

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE EASTERN REGION SUPPLEMENT 01-2007

APPLICABLE TO NWSI 10-310

NWSI 10-312

NWSI 10--315

October 31, 2008

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

Marine Weather Message, NWSI 10-315

EASTERN REGION COASTAL AND GREAT LAKES MARINE SERVICES

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This supplement replaces ERS 01-2007, “Eastern Region Coastal and Great Lakes Marine Services”, dated March 5, 2007, issued with NWSI 10-310, NWSI 10-312 and NWSI 10-315, and contains the following revisions:

1. In sections 1, 2 and 3, added NWSI 10-315 Marine Weather Message.
2. In section 3.1, added “The Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO) will be used to highlight hazardous marine weather conditions which have the potential to threaten life and property beyond 48 hours.
3. Added section 3.1.1, “Headlines: All watches, warnings and advisories will be initially issued, extended, upgraded, downgraded and cancelled via the Marine Weather Message (MWW)”.
4. Section 3.1.1 (a-c), Changes to describe how headlines for Watches should be upgraded/downgraded.
5. Section 3.1.1 (d), Hazardous Seas Watch/Warning headlines should not be used in Eastern Region.

<Signed Mickey J. Brown> For October 10, 2008

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Date

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1. **Purpose.** This supplement provides additional guidance for implementing NWSI-315, Marine Weather Message, NWSI 10-310, Coastal Marine Services and NWSI-10-312, Great Lakes Marine Services. The directives provide guidance on types of headlines, the number of headlines that may be included in the Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF) and Nearshore Forecast (NSH) products, and reduction in scheduled mandatory CWF issuances from four to two per day. 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 Marine Weather Message (MWW), the Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF), the Great Lakes Nearshore Forecast (NSH), and the Surf Zone Forecast (SRF) product.
3. **Procedures.** Eastern Region (ER) coastal offices will refer to NWSI 10-315, NWSI 10-310, NWSI 10-312 and NWSI 10-301 for details on appropriate issuance procedures, VTEC encoding and example.
 - 3.1 **Outlook:** The Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO) will be used to highlight hazardous marine weather conditions which have the potential to threaten life and property beyond 48 hours. A Marine Weather Statement (MWS) may also be issued to highlight marine hazards beyond 48 hours.
 - 3.1.1 **Headlines:** All watches, warnings and advisories will be initially issued, extended, upgraded, downgraded and cancelled via the Marine Weather Message (MWW). Headlines for the CWF and NSH forecasts will be pulled directly from MWW. Thus, the MWW must be updated prior to the issuance CWF or NSH when headline are in effect to ensure consistent marine headlines.
 - a. Watch headlines should be issued for the second, third and occasionally fourth forecast period, if forecaster confidence is high (greater than 50%). The following watch headlines will be issued when conditions warrant in the first 12 to 48 hours: Gale, Storm, Hurricane Force Wind, and Heavy Freezing Spray.
 - b. Warnings headlines will be issued for the first three periods, 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. The following warnings will be issued when conditions are imminent, occurring or expected in the next 36 hours: Gale, Storm, Hurricane Force Wind, and Heavy Freezing Spray.
 - c. Advisories headlines will be issued for the first three periods as needed.
 1. Small Craft Advisories (SCA): 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 other 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.

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.

d. Hazardous Seas (Watch/Warning) Headlines

1. Hazardous Seas Watch/Warnings are issued when hazardous seas are anticipated to meet or exceed hazardous seas criteria. Usually this headline would be used in situations where there is long period swell or wave activity that is not associated with another wind-based hazard such as GALE, STORM or HURRICANE FORCE WIND. In Eastern Region there is not a definition for long period hazardous seas hazard in the absence of wind. Hazardous Seas Watch or Hazardous Seas Warning should **not** be used.
2. Headlines will not "ramp down" from a warning to an advisory or watch 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...

b. A “Watch” may be upgraded to a warning or advisory as appropriate, or cancelled. An upgrade or cancellation should not occur within the same forecast period.

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

...SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY IN EFFECT UNTIL 9 AM EST THIS MORNING...

...GALE WATCH IN EFFECT FROM THURSDAY AFTERNOON THROUGH FRIDAY AFTERNOON...

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

4. Headlines should not “ramp up” or “ramp down” within a single forecast period.
5. Headline issuance and duration will be collaborated with surrounding WFOs and OPC as appropriate.

3.2 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.

3.3 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.

3.3.1 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 is forecast.
 - a. If a Moderate risk of rip currents is forecast, a CFW may be issued.