OCENS adds exciting new data sets to WeatherNet

Effective July 1, OCENS has incorporated several new sources of wind, wave and general met GRIB data into its PC and Mac versions of WeatherNet.

These data include direct measurements of wind from the **ASCAT satellite scatterometer**, **NDFD vector wind and wave height data**, wind and other met data from the **high resolution RAP model**, and new **wind and wave data for the Great Lakes**. In addition, several new sources of Arctic ice information have been incorporated into WeatherNet.

ASCAT wind: These wind data are unlike any other GRIB wind information in the world. The ASCAT satellite is continuously circling the earth and scanning the ocean surface. Collected data is processed using sophisticated algorithms and converted into measurements of wind speed and direction. Values are converted into GRIB form and pulled by OCENS to its Everon WeatherNet servers. What's unique about ASCAT wind GRIBS? These are not modeled winds such as is the wind data in models such as the GFS, WW3, Navgem or really any other wind grib. Instead, these are the actual winds, measured by the satellite, and passed back to earth for distribution to ocean users. We're not guessing at the winds here. We are actually measuring them…as if we hand a wind vane or buoy sitting everywhere in the ocean.

Where to find in WeatherNet: ASCAT wind data are available in Portal mode (GRIB wind/1 day) and Library mode under the GRIB Wind/Wave folder. Coverage is global.

NDFD wind and wave heights: The weather forecasts embodied in the weather charts produced by forecasters at the Ocean Prediction Center and the National Hurricane Center represent some of the highest quality and most reliable products on the planet. Their limitations? They are static weather charts. Picture files. Jpegs, tifs and gifs which you download and look at but which don't offer much in terms of interactivity. WeatherNet's *NEW* NDFD wind and wave GRIBs change all of this. They represent the result of converting those weather charts into GRIBs. Consequently, they preserve all the human intelligence and local knowledge put into those charts but make this information available in the form of GRIBs which can be animated, layered and closely analyzed.

Where to find in WeatherNet: NDFD data are available in Portal mode (GRIB Wind/1 thru 6 days) and from Library mode inside the GRIB Wind/Wave folder. Coverage includes all US and Alaskan waters plus the Caribbean, Eastern Pacific and the Atlantic hurricane corridor.

RAP meteorological GRIBs: The Rapid Refresh (RAP) model is a very high spatial and 1 hour temporal resolution model forecasting over an 18 hour time period. It was constructed to serve the needs of users needing frequently updated short-term forecasts. This means it is most commonly used by aviators and severe weather forecasters. However, these features will benefit any WeatherNet user monitoring short-term weather conditions changing at a pace that is faster than the 6 hour model update frequencies typical of most weather models.

Where to find in WeatherNet: RAP wind, precipitation, CAPE, lifted index, air temperature, 500 mb and cloud cover GRIBs are available from WeatherNet's Portal Mode (GRIB Wind/1 day) or Library mode inside the GRIB Met folder. Data cover North America and the Caribbean, large chunks of the West Atlantic and a significant portion of northwest South America.

Great Lakes wind and wave data: The newly added Great Lakes wind and wave (GLWW) data is available in two flavors. The very high resolution data is available at a scale of 1/16 of a degree or approximately one data point every 3.75 miles. The coarser resolution, roughly 8 mile scale data, is labeled FAST in WeatherNet because its downloads occur much more quickly than the fine resolution product. FAST file sizes are roughly just 10% of the size of the high resolution product.

Where to find in WeatherNet: GLWW GRIBs are found in Portal mode (GRIB Wind/Days 1 through 7) and Library mode. To find GLWW in Portal mode, be sure to check the Great Lakes boxes on the GRIB Model Preferences wizard page. GLWW is found inside the GRIB Wind/Wave folder in Library mode.

All data are added to your computer-side WeatherNet databases with small incremental updates at the end of your WeatherNet session. A reinstall of WeatherNet or a File List Update does NOT need to be conducted to have access to the new data sets.

To sign up for WeatherNet service visit: http://www.ocens.com/weathernet

About OCENS, Inc.
OCENS data services, software and apps merge easy-to-use applications with unprecedented content offerings to affordably deliver data over satellite phones to remote users around the world. OCENS weather, ocean and fishing services provide access to the largest collection of GRIB and classical data that can be found anywhere. Using patented pull-me technology, OCENS WeatherNet provides fast access to the world's widest selection of weather and ocean information over PC and Mac platforms. GRIB Explorer processes highly compressed GRIB information into unique decision products for use on PC, Mac or iPad platforms. MetMapper transforms static weather charts and satellite imagery into dynamic planning tools. OCENS' iPhone and Android apps provide weather and messaging services to the smartphone community. Its SpotCast weather service provides multi-day, multi-point forecasts of weather and ocean conditions for any point on earth in a highly compact form. OCENS augments its software core with satellite equipment and airtime solutions it provides in cooperation with all the major satellite providers.