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Public Information Statement 17-30  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring, MD  
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To:           Subscribers:  
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From:         Allison Allen  
              Chief, Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject:      Changes to the Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook  
              (GTWO) issued by the National Hurricane Center  
              effective on or around May 15, 2017

Effective on or about May 15, 2017, the content of the Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook (GTWO) issued by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) will be modified. The majority of the changes have been necessitated to accommodate potential tropical cyclones. A potential tropical cyclone is a disturbance that is not yet a tropical cyclone, but one for which the NWS has begun issuing tropical cyclone watches or warnings because it poses the threat of bringing tropical storm or hurricane conditions to land areas within 48 hours.

Summary of changes:

1. The current location of all active tropical cyclones will be included on the 5-day GTWO.
2. The current location of potential tropical cyclones will be included on the 2-day and 5-day GTWO.
3. The current location of the potential tropical cyclones will be depicted by an x, with the number of the potential cyclone (e.g., One) displayed above the x. The x will be color coded based on the forecast likelihood of tropical cyclone formation during the 2- or 5-day period corresponding to that graphic:
  - Yellow, 30 percent or less chance
  - Orange, 40-60 percent chance
  - Red, 70 percent or greater chance

A swath showing the forecast development area of the potential tropical cyclone will not be shown on the 5-day GTWO to avoid confusion with the existing 5-day track forecasts that will be provided for those systems.

4. The current location of potential tropical cyclones will not be included in the shapefile that accompanies each issuance of the GTWO. Users will be directed to the shapefiles accompanying the full forecast advisory for potential tropical cyclones. The forecast advisory shapefiles will include the current location and forecast track of the potential tropical cyclone.

If you have questions or comments please contact:

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