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Public Information Statement 26-15
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From: Fanglin Yang
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Subject: Soliciting Comments through April 05, 2026 on the Proposed Upgrade of the Hurricane Analysis and Forecast System (HAFS) to version 2.2

NWS is soliciting comments through April 05, 2026, on a proposed upgrade of the operational HAFS to version 2.2.

HAFS consists of two model configurations for global (HAFS-A) and basin-scale (HAFS-B) tropical storm prediction, which are built upon NOAA's Unified Forecast System (UFS). HAFS version 2.2 is expected to improve forecasting skill for track and intensity of tropical cyclones (TCs) worldwide (HAFS-A) as well as in the North Atlantic and Eastern and Central North Pacific basins (HAFS-B).

HAFS version 2.2 includes the following science changes:

- Model code updates based on the latest UFS revision as of February 04, 2026.

- Atmospheric physics updates:

- * Scale-aware 3D-TKE EDMF planetary boundary layer (PBL) scheme
- * Noah-MP land surface model
- * Transition from RRTMG to RRTMGP radiation scheme
- * Variable PBL mixing length scales with wind speed and PBL height

- Ocean model updates:

- * Latest MOM6 submodule with updated parameter options
- * Updated WW3 submodule

- Vortex Initialization (VI) and Data Assimilation (DA) improvements:

- * Adjusted warm cycling threshold
- * VI related changes with storm perturbation smoothing
- * Sync up with the latest GSI submodule as of February 4, 2026.

- * Adjusted IAU window
- * hafs_datool updates: fix related to uv_rotation, use of MPI
- * TDR superobbing
- * Additional obs: Commercial GPS RO and sUAS observation data

-Postprocess

- * Updated GFDL hurricane tracker

HAFS version 2.2 includes the following product changes:

A new variable, wind gust at 10 m above the ground, is added to the grib2 product. There are no other product changes. HAFS products will continue to be available from the NOAA Operational Model Archive and Distribution Services (NOMADS)web services.

Please submit comments, questions, or requests on science aspects of the proposed upgrade to:

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For questions and comments on the dataflow aspect, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification>

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