Web Cams for Observing Rip Currents and High Tide Flooding

Greg Dusek
National Ocean Service
Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services

Michael Churma
National Weather Service
Web Cams for Rip Current Model Validation

• A probabilistic rip current forecast model is being validated at coastal locations across the U.S.
• Have relied on lifeguard observations of rip current intensity for model development and validation
• This approach is limited by lifeguard presence and subjective nature of visual observations
Oct 07 15 15:01:09  1488 images averaged over 5 minutes, 4.96 frames/sec.
Web Cams for High Tide Flooding Observations

• High tide flooding – coastal flooding influenced by the tide
• Becoming more frequent due to sea level rise
• NOS provides annual outlooks and seasonal High Tide Bulletins
• Challenge with relating water level to impacts
Web Cams for High Tide Flooding Observations