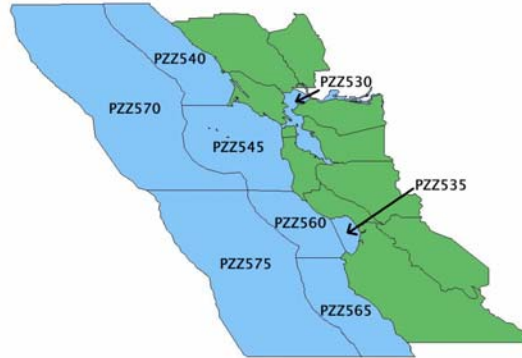


National Weather Forecast Office in Monterey Improves Marine Forecasting

The National Weather Service San Francisco Bay Area (located in Monterey) has increased the specificity of its coastal marine forecasts by adding additional “zones” to the near-shore regions of its area of forecasting responsibility. This change occurred on Tuesday October 2nd and is highlighted in the map below.



The zones that have been added are the near shore waters (0-20NM) labeled PZZ540, PZZ545, PZZ560 and PZZ565. Previously, the area between Point Arena and Point Piedras Blancas was covered by 2 Zones (PZZ550 and PZZ555 which no longer exist) with one break-point at Pigeon Point. This same area is now covered by 4 zones with break-points as follows:

- PZZ540: Point Arena to Point Reyes
- PZZ545: Point Reyes to Pigeon Point
- PZZ560: Pigeon Point to Point Pinos
- PZZ565: Point Pinos to Point Piedras Blancas

This change should allow for improved forecast and warning capability as increasingly accurate numerical weather models and more timely observational equipment are now making it possible to further enhance services to the marine community.

Another great tool for the mariner is the “point and click” forecast that produces a seven day snapshot of weather parameters at an exact point anywhere in our marine forecast area. This is a great way to determine the critical weather elements in your precise location without inferring further detail from a zone forecast.

To access the point and click forecast, click on your area of interest at:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/firewx/fwpfm/fwpfm.php?wfo=mtr&interface=marine>

For further information, comments, or questions – please don't hesitate to contact:

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