



August Forecast Update for Northwest Pacific Typhoon Activity in 2011

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Forecast Summary

TSR continues to anticipate the 2011 Northwest Pacific typhoon season will see activity close to average.

The TSR (Tropical Storm Risk) August forecast update for Northwest Pacific typhoon activity in 2011 anticipates a season with near-average activity. The forecast spans the full Northwest Pacific season from 1st January to 31st December 2011 (95% of typhoons historically occur after 1st May) and is based on data available through the end of July 2011. The forecast includes deterministic and probabilistic projections for overall basin activity, and deterministic projections for the numbers of tropical storms, typhoons, intense typhoons and the ACE index. TSR's main predictor at this lead for overall activity is the forecast anomaly in August-September 2011 Niño 3.75 sea surface temperature (SST). We anticipate this will be $0.17 \pm 0.22^\circ\text{C}$ cooler than normal.

NW Pacific ACE Index and System Numbers in 2011

| | | ACE Index | Intense Typhoons | Typhoons | Tropical Storms |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| TSR Forecast (\pm FE) | 2011 | 281 (\pm 79) | 8.0 (\pm 2.4) | 17.9 (\pm 3.0) | 28.2 (\pm 4.0) |
| 46yr Climate Norm (\pm SD) | 1965-2010 | 295 (\pm 100) | 8.5 (\pm 3.0) | 16.4 (\pm 3.8) | 26.3 (\pm 4.6) |
| Forecast Skill at this Lead | 1965-2010 | 38% | 34% | 35% | 26% |

- Key: ACE Index = Accumulated Cyclone Energy Index = Sum of the Squares of 6-hourly Maximum Sustained Wind Speeds (in units of knots) for all Systems while they are at least Tropical Storm Strength. ACE Unit = $\times 10^4$ knots².
- Intense Typhoon = 1 Minute Sustained Wind > 95Kts = Hurricane Category 3 to 5
- Typhoon = 1 Minute Sustained Wind > 63Kts = Hurricane Category 1 to 5
- Tropical Storm = 1 Minute Sustained Wind > 33Kts
- SD = Standard Deviation
- FE (Forecast Error) = Standard Deviation of Errors in Simulated Real Time Forecasts 1965-2010
- Forecast Skill = Percentage Reduction in Mean Square Error Afforded by Cross-Validated Hindcasts 1965-2010 over Hindcasts Made with the 1965-2010 Climate Norm.
- Northwest Pacific = Northern Hemisphere Region West of 180°W Including the South China Sea. Any Tropical Cyclone (Irrespective of Where it Forms) Which Reaches Tropical Storm Strength Within this Region Counts as an Event.

There is a 24% probability that the 2011 Northwest Pacific typhoon season ACE index will be above average (defined as an ACE index value in the upper tercile historically (>337)), a 47% likelihood it will be near-normal (defined as an ACE index value in the middle tercile historically (237 to 337)) and a 29% chance it will be below-normal (defined as an ACE index value in the lower tercile historically (<237)). The 46-year period 1965-2010 is used for climatology.

Key: Terciles = Data groupings of equal (33.3%) probability corresponding to the upper, middle and lower one third of values historically (1965-2010).

Key Predictors for 2011

The TSR predictors are as follows. Tropical storm and typhoon numbers are forecast before May using an ensemble of two models: the Niño 3 sea surface temperature (SST) from the prior September and the forecast number of intense typhoons in 2011. From May tropical storm and typhoon numbers are forecast using an ensemble of two models: the April surface pressure over the region 17.5°N-35°N, 160°E-175°W and the forecast number of intense typhoons in 2011.

Intense typhoon numbers and the ACE index are forecast before May using an ensemble of two models: the February surface pressure in the central northern tropical Pacific region 10°N-20°N, 145°W-165°W and the forecast value for the August-September Niño 3.75 index (5°S-5°N, 140°W-180°W). From May intense typhoon numbers and the ACE index are predicted from the forecast value for the August-September Niño 3.75 index.

Above average (below average) Niño 3.75 SSTs are associated with weaker (stronger) trade winds over the region 2.5°N-12.5°N, 120°E-180°E. These in turn lead to enhanced (reduced) cyclonic vorticity over the Northwest Pacific region where intense typhoons form.

Further Information

Further information about the TSR forecasts, verifications and hindcast skill as a function of lead time may be obtained from the TSR website (<http://www.tropicalstormrisk.com>). This is the final TSR forecast update for the 2011 Northwest Pacific typhoon season. A summary of the 2011 Northwest Pacific typhoon season and verification of the TSR seasonal forecasts will be issued in early January 2012.

Appendix - Predictions from Previous Months

a) Deterministic forecasts

| NW Pacific ACE Index and System Numbers 2011 | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | ACE Index ($\times 10^4$ knots ²) | Intense Typhoons | Typhoons | Tropical Storms |
| Average Number (\pm SD) (1965-2010) | | 295 (\pm 100) | 8.5 (\pm 3.0) | 16.4 (\pm 3.8) | 26.3 (\pm 4.6) |
| TSR Forecasts (\pm FE) | 4th Aug 2011 | 281 (\pm 79) | 8.0 (\pm 2.4) | 17.9 (\pm 3.0) | 28.2 (\pm 4.0) |
| | 4th July 2011 | 294 (\pm 84) | 8.4 (\pm 2.4) | 18.1 (\pm 3.1) | 28.3 (\pm 4.0) |
| | 5th May 2011 | 266 (\pm 84) | 7.6 (\pm 2.6) | 17.7 (\pm 3.1) | 28.0 (\pm 4.0) |
| | 8th Mar 2011 | 275 (\pm 90) | 7.8 (\pm 2.7) | 17.5 (\pm 3.3) | 27.8 (\pm 4.2) |
| Chan Forecasts | 4th July 2011 | - | - | 15 | 27 |
| | 9th May 2011 | - | - | 16 | 27 |

b) Probabilistic forecasts

| NW Pacific Total ACE Index 2011 | | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------|
| | | Tercile Probabilities | | |
| | | below normal | normal | above normal |
| Climatology 1965-2010 | | 33.3 | 33.3 | 33.3 |
| TSR Forecasts | 4th Aug 2011 | 29 | 47 | 24 |
| | 4th July 2011 | 25 | 44 | 31 |
| | 5th May 2011 | 37 | 43 | 20 |
| | 8th Mar 2011 | 34 | 41 | 25 |

