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Technical Implementation Notice 11-12
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
919 AM EDT Wed Apr 6 2011

To: Subscribers:
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From: Therese Z. Pierce
Chief, Marine and Coastal Services Branch

Subject: Experimental U.S. Arctic Offshore Marine Zones to be Added to the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) and Changes to Existing NDFD Parameters in Other Alaska Offshore Zones: Effective May 18, 2011

Effective Wednesday, May 18, 2011, at 1800 Coordinated Universal time (UTC), three new arctic marine zones will be added to the NDFD on an experimental basis over the Alaska Region. NWS will continue to produce the experimental text forecast for these zones labeled PKZ500, PKZ505 and PKZ510. These marine zones will be part of the larger experimental Alaska NDFD suite of graphical forecasts currently available.

An updated map of all Alaska Region Marine Zones can be found at:

http://www.arh.noaa.gov/offshore.php

A compressed shapefile of the new Offshore Marine Zones can be found at:

http://weather.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/data/oz02jn09.zip

The five weather elements that will be forecast within these offshore marine zones are Surface Wind, Surface Wind Gusts, Significant Wave Height, Hazards, and Weather.

The production of NDFD data for the Offshore Marine Zones in the Gulf of Alaska (PKZ310, PKZ351-352) and Bering Sea (PKZ411-414) will continue, but contain only the same five experimental elements available in the new NDFD Arctic Offshore Marine Zones.

More details regarding these elements are available in the Product Description Document in the online catalog of experimental NWS products and services are available at:

http://products.weather.gov/PDD/AK ExperimentalPDD 100630.pdf

With this implementation, forecasts for these new zones will be available from NDFD in the following standard methods:

Gridded Binary version 2 (GRIB2) files via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
Extensible Markup Language (XML) via Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)
Graphics via web browser

All users can use the same methods they currently use to acquire these forecasts.

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

http://ndfd.weather.gov/technical.htm

Comments and feedback on these experimental Arctic Offshore NDFD elements are welcome at:
http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=aondfd

GRIB2 users:
http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=ndfd-grids

Users OF XML SOAP service:
http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=xmlsoap

NDFD online graphics:
http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=gfp

These new Arctic Offshore Marine elements will remain experimental until NWS assesses feedback and completes a technical analysis. At that time, the NWS will determine whether to move these experimental elements to operational status, discontinue them, or revise and retain them as experimental elements.

If May 18, 2011 is declared a Critical Weather Day this implementation date will be postponed. Users will be notified of that decision via another Technical Implementation Notice and a new implementation date will be established.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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For general questions regarding NDFD data, please email:

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For technical questions regarding NDFD data, please contact:

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NDFD Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/tins.htm

National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive

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