

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT

Marine Weather Warning (MWW)

**National Weather Service
Marine Weather Warning
Product Description Document (PDD)**

Part I – Mission Connection

a. Product Description – The Marine Weather Warning (MWW) product is a text bulletin intended to better inform mariners of adverse non-precipitation conditions. It will also provide consistency of the National Weather Service (NWS) Coastal Weather Forecasts (CWFs), Great Lakes Open Lakes Forecasts (GLFs) and Great Lakes near shore forecasts (NSHs) with other NWS programs (winter weather, hydrologic, non-precipitation and coastal hazards).

The MWW will be disseminated by the National Weather Service (NWS) to mariners, emergency managers, the media, the commercial weather enterprise, and the general public consistent with other marine and public watch/warning/advisory products. Technological advances may allow many customers to be alerted to marine hazards more quickly by providing access to the MWW through cell phones, PDAs, or satellite communications, earlier than the traditional marine forecast process.

The MWW will be used to issue watches, warnings, and advisories for the following marine or Great Lake conditions:

- Hurricane Force Wind
- Storm
- Gale
- Hazardous Seas
- Small Craft Advisory
- Low Water Advisory
- Freezing Spray
- Low visibility (fog, volcanic ash, smoke)

The MWW allows the forecaster to state the marine hazard (Small Craft Advisory, Gale, etc.) and elaborate on the synoptic cause of the hazard (STRONG LOW PRESSURE OVER THE GULF OF ALASKA WILL MOVE INTO THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATERS BY THURSDAY).

b. Purpose- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) NWS is the official United States governmental agency issuing warnings during life-threatening weather situations. The mission includes forecasts and warnings for the US, adjacent coastal waters and ocean areas for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. The provision of the MWW is consistent with the NWS mission where it states NWS data and products form a national information

database and infrastructure, which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community.

c. Audience - The target audience for the MWW includes recreational boaters, commercial fishermen, merchant vessels, ferry operators, the cruise industry, emergency managers, coastal communities, the oil industry (oil rigs and services), the Dept. of Defense (Navy, Marine Corps), and the Dept. of Homeland Security (USCG).

d. Presentation Format - The MWW will be a marine warning product with Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) headings transmitted via AWIPS and the SBN, and therefore be more easily parsed by computer systems for dissemination separate from the body of marine forecasts.

Part II - Technical Description

a. Format and Science Basis – The MWW will be provided via the AWIPS base line in text format with VTEC, UGC, and WMO headings.

The MWW:

- Standardizes procedures for forecasters
- Provides a needed warning tool
- Provides a marine version of the “watch” product
- Is a vehicle to carry VTEC from the CWF and NSH
- Fills a VTEC hole in the GLF

Provides value to users and partners by:

- Allowing for more detailed warning information
- Making the marine hazard information more readily accessible, usable, understandable and consistent nationally.
- Being easier to obtain using automated means

b. Product Availability – The MWW will be issued when conditions warrant, during the routine marine forecast cycle every 6 or 12 hours (varies by region) and when amendments are needed for unscheduled forecast changes.