

Five-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook Product Description Document

Part I - Mission Connection

- a. **Product Description** – The Five-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook (XGTWO) is produced by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) for the Atlantic and eastern Pacific Hurricane basins. This product is a visual companion to the 5-day (120-hour) forecast and discussion within the text Tropical Weather Outlook (TWO) product. The XGTWO indicates the current location of disturbances with X's and hatched areas are used to denote the possible areas where the disturbances could develop into tropical or subtropical cyclones. Each system's potential for development over the next five days is indicated by a color code. The full text of the TWO is shown below the graphic.
- b. **Purpose** - The XGTWO visually depicts a general assessment of activity in the tropics that could lead to tropical cyclone formation.
- c. **Audience** – The product target audience includes other National Weather Service offices, media, emergency managers, and the general public.
- d. **Presentation Format** – The XGTWO TWO is a web-based set of graphics that show current areas of disturbed weather with Xs and their potential formation areas with shaded hatches. The areas are color-coded based upon the forecast likelihood of tropical cyclone formation in the next five days, with yellow indicating a 30 percent or less chance, orange indicating a chance of 40-60 percent, and red indicating a formation likelihood of 70 percent or greater. The primary graphic shows all disturbances mentioned in the text TWO. When a user moves the computer mouse pointer over a disturbance area the associated text for that disturbance pops up. Clicking on a disturbance will display a version of the graphic showing only that particular disturbance. Each of the single-disturbance graphics displays the quantitative genesis probability, given in 10% increments, and a disturbance number (i.e. Disturbance 1, Disturbance 2), with the text for each numbered disturbance given beneath the graphic.
- e. **Feedback Method**

Questions and comments may be addressed to:

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Part II - Technical Description

- a. Format & Science Basis- The location, size, development potential and shape of the outlined areas contained within the product are based on subjective NHC forecaster interpretation of all available data including, but not limited to, remotely sensed data, in-situ observations, global model forecast field, and objectively analyzed meteorological fields.
- b. Product Availability – The product will be issued four times daily during the hurricane season at 0000, 0600, 1200, and 1800 Coordinated Universal Time.

The 5-Day Graphical TWO can be viewed on NHC's web site at:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

- c. Additional Information
A full description of other NWS Tropical Cyclone Weather Services Program Products is provided in NWSI 10-601, which is available on the Internet at:
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/010.htm>