PACIFIC REGION TECHNICAL NOTES

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TO PE OR NOT TO PE

A BRIEF LOOK AT VERIFICATION FIGURES

Peter Haering, Meteorologist
Pacific Weather Center, Vancouver

DISCUSSION.

At the Pacific Weather center at Vancouver verification figures of surface prognoses are kept for subjective, CMC and PE progs. Basically the isobaric gradients are analysed and a skill score is produced. The lower the number the better the isobaric prog. Generally a number of .70 to .80 is an average prog. A number below.50 is an exceptionally good prog while a number above 1.00 is not considered to be a masterpiece. Due to the fact that some prognoses were examined during the time period 15 May to 15 June at this office it was thought that an examination of the verification figures during this time span might prove interesting. Unfortunately, by the time the idea was translated into action the May data except for general averages had disappeared. It was then decided to examine the figures for the month of June.

RESULTS.

	Full Grid	B.C. Area
36 Hour PE prog	.74	.74
36 Hour CMC prog	.90	.99
24 Hour CMC prog	.79	.88
12 Hour CMC prog	.67	.74

	Full Grid	B.C. Area
36 Hour PE prog off 12Z data	.78	.78
36 Hour PE prog off 00Z data	.70	.70
36 Hour CMC prog off 12Z data	.93	1.05
36 Hour CMC prog off 00Z data	.87	.93

Just what do these numbers indicate? From this rather brief examination one might be tempted to conclude that the PE progs should not be regarded too lightly. If these figures have any validity, then for the month of June at least, the PE progs based upon 12 hour older data out-performed the CMC spectral progs for the Pacific Region. Furthermor, for the B.C. area in particular the PE progs based upon 24 hour older data still competed favorably with the CMC progs. The following questions might well be asked: For the Pacific Region is much accomplished by a prog that is based upon a quick Radat analysis? and,Could some improvement in the prognoses be achieved by delaying the cut-off time and insuring an improved initial analysis? Both progs also appear to show a bias, with the progs based on the 00Z data apparently producing better results. Could this be due to the lack of ship reports over the Eastern Pacific at 12Z.