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Public Information Statement 21-11
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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From: Allison Allen, Chief
 Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Weather Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments through April 21, 2021 on a Proposal to
Discontinue Small Craft Exercise Caution Headline

Through April 21, 2021, the NWS Southern Region is soliciting feedback on
a proposal to discontinue the Small Craft Exercise Caution (SCEC) headline
in the Coastal Waters Forecast text product.

As part of the NWS Hazard Simplification project, the NWS is considering a
major change to the Watch, Warning and Advisory (WWA) system. For
information on this, see:

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

Related comment periods on Small Craft Advisory and High Surf Advisory
have garnered positive public feedback:

<https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/pns20-14smallcraftadvisoryaab.pdf>

and

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/pns20-66exp_highsurf.pdf

Example of proposed change:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/ref/sample_scec_products.pdf

We are proposing this change for several reasons. First, the SCEC headline
does not have associated Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) encoding to
accompany the headline issuance for alerting purposes. Second, the
detailed forecast information within the product will not change within
the coastal waters forecast products for a mariner to make a prudent
decision. Finally, the Southern Region NWS Coastal Forecast Offices are
only the offices that issue this headline and the NWS is seeking to
simplify our products and communicate threats more clearly and
consistently.

Please provide feedback by sending an email to:

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For more information, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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