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Service Change Notice 22-124
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
500 PM EST Wed Dec 14 2022

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Mary Mullusky, Chief
 Forecast Services Division

Subject: Changes to Public, Fire and Marine Forecast Zones for WFO
Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC: Effective March 8, 2023

Reference: Service Change Notice (SCN) 22-125: Changes to Public and Fire
Forecast Zones for WFO Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC: Effective March 8,
2023:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/scn22-125_public_fire_lwx.pdf

Effective Wednesday, March 8, 2023, by 4:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Baltimore/Washington Weather Forecast Office in Sterling, VA (LWX) will add marine areas to ANZ530 (Chesapeake Bay north of Pooles Island) to encompass significant portions of the North East, Elk, Bohemia and Sassafras Rivers. This will remove them from what has been designated as portions of the public forecast zones of Cecil and Kent Counties in Maryland. Southern portions of the Sassafras River associated with Kent County will be transferred from WFO Philadelphia/Mount Holly area of responsibility to WFO Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC. After this change, all forecasts and related products for these areas will use the new zone configuration described below and the zone numbers and names configuration shown in Table 1 below.

If March 8, 2023 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 9, 2023 at 2100 UTC.

These changes will allow us to issue important marine forecasts and warnings to heavily-traveled waterways, as well as enhance web-based graphical product consistency and appearance across the public, marine and fire programs. Any mariners who had been relying on land-based Severe Thunderstorm Warnings or Tornado Warnings for these affected waters should note that they will now receive Special Marine Warnings instead for short-fused marine hazards. This will provide more customer-focused warning delivery.

Significant portions of the North East, Elk, Bohemia, and Sassafras Rivers will be converted from being portions of public and fire zones for

Cecil and Kent Counties in MD. They will become part of the existing marine zone ANZ530 (Chesapeake Bay north of Pooles Island).

On the effective day, the marine zone with designation ANZ530 will be expanded to include the North East River to North East, MD, the Elk River to the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, the Bohemia River to the MD-213 bridge near Hack Point, MD, and the Sassafras River to the MD-213 bridge near Fredericktown, MD. The following public, fire, and marine weather zones from the Baltimore/Washington forecast office will be affected, listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs): Affected Zone Names

 ANZ530: Chesapeake Bay north of Pooles Island
 MDZ008: Cecil County, MD
 MDZ012: Kent County, MD

Table 2. NWS Products Affected by the WFO Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC Marine/Public/Fire Weather Forecast Zone Changes

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Hurricane Local Statement	WTUS81 KLWX	HLSLWX
Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning	WTNT81 KNHC	TCVAT1-5
Coastal Hazard Message	WHUS41 KLWX	CFWLWX
Marine Weather Message	WHUS71 KLWX	MWFLWX
Marine Weather Statement	FZUS71 KLWX	MWFLWX
Fire Weather Forecast	FNUS51 KLWX	FWFLWX
Fire Weather Message	WWUS81 KLWX	RFWLWX
Hazardous Weather Outlook	FLUS41 KLWX	HWOLWX
Zone Forecast	FPUS51 KLWX	ZFPLWX
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS51 KLWX	PFMLWX
Public Information Statement	NOUS41 KLWX	PNSLWX
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWUS71 KLWX	NPWLWX
Flood Watch	WGUS61 KLWX	FFALWX
Special Weather Statement	WWUS81 KLWX	SPSLWX
Short Term Forecast	FPUS71 KLWX	NOWLWX
Winter Weather Message	WWUS41 KLWX	WSWLWX
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS61 KLWX	AFDLWX
Hydrologic Outlook	FGUS71 KLWX	ESFLWX
Regional Weather Story	AWUS81 KLWX	RWSLWX
Air Quality Alert	AEUS71 KLWX	AQALWX
Air Quality Forecast	AEUS71 KLWX	AQILWX
Special Marine Warning	WHUS51 KLWX	SMWLWX
Coastal Waters Forecast	FZUS51 KLWX	CWFLWX
Area Forecast Matrices	FOUS51 KLWX	AFMLWX

NWS partners and users will need to make necessary changes to their communications systems to accommodate these weather forecast zone changes.

Preliminary shapefiles for marine zones are available online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/MarineZones>

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on January 17, 2023.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/lwx/ANZ530Expansion>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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