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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-129  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
230 PM EST Thu Dec 15 2022

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

From:         Greg Schoor, Chief  
              Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Changes to Marine Forecast Zones for WFO Anchorage, AK:  
Effective March 8, 2023

Effective Wednesday, March 8, 2023, by 12:00 PM Alaska Standard Time (AKDT), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Anchorage, AK (AFC) will implement comprehensive changes to coastal and offshore Marine Forecast Zones. All marine forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown below.

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

NWS Alaska Region is coordinating a multi-phase effort to facilitate greater targeting of alerts for hazardous marine weather events across the state. As part of this effort, Marine Forecast Zones will be realigned across the state to improve the dissemination of warnings and forecast information. The change of Marine Forecast Zones will result in enhanced safety and more geographically-representative forecasts, advisory, watch and warning products. This change has been made in coordination with the United States Coast Guard and other partners and stakeholders.

Table 1: Current Universal Geographic Code - Zone (UGC-Z): Current Marine Zone Forecast Names (Southcentral Alaska Domain)

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PKZ119: Cape Suckling to Cape Cleare  
PKZ120: Cape Cleare to Gore Point  
PKZ121: Resurrection Bay  
PKZ125: Prince William Sound  
PKZ126: Port of Valdez  
PKZ127: Valdez Narrows  
PKZ128: Valdez Arm  
PKZ129: Passage Canal  
PKZ130: West of Barren Islands including Kamishak Bay  
PKZ131: Barren Islands East  
PKZ132: Marmot Island to Sitkinak  
PKZ136: Chiniak Bay  
PKZ137: Marmot Bay

PKZ138: Shelikof Strait  
 PKZ139: Cook Inlet Kalgin Island to Point Bede  
 PKZ140: Cook Inlet North of Kalgin Island  
 PKZ141: Kachemak Bay

Table 2: New UGCs: New Marine Zone Forecast Names (South Central Alaska Domain)

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 PKZ710: Cape Suckling to Gravel Point out to 15 NM  
 PKZ711: Gravel Point to Cape Cleare out to 15 NM  
 PKZ712: Cape Suckling to Cape Cleare from 15 to 100 NM  
 PKZ715: Cape Cleare to Gore Point out to 15 NM  
 PKZ716: Cape Cleare to Gore Point from 15 to 75 NM  
 PKZ714: Resurrection Bay  
 PKZ724: Northwest Prince William Sound  
 PKZ725: Central and Eastern Prince William Sound  
 PKZ726: Southwest Prince William Sound  
 PKZ720: Port of Valdez  
 PKZ721: Valdez Narrows  
 PKZ722: Valdez Arm  
 PKZ723: Passage Canal  
 PKZ730: West of Barren Islands including Kamishak Bay  
 PKZ731: Barren Islands East  
 PKZ732: Marmot Island to Sitkinak out to 15 NM  
 PKZ734: Marmot Island to Sitkinak from 15 to 85 NM  
 PKZ733: Gore Point to Marmot Island from 15 to 80 NM  
 PKZ736: Chiniak Bay  
 PKZ737: Marmot Bay  
 PKZ738: Shelikof Strait  
 PKZ742: Cook Inlet Kalgin Island to Point Bede  
 PKZ740: Cook Inlet North of Kalgin Island  
 PKZ741: Kachemak Bay

Table 3: Current Universal Geographic Code - Zone (UGC-Z): Current Marine Zone Forecast Names (Southwest Alaska Domain)

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 PKZ150: South of the AK Peninsula Sitkinak to Castle Cape  
 PKZ155: South of the AK Peninsula Castle Cape to Cape Sarichef  
 PKZ160: Bristol Bay  
 PKZ165: Port Heiden to Cape Sarichef  
 PKZ170: Cape Sarichef to Nikolski Bering Side  
 PKZ171: Unalaska Bay  
 PKZ172: Cape Sarichef to Nikolski Pacific Side  
 PKZ173: Nikolski to Seguam Island Bering Side  
 PKZ174: Nikolski to Seguam Island Pacific Side  
 PKZ175: Seguam Island to Adak Bering Side  
 PKZ176: Seguam Island to Adak Pacific Side  
 PKZ177: Adak to Kiska  
 PKZ178: Kiska to Attu  
 PKZ179: Pribilof Islands Near Shore Waters  
 PKZ180: Kuskokwim Delta and Etolin Strait  
 PKZ181: North and West of Nunivak Island  
 PKZ185: Saint Matthew Island Waters

Table 4: New UGCs: New Marine Zone Forecast Names (Southwest Alaska Domain)

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PKZ750: South of the AK Peninsula Sitkinak to Castle Cape out to 15 NM
PKZ751: South of the AK Peninsula Sitkinak to Castle Cape from 15 to 100
        NM
PKZ752: South of the AK Peninsula Castle Cape to Cape Tolstoi out to 15
        NM
PKZ753: South of the AK Peninsula Castle Cape to Cape Tolstoi from 15 to
        100 NM
PKZ754: South of the AK Peninsula Cape Tolstoi to Cape Sarichef out to 15
        NM
PKZ755: South of the AK Peninsula Cape Tolstoi to Cape Sarichef from 15
        to 100 NM
PKZ761: Bristol Bay from Port Heiden to Cape Chichagof out to 15 NM
PKZ762: Bristol Bay from Cape Chichagof to Cape Pierce out to 15 NM
PKZ760: Bristol Bay greater than 15 NM
PKZ756: Port Heiden to Nelson Lagoon out to 15 NM
PKZ757: Port Heiden to Nelson Lagoon from 15 to 60 NM
PKZ758: Nelson Lagoon to Cape Sarichef out to 15 NM
PKZ759: Nelson Lagoon to Cape Sarichef from 15 to 70 NM
PKZ770: Cape Sarichef to Nikoski Bering Side out to 15 NM
PKZ772: Cape Sarichef to Nikoski Bering Side 15 to 85 NM
PKZ771: Unalaska Bay
PKZ773: Cape Sarichef to Nikoski Pacific Side out to 15 NM
PKZ774: Cape Sarichef to Nikoski Pacific Side from 15 to 85 NM
PKZ775: Nikolski to Seguam Island Bering Side out to 15 NM
PKZ776: Nikolski to Seguam Island Bering Side from 15 to 85 NM
PKZ777: Nikolski to Seguam Island Pacific Side out to 15 NM
PKZ778: Nikolski to Seguam Island Pacific Side from 15 to 75 NM
PKZ780: Seguam Island to Adak Bering Side out to 15 NM
PKZ781: Seguam Island to Adak Bering Side from 15 to 85 NM
PKZ782: Seguam Island to Adak Pacific Side out to 15 NM
PKZ783: Seguam Island to Adak Pacific Side from 15 to 75 NM
PKZ784: Adak to Kiska Bering Side
PKZ785: Adak to Kiska Pacific Side
PKZ786: Kiska to Attu Bering Side
PKZ787: Kiska to Attu Pacific Side
PKZ766: Pribilof Islands Nearshore Waters
PKZ763: Kuskokwim Delta and Etolin Strait out to 15 NM
PKZ764: Kuskokwim Delta from 15 to 80 NM
PKZ765: North and West of Nunivak Island
PKZ767: Saint Matthew Island Waters

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Table 5: NWS Products Affected by these Marine Zone Changes

| Product Name             | WMO Heading | AWIPS ID |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------|
| -----                    | -----       | -----    |
| Offshore Waters Forecast | FZAK62 PAFC | OFFFALU  |
| Coastal Waters Forecast  | FZAK51 PAFC | CWFAER   |
| Coastal Waters Forecast  | FZAK52 PAFC | CWFALU   |
| Special Marine Warning   | WHAK58 PAFC | SMWAFK   |
| Marine Weather Statement | FZAK78 PAFC | MWSAFK   |

South central and Southwest Alaska      FXAK68 PAFC      AFDAFC  
Forecast Discussion  
Sea Ice Forecast for Western and      FZAK80 PAFC      ICEAFC  
Arctic Alaskan Coastal Waters

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGCs and new zone alignments and names.

In addition, NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) listeners using receivers equipped with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) will need to add new SAME location codes to their receivers prior to March 8, 2023. This is a critical requirement in order to continue receiving automated notifications of Special Marine Warnings. The new SAME location codes are included in the updated database for Coastal and Offshore Marine Area and Zone Codes for NWR are online at: <https://www.weather.gov/gis/EasNWR>. Final SAME location codes will be available on January 17, 2023.

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.

For graphical depictions of these changes, please refer to the link below:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3ab59f270a474045b08dcd90f85b398b>

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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