

NOUS41 KWBC 031350
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 26-37
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
950 AM Fri Apr 3 2026

To: Subscribers:
 -National Hurricane Center
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: David Michaud, Director
 NWS Central Operations

Subject: Implementation of the Ens_Tracker package: Effective April 8, 2026

Effective on or about April 8, 2026, 1200 UTC, the NOAA/NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will implement ens_tracker package version: v1.3.8

This release of the ens_tracker package introduces three new models: the Artificial Intelligence Global Forecast System (AIGFS), the Artificial Intelligence Global Ensemble Forecast System (AIGEFS), and the Hybrid Global Ensemble Forecast System (HGEFS), which were implemented on December 17, 2025. These models are built on Google DeepMind's GraphCast framework. AIGFS is designed for global deterministic forecasting, while AIGEFS produces ensemble forecasts using 31 members. HGEFS combines AIGEFS v1.0 with the operational GEFsv12 to form a 62-member hybrid ensemble, with 31 members contributed by each system. Additionally, this upgrade corrects an issue where data for the GFS model is incorrectly listed in the GEFs folder. All other models in the updated ens_tracker package remain unchanged.

NCEP has evaluated hurricane track forecasts from the AI models for the 2025 hurricane season. The new ensemble track data will be available at

AIGEFS:
https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/ens_tracker/prod/aigefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/

AIGFS:
https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/ens_tracker/prod/aigfs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/

HGEFS:
https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/ens_tracker/prod/hgefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/

ASCII text file Naming Conventions:

AIGFS Filenames:

1. aigfs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/agfs.tCCz.cyclone.trackatcfunix
2. aigfs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/agfsp.tCCz.cyclone.trackatcfunix

AIGEFs Filenames:

Ensemble Members (mem: 000, 001,...030) :

1. aigefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/a{mem}p.tCCz.cyclone.trackatcfunix
2. aigefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/a{mem}.tCCz.cyclone.trackatcfunix

Ensemble Statistics:

1. aigefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/aimn.tCCz.cyclone.trackatcfunix
2. aigefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/aimn.tCCz.cyclone.trackmode
3. aigefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/aimn.tCCz.cyclone.trackspread
4. aigefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/aimn.tCCz.cyclone.trackstd
5. aigefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/aimn.trkprob.YYYYMMdd.65.ctlinfo.txt
6. aigefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/aimn.trkprob.{BasinID}.65nm.YYYYMMdd.accum.ieee
7. aigefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/aimn.trkprob.{BasinID}.65nm.YYYYMMdd.indiv.ieee

HGEF's Filenames:

Ensemble Statistics:

1. hgefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/ahmn.tCCz.cyclone.trackatcfunix
2. hgefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/ahmn.tCCz.cyclone.trackmode
3. hgefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/ahmn.tCCz.cyclone.trackspread
4. hgefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/ahmn.tCCz.cyclone.trackstd
5. hgefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/ahmn.trkprob.YYYYMMdd.65.ctlinfo.txt
6. hgefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/ahmn.trkprob.{BasinID}.65nm.YYYYMMdd.accum.ieee
7. hgefs.YYYYMMdd/CC/tctrack/ahmn.trkprob.{BasinID}.65nm.YYYYMMdd.indiv.ieee

Where YYYY is the year, MM is the month, dd is the day, CC is the cycle time, mem is the ensemble member, BasinID is 2 letter basin id and 2 digits storm number and HHH is the forecast hour.

The following files will be moved:

```
genesis/storms.gfso.atcf_gen.altg.YYYYMMddHH
tctrack/avnx.tCCz.cyclone.trackatcfunix
tctrack/kwbc_YYYYMMddHH0000_GFS_glob_prod_sttr_glo.xml
```

Old location:

https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/ens_tracker/prod/gefs.YYYYMMdd/CC

New location:

https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/ens_tracker/prod/gfs.YYYYMMdd/CC

In the event that the implementation date is declared a Critical Weather Day (CWD), an Enhanced Caution Event (ECE), or other significant weather is occurring or is anticipated to occur, implementation of this change will take place at 1200 UTC on the next weekday not declared a CWD and when no significant weather is occurring.

NCEP encourages users to ensure their decoders are flexible and are able to adequately handle changes in content order, changes in the scaling factor component within the product definition section (PDS) of the Gridded Binary (GRIB) files, and any volume changes which may be forthcoming. These elements may change with future NCEP model implementations. NCEP will make every attempt to alert users to these changes prior to any implementations.

Please submit comments, questions, or requests pertaining to this upgrade to:

The Environmental Modeling Center
Products Feedback
emc.products.feedback@noaa.gov

For questions about the dataflow aspects, please contact:

Margaret Curtis
NCEP Central Operations HPC Dataflow Team Lead
ncep.pmb.dataflow@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

NNNN