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Public Information Statement 24-12
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
420 PM EST Fri Feb 23 2024

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From: Avichal Mehra, Chief
 Model Coupling Division
 NCEP/Environmental Modeling Center

Subject: Soliciting Public Comments on Potential Changes to the Real Time Ocean Forecast System (RTOFS) through March 27, 2024

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) is soliciting comments on changing certain products from the Real-Time Ocean Forecast System (RTOFS).

The following products are proposed to be renamed:

rtofs_glo.t00z.n00.cice_inst
rtofs_glo.t00z.f24.cice_inst
rtofs_glo.t00z.f48.cice_inst
rtofs_glo.t00z.f72.cice_inst
rtofs_glo.t00z.f96.cice_inst
rtofs_glo.t00z.f120.cice_inst
rtofs_glo.t00z.f144.cice_inst
rtofs_glo.t00z.f168.cice_inst
rtofs_glo.t00z.f192.cice_inst

To the following names:

rtofs_glo.t00z.n00.cice_inst.nc
rtofs_glo.t00z.f24.cice_inst.nc
rtofs_glo.t00z.f48.cice_inst.nc
rtofs_glo.t00z.f72.cice_inst.nc
rtofs_glo.t00z.f96.cice_inst.nc
rtofs_glo.t00z.f120.cice_inst.nc
rtofs_glo.t00z.f144.cice_inst.nc
rtofs_glo.t00z.f168.cice_inst.nc
rtofs_glo.t00z.f192.cice_inst.nc

The proposed science changes include:

- Added climatological constraints for temperature and salinity for sea surface height (SSH) assimilation in the analysis (to reduce subsurface negative salinity bias in the Caribbean Sea).

- Modifications in the assimilation to provide increments on HYCOM hybrid layers versus the depth-fixed layers to reduce the error during mapping of the increments onto the Hybrid Coordinate Ocean Model (HYCOM) vertical grid.
- Added assimilation of velocity observations from drifting buoys and high frequency (HF) Radar installations.
- Added two-dimensional variational retrieval (2D-VAR) assimilation of SSH for verification of ocean front and eddy feature locations.

If these product changes are approved, a Service Change Notice will be issued giving 30 days of notice of the implementation date.

Please send comments on this proposal through to:

Avichal Mehra or Jason Levit
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For questions on the data flow aspects, please contact:

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