

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SOUTHERN REGION SUPPLEMENT 04-2003  
APPLICABLE TO NWSI 10-310  
FEBRUARY 28, 2023***

***Operations and Services  
Marine and Coastal Weather Services, NWSPD 10-3  
Coastal Weather Forecast, NWSI 10-310***

***SOUTHERN REGION COASTAL MARINE FORECAST SERVICES***

**OPR:** W/SR11x5 (K. Nguyen)

**Certified by:** W/SR1 (J. Cupo)

**Type of Issuance:** Routine

***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:*** This supplement supersedes Southern Region Supplement 04-2003 “*SR Coastal Marine Forecast Services*”, dated November 16, 2018, filed with NWSI 10-310.

The following changes were made to this issuance:

1. Changed the OPR and signatory.
1. Removed Abbreviations and Forecast Parameters section and Elements section.
2. Removed Appendix A.
3. Incorporated mixed case to reflect modernized text products.
4. Changes to incorporate the consolidation of High Seas (SCAHS), Rough Bar (SCARB), and Wind (SCAW) into one Small Craft Advisory (SCA) product have been made, per Service [Change Notice 19-83 Updated](#), issued Nov 12, 2019, as part of the Hazard Simplification project.

MCNATT.JENNIFER.MARIE.108782  
7387

Digitally signed by  
MCNATT.JENNIFER.MARIE.1087827387  
Date: 2023.02.14 19:04:47 -06'00'

Jennifer McNatt  
Acting Regional Director

Date

**Southern Region Coastal Marine Forecast Services**

<b>Table of Contents:</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Introduction .....	2
2. Coastal Waters Forecasts.....	2
2.1 Forecast Issuance.....	2
2.2 Forecast Content.....	2

**1 Introduction**

This supplement provides additional guidance and instructions for the Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF). Written instructions cannot address every situation. Operational personnel must exercise initiative and professional judgment to minimize risk to public safety and property in instances when written instructions do not provide appropriate guidance.

**2 Coastal Waters Forecasts**

**2.1 Forecast Issuance**

The exact issuance times of the CWF can vary by office due to local partner needs. Two daily issuances are mandatory as outlined in [NWSI 10-310](#) Section 2.2.3: one in the early morning around 4am local time and in the afternoon around 4pm local time. In SR, it is highly recommended that two additional updates are also issued: around 10am local time and 10pm local time.

**2.2 Forecast Content**

a. Regional Definitions. (Reference Appendix A of [NWSI 10-303](#).)

(1) Small Craft Advisory

The criteria for issuing a Small Craft Advisory (SCA) in Southern Region are average wind speeds of 20 knots or greater, and forecast seas of 7 feet or greater. **Conditions must occur for two or more hours to validate an SCA forecast.** SCAs will be headlined when criteria are met, or expected to be met, for the first period, and SCAs may be issued that begin in the second and third periods when forecaster confidence is high. SCAs beginning in the first, second, or third period may extend beyond the third period as conditions warrant. SCAs will not be initiated beyond the third period.

(2) Small Craft Exercise Caution

The cautionary statement “SMALL CRAFT SHOULD EXERCISE CAUTION” (SCEC) will be headlined for conditions forecast just below SCA criteria **during the first period only**. Specifically, the criteria for headlining SCEC in Southern Region are a wind forecast of 15 to 20 knots (with the assumption that 20 knot winds will not occur for two hours) **and/or** seas forecast at 6 feet. If the seas forecast is the reason for the SCEC, WFOs may include a headline in the SCEC documenting that reason. For example, “SMALL CRAFT SHOULD EXERCISE CAUTION UNTIL SEAS SUBSIDE.”