



April 28, 2008

Dear Sir or Madam:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) wishes to inform users of the National Weather Service (NWS) marine products and services (produced for the waters off Southern California) that two buoy stations will be disestablished at the following station locations:

- Station 46023 (Point Arguello – 17 Nm West Northwest of Point Arguello, California)
- Station 46054 (Santa Barbara – 38 Nm West of Santa Barbara, California)

The Point Arguello and West Santa Barbara Channel buoys were deployed in 1985 and 1993, respectively, by NOAA for the Department of Interior's Mineral Management Service (MMS) in support of a project funded through 2005. At that time, NOAA secured one-time funding to keep these buoys operational for an additional two years. Both buoys remain operational today, and we plan to keep them at the present location through this calendar year and possibly longer, subject to failure. Unfortunately, funding for repair of non-NOAA buoys, once the sponsor withdraws support, is not sustainable in the NOAA budget. This being the case, the two buoys will be removed sometime after 2008.

In the absence of these stations, the NOAA/NDBC directs the user to the following stations:

- Station 46011 (Santa Maria, California) – 11 Nm west of the disestablished station 46023
- Station 46063 (Point Conception, California) – 11 Nm west of the disestablished station 46054

As possible compensation for the loss of stations 46023 and 46054, NOAA/NDBC will coordinate with the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Oxnard, California to determine whether or not to relocate stations 46011 and 46063 to new locations.

The information contained herein is available on the NDBC station web pages located at:

http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=46023 and

http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=46054

If you need additional information on these buoys, please contact Mr. Stephen Cucullu at (228) 688-3804.

If you need additional information on the possible relocation of either of the remaining buoys, please contact Mr. Mark Jackson of the NOAA/NWS Oxnard Office at (805) 988-6615.

Sincerely,

Paul F. Moersdorf, Ph.D.
Director