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Public Information Statement 17-11A  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
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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:

- The current location of all active tropical cyclones will be included on  
the 5-day GTWO.
- The current location of potential tropical cyclones will be included on  
the 2-day and 5-day GTWO.
- 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.

- 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:

Jessica Schauer  
NWS Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch  
Miami, FL  
Telephone: 305-229-4476  
Email: [jessica.schauer@noaa.gov](mailto:jessica.schauer@noaa.gov)

Or

John Kuhn  
Meteorologist, Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch  
Silver Spring, MD  
Telephone: 301-427-9364  
Email: [john.f.kuhn@noaa.gov](mailto:john.f.kuhn@noaa.gov)

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