# June Forecast Update for Northwest Pacific Typhoon Activity in 2006

## Issued: 7th June 2006

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## Forecast Summary

**TSR continues to anticipate the 2006 Northwest Pacific typhoon season will see activity slightly above average.**

The TSR (Tropical Storm Risk) June forecast update for Northwest Pacific typhoon activity in 2006 anticipates a season with slightly above-average activity. The forecast spans the full Northwest Pacific season from 1st January to 31st December 2006 (95% of typhoons historically occur after 1st May) and is based on data available through the end of May 2006. The forecast includes deterministic and probabilistic projections for overall basin activity, and deterministic projections for the numbers of tropical storms, typhoons and intense typhoons. TSR's main predictor for overall activity is the forecast anomaly in August-September 2006 Niño 3.75 sea surface temperature (SST). We anticipate this will be 0.13±0.43°C warmer than normal and thus slightly enhancing for activity. Monthly updated forecasts for intense typhoon numbers and the ACE index will be issued through to early August 2006.

## NW Pacific ACE Index and System Numbers in 2006

| | | ACE Index | Intense Typhoons | Typhoons | Tropical Storms |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TSR Forecast (±FE) | 2006 | 315 (±84) | 9.0 (±2.6) | 18.6 (±2.9) | 29.0 (±3.7) |
| 41yr Climate Norm (±SD) | 1965-2005 | 305 (±98) | 8.6 (±3.0) | 16.9 (±3.6) | 26.7 (±4.4) |
| Forecast Skill at this Lead | 1965-2005 | 27% | 24% | 37% | 32% |

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 = $x10^4$ $knots^2$.
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 1965-2005
Forecast Skill = Percentage Reduction in Mean Square Error Afforded by Cross-Validated Hindcasts 1965-2005 over Hindcasts Made with the 1965-2005 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 31% probability that the 2006 Northwest Pacific typhoon season ACE index will be above average (defined as an ACE index value in the upper tercile historically (>357)), a 50% likelihood it will be near-normal (defined as an ACE index value in the middle tercile historically (242 to 357) and only a 19% chance it will be below-normal (defined as an ACE index value in the lower tercile historically (<242)). The 41-year period 1965-2005 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 (1965-2005).

## Key Predictors for 2006

The TSR predictors are as follows. Tropical storm and typhoon numbers are forecast before May using the Niño 3 sea surface temperature (SST) from the prior September; from May they are forecast using April surface pressure over the region 17.5°N-35°N, 160°E-175°W. Intense typhoon numbers and the ACE index are forecast in March and April using the February surface pressure in the central northern tropical Pacific region 10°N-20°N, 145°W-165°W; from May they are forecast from the forecast value for the August-September Niño 3.75 index (5°S-5°N, 140°W-180°W). 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. The TSR forecast anomaly (1965-2005) climatology) for August-September Niño 3.75 is 0.13±0.43°C (down from 0.25±0.46°C last month). The forecast skill (1965-2005) for this predictor at this lead is 61%.

## 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://tropicalstormrisk.com*). The next TSR monthly forecast update for the 2006 Northwest Pacific typhoon season will be issued on the 5th July 2006. TSR's last forecast update will occur in early August 2006.

## Appendix - Predictions from Previous Months

### a) Deterministic forecasts

| NW Pacific ACE Index and System Numbers 2006 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ACE Index ($x10^4$ knots$^2$) | Intense Typhoons | Typhoons | Tropical Storms |
| Average Number (±SD) (1965-2005) | | 305 (±98) | 8.6 (±3.0) | 16.9 (±3.6) | 26.7 (±4.4) |
| TSR Forecasts (±FE) | 7th June 2006 | 315 (±84) | 9.0 (±2.6) | 18.6 (±2.9) | 29.0 (±3.7) |
| | 5th May 2006 | 326 (±80) | 9.3 (±2.6) | 18.6 (±2.9) | 29.0 (±3.7) |
| | 7th March 2006 | 298 (±92) | 8.4 (±2.7) | 17.1 (±3.3) | 27.1 (±4.0) |
| Chan Forecast | 24th April 2006 | - | - | 17 | 27 |

## b) Probabilistic forecasts

| NW Pacific Total ACE Index 2006 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Tercile Probabilities | | |
| | | below normal | normal | above normal |
| Climatology 1965-2005 | | 33.3 | 33.3 | 33.3 |
| TSR Forecasts | 7th June 2006 | 19 | 50 | 31 |
| | 5th May 2006 | 15 | 50 | 35 |
| | 7th March 2006 | 26 | 47 | 27 |