Proposed Marine Product Consolidation and Reformatting
Product Description Document

Part I - Mission Connection


Consolidate the following products into a “Marine Advisory” with a MA.Y VTEC Code:

- Brisk Wind Advisory
- Freezing Spray Advisory
- Low Water Advisory
- Small Craft Advisory
- Small Craft Advisory for Hazardous Seas
- Small Craft Advisory for Rough Bar
- Small Craft Advisory for Winds

Consolidate the following products into a “Marine Watch” with a MA.A VTEC Code:

- Gale Watch
- Storm Watch
- Hurricane Force Wind Watch
- Heavy Freezing Spray Watch
- Hazardous Seas Watch

Consolidate the following products into a “Marine Warning” with a MA.W VTEC Code:

- Gale Warning
- Storm Warning
- Hurricane Force Wind Warning
- Heavy Freezing Spray Warning
- Hazardous Seas Warning
- Special Marine Warning (Note: While the Special Marine Warning would be consolidated into a Marine Warning, it would maintain a separate VTEC code suited to Impact Based Warnings for short fused events)

Consolidate the following products into a “Beach Advisory” with a BH.Y VTEC Code:

- Beach Hazards Statement
- High Surf Advisory

Consolidate the following products into a “Beach Watch” with a BH.A VTEC Code:
- Rip Current Statement
- High Surf Warning

Consolidate the following product into a “Beach Warning” with a BH.W VTEC Code:
- Rip Current Statement
- High Surf Warning

Instead of issuing any of the proposed consolidated products, pertinent information regarding these hazards would be contained in the “What” section of the reformatted message. In addition, the VTEC codes for these consolidated products would be discontinued.

A conceptual overview of this consolidation is available [here](#).

b. **Product Type** - Proposed Operational

c. **Purpose** - One of the outcomes of the Hazard Simplification (Haz Simp) Workshop and other feedback mechanisms so far indicates strong support for an amalgamation and shortening of NWS hazard products. Currently, over 100 outlooks, watches, warnings and statements populate the official Watch/Warning/Advisory (WWA) map. This vast number of products often causes customer confusion and, in the worst cases, leads to customer indifference to critical NWS life-saving information. NWS has identified a requirement to reduce the number of marine products as well as to simplify and shorten the information – with a focus on impacts.

d. **Audience** - The target audiences for this product are customers and partners such as emergency managers, mariners, state and local officials including school superintendents, departments of transportation, media and the general public.

e. **Presentation Format** - These are text based products which appear over the WWA page and all other standard dissemination methods. Some are sent via NOAA Weather Radio and the Emergency Alert System.

Customer comments or questions on the proposed new products may be addressed to:

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National Weather Service (NWS) Headquarters
E-mail: darren.wright@noaa.gov
Phone: 301-427-9283

**Part II – Technical Description**

a. **Format and Science Basis** - The proposed format is described in Part I under “Presentation Format.” As for the scientific basis, forecasters will use available tools to determine the risk of these hazards occurring in their areas and issue according to criteria and expected impacts.
b. **Availability** - If approved for operational use, these proposed products will be available at all times and issued when criteria are met.

Note: The proposed product consolidation is only for coastal and nearshore products at this time. Due to international marine forecast policies from the World Meteorological Organization, the NWS will not apply this consolidation effort to NWS Offshore and High Seas Products at this time.

Additionally, marine products associated with impacts to visibility (e.g. dense fog advisory and ashfall products) are not being considered for consolidation at this time. NWS is considering alternative means for consolidating hazards related to visibility to support consistent messaging for marine and land-based impacts.

Examples below:

**Proposed and Current Marine Examples**

1. **Proposed Marine Advisory**

   URGENT - MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE  
   National Weather Service Seattle WA  
   848 AM PDT Wed Jul 19 2017  
   
   PZZ133-200000-  
   /O.NEW.KSEW.MA.Y.0177.170720T0100Z-170720T1000Z/  
   Northern Inland Waters Including The San Juan Islands-  
   848 AM PDT Wed Jul 19 2017  
   
   ..MARINE ADVISORY IN EFFECT...  

   * WHAT...Hazardous wind for small craft expected. Winds will be 15 to 25 knots with higher gusts.  
   * WHERE...Northern inland waters including the San Juan Islands  
   * WHEN...6 PM Wednesday to 3 PM Thursday  
   * ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Strongest winds will be furthest south  
   * PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...Winds and seas will create a potential hazard to smaller vessels and inexperienced mariners.  

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Current Product

URGENT - MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE
National Weather Service Seattle WA
848 AM PDT Wed Jul 19 2017

PZZ133-200000-
/O.NEW.KSEW.SC.Y.0177.170720T0100Z-170720T1000Z/
Northern Inland Waters Including The San Juan Islands-
848 AM PDT Wed Jul 19 2017

...SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY IN EFFECT FROM 6 PM THIS EVENING TO 3 AM PDT THURSDAY...

The National Weather Service in Seattle has issued a Small Craft Advisory...which is in effect from 6 PM this evening To 3 AM PDT Thursday.

* WINDS...Southwest 15 to 25 knots. Strongest winds far south part.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A Small Craft Advisory means that wind speeds of 21 to 33 knots are expected to produce hazardous wave conditions to small craft. Inexperienced mariners...especially those operating smaller vessels should avoid navigating in these conditions.

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2. Proposed Marine Warning

URGENT - MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE
National Weather Service New York NY
343 PM EST Sat Jan 21 2017

ANZ338-340-345-221100-
/O.UPG.KOKX.MA.A.0001.170123T0600Z-170124T0600Z/
/O.NEW.KOKX.MA.W.0001.170123T0600Z-170124T0600Z/
New York Harbor-Peconic And Gardiners Bays-South Shore Bays From Jones Inlet Through Shinnecock Bay-
343 PM EST Sat Jan 21 2017

...MARINE WARNING IN EFFECT...

* WHAT... Storm Force Winds are expected.
* WHERE...Lower New York Bay, Raritan Bay, and Gardiners Bay.

* WHEN...1 AM Monday to 1 AM Tuesday

* ADDITIONAL DETAILS... East winds 30 to 40 kt with gusts up to 50 kt. Seas 4 to 6 feet.

*PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...Storm force winds are sustained winds or frequent gusts of 48 to 63 kt. Recreational boaters should remain in port, or take shelter until winds and waves subside. Commercial vessels should prepare for very strong winds and dangerous sea conditions, and consider remaining in port or taking shelter in port until winds and waves subside.

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Current Product

URGENT - MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE
National Weather Service New York Ny
343 PM EST Sat Jan 21 2017

...STORM FORCE WINDS EXPECTED LATE SUNDAY NIGHT INTO MONDAY NIGHT...

AN2338-340-345-221100-
/O.UPG.KOKX.SR.A.0001.170123T0600Z-170124T0600Z/
/O.NEW.KOKX.SR.W.0001.170123T0600Z-170124T0600Z/
New York Harbor-Peconic And Gardiners Bays-South Shore Bays From Jones Inlet Through Shinnecock Bay-
343 PM EST Sat Jan 21 2017

...STORM WARNING IN EFFECT FROM 1 AM MONDAY TO 1 AM EST TUESDAY...

The National Weather Service in Upton has issued a Storm Warning...which is in effect from 1 AM Monday To 1 AM EST Tuesday. The Storm Watch is no longer in effect.

* WINDS AND SEAS...East winds 30 to 40 kt with gusts up to 50 kt. Seas 4 to 6 feet on lower New York Bay, Raritan Bay, and Gardiners bay.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A Storm Warning means sustained winds or frequent gusts of 48 to 63 kt are expected or occurring. Recreational boaters should remain in port...or take shelter until winds and waves subside. Commercial vessels should prepare for very strong winds and dangerous sea conditions...and consider remaining in port or taking shelter in port until winds and waves subside.
3. Proposed Marine Watch

URGENT - MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE
National Weather Service Detroit MI
339 PM EST Mon Jan 9 2017

LCZ460-LEZ444-100930-
/O.NEW.KDTX.MA.A.0004.170110T1800Z-170111T0300Z/
Lake St. Clair-Michigan Waters Of Lake Erie From Detroit River To North Cape MI-
339 PM EST Mon Jan 9 2017

...MARINE WATCH IN EFFECT...

* WHAT...Gale Force winds are possible.

* WHERE...Lake St. Clair and Michigan waters of Lake Erie from Detroit River to North Cape Michigan.

* WHEN...Tuesday afternoon through Tuesday evening.

* ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Sustained winds up to 28 knots from the southwest with gusts up to 37 knots. The maximum winds are expected around 6 PM EST Tuesday.

* PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...Gale Force winds are sustained winds of 34 to 47 knots. This Marine Watch intended to provide additional lead time for mariners who may wish to consider altering their plans. The specific timing and/or location of the gale force winds is still uncertain.

Current Product

LCZ460-LEZ444-100930-
/O.NEW.KDTX.GL.A.0004.170110T1800Z-170111T0300Z/
Lake St. Clair-Michigan Waters of Lake Erie From Detroit River To North Cape MI-
339 PM EST Mon Jan 9 2017

...GALE WATCH IN EFFECT FROM TUESDAY AFTERNOON THROUGH TUESDAY EVENING...
The National Weather Service in Detroit/Pontiac has issued a Gale Watch...which is in effect from Tuesday afternoon through Tuesday evening.

* WIND: During the Gale Watch...expect sustained winds up to 28 knots from the southwest with gusts up to 37 knots.

* TIMING: The maximum winds are expected around 6 PM EST Tuesday. Refer to the latest marine forecasts for greater detail.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...
A Gale Watch is issued when the risk of gale force winds of 34 to 47 knots has significantly increased...but the specific timing and/or location is still uncertain. It is intended to provide additional lead time for mariners who may wish to consider altering their plans.

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4. Proposed Beach Advisory

URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED
Coastal Hazard Message
National Weather Service Tampa Bay Ruskin FL
1120 AM EDT Fri May 29 2015

FLZ160-162-165-292330-
/O.NEW.KTBW.???.?/ 0001.150529T1520Z-150530T1800Z/
Coastal Sarasota-Coastal Charlotte-Coastal Lee-
1120 AM EDT Fri May 29 2015

...Beach Advisory in effect...

* WHAT...High respiratory irritation associated with Florida Red Tide expected.

* WHERE...Some areas of Charlotte and Lee Counties. NOAA Forecast:
Southern Sarasota County: Gulf Coast...possible Friday and Saturday. Bay regions...possible Saturday.
Northern/southern Charlotte County: gulf coast...possible Friday and Saturday. Bay regions of southern Charlotte...possible Friday and Saturday.
Northern/central/southern Lee County: Gulf Coast and Bay regions...possible Friday and Saturday.

* WHEN...Through Saturday
* ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Red tide potential impacts...Symptoms may include coughing...sneezing...and tearing eyes. People with respiratory Conditions such as asthma...emphysema and other pulmonary diseases...may be more sensitive. Irritation may vary locally and throughout the day.

*PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...You can find unaffected beaches by checking reports of recent...local observations and data:

**Current Product**

URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED
Coastal Hazard Message
National Weather Service Tampa Bay Ruskin FL
1120 AM EDT Fri May 29 2015

FLZ160-162-165-292330-
/O.NEW.KTBW.BH.S.0001.150529T1520Z-150530T1800Z/
Coastal Sarasota-Coastal Charlotte-Coastal Lee-
1120 AM EDT Fri May 29 2015

...Beach Hazards Statement now in effect through Friday evening...

A Beach Hazards Statement is in effect for potentially high respiratory irritation associated with Florida red tide in some areas of Charlotte and Lee counties through Saturday.

* Red tide hazards...Possible respiratory irritation in some coastal areas. For red tide forecast information visit http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab (all lower case).

* Red tide potential impacts... Symptoms may include coughing...sneezing...and tearing eyes. People with respiratory Conditions such as asthma...emphysema and other pulmonary diseases...may be more sensitive. Irritation may vary locally and throughout the day. If you experience uncomfortable symptoms...consider going to an unaffected beach nearby.

* Florida red tide respiratory irritation timing/location...NOAA Forecast:
   Southern Sarasota County: Gulf Coast...possible Friday and Saturday. Bay regions...possible Saturday.
   Northern/southern Charlotte County: gulf coast...possible Friday and Saturday. Bay regions of southern Charlotte...possible Friday and Saturday.
   Northern/central/southern Lee County: Gulf Coast and Bay regions...possible Friday and Saturday.
Precautionary/Preparedness Actions...You can find unaffected beaches by checking reports of recent...local observations and data:

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5. Proposed Beach Warning

URGENT - COASTAL HAZARD MESSAGE
National Weather Service San Juan PR
411 AM AST July 19 2017

PRZ003-005-007-008-011-VIZ002-191615/
O.NEW.TJSJ.BH.W.0042.170719T1000Z-170720T1000Z/
Southeast-North Central-Ponce and vicinity-Northwest-Southwest-St Croix-
411 AM AST Wed Jul 19 2017

...Beach Warning in effect...

* WHAT...Life Threatening Rip Currents are expected.

* WHERE...Northwest to north central and southwest to southeast beaches of Puerto Rico and St Croix beaches.

* WHEN...Through 6 am AST Thursday morning.

* ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Strong currents can carry away even the best swimmers.

*PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don’t swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help

Current Product

COASTAL HAZARD MESSAGE
National Weather Service San Juan PR
411 AM AST Wed Jul 19 2017

PRZ003-005-007-008-011-VIZ002-191615/
O.NEW.TJSJ.RP.S.0042.170719T1000Z-170720T1000Z/
Southeast-North Central-Ponce and vicinity-Northwest-Southwest-St Croix-
411 AM AST Wed Jul 19 2017
...High Rip Current Risk in effect through 6 AM AST Thursday morning...

The National Weather Service in San Juan has issued a High Rip Current Risk, which is in effect through late tonight.

* LOCATION...Northwest to north central and southwest to southeast beaches of Puerto Rico and St Croix beaches.

* TIMING...Through 6 AM AST Thursday morning.

* IMPACTS...Strong currents that can carry away even the best swimmers.

*PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

There is a high risk of rip currents. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don’t swim against the current. if able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help.

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6. Proposed Beach Watch

URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED
Coastal Hazard Message
National Weather Service Miami FL
415 AM EDT Tue May 3 2016

FLZ172-173-031800-
/O.NEW.KMFL.8/.0022.000000T0000Z-160503T1800Z/

Coastal Broward-Coastal Miami-Dade-
415 AM EDT Tue May 3 2016

...Beach Watch in effect...

* WHAT...Life Threatening Rip currents are possible.

* WHERE... Beaches of Broward and Miami-Dade Counties.

* WHEN...Through early afternoon.

* ADDITIONAL DETAILS ... Rip currents can create dangerous conditions for swimmers.
*PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS... Rip currents are powerful channels of water flowing quickly away from shore...which occur most often at low spots or breaks in the sandbar and in the vicinity of structures such as groins...jetties and piers. Heed the advice of lifeguards...Beach Patrol flags and signs.

If you become caught in a rip current...yell for help. Remain calm...do not exhaust yourself and stay afloat while waiting for help. If you have to swim out of a rip current...swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly.

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**Current Product**

URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED
Coastal Hazard Message

National Weather Service Miami FL

415 AM EDT Tue May 3 2016

FLZ172-173-031800-/O.NEW.KMFL.RP.S.0022. 000000T0000Z-160503T1800Z/

Coastal Broward-Coastal Miami-Dade-

415 AM EDT Tue May 3 2016

...Moderate rip current risk remains in effect until 2 pm EDT this afternoon...

* Timing...Through early afternoon.

* Impacts...Rip currents may create dangerous conditions for swimmers along the beaches of Broward and Miami-Dade Counties.

Precautionary/Preparedness Actions...There is a moderate risk of rip currents. Rip currents are powerful channels of water flowing quickly away from shore...which occur most often at low spots or breaks in the sandbar and in the vicinity of structures such as groins...jetties and piers. Heed the advice of lifeguards...Beach Patrol flags and signs.
If you become caught in a rip current...yell for help. Remain calm...do not exhaust yourself and stay afloat while waiting for help. If you have to swim out of a rip current...swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly.

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