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### National Hurricane Center adds new marine forecast zones to East Pacific Ocean *New service will help keep mariners safe in hurricane-prone areas*

The eastern North Pacific Ocean is one of the most vulnerable areas to tropical storms, hurricanes and other dangerous marine weather. Mariners traversing the offshore waters from Mexico to Ecuador need precise wind and wave information to provide a safe voyage for its passengers and cargo. Mariners in this area also include pleasure craft traversing from the United States west coast south along the Baja California peninsula and up through the Gulf of California, as well as commercial vessels traveling to and from the Panama Canal.

Beginning April 16<sup>th</sup>, the National Hurricane Center's [Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch](#) (TAFB) will issue detailed 5-day marine weather forecasts for the offshore waters of Mexico, Central America, Colombia, and Ecuador. These new Offshore Zone forecasts represent a dramatic increase in predicted lead-time and detail, as only broad-brush 2-day text forecasts were available previously for this part of the Pacific Ocean. Such improvements should, hopefully, promote better decision making by ship captains and crew in hurricane-prone waters to avoid marine disasters.



Ten eastern Pacific coastal marine zones will cover the area within 250 nautical miles (nm) of Mexico, with seven marine zones covering the area within 250 nm of Central America and Colombia, and within 750 nm of Ecuador to include the offshore Galapagos Islands. TAFB meteorologists will provide 5-day forecasts that will include 10-meter winds, significant wave heights, primary swell direction, dominant wave period, and significant weather. The information will be in both text ([Pacific coast of Mexico](#) and [Pacific coast of Central America, Colombia, and Ecuador](#)) and [interactive map](#) formats.

For more information, go to

[https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD\\_EastPacificOffshoreWatersForecasts\\_Opl.pdf](https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_EastPacificOffshoreWatersForecasts_Opl.pdf)

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