



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's  
**National Data Buoy Center**  
 Center of Excellence in Marine Technology


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## **New! - Important NDBC Web Site Changes**

### **Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART) buoys now in the Atlantic!**

## **Important NDBC Web Site Changes**

NDBC is making file format, display, and other changes to its web pages and web data files. Most significantly, in 2004 a minute field was added to the time of observation to handle data from stations that report more than once an hour. The transition period for displaying the data in both formats is about to expire. There is a Customer Survey link at the bottom of this page for giving feedback on the changes.

### **Summary**

1. [Removal of transition folders and files \(May 24th, 2006\).](#)
2. [The path for FTP file access will change \(May 24th, 2006\).](#)
3. [Anonymous FTP download capability will be discontinued \(June 1st, 2007\).](#)
4. [Ship Call Signs to be Removed From NDBC Public Web Sites \(June 1st, 2006\).](#)

### **Detailed Description**

#### **1. Removal of transition folders and files.**

In 2004, NDBC added the capability to display multiple observations per hour in the web data files. This added a minute column to the data files. During a lengthy transition period, a number of data files in both the old and new file formats have been maintained in separate folders. This is no longer feasible. Effective May 24th, the folders with the old file formats will be removed.

- 5-day data files - data/5day will be removed - use data/5day2
- Derived Meteorological Values - data/derived will be removed - use data/derived2
- Hourly Data files - data/hourly will be removed - use data/hourly2
- Realtime Data (Past 45 days) - data/realtime will be removed - use data/realtime2
- Search and Rescue data files - data/sar will be removed - use data/sar2

**Note!** When beginning to use the new files, **consideration must be given for the data after the hour column being shifted over one column** due to the addition of the minute column.

There are no plans at this time to reformat the data files for periods before 2005. The pre-2005 historical data files are only in the hourly format. The 2005 historical data are only in the new format.

**Feedback** - If you wish to comment on any of these changes, you may use this [Customer Survey](#).

#### **2. The path for FTP file access will change (May 24th, 2006).**

You will not be able to FTP files from the www.ndbc.noaa.gov web server. The FTP host name will be data.ndbc.noaa.gov. Links on the web site pages will be changed and should be transparent to users clicking on the changed links. Users who have bookmarked the old links will need to update their bookmarks. Bookmarks such as ftp://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/data/realtime2/41002.txt should be changed to http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/data/

realtime2/41002.txt. You are encouraged to use the http method as www.ndbc.noaa.gov will have offsite failover service. data.ndbc.noaa.gov will not have such failover service.

**If you are accessing the files by FTP, you will have to change the host name to data.ndbc.noaa.gov**, but note item 3, below.

**Feedback** - If you wish to comment on any of these changes, you may use this [Customer Survey](#).

### 3. Anonymous FTP download capability will be discontinued (June 1st, 2007).

You will not be able to download NDBC files by anonymous FTP. See [How can Realtime data be retrieved from the NDBC web site?](#) for information on other methods to download NDBC data files. Note! This transition period may be shortened to 30 days at any time before the above date. You are strongly encouraged to transition affected scripts as soon as it is feasible!

**Feedback** - If you wish to comment on any of these changes, you may use this [Customer Survey](#).

### 4. Ship Call Signs to be Removed From NDBC Public Web Site (June 1st, 2006).

Due to increasing maritime security concerns, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration proposes to remove ship call signs (ship identifiers) from the real-time ship weather observations that appear on the National Data Buoy Center world wide web site. Beginning on June 1, 2006, all ship observations will appear with SHIP as the call sign.

This proposed action will NOT affect distribution of ship observations throughout the NOAA National Weather Service Telecommunications Gateway (NWSTG) or the Global Telecommunications System (GTS) and will NOT affect the availability of ship observations archived at NOAA's national data centers.

If you use or require ship identifiers in weather observations from the following web URLs:

[http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/ship\\_obs.php](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/ship_obs.php)

[http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/data/realtime2/ship\\_obs.txt](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/data/realtime2/ship_obs.txt)

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/os.shtml>

[http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/box\\_search.php](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/box_search.php)

[http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/radial\\_search.php](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/radial_search.php)

you are invited to comment on this proposed action by sending an e-mail to:

[vos@noaa.gov](mailto:vos@noaa.gov)

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