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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-96  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
350 PM EDT Mon Oct 3 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: Change in NWS Dissemination of Harmful Algal Bloom Information  
from NWS Beach Hazard Statement for Florida and Texas NWS Offices:  
Effective October 3, 2022

Effective Monday, October 3, 2022, at 12:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
(EDT), 1600 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast  
Offices in Florida and Texas will change the way they disseminate Harmful  
Algal Bloom (HAB) information during a hazardous event.

In August 2021, the HAB forecast bulletin was replaced by a new dynamic  
GIS-based interactive map that is updated several times a day, has an  
interactive map and allows for a much more refined HAB forecast  
geographically. Because of this, NWS will no longer disseminate HAB  
information as part of the Beach Hazard Statement (BHS). NWS has  
determined the BHS no longer meets the dissemination needs of the new  
higher resolution HAB forecasts because it will warn an entire county,  
when only a beach may be affected.

NWS will now utilize Weather Forecast Office (WFO) social media as the  
primary dissemination method used during events of high respiratory  
irritation predicted for Florida and Texas beaches. The social media  
will include a direct link to HAB forecast products.

New higher resolution HAB forecast website:

<https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/research/stressor-impacts-mitigation/hab-forecasts/gulf-of-mexico/>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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