

## **Product/Service Description Document: Experimental Marine Weather Web Portal, National Weather Service Headquarters**

### **Part I - Mission Connection**

a. Product/Service Description - The National Weather Service's (NWS) Experimental National Marine Weather Web Portal provides observations, forecasts, short and long-fuse warnings and a host of other pertinent meteorological data for mariners on a google based interactive website interface for the entire United States including OCONUS areas. Before the development of this portal, only region-specific information on marine and coastal conditions had been collected by, stored and disseminated from a wide range of government and academic institutions which included a variety of information types and protocols. There is a need for improved, coordinated delivery of relevant information to a broad user community. The prototype website that will be used to disseminate the consolidated marine information is titled "National Weather Service Marine Portal V2.2" and is hosted on the National Internet Dissemination System (NIDS).

b. Product Type - Experimental from the present time through June 2014 and will then be evaluated for consideration as an operational product.

c. Purpose - The purpose of this experimental website is to provide our customers and partners a comprehensive web based portal to access forecasts, coastal ocean observations and monitoring activities in one website. The multitude of layers available within the portal will provide a one-stop shop for all weather related needs for mariners, near shore enthusiasts and coastal managers. Gridded forecast and model data, overlays including sea surface temperatures and nautical charts will provide users the required situational awareness to assist them in making the best decisions possible. The format of the portal will allow for the integration of dynamic data sets that will complement the standard suite of data available from routine NWS products and services and present the data in both graphical and text format. In addition, the flexible nature of the portal will allow the developer to add further information as the NWS expands its decision support services in the coastal arena to include more refined information and both increased time and spatial resolution. The portal supports NOAA's Mission Goals of Serving Society's Needs for Weather and Water Information and Supporting the Nation's Commerce with Information for Safe, Efficient, and Environmentally Sound Transportation and fully integrates with the Weather Ready Nation initiative.

d. Audience - The target audience for this experimental product is the general marine community, including but not limited to: coastal town managers, recreational and commercial mariners, beachgoers, surfers, scuba divers, fishermen, marine and beach safety officials and the general public.

e. Presentation Format - Figure 1 shows the presentation format of the current version of the Marine Web Portal. The user interface uses google map technology and multiple layers on a web map interface to represent marine themes that the target audience needs to make informed boating decisions: Current observations (from both ship and land - including those from buoys, ships, tide gages) hazards, radar and satellite imagery, currents, webcams and multiple methods to obtain marine forecasts in a variety of formats. Map overlays, which can be toggled on/off, provide users with additional information and are incorporated in the display for each of the tabs.

f. Feedback Method - A web survey will be used to obtain user feedback. The survey is available at the following link:

[www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/web-survey.php?code=ENMWP](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/web-survey.php?code=ENMWP)

Technical comments for the Experimental Marine Weather Web Portal developer may be addressed to:

Richard May

National Weather Service Headquarters

1325 East-West Highway, Room 13118, Silver Spring, MD 20910

301-427-9378

E-mail comments can be sent to [Richard.May@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.May@noaa.gov)

The comment period runs through August 2014.

### **Part II - Technical Description**

a. Format and Science Basis - See Figure 1 for description of the format and web user interface.

b. Availability - The experimental website will run at NIDS and be monitored

during normal business hours for service interruptions. The website will be made available to all WFO's in the coverage region as well as all users in the public domain.

c. Additional Information -

- 1) National Weather Service Instruction (NWSI) 10-201, National Digital Forecast Database and Local Database Description and Specifications provides detailed information on both experimental and operational elements in NDFD.

**Figure 1 - Marine Web Portal Interface**

