



Mariners Weather Log

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Marine Meteorological and Oceanographic Guidance Products from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction

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I. INTRODUCTION

NMC was reorganized as a part of the National Weather Service's (NWS) modernization and restructuring into what is now referred to as NCEP in 1995. NCEP is divided into nine centers: seven are forecast centers, one is a modeling center, and one is a computer operations center. Of the nine centers, three have marine meteorological and oceanographic responsibilities:

- The Marine Prediction Center (MPC)
- The Tropical Prediction Center (TPC) (formerly known as the National Hurricane Center)
- The Environmental Modeling Center (EMC) (specifically, the Ocean Modeling Branch [OMB])

The MPC and TPC provide forecasts to the marine community and guidance to coastal Warning and Forecast Offices (WFOs). The OMB creates and provides guidance to the MPC, the TPC, and WFOs. Many of these products are also available to the

public on the Family of Services or Internet, the appropriate interpretation of these products always comes from the field office charged with a given marine responsibility. In this article, the responsibilities of the OMB are discussed. Also a brief list of the guidance products produced by the OMB is given. In addition, dissemination of the products is discussed. In future articles other aspects of the marine guidance products or forecast products produced by NCEP will be discussed.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OMB

The primary responsibilities of the OMB are to:

- Prepare and disseminate operational marine guidance material to NOAA field forecast offices and the civil sector
- Develop improved numerical analysis techniques
- Develop state-of-the-art numerical forecast model output products
- Evaluate and improve the quality of the guidance products and develop new products to accommodate user needs
- Provide special support for the quality control of remotely sensed measurements of winds and waves

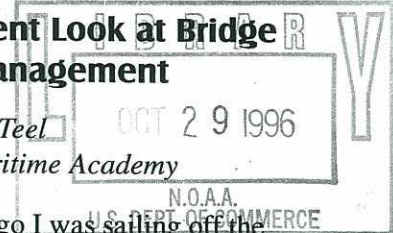
Because the primary function of OMB is to produce operational guidance products, the emphasis is on applied research and technology transfer whenever possible. For convenience the activities of the OMB are carried out in the following broad areas:

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On the Bridge

The Old Man's Chair A Different Look at Bridge Team Management

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Years ago I was sailing off the board from the New York union hall. After a week or so I landed a berth as third mate aboard a SeaLand ship. She paid well and had a good itinerary that took her to northern Europe and Spain before returning to the United States. The bonus came when I learned who the captain was. I had sailed with him off and on for a number of years and had always enjoyed the trips with him. His ship always ran well, everybody got along, and things went smoothly.

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