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Public Information Statement 24-39
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From: Greg M. Schoor, Chief
 Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments through July 29, 2024 on a Proposal to Replace the Imperial Unit "Feet" with the Metric Unit "Meter" in National Marine Center Text and Graphical Products

Through Monday, July 29, 2024, the National Weather Service (NWS) National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP's) Ocean Prediction Center (OPC), the National Hurricane Center's Tropical Analysis & Forecast Branch (TAFB), and NWS Pacific Region (PR) will be soliciting comments on a proposal to replace the imperial unit "feet" with the metric unit "meter" when providing wave heights in NWS National Marine Center Products. The NWS has received input that customers would prefer to have wave information provided in units of meters in National Marine Center Products.

Please note that this does not affect NWS Coastal Waters forecasts within 60 NM of the coastline including the Great Lakes forecasts. These coastal and Great Lakes forecasts of wave heights will continue to be issued in feet.

The proposed changes to meters only affects the High Seas and Offshore Zone areas that go beyond 60 NM of the coast of the forecast products from OPC, TAFB and NWS PR. Providing wave information in meters for the offshore and high seas will align the NWS with international partners.

Additionally, NWS Alaska Region Offshore products will remain in feet due to unique operational considerations and technical challenges. A transition to meters will be explored in the future for Alaska.

Text products in this change include:

AWIPS Identifier	WMO Heading	Geographic Descriptor
HSFAT1	FZNT01 KWBC	High Seas Forecast METAREA IV
HSFAT2	FZNT02 KNHC	High Seas Forecast ATLANTIC FROM 07N TO 31N W OF 35W INCLUDING CARIBBEAN SEA AND GULF OF MEXICO

HSFEPI	FZPN02 KWBC	High Seas Forecast METAREA XII
HSFEP1	FZPN01 KWBC	High Seas Forecast PACIFIC N OF 30N AND S OF 67N E OF A LINE FROM BERING STRAIT TO 50N 160E
HSFEP2	FZPN03 KNHC	High Seas Forecast E PACIFIC FROM THE EQUATOR TO 30N E OF 140W AND 03.4S TO THE EQUATOR E OF 120W
HSFNP	FZPN40 PHFO	High Seas Forecast NORTH PACIFIC EQUATOR TO 30N BETWEEN 140W AND 160E
HSFSP	FZPS40 PHFO	High Seas Forecast SOUTH PACIFIC EQUATOR TO 25S BETWEEN 120W AND 160E
OFFHFO	FZHW60 PHFO	Offshore Waters Forecast for Hawaii Beyond 40 nm out to 240 nm.
OFFN01	FZNT23 KWNM	NAVTEX Marine Forecast for NE U.S. Waters
OFFN02	FZNT24 KWNM	NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Mid-Atlantic States Waters
OFFN03	FZNT25 KWNM	NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Southeast U.S. Waters
OFFN04	FZNT25 KNHC	NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Southeastern Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Waters off of Florida
OFFN05	FZNT26 KNHC	NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Atlantic & Caribbean Waters off of Puerto Rico
OFFN06	FZNT27 KNHC	NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Northern Gulf of Mexico
OFFN07	FZPN22 MWNM	NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Southern California Waters
OFFN08	FZPN23 KWNM	NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Northern California Waters
OFFN09	FZPN24 KWNM	NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Washington and Oregon Waters
OFFN10	FZHW61 PHFO	NAVTEX Marine Forecast for Hawaiian Waters
OFFN20	FZNT31 KNHC	Marine Weather HF Voice Broadcast for the Tropical N Atlantic from 07N to 22N between 55W and 64W, the SW N Atlantic S of 31N W of 65W

			Including the Bahamas and the Caribbean Sea
OFFN21	FZNT32	KNHC	Marine Weather HF Voice Broadcast for the Gulf of Mexico
OFFN31	FZNT33	KWBC	Marine Weather HF Voice Broadcast (New England Continental Shelf and Slope Waters)
OFFN32	FZNT34	KWBC	Marine Weather HF Voice Broadcast (West Central North Atlantic)
OFFN35	FZPN35	KWBC	Marine Weather HF Voice Broadcast (Washington and Oregon Waters)
OFFN36	FZPN36	KWBC	Marine Weather HF Voice Broadcast (California Waters)
OFFNT1	FZNT21	KWBC	Offshore Waters Forecast (New England Continental Shelf and Slope Waters)
OFFNT2	FZNT22	KWBC	Offshore Waters Forecast (West Central Continental Shelf and Slope Waters)
OFFNT3	FZNT23	KNHC	Offshore Waters Forecast for the Caribbean Sea and Tropical N Atlantic
OFFNT4	FZNT24	KNHC	Offshore Waters Forecast for the Gulf of Mexico
OFFNT5	FZNT25	KNHC	Offshore Waters Forecast for SW N Atlantic Ocean including the Bahamas
OFFPZ5	FZPN25	KWBC	Offshore Waters Forecast (Washington and Oregon Waters)
OFFPZ6	FZPN26	KWBC	Offshore Waters Forecast California Waters)
OFFPZ7	FZPN27	KNHC	Offshore Waters Forecast for the E Pacific within 250 nm of Mexico
OFFPZ8	FZPN28	KNHC	Offshore Waters Forecast for the E Pacific within 250 nm of Central America, Colombia, and within 750 nm of Ecuador
TCMAT1-5	WTNT[21-25]	KNHC	Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory (NHC)
TCMAT1-5	WTNT[21-25]	KWNH	Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory (WPC)

TCMCP1-5	WTPA[21-25]	PHFO	C Pacific Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory (CPHC)
TCMEP1-5	WTPZ[21-25]	KNHC	E Pacific Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory (NHC)
TCMEP1-5	WTPZ[21-25]	KWNH	E Pacific Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory (WPC)

Graphical products in this change include:

Ocean Prediction Center [Arctic](#), [Atlantic](#) and [Pacific](#) 24-hour wind and wave forecasts

Ocean Prediction Center [Atlantic](#) and [Pacific](#) wind/wave analyses

National Hurricane Center/Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch: [Atlantic](#) and [Pacific](#) Sea State analyses

National Hurricane Center/Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch: [Atlantic](#) and [Pacific](#) 24-hr, 48-hr, and 72-hr Wind/Wave forecasts

National Hurricane Center/Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch: [Atlantic](#) and [Pacific](#) High Wind/Seas forecasts

Honolulu Forecast Office Wind/Wave [analysis](#) and [24-hr](#), [48-hr](#), and [72-hr](#) forecast charts

Wave heights in the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) GRIB files are in meters. The NDFD Graphical Display at [digital.weather.gov](#), will continue to be able to be displayed in feet or meters.

A brief description of the proposal can be found at:

<https://ocean.weather.gov/proposed-meters.php>

You can submit comments on this proposal through July 29, 2024 at:

<https://ocean.weather.gov/survey-proposed-meters/index.php>

You can also submit comments to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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