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Public Information Statement 19-16
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From: Allison Allen
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Subject: Soliciting Comments on the Experimental
 Tropical Cyclone JavaScript Object Notation file
 May 31, 2019, through November 30, 2019

Effective May 31, 2019, through November 30, 2019, NWS is seeking user feedback on an experimental Tropical Cyclone JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) file. This file is designed for sophisticated users who are able to parse JSON files to update their applications with the latest tropical cyclone analysis information and forecast products. The file will provide time-stamped tropical cyclone analysis information and links to current tropical cyclone products. The National Hurricane Center will produce this file whenever tropical cyclone forecasts are being made by the NWS in the Atlantic, eastern North Pacific, and Central Pacific basins.

An example of the Tropical Cyclone JSON file can be found here:
https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/productexamples/NHC_JSON_Sample.json

This single file will include up to 27 URLs per tropical cyclone that link to storm-specific tropical cyclone products. Each file will contain analysis and forecast information for every active tropical cyclone in the aforementioned basins. The string of information for a specific tropical cyclone will begin with the storm ID. The tropical cyclone storm ID is formatted as follows:

BBCCYYY (e.g., ep112017)

Where: (BB) is the basin (al - North Atlantic; ep - East Pacific; cp - Central Pacific)

Where: (CC) is the cyclone number for that year (01, 02...)

Where: (YYYY) is the 4-digit year

Following the tropical cyclone storm ID are standardized strings of vital analysis information about the tropical cyclone, including its name, intensity and movement. An entry for the time this information was last updated immediately follows this

analysis information. The remainder of the product includes a listing of each tropical cyclone product.

These products include tropical cyclone advisory text products, like the tropical cyclone discussion, and graphical products, like the forecast cone and the most likely time of arrival of tropical-storm-force winds. Each product has sub-listings that contain the tropical cyclone advisory number of the most recent product posted, the issuance time of the product and, as applicable, the URL where the latest text file can be found, the zip file(s) with the product data URL(s), and/or the kmz format file URL(s).

Each piece of analysis information and forecast product listed in the sample JSON file will always be present so long as advisories have been issued within the past 9 hours for the tropical cyclone.

The data in the experimental Tropical Cyclone JSON file will be continuously updated to provide links to the latest products associated with the active tropical cyclones. Users can avoid reprocessing of data already been ingested because the latest update time is included for each individual product.

The experimental Tropical Cyclone JSON file can be found at: (the file is only populated with data when there are active tropical cyclones in the aforementioned ocean basins):
<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/CurrentStorms.json>

More information about the Tropical Cyclone JSON file can be found in the Product Description Document linked below:
https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpTropicalCycloneJSONFile_2019.pdf

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on this experimental product to:
tropical.program@noaa.gov

For technical and policy questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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