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Public Information Statement 23-05
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
230 PM EST Wed Jan 25 2023

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From: AJ Reiss, Director
Ocean Prediction Center

Subject: Soliciting Comments on Discontinuing the Forecasts of High Pressure Systems in the High Seas Text Forecasts Issued by WFO Honolulu, Hawaii and the Ocean Prediction Center through February 27, 2023

The Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Honolulu, Hawaii and the NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP) Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) is accepting public comments until Monday February 27, 2023 on a proposal to discontinue the forecasts of high pressure systems in high seas text forecasts issued by WFO Honolulu and the OPC.

The high seas text forecasts issued by WFO Honolulu and the OPC, especially in the cold season, can have extensive warning and synopsis information on low pressure systems that results in the forecast being exceedingly lengthy. Customer feedback has noted the excessive length of the products, along with a requested focus on wind and wave hazards. Currently, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) broadcasts National Weather Service (NWS) high seas text forecasts and storm warnings from high seas communication stations with a 40-minute broadcast window.

In the cold season, with multiple gale, storm, and/or hurricane-force wind warnings, plus tropical cyclone activity especially in the early part of the cold season, the high seas text forecasts can reach or exceed 15,000 alphanumeric characters. Exceeding that many characters will also exceed the 40-minute (USCG) broadcast window. Discontinuing forecasts of high pressure systems in high seas text forecasts will result in shorter broadcasts, in concert with feedback and broadcast limitations.

In addition, discontinuing the forecasts of high pressure systems in high seas text forecasts allows for more time for forecasters to diagnose and accurately convey significant wind and wave information, including hazards, to the mariner. Furthermore, no other high seas text forecasts from the NWS include high pressure systems. This change will result in product consistency among national centers that produce high seas text forecast information.

OPC and WFO Honolulu graphical information will continue to include the locations and central pressures of high pressure systems. No changes will

be made to the depiction of highs on surface analyses. Furthermore, no changes will be made to the depiction of highs on 24-, 48-, 72-, or 96-hour forecast charts.

You can find more information about high seas forecasts at:

https://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01003011curr.pdf

Examples of the high seas forecasts can be found at:

https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/NFDHSFAT1.php
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/NFDHSFEP1.php
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/NFDHSFEPI.php

Comments may be submitted via the survey link below:

https://ocean.weather.gov/survey/

At the end of the comment period, if feedback supports this change, a Service Change Notice will be disseminated before discontinuing the forecasts of high pressure systems in high seas text forecasts.

Comments and feedback on the proposal can be provided to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

https://www.weather.gov/notification/

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