

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-3

NOVEMBER 12, 2014

Operations and Services

MARINE AND COASTAL WEATHER SERVICES

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

OPR: W/OS21 (M. Tew)

Certified by: W/OS (A. Stern)

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSPD 10-3, Marine and Coastal Weather Services, dated November 5, 2012. The following changes were made to this directive:

1. Changed name of NWSI 10-310 to Coastal Waters Forecast.
2. Changed name of NWSI 10-320 to Surf Zone Forecast and Coastal Lakeshore/Hazard Services.
3. Changed wording in 3.4 to more accurately reflect current management structure.
4. Added a section for coordination and collaboration processes (see section 4).

1 The National Weather Service (NWS) issues marine warnings and forecasts for the coastal areas of the United States (U.S.), along the coasts of U.S. territories, across ocean areas specified by international agreement, and on the Great Lakes. This includes ice forecasts and advisories issued primarily for the Great Lakes and the waters surrounding Alaska. This directive provides the framework for the NWS marine and coastal service program.

2 The NWS marine and coastal service program provides, in cooperation with our governmental and private sector partners, meteorological support for the protection of life and property, to promote economic benefits, and to enhance the quality of life for governmental, commercial, and recreational maritime operations including the near shore coastal strip across NWS areas of responsibility.

3 To ensure the NWS marine and coastal service program is accomplished consistent with the NWS mission and with Department of Commerce (DOC) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) policy, this directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

3.1 The Director of the Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services (OCWWS) will establish procedures and products consistent with this policy directive. The Chief of the OCWWS Marine and Coastal Services Branch (OS21) will provide primary staff assistance.

3.2 Each Regional Director (RD) will manage and administer the marine and coastal service program in their Region consistent with OCWWS directives. The respective Meteorological Service Divisions (MSD) or equivalent will provide primary staff assistance. Each RD will keep OS21 informed of regional supplements to applicable OCWWS directives.

3.3 The Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) will implement and operate the marine and coastal services program in their area of responsibility. Each MIC will keep their regional headquarters informed of local instructions supplementing applicable OCWWS directives or regional supplements.

3.4 The Director of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will manage and administer the marine services program for assigned offshore and high seas areas consistent with policy directives.

3.5 The Chief of the Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) Ocean Forecast Branch and the Chief of the National Hurricane Center (NHC) Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) will implement and operate the marine services program for their offshore and high seas areas of responsibility. Each Chief will keep their NCEP headquarters informed of local instructions supplementing applicable OCWWS directives or NCEP supplements.

4 Field offices with adjoining or overlapping areas of responsibility should coordinate and collaborate to ensure products are consistent and compatible. This effort includes communication with appropriate governmental forecast agencies outside the United States.

Forecasters should reference Section 5, Digital Forecast Collaboration, of NWSI 10-201, *National Digital Forecast Database and Local Database Description and Specifications*, for detailed information on the coordination and collaboration processes for gridded forecasts and analyses, available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01002001curr.pdf>.

5 This policy directive is supported by the references listed in **Appendix A**.

Signed

October 29, 2014

Louis W. Uccellini
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services

Date

Appendix A

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Procedural Directives

- Instruction 10-302, *Marine and Coastal Services Areas of Responsibility***
- Instruction 10-303, *Marine and Coastal Services Standards and Guidelines***
- Instruction 10-305, *Marine Zone Change Process***
- Instruction 10-310, *Coastal Waters Forecast***
- Instruction 10-311, *Offshore, NAVTEX, and High Seas Marine Forecast Services***
- Instruction 10-312, *Great Lakes Marine Services***
- Instruction 10-313, *Special Marine Warnings***
- Instruction 10-314, *Marine Weather Statements***
- Instruction 10-315, *Marine Weather Message***
- Instruction 10-320, *Surf Zone Forecast and Coastal/Lakeshore Hazard Services***
- Instruction 10-330, *Ocean Ice Services***
- Instruction 10-340, *Marine Forecaster Training***

Supporting Information

1. Pursuant to the NWS Organic Act, 15 U.S.C. 313, the NWS is authorized to issue marine and coastal weather forecasts.
2. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act as implemented through the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP; 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 300) governs NWS responsibilities responding to discharges of oil or other hazardous substances, including those into a marine environment.
3. The National Search and Rescue Plan, 1999, requires the NWS, acting for NOAA, support marine search and rescue efforts.
4. The NWS issues forecasts and warnings for selected High Seas and Navigational Teleprinter Exchange (NAVTEX) areas following requirements and procedures as outlined in the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention and other international agreements to which the U.S. is a party through the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
5. Title 7, Article VII, of The Compact of Free Association requires the NWS to issue forecasts and warnings for specific Pacific Islands.