

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ALASKA REGION SUPPLEMENT 01-2011

APPLICABLE TO NWSI 10-303

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Operations and Services

Marine and Coastal Weather Services, NWSPD 10-03

Marine and Coastal Services Standards and Guidelines, NWSI 10-303

ALASKA MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES COMMUNICATION/DISSEMINATION

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:

1. Radiofax change process updated.
2. Added link to ARS 03-2004 NWS/USCG Weather Blanket Network.
3. Satellite Phone service added.
4. Transfer of supplement to 10-303 due to reorganization of NWS instructions.

 /SIGNED/
Frank P. Kelly
Regional Director

 May 18, 2011
Date

MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES COMMUNICATION/DISSEMINATION

<u>Table of Contents:</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Purpose	2
2. Communication Systems	2
2.1 NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) and Weather Blanket	2
2.2 Radio Broadcasts	2
2.3 Radiofax	2
2.4 Satellite Phone	3

1. Purpose. The communications/dissemination procedures in the Alaska Region are described to augment the procedures in NWS Instruction 10-303.

2. Communication Systems.

2.1 NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) and Weather Blanket. Broadcasts from selected NOAA Weather Radio transmitters are re-broadcast through the United States Coast Guard (USCG) communications sites at mountain tops along the southern Alaskan coast. The Coast Guard re-broadcast “High Sites” that are currently operational are shown at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/aknwr.htm>

This partnership is known as the Weather Blanket Network, which is further explained in Alaska Region Supplement 03-2004 at: <http://www.weather.gov/directives/030/030.htm> under NDS 30-2107.

2.2 Radio Broadcasts. Most Alaska Weather Service Offices (WSO) operate 2-way Very High Frequency (VHF) radios for the dissemination of marine services. VHF station call signs, channels used, and broadcast times are listed at the National Weather Service marine product dissemination information web page at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/akvhfv.htm>

The coastal WSOs also operate High Frequency (HF) marine radios and provide scheduled broadcasts of marine forecasts and warnings. These are listed at the NWS marine product dissemination information web page at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/noaahfv.htm>

2.3 Radiofax. Most radiofax products broadcast at Kodiak are prepared by the Ocean Prediction Center specifically to meet the needs of Alaska marine users. The Alaska Ice Desk also produces sea ice forecast and analysis charts and SST charts for broadcast over radiofax.

Content and scheduling are centrally managed by the Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch at NWSHQ (OS21) in coordination with the Alaska Region Marine program manager.

The Alaska Region hosts the system that runs the Kodiak radiofax; the Alaska Region Systems Integration Branch performs operation and maintenance on the system.

Requests for changes to content or schedule will be submitted with explanation to the Alaska Region Marine Program Manager and then coordinated through OS21. Once properly vetted and approved in accordance with NWSI 10-303 and NWSI 10-1805, the AR Systems Integration Branch (SIB) will make appropriate changes at the request of the AR Marine Program Manager.

The radiofax products broadcast from Kodiak are listed at the NWS marine product dissemination information web page at: <http://weather.noaa.gov/fax/alaska.shtml>

2.4 Satellite Phone. The Alaska Region operates a limited array of satellite phones for marine services. The purpose and intended use for these satellite phones is to communicate with marine users in Alaska with a focus on collecting marine observations.

