

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

FIVE DAY SEA ICE FORECAST

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Five Day Sea Ice Forecast is a hand-drawn graphic depicting forecast sea ice conditions over the waters surrounding Alaska valid at the day five period. This forecast area extends from west from the Kenai Peninsula to the International Date Line and north to the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The Five Day Sea Ice Forecast is issued routinely three times per week, and updated when necessary, to aid ships navigating the sea waters surrounding Alaska. The information is critical for vessels in planning a safe route through waters routinely impacted by sea ice movement. This product is intended to provide information to assist in the protection of life and property and enhance the nations economy.

3. Audience:

The target audience for the product includes: all vessels working in or traveling through the waters surrounding Alaska; climate research scientists; military and government agencies; and private consulting meteorologists and oceanographers.

4. Presentation Format:

This is a hand-drawn graphical product presented in portable network graphics (png) format for distribution via Marine Radio Facsimile broadcast and in Compuserve Graphics Interface (gif) format for distribution via the Internet.

5. Feedback Method:

The Internet web page containing the Alaska suite of sea ice products specifically requests comments and provides telephone numbers and an E-Mail address for the ice forecaster at the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Anchorage. The Radio Facsimile broadcast schedule contains a "Request for Comments" product that is designed to solicit feedback and provides mariners with contact information for the Meteorologist in Charge at WFO Anchorage. Feedback on this product is also obtained at Focus Group meetings, from Boat Shows, and Customer Surveys.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the Alaska Region Five Day Sea Ice Forecast 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 email questions and comments to: Brian.Lamarre@noaa.gov

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The Five Day Sea Ice Forecast is a hand-drawn graphic depicting the forecast location of the sea ice edge, shorefast ice, and open water in Cook Inlet, the Kodiak Island waters, and the Bering Sea to the International Date Line at the day five period. During the warm season, the projection for this forecast graphic shifts northward to include the Arctic Ocean, once most of the Bering Sea is ice-free. Sea ice concentration and thickness is also indicated in terms of specified intervals in inches and centimeters.

Coordination with the National Ice Center is done by the issuing office to ensure the products are consistent and compatible.

2. **Availability:**

The Five Day Sea Ice Forecast is disseminated routinely three times per week by WFO Anchorage and is updated on an unscheduled basis. The product is made available via various means of dissemination such as: the Internet, File Transfer Protocol (ftp) E-Mail, and Marine Radio Facsimile Broadcast. Additional information on Marine and Coastal product dissemination is available at:

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

3. **Additional Information:**

Marine and Coastal Services policies, areas of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, dissemination methods, and product specifications for Ocean Sea Ice Services are documented in NWS Instructions 10-301 to 10-304 and 10-330. These documents are made available on the Internet at:

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