

**Change in Small Craft Advisory
Criteria for Hazardous Seas
August 29, 2008**

The National Weather Service Office in Oxnard has recently changed the hazardous seas criteria required for issuance of a Small Craft Advisory for all coastal waters, extending from Point Piedras Blancas in San Luis Obispo County to San Mateo Point in Orange County. Wave height of ten feet or higher will continue to be treated as a Small Craft Advisory across the coastal waters. In addition, smaller wave heights in combination with short period lengths may be treated as a Small Craft Advisory. For example, a wave height of 7 feet with a dominant wave period of 7 seconds or less will be considered advisory level for hazardous seas. It is quite common for this type of wave energy to create choppy sea conditions with breaking waves that are dangerous for many smaller vessels on the ocean. The matrix shown below demonstrates the new wave height and wave period criteria needed to generate a Small Craft Advisory in the coastal waters. Please note that the wind criteria has not changed for issuance of a Small Craft Advisory.

For more information or if you have questions about this change, please call 805-988-6615.

WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard, CA

		Wave Period (seconds)							
		</=5	6	7	8	9	10	11	>/=12
Wave height (feet)	</=5								
	6								
	7								
	8								
	9								
	10								
	>/=11								

Small Craft Advisory for Hazardous Seas
 None