

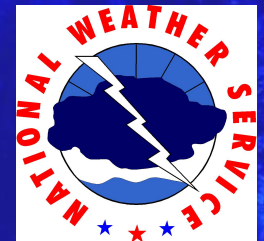
Hurricane Data – What's Out There and How Do we Get It?

National Hurricane Center Data Availability

**AMS 26th Conference on Hurricane and
Tropical Meteorology, Miami Beach, FL
3-7 May 2004**



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Automated Tropical Cyclone Forecast File/"Deck" Data

ATCF data has been available in near-real time since the beginning of the 2003 season to the general public. The following data directories and/or files are generally updated within 6 minutes of an active ATCF update; the storm data will get posted to that particular site.

**** TC model track and intensity guidance including OFCL, SHIPS, and SHIFOR, but excluding UKMET -- adecks (1954 - present)**

**** TC best-track -- bdecks (1851 - present)**

**** TC position fixes -- fdecks (1989 – present)**

The TPC/NHC web page site URL for this data is –

<ftp://ftp.nhc.noaa.gov/pub/atcf>

Real-time and Historical SLOSH Model Output

Most of the NHC SLOSH model data (i.e. MEOWs, MOMs, and historical hurricanes) is located in the SLOSH model display program. This can only be obtained through Will Shaffer (NOAA) because he keeps track of the updates.

Some training is required in order to utilize the results correctly.

The anonymous FTP site at NHC will generally be cleaned at the start of the hurricane season.

During the 2004 season, operational SLOSH model runs will *begin approximately 24 hours before landfall or 24 hours before closest point of approach* and continuing every 6 hours until the threat of rising water ends.

Real-time and Historical SLOSH Model Output (cont'd)

Animated SLOSH model .rex file will be posted to the TPC/NHC web site at approximately 2 hours 15 minutes after the beginning of an advisory forecast cycle; the user should download this into a SLOSH model display program in order to view it.

At approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes an animated SLOSH model .gif file (which is created from the animated .rex file) will be posted to our web site.

Remember that single track SLOSH model runs are generally only as good as the meteorological input (i.e., track, central pressure, max wind, and RMW).

Real-time SLOSH output files can be found on the TPC/NHC ftp server at <ftp://ftp.nhc.noaa.gov/pub/users/slosh>

TPC/NHC Web Page Hurricane History – TPC Archives Data

Hyperlink to data is <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pastall/shtml>

- (1) Hurricane Season Tropical Cyclone Reports**
- (2) Hurricane Season Tropical Cyclone Product Archives**
- (3) Hurricane Season TC Monthly Summary Archives**
- (4) Hurricane Season Forecast Verification Reports**
- (5) Past Tracks of Atlantic Tropical Cyclones**
- (6) Hurricane Best Track Files (HURDAT)**

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/tracks1851to2003_atl.txt

TPC/NHC Tropical Cyclone “Storm Wallets” Data

Paper-based wallets/jackets contain NHC paper operational forecast data and forecast products such as

- the 4 forecast advisory products**
- track forecast guidance plots (“spaghetti diagrams”)**
- intensity forecast guidance**
- recon vortex and minob wind information & paper plots**
- microwave satellite images.**

The TC storm wallets are kept in locked file cabinets and can be accessed only at the NHC under controlled conditions.

Concluding Remarks

Not all of the aforementioned ATCF decks are online or readily available.

Extended explanations would be needed to describe the data, and the various formats and data gaps, if these decks are ever actually requested.

In addition, the NHC does not have the personnel or fiscal resources to manage any data requests.

Users are welcome to take what data is available as is, with the understanding that the NHC will not be able to provide any data acquisition.