

Experimental Multi-Format Marine Forecast Information Web Page for Coastal WFOs

Product Description Document (PDD)

Part I – Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description: Advances in computer capabilities and web services technologies, as well as scientific advances in National Weather Service (NWS) software, have afforded an opportunity for NWS to create customer-based marine products and services. Information dissemination via the World Wide Web (WWW) allows customers to obtain higher resolution marine forecast information in a variety of formats on demand. The product described in this PDD is currently operational in the Great Lakes ([Link to Operational PDD](#)). This experimental PDD extends the coverage to a national level.
2. Purpose/Intended Use: This version of an interactive marine forecast information web page is being made available to:
 - a. Allow users to access marine forecast information that is always current with higher resolution than is possible in traditional text marine forecast products which are averaged over time and space.
 - b. Allow marine customers to view marine forecast information retrieved directly from locally prepared, gridded forecast database in a variety of formats, including icons, text, tabular, and graphic.
 - c. Receive feedback from users regarding potential refinements to interactive information retrieval and display.
3. Audience: The primary audience for this Marine Forecast Information Web Page includes (but is not limited to) recreational boaters, the general public, commercial shipping, United States Coast Guard, emergency managers, law enforcement, the media, and private meteorological firms. Testing will start with a limited number of Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) but will be extended to all WFO websites with the exception of those in Alaska.

Presentation Format: The web grid point forecasts are presented for display as HTML in text, icons, hourly meteogram, and digital/tabular output. The forecasts can be viewed using a web browser, with the desired geographical point selected by the user via a map. Forecasts for other marine locations can then be selected from a Google-based map located on the web page. A sample of this web page may be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/9v3zkv>. A sample is also provided at the end of this document.

Parameters: Marine-specific and general weather elements may vary based on regional and local needs, but may include: wind (direction, speed, and gust), significant wave height, swell (height, direction, and period), wind wave height, weather, and visibility. Links are also included on the web page to current NWS marine warnings, watches, and advisories; current conditions for nearby observation locations (e.g. buoys, C-MANs, and/or ASOS); NWS radar and satellite information, and the NWS' National Forecast Digital Database (NDFD).

4. Feedback Method: These “Multi-Format Marine Forecast Information Web Pages” will be tested with marine users. WFOs will gather customer comments during the test period to determine the success of the experimental products. The standard NWS web survey service will also be available from the page. To provide additional comments/suggestions, or to request more information about this product/service, please contact:

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Experimental Feedback Period: 14 January 2009 to November 30 2009

5. Example URL: <http://tinyurl.com/9v3zkv>

Part II – Technical Description

1. Format and Science Basis: Grid point forecasts can be viewed in text, hourly meteogram, and digital/tabular format. Data are extracted from the Graphical Forecast Editor (GFE) program on a routine basis, then processed and sent to the appropriate NWS regional web server. Data are available at a spatial resolution of either 5 x5 kilometers or 2.5 x 2.5 kilometers. Forecast information is available out to 5 days; digital tabular forecasts to 120 hours, and meteograms to 48 hours.
2. Availability: Updates to grid point forecasts are accomplished as needed at coastal WFOs, using their GFE.
3. Additional Information: Initially, these experimental web pages will be tested by selected NWS coastal WFOs:

THE FOLLOWING NWS OFFICES WILL TAKE PART IN THIS TEST. THE OFFICE NAME AND URL IS PROVIDED BELOW:

SEATTLE WA / WEATHER.GOV/SEATTLE
PORTLAND OR / WEATHER.GOV/PORTLAND
MEDFORD OR / WEATHER.GOV/MEDFORD
EUREKA CA / WEATHER.GOV/EUREKA
MONTEREY/SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CA / WEATHER.GOV/SANFRANCISCO
LOS ANGELES/OXNARD CA / WEATHER.GOV/LOSANGELES
SAN DIEGO CA / WEATHER.GOV/SANDIEGO
HONOLULU HI / WEATHER.GOV/HFO
BROWNSVILLE TX / WEATHER.GOV/BROWNSVILLE
CORPUS CHRISTI TX / WEATHER.GOV/CORPUSCHRISTI
HOUSTON/GALVESTON TX / WWW.SRH.NOAA.GOV/HGX/
LAKE CHARLES LA / WWW.SRH.NOAA.GOV/LCH/
NEW ORLEANS LA / WEATHER.GOV/NEWORLEANS
MOBILE AL / WWW.SRH.NOAA.GOV/MOB/

TALLAHASSEE FL / WEATHER.GOV/TALLAHASSEE
TAMPA BAY FL / WEATHER.GOV/TAMPA
KEY WEST FL / WEATHER.GOV/KEYWEST
MIAMI FL / WEATHER.GOV/MIAMI
MELBOURNE FL / WEATHER.GOV/MELBOURNE
JACKSONVILLE FL / WEATHER.GOV/JACKSONVILLE
SAN JUAN PR / WEATHER.GOV/SANJUAN
WAKEFIELD VA /WEATHER.GOV/AKQ

ATLANTIC COASTAL OFFICES NORTH OF WAKEFIELD BY 1 APRIL 2009

ADDITIONAL NWS OFFICES MAY BE ADDED AT A LATER DATE. TO ACCESS THESE MARINE POINT FORECAST PAGES...CLICK ON THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL NWS FORECAST PAGE AT ONE OF THE LINKS ABOVE... THEN CLICK ON THE DESIRED POINT IN THE COASTAL WATERS AREA DISPLAYED ON THE MAP.

NWS SOUTHERN REGION OFFICES WILL CONTAIN A LINK TO THE COASTAL WATERS ZONE FORECAST. THIS ZONE FORECAST WILL CONTAIN A MAP FROM WHICH A POINT MARINE FORECAST PAGE CAN BE FOUND.

An example of the web page for Western Region coastal WFOs follows:



Your National Weather Service forecast

13NM W San Francisco CA

Pacific Ocean



NWS San Francisco Bay Area/Monterey, CA
Experimental Marine Point Forecast
 37.76N 122.64W

Mobile Weather Information
[Comments/Suggestions](#)
Last Update: 4:20 am PST Jan 8, 2009
Forecast Valid: 6am PST Jan 8, 2009-6pm PST Jan 14, 2009

Forecast at a Glance

Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
								
↑NNW 12kt 5-8ft	NNW 12kt 8-12ft	N 10kt 6-10ft	NE 9kt 5-8ft	N 9kt 4-7ft	N 5kt 4-7ft	Light Wind 5-8ft	NNE 6kt 4-7ft	NE 9kt 4-7ft
								
Small Craft Advisory	Small Craft Advisory							

Marine Point Forecast

Hazardous marine condition(s):

Small Craft Advisory

Today: Light wind becoming NNW between 9 and 12 kt. Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny. N swell 7 feet at 13 seconds. Wind waves 1 to 3 ft.

Tonight: NNW wind between 10 and 12 kt. Partly cloudy. N swell 9 feet at 12 seconds. Wind waves 2 to 4 ft.

Friday: N wind between 8 and 10 kt. Sunny. N swell 8 feet at 12 seconds. Wind waves 1 to 3 ft.

Friday Night: NE wind around 9 kt. Mostly clear. N swell 7 feet. Wind waves 1 to 3 ft.

Saturday: N wind between 5 and 9 kt. Sunny. N swell 6 feet. Wind waves 1 to 3 ft.

Saturday Night: N wind between 3 and 5 kt. Clear. N swell 5

Detailed Point Forecast [Move Down]

Click Map for Forecast Disclaimer



Map data ©2009 Tele Atlas

Requested Location ■ Forecast Area
Lat/Lon: 37.76N 122.64W **Elevation:** 0 ft