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From: Jamie Rhome, Deputy Director
 National Hurricane Center

Subject: Soliciting Comments on the Experimental Tropical Cyclone Track and Error Cone Graphics from the National Hurricane Center Through November 30, 2026

Effective on or about May 15, 2026, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) will provide experimental Tropical Cyclone (TC) Track and Error Cone Graphics (i.e., Cone Graphics) that use a different methodology to construct the error cone.

Since 2007, the NHC TC Cone Graphic has been formed by connecting a set of circles at each forecast point. These circles are based on the 67th percentile of the NHC absolute track errors over the previous five years. In 2026, an experimental TC Cone Graphic will be constructed based on an ellipse at each forecast point that is calculated using the 90th percentile of the NHC along- and cross-track errors from the previous five years. The experimental cone is then formed by smoothly connecting the area swept out by these ellipses. This approach seeks to more accurately reflect the track error characteristics at each forecast time. Since the center of a tropical cyclone would be expected to remain within each ellipse 90% of the time, the experimental cone will represent the likely track area of the center of a tropical cyclone.

When there is an active system, examples of the experimental Cone Graphic from NHC can be found at the following Uniform Resource Locator (URL):

Atlantic: https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/graphics_at#.shtml?expcone

Eastern North Pacific:
https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/graphics_ep#.shtml?expcone

Central North Pacific:
https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/graphics_cp#.shtml?expcone

Where # is a single digit 1-5, or "bin number".

The experimental cone will be available with each NHC advisory or special advisory. This experimental cone will be issued in addition to the operational cone. When available, the experimental Cone Graphic can also

be found through the [hurricanes.gov](https://www.hurricanes.gov) main page by selecting the Cone Graphic thumbnail that will take the user to the operational Cone Graphic page. On that page, there will be a link to the experimental Cone Graphic.

More information on the experimental Cone Graphic is available at the following URL:

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/experimental/cone/>

The NWS is soliciting comments on this experimental version of the Cone Graphic from NHC through November 30, 2026. Please provide feedback through the NWS survey at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ProposedChangestotheTropicalCycloneConeGraphics_2026

If you have questions, please contact:

NWS Tropical Program
National Hurricane Center
Email: tropical.program@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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