AGUACEROWX USER GUIDE

Tropics

The Tropical Cyclones hub puts active storms, official forecasts, ensemble tracks, intensity guidance and aircraft recon in one window. The hurricane models, with their storm-following nests, are in the model picker.

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BEFORE YOU START

- Single-click **Tropical cyclones** on the toolbar to open the hub. Double-click it to turn on the current storms on the map and open the hub.
- The hub has five tabs: **Layers**, **Storms**, **Ensembles**, **Recon** and **Custom**.
- Click a storm on the **Storms** tab for its details and shortcuts to its ensembles, intensity plots, recon and official forecast.
- The hub is not available in radar archive mode.

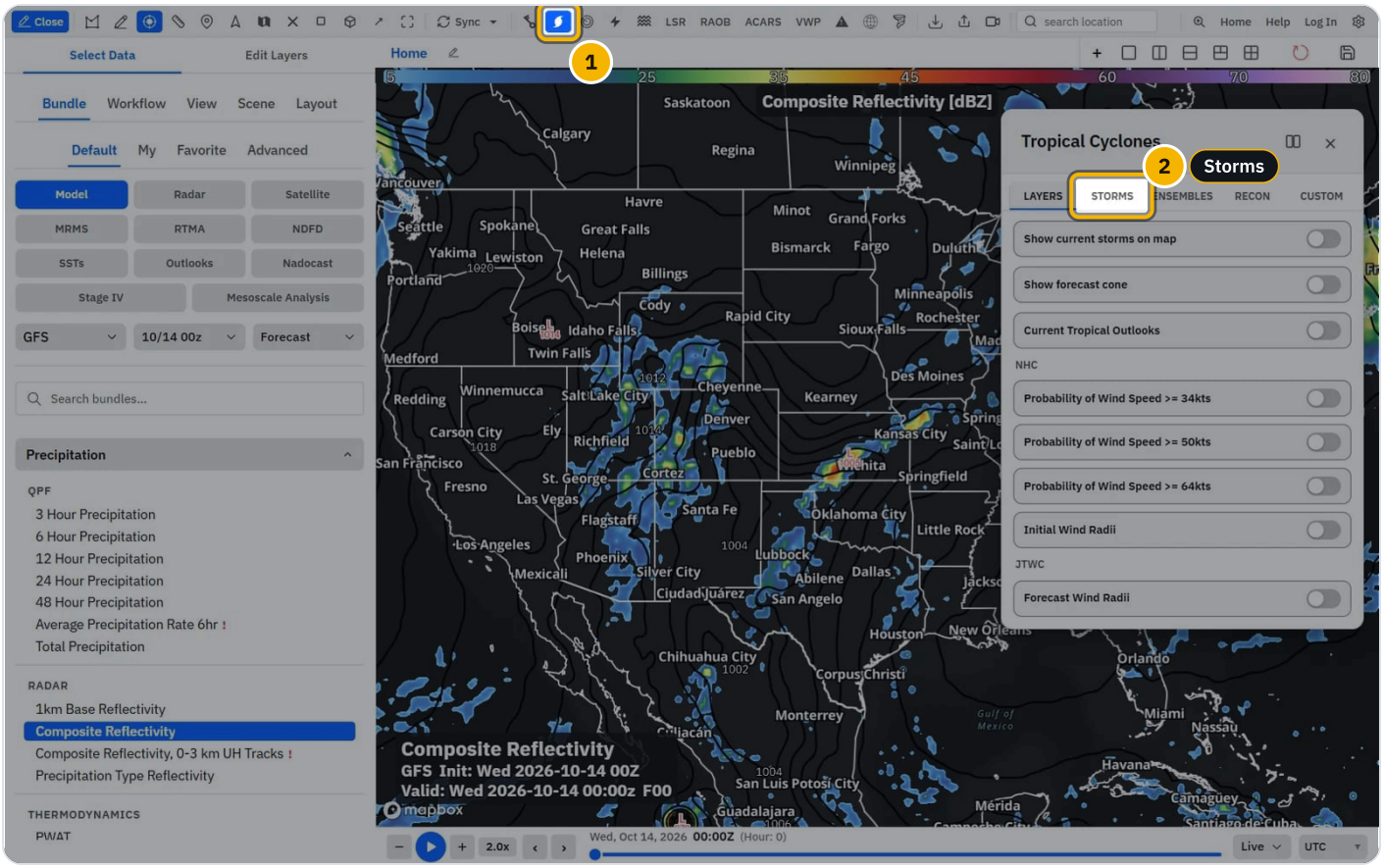
01 Open the tropical cyclone hub

See every active storm worldwide, jump to one on the map, and open its forecasts, models, ensembles and recon from one place.

1. Click **Tropical cyclones** on the toolbar.
2. Click the **Storms** tab.
3. Click a storm card. The map flies to the storm and the hub shows its position, motion, pressure and last update.
4. Click **Ensembles**, **Intensity plots**, **Aircraft recon** or **Official forecasts** to open that product for the storm.
5. Click the back arrow to return to the list of storms.

TIPS

- Click **Satellite** in a storm's details to add clean longwave infrared from the nearest satellite sector.
- Turn on **Show current storms on map** on the **Layers** tab to plot every active storm.



The Tropical cyclones button and the Storms tab of the hub.

02 NHC and JTWC forecasts

Official forecast cones and tracks, wind speed probabilities and wind radii, with styles you can change and labels you can drag. JTWC covers the western Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Southern Hemisphere.

1. Click **Tropical cyclones** on the toolbar.
2. On the **Layers** tab, turn on **Show forecast cone**.
3. Under **NHC**, turn on a wind speed probability or **Initial Wind Radii** if you want them. Under **JTWC**, turn on **Forecast Wind Radii**.
4. To restyle the cone, open the **Custom** tab and click **Current Cone**.
5. Change the **Forecast cone**, **Tracks** and **Position markers** settings.
6. Drag a forecast point label on the map to move it. Double-click it to put it back.

TIPS

- Choose the rows the storm popup shows in Settings, under **Appearance**, **Feature popups**, **Tropical popup fields**.
- **Official forecasts** in a storm's details turns on the cone for that storm.

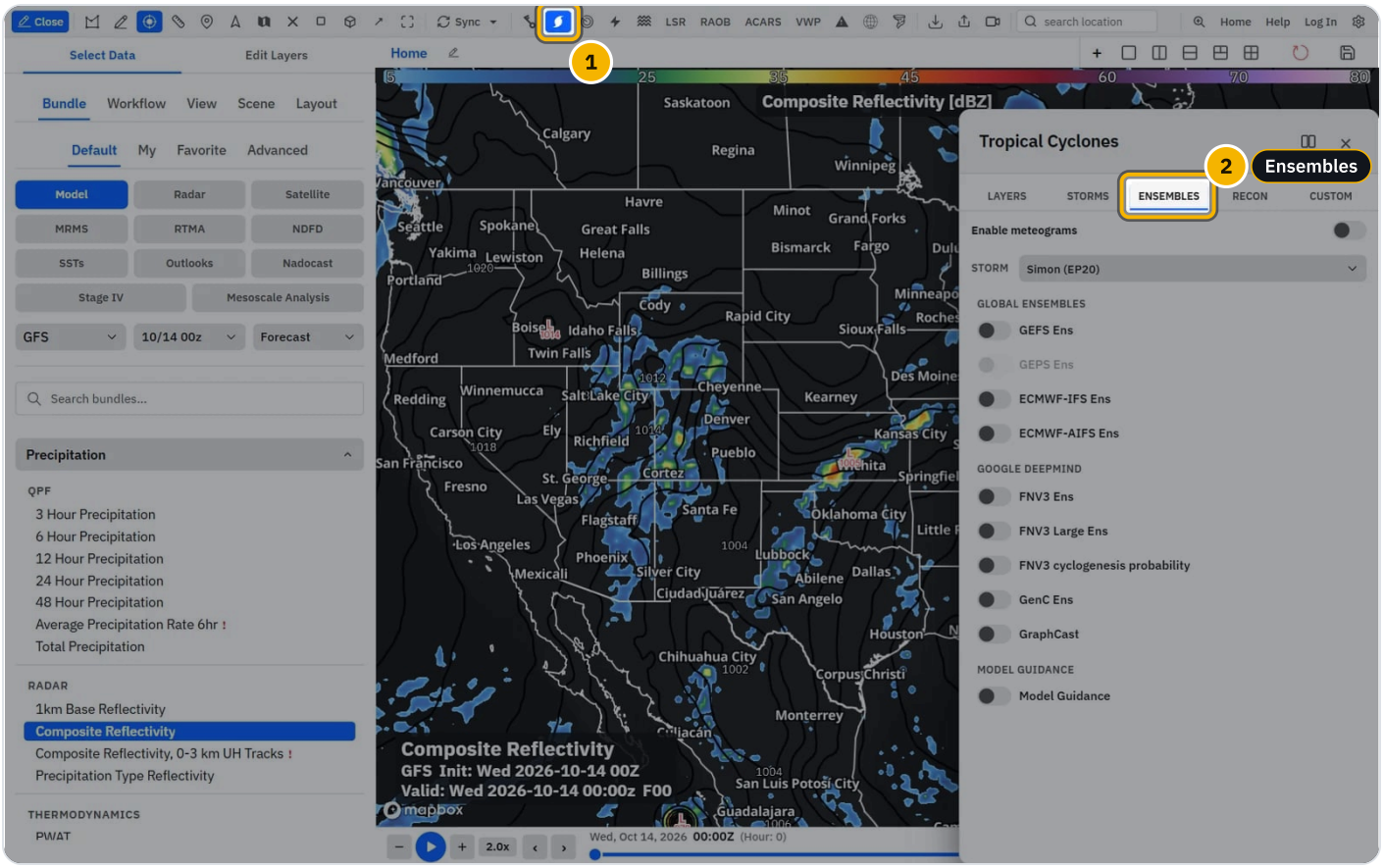
03 Ensemble tracks

Spaghetti plots from GEFS, GEPS, ECMWF and Google DeepMind ensembles, with a name and color for each model.

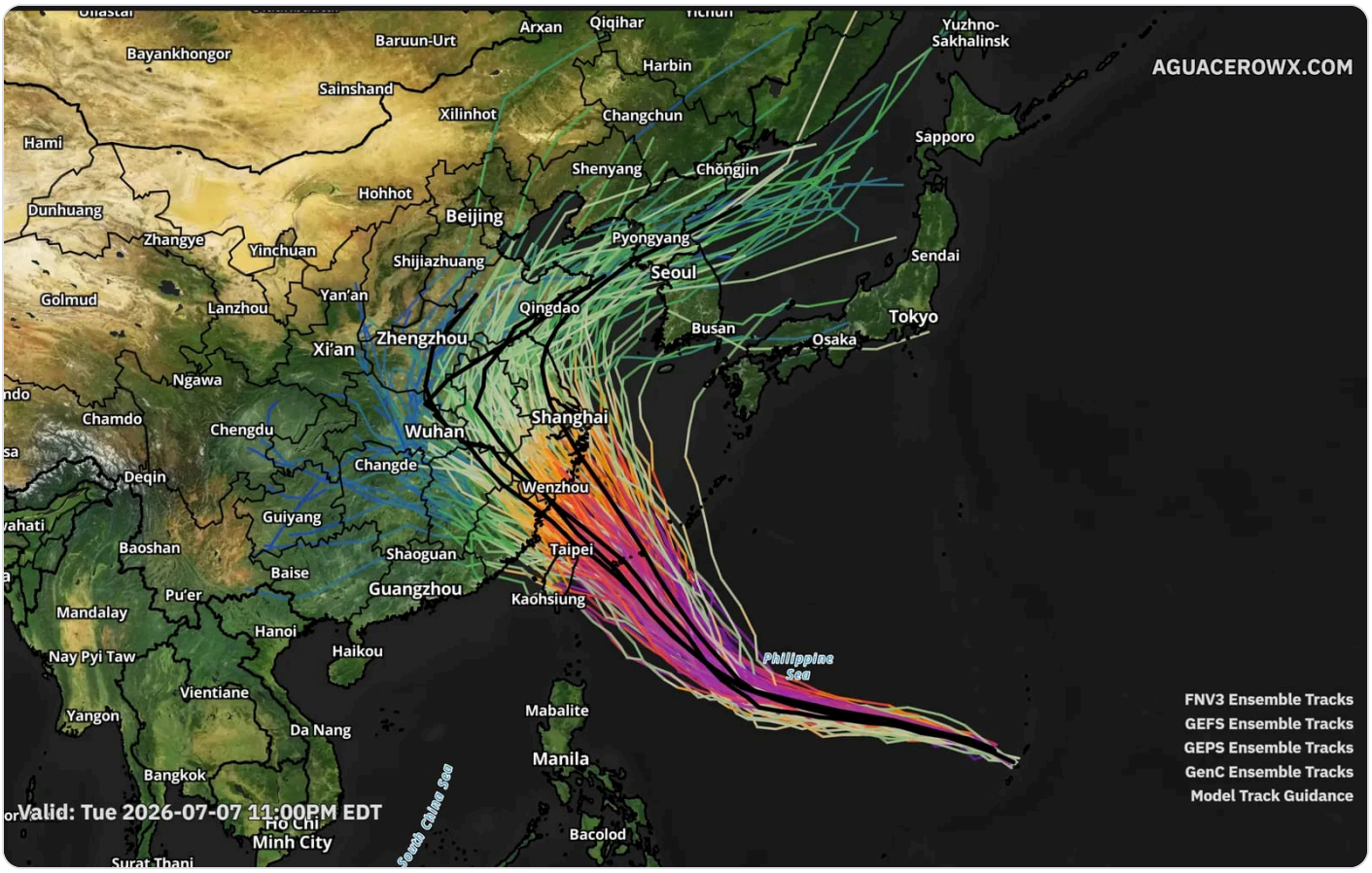
1. Click **Tropical cyclones** on the toolbar.
2. Click the **Ensembles** tab.
3. Pick the storm under **Storm**.
4. Turn on one or more products, such as **GEFS Ens**, **GEPS Ens**, **ECMWF-IFS Ens** or **FNV3 Ens**.
5. Pick a run from the menu next to a product if you want an earlier one.
6. Under **Track Type**, color the tracks by wind, pressure, lead time or model, or switch to a probability view.

TIPS

- **Model names** labels each track with its model. **Ensemble mean** and **Mean only** add or keep the mean track.
- **Clip to slider time** draws each track only up to the time on the slider.



The Ensembles tab of the Tropical Cyclones hub.



Ensemble track guidance for a typhoon approaching eastern China.

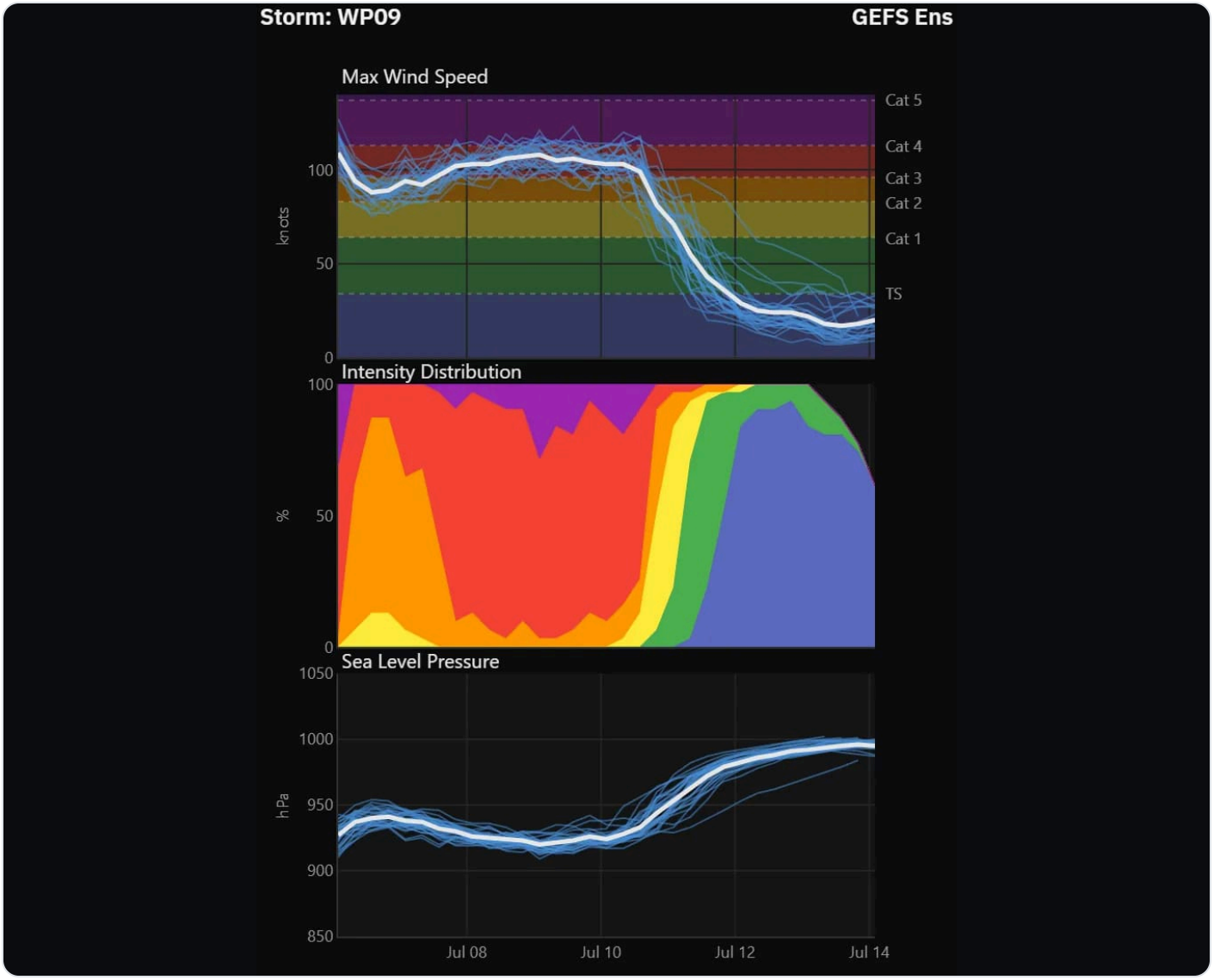
04 Intensity graphs

Ensemble maximum wind, sea level pressure, intensity distribution and 24-hour wind change for each storm.

1. Click **Tropical cyclones** on the toolbar.
2. On the **Storms** tab, click a storm.
3. Click **Intensity plots**. The charts open docked under the map.
4. Use the menus at the top of the charts to switch the storm, product or run.

TIPS

- You can also turn on **Enable meteograms** on the **Ensembles** tab.
- Right-click a chart to copy or download it, or all of them at once.



A GEFS intensity graph with maximum wind, intensity distribution and pressure.

05 Recon and dropsondes

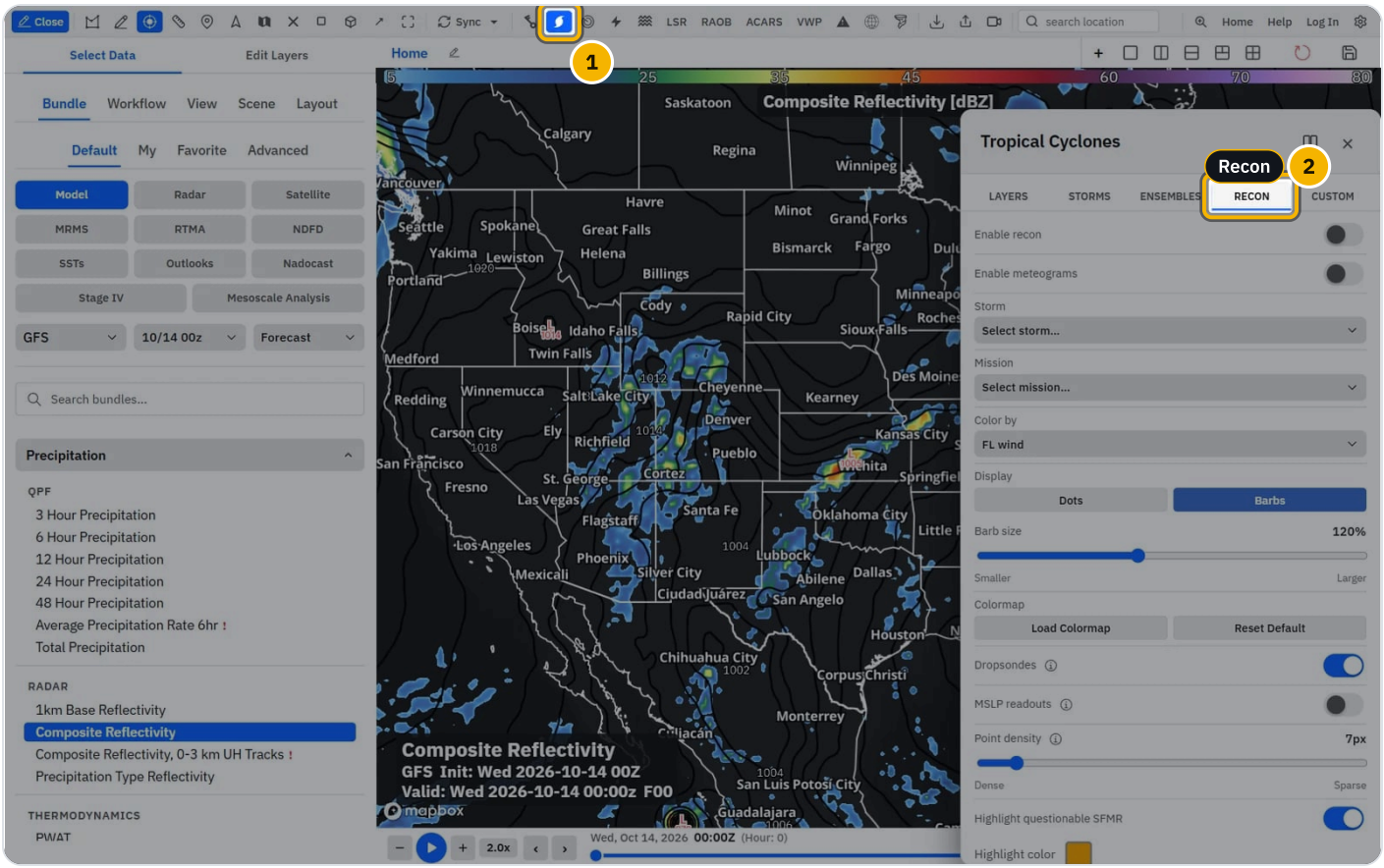
Hurricane Hunter flight data and dropsonde observations on the map, colored by the field you pick.

1. Click **Tropical cyclones** on the toolbar.
2. Click the **Recon** tab.
3. Turn on **Enable recon**.
4. Pick a **Storm**, then a **Mission**.
5. Choose a field under **Color by**, and **Dots** or **Barbs** under **Display**.

6 Click a dropsonde marker on the map to open it in the sounding viewer.

TIPS

- Turn on **Enable meteograms** for charts of flight-level wind, pressure and temperature along the flight.
- **Remove recon** takes the flight off the map. **Reset all** also restores the default settings.



The Recon tab of the Tropical Cyclones hub.

Barbs work only when you color by **FL wind** or **SFMR wind**.

06 Hurricane models ENTHUSIAST

HAFS-A, HAFS-B, HWRF and HMON for each active storm, with hurricane diagnostics such as maximum potential intensity and shear.

1 Open the sidebar and click the model menu, which shows the current model's name, to open the model picker.

2. Type the model name in **Search models...**, or open the **Hurricane** category.
3. Under **HAFS-A**, **HAFS-B**, **HMON** or **HWRF**, click the storm, for example **09L**.
4. Add hurricane fields such as **Maximum Potential Intensity** or **200-850mb Bulk Shear** with **Add Layer**.
5. To keep the map on the storm, turn on **Hurricane storm following** in Settings under **Data**, **Model**.

Needs Enthusiast or higher. Each model is listed only while it runs for an active storm. Storm following needs you to be signed in.

07 Common questions

Answers to the questions we hear most about the tropics.

Why doesn’t a storm show on the Storms tab?

The tab lists active storms and invests worldwide and drops each one 12 hours after its last advisory or best-track update. When nothing is active, it says there are no active tropical cyclones. The list refreshes every 90 seconds while the hub is open.

Where did the invest go after it became a storm?

Once an invest becomes a numbered storm, the hub hides the invest if the new storm is within 200 nautical miles in the same basin. Ensemble tracks run while it was an invest stay available under the new storm.

How often do the hub and the cone update?

Storms on the map refresh every 90 seconds, and so does the storm list while the hub is open. The cone and the other NHC and JTWC layers check for new products every 5 minutes. The cone changes only when NHC or JTWC issues a new forecast.

Why is Official forecasts greyed out for a storm?

That system has no official cone and track. Cones come from NHC and CPHC advisories in the Atlantic and eastern and central Pacific, and from JTWC warnings in the western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Southern Hemisphere. Invests and other systems without advisories don’t have one.

Why are Ensembles and Intensity plots greyed out for a storm?

No ensemble track guidance has been published for that storm yet. Both buttons turn on once it is, and the **Ensembles** tag on the storm card lights up.

Why are some products greyed out on the Ensembles tab?

A product is greyed out when it has no runs for the storm under **Storm**. **FNV3 cyclogenesis probability** and the track products can't be on together, so turn one off before you turn on the other. **Model Guidance** and **GraphCast** are greyed out while **Track Type** is set to a probability view.

Why isn't a hurricane model listed for my storm?

HAFS-A, HAFS-B, HWRF and HMON appear in the model picker only for storms they're running on, under the storm's ID, such as **09L**. They run 4 times a day (00, 06, 12 and 18 UTC) while a storm is active, out to 126 hours. If a storm isn't listed under a model, that model isn't running on it.

Why does a hurricane model cover only a small area?

Hurricane models run on a nest centered on the storm, not over the whole map. If the nest is off screen when you pick a model, the map flies to it. The nest moves with the storm, so turn on **Hurricane storm following** to keep the map on it as you step through hours.

Why can't I pan away from the storm on a hurricane model?

Hurricane storm following is on. It keeps the map on the model's nest and still lets you zoom. Turn it off in Settings under **Data**, **Model**. You need to be signed in to change it.

Do I need a paid plan for tropical data?

No. The hub, official forecasts, ensemble tracks, intensity plots and recon are on every plan. Only the hurricane models need Enthusiast or higher.

What units does the hub use?

Storm cards show wind in knots, pressure in millibars and motion in mph. Ensemble tracks colored by **Wind intensity** can use kts, mph, km/h or m/s. Pick one under **Units** on the **Ensembles** tab.

Why is Aircraft recon greyed out, or why are there no missions?

Recon missions stay available for 3 days. If no aircraft has flown the storm in that time, the button is greyed out and the **Recon** tab has no missions for it. A mission shows **Active** while the aircraft has reported in the last 6 hours and **Ended** after that.

How current is recon data?

The **Recon** tab checks for new missions every minute while it's open, and the flight on the map reloads every minute while recon is on. New points appear after NHC publishes the aircraft's next high-density observation (HDOB) message.

What are Training and Undocumented in the Storm list on the Recon tab?

Training groups training flights and other flights not tasked to a storm. **Undocumented** groups flights whose storm name couldn't be read. Pick a named storm to see the flights into it.

Why do some recon points have an orange outline?

The aircraft flagged the SFMR surface wind on those observations as questionable. To hide the outline or change its color, use **Highlight questionable SFMR** on the **Recon** tab.