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National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Allison Allen
 Chief, Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments until September 17, 2021 on the
 Proposed Expansion of the Marine Channels Forecast
 to Mobile Bay

The NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Mobile Bay Area is seeking user comments on the Proposed Mobile Bay Marine Channels Forecast through September 17, 2021. The Mobile Bay Marine Channels Forecast (MBMCF) product will fully integrate NWS forecasts (winds, gusts, waves, rain, weather, and visibility) with National Ocean Service (NOS) Northern Gulf of Mexico Operational Forecast System (NGOFS) water level and current forecast guidance along the shipping channels of Mobile Bay, and provide access to all available meteorological and oceanographic observations in the region.

This is an expansion of the existing Tampa Bay Marine Channels Forecast (TBMCF) product, developed by the Ruskin/Tampa Bay WFO to a new location in Mobile Bay. The existing TBMCF website and products will be used as a template for the MBMCF. The existing TBMCF product may be viewed at:

https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ofs/tbofs/tbofs_mcf.html

Forecasts will be produced at 19 points along the Mobile Bay shipping channel. These 19 points were considered by a diverse group of mariners to be critical points of weather information along the channel. The MBMCF is displayed on a dynamic Google map with the Mobile Bay shipping channel and the forecast points overlaid. Users may click on any forecast point to view the forecast.

For more detailed information and examples of the proposed MBMCF, please see the Product Description Document:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ProposedExpandMarineChannelsForecasttoMobileBay_2021.pdf

To provide feedback or for questions regarding the proposed implementation of MBMCF, please contact:

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If approved, the MBMCF will be implemented by National Ocean Service's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) as was done for TBMCF. Public notification will be provided prior to operational implementation.

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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