

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: June 02, 2003***

COASTAL WATERS FORECAST

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF) is an alphanumeric product providing information on marine conditions such as wind, waves, and significant weather. Information on visibility, icing, and air temperature is provided if the forecaster considers this information significant. This product is prepared for each National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) coastal waters marine area of responsibility (MAOR). The MAOR is not consistent for all parts of the United States, for most WFOs, it varies in width from the coastline to between 20 and 60 nautical miles off of the coastline.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The product is issued routinely at least twice per day, and updated when necessary, to describe marine analysis and forecast conditions including any event-driven marine and tropical hazards occurring or expected over the MAOR for the five day forecast period. This product is prepared for marine areas such as bays, harbors, sounds and coastal waters along the coastline out to the Offshore marine zone. For WFO Guam and WSO Pago Pago, American Samoa, the coastal waters extend out to the High Seas marine zone. 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 the product includes: ocean going vessels, barge and tug boat operators; private maritime organizations; recreational mariners; national, state, and local emergency managers; military and government agencies; media; and the general public.

4. Presentation Format:

The product is made available in alphanumeric format, and is prepared in a consistent manner from all WFOs with coastal waters MAOR. Any unique differences in the CWF due to local geography or regional customer requests are described in NWS policy documents made available on the Internet at:

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

5. Feedback Method:

Continuous feedback is available via an Internet page email link to the program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services. Feedback on this product is obtained at Focus Group meetings, from Boat Shows, and Customer Surveys.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the CWF 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 CWF product is disseminated in alphanumeric format and contains a narrative synopsis, and descriptive phrases for forecast weather conditions for specified temporal intervals out to the day five forecast period. The product describes routine weather elements and hazardous marine and tropical events and includes watches, warnings and advisories for significant weather. The product is written in a standard and concise format with all required weather elements.

Coordination with neighboring WFOs and the NWS national centers with marine and tropical responsibility such as the Ocean Prediction Center, the Tropical Prediction Center, the Central Pacific Hurricane Center, the Storm Prediction Center, and the Hydrometeorological Prediction Center is done by the issuing office to ensure the products are consistent and compatible.

2. **Availability:**

The product is disseminated routinely twice per day, and is updated on an unscheduled basis. The product is made available via various means of dissemination such as: the Internet, U.S. Coast Guard Radio Broadcasts, the NOAA Weather Radio, and the NOAA Weather Wire. Additional information on Marine and Coastal product dissemination is available at:

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

The following WWW Internet site is one location to access the CWF product:

<http://weather.gov/om/marine/forecast.htm#bay>.

3. **Additional Information:**

A description of Marine and Coastal Services policy, area of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, and means of product dissemination for the CWF product is described in NWS Instructions 10-301 to 10-304, and also in 10-310 which are made available on the Internet at:

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