



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Weather Service

NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction (NCWCP)  
National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP)  
Environmental Modeling Center (EMC)  
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From: Hendrik L Tolman  
Subject: WAVEWATCH III early code distribution  
Version: 1.0

### **Early code distribution:**

With the relatively long period between formal releases of WAVEWATCH III (WW3), there is an ongoing issue with making experimental code available to those who could benefit from these codes. Per WW3 license, individual developers cannot redistribute the code. After extensive discussions at NCEP, we have come up with the following solution, which is consistent with the licensing, and satisfies early distribution needs. If requests come in for distributing developmental code to individuals, NCEP will provide “alpha” versions of the new code through the web site, which then will be made available on a case-by-case basis under the alpha code distribution agreement provided below. Note that this is intended for *users*, not *developers*. The latter should be requesting joint access to the svn server. In principle, we prefer to generate alpha versions from the trunk. This implies that

- If you want an early release of your contributions, it should be ready for, and integrated into the trunk (or make the case to us to do this differently).
- If you leave your contributions in your branch, there is no way it can “accidentally” be distributed.

Once we have implemented this early distribution mechanism, there will be a zero tolerance policy for those who violate the license and distribute the code on their own. Individual distribution of the code will result in an immediate removal of svn privileges at NCEP, and may result in NCEP involving the Office of the General Council (OGC, i.e., the NOAA lawyers). Distributing information of branches that are not your own will be considered as breach of copyright.

### **Alpha (beta) code access:**

Upon individual request, user will be given access to alpha versions of the WW3 code under the following conditions:

- The code and manuals are provided with the understanding that both may be incomplete. NCEP will not provide additional support to run the codes, with the exception of working with the developers on bug fixes, and moving these into updated model versions.

- The user will update to the formal release as soon as reasonably possible, and not maintain alpha versions after a formal code release.
- The WW3 license covers alpha model versions (registered WW3 users only).
- Where reasonably possible, reference will be made to formal versions of model documentation and existing papers, **not** to draft documentation versions that are distributed with the code.
- NCEP needs to be contacted for obtaining explicit permission for commercial use. NCEP will consult with contributors to the trunk in case of such requests.

Future beta versions of the code will be distributed under the same arrangement, with the exception that NCEP will actively solicit beta users.

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