

NOUS41 KWBC 211400
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 23-114
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
900 AM EST Thu Dec 21 2023

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

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

Subject: Changes to Pacific Offshore Marine Forecast Zone Boundaries:
Effective March 5, 2024

Effective March 5, 2024, at 4:00 PM Eastern Standard Time, 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the boundaries between Offshore Pacific Marine Forecast Zones PZZ840, PZZ940 and PZZ945 (Ocean Prediction Center) and PMZ009 and PMZ011 (Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch) will be adjusted from 29 degrees North to 30 degrees North. The Zone numbers will not change and the names will change only to reflect the change in the boundaries.

If March 5, 2024 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 6, 2024 by 2100 UTC.

The Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) is responsible for the High Seas Forecast and digital gridded data north of 30 degrees North latitude, and the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) of the National Hurricane Center (NHC) manages the High Seas Forecast (HSF) and digital gridded data for the waters south of 30 degrees North latitude. OPC also produces the Offshore Waters Forecast (OFF) for Pacific zones PZZ940 and PZZ945. The current southern boundary of these zones is 29 degrees North latitude. TAFB issues the OFF for PMZ011. The current northern boundary of this zone is 29 degrees North latitude.

This jurisdictional overlap between 29 degrees North latitude and 30 degrees North latitude presents an inconsistency where OPC issues offshore waters forecasts a degree (60 NM) south of its area of responsibility for the high seas forecast and outside of the domain for its gridded forecast database that serves as the basis for the OFF. The boundary between PMZ009, a coastal zone along northern Baja California, and PMZ011 (TAFB responsibility) will also move from 29 degrees North latitude to 30 degrees North latitude, and TAFB will continue to issue the offshore waters forecast for those zones. The zone numbers will not change.

By moving this boundary to 30 degrees North latitude, the two offices will better maintain jurisdictional consistency between the high seas

forecasts, the underlying digital forecast database, and the OFFs for their respective areas of responsibility.

The zones to be changed are as follows:

Table 1: Universal Geographic Code (UGC): Current Offshore Marine Forecast Zone Name

OPC:

PZZ945: San Clemente Island, CA to 29N from 60 NM offshore west to 120W
PZZ940: Santa Cruz Island, CA to San Clemente Island, CA between 150 NM and 250 NM offshore (name unchanged)

TAFB:

PMZ009: Mexico Border S to 29N to 60 NM offshore
PMZ011: East Pacific Within 250 NM S of 29N to Punta Eugenia

Table 2: UGC: New Offshore Marine Forecast Zone Name

OPC:

PZZ945: San Clemente Island, CA to 30N from 60 NM offshore west to 120W

TAFB:

PMZ009: Mexico Border S to 30N to 60 NM offshore
PMZ011: East Pacific Within 250 NM S of 30N to Punta Eugenia

Table 3: NWS Products Affected by this Marine Forecast Zone Change

AWIPS ID	WMO Heading	Product Name
-----	-----	-----
OFFPZ6	FPZN26 KWBC	Offshore Waters Forecast
OFFPZ7	FPZN27 KNHC	Offshore Waters Forecast

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

Preliminary shapefiles for Marine Forecast zones are available online at:

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

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on February 23, 2024.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/cc9443b87580408299ef3cb0fa421740>

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Chris Landsea
Chief, Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/National Hurricane Center
Miami, FL
chris.landsea@noaa.gov
Phone: 305-229-4446

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

NNNN