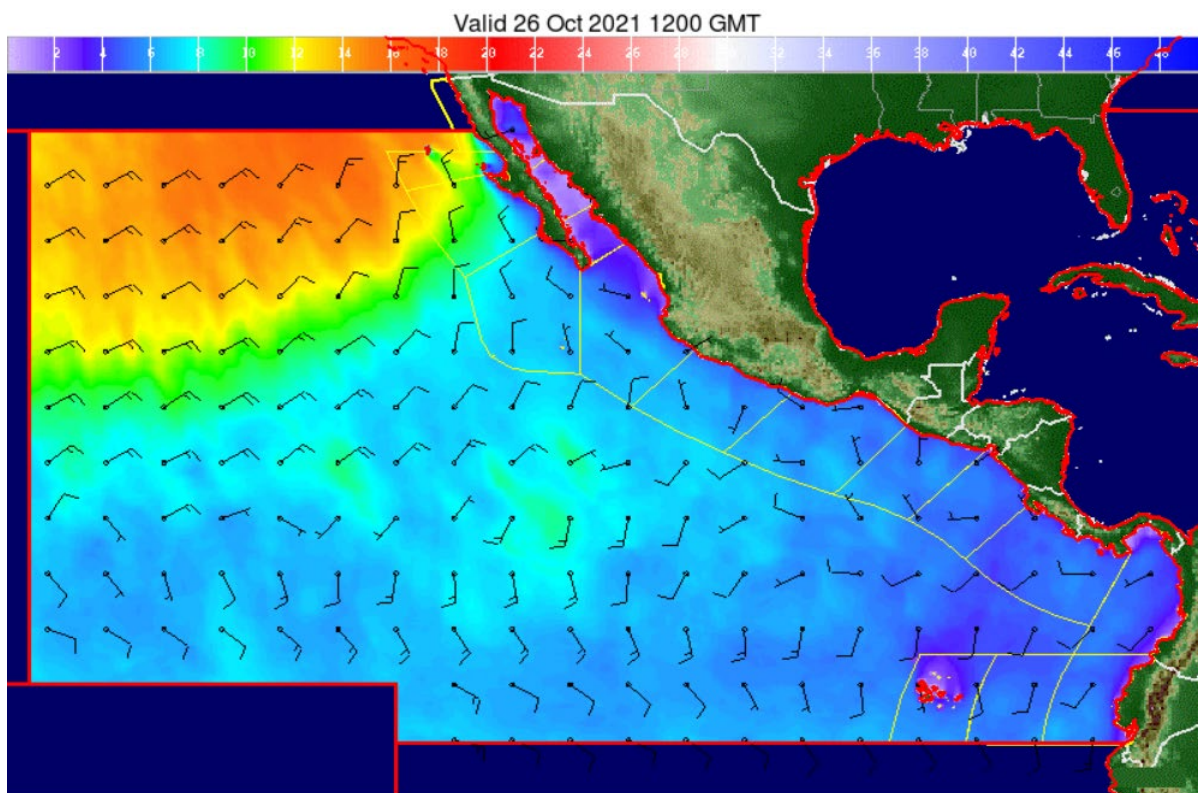


Pacific Basin gridded forecasts go operational

A major forecasting milestone will take place for mariners on October 28, 2021. That's when the offshore and high seas gridded forecasts for the Pacific Basin transition from experimental to operational. The forecasts originate from the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) of the National Hurricane Center (NHC), the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Honolulu, Hawaii, and the Ocean Prediction Center (OPC).

There are five elements making the transition: 10-meter (33-foot) wind speed; 10-meter wind direction; 10-meter wind gusts; significant wave heights (or "seas"); and marine hazards. Transitioning these forecasts to operational status is another milestone for the NWS National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) and follows a similar move in December 2017 with the Atlantic offshore grids. Users do not need to take any action when the experimental forecasts transition to operational status. An example of the wind and wave grids from NHC/TAFB are shown below for a forecast valid at 1200 GMT Tuesday, October 26th, 2021:



NHC/TAFB Experimental Gridded Marine Forecasts



The wind barbs represent wind speed (one barb = 10 knots) and direction. Significant wave height is represented by the colored shading in feet.

Graphics depicting the gridded winds, seas, and hazards are available through NHC/TAFB's Marine Graphical Composite Forecast Map at:

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/forecast/enhanced_epacfull.php .

The gridded forecast files are online via https and ftp at:

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.oceanic/VP.001-003/>

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.oceanic/VP.001-003/>

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.oceanic/VP.004-007/>

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.oceanic/VP.004-007/>

The gridded forecast graphics can be found at: <https://digital.weather.gov/>

<https://digital.mdl.nws.noaa.gov/>, <https://ocean.weather.gov/>, <https://weather.gov/hfo>

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