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RE: New NY Mariner Weather Buoy

The Hudson Canyon will get a real-time weather buoy slated to be deployed this week.

It is the first buoy off Long Island dedicated to the safety and well being of all offshore mariners. Officially named 44066, this new buoy will also be known as Texas Tower Four in memory of the men who served on the offshore radome Texas Tower 4 in the early 1960's. It is replacing 44004, which was located 100 miles further offshore. Deployment of the new TT4 buoy will take place between June 18th - June 22nd subject to weather conditions. The approximate location is 39.35N 072.36W or about 80 miles from NY Harbor. Buoy 44066-TT4 will be included on the NDBC buoy web page immediately following placement at the website:

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/maps/Northeast.shtml>

This deployment is the success of collaboration between government and stakeholders.

The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), in partnership with the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (MACOORA), the National Weather Service (NWS), and the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) are proud to be partners in announcing this re-positioned and important continental shelf buoy placement.

Three years ago MACOORA had initiated a discussion among the agencies, based on recreational and commercial user needs, for a real-time weather buoy to be placed off the Mid Atlantic coast for improved climatic ocean observations. These observations would add to the safety of mariners using those waterways for recreation and commerce and add to the science of ocean processes.

MACOORA Board Director, Jeff Yapalater, commented, "It is a new day in the way government responds to stakeholders' needs. The understanding and cooperation by both the National Weather Service and the Data Buoy Center for safety and research has resulted in a win-win for all agencies and the public. This goes to show how partnership, perspective and perseverance are

key in preventing potential loss of life while adding to quality of life.”

The TT4 buoy will be placed at the Hudson Canyon and will augment the new Hudson to Baltimore forecast zone by having this buoy placed directly in the weather zone window adding an extra layer of modeling efficiency to daily offshore marine forecasts. The location is adjacent to the site of the Texas Tower 4 tragedy. “This buoy honors these men who served their country in the early moments of Homeland Security”, said Yapalater.

The 44066 is three-meters in size, weighing 3800 lbs, and will be anchored in a depth of 250 feet. MACOORA and its members plan to work with the NDBC in future use of this platform for added data including sub-surface currents and, underwater sea temps, chlorophyll, and thermocline fluctuations. These added features are planned for both scientific and mariner use increasing knowledge and interest in our ocean.

Due to the delicacy of instrumentation and importance to the NWS offshore forecasts and mariner safety, it is imperative that no vessels approach this buoy. Repair service will be intermittent and all vessels are subject to fines if interfering with the buoy operation.

For more information contact:

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