



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

November 17, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR: A.I.S., Inc.
East West Technical Services
Fathoms Research LLC
MRAG Americas
At-Sea Monitors, and
Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: Amy S. Martins 
Branch Chief, Fisheries Sampling Branch (FSB)

SUBJECT: FREEZING SPRAY CONDITIONS WHILE AT SEA

Environment Canada and NOAA Fisheries are working together to improve freezing spray predictions. Being able to accurately predict when such conditions might occur could have a significant impact on improving at sea safety for mariners.

To help move this project forward FSB has been asked to provide information whenever observers encounter freezing spray conditions while at sea. If such conditions occur, observers are being asked to use "99" as the weather condition code and then provide comments. Comments should include a statement that freezing spray was present, at what time and for how long, and *approximate* ice accretion rate (inches, or fractions of an inch, per hour). If air temperature and relative humidity are available those should also be included in the comments, as well as any other information that might be considered pertinent. Information should only be collected if it is safe to do so.

Freezing spray occurs when water droplets freeze, caused by a combination of cold water, wind, cold air temperatures, sea conditions, and vessel movement. Freezing spray is not snow, or blowing snow, but can occur during snow conditions.

Last year observers reported 13 incidents of freezing spray, 10 of which included air temperatures and 7 that included accretion rates. Thank you!

If you have any questions about this request please contact Mike Tork at: Mike.Tork@noaa.gov, or by phone at 508 495-2339.

Thank you