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Service Change Notice 16-15
National Weather Service Headquarters, Washington, DC
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SUBJECT: Improved warning polygons along complex coastal
boundaries effective May 10, 2016

Effective May 10, 2016, the NWS will complete enhancements to the product generation software used to draw warning threat areas (polygons) along complex coastal boundaries. This change allows a buffer along land-marine boundaries. Small scale details of a coastline are no longer mapped and fewer polygon vertices are needed. This change only affects the appearance of the polygon. There is no change to product formats, and users do not have to take any actions.

Special Marine Warning (SMW) and the follow-up Marine Weather Statement (MWS) polygons will be drawn slightly further into land zones than in the past, particularly along complex coastlines.

Similarly, polygons for Tornado Warnings (TOR), Severe Thunderstorm Warnings (SVR), Flash Flood Warnings (FFW), Flood Warnings (FLW), Special Weather Statements (SPS) and the corresponding follow-up Severe Weather Statements (SVS), Flash Flood Statements (FFS), and Flood Statements (FLS) will be drawn slightly farther into marine zones than in the past.

This change will improve warning polygons along complex coastal boundaries of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, Gulf of Mexico and Great Lakes. This change will not apply to warning polygons along complex inland County Warning Area boundaries, such as along the Mississippi River.

More information and several examples can be found at:

<http://apps.weather.gov/training/LandMarinePolygonChange.html>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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