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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-96  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
350 PM EDT Mon Oct 3 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: Change in NWS Dissemination of Harmful Algal Bloom Information  
          from NWS Beach Hazard Statement for Florida and Texas NWS  
          Offices: Effective October 3, 2022

Effective Monday, October 3, 2022, at 12:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), 1600 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Offices in Florida and Texas will change the way they disseminate Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) information during a hazardous event.

In August 2021, the HAB forecast bulletin was replaced by a new dynamic GIS-based interactive map that is updated several times a day, has an interactive map and allows for a much more refined HAB forecast geographically. Because of this, NWS will no longer disseminate HAB information as part of the Beach Hazard Statement (BHS). NWS has determined the BHS no longer meets the dissemination needs of the new higher resolution HAB forecasts because it will warn an entire county, when only a beach may be affected.

NWS will now utilize Weather Forecast Office (WFO) social media as the primary dissemination method used during events of high respiratory irritation predicted for Florida and Texas beaches. The social media will include a direct link to HAB forecast products.

New higher resolution HAB forecast website:  
<https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/research/stressor-impacts-mitigation/hab-forecasts/gulf-of-mexico/>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:  
<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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