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Service Change Notice 22-128
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 Division

Subject: Changes to Coastal and Offshore Marine Forecast Zones for WFO
Juneau, AK: Effective March 8, 2023

Effective Wednesday March 8, 2023, by 12:00 PM Alaska Daylight Time (AKDT), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Juneau, AK (AJK) will implement comprehensive changes to coastal and offshore Marine Forecast Zones. All marine forecasts and related products for these zones will use the new zone numbers and names shown below. Forecast Zones within the Inner Channels of Southeast Alaska will not change.

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 Offshore Marine Zone Forecast Name

PKZ310: Gulf of Alaska North of 55 Degrees North and East of 144 Degrees West

Table 2: New UGCs: New Offshore Marine Zone Forecast Names

PKZ311: Gulf of Alaska North of 57 Degrees North and East of 144 Degrees West
PKZ312: Gulf of Alaska South of 57 Degrees North and East of 144 Degrees West

Table 3: Current UGCs: Current Coastal Marine Zone Forecast Names

 PKZ041: Dixon Entrance to Cape Decision
 PKZ042: Cape Decision to Cape Edgumbe
 PKZ043: Cape Edgumbe to Cape Fairweather
 PKZ051: Cape Fairweather to Icy Cape
 PKZ052: Icy Cape to Cape Suckling

Table 4: New UGCs: New Coastal Marine Zone Forecast Names

 PKZ641: Dixon Entrance to Cape Decision out to 15 NM
 PKZ661: Dixon Entrance to Cape Decision from 15 to 90 NM
 PKZ642: Cape Decision to Cape Edgumbe out to 15 NM
 PKZ662: Cape Decision to Cape Edgumbe from 15 to 80 NM
 PKZ643: Cape Edgumbe to Cape Spencer out to 15 NM
 PKZ663: Cape Edgumbe to Cape Spencer from 15 to 80 NM
 PKZ644: Cape Spencer to Cape Fairweather out to 15 NM
 PKZ664: Cape Spencer to Cape Fairweather from 15 to 85 NM
 PKZ651: Cape Fairweather to Icy Cape out to 15 NM
 PKZ671: Cape Fairweather to Icy Cape from 15 to 80 NM
 PKZ652: Icy Cape to Cape Suckling out to 15 NM
 PKZ672: Icy Cape to Cape Suckling from 15 to 80 NM

Table 5: NWS Products Affected by these Marine Zone Changes

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Offshore Waters Forecast	FZAK67 PAJK	OFFAJK
Coastal Waters Forecast	FZAK52 PAJK	CWFAEG
Special Marine Warning	WHAK57 PAJK	SMWAJK
Marine Weather Statement	FZAK77 PAJK	MWSAJK
Southeast Alaska Forecast Discussion	FXAK67 PAJK	AFDAJK

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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