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Service Change Notice 18-06
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 Surface Analyses and Surface Forecast Charts
Produced by the OPC, TAFB and WFO Honolulu and Addition of 72-hour Surface
and Wind/Wave Forecast Charts by OPC: Effective March 7, 2018

The NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP) Ocean Prediction Center (OPC), the National Hurricane Center's (NHC) Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB), and the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Honolulu, Hawaii, will change the content of their surface analyses and/or forecast charts, effective Wednesday March 7, 2018.

The OPC will change the content of its surface analyses, and 24-, 48-, and 96-hour forecast charts. The TAFB will change the content of its surface analyses and 72-hour forecast charts. WFO Honolulu will change the content of its surface analyses.

Starting March 7, 2018, these charts will only depict future forecast track information for extratropical low pressure systems that have, or are forecast to have, hazards associated with them. The hazards displayed will be gale, storm, hurricane-force, developing gale, developing storm, developing hurricane-force, and possible tropical cyclone. Heavy freezing spray information and the ice edge will be included as well.

The analysis and forecast charts will no longer include past track information. The analysis and forecasts charts also will no longer include forecast tracks for the following: highs, extratropical lows with no hazards associated or expected with them, and tropical cyclones. This change will improve OPC, TAFB and WFO Honolulu forecasters' ability to provide detail in their digital forecasts. For OPC, the change will also result in the implementation of 72-hour forecast surface and wind/wave charts issued once daily, effective March 7, 2018.

Additionally, the change will ensure consistency of information regarding tropical cyclones found through text and graphics supplied by the NHC, Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC), and Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC). An example of the change can be found at:

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

No immediate changes will occur to the schedule of radiofax charts produced by the OPC, TAFB or WFO Honolulu or to the radiofax schedule via the Worldwide Marine Radiofacsimile Broadcast:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/rfax.pdf>

The 72-hour forecast information will be found at the OPC webpage, <https://ocean.weather.gov>. Efforts will be made to incorporate the 72-hour forecast information into the radiofax schedule at a later date.

There will be no changes to the Unified Surface Analysis, which can also be found at:

<https://ocean.weather.gov>

Surface analyses and forecast charts can be found on the OPC website at:

Atlantic: https://ocean.weather.gov/Atl_tab.shtml

Pacific: https://ocean.weather.gov/Pac_tab.shtml

Alaska/Arctic: https://ocean.weather.gov/AK_tab.shtml

Surface analyses and forecast charts can be found on the TAFB website at:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/>

Hawaiian marine products can be found on the WFO Honolulu website:

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/pages/marine.php>

Tropical cyclone information for the North Atlantic and eastern North Pacific can be found at the NHC website at: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> and at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnhcprod.shtml>.

Tropical cyclone information for the central North Pacific can be found at the CPHC website at: <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc/>.

Tropical cyclone information for the northwest Pacific can be found at the JTWC website at: <https://metoc.ndbc.noaa.gov/JTWC/>. Users do not need to make any changes to their systems to continue receiving these products.

Please send comments or requests for more information to:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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