

**From:** American Meteorological Society  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2019 8:05 AM  
**To:** mary.erickson@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Open Forum Digest for Monday September 9, 2019

[?](#)

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**Sep 8, 2019**

**Discussions**

started 20 hours ago (b)(6) (1 reply)

[Original track by NHC](#)

[?](#)

- 1. (b)(6) Daniel Ventola
- 2. (b)(6) Gary Cavender

started yesterday, (b)(6) (11 replies)

[Please don't attack NWS forecasters](#)

[?](#)

- 3. (b)(6) Michael Tomlinson
- 4. (b)(6) David Finrock
- 5. (b)(6) Henry Cole
- 6. (b)(6) Henry Cole
- 7. (b)(6) Peter Sloss
- 8. (b)(6) Keith Seitter
- 9. (b)(6) Ronald Gird
- 10. (b)(6) Jerome Smith

## 1. Original track by NHC

(b)(6)



Sep 8, 2019 11:53 AM

(b)(6)



Hello to all and good day to everyone. I don't know what the hub bub is about with President Trump's map which extended Hurricane Dorian's track or "affects" to Alabama. SEE MAP ABOVE...That sharpie drawing was based on forecasts such as what you see here. See map showing effects getting into southeastern Alabama. National Hurricane Center did their best with today's "tools" we have. We obviously have a ways to go as far as "preliminary" forecast track as we now know Dorian barely effected Florida. Dorian's track greatly improved (forecast accuracy by NHC) to track up into the eastern Carolinas then east of New England. So, don't rag on President Trump, nor the NHC. Both were in actual agreement with the extended "sharpie" drawing". Of course that projected track changed with time. So, again, don't point fingers at NHC, they do their best until a later time when we have a better understanding of Hurricanes and their development and the environment "around" the storm. And, please... don't make this into a political football. We are better than that. Thank you and enjoy the day.

---

Daniel Ventola  
President/Meteorologist  
Hasbrouck Heights NJ

(b)(6)

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## 2. [Re: Original track by NHC](#)

(b)(6)



Sep 8, 2019 2:39 PM |

(b)(6)

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The main problem with President Trump's tweet regarding impacts on Alabama is that it was posted Sunday, September 1, using a 4 day-old map similar to the one you posted. By Saturday, the 31st, the NHS had significantly altered the prediction so that Alabama wasn't even in the cone of uncertainty. By Sunday, the track had shifted slightly eastward - making South and North Carolina the likeliest areas to be impacted (as we were).

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Gary Cavender  
South Brunswick High School  
Wilmington NC

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

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Original Message:  
Sent: 09-08-2019 11:29  
From: Daniel Ventola  
Subject: Original track by NHC



Hello to all and good day to everyone. I don't know

what the hub bub is about with President Trump's map which extended Hurricane Dorian's track or "affects" to Alabama. SEE MAP ABOVE...That sharpie drawing was based on forecasts such as what you see here. See map showing effects getting into southeastern Alabama. National Hurricane Center did their best with today's "tools" we have. We obviously have a ways to go as far as "preliminary" forecast track as we now know Dorian barely effected Florida. Dorian's track greatly improved (forecast accuracy by NHC) to track up into the eastern Carolinas then east of New England. So, don't rag on President Trump, nor the NHC. Both were in actual agreement with the extended "sharpie" drawing". Of course that projected track changed with time. So, again, don't point fingers at NHC, they do their best until a later time when we have a better understanding of Hurricanes and their development and the environment "around" the storm. And, please... don't make this into a political football. We are better than that. Thank you and enjoy the day.

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Daniel Ventola  
President/Meteorologist  
Hasbrouck Heights NJ

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3. [Re: Please don't attack NWS forecasters](#)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)



Sep 8, 2019 8:23 AM

(b)(6)

I absolutely agree. Shameful lack of integrity to criticize our forecaster for trying to give his residents the correct information.

Mike T.

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

If anything, I'm frustrated that the NOAA did not denounce Trump's tweets. Hurricane Dorian was a life-or-death situation, and Trump decided to focus on Alabama instead of the states that were clearly more vulnerable to damage. The NOAA should be doing what will save the most lives, and by not discouraging Trump from focusing on Alabama, more lives are put at risk. The NOAA should be putting him in check, not focusing on specific political ideas. People die in hurricanes. NOAA should have told him that regardless of whether or not Alabama was at risk, Florida and the Carolinas are the states that are currently being battered by Dorian.

-----  
Emily Glenn  
High School Junior  
Los Angeles CA  
-----

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4. [Re: Please don't attack NWS forecasters](#)

(b)(6)

Sep 8, 2019 10:27 AM



(b)(6)

The statement from the AMS is certainly helpful in pointing out the egregious error made by NOAA administrators in making political excuses for what should be an entirely science focused agency of the US government.

-----  
David Finfrock  
Fort Worth TX  
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(b)(6)

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Original Message:  
Sent: 09-07-2019 10:07  
From: Henry Cole  
Subject: Please don't attack NWS forecasters

NWS forecasters are part of our national defense. They should not be attacked for sticking to their forecasts despite attempts by politician(s) and high management officials to alter the hurricane track forecasts with sharpies. As an organization AMS should stand up for our forecasters and the best science.

If you agree sign let us know.

Henry S. Cole, Ph.D.

-----  
Henry Cole  
Upper Marlboro MD

(b)(6)

## 5. [Re: Please don't attack NWS forecasters](#)

(b)(6)



Sep 8, 2019 11:06 AM

(b)(6)

Thanks, Emily; let's spread the word. Hank Cole

--

Henry S. Cole, Ph.D.  
President, Henry S Cole Environmental Associates, Inc.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

If anything, I'm frustrated that the NOAA did not denounce Trump's tweets. Hurricane Dorian was a life-or-death situation, and Trump decided to focus on Alabama instead of the states that were clearly more vulnerable to damage. The NOAA should be doing what will save the most lives, and by not discouraging Trump from focusing on Alabama, more lives are put at risk. The NOAA should be putting him in check, not focusing on specific political ideas. People die in hurricanes. NOAA should have told him that regardless of whether or not Alabama was at risk, Florida and the Carolinas are the states that are currently being battered by Dorian.

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Emily Glenn  
High School Junior  
Los Angeles CA  
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6. Re: Please don't attack NWS forecasters

(b)(6)



Sep 8, 2019 11:43 AM

(b)(6)

Take a look at today's Washington Post article at [www.washingtonpost.com/politics/...](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/...)

The candidates for AMS President need to respond--The Trump Administration has taken steps to push scientists away from the truth about climate change. Now they take another stab--this time it tries to muzzle our NWS forecasters. Cannot be tolerated.

-----  
Henry Cole  
Upper Marlboro MD

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

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Original Message:  
Sent: 09-08-2019 10:26  
From: David Finrock  
Subject: Please don't attack NWS forecasters

The statement from the AMS is certainly helpful in pointing out the egregious error made by NOAA administrators in making political excuses for what should be an entirely science focused agency of the US government.

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David Finrock  
Fort Worth TX



## 7. Re: Please don't attack NWS forecasters

(b)(6)



Sep 8, 2019 1:07 PM

(b)(6)

What was old is new again: "Sharpiegate" is just the next chapter in a bleak history of denial of obvious environmental hazards. The addition of a possible extension to a hurricane's track on an already out-of-date forecast map did nothing to enhance the state of knowledge or public safety - it just further muddied the waters and further degraded public trust in what had always been a source of vital information in times of impending dangers. A previous, troubling editing of information occurred around 20 years ago during a public tour of a newly-opened NOAA facility. Staff addressing visitors were advised not to use the terms "human-caused climate change" or, heaven forbid, "global warming". There were posters which clearly depicted atmospheric CO2 levels responding to the appearance of industrialization as evidenced from air bubbles trapped in Antarctic ice. Other major environmental events such as volcanic activity also served as accurate time markers. Still, it had to be left to the visiting public to connect the dots. Not as egregious as trying to redirect a tropical storm by editing a map. We need better.

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Peter Sloss  
Boulder CO  
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(b)(6)

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Original Message:  
Sent: 09-07-2019 10:07  
From: Henry Cole  
Subject: Please don't attack NWS forecasters

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If you agree sign let us know.

Henry S. Cole, Ph.D.

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Henry Cole  
Upper Marlboro MD

(b)(6)

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## 8. [Re: Please don't attack NWS forecasters](#)

(b)(6)



Sep 8, 2019 1:30 PM

(b)(6)

Hi everyone,

Just making sure the link to the AMS response statement is provided to everyone:  
[www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/about-ams/...](http://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/about-ams/...)

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Keith Seitter CCM  
American Meteorological Society (AMS)

(b)(6)

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Sent: 09-08-2019 10:26

From: David Finrock  
Subject: Please don't attack NWS forecasters

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David Finrock  
Fort Worth TX

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9. [Re: Please don't attack NWS forecasters](#)

(b)(6)



Sep 8, 2019 3:22 PM

(b)(6)

in hindsight and lessons learned. The president should have been briefed by the NHC Director, either by video conference or a personal site visit to NHC. Previous presidents have done this. There were too many people in the loop between the President and the NHC Director. A case of "too many cooks can spoil the broth." lessons leaned: when a person speaks outside of their area of expertise, we should take the information with a "grain of salt."

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Ronald Gird  
Fairfax VA

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(b)(6)

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Henry S. Cole, Ph.D.

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Henry Cole  
Upper Marlboro MD

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10. [Re: Please don't attack NWS forecasters](#)

(b)(6)



Sep 8, 2019 5:52 PM

(b)(6)

It is an absolute outrage that some "unnamed official" at NOAA supported an illegal act (broadcasting an altered forecast is a felony, by the way). This was no doubt someone appointed by Trump. There WILL be a reckoning, but it won't come any time soon, unless we all speak up.

-----  
Jerome Smith  
Researcher  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
La Jolla CA 92093-0213

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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Original Message:

Sent: 09-07-2019 10:07

From: Henry Cole

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Henry S. Cole, Ph.D.

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Henry Cole

Upper Marlboro MD

[REDACTED]  
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