



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
1325 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283

Feb 19, 2015

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: In the Matter of Review of the Emergency Alert System  
EB Docket No. 04-296

Dear Madam Secretary:

The National Weather Service (NWS) welcomes the opportunity to provide supplemental information concerning our agency's previous requests to modify the Part 11 Emergency Alert System (EAS) Rules, Subpart B, Section 11.31(f), Offshore (Marine Areas).

The NWS contacted representatives from the US Census Bureau and the US Geological Survey in advance of our previous requests submitted for EB Docket No. 04-296; neither agency has purview concerning any codes assigned to offshore marine areas.

The Census Bureau only assigns Federal Information Processing Series (FIPS) codes to land areas, i.e. states and territories; counties, parishes and boroughs; and independent cities. The US Geological Survey's Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) is the official repository for domestic geographic names to be followed by all departments of the federal government; however, the GNIS database only extends from the coastline out to the 12-mile statutory limit. The Marine Areas in the Part 11 Rules are located beyond the 12-mile statutory limit.

After NWS requests were submitted in 2002 in response to an earlier NPRM, the Part 11 Rules were originally amended in 2003 to include NWS-requested "pseudo-FIPS" location codes to cover offshore (marine) areas. These two digit numbers comprise the "SS" portion of the location code in Part 11. Since the "pseudo-FIPS" location codes were originally requested by the NWS and the modifications to the existing marine areas are minor, the NWS requests the FCC to maintain the existing codes and to modify the corresponding titles (or Area descriptions) in the Part 11 EAS Rules, Subpart B, Section 11.31(f), Offshore (Marine Areas). The purpose of the current NWS request is for the Part 11 EAS Rules to be consistent with a change made several years ago by NOAA's National Hurricane Center.

Specifically, the NWS requests the old end point, Bonita Beach, FL, be replaced with the new end point, Ocean Reef, FL, so the revised titles appear in the Part 11 Rules as follows:

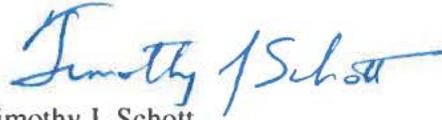
FIPS #75: Western North Atlantic Ocean, and along U.S. East Coast, south of Currituck Beach Light, NC, following the coastline to Ocean Reef, FL, including the Caribbean



FIPS #77: Gulf of Mexico, and along the U.S. Gulf Coast from the Mexican border to Ocean Reef, FL

Please contact me at NWS Headquarters, Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services, if there is any need for additional information. I may be reached via e mail at [timothy.schott@noaa.gov](mailto:timothy.schott@noaa.gov) or by telephone at (301) 427-9336.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J. Schott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Timothy J. Schott  
Meteorologist  
Office of Climate, Water, and  
Weather Services