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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 19-15
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
945 AM EDT Wed May 29 2019

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From: Allison Allen
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Subject: Soliciting comments on changes to the experimental
 Arrival of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds Base Data
 May 31, 2019, through November 30, 2019

Effective May 31, 2019, and continuing through November 30, 2019, NWS is seeking user feedback on changes to the experimental Arrival of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds Base Data issued by the National Hurricane Center (NHC). These changes include adding:

1. Experimental Arrival of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds Base Data for the Central Pacific basin
2. New file naming structure that will sequentially order the archived data files using a 3-digit advisory number rather than 1 digit as was done in 2018

NHC began providing experimental Arrival of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds Base Data during the 2018 hurricane season. Please see NWS Public Information Statement 18-18 for details:
https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/pns18-18toa_base-data.pdf
and

NWS Service Change Notice 18-39:
https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn18-39time_arrival_graphics.pdf

These base data are used to create the Time of Arrival Graphics found on the NHC website:

<http://hurricanes.gov>

These base data allow users to calculate the time of arrival for their specific areas of interest. The data are provided in epoch (seconds since Jan 01, 1970, UTC) format. Users can convert this date to match their local time zone if desired.

NHC creates the timing information using the same Monte Carlo wind speed probability model currently used to determine the risk of tropical-storm- and hurricane-force winds at

individual locations. This model constructs 1,000 plausible scenarios using the official NWS tropical cyclone forecast and its historical errors. Additional information on this product and the underlying technique are online at:

[http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/about/pdf/About Windspeed Probabilities.pdf](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/about/pdf/About_Windspeed_Probabilities.pdf)

The base data will be updated with each new NHC (Atlantic and East Pacific basins) or Central Pacific Hurricane Center (Central Pacific basin) full advisory package issued at 0300, 0900, 1500 and 2100 UTC.

When the NWS is issuing advisories, the base data will be available for download at the following ftp address:

<https://ftp.nhc.ncep.noaa.gov/toa/>

Users will need the wgrib2 program to decode the data. Information about this program can be found here:

https://www.weather.gov/mdl/degrib_home

The file naming structure will change for these files to sequentially order the archived data files by using a 3-digit advisory number. The new naming structure is depicted below:

```
BBSSYYYY_TOA_TOD_34kt_adv###.grib2
  Where B = basin ID (AL = Atlantic, EP = East Pacific,
                    CP = Central Pacific)
        S = Storm ID (sequential number assigned to
                    storms within the basin)
        Y = Year
        ### = 3-digit advisory number for this Storm ID
```

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on this experimental product to: Tropical.Program@noaa.gov

For technical and policy questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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