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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-116  
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:        Greg Schoor, Chief  
              Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Changes to Marine Forecast Zones for Weather Forecast San Juan,  
PR: Effective March 8, 2023

Effective March 8, 2023, by 5:00 PM Atlantic Standard Time, 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in San Juan, PR (SJU) will complete changes to the Marine Forecast and Warning Zones for the waters offshore Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This adjustment will present a more accurate and correct description of the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Anegada Passage. Changes will be made to Marine Zones AMZ710, AMZ715, AMZ725, AMZ722 and AMZ732 to improve marine warning and forecast services for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. After this change, 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 at 2100 UTC.

These changes will increase the accuracy of the marine forecast, watch, warning and advisory products. The changes will optimize the issuance of hazard products for conditions that vary and propagate from the offshore areas of the Atlantic into the Anegada Passage and Caribbean Waters.

Table 1: Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs): Current/Marine Zone Forecast Name

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- AMZ710: Atlantic Waters of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands from 10 NM to 17N
  - AMZ715: Coastal Waters of Northern USVI and Culebra out 10 NM
  - AMZ722: Anegada Passage east of Virgin Gorda and Saint Croix south to 17N
  - AMZ725: Coastal Waters of Southern USVI Vieques and Eastern Puerto Rico out 10 NM
  - AMZ732: Caribbean Waters of Puerto Rico from 10 NM to 17N

Table 2: UGC: New Marine Zone Forecast Names and Numbers

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- AMZ711: Atlantic Waters of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands from 10 NM to 17N

AMZ716: Coastal Waters from Cabo San Juan to the waters between Anegada Island and Virgin Gorda and north 10 nm  
 AMZ723: Anegada Passage east of Virgin Gorda and Saint Croix south to 17N  
 AMZ726: Coastal waters east of Puerto Rico, around Vieques, and around and just north of Culebra and Saint John  
 AMZ733: Caribbean waters of Puerto Rico from 10 NM to 17 N, including the coastal waters of Saint Croix

Table 3: NWS Products Affected by these Marine Zone Changes

AWIPS ID	WMO Heading	Product Name
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CWFSJU:	FZCA52 TJSJ	Coastal Water Forecast
MWWSJU:	WHCA72 TJSJ	Marine Weather Message
MWSSJU:	FZCA72 TJSJ	Marine Weather Statement
SMWSJU:	WHCA52 TJSJ	Special Marine Warning
CWFSJU:	WHCA42 TJSJ	Coastal Hazard Message
TSUCA1:	WECA60 PHEB	Tsunami Message
TSUCAX:	WECA41 PHEB	Tsunami Message
TSUCAR:	WECA40 PHEB	Tsunami Message
AFDSJU:	FXCA62 TJSJ	Area Forecast Discussion

Table 4: NWS Spanish Products Affected by these Marine Zone Changes

AWIPS ID	WMO Heading	Product Name
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CWFSPN:	FZCA52 TJSJ	Pronóstico Marítimo
MWWSFN:	WHCA72 TJSJ	Mensaje Sobre Peligros Marinos
MWSSFN:	FZCA72 TJSJ	Comunicado Especial Sobre las Condiciones Del Tiempo
SMWSPN:	WHCA52 TJSJ	Aviso Especial Marítimo
TSUSP1:	WECA50 PHEB	Mensaje de Tsunami

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGC (Z) and new zone alignments and names.

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/sju/marine\\_zonechanges](https://www.weather.gov/sju/marine_zonechanges)

If you or your organization have any questions about these changes,  
please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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