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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 17-45 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
705 AM EDT Tue Jun 6 2017

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From: Dave Myrick
 NWS Office of Science and Technology Integration

Subject: Updated: Discontinue GFDL Hurricane Model: Effective July 5, 2017

Updated to change the effective change date.

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will retire the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) Hurricane Model (GHM) on July 5, 2017. With the GFS upgrade, it will be replaced with a new NOAA Environmental Modeling System (NEMS)-based hurricane model called HMON (Hurricanes in a Multi-scale Ocean-coupled Non-hydrostatic) in NCEP operations.

A public comment period was open between February 13, 2017, to March 17, 2017, soliciting feedback for discontinuing the GFDL and replacing it with the HMON system. Based on comments, NCEP will move forward executing this plan. Please see the Public Information Statement (PNS) if you have any questions:

<https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/pns17-07gfdl.pdf>

NCEP is retiring the legacy GFDL Hurricane Model for the following reasons:

- The Environmental Modeling Center's (EMC's) efforts towards unification of operational models within the NEMS framework.
- The National Hurricane Center's (NHC's) evaluation and endorsement of the new hurricane model (HMON) through evaluation of 3-year (2014-2016) retrospective experiments run by EMC. HMON model consistently showed improved performance for track and intensity skill for the North Atlantic and Northeast Pacific Basins as compared to the legacy GFDL hurricane model.
- Retirement of key personnel at GFDL leading to a loss of support for maintaining the GFDL Hurricane model in operations.

The timing of the proposed changes will be as follows:

- The GHM will be discontinued on the date of the GFS2017 upgrade sometime in June 2017. This Service Change Notice (SCN) will be updated with the exact date once it is known. On that date, all GHM products will be

removed from the following:

NCEP servers under hur.YYYYYMMDD will be discontinued:

<http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/hur/prod>
<ftp://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/hur/prod>
www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/hur/prod

Where YYYYYMMDD is year, month and day.

Model Analyses and Guidance will be discontinued:

mag.ncep.noaa.gov

With the hurricane model upgrade slated for June 2017, NCEP will start delivering the new operational model, HMON, on the NCEP servers. The replacement product output of the HMON will be equivalent to the discontinued GHM; for sample data, please reference:

<http://para.nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/noaaport/hmon/>

Send questions, comments or requests to:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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