

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-23

APRIL 22, 2014

Operations and Services

MARINE OBSERVATION PROGRAM

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

OPR: W/OPS5 (H. Portmann)

Certified by: W/OPS (D.R. Jones)

Type of Issuance: Routine

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:

This directive supersedes NWSPD 10-23 “Marine Observation Program”, dated November 2, 2009. Changes made: OPR to H. Portmann, Certifier to D.R. Jones and Approving Official to L. Uccellini. There are no content changes to this policy.

Signed

April 8, 2014

Louis W. Uccellini
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services

Date

1. Information on the state of the atmosphere, including the land and ocean environments, is an essential element of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) mission. To meet this mission, the NWS requires marine observations, both atmospheric and oceanographic, to provide quality advisories, warnings, forecasts, and forecast verification. This directive governs activities to provide uninterrupted marine observations and establishes NWS marine observing policy.
2. The NWS will provide timely, accurate, and relevant marine oceanographic and atmospheric quality controlled observations to support the NWS forecast and warning missions, other NOAA line offices who have requirements for ocean marine atmospheric original data, and other Government agencies and users, as required.
3. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:
 - 3.1 NWS Headquarters (WSH) provides guidance and direction to this policy by developing requirements for operational marine observing programs.
 - 3.2 The Director, Office of Operational Systems (W/OPS), is responsible for the implementation of this policy and will issue Procedural Directives as required to effectively implement this policy.
 - 3.3 Regional headquarters implement this policy as it relates to the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) and Marine Reporting Stations (MARS) programs.
 - 3.4 The National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) provides guidance and direction, and implements this policy. To carry out this responsibility, NDBC:
 1. Responds to WSH marine observation requirements.
 2. Manages the NWS operational marine observing program.
 3. Coordinates and negotiates with other Government agencies and private organizations on all national and international matters pertaining to marine observations.
 4. Sets standards and procedures for U. S. operational marine observing programs.
 5. Procures, tests and deploys instruments for nationally supported programs.
 6. Prepares and distributes documentation and forms for use in marine observing programs.
 7. Documents agreements on matters pertaining to marine observing.

8. Performs quality control of marine observations.
 9. Disseminates marine observations as directed.
 10. Arranges for archiving of marine observations.
4. The NWS will measure the effectiveness of the marine observation program policy using the performance measure of increasing by 5 percent per year the number of observations.
5. This policy directive is supported by the references and supporting information listed in Appendix A.

APPENDIX A

REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Instructions

10-2301 Voluntary Observing Ship Program

10-2302 Marine Reporting Stations