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Public Information Statement, Comment Request Amended  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
350 PM EDT Thu Mar 21 2013

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From:         Mark Tew  
              Chief, Marine and Coastal Services Branch

Subject: Amended: Experimental Gridded Marine Offshore and High Seas  
Forecasts in the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD): Effective  
Wednesday, March 20, 2013

This notice was amended to additionally notify users the National  
Hurricane Center (NHC) will delete the Tropical Analysis and Forecast  
Branch (TAFB) experimental gridded marine offshore and high seas forecasts  
webpage referenced below when the new National Digital Forecast Database  
(NDFD) oceanic grid becomes available for display on the experimental NDFD  
map viewer:

[http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/tafb/gridded\\_marine/index.php](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/tafb/gridded_marine/index.php)

Effective Wednesday March 20, 2013, at 1200 Coordinated Universal Time  
(UTC), the NWS Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) will begin  
providing, on an experimental basis, gridded forecasts of four marine  
weather elements over its offshore waters and high seas forecast areas of  
responsibility (AOR) in the Atlantic and Pacific. The grids will be  
included in NDFD. The Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) will begin providing  
offshore grids on May 1, 2013. OPC high seas forecasts grids are expected  
to be added during 2014. The Honolulu Weather Forecast Office (WFO) will  
provide grids when necessary hardware improvements are completed later  
this year.

The WFOs in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau, AK, currently provide five  
variables over their offshore waters on an experimental basis to the NDFD  
in the Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska basins.

The TAFB experimental 5-day forecasts of gridded mean sea level pressure,  
surface (10-meter) winds, and significant wave heights on the National  
Hurricane Center webpage at:

[http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/tafb/gridded\\_marine/index.php](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/tafb/gridded_marine/index.php)

will be discontinued when the new NDFD oceanic grid becomes available for  
display on the experimental NDFD map viewer.

The gridded marine parameters include surface wind direction and speed, wind gusts, significant wave heights, and marine hazards. The Alaska offices also produce a weather grid.

The upper right latitude, longitude for this new oceanic grid is:

79.99N, 10.71E

The lower left corner lies directly on National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) grid 204 point, which coincides with all other Pacific region NDFD grids. The lower left latitude, longitude for this grid is:

30.42S, 129.91E

Specific information on the grid domain can be found at:

<http://graphical.weather.gov/docs/ndfdSRS.htm>

Areas of the new offshore grids that coincide with the NDFD contiguous U.S. (CONUS) grid will be included in the CONUS mosaic.

Each offshore and high seas producer will update their grids at least four times per day.

As of March 20, 2013, experimental marine grids are online at:

<http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.oceanic/VP.001-003/>

<http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.oceanic/VP.004-007/>

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.oceanic/VP.001-003/>

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.oceanic/VP.004-007/>

More details regarding these elements are available in the Product Description Document in the online catalog of Experimental NWS products and services available at:

[https://products.weather.gov/PDD/Ex\\_Grid\\_Offshore\\_HS\\_ndfd.pdf](https://products.weather.gov/PDD/Ex_Grid_Offshore_HS_ndfd.pdf)

With this implementation, forecasts for these new zones will be available from NDFD in the following standard methods:

- Gridded Binary Version 2 (GRIB2) files via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
- Extensible Markup Language (XML) via Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)
- Graphics via web browser

Graphics for the oceanic grid will be available via the new experimental NDFD map viewer located at:

<http://preview.weather.gov/graphical/>

Both graphics, and XML via SOAP will become available within 30 days of these grids being produced.

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

<http://ndfd.weather.gov/technical.htm>

Comments and feedback on these experimental TAFB Offshore and High Seas NDFD elements, as well as the OPC Offshore elements, are welcome at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=EGOSWHSMF>

GRIB2 users:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=ndfd-grids>

Users OF XML SOAP service:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=xmlsoap>

NDFD online graphics:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=gfp>

These new Offshore and High Seas Marine elements will remain experimental until NWS assesses feedback and completes a technical analysis. At that time, the NWS will determine whether to move these experimental elements to operational status, discontinue them, or revise and extend the experimental feedback period.

If March 20, 2013 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation date will be postponed. Users will be notified of that decision via another Public Information Statement and a new implementation date will be established.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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For general questions regarding NDFD data, please email:

[nws.ndfd@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.ndfd@noaa.gov)

For technical questions regarding NDFD data, please contact:

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NDFD Public Information Statements are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/tins.htm>

National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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