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Service Change Notice 21-103
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
130 PM EST Wed Dec 22 2021

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

From: Allison Allen, Chief
 Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Changes to Marine Zones for WFOs Anchorage and Fairbanks,
 Effective March 22, 2022

Reference: SCN 21-102, Changes in NWS Public Zones, Fire Weather Zones and
 County Warning Area and Hydrologic Service Area Boundaries,
 Effective March 22, 2022

On or about Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 12:00 PM Alaska Daylight Time (AKDT), 2000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) in Anchorage (AFC) and Fairbanks (AFG) will split marine zone PKZ181, North and West of Nunivak Island, into two marine zones using a line extending from the northwest corner of PKZ181 heading southeast toward the western tip of Nelson Island.

This change is a result of the planned March 22, 2022 realignment of the NWS County Warning Area (CWA) boundary along the Western Alaska Coast and to maintain consistent delivery of weather information services for coastal communities. A portion of the current marine zone of PKZ181 will be transferred from WFO Anchorage to WFO Fairbanks; the newly-created marine zone will be named Etolin Strait to Dall Point with a new marine zone number of PKZ201. The remaining portion of PKZ181 will retain its current name and number and will stay in WFO Anchorage's area of responsibility.

If March 22, 2022 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 29, 2022.

This change has been made in coordination with the United States Coast Guard and other partners and stakeholders. This modification to the marine zones will enhance safety and improve marine forecast and warning services provided to the marine community in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area of the Eastern Bering Sea.

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

PKZ181: North and West of Nunivak Island

Table 2: UGC: New Marine Zone Forecast Name

PKZ181: North and West of Nunivak Island
PKZ201: Etolin Strait to Dall Point

Table 3: NWS products affected by these marine zone changes are listed below.

WMO Heading	AWIPS ID	Product Name
FZAK52	PAFC CWFALU	Coastal Waters Forecast
FZAK52	PAFG CWFWCZ	Coastal Waters Forecast for Northwest Alaska
WHAK58	PAFC SMW AFC	Special Marine Warning
WHAK59	PAFG SMW AFC	Special Marine Warning
FZAK78	PAFC MWSAFC	Marine Weather Statement
FZAK79	PAFG MWSAFC	Marine Weather Statement
FXAK68	PAFC AFDAFC	Southcentral and Southwest Alaska Forecast Discussion
FXAK69	PAFG AFDAFG	Northern Alaska Forecast Discussion
FZAK80	PAFC ICEAFC	Sea Ice Forecast for Western and Arctic Alaskan Coastal Waters

Although there are no NOAA Weather Radio transmitters currently servicing this area, a Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) location code of 058201 will be assigned to the new marine zone, Etolin Strait to Dall Point. This new SAME location Code will be used by other systems including FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System and possibly marine service providers to distribute alerts to their user base.

In addition, other government databases, alerting systems and the weather enterprise using SAME location codes should ensure their systems are updated now to accept and use the new code effective March 22, 2022. The new SAME location code is included in the updated database for Coastal and Offshore Marine Area and Zone Codes for NWR online at:

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

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate actions to ensure systems recognize the boundary changes to PKZ181 and the introduction of a new marine zone, PKZ201.

Updated marine shapefiles are online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/MarineZones>

For graphical depictions of these changes, please refer to the link below:
<https://bit.ly/2Z3Av9A>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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