

Product/Service Evaluation Form

Evaluation By: Carl Gorski, WR Deputy Chief MSD, Roger Lamoni, WR Fire Weather Program Leader; Jeff Lorens, WR Marine Program Leader

Product/Service Name: Fire Weather and Marine Point Forecast Matrix (PFM)

Product/Service Developed By: Randy Weatherly, SLC ITO

Product/Service Website (URL): see below

Example of fire weather interface which permits a customer to input a specific location and obtain a Fire Weather PFM: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/firewx/fwpfm/fwpfm.php?wfo=slc>.

Similarly, an example of a marine interface can be viewed here:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/firewx/fwpfm/fwpfm.php?wfo=mtr&interface=marine>.

Brief Product/service description: Land management agencies have expressed a need for easily accessible tabular forecast data that is tailored toward fire behavior applications. A fire weather version of the Public Program's Point Forecast Matrix (PFM) table with fire specific parameters added fits this need well because it allows agency specialists to quickly run simple fire behavior models for planning purposes. This in turn allows land management agencies to ensure the safety of fire crews as well as better plan prescribed burns and other projects in a cost and resource effective manner. To access this product, a web page was developed where a customer can manually input location information or selects by point and clicking on a high resolution map to obtain this fire weather enhanced point forecast matrix.

Similarly, marine customers have expressed a desire for marine-specific information within the marine forecast zones of coastal Western Region (WR) WFOs. The Fire Weather PFM scripts have been modified to provide marine forecast elements, such as swell and wave information, in the tabular PFM format. Marine customers use a similar look and feel interface as the fire weather customers to access this marine weather point forecast matrix.

Does product comply with NOAA partnership policy? Yes

Is this product/service replacing or similar to another product/service? No

Does product/service meet scientific specification? Yes

Comments for this product/service have been favorable? Yes

Do any comments express a view that it is inappropriate for NWS to provide this product/service? (If yes provide comments) No

Does product/service need further development? Not at this time. However, there were two very good recommendations for future enhancements that came from marine customer feed back: (1) provide an additional marine PFM map for the entire west coast, and (2) provide an optional

“meteogram” for graphical depiction of marine forecast elements in the marine PFM. Those recommendations have been forwarded to the developer for future enhancements to the product.

Product/service availability: Year round

Is special equipment required to receive/view product/service? No

Are resources available to implement and sustain the product/service operationally? Yes

Describe special equipment required: NA

Comments: WFO Fire Weather and Marine Focal Points have advertised this product through their local outreach activities with their respective customer communities. Feed back from those customer groups have all been positive.

The marine community covering the California coast has been especially vocal in support of the product. A total of 14 comments from customers or customer groups through the web were all very positive. Several mariners commented on the Marine PFM’s inherent flexibility in retrieving detailed marine forecast information for specific points, and it improves their ability to plan trips. One commercial charter company responded that they used the information to cancel day charters to avoid rough seas and subsequent discomfort to their paying customers.

The following comment is representative of most of the feedback received: “I want to let the Monterey forecast office know how much I appreciate the Marine Digital Point Forecast Matrix Interface. As a recreational sailor in San Francisco Bay and the Gulf of the Farallones, I find this forecast incredibly useful. So far, it seems very accurate. It allows quite detailed planning of sail inventory to be used across a course over the projected time frame and when conditions get snarky (a technical term), it's less of a surprise. Many of the sailors I know in the area are using it also with the same rave reviews. Thanks for the good work!”