

NOUS41 KWBC 141620  
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 24-17  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
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To:           Subscribers:  
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From:         Greg Schoor, Chief  
              Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: The Coastal Waters Forecast with Experimental Wave Component  
Detail Will Expand to All Coastal NWS WFOs and Transition to Operational  
in a Phased Implementation from April through May 2024

The NWS will now provide the following components of waves, height,  
period, and direction, in the Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF) for all NWS  
Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) with marine and coastal forecast  
responsibilities in Southern Region, Eastern Region, Western Region, and  
WFO Honolulu by late May 2024.

The operational implementation will occur in phases, by NWS Region, for  
the wave component detail in the CWF:

Eastern Region WFOs and WFO Honolulu:	April 15 - April 26
Southern Region WFOs:	April 29 - May 10
Western Region WFOs:	May 13 - May 24

This implementation will enable WFOs with marine responsibility to provide  
the following enhanced and detailed wave information in the CWF:

1) Significant wave height (mandatory) with ranges (optional). "Seas"  
will be used for coastal waters and "Waves" or "Chop" will be used for  
bays, sounds, and other bodies of water:

Seas 6 ft. (wave height)  
Seas 4 to 6 ft. (wave height with range)

2) Occasional wave height (statistically highest 1/10 of waves)  
(optional):

Seas 6 ft, occasionally to 8 ft.

3) Wave detail information (mandatory for coastal areas; optional for  
inland waterways, e.g., bays and sounds) - height, period, and direction  
(single values) for one or more wave systems. Wave detail will be  
provided out six forecast periods minimum, with only significant wave  
height provided beyond that:

Seas 6 ft, occasionally to 8 ft.

Wave Detail: NE 4 ft at 5 seconds and SE 3 ft at 15 seconds.

Seas 4 to 6 ft.

Wave Detail: NW 4 ft at 5 seconds and SW 2 ft at 15 seconds.

4) "Wind wave" and "swell" terms will not be utilized. These terms were useful to infer something about the characteristics of a given wave before we had modern wave models, but their direct use prevents standardization on the more accurate wave characteristics/terminology (height, period, and direction) as produced by wave models.

The amount of detailed wave information provided will depend on the conditions and the specific NWS Region. Here is a link ([https://forecast.weather.gov/product\\_sites.php?site=NWS&product=CWF/](https://forecast.weather.gov/product_sites.php?site=NWS&product=CWF/)) to access the CWF products, by WFO, by clicking on the product name and then selecting the WFO of choice.

Table 1: NWS Offices that will Issue CWF Containing the Wave Component

WFO	WMO Header	AWIPS ID	Region
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Caribou, ME	FZUS51 KCAR	CWFCAR	Eastern
Portland/Gray, ME	FZUS51 KGYX	CWFGYX	Eastern
Boston/Norton, MA	FZUS51 KBOX	CWFBOX	Eastern
Upton, NY	FZUS51 KOKX	CWFOKX	Eastern
Mt. Holly, NJ	FZUS51 KPHI	CWFPHI	Eastern
Wakefield, VA	FZUS51 KAKQ	CWFAKQ	Eastern
Newport/Morehead City, NC	FZUS52 KMHX	CWFMHX	Eastern
Wilmington, NC	FZUS52 KILM	CWFILM	Eastern
Charleston, SC	FZUS52 KCHS	CWFCHS	Eastern
Jacksonville, FL	FZUS52 KJAX	CWFJAX	Southern
Melbourne, FL	FZUS52 KMLB	CWFMLB	Southern
Miami, FL	FZUS52 KMFL	CWFMFL	Southern
San Juan, PR	FZCA52 TJSJ	CWFSJU	Southern
Key West, FL	FZUS52 KKEY	CWFKEY	Southern
Tampa, FL	FZUS52 KTBW	CWFTBW	Southern
Tallahassee, FL	FZUS52 KTAE	CWFTAE	Southern
Mobile, AL	FZUS54 KMOB	CWFMOB	Southern
New Orleans, LA	FZUS54 KLIK	CWFLIK	Southern
Lake Charles, LA	FZUS54 KLCH	CWFLCH	Southern
Houston/Galveston, TX	FZUS54 KHGX	CWFHGX	Southern
Corpus Christi, TX	FZUS54 KCRP	CWFCRP	Southern
Brownsville, TX	FZUS54 KBRO	CWFBRO	Southern
San Diego, CA	FZUS56 KSGX	CWFSGX	Western
Los Angeles/Oxnard, CA	FZUS56 KLOX	CWFLOX	Western
San Francisco/Monterey, CA	FZUS56 KMTR	CWFMTR	Western
Eureka, CA	FZUS56 KEKA	CWFEKA	Western
Medford, OR	FZUS56 KMFR	CWFMFR	Western
Portland, OR	FZUS56 KPQR	CWFPQR	Western
Seattle, WA	FZUS56 KSEW	CWFSEW	Western
Honolulu, HI	FZHW50 PHFO	CWFHFO	Pacific

WFOs in Alaska Region, WFO Guam and Weather Service Office (WSO) Pago Pago, American Samoa will not implement this wave component detail at this time. Central Region WFOs surrounding the Great Lakes will not implement wave component detail because the waves on the lakes are fetch-limited, and the occurrence rate is low and short-lived.

Further information on the CWF Wave Component can be found in the Product Description Document available at the following link:

[https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g\\_noa/nwspc/res2/dda6e2121b44cad0135feb9ce54bcbcb](https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/dda6e2121b44cad0135feb9ce54bcbcb)

On NWS websites, clicking on coastal areas of the Watches, Warnings and Advisories (WWA) map will display the marine product and include the wave detail for the offices listed in Table 1. The marine forecast from a point on the secondary map will not contain the detailed wave terminology but is anticipated in a future update.

If you have questions or comments, please contact:

Melinda Bailey  
National Marine Program Manager  
National Weather Service  
Silver Spring, MD  
[melinda.bailey@noaa.gov](mailto:melinda.bailey@noaa.gov)

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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