

August Forecast Update for NW Pacific Typhoon Activity in 2026

Issued: 10th August 2026

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TSR raises its forecast again and continues to predict 2026 will be one of the most active NW Pacific typhoon seasons on record.

Summary

The TSR (Tropical Storm Risk) August forecast update for NW Pacific typhoon activity in 2026 continues to anticipate an exceptionally active season with activity around 60% above the 1991-2020 climatology. The forecast spans the period from 1st June to 30th November 2026 and employs data through to the end of June 2026. TSR uses the strong link ($R^2 = 0.80$; 1993-2025) between the annual Northwest Pacific ACE index and August-September-October (ASO) ENSO combined with trade wind anomalies across the western equatorial Pacific through July-August, activity to-date and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO). All predictors except the PDO are collectively indicating an extremely active NW Pacific typhoon season in 2026 and is the reason TSR has raised its forecast again from early July.

1. TSR August 2026 NW Pacific Typhoon Activity Forecast

Further information on the TSR statistical prediction models and adjustments that are used to generate the forecasts below can be found in [Section 2](#) of Supplementary Information

1.1. Forecast NW Pacific ACE Index and System Numbers in 2026:

		ACE Index	Intense Typhoons	Typhoons	Tropical Storms
TSR Forecast	2026	500	13	20	28
30-yr Climate Norm	1991-2020	301	9.3	16.0	25.5
10-yr Climate Norm	2016-2025	250	8.4	14.2	24.0
Forecast Skill at this Lead	2016-2025	73%	33%*	0%*	0%*

*The forecast skill over the period 2016-2025 is heavily influenced by the 2023 typhoon season, which was considerably over-forecast due to the season being far less enhanced by a weak El Niño

than predicted. This was a very unusual case and the true forecast skill at this lead time is likely understated here.

The forecast tercile probabilities (1991-2020 data) for the 2026 NW Pacific typhoon season ACE index are as follows: a 98% probability of being upper tercile, only a 2% likelihood of being middle tercile and zero chance of being lower tercile.

1.2 Forecast Probability of Exceedance Plot for the NW Pacific ACE index in 2026:

See [Section 3](#) in the Supplementary Information for the motivation behind the probability of exceedance chart. Figure 1 displays our August forecast PoE plots for the 2026 NW Pacific typhoon season. The forecast PoE curve is computed using the method described in section 3 of Saunders et al. (2020) while the climatology PoE curve is computed directly from observations. The figure specifies the current chance that a given ACE index will be reached in 2026 and how this chance compares to climatology.

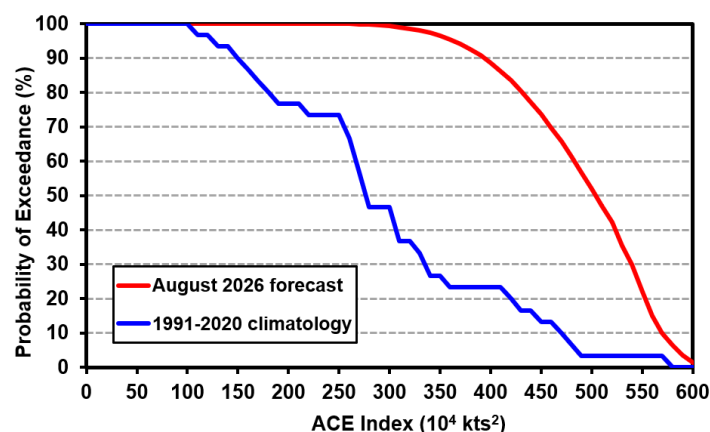


Figure 1: Forecast probability of exceedance (PoE) plots for the NW Pacific ACE index in 2026. The plot displays two sets of PoE data comprising the TSR forecast PoE curve issued in early August and the 1991-2020 climatology PoE curve.

2. Factors Influencing the August 2026 TSR Forecast

ENSO: A strong El Niño event has developed and is forecast to intensify further through the rest of summer and autumn 2026. We anticipate ENSO to have a strong enhancing effect on the 2026 NW Pacific typhoon season.

July-August Trade Wind Speed: There is a moderate correlation (Pearson $r^2 = 0.55$, 1965-2025) between the June-July zonal mean wind anomaly across the region 2.5° - 12.5° N, 120° W- 180° and NW Pacific ACE index. Weaker than normal winds over this region are associated with enhanced low-level cyclonic vorticity and a more active, and often eastward-displaced, monsoon trough. The June-July zonal wind anomaly in 2026 is the highest positive anomaly (weaker easterly winds) over the period 1965-2026 and is a signature that the atmosphere has strongly coupled to the Pacific SST anomalies associated with El Niño.

Activity to-date: There is a moderate correlation (Pearson $r^2 = 0.50$, 1965-2025) between ACE index up to the 7th August and seasonal ACE index. Higher pre-peak season ACE index is indicative of atmospheric conditions that have been favourable for strong typhoons and tends to occur during moderate or strong El Niño years. The ACE to-date in 2026 is the seventh highest over the period 1965-2025 and three category 5 typhoons have formed prior to the 1st August, implying 2026 will be a very active typhoon season.

Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO): The PDO is currently in a moderately negative phase and has been in a moderate or strong negative phase for several years, likely contributing to the run of below-average typhoon seasons observed since 2020. Jun-Nov PDO tends to modulate NW Pacific typhoon activity, especially during La Niña years where typhoon activity is suppressed. The effect of the PDO phase during El Niño seasons is generally weak, although a strong negative PDO phase was likely partly responsible for the 2023 typhoon season being much less active than forecast given the moderate El Niño in place at the time. The PDO may have a small suppressing effect on the 2026 NW Pacific typhoon season.

3. Confidence and Uncertainties

There is good confidence that the 2026 NW Pacific typhoon season will be well above-normal based on the 1991-2020 climatology, although some uncertainties remain. Contributions to uncertainty due to other factors are described below:

ENSO: There is good confidence for strong El Niño conditions to be in place through the rest of summer and autumn. A strong El Niño event has developed, and the IRI suite of models are all predicting strong El Niño conditions to continue and in fact intensify through the rest of summer and autumn 2026. In addition, both the UK Met Office and the ECMWF model ensembles are also predicting a strong El Niño through the rest of summer and autumn to high probability.

Intra-Seasonal Variability: The seasonal forecast is based on how the large-scale climate factors are aligned and gives a general overview of how active a typhoon season is likely to be. Intra-seasonal factors such as the phase and strength of the MJO can occasionally enhance or suppress activity and cannot be predicted at this lead time. In addition, for a given set of climate factors, a spread in typhoon activity can still ensue.

Skill: Historically, the skill of the August forecast for NW Pacific typhoon activity is moderate (see [section 4a](#) in the Supplementary Information).

4. Next Forecast

This is the final TSR forecast update for the 2026 NW Pacific typhoon season. A summary of the 2026 NW Pacific typhoon season and verification of the seasonal forecasts will be issued in early January 2027.

5. List of Predictions Issued for the 2026 NW Pacific Typhoon Season

NW Pacific ACE Index and System Numbers 2026					
		ACE Index	Named Tropical Storms	Typhoons	Intense Typhoons
Average Number (1991-2020)		301	9.3	16.0	25.5
Average Number (2016-2025)		250	8.4	14.2	24.0
TSR Forecasts	7 th Aug 2026	500	28	20	13
	9 th Jul 2026	436	28	19	12
	11 th May 2026	410	27	18	11