NOUS41 KWBC 281845 CCA
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 14-11 Corrected
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
145 PM EST Fri Feb 28 2014

To: Subscribers:
         -Family of Services
         -NOAA Weather Wire Service
         -Emergency Manager Weather Information Network
         -NOAAPort
         Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Mark Tew
         Chief, Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch

Subject: Corrected: Changes to Text Tropical Cyclone Wind Speed
Probability Product: Effective May 15, 2014

Corrected Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS)
identifiers.

Effective May 15, 2014, the following changes will take place with the
text Tropical Cyclone Wind Speed Probability (PWS) product issued by the
National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center:

- Removal of Maximum Wind Speed (Intensity) Probability Table (Table I).
This table gives the likelihood that a tropical cyclone will be at any of
several different intensity categories (e.g., depression, storm, category
1 hurricane, etc.) at fixed points in time (e.g., 12 hours, 24 hours, 36
hours, etc.). These probabilities are estimated by creating a large
number of potential track and intensity scenarios based on the latest
official forecast and a climatological error distribution. NHC has
learned that many users consult this table to estimate the chances that a
tropical cyclone will make landfall at one or more of the various
intensity categories. Unfortunately, the current methodology provides a
highly misleading estimate of landfall intensity.

The problem can be seen by considering a storm that is forecast to be just
offshore at 72 hours. A sizable fraction of the potential scenarios have
already encountered land by that time, and for these over-land scenarios
the expected intensity at 72 hours will be much lower than what would be
expected for a storm that was still over water and about to make landfall.
Even though the table accurately assesses what the intensity is likely to
be at 72 hours, it grossly underestimates the likely intensity for when
the storm comes ashore.

The table was originally intended to help users assess the risk of
different categories of storms at particular times, and for storms well
away from land the product serves that function well; however, because of
the high likelihood of misuse for land-threatening storms, and the
consequences of that misuse for the general public, NHC and CPHC are
discontinuing this table until a better procedure to estimate intensity

risk can be developed.

- Wind Speed Probability Table for Specific Locations (Table II) - The
name of one of the parameters in this table will change from Individual
Probability (IP) to Onset Probability (OP). This parameter is defined as
the probability of the event beginning during an individual time period
(e.g., between 24 and 36 hours). The name Onset Probability better
highlights the difference between this parameter, which provides
information on when the event is likely to begin, and the Cumulative
Probability, which describes the likelihood that the event will occur at
all.

The PWS can be found online at:

Atlantic and east Pacific basin:
http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/

Central Pacific basin:
http://www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) headers and AWIPS identifiers
for the PWS are:

Basin	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
Atlantic	FONT/11-15/ KNHC	PWSAT/1-5/
East Pacific	FOPZ/11-15/ KNHC	PWSEP/1-5/
Central Pacific	FOPA/11-15/ PHFO	PWSCP/1-5/

An example of the changes can be found at:

www.nhc.noaa.gov/news/20140228_hsu_windProbsTextChanges.php

In addition, NWS will no longer provide the stand-alone Intensity (Maximum
Wind Speed) Probability graphic. This graphic contained the identical
information to Table I of the PWS product, which is being discontinued.

If you have comments or questions, please contact:

John Kuhn
National Weather Service
Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch
Silver Spring, MD
Email: john.f.kuhn@noaa.gov
Phone: 301-713-1677, extension 121

National Service Change Notices are online at:

https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive

$$
NNNN