the coast and includes Coastal Water Forecast areas issued by NWS WFOs.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The product is issued routinely four times per day to describe present marine conditions including any event-driven marine and tropical hazards occurring over the MAOR. This product is intended to provide information assisting in the protection of life and property, and enhancing the nations economy.

3. Audience:

The target audience for this product includes: ocean going vessels, barge operators, private maritime organizations, recreational mariners, commercial fishing vessels, and military and government agencies.

4. Presentation Format:

The product is made available in a graphical format.

5. Feedback Method:

Continuous feedback is available via an Internet page e-mail link to the program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services and to managers and marine focal points at the offices mentioned above. Additional feedback on this product is obtained at Focus Group meetings, Boat Shows, and Customer Surveys.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the Tropical Surface Analysis may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Brian LaMarre W/OS21
Marine Program Manager
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13118
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3285

or e-mail questions and comments to: Brian.Lamarre@noaa.gov

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The Tropical Surface Analysis product is disseminated in graphical format and contains isobars (either two or four millibar spacing), weather features such as fronts, and positions of tropical cyclones, high and low pressure centers, and wind barbs. The product depicts hazardous marine conditions such as gale and storm strength wind and any analyzed tropical events.

Some overlap of coverage area exists over the Pacific and therefore coordination, by telephone, with the two offices mentioned above is done by the issuing office to ensure the products are consistent and compatible.

2. **Availability:**

The product is disseminated four times per day. The product is disseminated via the Internet, and U.S. Coast Guard Radiofax Broadcasts. Additional information on product dissemination is available at:

<http://weather.gov/om/marine/home.htm>.

The following Internet site is one location to access the Tropical Surface Analysis product:

<http://weather.noaa.gov/fax/marine.shtml>.

3. **Additional Information:**

A description of Marine and Coastal Services policy, areas of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, and means of product dissemination for the Surface Forecast product is described in NWS Instructions 10-301, 10-303, 10-304, and 10-311, which are made available on the Internet at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm.