

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

WEATHER BUREAU

January 30, 1961

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE: R05-3

IN REPLY ADDRESS  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
WEATHER BUREAU  
BOX 80  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Commander  
17th Coast Guard District  
U. S. Coast Guard  
P. O. Box 2631  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Sir:

The storm disasters encountered by tug and barge operations in the Gulf of Alaska during the past six months have prompted this office to reappraise the effectiveness of the Marine Forecast and Warning Program. Our evaluation disclosed that an urgent requirement exists for more frequent dissemination of marine weather service. It was further determined that supplementation of the broadcasts by the inclusion of local and nearby weather observations (wind direction, speed, present weather, and visibility) would augment the service to water-borne transportation frequenting Alaskan coastal areas.

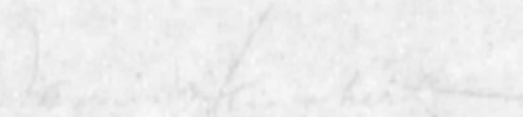
In response to our request, the Commanding Officer, U. S. Army Alaska Communications System, has authorized their ACS coastal facilities to increase their scheduling to provide for three broadcasts daily; one in the morning, one near mid-day, and another in the evening. The Broadcast Bulletin will also include the weather observations. This augmented service will be implemented on February 15, 1961. Our Forecast Center in Anchorage recently began including storm centers in the morning forecast. Storms in the proximity, whether they are prognosticated to traverse the area of forecast responsibility during the period of validity or not, are positioned in the appropriate FX1 or FX2 Bulletin. This will serve to assist marine operators without forecast and warning service beyond a 24-hour period.

The gap in the gamut of ACS coastal radio-telephone facilities in the eastern portion of the North Gulf Coast area continues to be an impediment to providing adequate dissemination of marine weather forecasts and warnings. Unconfirmed information indicates that tug operations, after passing Cape Fairweather, frequently encounter difficulty in picking up radio marine broadcasts from either Ketchikan or Juneau.

Should your Ocean Cape LORAN facility have capabilities to participate in the dissemination network, our Weather Station at Yakutat will provide the marine weather bulletin consisting of valid forecasts and warnings as well as local and nearby weather observations, in accordance with your proposed scheduling. Approval of this proposal to supplement the broadcast network, together with implementation of the additional and comprehensive ACS broadcasts, should assist materially in mitigating the exigencies to tug and barge operations in the Gulf of Alaska waters.

Please advise whether your Ocean Cape facilities will be in a position to implement scheduled marine weather broadcasts.

Very truly yours,

  
James H. Crockett  
Acting Regional Administrative Officer

cc: F&SR Division CC