# National Weather Service Product Description Document (PDD)

## Experimental Beach Forecast Webpage
## March 2017

## Part 1 - Mission Connection

### 1. Service Description:

The experimental Beach Forecast Webpage offers beach and surf zone forecasts, experimental Rip Current Risk Graphics, links to local radar, ultraviolet index, and rip current preparedness/safety information for beaches within a Weather Forecast Office's (WFO) forecast area. Information related to surf height and waves (in the surf zone) will be added to the webpage during the comment period. Preparedness and safety information related to dangerous surf and waves will also be added. Information related to other beach and surf zone hazards will likely be added at a later date.

### 2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The experimental Beach Forecast Web page is designed for beach goers to easily view, on one webpage, beach/surf zone forecasts and hazard information provided by WFOs that are participating in the test.

### 3. Audience:

This page is designed for a wide audience, ranging from the general public (especially recreational beach goers) to National Weather Service (NWS) core partners and customers.

### 4. Presentation Format:

A webpage highlighting beach/surf zone forecast and hazard information.

A national map linking all of the experimental Beach Forecast Webpages can be seen by going to:

http://www.weather.gov/beach

Clicking on an area of interest takes a user to
http://www.weather.gov/beach/ (WFO site ID).

### 5. Feedback Method:

Web-based feedback from the broader community will be sought via a NWS customer survey link posted on the web sites through March 30, 2018. After the evaluation period, a decision to proceed with testing, revise the test, expand the test, or continue on the path to

operational production and expansion to other offices will be made.

Direct questions, comments, or suggestions about website to:
John Kuhn
NWS Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services Branch
1325 East West Highway, SSMC2
Silver Spring, MD 20910
e-mail: john.f.kuhn@noaa.gov

# Part 2 – Technical

## 1. Format and Science Basis:

The webpage was built using Javascript, JQuery, and the OpenLayers API which utilizes the ESRI Maps layer. Rip current risk information (Experimental Rip Current Risk Graphic) is displayed on the map via color-coded polygons. These polygons are provided via a KML file created at the local office from a script triggered when a Surf Zone Forecast is created. This script also provides the rip current risk, UV Index (if applicable), and water temperature (if applicable) for the WFO's prominent beach points in the form of a printable beach forecast webpage. This information is supplied by a JSON-formatted file which is also created by the Perl script that runs on AWIPS at the local office. The webpage also provides a forecast for those points (marked on the map by beach umbrella icons) which are supplied by the forecast.weather.gov server. The local script also creates a timestamp label image that is used by the KML file. This timestamp will display on the map itself or when the KML file is viewed stand-alone in a KML-compatible application. The content on the right side of the page is site- defined via a configuration file. Additional links, such as radar, UVI maps, safety links, etc., may be added to this area.

## 2. Availability:

A national map with all of the offices participating in the experiment is located

at: http://www.weather.gov/beach

Additional offices may be added during the comment period. An amended Public Information Statement will be issued at that time.

The Weather Forecast Offices participating in the experiment are…

WFO Boston, MA                WFO Mobile, AL
WFO Brownsville, TX           WFO Morehead City/Newport, NC,
WFO Charleston, SC            WFO Northern Indiana, IN
WFO Cleveland, OH             WFO Upton, NY
WFO Corpus Christi            WFO Los Angeles, CA
WFO Gray, ME                  WFO San Diego, CA
WFO Jacksonville, FL          WFO Tallahassee, FL
WFO Melbourne, FL             WFO Wakefield, VA
WFO Miami, FL                 WFO Wilmington, NC
WFO Mount Holly, NJ

The page will update each time new information is available (for example, a new forecast product is issued, new UV index is calculated, safety information is updated etc.)

**Additional Notes: N/A**