

Typhoon Usagi

Date/Time: 1200UT, 7/30/07
 Location: 20.8N, 141.1E, 250 nautical miles S of Iwo To
 Windspeed/Pressure: 75knots (Category 1 equivalent)
 Speed/Direction: 6knots NNW
 CHI Value/Trend: 2.7 increasing
 Condition: Maintaining NNW track, intensifying

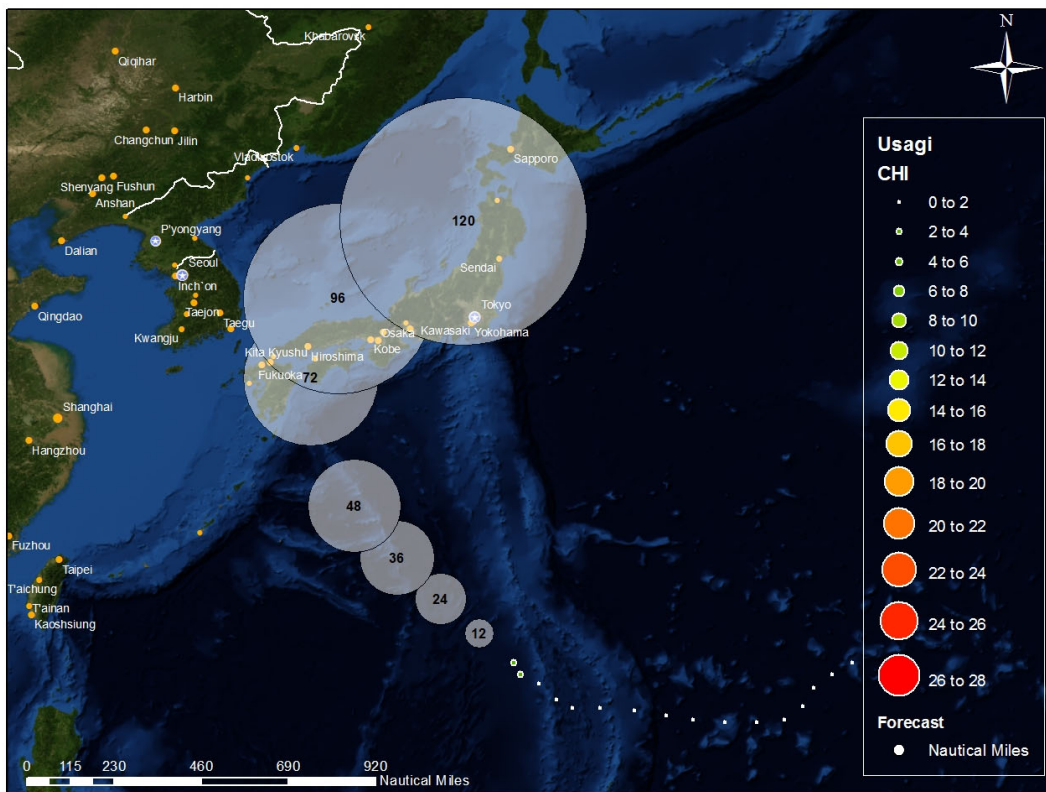


Figure 1: Typhoon Usagi (Adv.9) track and forecast with 2006 forecast errors

Usagi is currently a weak Typhoon well to the southeast of Japan. It is expected to track to the north northwest, pick up forward speed and intensify over the next 3 days. It is expected that Usagi will reach the equivalent of a Category 4 storm over the next 2-3 days due to decreasing windshear along track, although it will remain a relatively compact storm, which will limit its CHI value.

Current model forecasts are in relatively good agreement showing Usagi making a landfall along the south western coast of Japan on Thursday. We caution that the error on this forecast is high (as can be seen in figure 1) so landfall is possible over a wide area of southern Japan. It is unlikely, however, that Usagi could reach the Tokyo area. Usagi

is likely to weaken in the 12-24 hours before landfall – landfall as the equivalent of a Category 3 storm is the most likely case. We estimate that the CHI value at landfall will be in the range 5-9 CHI. As a comparison, recent Atlantic hurricanes with CHI values in this range include Isabel (2003), Frances (2004), Jeanne (2004) and Dennis (2005).

After landfall, Usagi is likely to weaken quickly over the mountains of southern Japan, passing into the Sea of Japan where it will further weaken as it undergoes an extratropical transition.

Conclusions

Typhoon Usagi represents a threat to Japan. A landfall along the southern Japanese coast is likely on Thursday although, due to wide errors in forecasting at this range, we are unable to pin down a more precise landfall location. While Usagi is likely to strengthen to a Category 4 equivalent storm in the next 2 days, at landfall a Category 3 strength is most likely with CHI values in the range 5-9.

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