

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: June 04, 2003***

NEARSHORE FORECAST

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Nearshore Forecast (NSH) 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 to be significant. The product is issued routinely during the boating season which is dependent on ice conditions. It usually begins around April 1 and ends in late December. This product is prepared for each National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) whose Marine Area of Responsibility (MAOR) includes Great Lake waters located within the United States. The Nearshore waters refer to the over water area extending to five nautical miles perpendicular from the shore line.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The Nearshore Forecast is issued at least four times per day, and updated when necessary, to describe forecast conditions including any event-driven marine hazards occurring or expected over the nearshore waters for a 48 hour forecast period. 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 of the product is the recreational mariner, though can also include: large shippers, barge and tug boat operators; private maritime organizations; 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 forecast responsibility for the nearshore waters. Any unique differences in the NSH 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 NSH may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Brian LaMarre W/OS21
Marine Program Manager
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13118
Silver Spring, MD 21910-3285

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

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The NSH product is disseminated in alphanumeric format and contains descriptive phrases for forecast weather conditions for specified temporal intervals out forty eight hours. The product describes routine weather elements and hazardous marine 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 WFO with the open lake responsibility is done by the issuing office to ensure the products are consistent and compatible.

2. **Availability:**

The product is disseminated routinely four times per day, and is updated on an unscheduled basis as needed. 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 NSH product:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/forecast.htm#nsh>.

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 NSH product is described in NWS Instructions 10-301 to 10-304, and also in 10-312 which are made available on the Internet at:

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