



June Forecast Update for Northwest Pacific Typhoon Activity in 2002

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by Drs Paul Rockett and Mark Saunders

Benfield Greig Hazard Research Centre, UCL (University College London), UK

Forecast Summary

TSR continues to anticipate Northwest Pacific typhoon and intense typhoon activity being 20% above the 10-year climate norm in 2002.

The TSR (Tropical Storm Risk) consortium pre-season forecast update maintains that Northwest Pacific typhoon and intense typhoon activity will be around 20% higher than the 10-year climate norm. The forecast spans the full Northwest Pacific season from 1st January to 31st December 2002 and is based on data available through the end of May 2002. Our main predictor is the forecast anomaly in August-September Niño 4 sea surface temperature (SST) which we anticipate to be 0.53°C warmer than normal this summer. Further monthly forecast updates will be issued through to early August 2002.

NW Pacific Total Numbers in 2002

		Intense Typhoons	Typhoons	Tropical Storms
TSR Forecast (\pm FE)	2002	10.5 (\pm 2.2)	21.1 (\pm 3.5)	30.8 (\pm 4.5)
10yr Climate Norm (\pm SD)	1992-2001	8.4 (\pm 2.7)	16.9 (\pm 4.3)	27.4 (\pm 4.6)
30yr Climate Norm (\pm SD)	1972-2001	7.9 (\pm 3.0)	16.4 (\pm 3.6)	26.3 (\pm 4.0)
Forecast Skill at this Lead	1987-2001	31%	17%	1%

- Key: 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 1992-2001
 Forecast Skill = Percentage Improvement over Running 10-year Prior Climate Norm from Simulated Real Time Forecasts 1987-2001
 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.

Key Predictor for 2002

The key factor behind our forecast for an active Northwest Pacific typhoon season in 2002 is the anticipated enhancing effect of warmer than average Niño 4 (150°W-160°E, 5°S-5°N) SST. Our forecast anomaly (1972-2001 climatology) for August-September 2002 Niño 4 SST is 0.53 \pm 0.29°C (up marginally from 0.49 \pm 0.30°C last month). Forecast skill for this predictor at this lead is 49% (assessed using simulated real-time forecasts over the last 15 years).

Further Information

Further information on the TSR forecast methodology, the TSR simulated real-time forecast skill 1987-2001 as a function of lead time, and on TSR in general, may be obtained from the 'Extended Range Forecast for Northwest Pacific Typhoon Activity in 2002' document issued on the 6th March 2002. Our next monthly forecast update for the 2002 Northwest Pacific Typhoon season will be issued on the 5th July 2002. A further monthly update will follow in early August 2002.

Appendix - Predictions from Previous Months

NW Pacific Total Numbers 2002				
		Tropical Storms	Typhoons	Intense Typhoons
Average Number (\pm SD) (1992-2001)		27.4 (\pm 4.6)	16.9 (\pm 4.3)	8.4 (\pm 2.7)
Average Number (\pm SD) (1972-2001)		26.3 (\pm 4.0)	16.4 (\pm 3.6)	7.9 (\pm 3.0)
TSR Forecast (\pm FE)	7 June 2002	30.8 (\pm 4.5)	21.1 (\pm 3.5)	10.5 (\pm 2.2)
	7 May 2002	30.5 (\pm 4.6)	20.9 (\pm 3.4)	10.3 (\pm 2.2)
	5 Apr 2002	29.6 (\pm 5.0)	19.8 (\pm 4.1)	9.8 (\pm 2.6)
	6 Mar 2002	28.6 (\pm 4.8)	18.7 (\pm 4.0)	9.3 (\pm 2.5)

