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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-116
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 Marine Forecast Zones for Weather Forecast
 San Juan, PR: Effective March 8, 2023

Effective March 8, 2023, by 5:00 PM Atlantic Standard Time, 2100 Universal Coordinated Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in San Juan, PR (SJU) will complete changes to the Marine Forecast and Warning Zones for the waters offshore Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This adjustment will present a more accurate and correct description of the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Anegada Passage. Changes will be made to Marine Zones AMZ710, AMZ715, AMZ725, AMZ722, and AMZ732 to improve marine warning and forecast services for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. After this change, all marine forecasts and related products will use the new 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.

These changes will increase the accuracy of the marine forecast, watch, warning, and advisory products. The changes will optimize the issuance of hazard products for conditions that vary and propagate from the offshore areas of the Atlantic into the Anegada Passage and Caribbean Waters.

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

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- AMZ710: Atlantic Waters of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands from 10 NM to 17N
 - AMZ715: Coastal Waters of Northern USVI and Culebra out 10 NM
 - AMZ722: Anegada Passage east of Virgin Gorda and Saint Croix south to 17N
 - AMZ725: Coastal Waters of Southern USVI Vieques and Eastern Puerto Rico out 10 NM
 - AMZ732: Caribbean Waters of Puerto Rico from 10 NM to 17N

Table 2: UGC: New Marine Zone Forecast Names and Numbers

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- AMZ711: Atlantic Waters of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands from 10 NM to 17N

- AMZ716: Coastal Waters from Cabo San Juan to the waters between Anegada Island and Virgin Gorda and north 10 nm
- AMZ723: Anegada Passage east of Virgin Gorda and Saint Croix south to 17N
- AMZ726: Coastal waters east of Puerto Rico, around Vieques, and around and just north of Culebra and Saint John
- AMZ733: Caribbean waters of Puerto Rico from 10 NM to 17 N, including the coastal waters of Saint Croix.

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

| AWIPS ID | WMO Heading | Product Name |
|----------|-------------|--------------------------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| CWFSJU: | FZCA52 TJSJ | Coastal Water Forecast |
| MWWSJU: | WHCA72 TJSJ | Marine Weather Message |
| MWSSJU: | FZCA72 TJSJ | Marine Weather Statement |
| SMWSJU: | WHCA52 TJSJ | Special Marine Warning |
| CWFSJU: | WHCA42 TJSJ | Coastal Hazard Message |
| TSUCA1: | WECA60 PHEB | Tsunami Message |
| TSUCAX: | WECA41 PHEB | Tsunami Message |
| TSUCAR: | WECA40 PHEB | Tsunami Message |
| AFDSJU: | FXCA62 TJSJ | Area Forecast Discussion |

Table 4: NWS Spanish products affected by these marine zone changes are listed below.

| AWIPS ID | WMO Heading | Product Name |
|----------|-------------|--|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| CWFSPN: | FZCA52 TJSJ | Pronóstico Marítimo |
| MWWSPN: | WHCA72 TJSJ | Mensaje Sobre Peligros Marinos |
| MWSSPN: | FZCA72 TJSJ | Comunicado Especial Sobre las Condiciones Del Tiempo |
| SMWSPN: | WHCA52 TJSJ | Aviso Especial Marítimo |
| TSUSP1: | WECA50 PHEB | Mensaje de Tsunami |

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGC (Z) and new zone alignments and names.

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://www.weather.gov/sju/marine_zonechanges

If you or your organization have any questions about these changes, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are available online at:

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

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