

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-23
November 18, 2016

Office of Observations
MARINE OBSERVATION PROGRAM

OPR: W/NDBC (H. Portmann)

Certified by: W/OBS (J. Pica)

Type of Issuance: Routine

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSPD 10-23, “*Marine Observation Program*”, dated April 22, 2014

Changes made to reflect the NWS Headquarters reorganization effective April 1, 2015. Other changes include:

1. Section 3: Delete Section 3.4 as granularity of this section has too much detail specific to NDBC.
2. Section 5: Delete language pertaining to performance metric of Marine Observing Program to increase observations by 5% per year.

SIGNED

November 4, 2016

Louis W. Uccellini
Administrative Assistant 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 (NWSHQ) provides guidance and direction to this policy by developing requirements for operational marine observing programs.
 - 3.2 The Director, Office of Observations (W/OBS), 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) program.
4. 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