Overview of National Hurricane Center/ Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (<u>TAFB</u>) Marine Products and Services

Jeff Lewitsky

<u>Jeffrey.Lewitsky@noaa.gov</u>

NHC/TAFB Senior Meteorologist

To provide meteorological analysis, forecasts and warnings over the tropical and subtropical oceans for the protection of life and property













Our Customers: The Mariners and the Mets



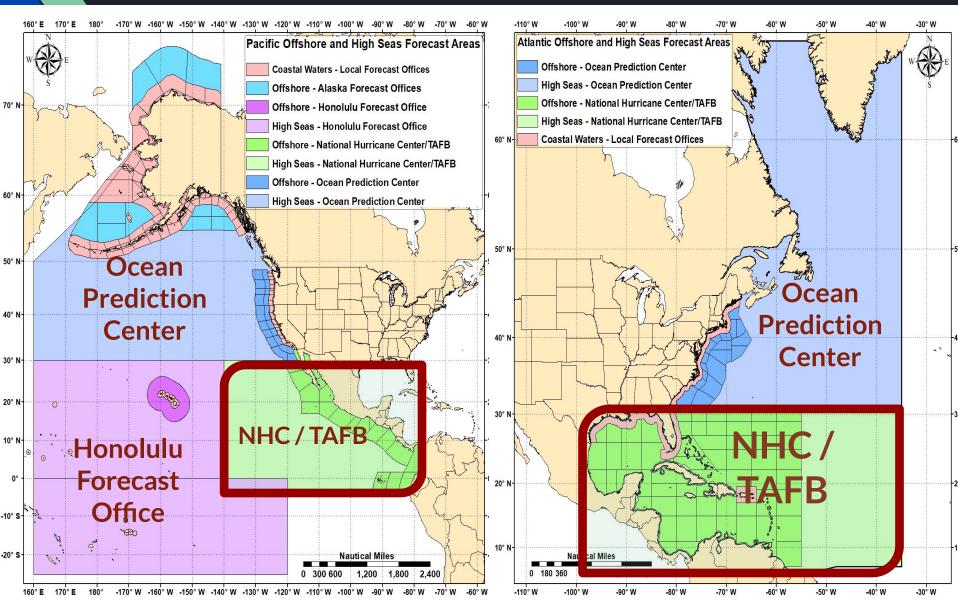
Global High Seas Forecasts - International Maritime Organization



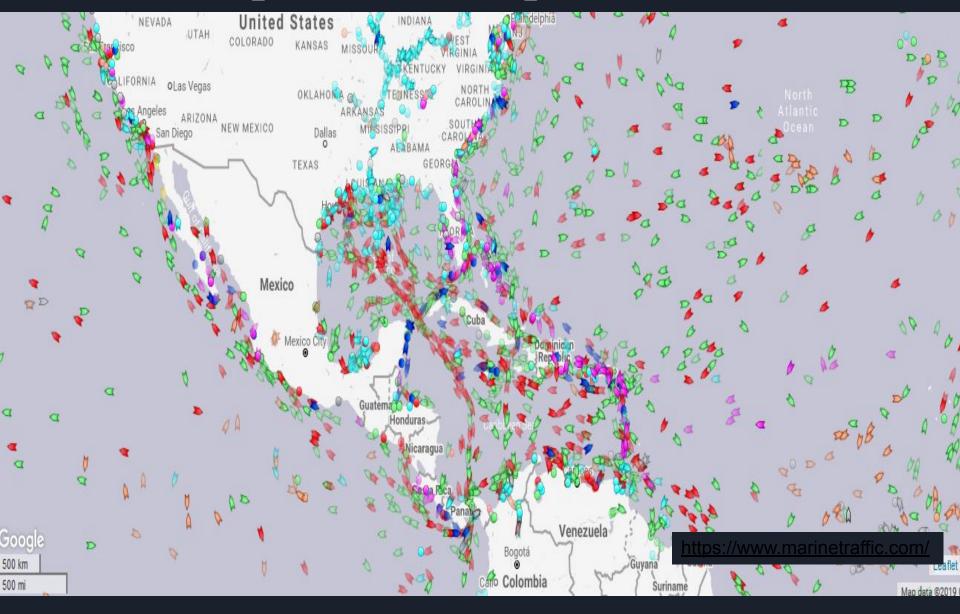




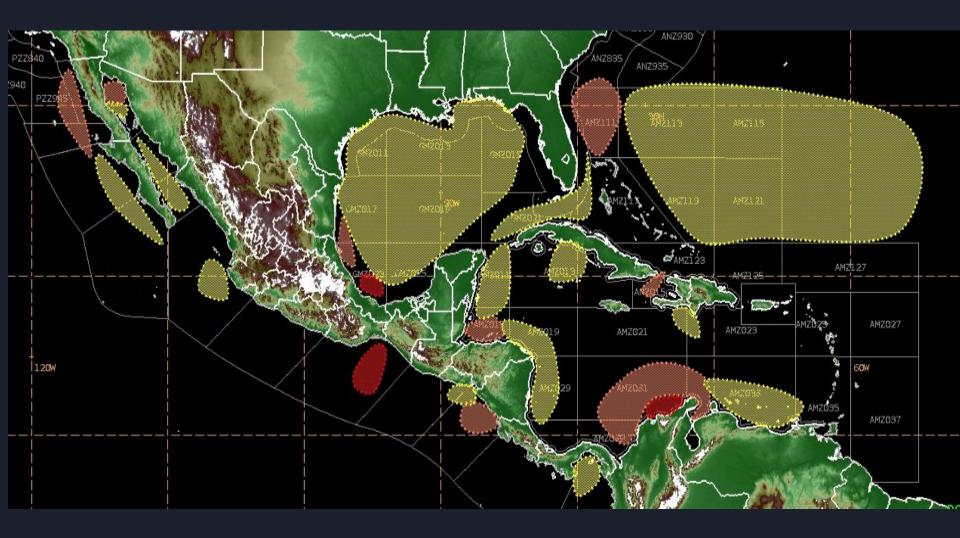
NHC/TAFB - Areas of Responsibility



Ships over the Open Ocean



Typical areas for gale conditions

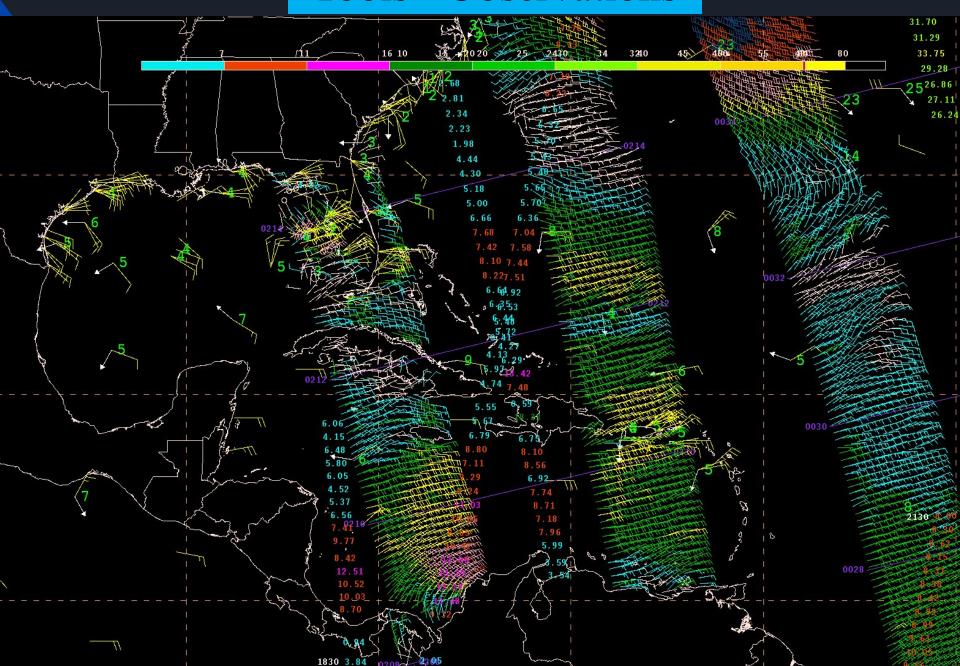


Note that the main areas for gales are near gaps and coastal terrain - this is not a

coincidence!

Typical areas for tropical storms and rricar Likely Likely More Likely More Likely Most Likely Most Likely Prevailing Tracks Prevailing Tracks July June Likely Likely More Likely More Likely Most Likely Most Likely Prevailing Tracks Prevailing Tracks August September SEPTEMBER Likely More Likely Most Likely Most Likely Prevailing Tracks Prevailing Tracks October November OCTOBER NOVEMBER

Tools - Observations





Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Program

A worldwide program of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to recruit ships & platforms to voluntarily observe and report marine meteorological and oceanographic conditions to ensure *Safety Of Life At Sea* (SOLAS), and reduce commercial loss.



23 Countries Currently Participate



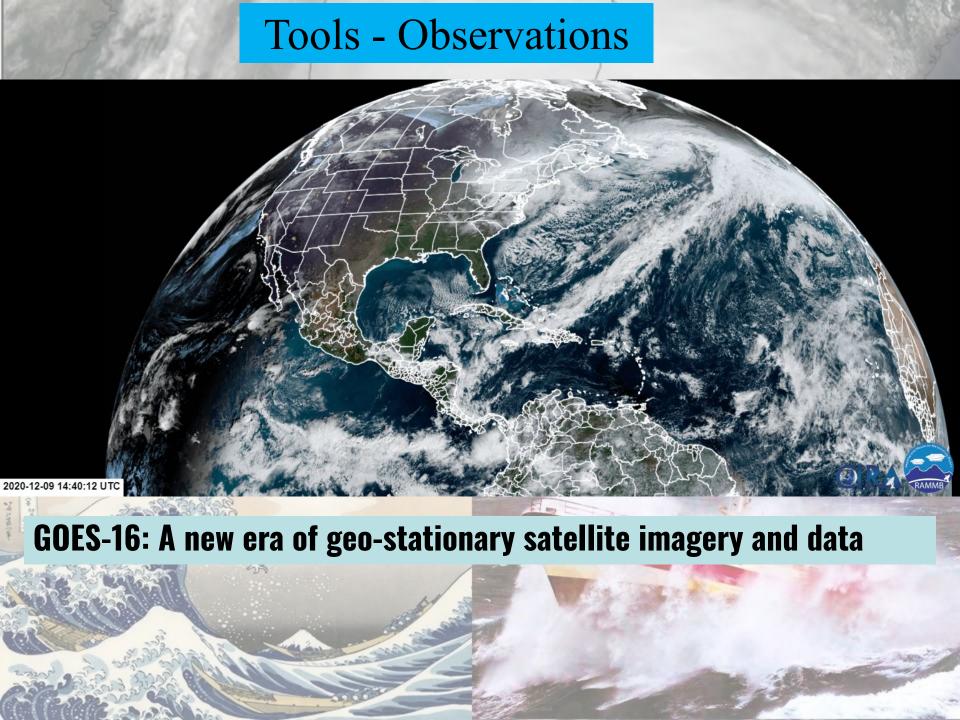
* There is only 1 Ship Observation For every 1000 Land Based Observations

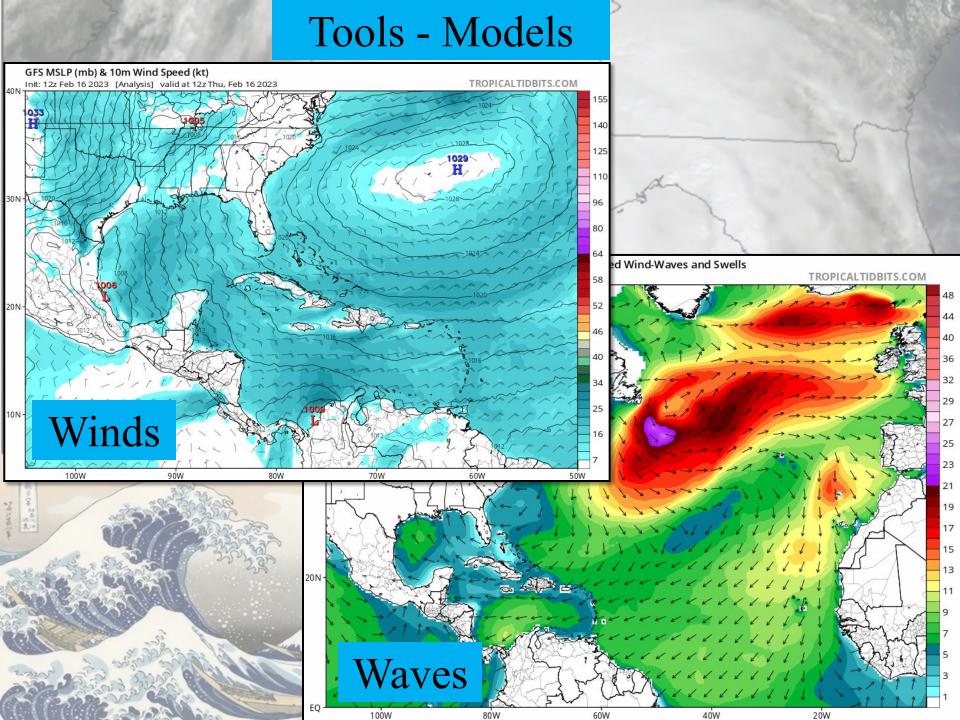


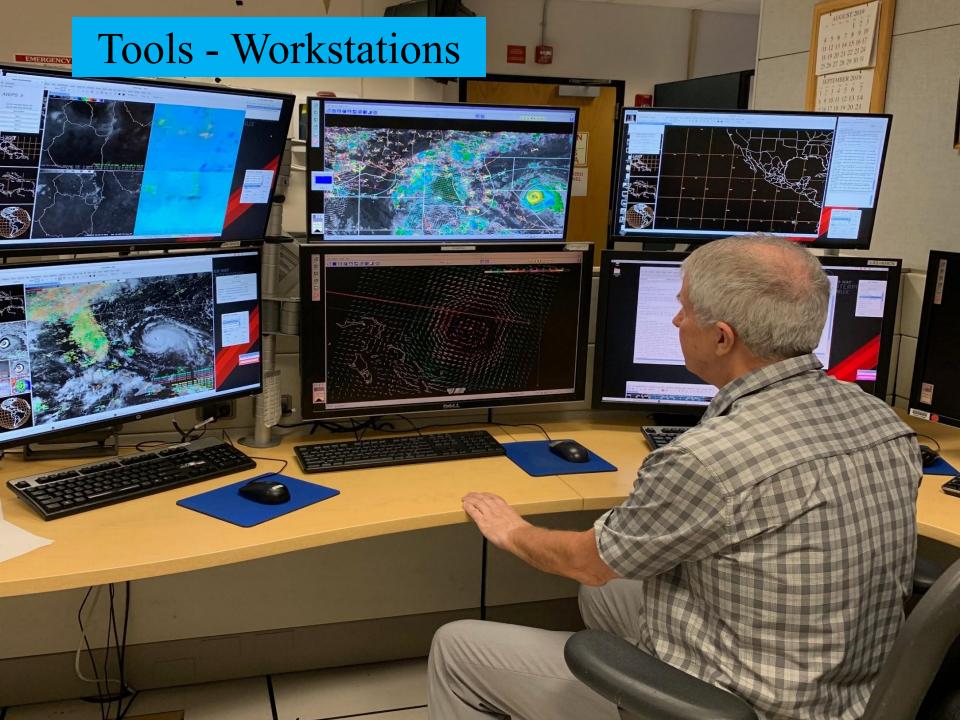




https://www.vos.noaa.gov/







TAFB National Digital Forecast Database Gridded Marine Forecasts

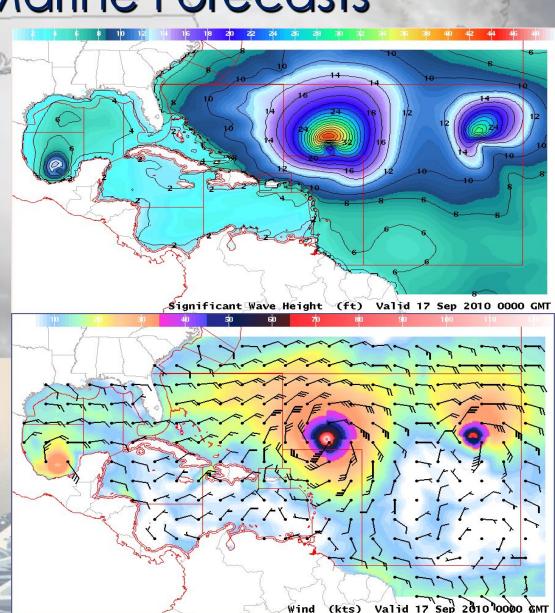
Spatial/Temporal resolution

- 10 KM
- 6 Hourly out to 144 hr(3 Hourly to 72 hr)

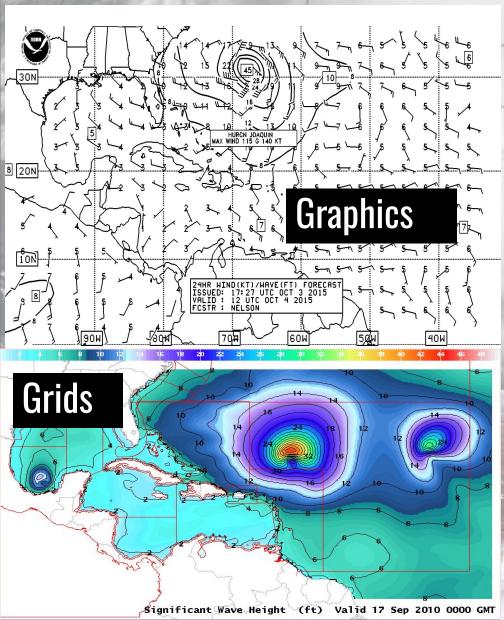
Parameters

- 10-M Wind/Gusts
- Significant Wave Height
- Hazards





NHC/TAFB Wind and Wave Forecasts



High Seas and Offshores Text Forecasts

HIGH SEAS FORECAST NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER 1030 UTC FRI OCT 02 2015

SUPERSEDED BY NEXT ISSUANCE IN 6 HOURS

SEAS GIVEN AS SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT...WHICH IS THE AVERAGE HEIGHT OF THE HIGHEST 1/3 OF THE WAVES. INDIVIDUAL WAVES MAY BE MORE THAN TWICE THE SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT.

PAN PAN

ATLANTIC FROM 07N TO 31N W OF 35W INCLUDING CARIBBEAN SEA AND GULF OF MEXICO.

SYNOPSIS VALID 0600 UTC FRI OCT 02. 24 HOUR FORECAST VALID 0600 UTC SAT OCT 03. 48 HOUR FORECAST VALID 0600 UTC SUN OCT 04.

.WARNINGS.

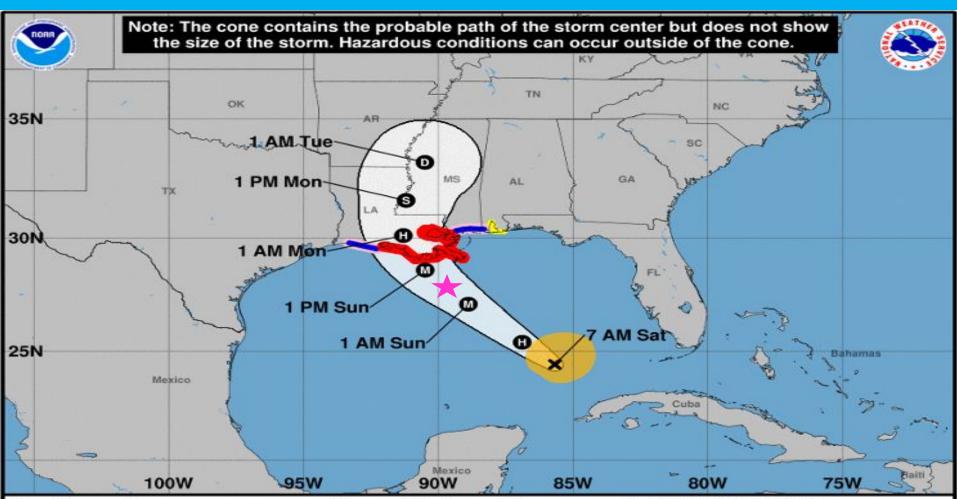
...HURRICANE WARNING...

.HURRICANE JOAQUIN NEAR 23.3N 74.7W 935 MB AT 0900 UTC OCT 02 MOVING NW OR 315 DEG AT 3 KT. MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS 115 KT GUSTS 140 KT. TROPICAL STORM FORCE WINDS WITHIN 160 NM W SEMICIRCLE...140 NM NE QUADRANT AND 180 NM SE QUADRANT. SEAS 12 FT OR GREATER WITHIN 400 NM NE QUADRANT...150 NM SE QUADRANT...120 NM SW QUADRANT...AND 300 NM NW QUADRANT WITH SEAS TO 39 FT. ELSEWHERE S OF 28N BETWEEN 70W AND 78W WINDS 20 TO 33 KT. SEAS 9 TO 12 FT. N OF 28N BETWEEN 70W AND 75W E WINDS 20 TO 25 KT SEAS 8 TO 10 FT. REMAINDER OF AREA N OF 21N BETWEEN 65W AND 78W AND OUTSIDE OF THE BAHAMAS WINDS 20 KT OR LESS. SEAS 8 TO 11 FT IN MIXED SWELL.





Tools – Incorporating NHC's Tropical Storm/Hurricane Forecast



Hurricane Ida

Saturday August 28, 2021 7 AM CDT Intermediate Advisory 8A NWS National Hurricane Center

Current information: x

Center location 24.4 N 85.7 W Maximum sustained wind 85 mph Movement NW at 16 mph

Forecast positions:

■ Tropical Cyclone Post/Potential TC Sustained winds: D < 39 mph S 39-73 mph H 74-110 mph M > 110 mph

Potential track area: Watches:

Warnings:

Current wind extent:

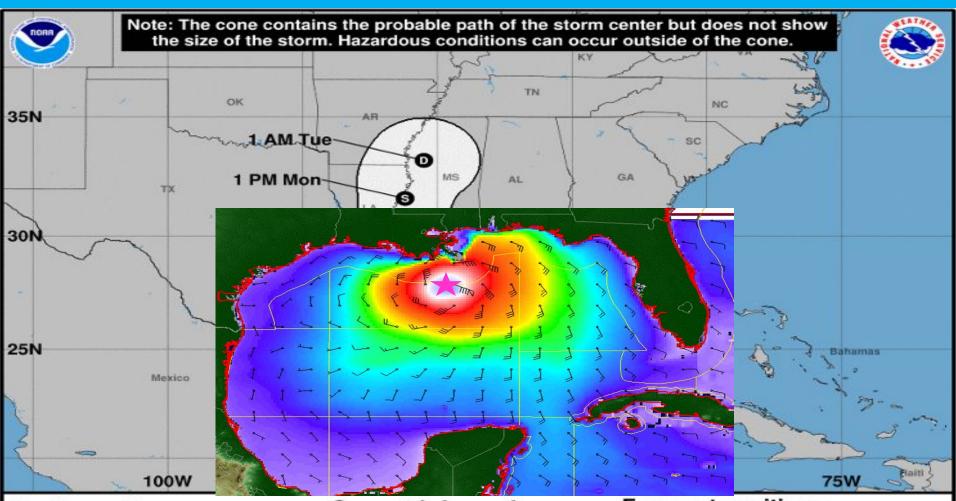
Day 1-3 C Day 4-5

Hurricane

Trop Stm

Hurricane Trop Stm Hurricane Trop Stm

Tools – Incorporating NHC's Tropical Storm/Hurricane Forecast



Hurricane Ida Saturday August 28, 2021

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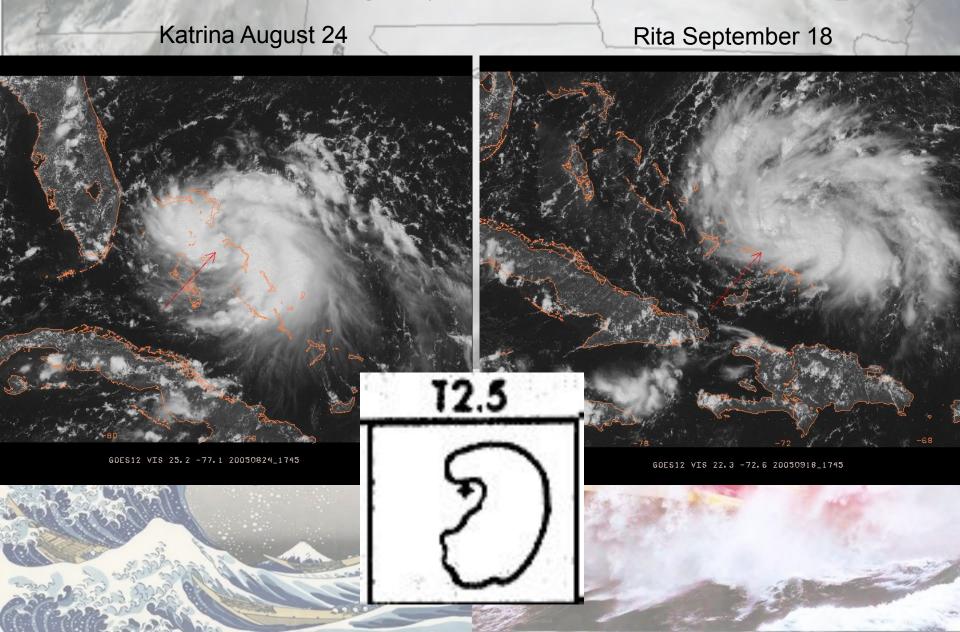
Day 1-3 C Day 4-5 Hurricane Trop Stm

Warnings: Hurricane

Current wind extent: Hurricane

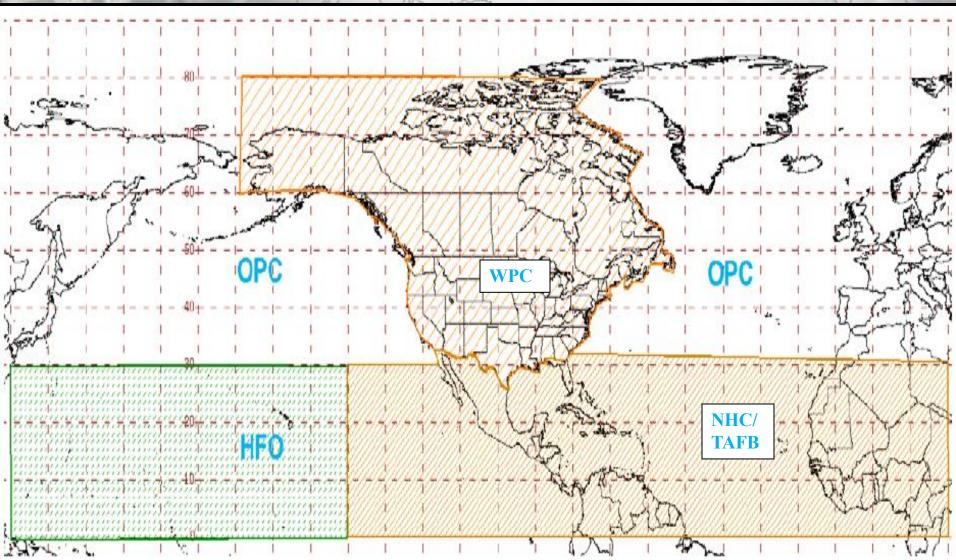
Trop Stm

Satellite Imagery – Dvorak Technique



Unified Surface Analysis Areas of Responsibility

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/t afb_latest/USA_latest.gif



Tropical Weather Discussions

The Tropical Weather Discussion describes major synoptic weather features and significant https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/MIATWDAT.shtml areas of disturbed weather in the tropics.

Content:

Special Features

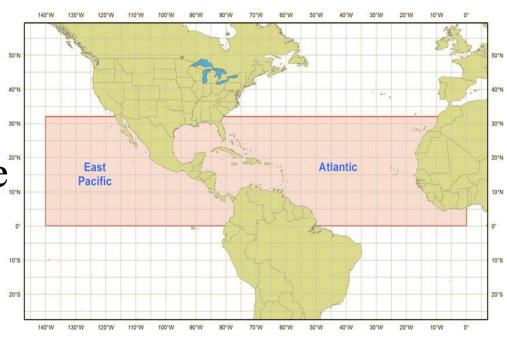
- Tropical Disturbances
- Tropical Cyclones
- Gales/Storm/Hurricane

Warnings

Tropical Waves

ITCZ

Discussion



TAFB High Seas

- High Seas Forecast is a text forecast issued primarily for large ocean going vessels.
- High Seas Forecast includes synopsis of primary weather features and a 48 hour forecast.
- High Seas Forecast primarily for strong winds (25 KT or greater) and/or seas 8 FT or higher.
- TAFB issues two text high seas forecasts four times a day.

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/

ext/MIAHSFAT2.shtml



High Seas AOR

OFF's are 5-day wind and wave forecasts designed for any vessel going offshore (beyond 60 nautical miles)

Gale/Storm Warnings issued up to 48 hours in advance for non-tropical features.

Tropical Storm/ Hurricane Warnings issued up to 48 hours in advance for tropical cyclones.

TAFB Offshore Zones





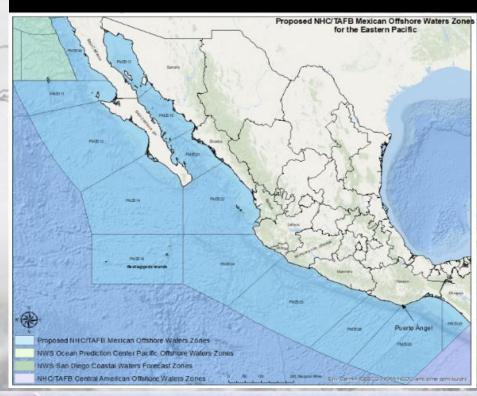
OFF's are 5-day wind and wave forecasts designed for any vessel going offshore (beyond 60 nautical miles)

Gale/Storm Warnings issued up to 48 hours in advance for non-tropical features.

Tropical Storm/ Hurricane Warnings issued up to 48 hours in advance for tropical cyclones.

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/offshores_eastpac.php

TAFB Offshore Zones





Navigational Telex (NAVTEX)

NAVTEX is an internationally required broadcast of coastal urgent marine safety information to ships. In the United States there are 12 U.S. Coast **Guard transmitter** locations. TAFB products are transmitted from Miami, San Juan, and New Orleans, and contribute to the Charleston broadcast.

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/t

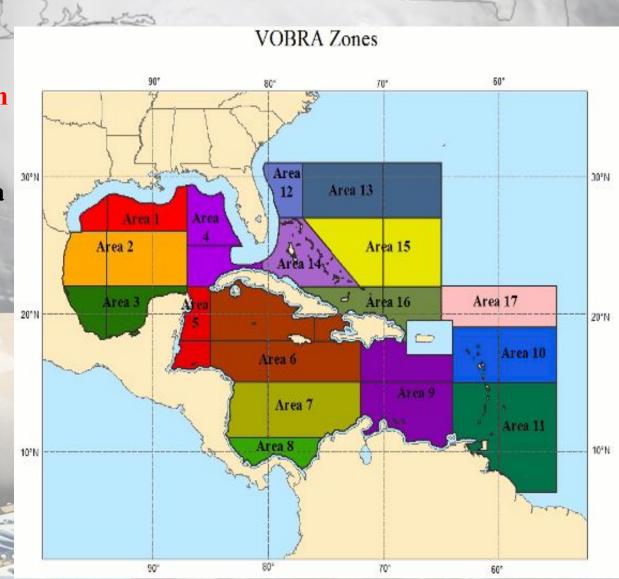
ext/MIAOFFN04.shtml

NAVTEX Zones OFFN08 East OFFN08 West OFF NO4 Atlantic OFFN04 Gulf 20°N OFF N05 Atlantic OFF N05 Caribbean MEM

High Frequency Voice Broadcasts (VOBRA)

The USCG broadcasts basic weather information prepared by the NWS (Ocean **Prediction Center, National Hurricane Center and** Honolulu Forecast Office) via high frequency voice broadcasts (VOBRA) to vessels operating in areas beyond the range of coastal **NOAA** Weather Radio. The VOBRA forecasts are prepared at a lower resolution than the offshore forecasts.

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/MIAOFFN21.shtml







Surface Prog Graphics

- Fronts, troughs, tropical cyclones, tropical waves, ridges
- 24, 48, and 72 hr Forecasts
- W. Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and E. Pacific
- Issued twice daily

20N 10N NWS/NHC/TROPICAL ANALYSIS AND FORECAST BRANCH

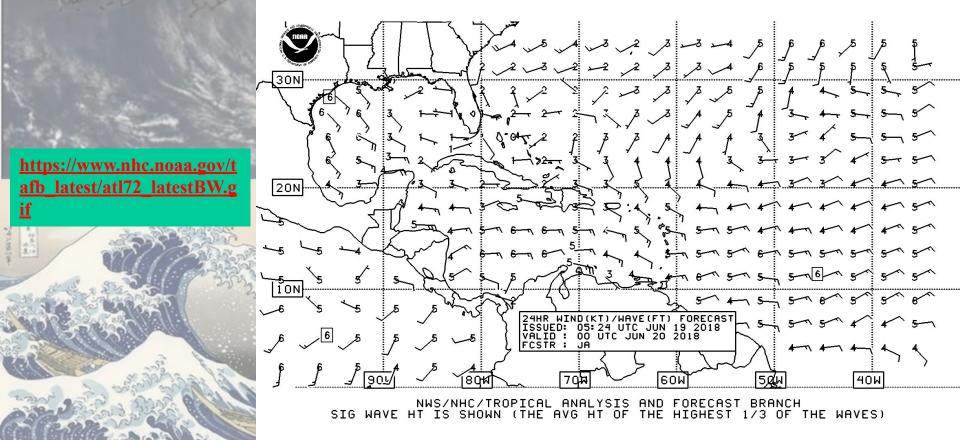
https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/t afb_latest/atlsfc72_latestB W.gif

Sea State Analysis Graphics

- Significant Wave Height Analysis (the average height of the highest one-third of the waves) and Primary Swell Direction
- W. Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and E. Pacific
- Issued twice daily

WIND / WAVE Forecast Graphics

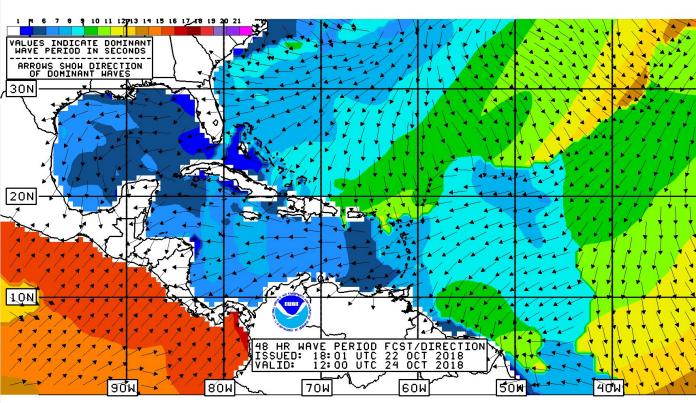
- Surface Winds and Significant Wave Height Predictions
- 24, 48, and 72 hr Forecasts
- W. Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and E. Pacific
- Issued twice daily



WAVE PERIOD/DIRECTION Forecast Graphics

- Dominant wave period and direction
- 48 and 72 hr Forecasts
- W. Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and E. Pacific
- Issued twice daily

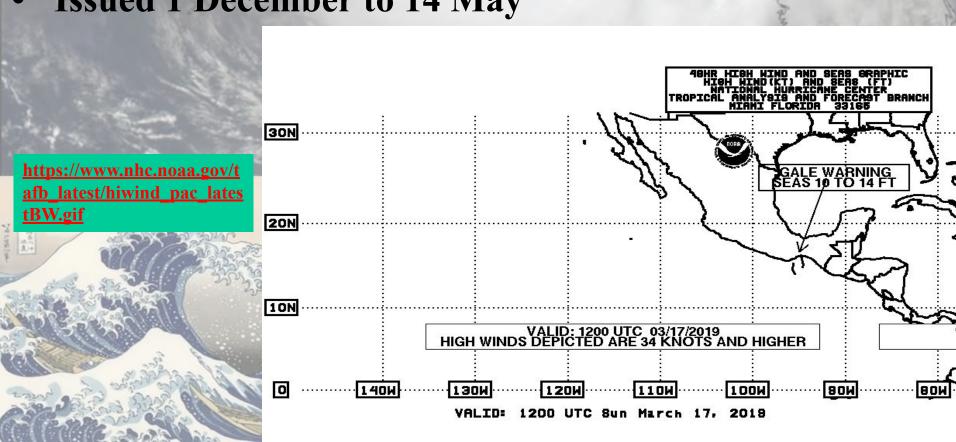
https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/t afb_latest/atl48per_latest.gi



NWS/NHC/TROPICAL ANALYSIS AND FORECAST BRANCH

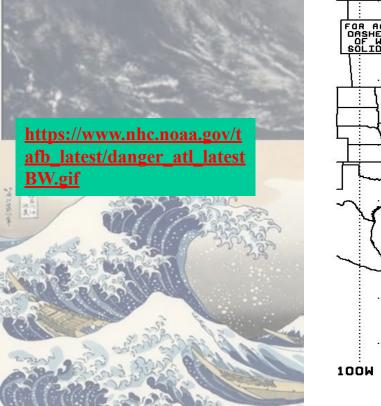
High Wind and Seas Graphic

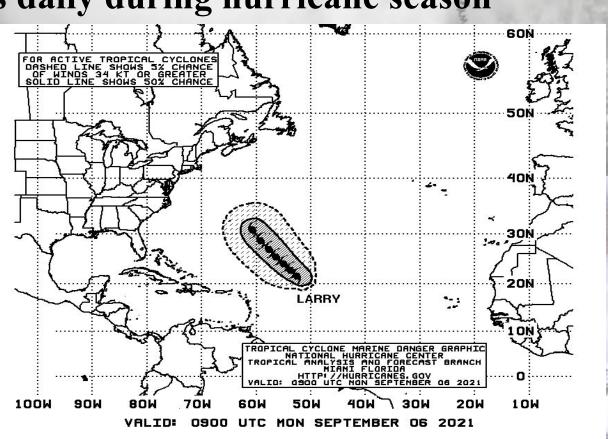
- 48 hr forecast depiction of Gale, Storm, and Hurricane-Force Wind Warnings (with peak seas)
- W. Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and E. Pacific
- Issued four times daily
- Issued 1 December to 14 May

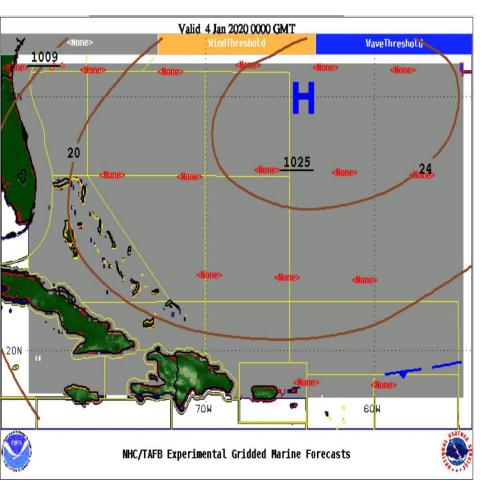


Tropical Cyclone Danger Graphic

- Wind Speed Probabilities-Based Uses 5% and 50% chance of 34 kt (tropical storm force winds)
- 3 Day Forecasts
- W. Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and E. Pacific
- Issued four times daily during hurricane season







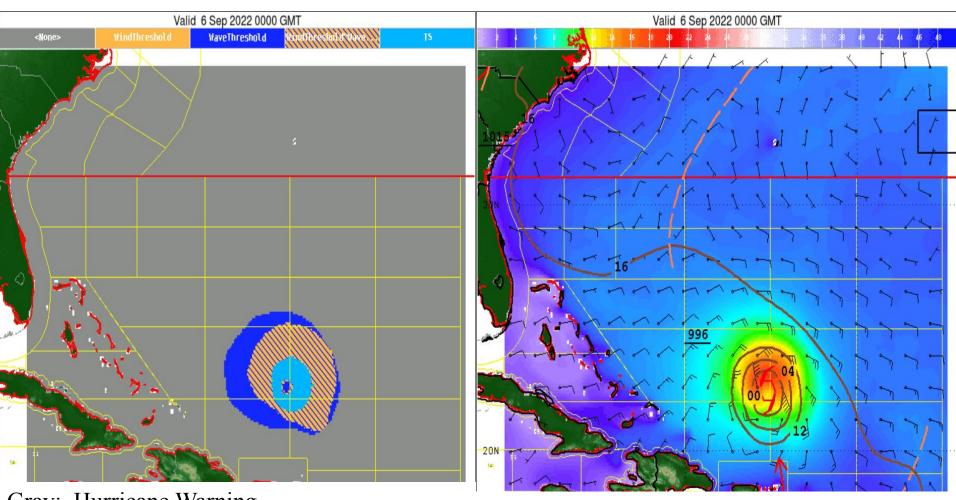
Valid 4 Jan 2020 0000 GMT NHC/TAFB Experimental Gridded Marine Forecasts

Red: Gale Warning

Orange: Winds > 23 kt Blue: Seas ≥ 8 ft

Colors: Seas (in feet)

Flags: Wind barbs (in knots)



Gray: Hurricane Warning

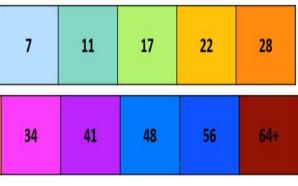
Light Blue: Tropical Storm Warning

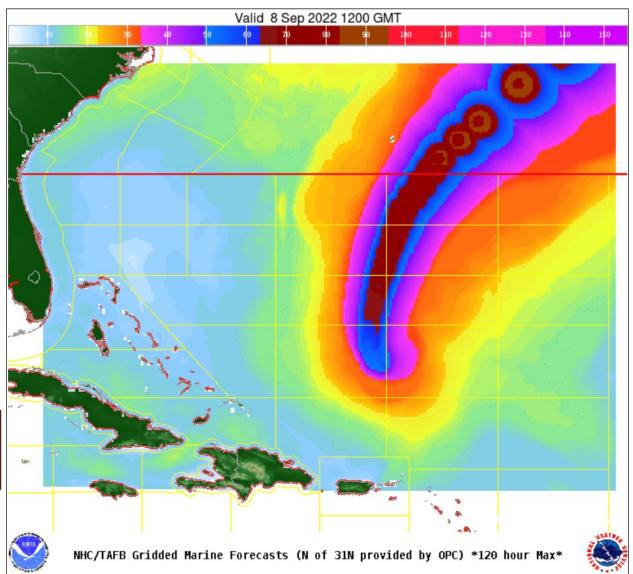
Orange: Winds > 23 kt Dark Blue: Seas ≥ 8 ft

Colors: Seas (in feet)

Flags: Wind barbs (in knots)

Maximum
Winds
Forecast
(in knots,
over 5 days)







Red: Gale Warning Green: Storm Warning Orange: Winds > 23 kt Blue: Seas ≥ 8 ft

Colors: Seas (in feet)

Flags: Wind barbs (in knots)

EL FARO 33 fatalities when it sank in Hurricane Joaquin (2015) **BOURBON RHODE**

11 fatalities when it sank in Hurricane Lorenzo (2019)

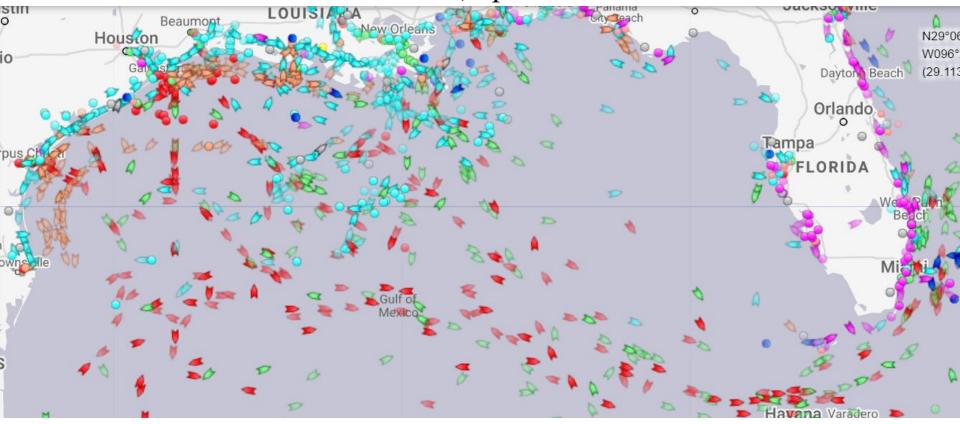
BOUNTY

2 fatalities when it sank in Hurricane Sandy (2012)

FANTOME

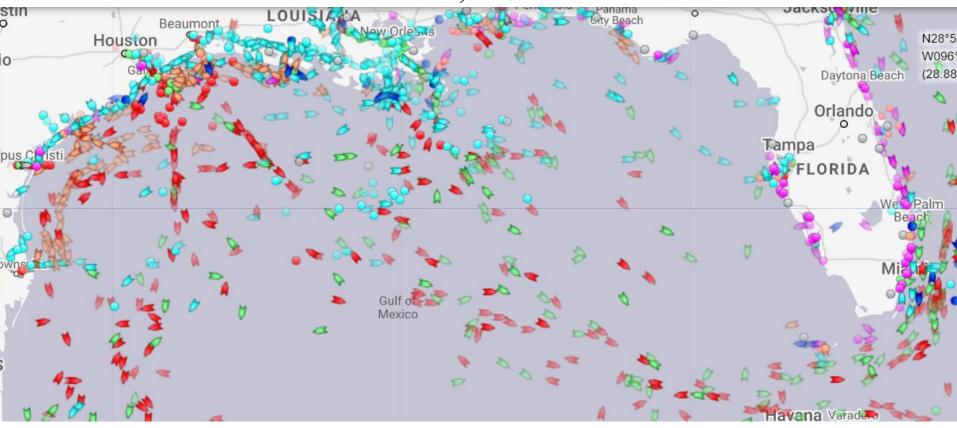
31 fatalities when it sank in Hurricane Mitch (1998)

© Allen Baker MarineTraffic.com Hurricane Delta - 2020 October 6th, 2pm EDT Weather Avoidance by Ships



marinetraffic.

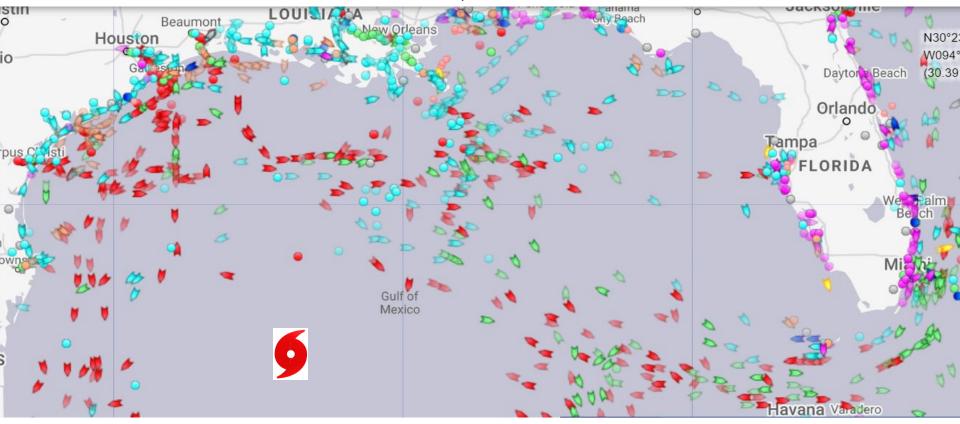
Hurricane Delta - 2020 October 7th, 9am EDT Weather Avoidance by Ships





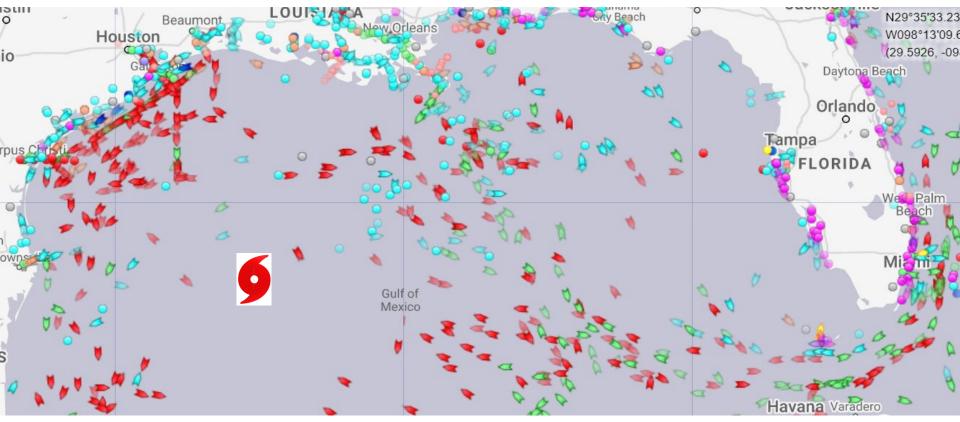
marinetraffic.

Hurricane Delta - 2020 October 8th, 9am EDT Weather Avoidance by Ships



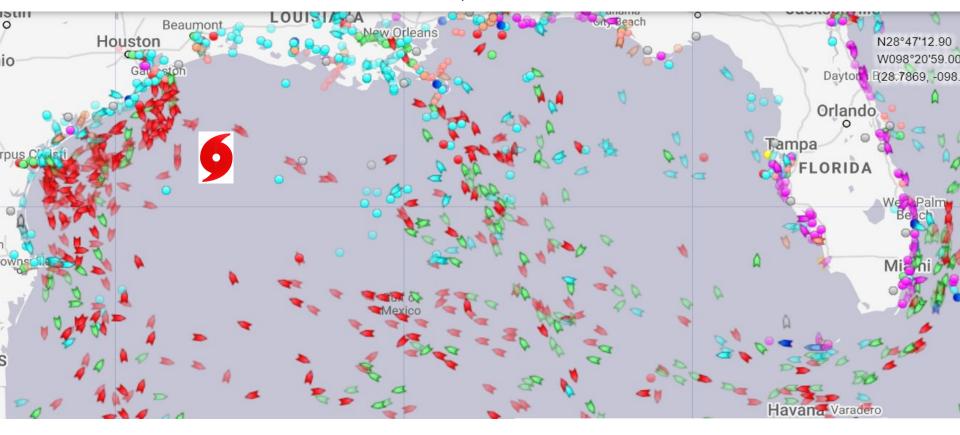
marinetraffic.

Hurricane Delta - 2020 October 8th, 5pm EDT Weather Avoidance by Ships



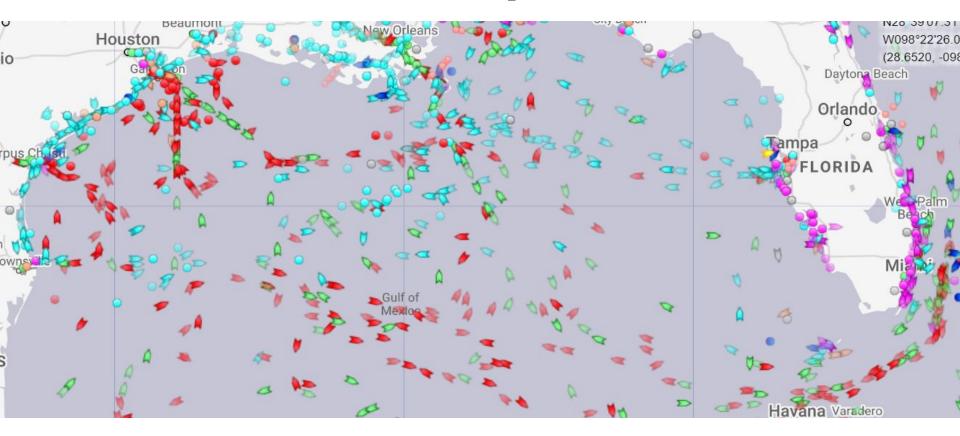
marinetraffic.

Hurricane Delta - 2020 October 9th, 9am EDT Weather Avoidance by Ships



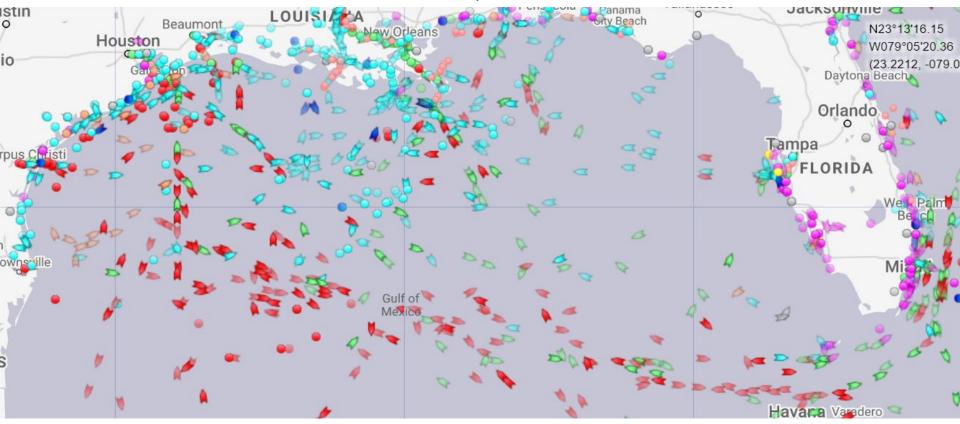
marinetraffic.

Hurricane Delta - 2020 October 10th, 1pm EDT Weather Avoidance by Ships



marinetraffic.

Hurricane Delta - 2020 October 11th, 7am EDT Weather Avoidance by Ships



marinetraffic.



MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD **AND** THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND **ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE** REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE WEATHER INFORMATION

APPROVED: 03/30/2020

<u>APPROVED</u>: 3/31/20

Louis W. Uccellini

NOAA Assistant Administrator for Weather Services CVITS

Richard V. Timme Rear Admiral, USCG Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy

<u> https://www.weather.gov/media/marine/uscgmoa2020.pdf</u>

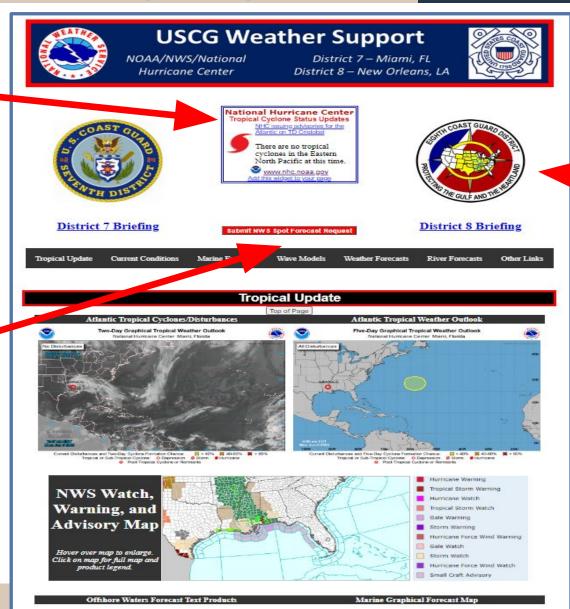
USCG Weather Support

Meosageww.nhc.noaa.gov/uscg/



National Hurricane
Center Tropical
Cyclone Status
Updates

Submit National Weather Service Spot Forecast Request



Latest
Hurricane
Briefings
Available to
Download

Spot Forecast Example for USCG District 11 13 April 2022

SPOT FORECAST FOR SAR - RCC ALAMEDA...USCG NWS NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL 537 AM PDT Wed Apr 13 2022

Forecast is based on forecast start time of 0900 PDT on April 13. If conditions become unrepresentative...contact the NWS National Hurricane Center/Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch at (305)229-4425.

.DISCUSSION...

Latitude = 0.5N Longitude = 104.25W

Gentle S winds with southerly swell are expected in the short term. The southerly swell will cause significant wave heights to be near 7 ft. No significant showers or thunderstorms are expected.

.REST OF TODAY...

Sky/weather.....Mostly cloudy (75-85 percent).

Max temperature.....Around 78.

Surface winds (kts). Southeast winds around 5 knots late in the morning becoming light, then becoming south 5 to 7 knots late in the afternoon.

Swell height.....South swell 6 feet.

Wave height......7 feet.

Wave period......14 SECONDS.

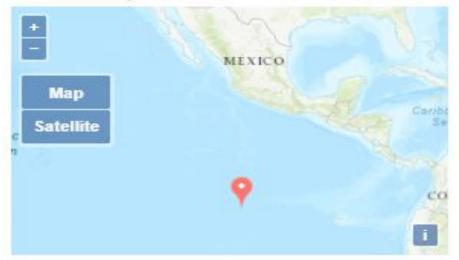
TIME (PDT)	9 AM	NOON	3 PM
Sky (%)	.80	84	84
Weather cov	•		
Weather type	.NONE	NONE	NONE
Tstm cov	•		
Temp	.78	78	78
SFC wind (kts).	.SE 5G10	S 4G8	S 5G10
Swell hgt (ft).	.s 6	S 6	S 6
Wave period (s)	.14	14	14
Wave height (ft	7	7	7
SST (F)	.81	81	81

SAR - RCC ALAMEDA

Marine Incident

Forecast Start Time: 2022-04-13 9:00 AM PDT Request Time: 2022-04-13 5:23 AM PDT Deliver Time: 2022-04-13 5:23 AM PDT

Forecast Complete At: 2022-04-13 5:38 AM PDT



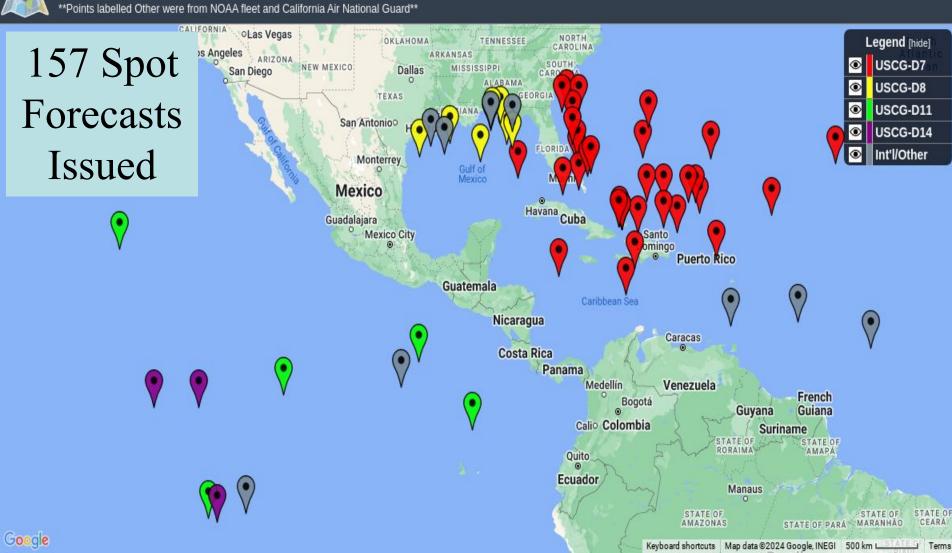


2023 Impact-based Decision Support Services to U.S. Coast Guard Districts by Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB). National Hurricane Center (NHC)





2023 TAFB Spot Forecast Request Incidents





2023 Impact-based Decision Support Services to U.S. Coast Guard Districts by Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB)/National Hurricane Center (NHC)



hc.noaa.gov

USCG District 7 Hurricane Tabletop Exercise July 13-20, 2023

Planning

- Stephen Konarik led the TAFB team with Dylan Flynn, Andrew Hagen, Aidan Mahoney, Nelsie Ramos, and Amanda Reinhart
- Began planning with USCG District 7 in January 2023
- Three separate, simultaneous tropical cyclones impacting District 7/Caribbean and SE United States
- Cassie Mora and Cara Geiger (Storm Surge Unit) provided the Storm Surge forecasts

Exercise

- Organized 17 live briefings over an 8 day period. (Organizers also pre-recorded the briefings in case TAFB was busy operationally.)
- On July 19th, TAFB forecasters gave the live briefings in person and then toured the USCG Miami Air Station facility.



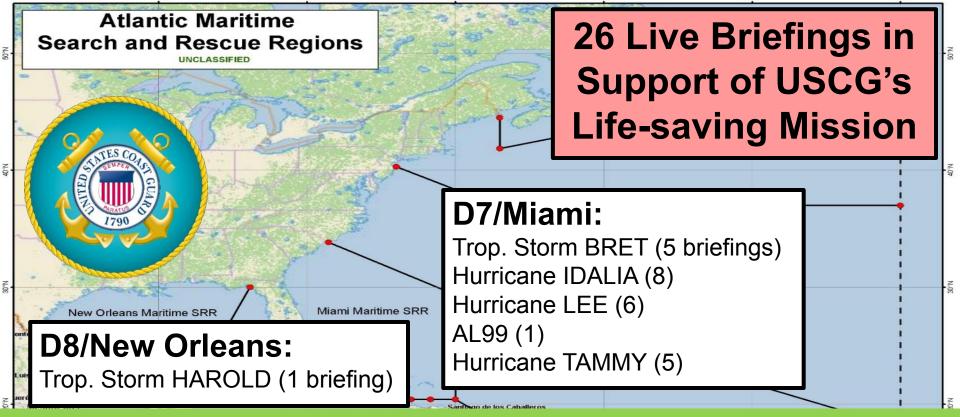
In-person Pre-season Meetings/Training:

District 7 (Miami), District 8 (New Orleans), District 11 (Alameda), and District 14 (Honolulu)



2023 Impact-based Decision Support Services to U.S. Coast Guard Districts by Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) National Hurricane Center (NHC)





"Thanks and appreciation to you and your staff for outstanding support over the last 5 days [during hurricane Idalia]. The detailed products and analysis that NHC provides enabled the USCG to anticipate where to focus efforts and resources. Once again, the NHC has exceeded all expectations. Thanks again." - CAPT Aaron Ortenzio - USCG District Seven Chief of Incident Management



2023 Impact-based Decision Support Services to U.S. Coast Guard Districts by Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB)

National Hurricane Center (NHC)



NHC/TAFB's 2023 International IDSS

TAFB's Spanish-speaking forecasters (Aguirre-Echevarria, Delgado, Ramos, Rivera-Acevedo, Rosado-Vazquez, Rubio, Stripling, Tichacek) provided critical Impact-based Decision Support Services:

For NHC/Hurricane Specialist Unit - Coordinating Watches/ Warnings:

Cuba – 4 times Dominican Republic – 3

El Salvador – 2 Honduras – 2

Mexico – 55 Nicaragua – 2



40 Live Interviews during Hurricane Idalia

Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador

- From People to Ports to Communities, we are working to build a Weather-Ready Nation
 - Ready, Responsive and Resilient to extreme weather and other hazards

Weather-Ready Nation Marine Ambassador Network

- Comprehensive toolkit/marine weather hazard training
- Promotes weather safety messaging to their stakeholders

Engages with NOAA personnel on collaboration opportunities Sharing Specess Stories of Preparedness and Resiliency

firtual WRN recognition and share the WRN logo for your use

ect Fae of freeback for NWS product improvements

arteric newsletter from the NWS about marine weather



Become an Ambassador!





OPC Product Guide

https://www.weather.gov/wrn/

tos://www.weather.gov/wrn/wrna-marine

Mariners Weather Hazards Workshop



- Workshop at National Hurricane Center (NHC) every March
- Purpose: Increase awareness and understanding among mariners of the various forecast products and services available from the National Weather Service
- Attendees:
 - Cruise Lines
 - Cargo Ships
 - Oil Tankers/Oil Platforms
 - Commercial Fisheries
 - U.S. Coast Guard/U.S. Navy
 - Large Recreational Vessels
 - Maritime Academies
- Organizers:
 - NHC/Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch
 - Ocean Prediction Center
 - Weather Forecast Offices
 - Port Meteorologists

2023 TAFB Social Media Highlights

- Impressions 6M (17K per day)
- Likes 24K (65 per day)
- Retweets 9K
- Followers 38,098

Tropical Atlantic Marine Weather Briefing

- 5-day briefing posted each Sunday and Thursday
- Available publicly on NHC YouTube channel, link posted on Twitter
- Began Jan 2023

Automated warning tweets began Jan 2020



NHC TAFB @ @NHC TAFB · 11h

Mon Jan 29 1030 UTC: A Storm Warning and a Gale Warning are in effect for portions of the eastern North Pacific. More info: hurricanes.gov/text/MIAHSFEP2...

twitter.com/NHC_TAFB



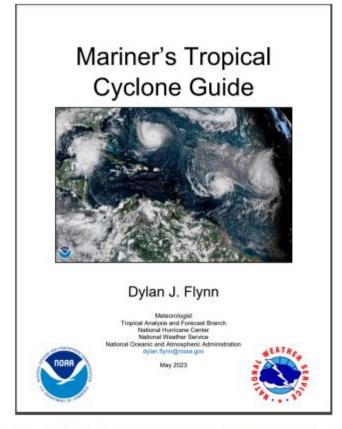
ricanes.gov/marine







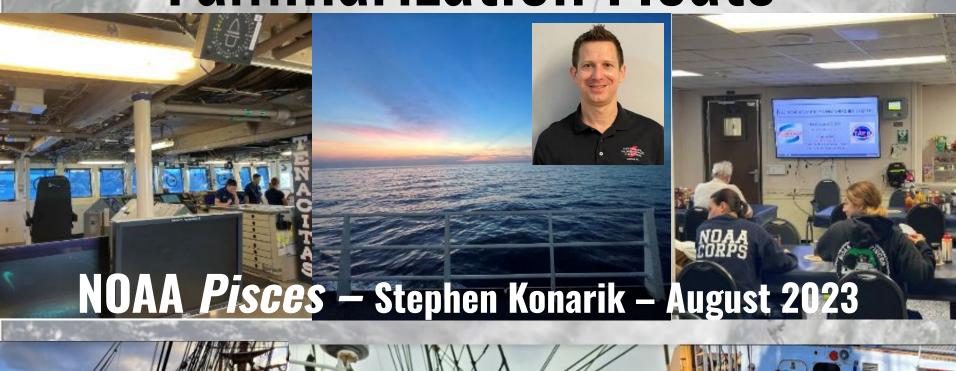
The National Hurricane Center Publishes the Mariner's Tropical Cyclone Guide



This new guide replaces the old *Mariner's Guide for Hurricane Awareness in the North Atlantic Basin*, which was published in 2000.

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marinersguide.pdf

Familiarization Floats





How do I get weather forecasts over the open ocean?

NOAA Weather Radio - Reliable weather broadcasts out to 25nm from shore

HF radio - Long distance broadcast range with coastal and offshore weather information

VHF radio - Marine radio on channels 16 and 22A - Primarily broadcasts for coastal areas

NAVTEX - Medium Frequency weather broadcasts on 518 khz with a range up to 200 nm - Low cost and automated

InMarsat C SafetyNET - Satellite transmission of High Seas forecasts and warnings – Part of Global Marine Distress and Safety System

Iridium SafetyCast – Satellite transmission of High Seas forecasts and warnings - Part of Global Marine Distress and Safety System (Becoming operational now)

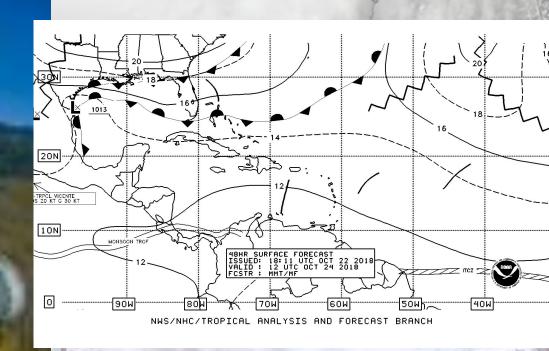
FTPMail - User can request and receive NWS text and graphic products via email using ftp commands - Low bandwidth email

Marine Composite Page – Winds/Waves/Warnings in graphical form via low bandwidth internet -

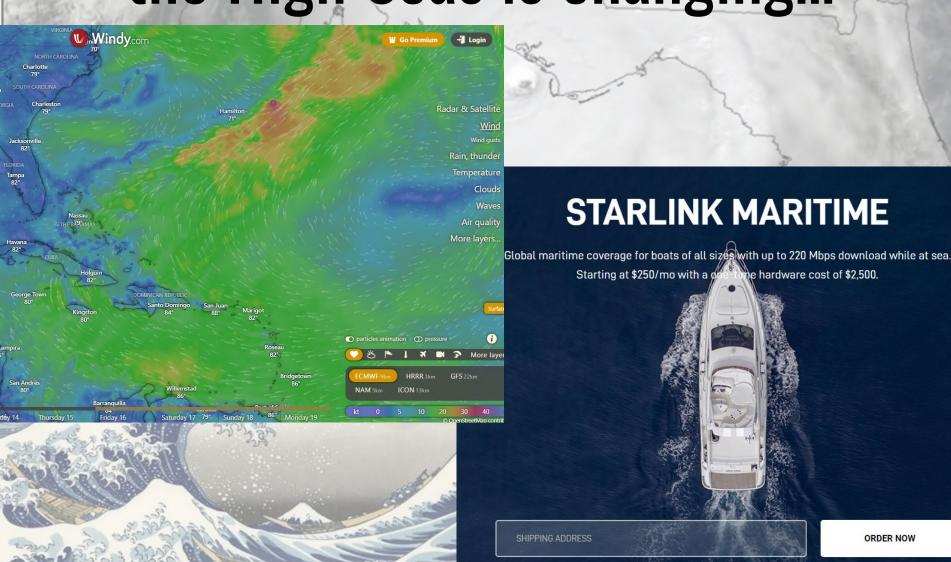
For more information: https://weather.gov/marine (Dissemination menu)

Communications over the High Seas is changing...

MARINE RADIOFAX TAFB provides graphical products from three U.S. **Coast Guard** transmitters







S-100 Rollout

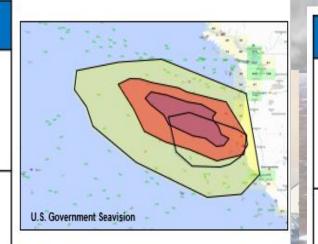
- In 2022, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), amended its Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) standard to leverage S-100 based ENCs beginning in 2026.
- S-100 ECDIS will be voluntary starting 1 January 2026
- From 1 January 2029 new systems must comply with the new IMO Resolution on ECDIS Performance Standards (MSC.530(106))



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Weather and Wave Warnings

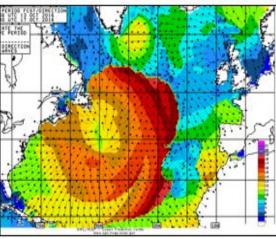
Polygons



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Weather and Wave Conditions

Graphics & Gridded Data



TAFB Products and Services in Development

- NWS Marine Full Basin Oceanic Gridded data
- Spanish language Offshore Waters Forecasts
- Individual Warning Polygons
- Severe Thunderstorm Warnings / Special Marine Warnings
- Point and Click Marine Forecasts
- User Specified Ship Transit Forecasts
- Wave Height Probabilities
- Day 4 and 5 surface progs

National Hurricane Center/Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/?atlc

1-305-229-4424 - Atlantic/Gulf/Caribbean 1-305-229-4425 - Pacific Twitter: @NHC TAFB

