

NAVTEX (Navigational Telex) Forecasts

Purpose

The International Maritime Organization has designated NAVTEX as the primary means for transmitting coastal urgent marine safety information to ships worldwide. In the United States, NAVTEX is broadcast from Coast Guard facilities in Cape Cod, MA; Chesapeake, VA; Savannah, GA; Miami, FL; New Orleans, LA; San Juan, PR; Cambria, CA; Pt. Reyes, CA; Astoria, OR; Kodiak, AK; Honolulu, HI and Guam. The Coast Guard began operating NAVTEX from Boston in 1983.

NAVTEX coverage is reasonably continuous along the east, west and Gulf coasts of the United States, as well the area around Kodiak, Alaska; Guam and Puerto Rico. The U.S. has no coverage in the Great Lakes, though coverage of much of the Lakes is provided by the Canadian Coast Guard.

Content

NHC/TAFB is responsible for producing three NAVTEX forecasts transmitted from New Orleans, Miami, and San Juan. The broadcast includes a synopsis which describes surface weather features that may cause significant winds and seas over the forecast area during the forecast period. The synopsis identifies major weather systems and the strength, trend, and movement of each system. The most detail is focused in the first 48 hours of the forecast. The synopsis also includes tropical cyclone forecast positions out to 120 hours.

The NAVTEX provides a forecast for winds and seas over the affected area for roughly the next 5 days. The forecast also includes significant weather which would pose a hazard to navigation, such as precipitation or restrictions to visibility. Warnings are issued when conditions are expected to meet the specific warning criteria during the 36 hours of the forecast.

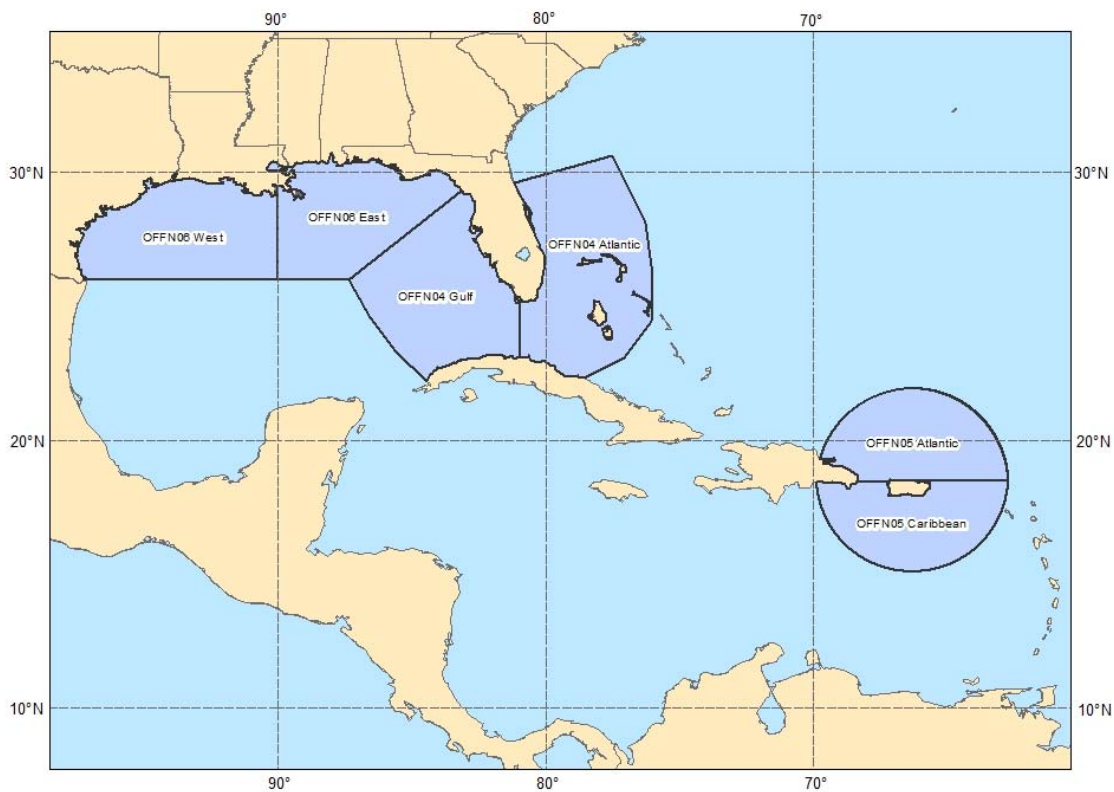
NAVTEX forecasts are similar to the Offshore Waters Forecasts, but differ in some important aspects. Since the NAVTEX zones were designed to accommodate the listening area of their respective transmitters, they are configured differently than the more comprehensive Offshore Waters Forecast zones. The content of both forecasts relates to the same weather elements, covering similar areas, over the same times. However, the NAVTEX forecast differ from the Offshore Waters Forecast in that the NAVTEX zones include coastal areas within 60 nm of the shore, whereas the Offshore Waters Forecasts do not. NAVTEX forecast are required to be less than 89 lines, sometimes limiting the amount of detail that can be included. While Offshore Waters Forecasts are concise, there is no similar limitation to text length. Thus, NAVTEX forecast tend to be of a lower resolution than the Offshore Waters Forecasts. This can result in slight difference in wording between the two products. Warning information will be exactly the same for each forecast, however.

Coverage

Each of the three NAVTEX forecasts produced by NHC/TAFB are described below, along with a map displaying each forecast area:

| Transmitter | AWIPS Header | WMO Header | Area of Coverage |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Miami | MIAOFFN04 | FZNT25 KNHC | Flagler Beach, FL to Suwannee River, FL out 200 nm |
| San Juan | MIAOFFN05 | FZNT26 KNHC | 200 nm surrounding San Juan, PR |
| New Orleans | MIAOFFN06 | FZNT27 KNHC | Suwannee River, FL to Rio Grande, TX out 200 nm |

NAVTEX Zones



Issuance/Transmission

NAVTEX is an international automated medium frequency (518 kHz) direct-printing service for delivery of navigational and meteorological warnings and forecasts, as well as urgent marine safety information to ships. It was developed to provide a low-cost, simple, and automated means of receiving this information aboard ships at sea within approximately 200 nautical miles of shore. NAVTEX stations in the U.S. are operated by the U.S. Coast Guard. There are no user fees associated with receiving NAVTEX broadcasts. Within the U.S., there are no current plans to broadcast NAVTEX on the alternate designated frequencies of 490 or 4209.5 kHz.

NAVTEX is a major element of the [Global Marine and Distress Safety System \(GMDSS\)](#). For further information on NAVTEX, the GMDSS, and worldwide NAVTEX schedules, including coverage diagrams, visit the [U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Telecommunications Information webpage](#).

Daily issuance times (in UTC) for each broadcast are 0345, 0945, 1545, and 2145.