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APPLICABLE TO NWSI 10-310

NWSI 10-312

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Operations and Services

Marine and Coastal Weather Services, NWSPD 10-3

Coastal Marine Forecast Services, NWSI 10-310

Great Lakes Marine Services, NWSI 10-312

EASTERN REGION COASTAL AND GREAT LAKES MARINE SERVICES

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1. **Purpose.** This supplement provides additional guidance for implementing NWSI 10-310, Coastal Marine Services and NWSI 10-312, Great Lakes Marine Services. The directives provide new flexibility including, the number of headlines that may be included in the Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF) and Nearshore Forecast (NSH) products, reduction in scheduled mandatory CWF issuances from four to two per day and additional Small Craft Advisory headline types. As no policy can address all circumstances, situational awareness and forecaster judgment are essential to providing optimal forecast services to our customers.
2. **Products.** This supplement applies to the issuance of the following products, the Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF), the Great Lakes Nearshore Forecast (NSH) and the Surf Zone Forecast (SRF) product.
3. **Procedures.** ER coastal offices will refer to NWSI 10-310, NWSI 10-312 and NWSI 10-301 for details on appropriate issuance procedures, VTEC encoding and examples.

3.1 **Headlines**

a. Headlines should highlight the most significant phenomena in order of hazard severity/impact, spatial extent and duration.

b. Headlines will be issued for the first three periods of the CWF or NSH as needed. Warning headlines initiated in the first three periods may continue beyond the third period if forecaster confidence is high (greater than or equal to 80%) the warning hazard will continue beyond the third period.

1. Headlines will not “ramp down” from a warning to an advisory unless the advisory hazard is the terminating headline and forecaster confidence is high the warning hazard will end in the period preceding the advisory hazard.

a. Headlines will not “ramp down” from a “higher” order warning hazard to a “lower” order warning hazard unless forecaster confidence is high the higher order hazard will end in the period preceding the lower order hazard. For example:

(1st period)

...STORM WARNING IN EFFECT...

(2nd period)

...GALE WARNING IN EFFECT...

2. Forecasters may use more than one headline to indicate multiple hazards or worsening conditions. For example:

...SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH IN EFFECT...

...GALE WARNING IN EFFECT...

a. An update will be issued whenever a Severe Thunderstorm Watch or Tornado Watch is issued for the coastal or Great Lakes waters.

3. Headlines should not “ramp up” or “ramp down” within a single forecast period.

4. Headline issuance and duration will be collaborated with surrounding WFOs and OPC as appropriate.

3.2 Small Craft Advisories

- a. The SCA for combined winds and seas is a mandatory headline when wind, seas or both are expected to meet or exceed small craft advisory criteria as defined in NWSI 10-301. There are several new small craft advisory headlines, Small Craft Advisory For Winds (SCAW), Small Craft Advisory For Hazardous Seas (SCAHS), Small Craft Advisory for Rough Bar (SCARB) and Small Craft Advisory, for combined wind and seas (SCA). The appropriate SCAW, SCAHS or SCARB headline may be used if in the forecaster's judgment there is a high probability that only one of the hazards such as hazardous seas, winds or rough bar will be present.
- b. Only one Small Craft Advisory headline will be in effect during a forecast. If in doubt as to whether conditions warrant a Small Craft Advisory for Hazardous Seas (SCAHS) or Small Craft Advisory for Winds (SCAWS) use the generic Small Craft Advisory (SCA) headline.
- c. Coastal offices should use the lower wind and/or wave criteria (20-25 kts, 5-7 foot waves) for determining when to issue a small craft related advisory for any marine area with a high concentration of recreational and/or commercial small vessel traffic.
- d. A Small Craft Exercise Caution (SCEC) headline may be used to alert mariners of wave or wind conditions that are below SCA, SCAW or SCAHS criteria which may impact operators of small vessels.
- e. Use the headline "SMALL CRAFT SHOULD REMAIN IN PORT" when a tropical cyclone watch is in effect and wind/wave conditions are indicative of Small Craft Advisory conditions or greater.

3.3 Issuance Times

- a. The CWF will have two scheduled issuances twice per day as defined in NWSI 10-310.
- b. The Great Lakes Open Waters Forecast (GLF) and NSH will be issued four times per day as defined in NWSI 10-312.
- c. Forecasters should update the CWF, NSH and/or GLF as necessary to ensure optimal forecasting and warning services are provided to our customers and partners.

3.4 Surf Zone Forecasts

- a. The Surf Zone Forecast (SRF) product is issued to provide information on hazards that will impact users on the surf zone and beachfronts. Users may include the general public, beachfront safety services (i.e. lifeguards, beach patrols) and community leaders.
- b. The issuance of the SRF by the WFO should be based upon a collaboration of the WFO with its beachfront and shoreline customers in order to meet the requirements of customers and partners.

3.4.1 Rip Currents

- a. The SRF is the primary product for providing Rip Current information.
- b. If an office routinely provides Rip Current information, an SRF will be issued per NWSI 10-310, Section 3.6.
- c. A forecast of Moderate or High Risk of Rip Currents should be included in the Day 1 period of the Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO) product.
- d. A Coastal Hazard Message (CFW) will be issued whenever a High risk of rip currents are forecast.
 - a. If a Moderate risk of rip currents are forecast, a CFW may be issued.