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Technical Implementation Notice 13-07
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Mark Tew
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Subject: NWS Transitioning from Deterministic To Probabilistic Storm Surge Forecasts effective with the
2013 Hurricane Season

Effective with the 2013 hurricane season and thereafter, the NWS will no longer provide deterministic Sea, Lake, and Overland Flooding from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model output during tropical cyclones in an unofficial manner.

The American Meteorological Society and the National Academies of Science have endorsed greater use of probabilistic forecasts by NWS. For several years, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) has been providing probabilistic storm surge products as part of a long-term, multiyear NWS effort to improve communications on storm surge.

SLOSH deterministic guidance was informally provided to some users over the past several years; however, the deterministic SLOSH model output has the potential to conflict with the official NWS forecast for storm surge and to interfere with evacuation decisions from emergency managers.

A description of the current suite of operational, probabilistic storm surge guidance products is provided on line at:

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

The NWS will again provide an experimental suite of probabilistic storm surge products for 2013 that communicate inundation in terms of feet above ground level. This information will be provided on an interactive Google Earth background map and as a static image. Information on these experimental products is available at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/phish>

A separate Public Information Statement on these experimental

products will be disseminated prior to May 15, 2013.

In addition to the operational and experimental probabilistic storm surge products, the NWS is also actively developing inundation graphics and a storm surge watch/warning.

For technical questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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