

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

SATELLITE INTERPRETATION MESSAGE

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Satellite Interpretation Message (SIM) is an alphanumeric product providing an interpretation of synoptic weather features, significant weather areas, and various cloud and weather phenomena based upon satellite imagery (visual, infrared, water vapor, etc.). National Weather Services Pacific Regions Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Honolulu prepares the SIM for a portion of their area of responsibility (AOR). The AORs for WFOs Honolulu vary and depend upon the program (tropical cyclone, aviation, marine, public, and satellite). For the SIM program, WFO Honolulu AOR is from 140W to 180W longitude between 10N and 30N latitude. The office can include a description of more distant features if these features relate to significant weather affecting or will soon affect WFO Honolulu AOR. WFO Honolulu determined the criteria for significant cloud features based upon customers inputs.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

Customers use the SIM to locate hazardous weather areas over land and sea, to locate good fishing areas, to locate obscured higher terrain, to describe general meteorological conditions, and to make plans for outdoor events, and other activities.

3. Audience:

The target audience for the product includes: media, airline dispatchers and flight crews, military, barge and tugboat operators, maritime organizations, recreational mariners, and the general public.

4. Presentation Format:

alphanumeric.

5. Feedback Method:

Users can provide continuous feedback through e-mail links to the local program managers via the WFO Honolulu Internet web site and via e-mail links to the program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch, National Weather Service (NWS) Headquarters. WFO Honolulu also obtains feedback through meetings with interested mariners, media, airlines, the military, harbor masters, cruise marina operators, Coast Guard, Navy, and through Customer Surveys.

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

National Weather Service
Attn: Scott Kiser W/OS21
Tropical Cyclone Program Manager

1325 East-West Highway Rm 13126
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3285
or e-mail questions and comments to: scott.kiser@noaa.gov.

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

WFO Honolulu prepares and disseminates the SIM in an alphanumeric format. The product contains a description of synoptic weather features, significant weather areas, and significant cloud and meteorological features as determined by GOES weather satellite imagery and other observational data.

2. **Availability:**

WFO Honolulu prepares the SIM based upon interpretation of satellite imagery and other observational data four times per day (0030 UTC, 0530 UTC, 1230 UTC, and 1830 UTC). WFO Honolulu disseminates this product via NOAA Weather Wire, the internet, and other means. Additional information on satellite product dissemination is available at:

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/pages/satellite.html>.

The following Internet site is one location to access the SIM product:

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/pages/sim.html>.

3. **Additional Information:**

A description of the SIM policy, area of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, and means of product dissemination is located in NWS Instruction 10-601 which is available via the Internet at:

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