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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 21-70
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1030 AM EDT Mon Jul 26 2021

To: Subscribers:
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPort
Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Judy Ghirardelli
NWS Office of Science and Technology Integration
Meteorological Development Laboratory

Subject: Probabilistic Extra-Tropical Storm Surge (P-ETSS) Model and Extra-Tropical Storm Surge (ETSS) Model Updates for Initial Water Level for Palm Beach, FL: Effective July 27, 2021

On or about Tuesday, July 27, 2021, beginning with the 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) cycle, the NWS Meteorological Development Laboratory (MDL) will implement an update to the initial water levels in the Palm Beach, FL basin (i.e., computational domain) for both the Probabilistic Extra-Tropical Storm Surge (P-ETSS) and the Extra-Tropical Storm Surge (ETSS) models. In the event that the implementation date is declared a Critical Weather Day (CWD) or significant weather is occurring or is anticipated to occur, implementation of this change will occur at 1200 UTC on the next weekday not declared a CWD and when no significant weather is occurring.

1. Model Changes

Both P-ETSS and ETSS models will be adjusted so that the Palm Beach, FL basin (PB3) uses the initial water level in the Miami, FL basin (HMI3) rather than deriving it from Lake Worth Pier, FL station.

This will not impact the station output, as the only station in the area, Lake Worth Pier, FL, extracts results from HMI3. It will however, change the gridded output slightly in the area of PB3, and will make those grid cells more consistent with the results from HMI3. The change will be a roughly constant offset based on the difference between the initial water level derived from observations at Lake Worth Pier and the initial water level in HMI3, which is derived from observations at Lake Worth Pier and Virginia Key, FL.

For more details, please see the following:

https://vlab.noaa.gov/documents/6609493/7858383/Description_of_PB3_InitialWater_BugFix.pdf/d2c26d15-34c2-5a97-1412-d524050fadd5?t=1626448556857

2. Timing Changes

None.

3. New Products on NCEP Web Services

None.

4. NOAAPort/Satellite Broadcast Network (SBN) Changes

None.

5. Products on NWS Web Services

There are no changes to the data locations, formats, or naming conventions. The only change will be in the values stored in the Palm Beach, FL area of the contiguous U.S. (CONUS) Storm Surge and Storm Tide gridded binary version two (GRIB2) files.

As a reminder:

At this time, no changes are being made to the availability of the data (file formats, or naming conventions) on the NWS web site (TGFTP) in the NWS National Digital Gridded Database (NDGD) area for ETSS and P-ETSS. NWS plans to remove the NDGD/TGFTP data with the next major implementation (estimated to be in 2022). Users are strongly encouraged to migrate to the identical data hosted on the NOAA Operational Model Archive and Distribution System (NOMADS) with this implementation.

Preferred NOMADS locations:
https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/petss/prod/
https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/etss/prod/

Output (until 2022) will be available at the following locations:
ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndgd/GT.petss/

Note: FTP link works for FTP-enabled web browsers only.

https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndgd/GT.petss/

ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndgd/GT.etss/

Note: FTP link works for FTP-enabled web browsers only.

https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndgd/GT.etss/

A full description of the GRIB2 directory/file structure on TGFTP is available here:

http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/changes/docs/NDGD-PETSS.pdf

Additionally, as mentioned in the previous SCN, some duplicate text data for Alaska is being sent to a specific, non-NDGD, area for ETSS, and that

data will also be removed with the next major implementation, so again, please migrate to the identical data hosted on NOMADS:

ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/DF.c5/DC.etss/DS.mrpfq/

Note: FTP link works for FTP-enabled web browsers only.

https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/DF.c5/DC.etss/DS.mrpfq/

NCEP encourages users to ensure their decoders are flexible and are able to adequately handle changes in content order, changes in the scaling factor component within the product definition section (PDS) of the GRIB files, and any volume changes that may be forthcoming. These elements may change with future NCEP model implementations. NCEP will make every attempt to alert users to these changes prior to any implementations.

Any questions, comments or requests regarding this implementation should be directed to the contacts below. We will review any feedback and decide whether to proceed.

For questions regarding these model changes, please contact:

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For questions regarding the data flow aspects, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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