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Public Information Statement PNS17-17
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FROM: Allison Allen
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SUBJECT: Soliciting comments on the proposed changes to the
 surface analyses and surface forecast charts through
 until May 24, 2017

The NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP) Ocean Prediction Center (OPC), the National Hurricane Center's (NHC) Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB), and Weather Forecast Office Honolulu are collecting comments until May 24, 2017, on a proposal to change the content of their surface analyses and forecast charts.

- OPC is proposing to change the content of its surface analyses, and 24-, 48-, and 96-hour forecast charts.
- TAFB is proposing to change the content of its surface analyses and 72-hour forecast charts
- WFO Honolulu is proposing to change the content of its surface analyses

The proposed changes would be for these charts to eliminate past track information for all systems and to contain future forecast track information only for extratropical low pressure systems that have, or are forecast to have, hazards associated with them. The hazards displayed will be gale, storm, hurricane-force, developing gale, developing storm, developing hurricane-force, and possible tropical cyclone. Heavy freezing spray information and the ice edge will be included as well.

As proposed, the analysis and forecast charts will no longer include past track information and forecast tracks for highs, extratropical lows with none of the aforementioned hazards associated with them or expected, and tropical cyclones. This change will improve OPC, TAFB and WFO Honolulu forecasters' ability to provide detail in their digital forecasts. For OPC, the change will provide flexibility in the OPC workflow to test and potentially implement a 72-hour forecast chart. Additionally, the change will ensure consistency of information regarding tropical cyclones found through text and graphics supplied by the NHC, Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC),

and Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC).

An example of the change can be found at:

http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/sfc_tracks.php

At the site above, you can comment on the proposed change through a link at the bottom of the page.

Through this comment solicitation, no changes will occur to the schedule of radiofax charts produced by the OPC, TAFB, or WFO Honolulu. There will be no effect on the schedule via the Worldwide Marine Radiofacsimile Broadcast:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/rfax.pdf>

There will also be no changes to the Unified Surface Analysis which can be found at <http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/>.

Surface analyses and forecast charts can be found on the OPC web site at:

Atlantic:

http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/Atl_tab.shtml

Pacific:

http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/Pac_tab.shtml

Alaska/Arctic:

http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/AK_tab.shtml

Surface analyses and forecast charts can be found on the TAFB web site at:

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

Hawaiian marine products can be found on the WFO Honolulu web site:

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/pages/marine.php>

Tropical cyclone information for the north Atlantic and eastern north Pacific can be found at the NHC web site at:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> and at

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnhcprod.shtml>

Tropical cyclone information for the central north Pacific can be found at the CPHC web site at:

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc>

Tropical cyclone information for the northwest Pacific can be found at the JTWC web site at:

<https://metoc.ndbc.noaa.gov/JTWC/>

In addition to the method noted above, you can send comments, and also make requests for more information, via email or

telephone to:

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Hugh Cobb
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National Public Information Notices are online at:

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

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