



Marine Prediction Center Sets Sail on First Alliance

Awareness can be as important as prevention when navigating a vessel through a storm, and the best method of awareness is through education and knowledge.

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP) Marine Prediction Center (MPC) and the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS) have teamed up to embark on a maiden voyage to provide marine weather forecast instruction – using National Weather Service (NWS) official products – and to work together on projects of mutual interest designed for professional mariners. Also, MPC will work with MITAGS to identify and raise the standards of training on weather related courses for advanced maritime safety. MITAGS is a non-profit continuing education center for professional mariners that provides training to civilian and military mariners from around the globe.

This agreement marks the first organizational partnership for MPC and adheres to two NCEP strategic goals – to exercise global leadership and to forge stronger bonds with NWS partners and users. “This is a major step in realizing MPC’s vision to be the mariners weather



Pictured on left: MPC Chief of Operations David Feit; MPC Deputy Director Kevin McCarthy; MPC Director James Hoke; MITAGS Executive Director Glen Paine; and MITAGS Director of Training, Walt Megonicgal.

lifeline,” said Dr. James Hoke, director of the MPC. “Working with MITAGS offers a great opportunity for MPC to be in direct contact with our primary users to get feedback and ideas on how to keep MPC their first choice for marine weather information.”

Glen Paine, Executive Director of MITAGS, stated that “This partnership allows us to reemphasize the mariner’s need for accurate and timely weather information and the requirement for the skills to apply that information. As we have seen in the past, weather information correctly applied greatly reduces the impact adverse weather can have on a crew and its vessel. We at MITAGS look forward to our interaction with the National Weather Service.”

The MPC is one of nine NCEP centers located in Camp Springs, MD. MPC issues forecasts and warnings for regional, offshore

and high sea areas of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Operating seven days a week, 24 hours a day, the MPC forecasts and analyzes sea conditions such as wind, wave, fog and ice accretion and issues sea surface temperature products. The center also produces marine forecasts in response to emergency situations identified by NOAA, the NWS Regional Offices, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard Search and Rescue. MPC works closely with the Tropical Prediction Center and the Weather Forecast Offices in Anchorage and Honolulu to provide comprehensive coverage of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans as well as the Gulf of Mexico.

For more information about MITAGS, MPC or NCEP visit the World Wide Web sites: www.mitags.org, www.mpc.ncep.noaa.gov, and www.ncep.noaa.gov, respectively. ⚓