

Retrospective Test Cases for 2012 HFIP Stream 1.5 Candidates

Retrospective cases are all tropical and subtropical cyclones during the period August 1 - October 31 for each of the three preceding years (i.e., 2009, 2010 and 2011). Retrospective cases falling outside the specified time period will only be included in the stream 1.5 evaluation if the delivered sample includes retrospective forecasts for all storms from the three specified hurricane seasons. The number of runs per day and basins for the retrospective cases should correspond to set up planned for the Demo.

Modeling groups should consider the following factors, beyond the general guidance already provided, when determining which cases to run:

- Only cases where the cyclone is classified in the NHC B-decks as tropical or subtropical at the initial time will be verified. Hence, forecasts for each cyclone should start at the time when the cyclone is first classified in the NHC B-decks as either tropical or subtropical.
- Model runs are not required for cases where the cyclone dissipates (no longer classified by NHC as tropical or subtropical) less than 24 h after the initialization time.

All late model output will be converted to early model guidance prior to evaluation. Groups whose model falls in this category should also consider the following factors:

- If the model will be run four times per day, forecasts should be run to at least 126 h in order to produce 5-day early model guidance. For models only run twice per day, forecasts should be run to at least 132 h so early model guidance can be computed in a manner consistent with NHC handling of operational guidance that falls in this category.
- Interpolation software requires the following input:
 - 6 h interpolation
 - CARQ messages (available from NHC A-decks) at the initial time and 6 h forecast
 - Best Track data (available from NHC B-decks) at the 6 h forecast
 - 12 h interpolation (used for models only run twice per day)
 - CARQ messages at the initial time and 12 h forecast
 - Best Track data at the 12 h forecast

Cases for which any portion of this input is not available will not be included in the evaluation because early model versions cannot be created.