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Service Change Notice 21-52
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Mike Farrar, Director
 National Centers for Environmental Prediction

Subject: Upgrade NCEP Global Forecast System to v16.1.1: Effective May 18, 2021

Effective May 18, 2021, beginning with the 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) run, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will upgrade the Global Forecast System (GFS) from version 16.0.9 to 16.1.1.

GFS v16.1.1 is a minor upgrade to begin assimilating Global Navigation Satellite System radio occultation (GNSS-RO) data from GeoOptics on May 18, 2021. NOAA awarded Delivery Order 2 (DO-2) of its commercial GNSS-RO data purchase to GeoOptics on February 19, 2021. This purchase covers 1300 occultations a day over a six month period with the data flow starting on March 17, 2021. Subsequent commercial GNSS-RO data are expected following the conclusion of DO-2.

GFS v16.1.1 also addresses several bugs from v16.0.0:

- Fixing the calculation of the layer height increment.
- Including RW-NH* boundary points in the wave component, which causes a delay in the delivery of the wave spectra and bulletin files for boundary points (gfswave.tHHz.ibp_tar, gfswave.tHHz.ibpbull_tar, gfswave.tHHz.ibpcbull_tar) by up to 10 minutes.
- Fixing the East Pacific wave grid interpolation to include all American Samoa islands.
- Unmasking the Gulf of California, Red Sea and Persian Gulf in 0p25 global interpolated wave output grids.
- Fixing a bitmask issue in 0p25 deg blended WAFS icing and turbulence products below 500 hPa.

For questions regarding these model changes, please contact:

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For questions regarding the data flow aspects of these data sets, please contact:

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