

NOUS41 KWBC 071550  
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 21-100  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
1050 AM EST Tue Dec 7 2021

To:           Subscribers:  
              -Interactive Multisensor Snow and Ice Mapping System (IMS)  
              Products  
              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:         Kevin Berberich  
              Ice Services Branch Chief, Ocean Prediction Center  
              Deputy Director, U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC)

Subject: Updates to Multisensor Snow and Ice Mapping System (IMS)  
Products on or around January 3, 2022

Several inconsistencies in the products of the U.S. National Ice Center's Interactive Multisensor Snow and Ice Mapping System (USNIC's IMS) will be addressed on January 3, 2022. Users of the current IMS products will not see any interruptions to data delivery, but the resultant product files will change to reflect the updates described below. Users should carefully read the scheduled change descriptions, and ensure their ingest process is compatible.

Affected Products and Scheduled Changes:

American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) Header:  
- As the NOAA component of the USNIC has transferred from the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS) to the NWS, the ASCII header will be updated to reflect this change. The number of characters within the ASCII header will change, but the number of lines will remain the same.

ASCII, Gridded Binary version two (GRIB2), and GeoTIFF Internal Filename:  
- Currently, the filename of the .gz file and the internal file it contains do not match within the distributed ASCII, GRIB2, and GeoTIFF products. The internal filename will be renamed to match the compressed filename (without the .gz), whereas the compressed filename will not change. Common Linux command-line tools ignore the internal filename by default, and would be unaffected by this change.

GRIB2 Header:  
- The datetime in the header of the Northern Hemisphere GRIB2 products is inconsistent, one day behind the reality of IMS product's 00 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) valid time. The date for the 00 UTC GRIB2 products will be adjusted one day ahead, representing the correct date and time.

Additionally, the originating center and sub-center will be changed from NESDIS to NWS/Ocean Prediction Center (OPC).

GRIB2 Projection Change #1

- The included projection metadata in the header of Northern Hemisphere GRIB2 products lists projection information for an oblate spheroid rather than the actual IMS projection. This change will correct the projection metadata to match the true IMS projection.

GRIB2 Projection Change #2:

- The initial pixel latitude/longitude (lat/lon) is indicated to be the upper right corner of the lower left pixel for the 1km GRIB2 products. It will be changed to be the centroid of the lower left pixel, matching the 4km GRIB2 products. Additionally, very slight adjustments to the initial pixel lat/lon for the 4km GRIB2 products will be made to improve precision.

Sample data may be accessed at the following location:

[https://satepsanone.nesdis.noaa.gov/pub/30day/nic\\_ims/sample\\_data/](https://satepsanone.nesdis.noaa.gov/pub/30day/nic_ims/sample_data/)

Please send comments on this change to:

Walt Clark  
USNIC Products Area Lead  
[walter.clark@noaa.gov](mailto:walter.clark@noaa.gov)

Additional questions and comments can be directed to:

Kevin Berberich  
OPC Ice Services Branch Chief, USNIC Deputy Director  
[kevin.berberich@noaa.gov](mailto:kevin.berberich@noaa.gov)

National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification>

NNNN