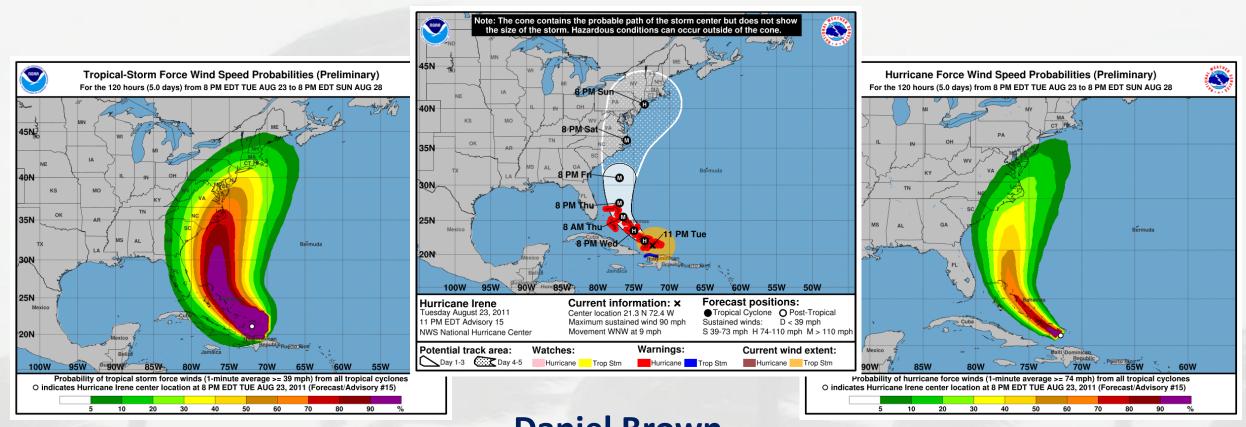
### Wind Speed Probabilities



**Daniel Brown** 

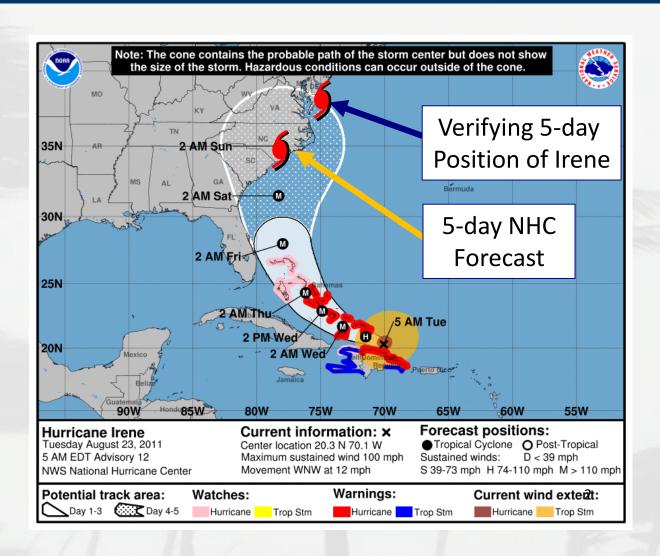
**National Hurricane Center** 2021 WMO Course 29 April 2021

### Wind Speed Probabilities A Tool to Deal with Uncertainty

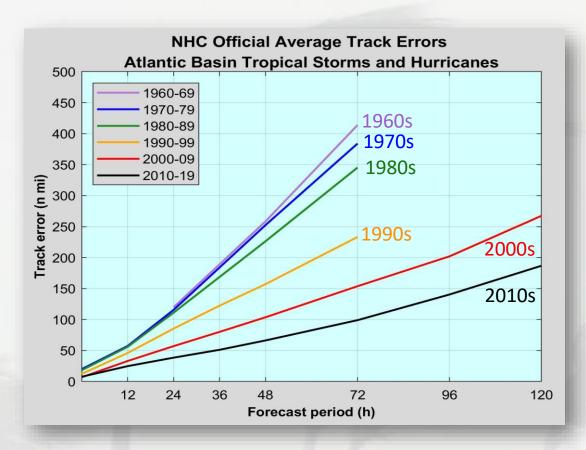
Hurricane Irene Advisory Number 12

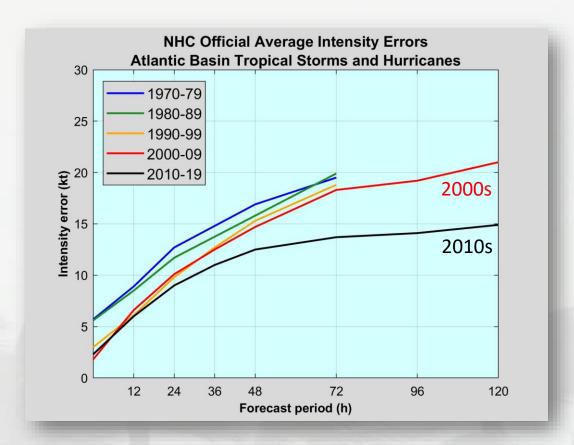
Issued 5:00 AM EDT 23 August 2011

5-day position error about 270 miles



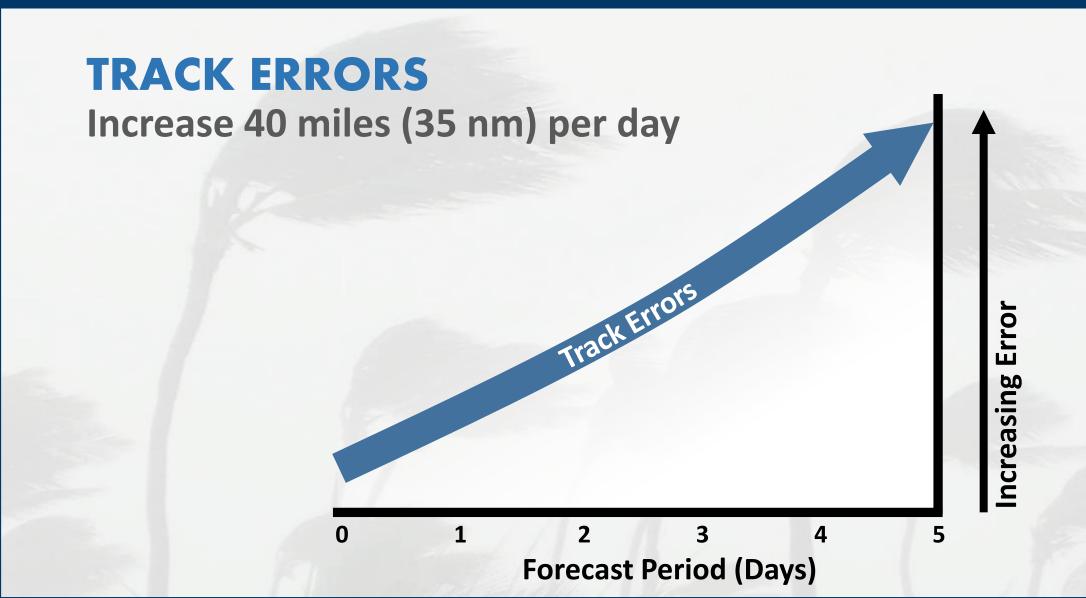
### FORECAST TRACK ERRORS Improving, but not perfect.



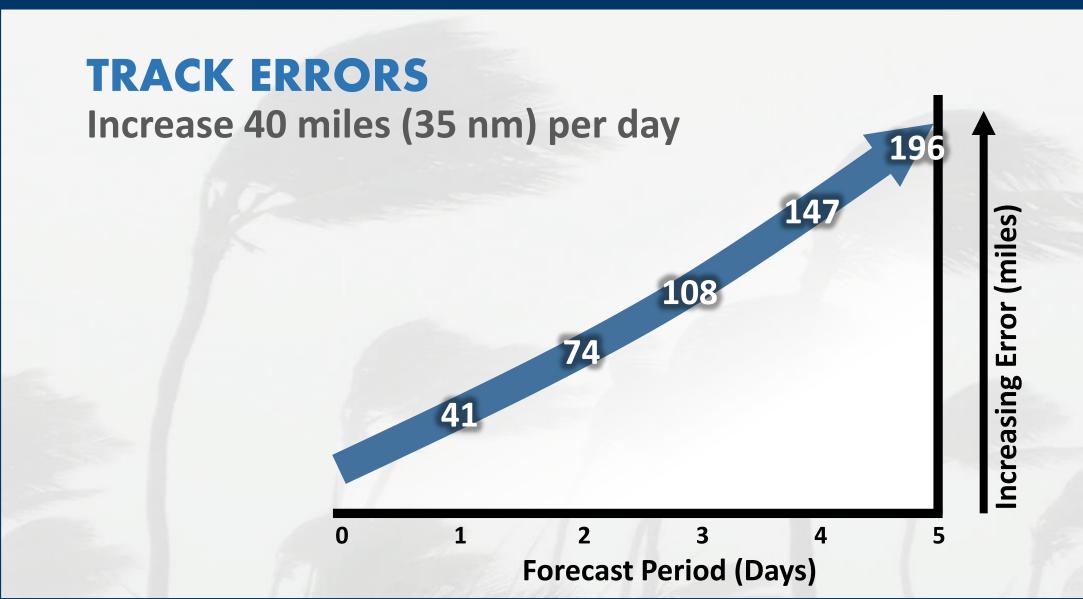


Significant reduction in track forecast errors and a more recent improvement in intensity forecasts.

### FORECAST TRACK ERRORS NHC 5-year Averages



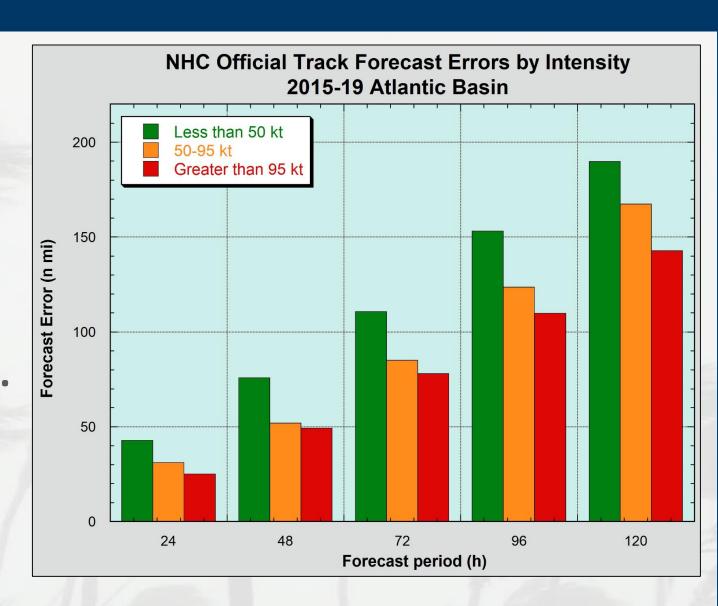
### FORECAST TRACK ERRORS NHC 5-year Averages



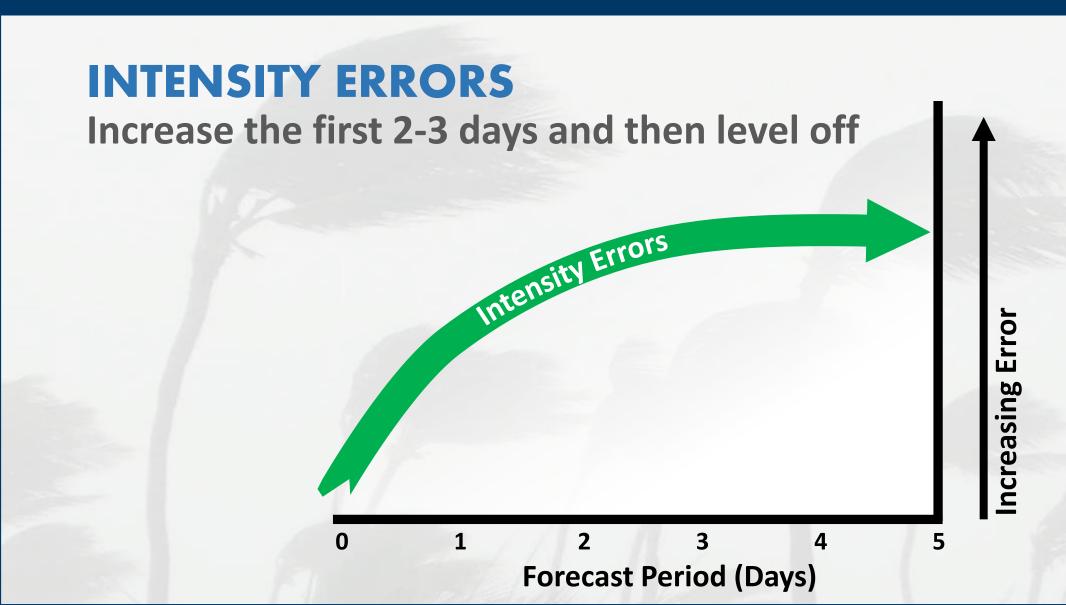
### FORECAST TRACK ERRORS Based on Initial Intensity

### More Uncertainty for Tropical Depressions and low-end Tropical Storms

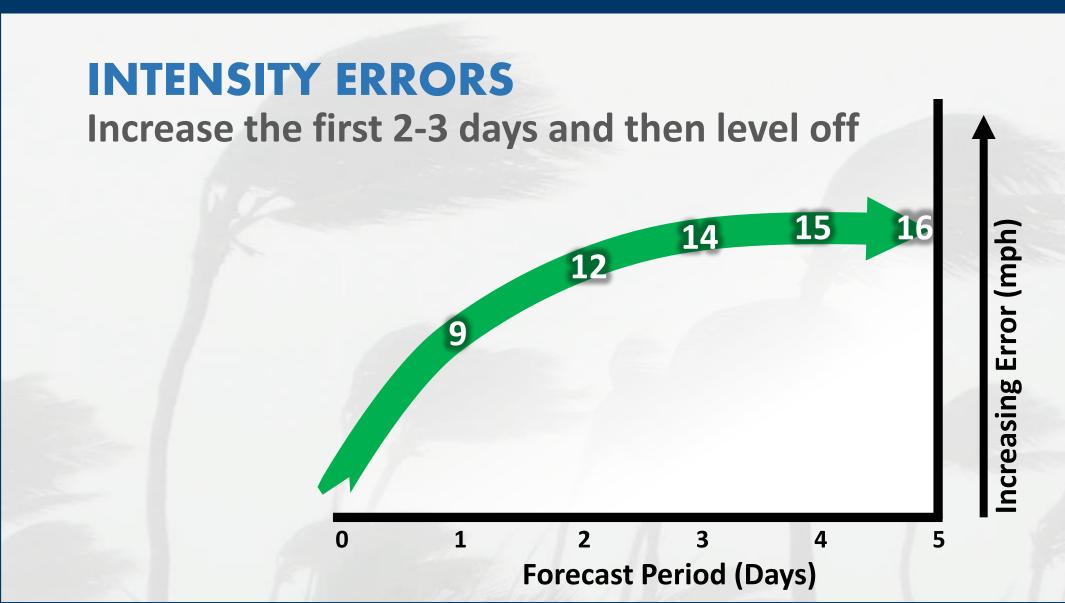
Track errors for TDs and lowend TSs increase by 40 to 45 miles (35-40 nm) per day vs. about 40 miles per day overall.



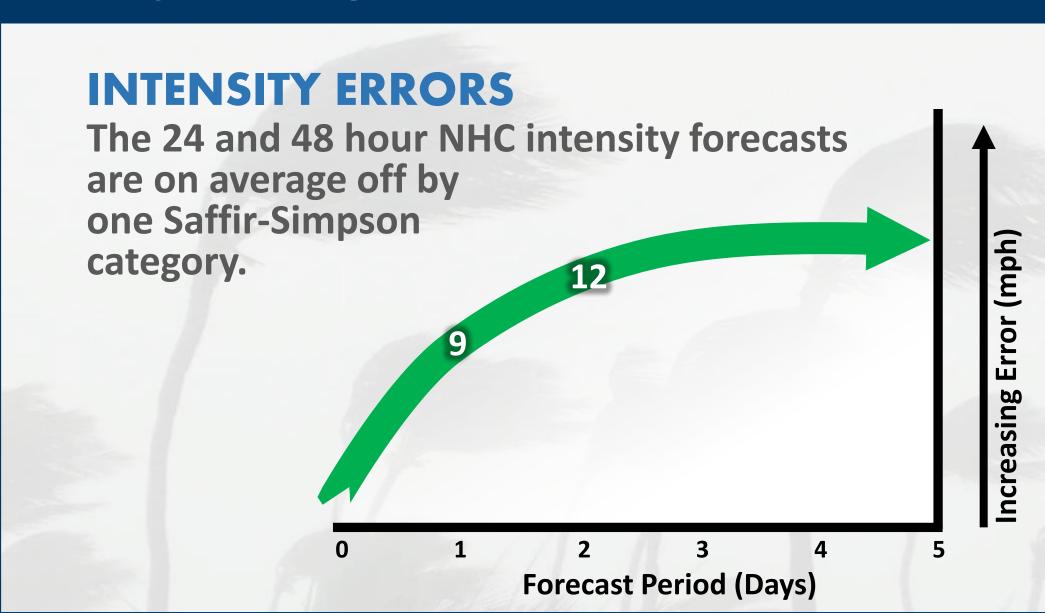
# FORECAST INTENSITY ERRORS NHC 5-year Averages



### FORECAST INTENSITY ERRORS NHC 5-year Averages



### FORECAST INTENSITY ERRORS NHC 5-year Averages



### FORECAST INTENSITY ERRORS Rapid Strengthening

#### RAPID INTENSIFICATION

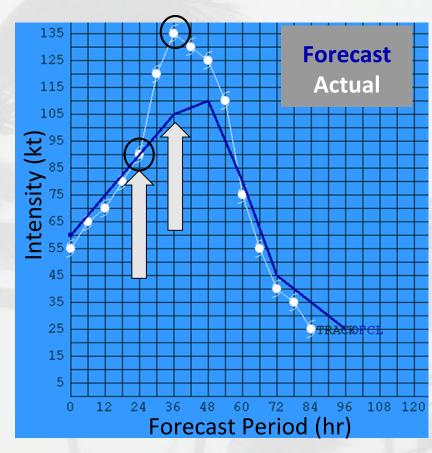
Rapid intensification remains a forecast challenge and

often results in very large errors

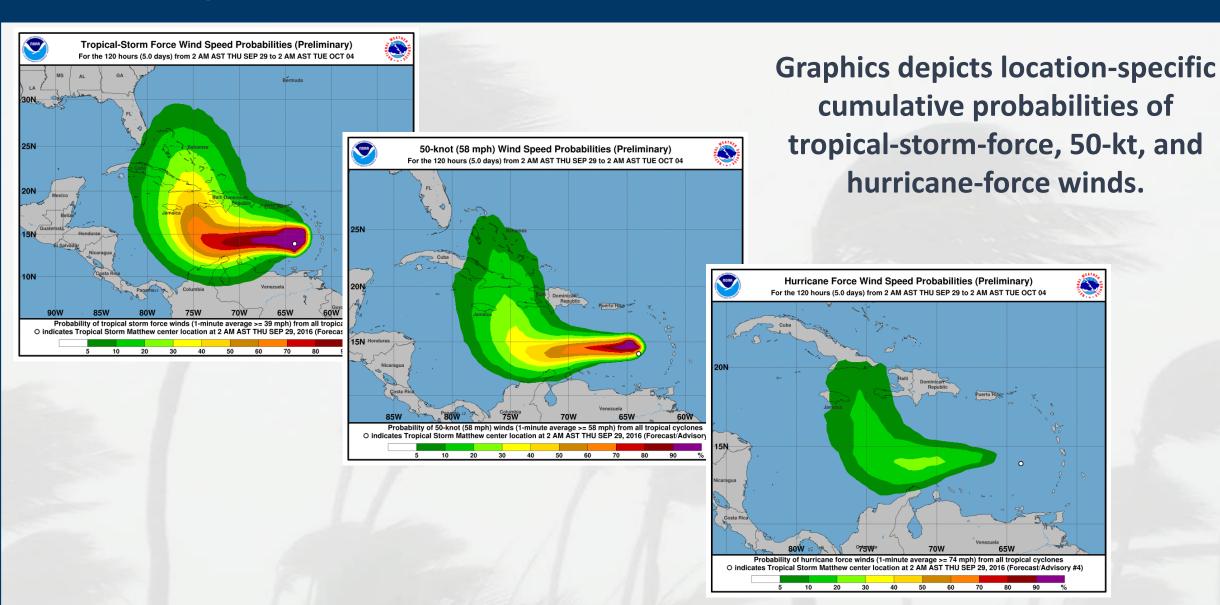
 Our ability to recognize conditions that favor rapid intensification has improved, however forecasting the extent and timing of that intensification remains difficult.

#### **Example: Iota Advisory 7 (2020)**

Initial Intensity:	55 kt	Initial Intensity:	55 kt
24h Forecast:	90 kt	36h Forecast:	105 kt
Actual Intensity:	90 kt	Actual Intensity:	135 kt
24 h Error:	0 kt	36 h Error:	30 kt



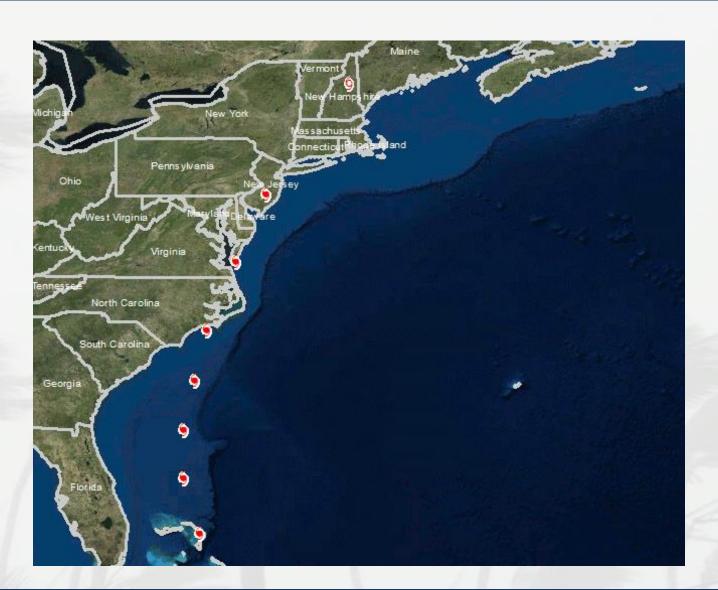
### Wind Speed Probabilities How Likely. Arrival Times. Inland Threat



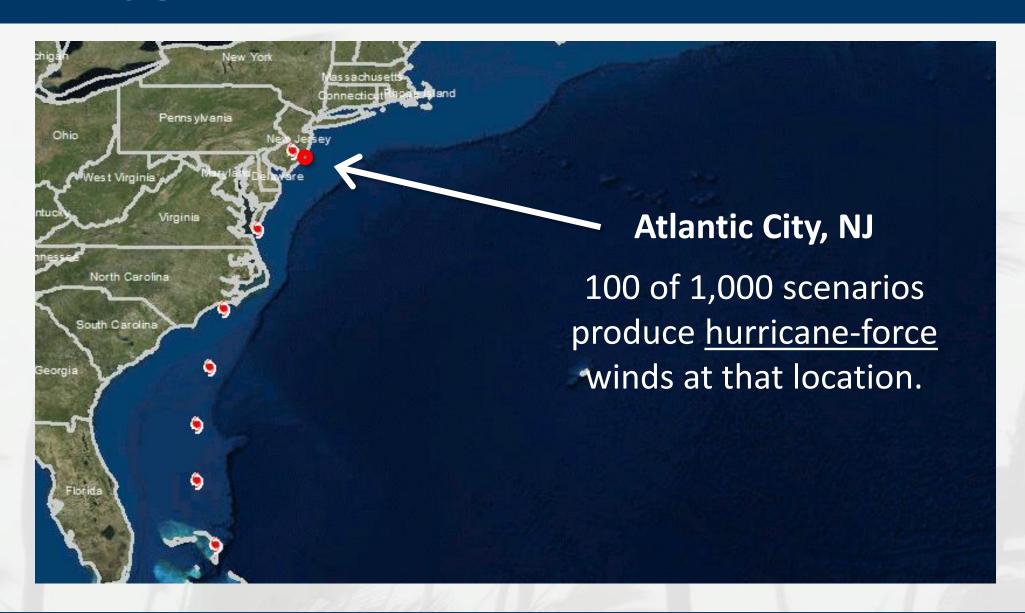
### WIND SPEED PROBABILITIES How are they generated?

### **MORE SCENARIOS**

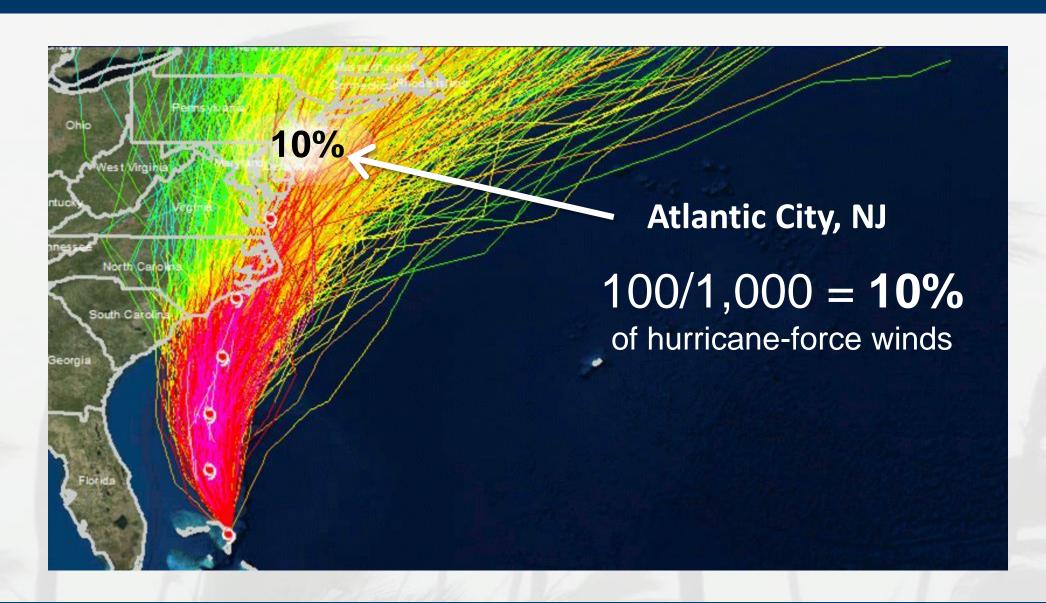
- 1,000 realistic alternative scenarios are generated
  - Official NHC forecast
  - Historical track and intensity forecast errors
- Weakening over land
- Track model spread
  - Forecast track errors are correlated to the spread of model guidance



# WIND SPEED PROBABILITIES How are they generated?

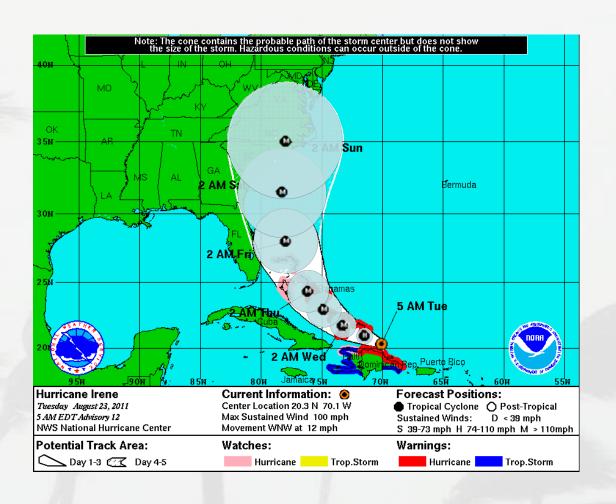


# WIND SPEED PROBABILITIES How are they generated?



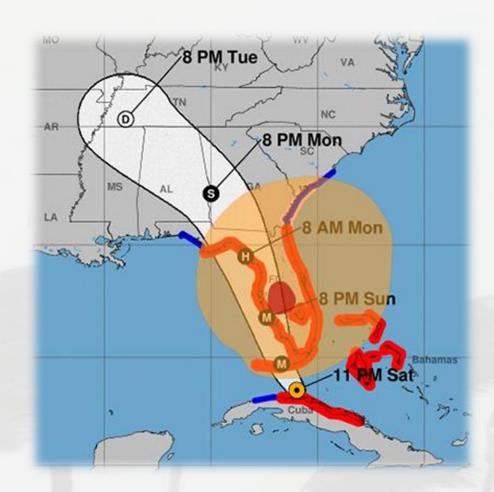
### NHC FORECAST CONE The cure for the skinny black line?

- Represents probable track of tropical cyclone center
- Formed by connecting circles centered on each forecast point
- The size of each circle is created using NHC track errors, so that the actual storm position will be within the circle 67% of the time.

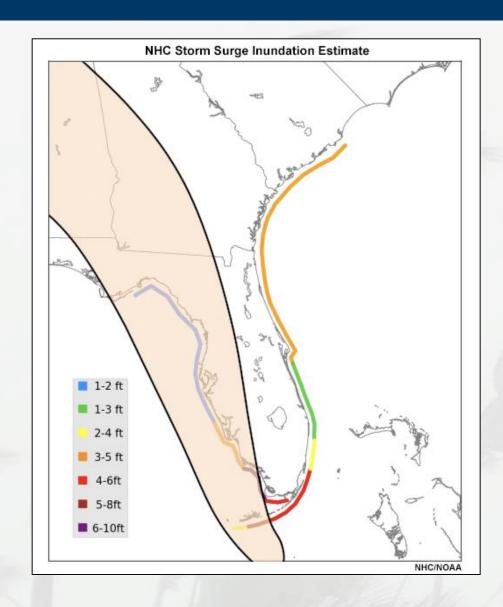


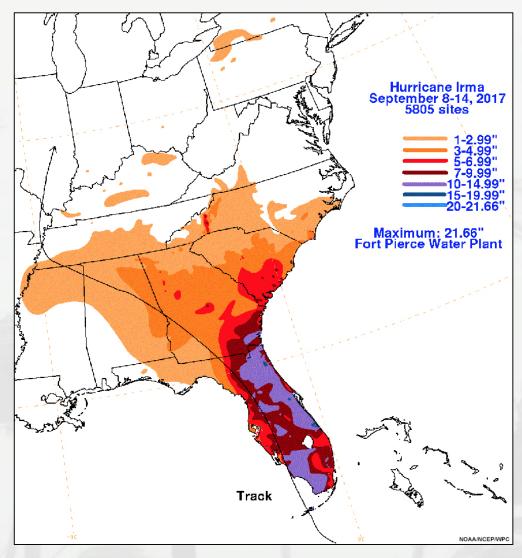
### NHC FORECAST CONE No worries, not in the cone?

- The cone only displays information about track uncertainty
- It contains no information about specific impacts
- Tropical Cyclone impacts can occur well outside the area enclosed by the cone
  - TC center is expected to move outside the cone about 1/3 of the time

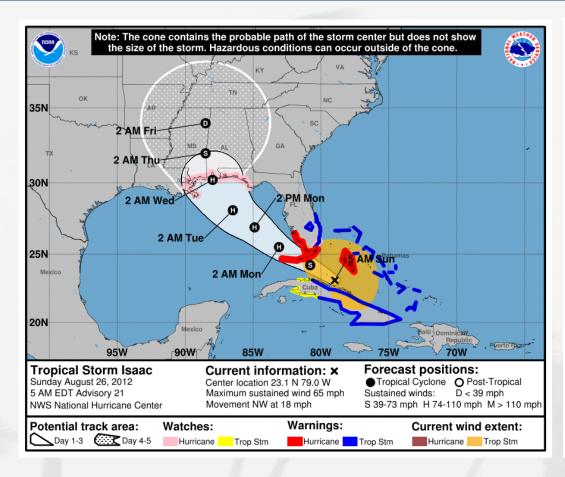


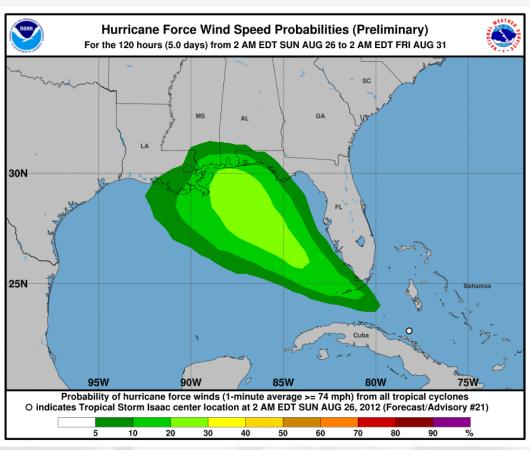
# NHC FORECAST CONE No worries, not in the cone?





### WIND SPEED PROBABILITIES Probabilities vs. The Cone?

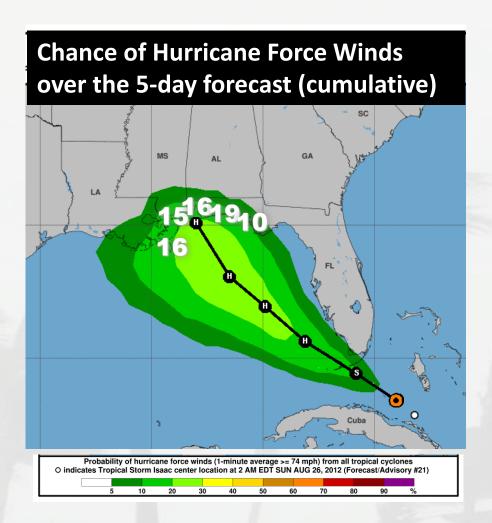




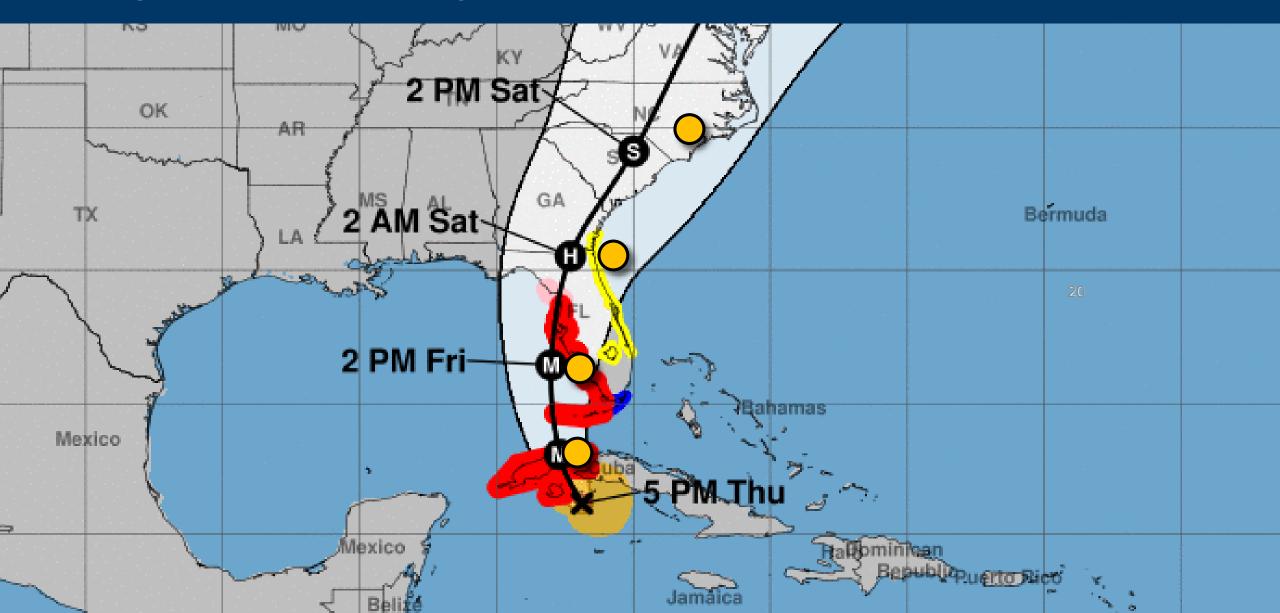
Tropical Storm Isaac Advisory 21 5:00 AM EDT 26 Aug 2012

# WIND SPEED PROBABILITIES Tropical Storm Isaac (2012)

г										
	TROPICAL STORM ISAAC WIND SPEED PROBABILITIES NUMBER 21 NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL AL092012 0900 UTC SUN AUG 26 2012									
	wind	SPE	EED	PROB <i>I</i>	ABII	LITIES F	OR SELECT	TED LOC	ATIONS -	
		FRO	M	FRO	MC	FROM	FROM	FROM	FROM	FROM
ı	TIME C	6Z S	SUN	18Z S	SUN	06Z MON	18Z MON	06Z TUE	06Z WED	06Z THU
ı	PERIODS	TC	)	TC	)	то	TO	TO	TO	TO
ı	1	87. 5	RIIN	067 N	MON	182 MON	06Z TUE	067 WED	06Z THU	067 FRT
ı	_			-						
	FORECAST HOUR	_ (	(12)	(2	24)	(36)	(48)	(72)	(96)	(120)
	LOCATION	KT								
ı	PANAMA CITY FI	34	X	2 (	2)	22 (24)	30 (54)	16(70)	3 (73)	X (73)
	PANAMA CITY FI	50	х	x (	X)	1(1)	10(11)	13(24)	2 (26)	1(27)
ı	PANAMA CITY FI	64	х	•	X)	X ( X)			1(9)	1(10)
ŀ				•	,	(,	- \ - /	,	_ (	- ()
	PENSACOLA FL	34	х	х (	X)	10(10)	32 (42)	30 (72)	6 (78)	2 (80)
	PENSACOLA FL	50	Х	Х(	X)	X(X)	6(6)	27 (33)	5 (38)	2(40)
	PENSACOLA FL	64	X	Х (	X)	X(X)	2(2)	13 (15)	3 (18)	1 (19)
ı	MOBILE AL	34	Х	•	X)	5(5)				• •
L	MOBILE AL	50	Х	Х (	X)	X(X)	3(3)		8 (34)	2 (36)
l	MOBILE AL	64	Х	Х (	X)	X ( X)	1(1)	10 (11)	4 (15)	1 (16)
	GULFPORT MS	34	х	х (	X)	3(3)	22 (25)	35 (60)	9 (69)	3 (72)
	GULFPORT MS	50	x	X (	•	X ( X)			8 (32)	2 (34)
	GULFPORT MS	64	X		X)	X ( X)			5(14)	1 (15)
	BURAS LA	34	X	Х(	X)	4(4)	22 (26)	30 (56)	8 (64)	2 (66)
	BURAS LA	50	х	Х(	X)	X(X)	3(3)	21 (24)	6 (30)	3 (33)
	BURAS LA	64	х		X)			11 (11)	4 (15)	1(16)
I					•	,,	/	/	, ,,	, -7



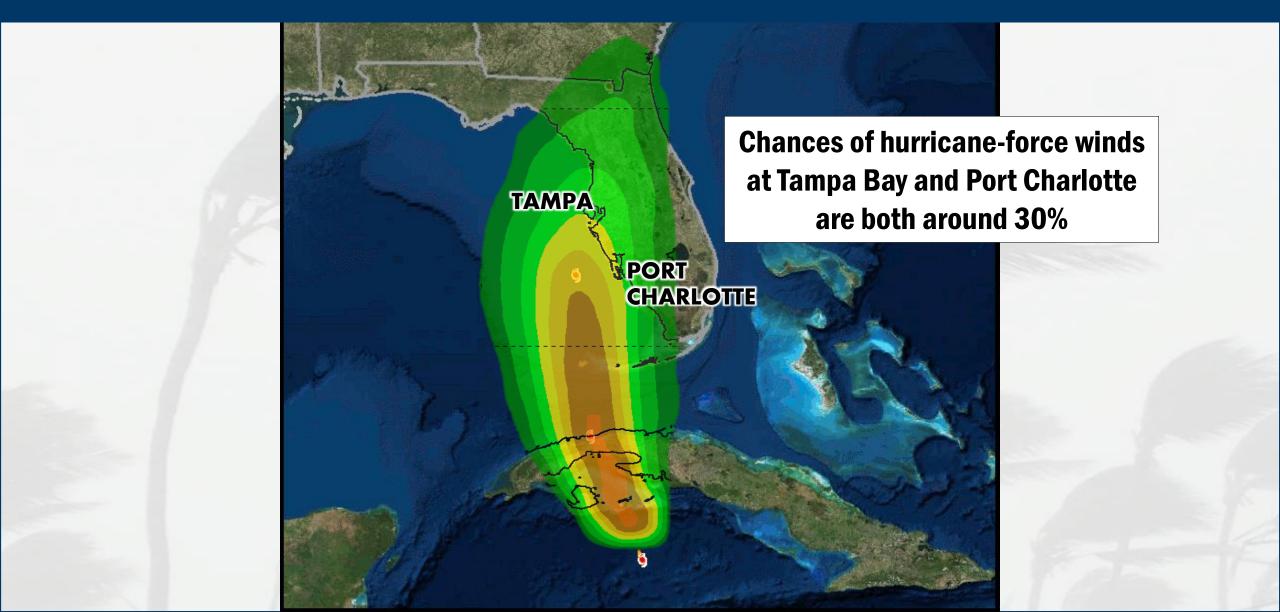
### HURRICANE CHARLEY Don't focus on the skinny black line.



# HURRICANE CHARLEY Would alternate scenarios help?



# HURRICANE CHARLEY Would alternate scenarios help?



NATION NATIONAL OCE	NAL H	IURRIC MOSPHERIC AD	ANE C	ENTER	1		(1)
TROPICAL STORM NWS NATIONAL HI 0900 UTC MON O	URRICAN	IE CENTER			IES NUMBE AL142018		
WIND	SPEED	PROBABII	LITIES FO	OR SELEC	TED LOCA	TIONS	
PERIODS	TO	TO	FROM 06Z TUE TO 18Z TUE	TO	TO	TO	TO
FORECAST HOUR LOCATION	(12)  KT	(24)	(36)	(48)	(72)	(96) 	(120)
TALLAHASSEE FL	(34) X	X(X)	1(1)	6 (7)	68 (75)	6 (81)	X(81)
TALLAHASSEE FL	50 X	X(X)	X(X)	1 ( 1)	41 (42)	6 (48)	X(48)
TALLAHASSEE FL	64 X	X ( X)	X ( X)	X ( X)	20 (20)	4 (24)	X(24)
APALACHICOLA	34 X	X(X)	5 ( 5)	29(34)	57(91)	1 (92)	X(92)
APALACHICOLA	50 X	X(X)	X ( X)	6 (6)	59(65)	2 (67)	X(67)
APALACHICOLA	64 X	X ( X)	X(X)	1(1)	39 (40)	1 (41)	X(41)
PANAMA CITY FL	34 X	X(X)	4 ( 4)	26(30)	60(90)	1 (91)	X(91)
PANAMA CITY FL	50 X	X(X)	X ( X)	6 (6)	57 (63)	1(64)	X(64)
PANAMA CITY FL	64 X	X ( X)	X(X)	1(1)	37 (38)	X(38)	X(38)

- Tropical-Storm-Force58 mphHurricane-Force

NATION NATIONAL OCEA	VAL H	IURRIC	ANE C	ENTER			<b>(</b>
TROPICAL STORM NWS NATIONAL HU 0900 UTC MON OC	JRRICAN	NE CENTER			ES NUMBE AL142018		
WIND	SPEED	PROBABII	LITIES FO	OR SELECT	TED LOCAT	TIONS	
PERIODS	TO	TO	06Z TUE TO	TO	TO	FROM 06Z THU TO 06Z FRI	TO
FORECAST HOUR	(12)  KT	(24)	(36)	(48)	(72)	(96)	(120)
TALLAHASSEE FL	34 X	X ( X)	1(1)	6 (7)	68 (75)	6 (81)	X(81)
TALLAHASSEE FL	50 X	X(X)	X(X)	1(1)	41 (42)	6 (48)	X(48)
TALLAHASSEE FL	64 X	X ( X)	X ( X)	X ( X)	20 (20)	4 (24)	X(24)
APALACHICOLA	34 X	X(X)	5 ( 5)	29 (34)	57(91)	1 (92)	X(92)
APALACHICOLA	50 X	X(X)	X(X)	6 ( 6)	59(65)	2 (67)	X(67)
APALACHICOLA	64 X	X ( X)	X ( X)	1(1)	39 (40)	1 (41)	X(41)
PANAMA CITY FL	34 X	X(X)	4 ( 4)	26(30)	60(90)	1 (91)	X(91)
PANAMA CITY FL	50 X	X(X)	X(X)	6 ( 6)	57(63)	1(64)	X(64)
PANAMA CITY FL	64 X	X(X)	X(X)	1 ( 1)	37 (38)	X(38)	X(38)

- Tropical-Storm-Force 58 mph Hurricane-Force

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER  NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION										
TROPICAL STORM MICHAEL WIND SPEED PROBABILITIES NUMBER 7 NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL AL142018 0900 UTC MON OCT 08 2018										
WIND SPEED PROBABILITIES FOR SELECTED LOCATIONS										
PERIODS	FROM 6Z MON TO 8Z MON	FROM 18Z MON TO 06Z TUE	TO	TO	TO	TO	06Z FRI TO			
FORECAST HOUR LOCATION	(12  KT	) (24)	(36)	(48)	(72) 	(96) - – – -	(120)			
TALLAHASSEE FL TALLAHASSEE FL		X ( X) X ( X)		6 ( 7) 1 ( 1)		6 (81) 6 (48)				
TALLAHASSEE FL	64 X	X ( X)	X ( X)	X ( X)	20 (20)	4 (24)	X(24)			
APALACHICOLA APALACHICOLA APALACHICOLA	34 X 50 X 64 X	X ( X)	X ( X)	29 (34) 6 (6) 1 (1)		2 (67)	X(67)			
PANAMA CITY FL PANAMA CITY FL PANAMA CITY FL	50 X	X(X)		26(30) 6(6) 1(1)		1(64)	X(64)			

- Tropical-Storm-Force58 mphHurricane-Force

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER										
NATIONAL OCEANIC A	ND AT	MOSPHERIC ADI	MINISTRATION							
TROPICAL STORM MICHAEL WIND SPEED PROBABILITIES NUMBER 7										
NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL AL142018										
0900 UTC MON OCT 08 2018										
WIND SPEED PROBABILITIES FOR SELECTED LOCATIONS										
FRO		FROM	FROM	FROM		FROM	FROM			
TIME 06Z M PERIODS TO		18Z MON TO	TO	TO	E 06Z WED TO	TO	TO			
					D 06Z THU					
101	.011	002 102	102 102	002	3 002 1110	002 1111	002 0111			
FORECAST HOUR (	12)	(24)	(36)	(48)	(72)	(96)	(120)			
			. – – –							
LOCATION KT										
TALLAHASSEE FL 34	X	X (X)	1(1)	6(7)	) <mark>68</mark> (75)	6 (81)	X(81)			
TALLAHASSEE FL 50	X	X ( X)	X ( X)	, ,	, ,					
TALLAHASSEE FL 64	X	X ( X)	X ( X)	X ( X)			X(24)			
APALACHICOLA 34	Χ	X (X)	<mark>5</mark> (5)	<mark>29</mark> (34)	) <mark>57</mark> (91)	1 (92)	X (92)			
APALACHICOLA 50	X	X(X)	X (X)				X (67)			
APALACHICOLA 64	X	X (X)	X (X)	1 ( 1)	39 (40)	1 (41)	X (41)			
	V	V ( V)	1 ( 1)	26 (20)	60 (00)	1 (01)	V (01)			
PANAMA CITY FL 34 PANAMA CITY FL 50	X	X ( X) X ( X)	4 ( 4) X ( X)							
PANAMA CITY FL 64	X	X ( X)	X ( X)	1(1)		X (38)	X(38)			

#### **Onset Probabilities**

Timing information

NATI NATIONAL	ONAL	ND AT	IURF	RIG AD	AN	E C	ENT	ΓEF	3					(1)
TROPICAL STORM MICHAEL WIND SPEED PROBABILITIES NUMBER 7 NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL AL142018 0900 UTC MON OCT 08 2018														
wind speed probabilities for selected locations										-				
TIME PERIODS	FRC 06Z M TC 18Z M	ION )	T	MON O	7	TUE		TUE O	06Z	WED [O	06Z	О	06Z	.0
FORECAST HOU  LOCATION	IR (  KT	12)		24) 		(36) - –		(48)		(72)		(96) 	(1	.20)
TALLAHASSEE TALLAHASSEE TALLAHASSEE	FL 50	X X X	X ( X ( X (	X)	Х	( 1) ( X) ( X)	1 (	(7) (1) (X)		(75) (42) (20)	6	(81) (48) (24)	X	(81) (48) (24)
APALACHICOLA APALACHICOLA APALACHICOLA	50	X X X	X ( X ( X (	ĺ	X	( 5) ( X) ( X)	6 (			(91) (65) (40)	2	(92) (67) (41)	X	( <mark>92)</mark> (67) (41)
PANAMA CITY PANAMA CITY PANAMA CITY	FL 50	X X X	ì	X)	X	( 4) ( X) ( X)	6 (	(30) (6) (1)		(90) (63) (38)	1	(91) (64) (38)	X	( <mark>91</mark> ) (64) (38)

#### **Cumulative Probabilities**

• Total chance through the time period

### WIND SPEED PROBABILITIES 5-Day Cumulative Graphic

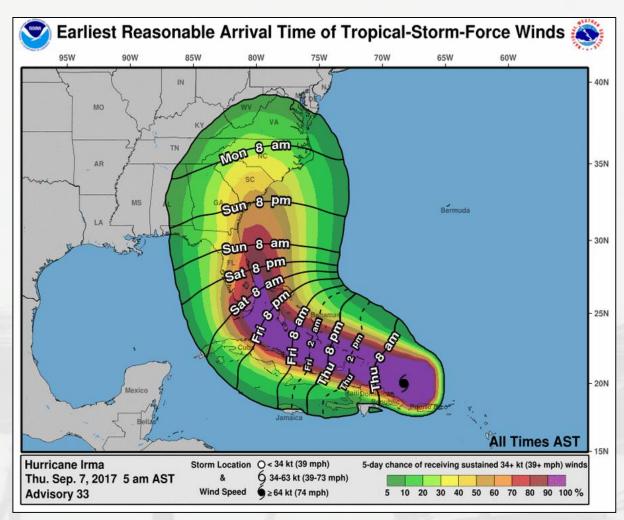
NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER  NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION										
TIME (	FROM )6Z MON TO	FROM 18Z MON TO	FROM 06Z TUE TO	FROM 18Z TUE TO	FROM 06Z WED TO	FROM 06Z THU TO	FROM 06Z FRI TO			
1	.8Z MON	06Z TUE	18Z TUE	06Z WED	06Z THU	06Z FRI	06Z SAT			
FORECAST HOUR	(12 	) (24) 	(36) 	(48)	(72) 	(96) - – – -	(120)			
LOCATION	KT									
CEDAR KEY FL CEDAR KEY FL	34 X 50 X	X ( X)	3 ( 3) X ( X)	1 ( 1)	20 (21)	1 (22)	X (22)			
CEDAR KEY FL	64 X	, ,	X ( X)	X ( X)	7 (7)	1(8)	X <mark>(8)</mark>			
TALLAHASSEE FI TALLAHASSEE FI	50 X	, ,	1 ( 1) X ( X)	6 ( 7) 1 ( 1)	41 (42)					
TALLAHASSEE FI		( /	X ( X)	X ( X)	20 (20)	4 (24)	X (24)			
APALACHICOLA APALACHICOLA	34 X 50 X	` ,	5 ( 5) X ( X)	29 (34) 6 ( 6)			X (92) X <mark>(67)</mark>			
APALACHICOLA	64 X	X ( X)	X ( X)	1(1)	39 (40)	1 (41)	X (41)			
PANAMA CITY FI PANAMA CITY FI		(/	4 ( 4) X ( X)	26 (30) 6 (6)	60 (90) 57 (63)	1 (91) 1 (64)	X (91) X (64)			
PANAMA CITY FI	64 X	X ( X)	X ( X)	1(1)	37 (38)	X (38)	X (38)			
PENSACOLA FL PENSACOLA FL	34 X 50 X	, ,	1 ( 1) X ( X)	8 ( 9) 1 ( 1)	43 (52) 20 (21)		X <mark>(54)</mark> X (22)			
PENSACOLA FL	64 X		X ( X)	X ( X)	9 (9)	X (9)	X(9)			



- Tropical-Storm-Force
- •58 mph
- Hurricane-Force

### TIME OF ARRIVAL OF TS-FORCE WINDS Earliest Reasonable Time of Arrival

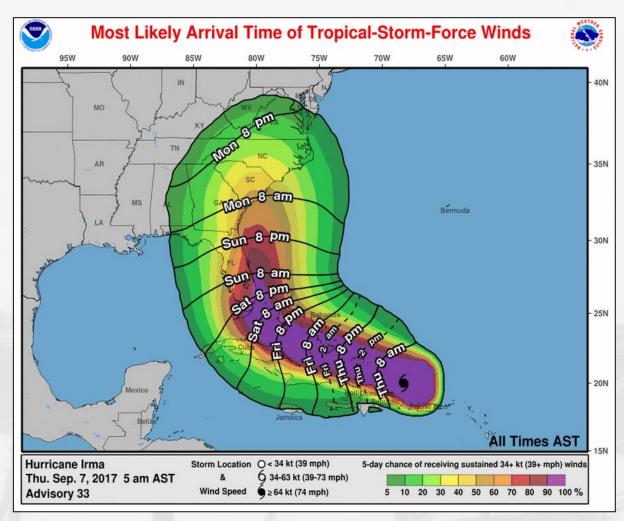
- Shows earliest reasonable arrival time of TS winds (black contours) and cumulative TS wind speed probabilities (colors)
- Identifies the time window that users at individual locations can safely assume will be free from TS winds
  - Based on the time that has
     ≤ 10% chance of seeing sustained TS winds
     before the indicated time
- Best for users with low tolerance for risk



Earliest Reasonable Time of Arrival

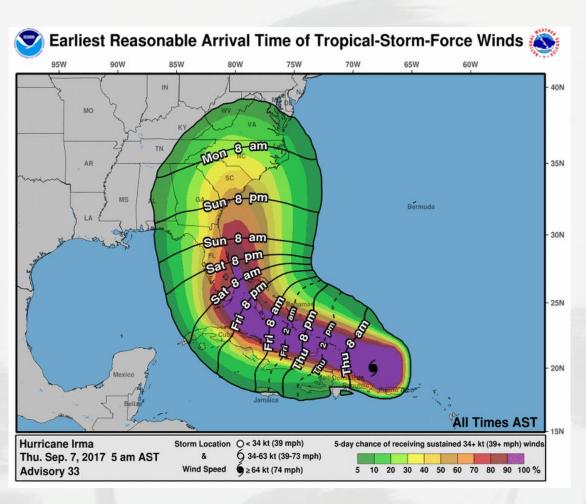
### TIME OF ARRIVAL OF TS-FORCE WINDS Most Likely Time of Arrival

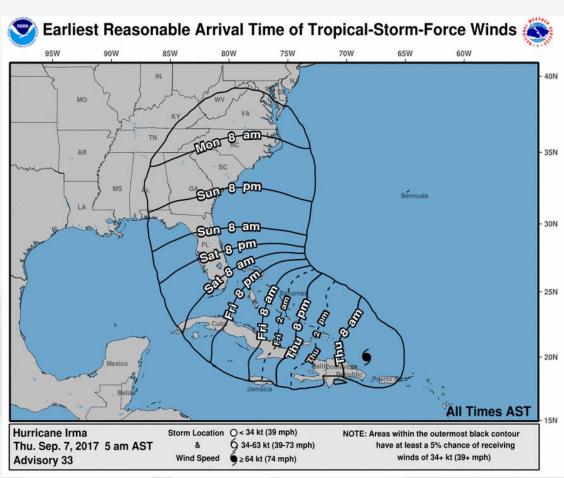
- Shows most likely arrival time of TS winds (black contours) and cumulative TS wind speed probabilities (colors)
- Shows the time before or after which the onset of sustained TS winds is equally likely
- Best for users that are willing to risk not having completed preparations before TS winds arrive



Most Likely Time of Arrival

# TIME OF ARRIVAL OF TS-FORCE WINDS Versions of the graphics with and without the location specific wind speed probabilities





# WIND TIMING UNCERTAINTY Importance and Causes

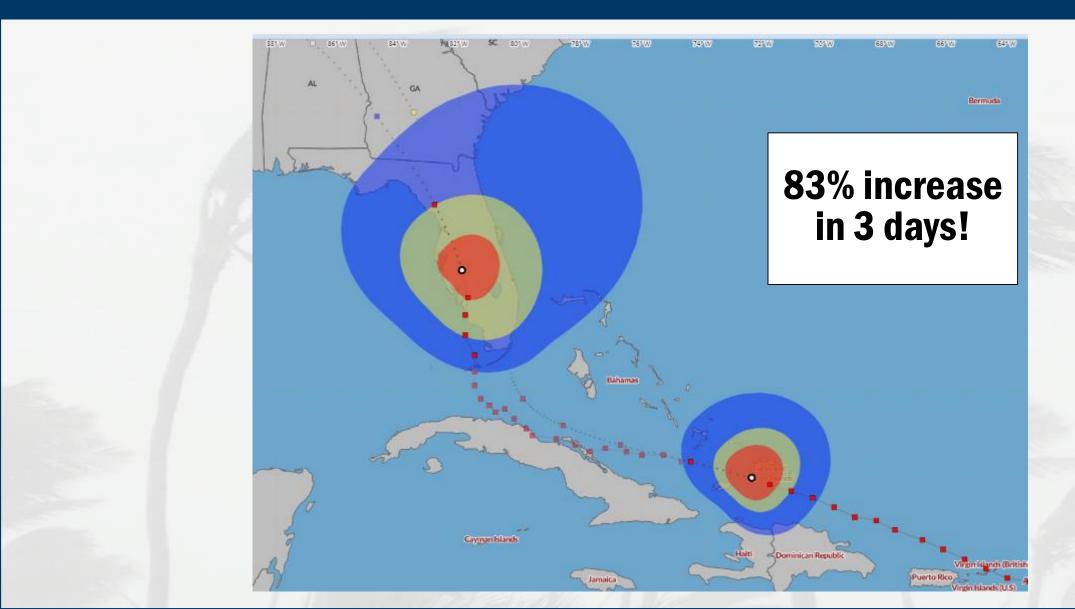
#### WIND TIMING

Critical for preparedness and evacuation decision making

- Major sources of uncertainty in wind timing:
  - Track Forward speed, direction of motion,
     and location of center relative to given location
  - Storm Size How far will TS winds extend from the center? Difficult to forecast and highly variable
- Time of Arrival graphics designed to account for uncertainty in arrival of TS-force winds and provide timing information



# WIND TIMING UNCERTAINTY Importance and Causes



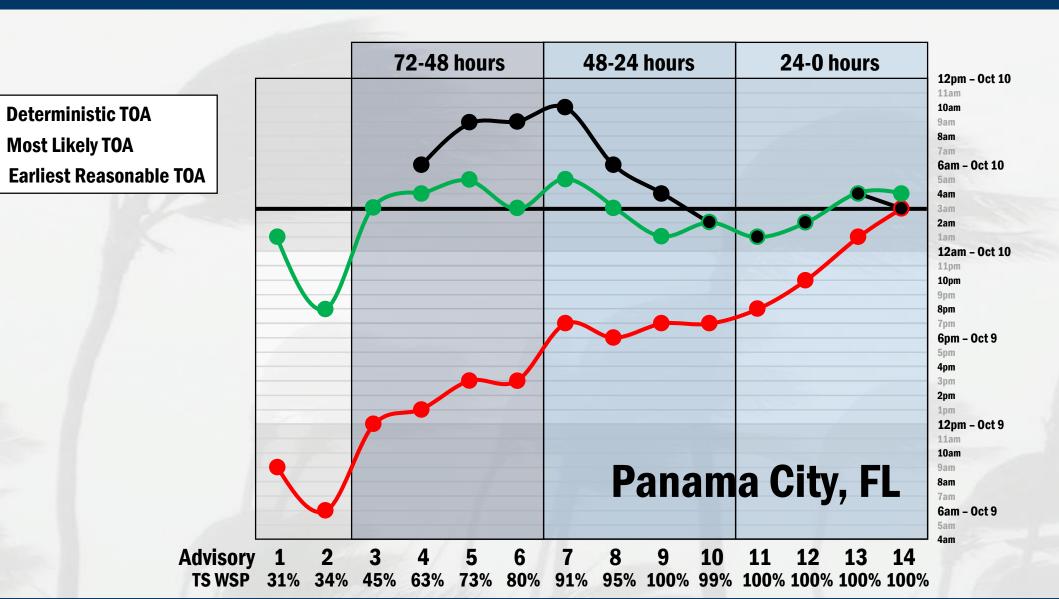
### WIND TIMING UNCERTAINTY Current product limitations

#### TIME OF ARRIVAL

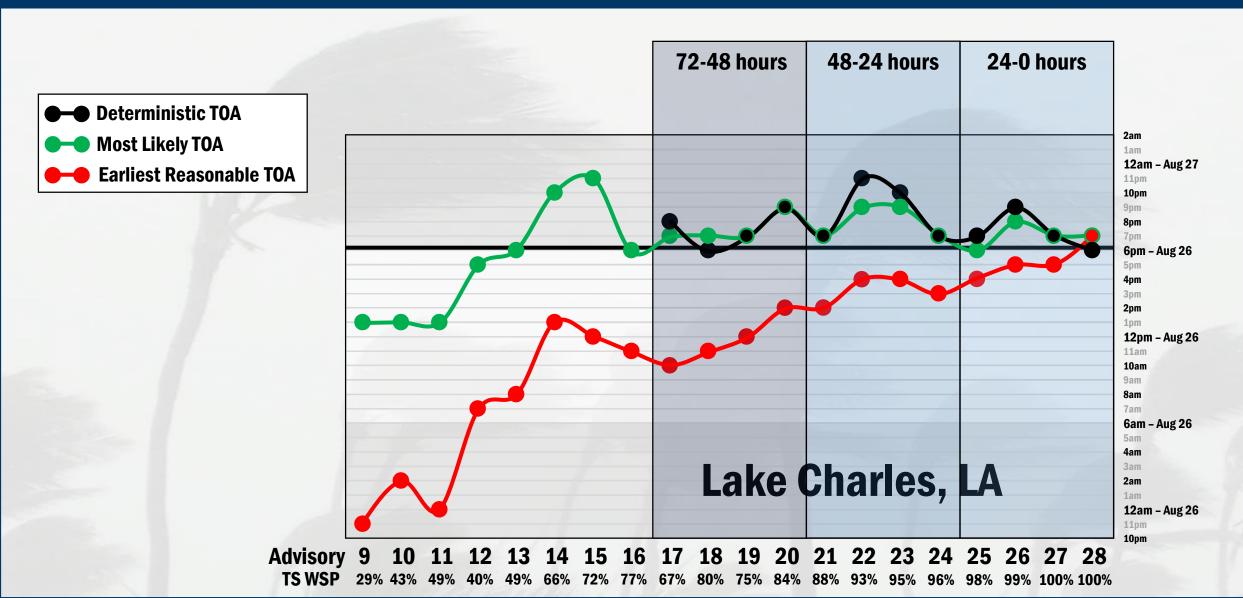
**Current Time of Arrival (TOA) products have some limitations:** 

- Storms that stall or move very slowly (<5 mph)</li>
  - TOA products can show much earlier onset times than what is conveyed in the official forecast (e.g., Dorian)
- Storms with much larger/smaller than typical wind fields
  - TOA products will not handle the timing of these storms well, especially beyond the first 24-36 hours.

### TIME OF ARRIVAL OF TS WINDS Hurricane Michael (2018)



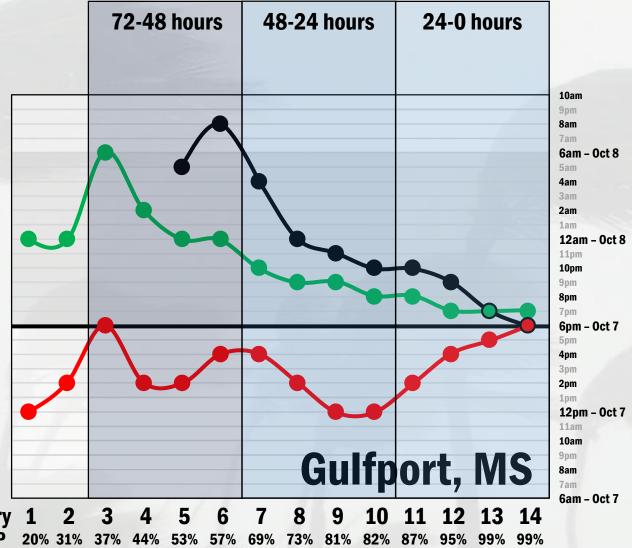
### TIME OF ARRIVAL OF TS WINDS Hurricane Laura (2020)



### TIME OF ARRIVAL OF TS WINDS Hurricane Nate (2017)







Advisory

# WIND SPEED PROBABILITIES Summary



### **SUMMARY**

- NHC's forecasts are improving but errors remain
  - Error cone is not the cure for the skinny black line
- Wind speed probabilities
  - Likelihood of tropical storm and hurricane winds
  - Onset timing of wind hazards
- Incorporates track, intensity and size uncertainty
  - Includes weakening due to land
  - Provides an assessment of wind timing and threat that accounts for NHC forecast errors



### HURRICANE READINESS A Short Course



