

Sea State Analysis

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT

Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Product Description - The Sea State Analysis is a graphical marine product that depicts surface sea state and primary swell direction. These analyses are prepared from observational data reported from maritime observing systems. The product is prepared by the Ocean Prediction Center (OPC), over the North Atlantic and Pacific Oceans north of 15 degrees north. It is prepared by the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) of the Tropical Prediction Center (TPC) over the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic from 7 degrees to 31 degrees north and west of 35 degrees west. The marine areas of responsibility (MAOR) for these products, the High Seas Zones, extends seaward from the coast and includes both the Coastal Waters and Offshore Marine Zones.
- b. Purpose - The product is issued routinely two times per day from the TAFB and OPC, and a limited domain product from OPC is made available every three hours. The product depicts sea state conditions over the MAOR. This product is intended to provide information assisting in the protection of life and property, and enhancing the nation's economy.
- c. Audience - The target audience for this product includes: ocean going vessels, barge operators, private maritime organizations, recreational mariners, commercial fishing vessels, and military and government agencies.
- d. Presentation Format - The product is made available in a graphical format, and is disseminated via the U.S. Coast Guard Radiofax and the Internet.
- e. Feedback Method - Continuous feedback is available via an Internet page e-mail link to the program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services and to managers of the OPC and TAFB. Additional feedback on this product is obtained at Focus Group meetings, Boat Shows, and Customer Surveys.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the Surface Analysis may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Brian LaMarre W/OS21
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1325 East-West Highway, Room 13118
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or e-mail questions and comments to: Brian.Lamarre@noaa.gov

Part II - Technical Description

- a. Format & Science Basis - The Sea State Analysis product is disseminated in graphical format and depicts isopleths in meters, with the primary swell direction arrows. The ice edge is also included in the analyses when appropriate. The analyses are prepared with a subjective technique that combines observational data and numerical forecasts and analyses in areas where in-situ data is sparse.
- b. Product Availability - The full ocean domain product is disseminated two times per day for the Atlantic Ocean from TAFB and for both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans from the OPC. The product is disseminated via the Internet, the Family of Services, and the U.S. Coast Guard Radiofax Broadcasts. Additional information on product dissemination is available at:

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

The following Internet sites provide access to the Sea State Analysis products:

<http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/shtml/ira1.gif>

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/tafb/atlsea_12.gif

- c. Additional Information - A description of Marine and Coastal Services policy, areas of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, and means of product dissemination for the Surface Forecast product is described in NWS Instructions 10-301, 10- 303, 10-304, and 10-311, which are made available on the Internet at:

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