



DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL POINT ADDED TO NHC WIND PROBABILITY PRODUCT

NHC has implemented an additional fixed point to the Tropical Cyclone Wind Speed Probability text product, corresponding to the location of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Tropical Cyclone Surface Wind Speed Probability product is a tabular text product that provides probabilistic (i.e., the likelihood of an event, expressed as a percentage) information on the future intensity of a tropical cyclone, as well as the likelihood of sustained (1-min average) winds meeting or exceeding specific thresholds at particular locations. There is also a graphical version of this product.

When there is a greater than two percent chance of tropical-storm-force winds at the Deepwater Horizon site during the next five days, there will be an entry labeled GFMX 287N 884W.

For example:

TIME PERIODS	FROM	FROM	FROM	FROM	FROM	FROM	FROM
	18Z WED TO 06Z THU	06Z THU TO 18Z THU	18Z THU TO 06Z FRI	06Z FRI TO 18Z FRI	18Z FRI TO 18Z SAT	18Z SAT TO 18Z SUN	18Z SUN TO 18Z MON
FORECAST HOUR	(12)	(24)	(36)	(48)	(72)	(96)	(120)
GFMX 287N 884W	34 X	X(X)	X(X)	11(11)	59(70)	3(73)	X(73)
GFMX 287N 884W	50 X	X(X)	X(X)	1(1)	36(37)	2(39)	X(39)
GFMX 287N 884W	64 X	X(X)	X(X)	X(X)	18(18)	1(19)	1(20)

Location-specific information is given in the form of probabilities of sustained winds at or above 34 kt (tropical storm force), 50 kt, and 64 kt (hurricane force) beginning during specific periods of time as described below. These probabilities are provided for coastal and inland cities as well as for offshore locations (e.g., buoys). These probabilities are based on the track, intensity, and wind structure (size) forecasts from the National Hurricane Center and their historical error characteristics.

The table provides two types of location-specific probabilities:

Cumulative occurrence probabilities – (values in parentheses) – These values tell you the probability the wind event will *occur* sometime during the specified *cumulative* forecast period (0-12, 0-24, 0-36 hours, etc.) at each specific point. These values are provided in both the text and graphical form of the Surface Wind Speed Probability product. The graphical products depict only cumulative values.

Individual onset probabilities – (values outside parentheses) – These values tell you the probability the wind event will *start* sometime during the specified *individual* forecast period (0-12, 12-24, 24-36 hours, etc.) at each specific point. These values are provided only in the text NHC product.

Both products are available on the National Hurricane Center website at <http://www.hurricanes.gov>

For more information, see the “National Hurricane Center Product Description Document: A User’s Guide to Hurricane Products”, linked at http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/NHC_Product_Description_20100531.pdf