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Public Information Statement PNS16-33, Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
115 PM EST Tue Nov 28 2017

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

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

SUBJECT:     Soliciting comments on the Experimental  
              Modernized Open Lakes Forecast for the Great  
              Lakes through March 31, 2018

Updated to extend the comment period for the Experimental  
Modernized Open Lake Forecast (GLF) through March 31, 2018, and  
to expand the scope to include all five Great Lakes.

The Open Lake Forecast (GLF) is a text product issued by  
five primary Great Lakes Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) to  
state expected weather conditions within their marine  
forecast area of responsibility through Day 5. The primary  
offices responsible for issuing the GLF are:

WFO Marquette (for Lake Superior)  
WFO Detroit (for Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair)  
WFO Chicago (for Lake Michigan)  
WFO Cleveland (for Lake Erie)  
WFO Buffalo (for Lake Ontario)

These offices routinely issue a GLF four times per day.

During comment and review, the experimental modernized Open Lake  
Forecast will be produced in parallel with the current  
operational Open Lake Forecast by all five primary  
Great Lakes WFOs.

The product format for the Experimental Modernized Open Lake  
Forecast will be as follows:

Experimental Modernized Open Lake Forecast for Lake Xxxx  
National Weather Service City State  
TIME-DATE (example: 900 AM EDT Sat Sep 30 2017)

.SYNOPSIS...text

SSZXXX-XXX>XXX-DDHHMM- (UGC/FIPS CODING)

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTORS

TIME-DATE (example: 900 AM EDT Sat Sep 30 2017)

...HEADLINE...

.TODAY...

Weather.....

Sfc winds....Knots

100-FT Winds....Knots

Sig waves.....Feet/meters

Ocnl waves (Highest 10 percent whenever wave heights of six feet or higher are forecast)...Feet/meters

.TONIGHT...

.TOMORROW...

.TOMORROW NIGHT...

.FORECAST DAYS 3 THROUGH 5...

Weather...Surface wind...Significant waves

(dollar sign, dollar sign)

This forecast is arranged in an easy to read format and provides weather, wind and wave information. The mandatory elements are surface and 100-foot wind speed/direction, significant waves, maximum (occasional) waves and significant weather.

The Day 3-5 forecast will be in narrative format and will only include weather, significant wave height, and surface wind speed and direction. Before the end of the evaluation period, additional elements may be added to the format to test the capacity for expansion within the GLF. This could include Probability of Gale Force wind, return frequency of maximum (occasional) waves, or wave period.

This experimental product format is available online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/greatlakes/modernized>

as well as a side-by-side comparison between modernized and existing formats. For details on this product enhancement, see the following Product Description Document (PDD):

<https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD%20GLF%20Modernized%202017.pdf>

Please provide comments by March 31, 2018, on the proposal to provide the Modernized Open Great Lakes Forecast at all Great Lakes offices using the following link:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=MODGTLAKESFCST>

During this comment period, a proactive effort will be made to educate users and partners of the product availability and use. At the end of the comment period, a decision will be made to choose one of the following options:

- Transition to operational at all Great Lakes Forecast Offices
- Extend the comment period
- Discontinue the enhancement

For questions on this product, contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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