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Service Change Notice 17-76
National Weather Service Silver Spring, MD
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From: Paul Bradley
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 Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and
 Services (CO-OPS) Oceanographic Division

Subject: Implementation of the Tampa Bay Marine Channels
 Forecast (TBMCF) at NOS/CO-OPS, effective
 August 1, 2017

Effective August 1, 2017, at 1300 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), 900 AM EDT, the NOAA/NOS Tampa Bay Marine Channels Forecast will be implemented at CO-OPS.

The Tampa Bay Marine Channels Forecast product, developed by the NWS/Tampa Bay Weather Forecast Office (WFO), fully integrates NWS forecasts with NOS water level and current forecast guidance from the CO-OPS Tampa Bay Operational Forecast System (TBOFS). The integrated forecasts are available at critical points along the Tampa Bay shipping channels navigated by local mariners including emergency managers, the U.S. Coast Guard, researchers (NOAA, the University of South Florida, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservations Commission), harbor pilots, towing or tug boat operators, recreational boaters, and any users or partners with interest in the respective environmental data for Tampa Bay.

This product is a significant enhancement to TBOFS because it fully integrates NWS forecasts (wind direction and speed, wind gust, significant wave height and period, swell, rain chance,

weather, hazards and the probability of visibility of less than one statute mile) with TBOFS water levels and currents forecast guidance, and meteorological and oceanographic observations.

The TBMCF product, which focuses on the shipping channels of Tampa Bay, includes the following:

- Forecasts at 13 critical locations or stations along the Tampa Bay shipping channels in the form of time series and text-based data listings
- Along-channel cross-sections displaying the forecast conditions along the complete Tampa Bay marine channels
- Map or aerial views of the Tampa Bay forecast conditions

The forecasts extend out to 24 hours and are either hourly or 3-hourly in resolution.

Currently an experimental version of the TBMCF, developed and operated by the NWS Tampa Bay WFO, can be accessed here:

<https://www.weather.gov/tbw/marinechannelsforecast>

Effective August 1, 2017, the TBMCF product will be accessible via TBOFS, located here:

<https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ofs/tbofs/tbofs.html>

All forecasts displayed in the TBMCF will be available under TBOFs in the NOS/CO-OPS OPeNDAP server at

<http://opendap.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/netcdf/>

and in the CO-OPS THREDDS server at

<http://opendap.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/thredds/catalog.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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