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Service Change Notice 22-115
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 Eastern Pacific Offshore Forecast Zones for the
National Hurricane Center/Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch, Miami,
FL: Effective March 8, 2023

Effective March 8, 2023, by 100 PM Pacific Standard Time/2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) of the National Hurricane Center (NHC) will change the offshore zones in the eastern Pacific off southern Mexico encompassing the offshore waters of the Mexican states of Chiapas, Oaxaca, Jalisco, and Colima, as well as the waters off Baja California Sur and the Revillagigedo Islands. After this change, all affected offshore forecasts and related products will use the 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.

Three of the offshore zones off southern Mexico are currently too large to adequately account for the complexity of marine weather that occurs in these areas. These new zones have been created to improve the accuracy and precision of forecast and warning products in the marine weather program.

Table 1: Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs): Current Offshore Zone Forecast Names

PMZ015 - Cabo San Lazaro to Cabo San Lucas to 250 nm offshore
PMZ023 - Entrance to the Gulf of California including Cabo Corrientes
PMZ027 - Mexico - States of Oaxaca and Chiapas including the Gulf of Tehuantepec

Table 2: UGC: New Offshore Zone Forecast Names

PMZ014 - Cabo San Lazaro to Cabo San Lucas to 250 nm offshore of 20N
PMZ016 - From 17N to 20N between 110W and 115W, including the Revillagigedo Islands of California
PMZ022 - N of 20N and E of 110W including Entrance to the Gulf of California

PMZ024 - Colima and Jalisco out 300 nm offshore S of 20N and E Of 110W
PMZ026 - Oaxaca W of Puerto Angel out 250 nm
PMZ028 - Oaxaca E of Puerto Angel out 300 nm including the Gulf of Tehuantepec
PMZ029 - Offshore Chiapas E of 94W

Table 3: NHC/TAFB Products Affected by These Marine Zone Changes

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Offshore Waters Forecast	FZPN27 KNHC	OFFPZ7

NWS partners and users will need to make necessary changes to their communications systems to accommodate these weather forecast zone changes.

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://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/79f17ed698fc4b33b98c8daa27949126>

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Chris Landsea
Chief, Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch
National Weather Service
National Hurricane Center
Miami, FL
chris.landsea@noaa.gov
305-229-4446

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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