

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT

Experimental Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

Approved: signed by David Caldwell Date 8/4/08

**David B. Caldwell
Director, Office of Climate,
Water and Weather Services**

Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook Experimental Product Description Document

Part I - Mission Connection

Product Description – This document describes the Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook (TWO), an experimental product produced by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC). This product is a visual companion product to the text TWO.

The text TWO is an existing product that describes areas of disturbed weather and their potential for tropical cyclone formation. The Graphical TWO indicates the current location of weather systems by encircling them and indicating their potential for development. The Graphical TWO will be issued for the Atlantic and east and central Pacific basins.

- b. Purpose – The intent of the Graphical TWO is to enhance the understanding and utility of the TWO by indicating geographical locations of areas discussed in the text.
- c. Audience – The Graphical TWO target audience includes other National Weather Service offices, media, emergency managers, and the general public.
- d. Presentation Format – The Graphical TWO is a web-based graphic superimposed on the infrared satellite mosaic of the GOES-East, GOES-West, and METSAT 9 geostationary satellites available at the product issuance time. The graphic indicates the locations of areas of disturbed weather discussed in the TWO by encircling them. Each circled area is numbered, with text descriptions of each numbered system given. For the Atlantic and east Pacific, text descriptions are also presented in the form of a pop up whenever a user moves the computer's mouse pointer over an encircled area. The content of the text descriptions is identical to the content of the latest text TWO. The graphic also provides the development potential of each system.

Active tropical cyclones in NHC's area of responsibility (www.nhc.noaa.gov) are also indicated in the Graphical TWO. Moving the mouse over active cyclones in the graphic will pop up a text block with the latest NHC Public Advisory for that cyclone. CPHC's graphic does not have the mouse over capability but should for the 2009 hurricane season.

- e. Feedback Method – Users are encouraged to provide feedback during the comment period from June 1 to November 30, 2008. Comments can be submitted through the formal National Weather Service Customer Survey for Official and Experimental Products/Services: <http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=GTWO>

General questions on the Graphical TWO may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Scott Kiser, W/OS21
Tropical Cyclone Program Manager

1325 East-West Highway, Room 13126
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

or e-mail questions and comments to: Scott.Kiser@noaa.gov

Part II - Technical Description

- a. Format and Science Basis – The location, size, development potential, and shape of the outlined areas contained within the Graphical TWO are based on the subjective forecaster interpretation of all available data including, but not limited to, remotely sensed data, in-situ observations, global model forecast fields, and objectively analyzed meteorological fields.
- b. Product Availability – The experimental Graphical TWO will be issued four times daily during the 2008 hurricane season. At NHC, the issuance times will be 0000, 0600, 1200, and 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). At CPHC, the issuance times are 0200, 0800, 1400, and 2000 UTC.

The Atlantic version of the Graphical TWO can be viewed on the NHC's web site at:
http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo_atl.shtml

The Eastern Pacific version of the Graphical TWO can be viewed on the NHC's web site at: http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo_epac.shtml

The Central Pacific version of the graphical TWO can be viewed on the CPHC web site at: <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/cphc/>

- c. Additional Information – A full description of this product is available at:
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutgtwo.shtml>