

**Bulleted Coastal/Lakeshore Hazard Message (CFW)  
and Marine Weather Message (MWW)  
Product Description Document**

Part I – Mission Connection

a. Product Description –

During marine weather events affecting multiple forecast zones, CFW (Coastal Hazard Message) and MWW (Marine Weather Message) products become time consuming. Also, the length of the product can make it difficult for users to quickly scan multiple forecast zones for vital storm information. There is a need for a shorter, more concise, bullet-style format for these critical products.

In 2008, the GFE focal point at WFO Reno modified the baseline WSW (Winter Weather Message) and NPW (Non Precipitation Message) formatters to produce an experimental bullet formatted product with a format similar to severe thunderstorm and flash flood warnings. During the 2009/2010 winter season, testing of the bullet formatted WSW/NPW began in Western and Central Region WFOs plus selected offices in other regions. The bullet formatted products are easier for users to read and quickly gather vital watch, warning, and advisory information during hazardous weather events.

The marine program will build upon the favorable feedback received from the public products and utilize the bullet style format for the CFW and MWW products. A coastal storm has the potential to impact both land and marine zones, as well as the dividing coastlines. WFOs may issue WSWs, NPWs, CFWs and MWWs due to various impacts from one storm. Applying this bulleted format to all four of these products will make it easier for users to gather this critical storm information.

Participating offices can be found at the end of this document. All coastal and Great Lakes offices will use this format for the CFW. In addition, all coastal and Great Lakes offices will use this format for the MWW, with the exception of Alaska offices which do not issue the MWW.

a. Purpose – Produce easy to read CFW and MWW products containing the most important storm and impact information during hazardous coastal and marine weather events.

b. Audience – Emergency Managers, Media, Department of Transportation, Coast Guard, Harbormasters, Recreational and Commercial Boaters and the general public.

c. Presentation Format – Text based.

Technical and policy questions and comments on the bulleted CFW and MWW products should be addressed to:

National Weather Service Marine and Coastal Weather Branch - W/OS21  
Attn: David Soroka  
1325 East West Highway,  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301-713-1677 x111  
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A web survey link can also be found at:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=bcfwmww>

e. Examples

***Bulletized Coastal Flood Watch example (WFO Mobile, AL):***

URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED COASTAL HAZARD MESSAGE

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MOBILE AL 306 PM CDT THU APR 29 2010

...AN APPROACHING SPRING TIDE CYCLE AND PERSISTENT STRONG ONSHORE WINDS WILL COMBINE TO ENHANCE THE POTENTIAL FOR MINOR COASTAL FLOODING OVER THE REGION THROUGH THE WEEKEND...

.STRONG ONSHORE FLOW WILL BEGIN TONIGHT AND PERSIST OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS...CAUSING WATER LEVELS TO RISE ALONG AREA BAYS AND WATERWAY SHORELINES...PARTICULARLY SOUTHEAST FACING SHORELINES. THIS COASTAL FLOOD WATCH MAY BE UPGRADED TO A COASTAL FLOOD WARNING IN SUBSEQUENT UPDATES. PERSISTENT STRONG ONSHORE WINDS ARE FORECAST TO DECREASE ON MONDAY AS A COLD FRONT APPROACHES FROM THE WEST.

ALZ063-064-FLZ002-004-300415-/O.NEW.KMOB.CF.A.0001.100430T0000Z-

100503T1800Z/ LOWER MOBILE-LOWER BALDWIN-COASTAL ESCAMBIA-

COASTAL SANTA ROSA-306 PM CDT THU APR 29 2010

...COASTAL FLOOD WATCH IN EFFECT FROM 7 PM

CDT THIS EVENING THROUGH MONDAY AFTERNOON...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN MOBILE HAS ISSUED A COASTAL FLOOD WATCH...WHICH IS IN EFFECT FROM 7 PM CDT THIS EVENING

THROUGH MONDAY AFTERNOON.

\* COASTAL FLOODING: MINOR COASTAL FLOODING IS EXPECTED...AS A RESULT OF ELEVATED TIDE LEVELS COMBINED WITH PERSISTENT SOUTH WINDS...PARTICULARLY ALONG SOUTHEAST FACING SHORELINES AND BARRIER ISLANDS.

\* *Optional timing statement if more detail needed...* TIMING: *as needed*

\* IMPACTS: THIS SITUATION SHOULD RESULT IN NUISANCE TO MINOR COASTAL FLOODING. THIS COASTAL FLOOD WATCH MAY BE UPGRADED TO A COASTAL FLOOD WARNING IN SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A COASTAL FLOOD WATCH MEANS THAT CONDITIONS FAVORABLE FOR FLOODING OR ARE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP. COASTAL RESIDENTS SHOULD BE ALERT FOR LATER STATEMENTS OR WARNINGS...AND TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT PROPERTY.

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***Bulletized High Surf Advisory example (Seattle, WA):***

COASTAL HAZARD MESSAGE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SEATTLE WA 228 AM  
PST SAT FEB 13 2010

...LARGE WAVES EXPECTED ON THE COAST THIS WEEKEND...

.A SERIES OF STRONG STORMS WELL OFFSHORE HAS GENERATED A LARGE SWELL TRAIN THAT IS EXPECTED TO REACH THE COAST TONIGHT AND CONTINUE INTO SUNDAY. THE SWELL HEIGHTS WILL INCREASE THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING AND ARE EXPECTED TO PEAK AROUND 21 FEET LATER TONIGHT INTO SUNDAY MORNING BEFORE SLOWLY DIMINISHING.

WAZ516-517-132315-/O.NEW.KSEW.SU.Y.0004.100214T0200Z-100215T0200Z/

NORTH COAST-CENTRAL COAST-228 AM PST SAT FEB 13 2010

...HIGH SURF ADVISORY IN EFFECT FROM 6 PM THIS  
EVENING TO 6 PM PST SUNDAY...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN SEATTLE HAS ISSUED  
A HIGH SURF ADVISORY...WHICH IS IN EFFECT FROM 6 PM  
THIS EVENING TO 6 PM PST SUNDAY.

\* WAVES AND SURF: LARGE SWELLS UP TO 20 FEET ARE  
EXPECTED THROUGH SUNDAY ALONG THE OUTER WASHINGTON  
COAST...PRODUCING DANGEROUS BREAKING WAVES AT THE SHORE.

\* *Optional timing statement if more detail needed...*  
TIMING: THE HIGHEST WAVES ARE EXPECTED TONIGHT AND EARLY  
SUNDAY...BEFORE DIMINISHING SUNDAY EVENING.

\* IMPACTS: THE LARGE BREAKING WAVES...UP TO 25 FEET...CAN  
EASILY SWEEP PEOPLE OFF JETTIES INTO THE OCEAN.  
ADDITIONALLY...STRONG RIP CURRENTS AND LOCALIZED BEACH EROSION ARE  
POSSIBLE. ANYONE PLANNING ACTIVITIES AT THE BEACH SHOULD REMAIN  
ALERT FOR THESE DEVELOPING CONDITIONS.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A HIGH SURF ADVISORY MEANS THAT HIGH SURF WILL AFFECT  
BEACHES IN THE ADVISORY AREA...PRODUCING RIP CURRENTS  
AND LOCALIZED BEACH EROSION. ALSO...IT IS EXTREMELY  
DANGEROUS TO FISH OR OBSERVE WAVES FROM ROCKS DURING  
HIGH SURF CONDITIONS. UNWARY BEACH WALKERS CAN BE  
CAUGHT OFF GUARD AS WAVES SUDDENLY RACE FARTHER UP  
THE BEACH THAN NORMAL.

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***Bulletized Marine Weather Warning Example (Gale Warning/Small Craft Advisory) from WFO Marquette, MI***

URGENT - MARINE WEATHER

MESSAGE NATIONAL

WEATHER SERVICE

MARQUETTE MI 457 PM EDT

TUE MAY 4 2010

LSZ162-050500-/O.NEW.KMQT.GL.W.0012.100505T0000Z-100505T0600Z/

LAKE SUPERIOR WEST OF A LINE FROM SAXON HARBOR WI TO GRAND

PORTAGE MN BEYOND 5NM-457 PM EDT TUE MAY 4 2010 /357 PM CDT TUE

MAY 4 2010/

...GALE WARNING IN EFFECT FROM 8 PM EDT /7 PM

CDT/ THIS EVENING TO 2 AM EDT /1 AM CDT/

WEDNESDAY...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN MARQUETTE

HAS ISSUED A GALE WARNING...WHICH IS IN

EFFECT FROM 8 PM EDT /7 PM CDT/ THIS EVENING

TO 2 AM EDT /1 AM CDT/ WEDNESDAY.

\* WINDS AND WAVES: STRONG WINDS...WITH GUSTS UP TO 35 KNOTS...ARE EXPECTED THIS EVENING THROUGH WEDNESDAY. ADDITIONALLY...WAVES UP TO 7 FEET ARE EXPECTED.

\* *Optional timing statement if more detail is needed...*  
TIMING: STRONGEST WINDS WILL OCCUR AROUND 10 PM EDT TUESDAY. LARGEST WAVES WILL OCCUR AROUND 1 AM WEDNESDAY.

\* IMPACTS: *as needed and appropriate*

PLEASE SEE THE LATEST MARINE FORECASTS FOR  
MORE DETAILED INFORMATION.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A GALE WARNING MEANS WINDS OF 34 TO 47 KNOTS ARE  
IMMINENT OR OCCURRING. OPERATING A VESSEL IN GALE  
CONDITIONS REQUIRES EXPERIENCE AND PROPERLY  
EQUIPPED VESSELS. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT  
MARINERS WITHOUT THE PROPER EXPERIENCE SEEK SAFE  
HARBOR PRIOR TO THE ONSET OF GALE CONDITIONS.

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LSZ242-050500-

/O.EXB.KMQT.SC.Y.0026.100505T0000Z

-100505T0500Z/ ONTONAGON TO UPPER

ENTRANCE OF PORTAGE CANAL MI-457

PM EDT TUE MAY 4 2010

...SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY IN EFFECT FROM 8 PM THIS  
EVENING TO 1 AM EDT WEDNESDAY...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN MARQUETTE HAS  
ISSUED A SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY...WHICH IS IN  
EFFECT FROM 8 PM THIS EVENING TO 1 AM EDT  
WEDNESDAY.

\* WINDS AND WAVES: SUSTAINED WINDS UP TO 22 KNOTS...WITH GUSTS UP TO 33 KNOTS...ARE EXPECTED THIS EVENING THROUGH EARLY WEDNESDAY MORNING. WAVES UP TO 4 FEET ARE ALSO EXPECTED.

\* *Optional timing statement if more detail is needed...*  
TIMING: STRONGEST WINDS WILL OCCUR AROUND 11 PM EDT THIS EVENING. LARGEST WAVES WILL OCCUR AROUND MIDNIGHT EDT TONIGHT.

\* IMPACTS: *as needed and appropriate*

PLEASE SEE THE LATEST MARINE FORECASTS FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY MEANS THAT WIND SPEEDS OF 22 TO 33 KNOTS ARE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE HAZARDOUS WAVE CONDITIONS TO SMALL CRAFT. INEXPERIENCED MARINERS...ESPECIALLY THOSE OPERATING SMALLER VESSELS SHOULD AVOID NAVIGATING IN THESE CONDITIONS.

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## Part II – Technical Description

a. Format and Science Basis – Using these formatter customizations, forecasters can quickly focus on the most important information users need during coastal storm and marine weather events.

b. Availability – The Coastal Hazard Message (CFW) and Marine Weather Message (MWW) are event driven products.

## List of Participating WFOs

### Western Region (Coastal WFOs)

Eureka, CA (EKA)  
Medford, OR (MFR)  
Monterey, CA (MTR)  
Oxnard, CA (LOX)  
Portland, OR (PQR)  
San Diego, CA (SAN)  
Seattle, WA (SEW)

**Central Region** (Great Lakes WFOs)

Chicago, IL (LOT)  
Detroit, MI (DTX)  
Duluth, MN (DLH)  
Grand Rapids, MI (GRR)  
Green Bay, WI (GRB)  
Marquette, MI (MQT)  
Milwaukee/Sullivan, WI (MKX)  
N C L Michigan/Gaylord, MI (APX)  
Northern Indiana/Webster, IN (IWX)

**Eastern Region** (Coastal And Great Lakes WFOs)

Baltimore, MD - Washington, DC (LWX)  
Boston, MA (BOX)  
Buffalo, NY (BUF)  
Charleston, SC (CHS)  
Cleveland, OH (CLE)  
Newport/Morehead City, NC (MHX)  
New York City, NY (OKX)  
Philadelphia, PA (PHI)  
Portland, ME (GYX)  
Wakefield, VA (AKQ)  
Wilmington, NC (ILM)

**Southern Region** (Coastal WFOs)

Brownsville, TX (BRO)  
Corpus Christi, TX (CRP)  
Houston, TX (HGX)  
Jacksonville, FL (JAX)  
Key West, FL (EYW)  
Lake Charles, LA (LCH)  
Melbourne, FL (MLB)  
Miami, FL (MFL)  
Mobile, AL (MOB)  
New Orleans, LA (LIX)  
San Juan, PR (SJU)  
Tallahasee, FL (TAE)  
Tampa, FL (TBW)

**Alaska Region** (CFW Product Only)

Anchorage, AK (ANC) Juneau, AK (AJK) Fairbanks, AK (AFG)

**Pacific Region**

Honolulu, HI (HFO) Guam (GUM)