Overview of National Hurricane Center/ Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) Marine Products and Services

Sandy Delgado Sandy.Delgado@noaa.gov NHC/TAFB Branch Chief WMO Region IV Workshop February 28th, 2023

To provide meteorological analysis, forecasts and warnings over the tropical and subtropical oceans for the protection of life and property



ABOUT ME

- Born in Cuba in 1987, came to the United States with my parents and sister in 1999
- Bachelors of Arts and Sciences in
 Meteorology in 2011 & Masters in
 2014 from Florida International
 University
 - Worked on the Atlantic Hurricane Reanalysis Project (2010-2017)
 - StormGeo in Houston (2017-2018)
 - WFO Key West (2018-2021)
 - NHC (2021 through retirement!)

Our Customers: The Mariners and the Mets



Our Customers: The Mariners and the Mets



Economic Impact of Marine Trade

- 80% of all traded goods globally are carried by sea
- In 2018, the American Blue Economy contributed \$373 billion to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), supporting 2.3 million jobs
- In 2020, the U.S. offshore oil and gas industry supported approximately:
 - 176,000 jobs
 - \$11.9 billion in labor income
 - \$20.6 billion in value added (contribution to GDP)
- Maritime commerce is expected to triple by 2030

Diverse Industries.

Ten Ocean Sectors Sales in 2018

o Tourism and Recreation	\$227 Billion
Defense and Public Administration	\$190 Billion
Offshore Oil and Gas	\$80 Billion
Transportation	\$59 Billion
Fisheries and other Bio-products	\$26 Billion
Shipbuilding	\$19 Billion
Power Generation	\$6.8 Billion
Construction	\$4.4 Billion
Research and Education	\$4.2 Billion
Professional and Business Services*	\$51 Million

A Bad Cruise





Global High Seas Forecasts - International Maritime Organization







NHC/TAFB - Areas of Responsibility



Ships over the Open Ocean



Typical areas for gale conditions



Note that the main areas for gales are near gaps and coastal terrain - this is not a coincidence!

hurricanes



Tools - Observations



Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Program

A worldwide program of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to recruit ships & platforms to voluntarily observe and report marine meteorological and oceanographic conditions to ensure Safety Of Life At Sea (SOLAS), and reduce commercial loss.

23 Countries Currently Participate

* There is only 1 Ship Observation For every 1000 Land Based Observations





https://www.vos.noaa.gov/



Tools - Observations

2020-12-09 14:40:12 UTC

GOES-16: A new era of geo-stationary satellite imagery and data



Tools – Incorporating NHC's Tropical Storm/Hurricane Forecast



Tools – Incorporating NHC's Tropical Storm/Hurricane Forecast





Satellite Imagery – Dvorak Technique

Katrina August 24

Rita September 18



Unified Surface Analysis Areas of Responsibility

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/t afb_latest/USA_latest.gif



Tropical Weather Discussions

The Tropical Weather Discussion describes major synoptic weather features and significant <u>https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/t</u> areas of disturbed weather in the tropics.

Content:

ITCZ

Discussion

Special Features

- Tropical Disturbances
- Tropical Cyclones
 - Gales/Storm/Hurricane Warnings





NHC/TAFB Wind and Wave Forecasts



Significant Wave Height (ft) Valid 17 Sep 2010 0000 GMT

High Seas and Offshores Text Forecasts

HIGH SEAS FORECAST NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER 1030 UTC FRI OCT 02 2015

SUPERSEDED BY NEXT ISSUANCE IN 6 HOURS

SEAS GIVEN AS SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT...WHICH IS THE AVERAGE HEIGHT OF THE HIGHEST 1/3 OF THE WAVES. INDIVIDUAL WAVES MAY BE MORE THAN TWICE THE SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT.

PAN PAN

ATLANTIC FROM 07N TO 31N W OF 35W INCLUDING CARIBBEAN SEA AND GULF OF MEXICO.

SYNOPSIS VALID 0600 UTC FRI OCT 02. 24 HOUR FORECAST VALID 0600 UTC SAT OCT 03. 48 HOUR FORECAST VALID 0600 UTC SUN OCT 04.

.WARNINGS.

...HURRICANE WARNING...

.HURRICANE JOAQUIN NEAR 23.3N 74.7W 935 MB AT 0900 UTC OCT 02 MOVING NW OR 315 DEG AT 3 KT. MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS 115 KT GUSTS 140 KT. TROPICAL STORM FORCE WINDS WITHIN 160 NM W SEMICIRCLE...140 NM NE QUADRANT AND 180 NM SE QUADRANT. SEAS 12 FT OR GREATER WITHIN 400 NM NE QUADRANT...150 NM SE QUADRANT...120 NM SW QUADRANT...AND 300 NM NW QUADRANT WITH SEAS TO 39 FT. ELSEWHERE S OF 28N BETWEEN 70W AND 78W WINDS 20 TO 33 KT. SEAS 9 TO 12 FT. N OF 28N BETWEEN 70W AND 75W E WINDS 20 TO 25 KT SEAS 8 TO 10 FT. REMAINDER OF AREA N OF 21N BETWEEN 65W AND 78W AND OUTSIDE OF THE BAHAMAS WINDS 20 KT OR LESS. SEAS 8 TO 11 FT IN MIXED SWELL.



TAFB National Digital Forecast Database Gridded Marine Forecasts

- Spatial/Temporal resolution
 - 10 KM
 - 6 Hourly out to 144 hr (3 Hourly to 72 hr)
- Parameters
 - 10-M Wind/Gusts
- Significant Wave Height
- Hazards





ignificant Wave Height (ft) Valid 17 Sep 2010 0000 GMT



How do I get weather forecasts over the open ocean?

NOAA Weather Radio - Reliable weather broadcasts out to 25nm from shore

HF radio - Long distance broadcast range with coastal and offshore weather information

VHF radio - Marine radio on channels 16 and 22A - Primarily broadcasts for coastal areas

NAVTEX - Medium Frequency weather broadcasts on 518 khz with a range up to 200 nm - Low cost and automated

InMarsat C SafetyNET - Satellite transmission of High Seas forecasts and warnings – Part of Global Marine Distress and Safety System

Iridium SafetyCast – Satellite transmission of High Seas forecasts and warnings - Part of Global Marine Distress and Safety System (Becoming operational now)

FTPMail - User can request and receive NWS text and graphic products via email using ftp commands - Low bandwidth email

Marine Composite Page – Winds/Waves/Warnings in graphical form via low bandwidth internet - <u>https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/forecast/enhanced_atlcfull.php</u>

For more information: https://weather.gov/marine (Dissemination menu)

TAFB High Seas

- High Seas Forecast is a text forecast issued primarily for large ocean going vessels.
- High Seas Forecast includes synopsis of primary weather features and a 48 hour forecast.
- High Seas Forecast primarily for strong winds (25 KT or greater) and/or seas 8 FT or higher.
- TAFB issues two text high seas forecasts four times a day.

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/MIAHSFAT2.shtml



- OFF's are designed for recreational/smaller fishing vessels up to giant cargo/cruise ships.
- Warnings are issued for conditions up to 48 hours from issuance time. A headline such as "Gale Conditions Possible" can be included for events beyond 48 hours.
- **Tropical Storm and Hurricane** Warnings normally based on 34kt/64kt wind radii given in the tropical cyclone advisory.

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/ marine/offshores.php

TAFB Offshore Zones



Currently, Offshore Waters Forecasts extend out 5 days
Winds less than 5 ft are described as "Variable Wind Less than 5 kt"

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https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/n arine/offshores_eastpac.php

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Navigational Telex (NAVTEX)

NAVTEX is an internationally required broadcast of coastal urgent marine safety information to ships. In the United States there are 12 U.S. Coast **Guard transmitter** locations. TAFB products are transmitted from Miami, San Juan, and New Orleans, and contribute to the **Charleston broadcast.** https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/t ext/MIAOFFN04.shtml



High Frequency Voice Broadcasts (VOBRA)

The USCG broadcasts basic weather information prepared by the NWS **(Ocean Prediction Center, National Hurricane Center** and Honolulu Forecast **Office**) via high frequency voice broadcasts (VOBRA) to vessels operating in areas beyond the range of coastal **NOAA Weather Radio.** The VOBRA forecasts are prepared at a lower resolution than the offshore forecasts.

> https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/t ext/MIAOFFN21.shtml

VOBRA Zones



MARINE RADIOFAX TAFB provides graphical products for three U.S. Coast Guard transmitters:

NEW ORLEANS (NMG) POINT REYES (NMC) HAWAII (KVM70)

Surface Prog Graphics

- Fronts, troughs, tropical cyclones, tropical waves, ridges
- 24, 48, and 72 hr Forecasts
- W. Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and E. Pacific
 Issued twice daily



Sea State Analysis Graphics

- Significant Wave Height Analysis (the average height of the highest one-third of the waves) and Primary Swell Direction
 W. Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and E. Pacific
- Issued twice daily



https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/t afb_latest/atlsea_latestBW. gif

WIND / WAVE Forecast Graphics Surface Winds and Significant Wave Height Predictions 24, 48, and 72 hr Forecasts W. Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and E. Pacific Issued twice daily



SIG WAVE HT IS SHOWN (THE AVG HT OF THE HIGHEST 1/3 OF THE WAVES)

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/t afb_latest/atl72_latestBW.g if

WAVE PERIOD/DIRECTION Forecast Graphics

- Dominant wave period and direction
- 48 and 72 hr Forecasts
- W. Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and E. Pacific Issued twice daily



High Wind and Seas Graphic

- 48 hr forecast depiction of Gale, Storm, and Hurricane-Force Wind Warnings (with peak seas)
- W. Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and E. Pacific
- **Issued four times daily**
- **Issued 1 December to 14 May**


https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/forecast/enhanced_atlcfull.php



Red: Gale Warning Orange: Winds > 23 kt Blue: Seas ≥ 8 ft Colors: Seas (in feet) Flags: Wind barbs (in knots)

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/forecast/enhanced_atlcfull.php



Gray: Hurricane Warning Light Blue: Tropical Storm Warning Orange: Winds > 23 kt Dark Blue: Seas ≥ 8 ft

Colors: Seas (in feet) Flags: Wind barbs (in knots)

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/forecast/enhanced_atlcfull.php

Maximum Winds Forecast (in knots, over 5 days)





https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/forecast/enhanced_atlcfull.php



Red: Gale WarningGreen: Storm WarningOrange: Winds > 23 ktBlue: Seas ≥ 8 ft



Colors: Seas (in feet) Flags: Wind barbs (in knots)

EL FARO

TALFAR!

33 fatalities when it sank in Hurricane Joaquin (2015)

BOURBON RHODE

11 fatalities when it sank in Hurricane Lorenzo (2019)

SEA STAR

BOUNTY

2 fatalities when it sank in Hurricane Sandy (2012)

FANTOME

© Allen Baker MarineTraffic.com 31 fatalities when it sank in Hurricane Mitch (1998)



Hurricane Delta - 2020 October 7th, 9am EDT Weather Avoidance by Ships





Hurricane Delta - 2020 October 8th, 9am EDT Weather Avoidance by Ships







Hurricane Delta - 2020 October 9th, 9am EDT Weather Avoidance by Ships



Hurricane Delta - 2020 October 10th, 1pm EDT Weather Avoidance by Ships



Hurricane Delta - 2020 October 11th, 7am EDT Weather Avoidance by Ships





MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND **ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION** NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE WEATHER INFORMATION

APPROVED: 03/30/2020

APPROVED: 3/31/20

Louis W. Uccellini NOAA Assistant Administrator for Weather Services

Richard V. Timme Rear Admiral, USCG Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy

https://www.weather.gov/media/marine/uscgmoa2020.pdf

USCG Weather Support Webpage



Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch NWS National Hurricane Center

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/uscg/



Spot Forecast Example for USCG District 11 13 April 2022

SPOT FORECAST FOR SAR - RCC ALAMEDA...USCG NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL 537 AM PDT Wed Apr 13 2022

Forecast is based on forecast start time of 0900 PDT on April 13. If conditions become unrepresentative...contact the NWS National Hurricane Center/Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch at (305)229-4425.

.DISCUSSION... Latitude = 0.5N Longitude = 104.25W

Gentle S winds with southerly swell are expected in the short term. The southerly swell will cause significant wave heights to be near 7 ft. No significant showers or thunderstorms are expected.

.REST OF TODAY ...

Sky/weather......Mostly cloudy (75-85 percent).
Max temperature....Around 78.
Surface winds (kts).Southeast winds around 5 knots late in the morning becoming light, then becoming south 5 to 7 knots late in the afternoon.
Swell height......South swell 6 feet.
Wave height......7 feet.
Wave period......14 SECONDS.

TIME (PDT) Sky (%)		NOON 84	3 PM 84
Weather cov			
Weather type	. NONE	NONE	NONE
Tstm cov			
Temp	. 78	78	78
SFC wind (kts).	.SE 5G10	S 4G8	S 5G10
Swell hgt (ft).	.S 6	S 6	S 6
Wave period (s).	.14	14	14
Wave height (ft))7	7	7
SST (F)	.81	81	81

SAR - RCC ALAMEDA

Marine Incident

Forecast Start Time: 2022-04-13 9:00 AM PDT Request Time: 2022-04-13 5:23 AM PDT Deliver Time: 2022-04-13 5:23 AM PDT Forecast Complete At: 2022-04-13 5:38 AM PDT





2022 Impact-based Decision Support Services to U.S. Coast Guard Districts by Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB)/ National Hurricane Center (NHC)



54 Spot Forecasts by NHC/TAFB for 2022 U.S. Coast Guard District Operations





2022 Impact-based Decision Support Services to U.S. Coast Guard Districts by Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB)/ National Hurricane Center (NHC)



USCG District 8 Hurricane Tabletop Exercise April 20-21, 2022

Planning

- Stephen Konarik led the TAFB team with Andrew Hagen and Amanda Reinhart
- Began planning with USCG District 8 in January 2022
- Two separate, simultaneous hurricanes impacting District 8/Gulf of Mexico (Texas coast and Florida Panhandle/Mobile Bay
- Alexandria Andonian (Storm Surge Unit) provided the Storm Surge forecasts

Exercise

- Organized 5 full briefings with each having 2 "mini" briefings within them (24 separate briefings altogether)
- On May 8, Chris Landsea, Stephen Konarik, Amanda Reinhart, Brad Reinhart, and Aidan Mahoney toured D8 facilities in New Orleans and provided additional training





90 W

2022 Impact-based Decision Support Services to U.S. Coast Guard Districts by Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB)/ National Hurricane Center (NHC)



50°W

40°W





.@USCGSoutheast cutters are strategically placed in the #FloridaStraits to respond to offshore search and rescue while avoiding the worst of Hurricane #lan. #DontTakeToTheSea #SAR



3:57 PM · Sep 28, 2022



In just 1 week, <u>@uscg</u> members rescued 1,007 Floridians in distress following <u>#Hurricanelan</u>.

We are grateful for the support from units across **@uscglantarea** & **@uscgpacarea** that surged into Florida to help. We continue to assist federal, state & local partners in recovery efforts.



2022 Impact-based Decision Support Services to U.S. Coast Guard Districts by Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB)/National Hurricane Center (NHC)

Hurricane Ian

NHC/TAFB provided 18 live briefings to US Coast Guard Districts 7 (Miami) and 8 (New Orleans)

"NHC team,



The forecasts and support you and your team provide [during Hurricane Ian] were excellent and were heavily relied on to make operational decisions to move aircraft and cutters. The flexibility of your team to meet CG meeting schedules was greatly appreciated.

Once again NHC has exceeded expectations and enabled the Coast Guard to make informed decisions to best protect resources and respond to those in distress. Thank You"

CAPT Aaron Ortenzio CG District Seven Chief of Incident Management

4:58 PM · Oct 7, 2022



2022 Impact-based Decision Support Services to U.S. Coast Guard Districts by Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB)/ National Hurricane Center (NHC)



NHC/TAFB's 2022 Foreign Nation IDSS

TAFB's Spanish-speaking forecasters (Aguirre-Echevarria, Delgado, Ramos, Rivera-Acevedo, Rubio, Stripling, Tichacek) provided critical Impact-based Decision Support Services during the 2022 Hurricane Season:

For NHC/Hurricane Specialist Unit -Coordinating Watches/Warnings:

Colombia – 12 times Cuba – 6 El Salvador – 3 Honduras – 8

Nicaragua – 10

Costa Rica – 3 Dominican Republic – 3 Guatemala - 4 Mexico – 50 Venezuela – 5

For NOAA Public Affairs – Conveying Forecasts/Impacts to the Spanish Media:

95 Live Interviews during Tropical Storm Alex, Hurricane Fiona, and Hurricane Ian

Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador

From People to Ports to Communities, we are working to build a Weather-Ready Nation
Ready, Responsive and Resilient to extreme weather and other hazards

Weather-Ready Nation Marine Ambassador Network
Comprehensive toolkit/marine weather hazard training
Promotes weather cafety messaging to their stakeholders
Engages with NOAA personnel on collaboration opportunities Sharing Success Stories of Preparedness and Resiliency
Virtual VRN recombinant and share the WRN logo for your us
Direct the of tradbact for NWS product improvements
Unritially newsling from the NWS about marine weather



https://www.weather.gov/wrn/

tips://www.weather.gov/wrn/wrna-marine

Mariners Weather Hazards Workshop



- Workshop at National Hurricane Center (NHC) every March
- Purpose: Increase awareness and understanding among mariners of the various forecast products and services available from the National Weather Service
- Attendees:
 - Cruise Lines
 - Cargo Ships
 - Oil Tankers/Oil Platforms
 - Commercial Fisheries
 - U.S. Coast Guard/U.S. Navy
 - Large Recreational Vessels
 - Maritime Academies
- Organizers:
 - NHC/Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch
 - Ocean Prediction Center
 - Weather Forecast Offices
 - Port Meteorologists

2022 TAFB Social Media Highlights

2022 Twitter Stats

Tweets Sent

1,774 - 807 manual tweets

Profile Visits

709,000

Followers

34,925 - an increase of 5,765



<u>Tropical Atlantic Marine</u> <u>Weather Briefing</u>

- 5-day Briefing posted each Sunday and Thursday available publicly on NHC YouTube Channel; link also posted to TAFB Twitter
 - This new service began 1/1/2023

Automated Marine Warning Tweets began January 2020



NHC_TAFB ② @NHC_TAFB · Apr 14 Thu Apr 14 1030 UTC: A Gale Warning is in effect for the Caribbean. More info: go.usa.gov/xdq8J

https://twitter.com/NHC_TAFB



Search

TROPICAL ATLANTIC MARINE WEATHER BRIEFING



VALID THROUGH Friday, January 6

Prepared by: Dylan Flynn Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch NWS National Hurricane Center



Tropical Atlantic Marine Weather Briefing - January 1st, 2023

0:21 / 5:34

NATIONAL

CENTER MIAMI ELORIDA

Play (k)

NHE TARD

NHC/TAFB Marine Briefings

Notification by email or twitter.com/NHC_TAFB

Q),

Familiarization Floats

NOAA Ronald H. Brown - Nelsie Ramos – May 2019

NOAA Nancy Foster - Scott Stripling - Apr 202

Familiarization Tours





Center of Wheelhouse (used while cruising)



Ship clinometer

National Hurricane Center/Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/?atlc





1-305-229-4424 – Atlantic/Gulf/Caribbean 1-305-229-4425 – Pacific On Twitter: