

2000 UTC 21 September 2019 Forecast Discussion
Current Ship Location: Near 18.28°N, 126.17°E

Summary:

TS Tapah is located at approximately 28.5N 125.6E with a heading of 360 degrees at 10 knots as of 1200 UTC. Tapah is expected to start decreasing in intensity, going from 60 knots to 55 knots over the next 24 hours. There is some scattered convection leftover from Tapah in the northern half of the operation area, but this will weaken more over the next 48 hours. Winds will remain primarily from the S, decreasing from 5-10 knots during the 24-h forecast period to 0-5 knots during the 24-48-h forecast period. Significant wave heights will continue to decrease as Tapah continues its N/NE track, becoming 5-9 feet in the 24-h forecast period and 4-5 ft across the boundary of operation by the end of the 48-h forecast period. The BSISO signal has mostly diminished, and will remain weak-amplitude throughout the 0-4 day forecast.

Day One (24 hr) Outlook:

Weather conditions will continue to improve as TS Tapah moves further N/NE. Scattered convection is likely to persist over the area of operation from decaying precipitation in the wake of Tapah. There are also mesoscale convective systems (MCSs) moving into the op area from the east. Significant wave heights will continue to decrease from 11-13ft to 5-9 ft along the northern boundary of the op area and to below 5 ft along the southern boundary within the next 24hrs.

Day Two (48 hr) Outlook:

Improving weather conditions are forecast to continue throughout the 48hr forecast window. TS Tapah ceases to be an influence in the operation area and conditions will be generally fair. Scattered convection, possibly due to westward-moving low-pressure system, is likely during the 48-hr forecast period, but shows no sustained effects over the course of the week. Forecast products currently show no intensification of this system beyond an MCS. Significant wave heights forecast to reach 4-6 ft in the operation area with SSTs maintaining current conditions

Extended Outlook:

Beyond the 48hr forecast window, Tapah is expected to longer be an influence in the area of operation. Significant wave heights will continue to decrease to 4-6 ft in the op area. Scattered convection due to a low pressure system moving in from the east may affect the op area, but is not forecast to intensify or pose any great threat to operations.

Discussion

TCs:

Tropical Storm Tapah is currently located near 28.5N, 125.6E with maximum sustained winds of 60 knots at 21/1200 UTC with gusts at 75 knots. TS Tapah continues its trek NNE, away from

the area of operation. Weather conditions continue to improve over the next few days as Tapah moves away from the op area. TS Tapah is forecast to weaken within the 24hr forecast window as it approaches the southern tips of South Korea and Japan.

Convection:

Convection associated with TS Tapah has begun to decrease and will continue to decrease over the 48-h forecast period as Tapah continues to move away from the area of operation. The low pressure system (demoted from Invest 90W by HFIP) will move E/SE, but confidence in development remains low as ensemble members have little agreement. This system is unlikely to affect the ship and the wider northern section of op area as a MCS.

MJO/BSISO:

BSISO remains at a weak amplitude and is transitioning from Phase 8 to Phase 2 during the 0-4 day forecast. MJO is in Phase 8 with a transition to Phase 1 within 72hrs.

SSTs:

SSTs remain cooler than normal to the north of the operation area in the wake of TS Tapah. Current measurements are around 28°C in and to the north of the op area, while SSTs in along the southern boundary of the op area remain at and around 29-30°C. Current SST conditions are forecast to maintain over the next 72hrs.

Currents and Wave Heights:

Currents remain E 1-3 kts through 26 hours. Significant wave heights will continue to decrease over the area of operation as Tapah continue its N/NE track, becoming 3-5 ft near the southern boundary of the area of operation (15N) and 5-9 ft near the northern boundary of the area of operation (18N) towards the end of the 48-h forecast period.

CAMP2Ex:

No updates from CAMP2Ex for today's brief.

FORECASTERS: COLE, JONES and NAM



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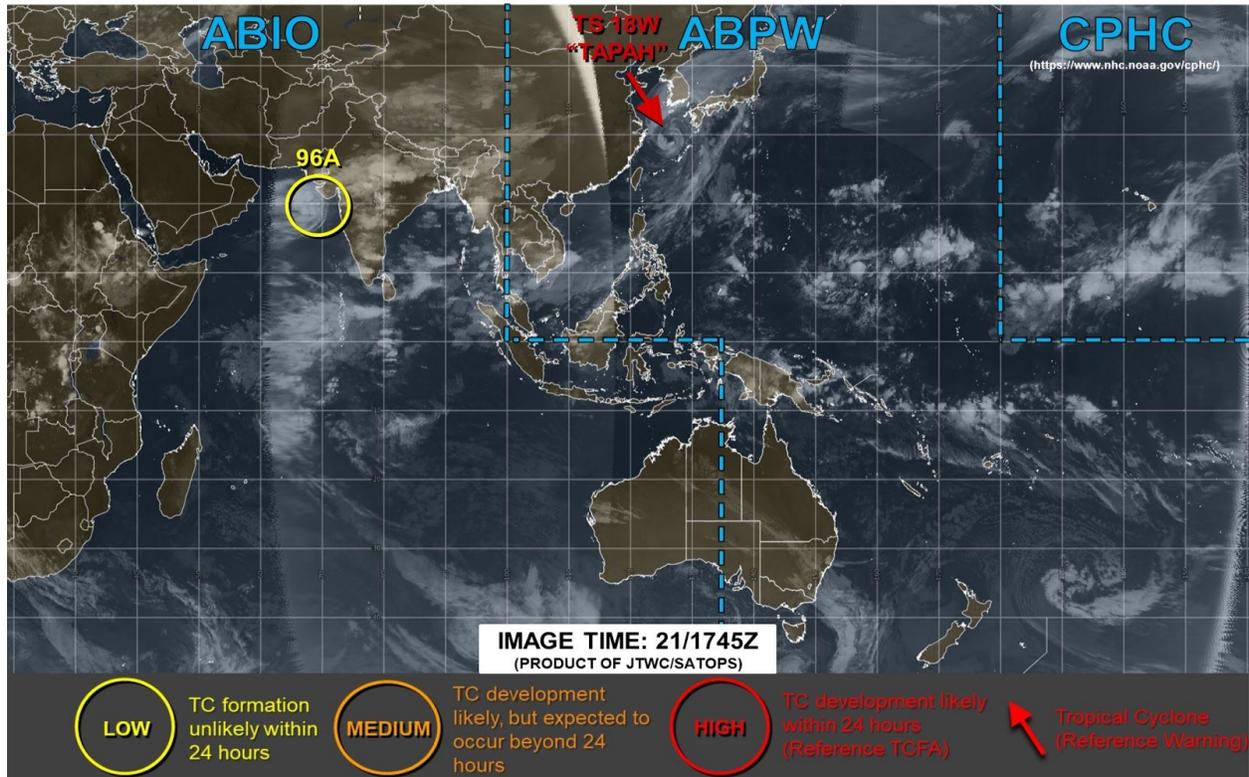


Fig. 1. JTWC TC outlook valid at 1745Z Sep 21.

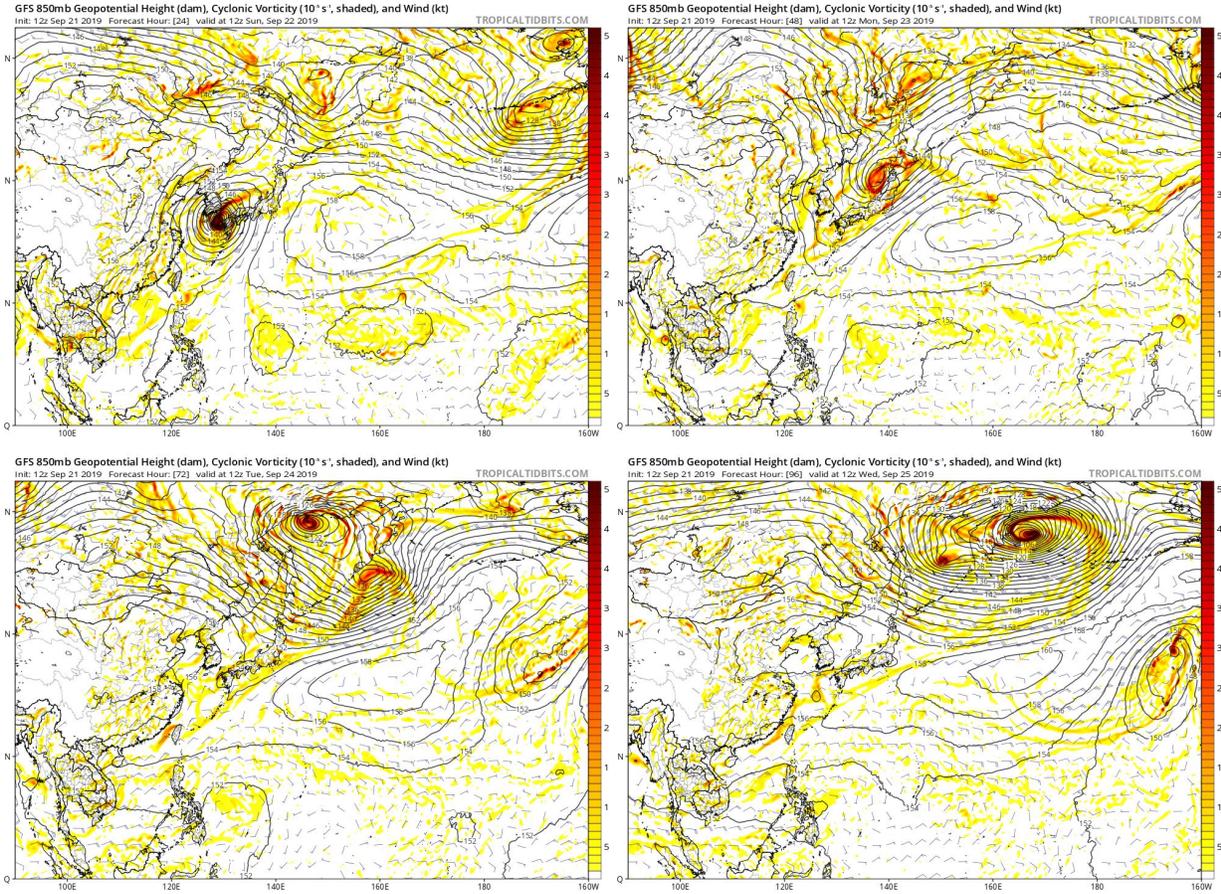


Fig. 2. GFS 850 mb vorticity and wind field and mean sea-level pressure initialized on 21Sep12Z. From top to bottom, left to right, the figures valid for 12Z Sep 22, 23,24, and 25.

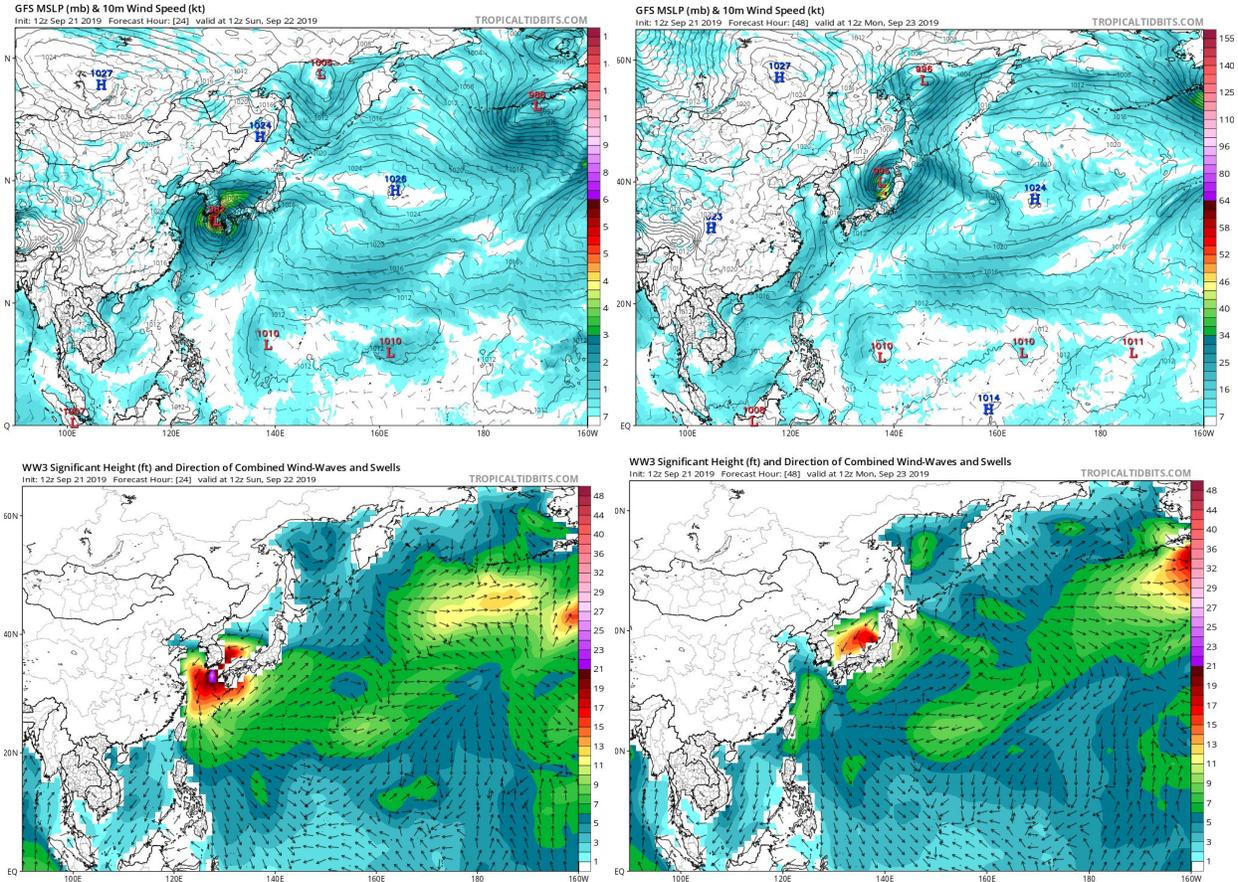


Fig. 3. GFS mean sea level pressure and 10-m winds (top row), and WW3 significant wave heights (bottom row) initialized on 21Sep12Z, valid for 22Sep12Z (left column) and 23Sep12Z (right column).