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Public Information Statement 24-18
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From: Gregory Schoor, Chief
 Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Public Comments through April 11, 2024 on the Proposal
 to Limit Tropical Information in High Seas Forecasts from 120
 Hours to Only the First 48 Hours

The NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP)'s Ocean Prediction Center (OPC), the National Hurricane Center (NHC)'s Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB), and the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Honolulu, Hawaii (HFO) are soliciting comments through April 11, 2024 on the proposal to limit tropical cyclone information in the High Seas Forecast (HSF) text product to only the first 48 hours of the forecast period. Currently, the forecast period for the HSF extends to 120 hours.

The HSF, detailed in NWS Instruction (NWSI) 10-311, describes the marine weather forecast and warning period as extending through the first 48 hours, in accordance with international standards and requirements. For tropical systems, it is noted that the highest tropical cyclone-based warning information is to be included for the 48-hour forecast. However, forecasters may include forecast points out to 120 hours for tropical cyclones when conditions warrant and when consistent guidance is available. This has become common practice and has resulted in HSFs that are excessively long. Limiting tropical cyclone information to the required 48 hours would reduce the HSF text product and broadcast time length.

Examples of the proposed forecasts can be found at:

https://ocean.weather.gov/proposed_high_seas_tropical.php

The Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory (TCM) is available at the same frequency as the HSF, up to four times daily for each active tropical cyclone, through 120 hours. The TCM is also broadcast via internationally-approved satellite systems and contains more specific information about each cyclone. Information includes each cyclone's position, intensity, direction, and speed of motion as well as the current maximum radial extent of 12-foot seas, the maximum radial extent of winds of 34, 50, and 64 knots in each of four quadrants around the storm and the quantitative forecast information on the track and intensity. By reducing redundancy with the TCM, HSF broadcasts will be more streamlined.

The TCM can be found as follows:

Product Title -----	WMO Header (NNNXXX) -----	AWIPS Product Identifier -----
Atlantic - NHC	WTNT/21-25/KNHC	TCMAT/1-5/
Atlantic - WPC	WTNT/21-25/KWNH	TCMAT/1-5/
Eastern North Pacific - NHC	WTPZ/21-25/ KNHC	TCMEP/1-5/
Eastern North Pacific - WPC	WTPZ/21-25 KWNH	TCMEP/1-5/
Central North Pacific - CPHC	WTPA/21-25/PHFO	TCMCP/1-5/

There will be no changes to dissemination or product information for either the HSF or the TCM. Text products in this proposed change include:

AWIPS Identifier -----	WMO Heading -----	Geographic Descriptor -----
HSFAT1	FZNT01 KWBC	High Seas Forecast METAREA IV
HSFAT2	FZNT02 KNHC	High Seas Forecast ATLANTIC FROM 07N TO 31N W OF 35W INCLUDING CARIBBEAN SEA AND GULF OF MEXICO
HSFEPI	FZPN02 KWBC	High Seas Forecast METAREA XII
HSFEP1	FZPN01 KWBC	High Seas Forecast PACIFIC N OF 30N AND S OF 67N E OF A LINE FROM BERING STRAIT TO 50N 160E
HSFEP2	FZPN03 KNHC	High Seas Forecast E PACIFIC FROM THE EQUATOR TO 30N E OF 140W AND 03.4S TO THE EQUATOR E OF 120W
HSFNPN	FZPN40 PHFO	High Seas Forecast NORTH PACIFIC EQUATOR TO 30N BETWEEN 140W AND 160E
HSFSP	FZPS40 PHFO	High Seas Forecast SOUTH PACIFIC EQUATOR TO 25S BETWEEN 120W AND 160E

The NWS is accepting comments through April 11 on the proposal. Please send feedback to the email addresses below or via this webpage:

<https://ocean.weather.gov/survey-proposed-high-seas-tropical/index.php>

Darin Figurskey
Operations Branch Chief
Ocean Prediction Center
College Park, MD
darin.figurskey@noaa.gov

John Hurley
Director of Operations
WFO Honolulu
Honolulu, HI
john.hurley@noaa.gov

Chris Landsea
Operations Branch Chief
NHC Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch
Miami, FL
chris.landsea@noaa.gov

Melinda Bailey
National Weather Service Marine Program Manager
National Weather Service Headquarters
Silver Spring, MD
melinda.bailey@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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