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Public Information Statement, Comments Requested
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
820 AM EDT Wed May 20 2015

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From: Eli Jacks
Acting Chief, Forecast Services Division

Subject: Soliciting comments on Experimental Potential Storm
Surge Flooding Map through November 30, 2015

Effective June 1, 2015, and continuing through November 30, 2015, the NWS is seeking user feedback on an experimental Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map issued by the National Hurricane Center (NHC).

This map was developed over the course of several years in consultation with social scientists, emergency managers, broadcast meteorologists, and others. The map will show:

- Geographical areas where inundation from storm surge could occur
- How high above ground the water could reach in those areas

Areas of possible storm surge flooding for a given storm will be represented in different colors on the map based on water level:

- Blue: up to 3 feet above ground
- Yellow: greater than 3 feet above ground
- Orange: greater than 6 feet above ground
- Red: greater than 9 feet above ground

The experimental Potential Storm Surge Flooding map takes into account:

- Flooding due to storm surge from the ocean, including adjoining tidal rivers, sounds and bays
- Normal astronomical tides
- Land elevation
- Uncertainties in the track, landfall location, intensity, forward speed, and size of the cyclone

The map does not take into account wave action, freshwater flooding from rainfall, and flooding inside and overtopping of

certain levees.

The potential storm surge hazard is not depicted within certain levee areas, such as the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System in Louisiana. These areas are highly complex and water levels resulting from overtopping are difficult to predict. Users are asked to consult local officials for flood risk inside these leveed areas.

NHC will release the initial map for a storm when it issues a hurricane watch or warning or, in some special cases, a tropical storm watch or warning for any part of the Gulf or East Coast, (anytime within 48 hours of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds).

The map is subject to change every 6 hours with each new NHC full advisory package. Due to the processing time required to generate the storm surge guidance and produce the map, it will be available about 60 to 90 minutes after the NHC advisory.

The map represents the storm surge heights that a person should prepare for before a storm, given the uncertainties in the forecast. The map shows a reasonable estimate of worst-case scenario flooding of normally dry land at particular locations due to storm surge. There is a 1-in-10 chance that the storm surge flooding at any particular location could be higher than the values shown on the map. The map is created from multiple runs of the Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model.

Additional information and map examples are online at:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/experimental/inundation>

The map will be available on the NHC website at:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/cyclones>

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on this experimental product by using the brief survey and comment form available online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=PSSFm>

For technical questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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For policy questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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