

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: April 30, 2003***

SPECIAL MARINE WARNING

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Special Marine Warning (SMW) is an alphanumeric product providing short-fused information on extreme marine conditions associated with thunderstorms and/or waterspouts. 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 nation, for most WFOs, it varies in width from 40 to 60 nautical miles off of the U.S. coastline, and territories.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The product is issued and updated on an unscheduled basis, for localized, short duration, hazardous conditions, such as waterspouts and thunderstorms capable of producing winds of 34 knots or greater, and/or hail 3/4 inch in diameter or larger, not adequately covered by existing marine warnings and forecasts. This product is generally restricted to the 0 to 2 hour time frame from issuance, and is prepared for marine areas such as bays, harbors, sounds and coastal waters along the U.S. 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 a bulleted alphanumeric format, and is prepared in a consistent manner from all WFOs with coastal waters MAOR. Any unique differences in the SMW 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 SMW 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 SMW product is disseminated in an alphanumeric format and contains the coastal zone(s) affected, the reason for the warning issuance, the type and magnitude of the expected severe weather, the warning expiration time, and an appropriate call-to-action statement. The product is written in a bulleted format with all required warning elements.

2. **Availability:**

The product is disseminated and 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 SMW product:

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

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 SMW product is contained in NWS Instruction 10-313, which is made available on the Internet at:

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