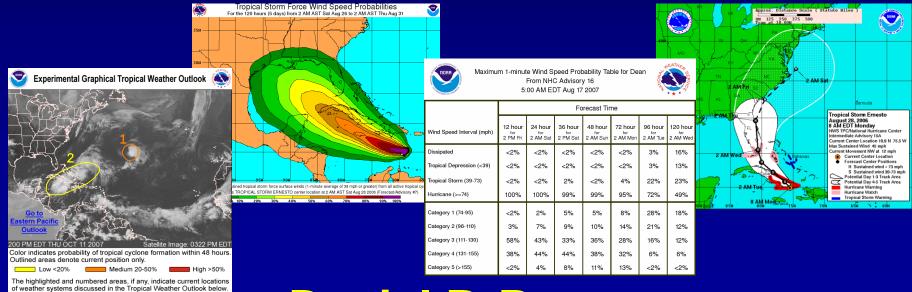






The National Hurricane Center Forecast Process and Products



Daniel P. Brown NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER







The National Hurricane Center issues

 72-hour forecast of track positions, intensity, and wind speed radii

- 96- and 120-hour track positions and

intensities.

Also included are

watches and warnings

 brief storm surge, tornado, and rainfall statements

Forecast Hour (Day)	Position and Intensity	34 kt wind radii	50 kt wind radii	64 kt wind radii
3 (adv time)				
12				
24 (1)				
36				
48 (2)				
72 (3)				
96 (4)				
120 (5)				

NHC Tropical Cyclone Forecast Cycle

Time (UTC)	Task / Event	
H+00:00	Synoptic time, cycle begins	
H+00:45	Receive satellite fix data	
H+01:00	Initialize models	
H+01:20	Receive model guidance, begin preparing forecast	
H+02:00	NWS/DOD hotline coordination call	
H+03:00	Advisory package deadline	
H+03:15	FEMA conference call	
H+06:00	Next cycle begins	



Forecast Process

1. Locate the cyclone center and determine the motion, intensity and size

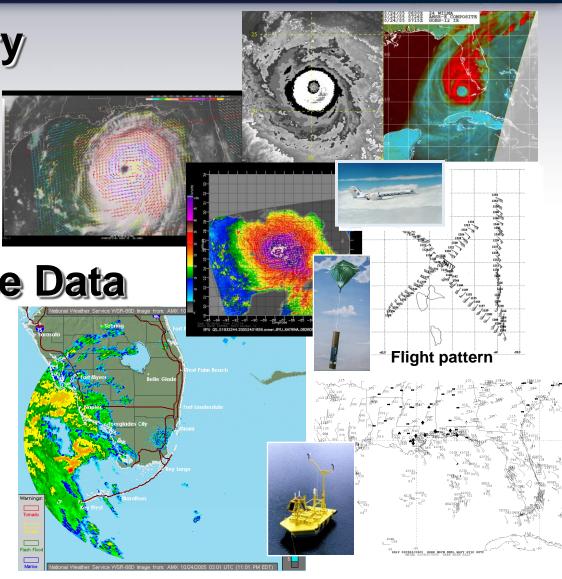


Data to Determine TC Location and Intensity

- Satellite Imagery
 - Geostationary
 - Polar-Orbiting
 - Microwave
 - Scatterometer

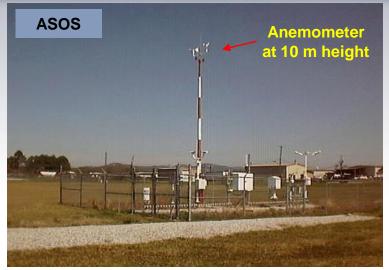
Reconnaissance Data

- Dropsondes
- SFMR
- Radar
- SurfaceObservations



Tropical Cyclone Intensity

What do we mean by maximum sustained winds?



Maximum sustained winds:

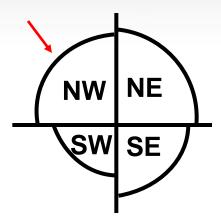
strongest wind speed <u>averaged</u> during a 1-minute period at an altitude of 10 m (33 ft), associated with the circulation of the tropical cyclone at a given point in time

- Usually estimated, rarely directly measured
- Central pressure is correlated with intensity, but pressure-wind relationships has variability

Tropical Cyclone Wind Radii

How big is the storm?

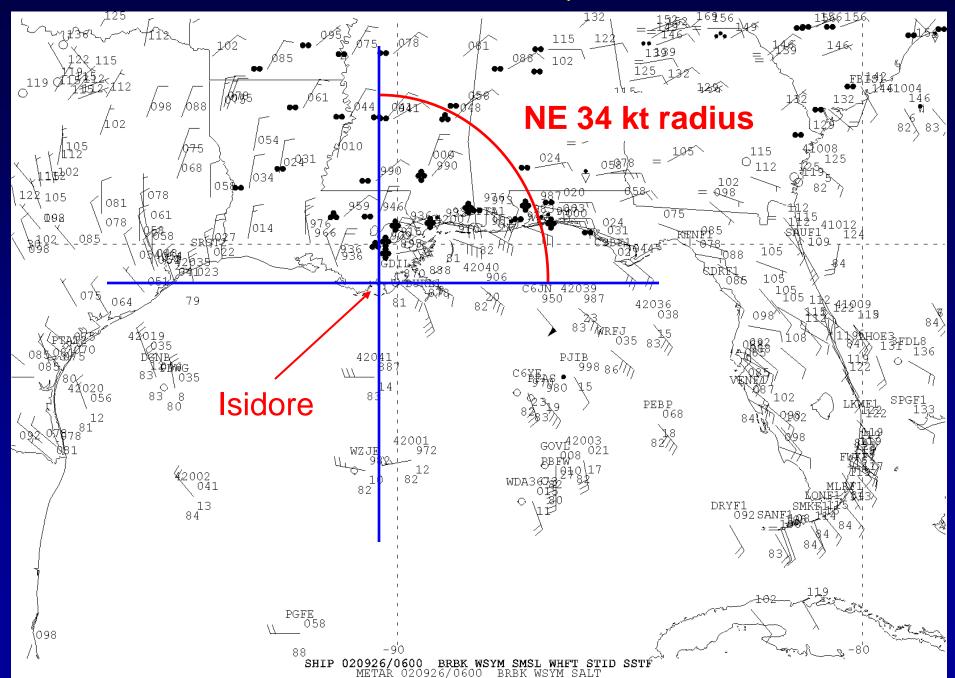
radii represent the largest distance from center in particular quadrant



leads to an inherent overestimate of radii, especially near land -NHC estimates cyclone "size" via wind radii in four quadrants

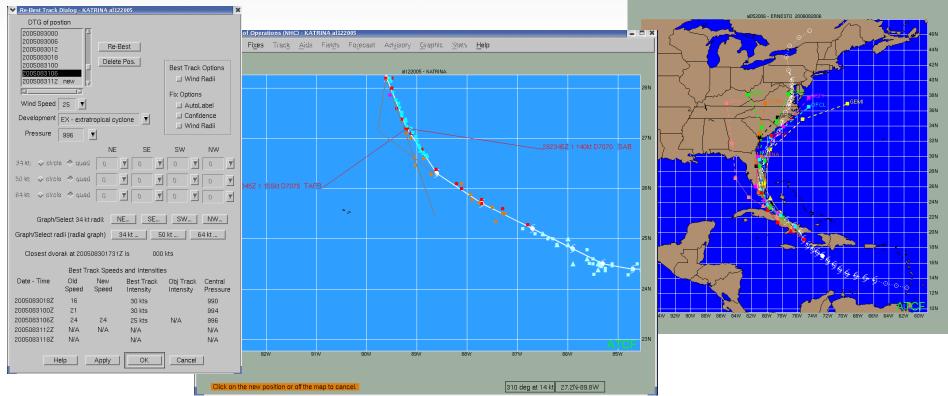
•Wind radius = <u>Largest distance</u> from the <u>center</u> of the tropical cyclone of a particular sustained surface wind speed threshold (e.g., 34, 50, 64 kt) somewhere in a particular quadrant (NE, SE, SW, NW) surrounding the center and associated with the circulation at a given point in time

Limitations of Four-Quadrant Radii



Forecast Process

- 1. Locate the cyclone center and determine the motion, intensity and size
- 2. Initialize and retrieve guidance models



Forecast Process

- 1. Locate the cyclone center and determine the motion, intensity and size
- 2. Initialize and retrieve guidance models

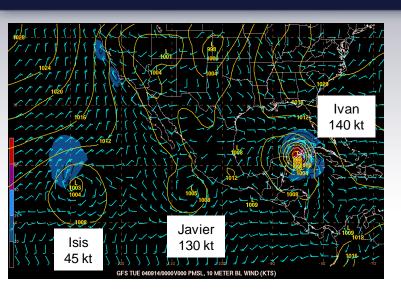
3. Construct forecast of track, intensity, and

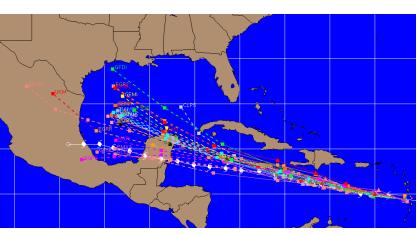
wind radii





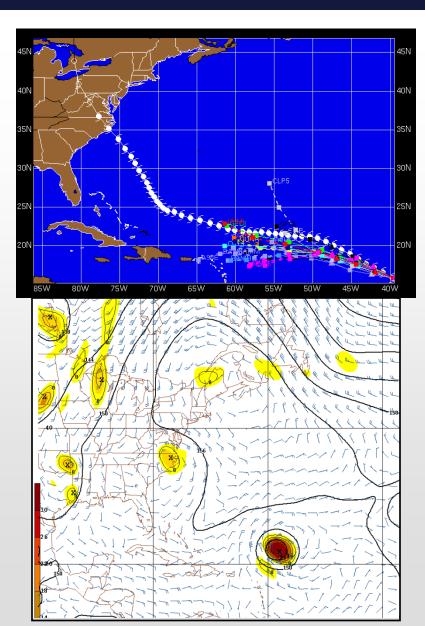
Steps in Preparing Forecast





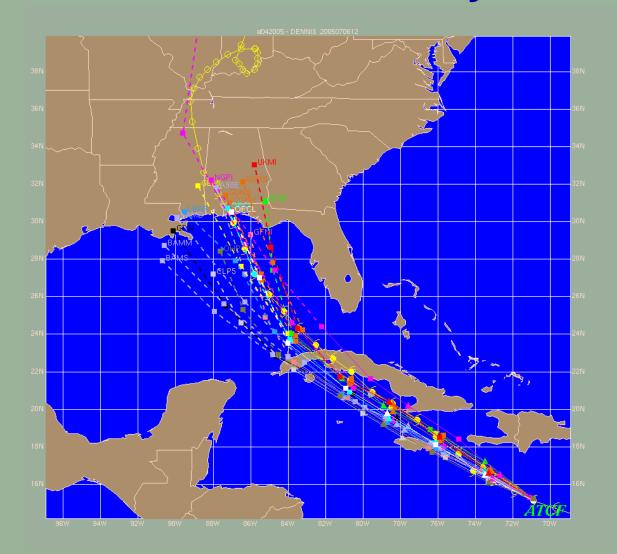
- View and interpret latest model fields
- Review latest model tracks
- Consider previous forecast (continuity) and current trends (persistence)
- Changes in direction and speed along an individual forecast track are also made gradually
- Track forecast guidance has the greatest skill. Intensity guidance has less skill, while the skill of size guidance is still being evaluated.

Types of track guidance



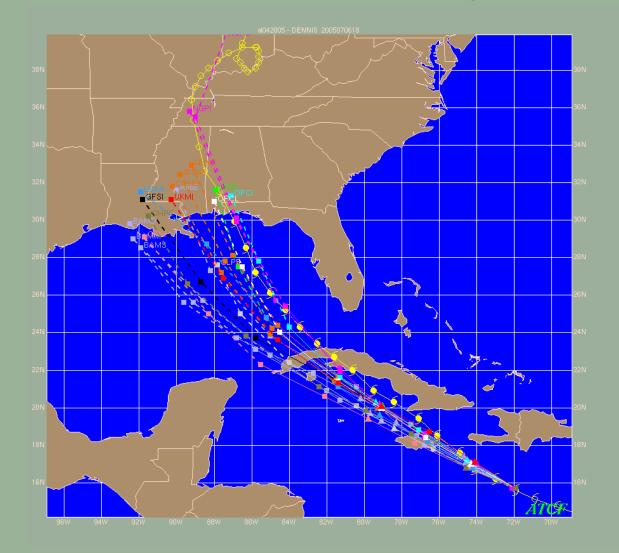
- "Simple" models
 - Persistence/extrapolation
 - Statistical (CLIPER = CLImatology and PERsistence)
 - Beta and advection steering models (BAM)
- Dynamical models
 - Global: GFS, NOGAPS, UKMET
 - Regional: GFDL (parent GFS),
 GFDN (parent NOGAPS), HWRF
- Consensus and ensembles
 - GFS ensemble mean
 - GUNA: Average of GFDL, UKMET, NOGAPS, GFS (AVN)
 - CONU: Average of GUNA models plus GFDN
 - FSU Superensemble

Dennis Guidance 6 July 1200 UTC



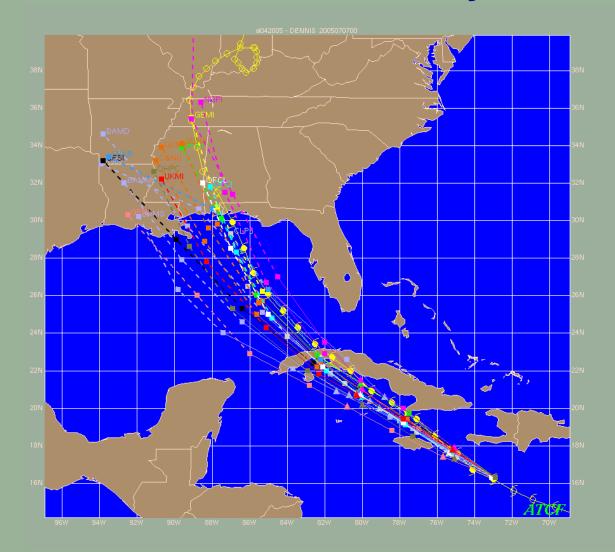
 Official forecast near model consensus in extreme western FL panhandle.

Dennis Guidance 6 July 1800 UTC



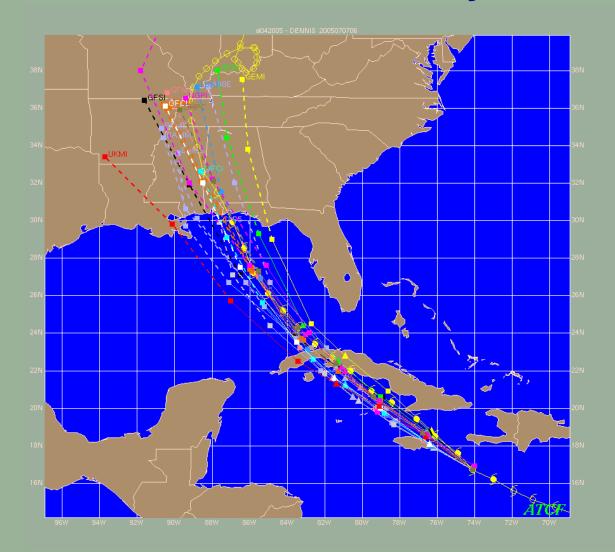
 Guidance shifts sharply westward toward New Orleans. Official forecast nudged westward into AL.

Dennis Guidance 7 July 0000 UTC

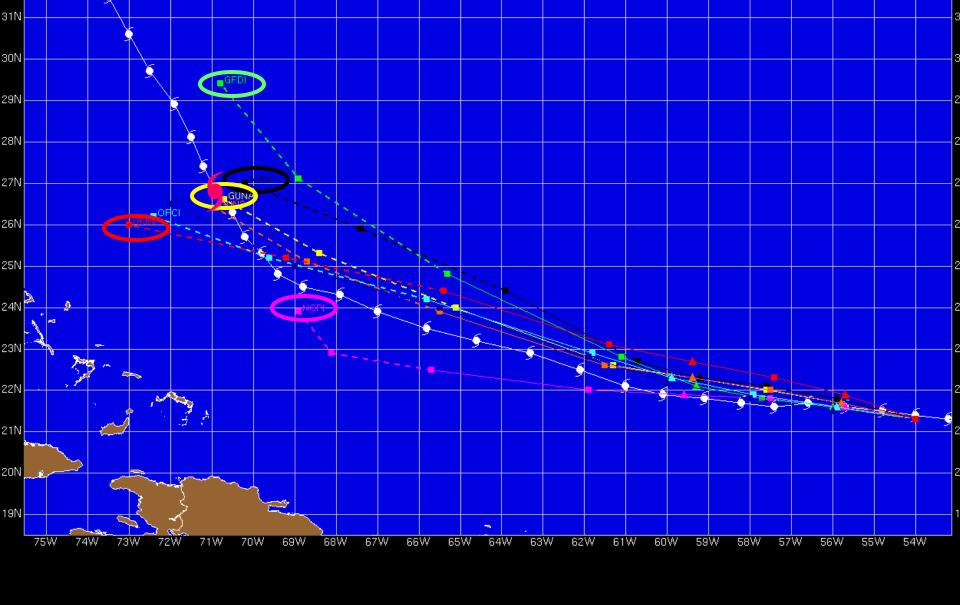


 Little overall change to guidance, but NGPI shifts slightly eastward. Little change in official forecast.

Dennis Guidance 7 July 0600 UTC



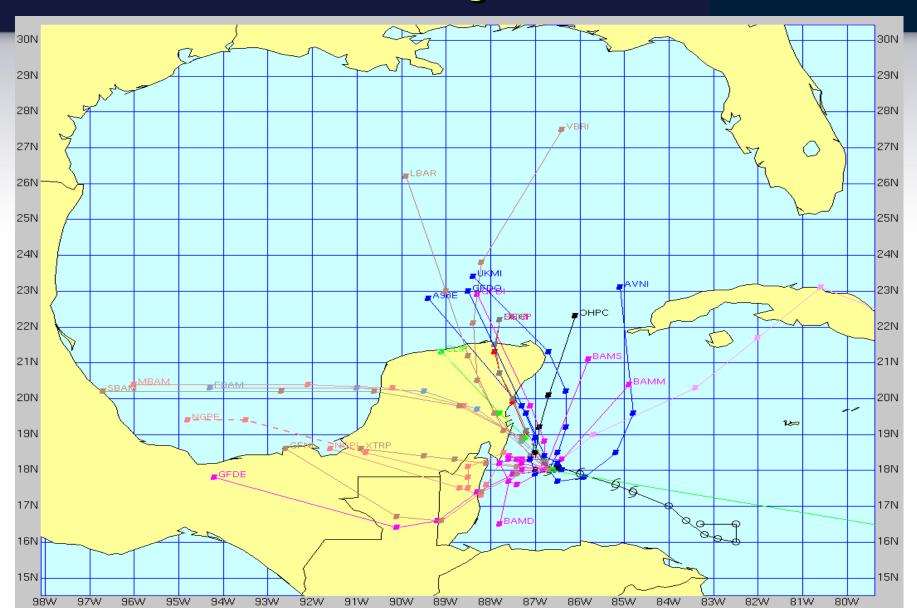
 Rest of the guidance shifts sharply eastward, leaving official forecast near the center of the guidance envelope (and very close to the actual track of Dennis).

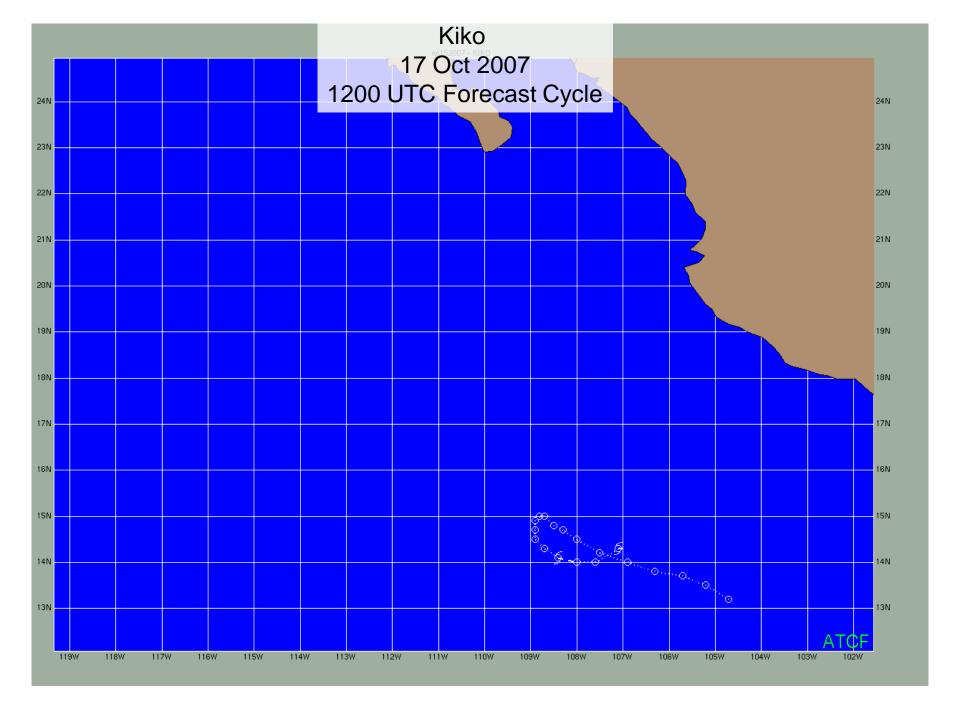


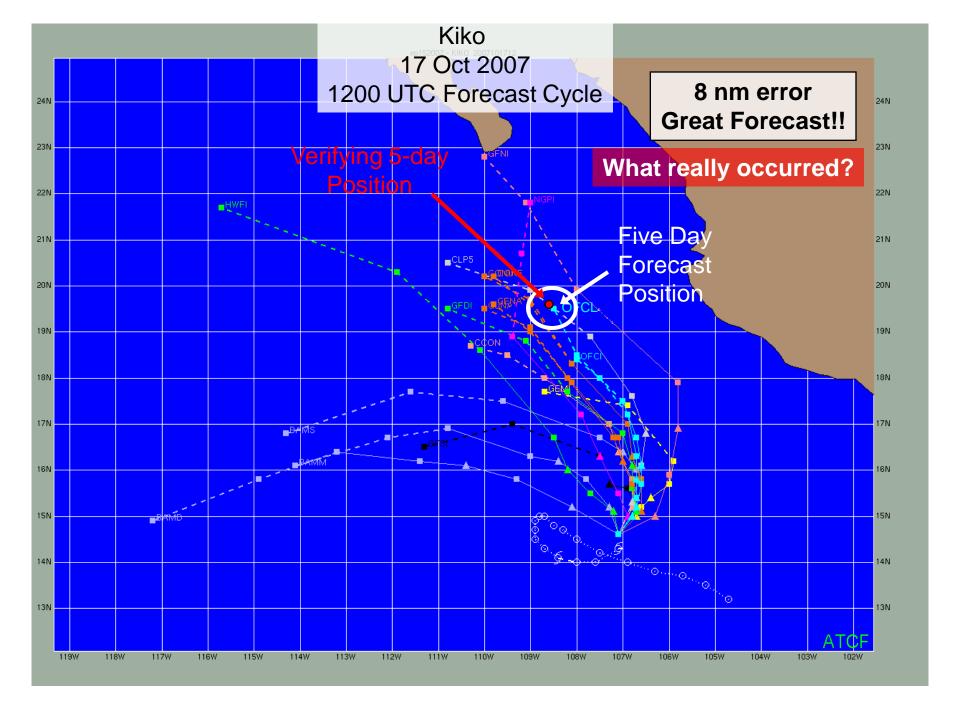
Excellent example of GUNA consensus: HURRICANE ISABEL, 1200 UTC 11 SEP 2003

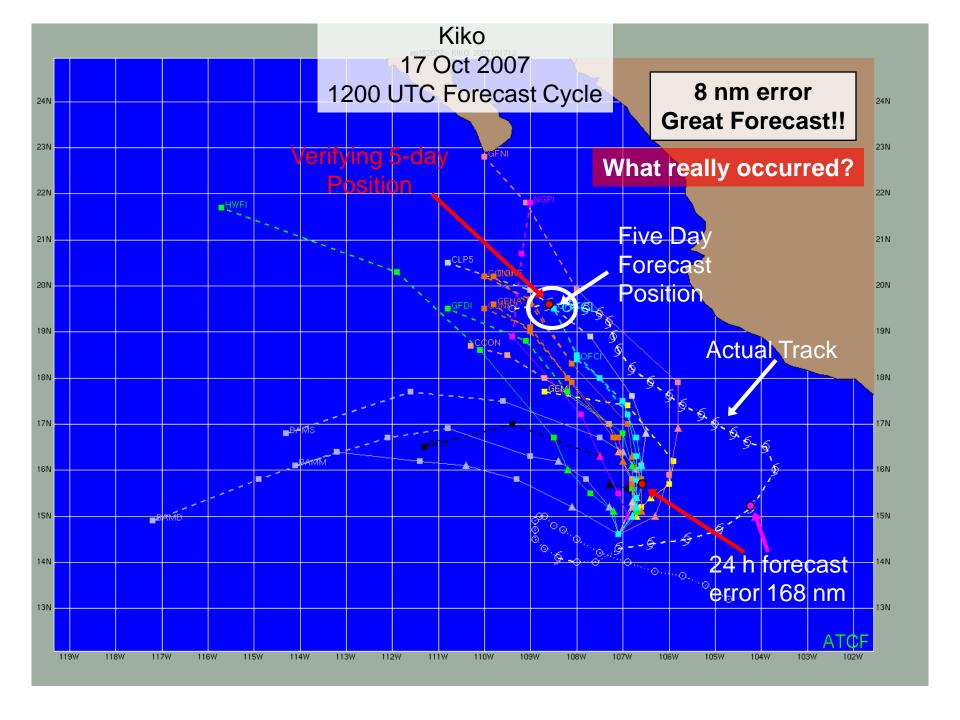
The Dreaded Squashed Spider

Occurs when steering currents are weak







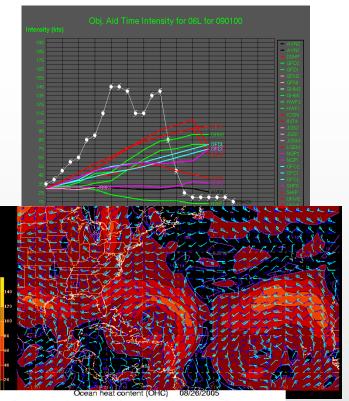


Wind Radii Forecast "Guidance"

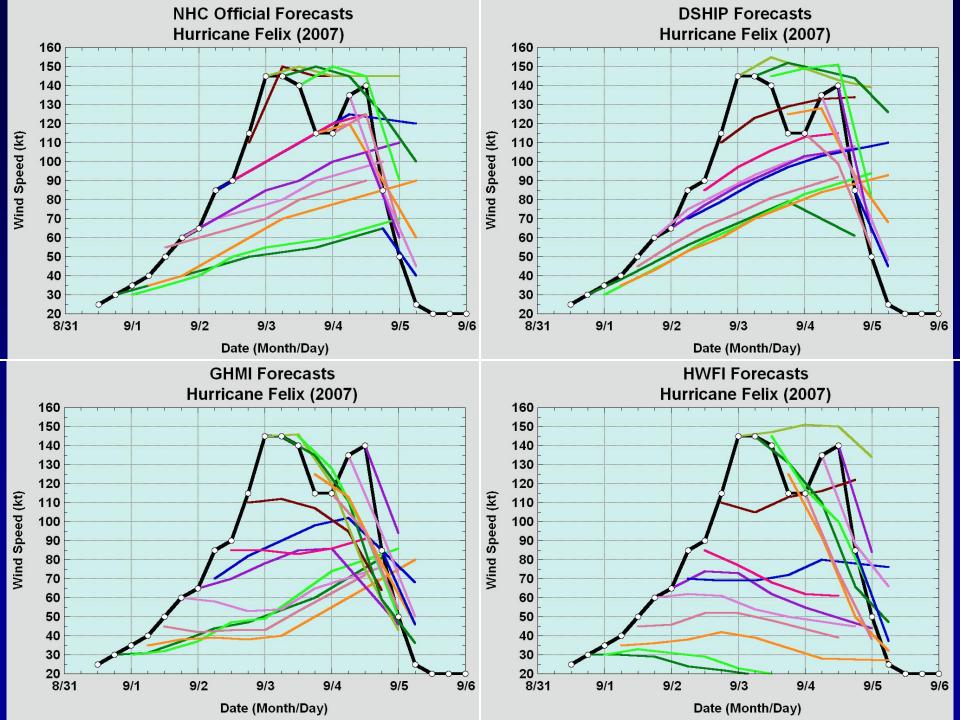
Empirical ideas

- Is the storm strengthening or weakening?
- Is persistence appropriate, or are conditions changing?
- Is the storm becoming extratropical, causing wind field to expand?
- Will all or part of the circulation be passing over land, such that radii could decrease?
- Is the system accelerating, such that the storm could become more asymmetric?
- Guidance is essentially limited to climatology and persistence (CLIPER) models
- Occasionally can use dynamical models (not yet fully tested and verified for radii)

Intensity Forecasts

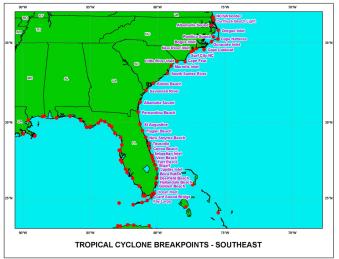


- Types of Intensity Guidance
 - Dynamical Models (GFDL & HWRF)
 - Consensus and Ensemble
 - Statistical/Dynamical
- Similar considerations as for track apply with respect to continuity
- NHC intensity forecasts tend to be conservative; rapid intensity changes are rarely forecast
- Modest changes in track can result in significant differences in SST, vertical wind shear, land interaction, and other environmental factors that affect intensity



Forecast Process

- 1. Locate the cyclone center and determine the motion, intensity and size
- 2. Initialize and retrieve guidance models
- 3. Construct forecast of track, intensity, and wind radii
- 4. Coordinate Forecasts and Warnings



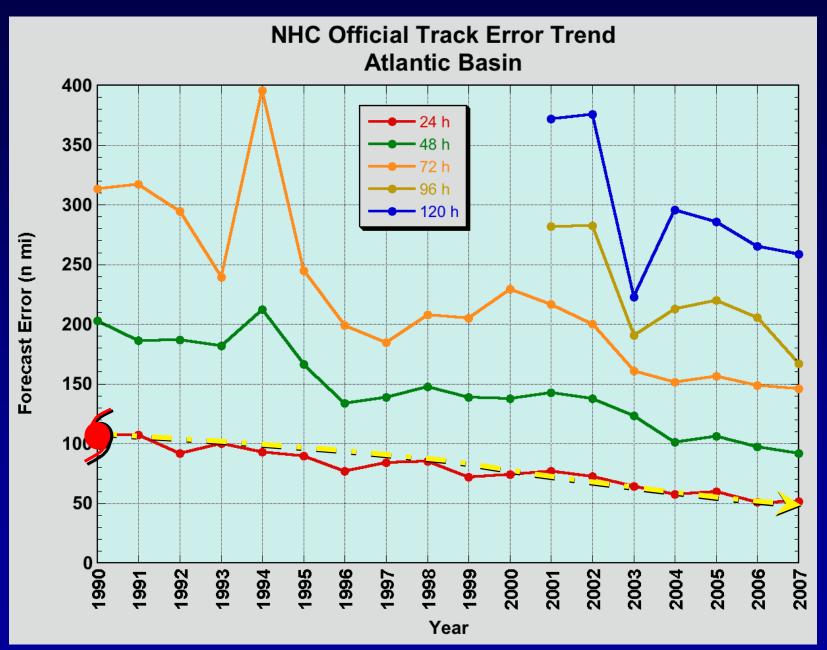
WATCHES/WARNINGS ISSUED OVER STRETCHES OF THE COASTLINE DEFINED BY PRE-DETERMINED "BREAKPOINTS

What do coastal watches and warnings mean?

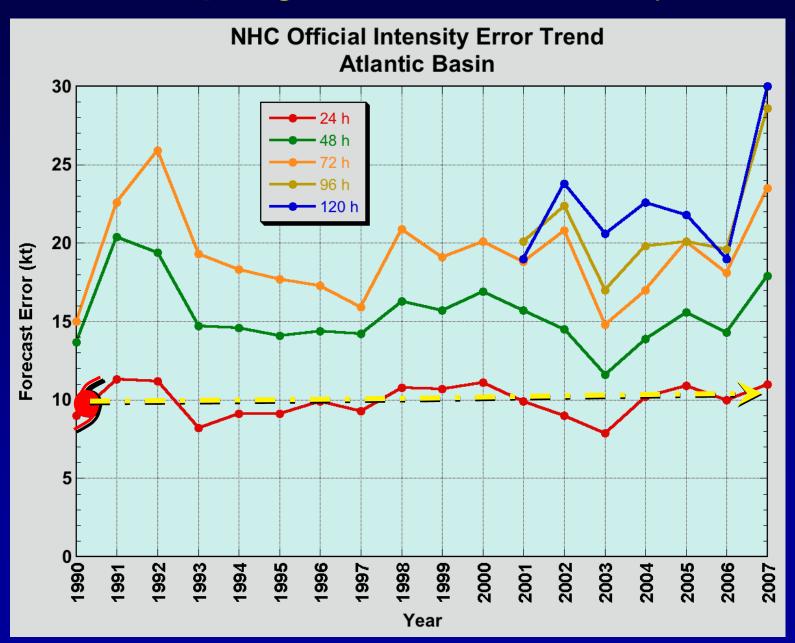
 Hurricane Warning: hurricane conditions are expected within the warning area, generally within the next 24 hours

 Hurricane Watch: hurricane conditions are possible within the watch area, generally within the next 36 hours

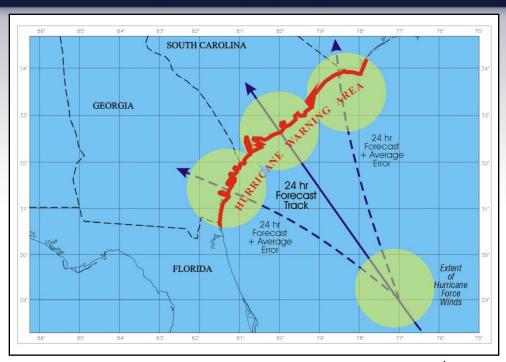
Track forecast errors cut in half since 1990



No progress with intensity



Issuing Warnings



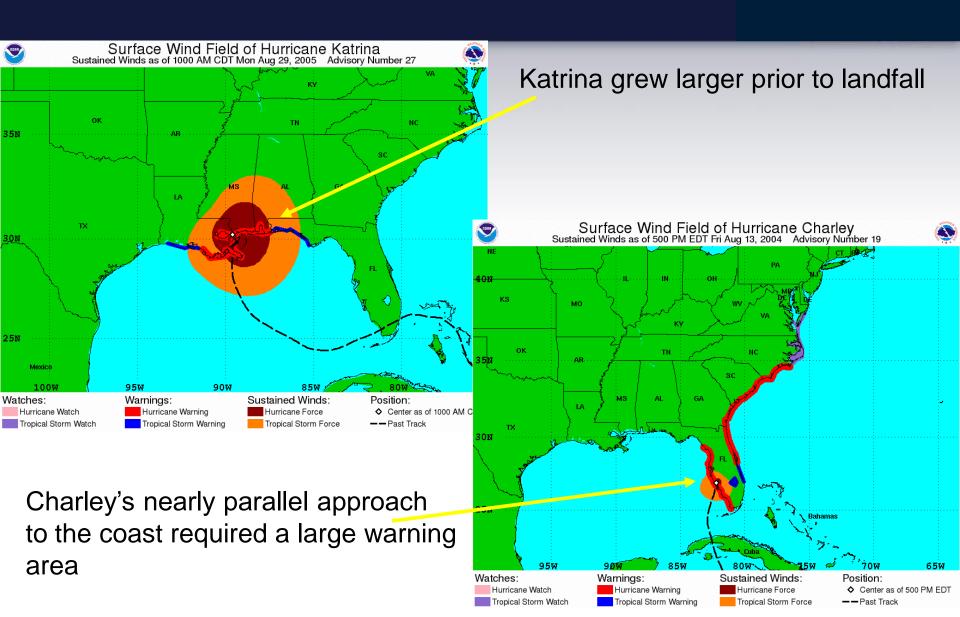
Warning Size is based on:

- Forecast Track
- Storm Size
- Known uncertainties in the forecasts

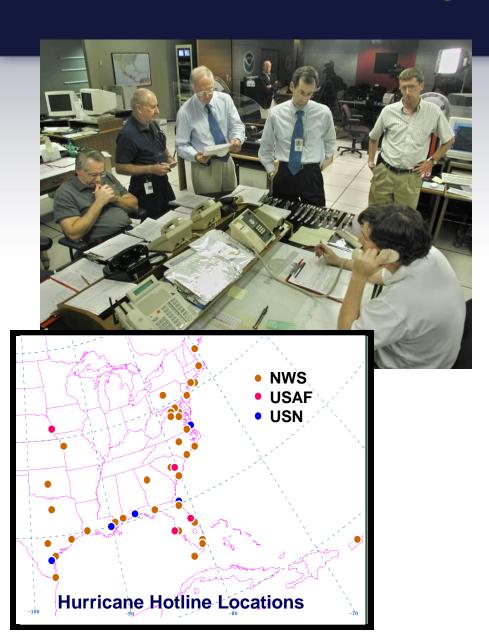
(AVERAGE 24-HOUR FORECAST ERROR IS NOW ~60 MILES)

 Orientation of the forecast track with respect to the coast plays a major role in the size of the warning area

Issuing Warnings



Forecast Coordination



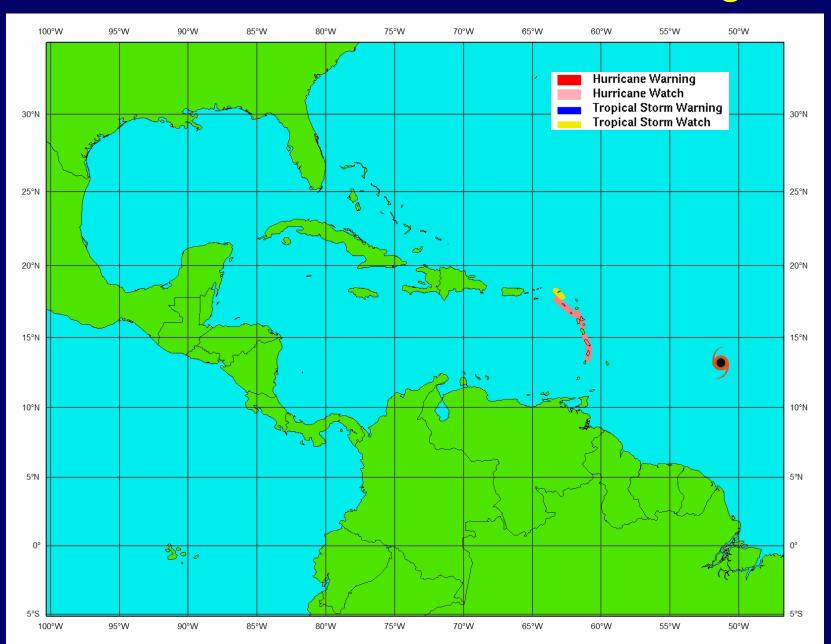
- Hurricane Hotline
 - Other NWS/NCEP National Centers (HPC, OPC, SPC)
 - Local NWS Offices
 - DOD
 - Other federal agencies

International Coordination

World MET. ORGANIZATION - Regional Association IV Coordination



Hurricane Dean watches and warnings



Forecast Process

- 1. Locate the cyclone center and determine the motion, intensity and size
- 2. Initialize and retrieve guidance models
- 3. Construct forecast of track, intensity, and wind radii
- 4. Coordinate Forecasts and Warnings
- 5. Prepare and transmit the advisory "package"

Cycle repeats every 6 hours!

NHC Tropical Cyclone Advisory Products



AT 11 AM...1500 UTC...THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA HAS ISSUED A

AT 1100 AM AST...1500Z...THE CENTER OF HURRICANE WARNING MEANS THAT

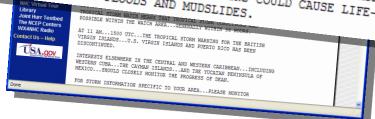
NEAR LATITUDE 15.7 NORTH...LONGITUDE 68.6 WEST OR ABOUT 565 MILES...

STORM TOTAL RAINFALL AMOUNTS OF 5 TO 10 INCHES CAN BE EXPECTED OVER

JAMAICA...WITH MAXIMUM AMOUNTS OF UP TO 20 INCHES. AMOUNTS OF 2 TO

AMOUNTS UP TO 6 INCHES POSSIBLE. ADDITIONAL RAIN ACCUMULATIONS OF 1

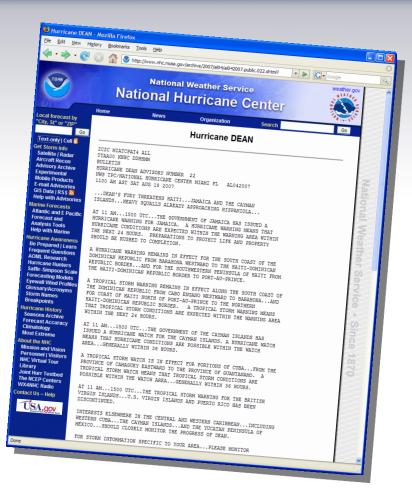
TOTAL AMOUNTS OF 5 INCHES. THESE RAINS COULD CAUSE LIFE-



Public Advisory

- plain-language text product originally intended for "rip and read".
- Headline or lead statement
- Watches and warnings
- Center location, motion, forecast
- Wind speed and forecast
- Storm surge/Rainfall/Tornadoes
- Recommended actions

NHC Tropical Cyclone Advisory Products



Intermediate Public Advisory

- Provides continuous flow of information
- Issued when watches or warnings are in effect
- Issued 3-hourly or 2-hourly if well-defined center within NWS radar range
- Not used to issued watches or warnings
- Content similar to routine public advisories

NHC Tropical Cyclone Advisory Products



ESTIMATED MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE 929 MB

EYE DIAMETER 10 NM

MAX SUSTAINED WINDS 130 KT WITH GUSTS TO 160 KT.

64 KT...... 50NE 30SE 30SW 50NW.

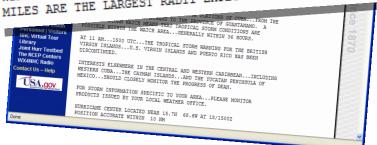
50 KT......100NE 60SE 50SW 100NW.

34 KT......180NE 120SE 100SW 180NW.

12 FT SEAS..375NE 210SE 75SW 375NW.

12 FT SEAS..375NE 210SE 75SW 375NW.

MINDS AND SEAS VARY GREATLY IN EACH QUADRANT. RADII IN NAUTICAL WINDS ARE THE LARGEST RADII EXPECTED ANYWHERE IN THAT QUADRANT.



Forecast Advisory

- Only source of all the forecast data
- Data is used in HURREVAC and other commercial tracking software
 - Watches and warnings
 - Center location, motion, minimum pressure and eye diameter
 - Forecast positions, intensity and wind radii

NHC Tropical Cyclone **Advisory Products**



FORECAST POSITIONS AND MAX WINDS

FORECASTER AVILA

INITIAL 12HR VT 24HR VT 36HR VT 48HR VT 72HR VT 96HR VT	18/1500Z 15.7N 19/0000Z 16.4N 19/1200Z 17.3N 20/0000Z 18.3N 20/1200Z 19.5N 21/1200Z 21.5N 22/1200Z 23.0N 23/1200Z 25.4N	81.4W 88.5W 94.0W 100.0W	100 KTINLAND	
Most Extreme About the NHC Mission and V	24HR VT 19/0000Z 16.4N	71.0W 130 KT		

50 KT...INLAND

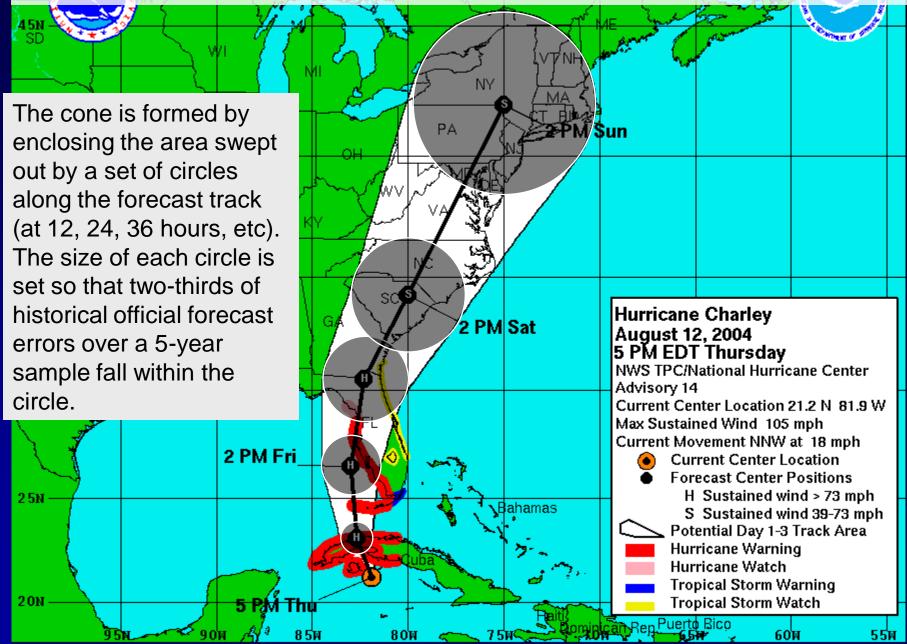
Quick Navigation Links: NHC Active Storms - Atlantic and E Pacific Marine - Storm Archives

20/1200Z 19.5N 81.4W 140 KT 21/1200Z 21.5N 88.5W 100 KT...INLAND 22/1200Z 23.0N 94.0W 110 KT 23/1200Z 25.4N 100.0W

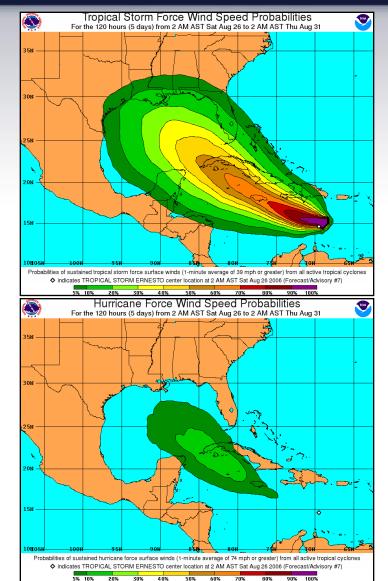
Forecast Discussion

- Free-form text product
- Provides the reasoning behind forecasts and warnings
- Discussion of relevant observations, model guidance, and the forecast uncertainties
- Includes table of track and intensity forecasts

Track Forecast/Cone Graphic



NHC Tropical Cyclone Advisory Products



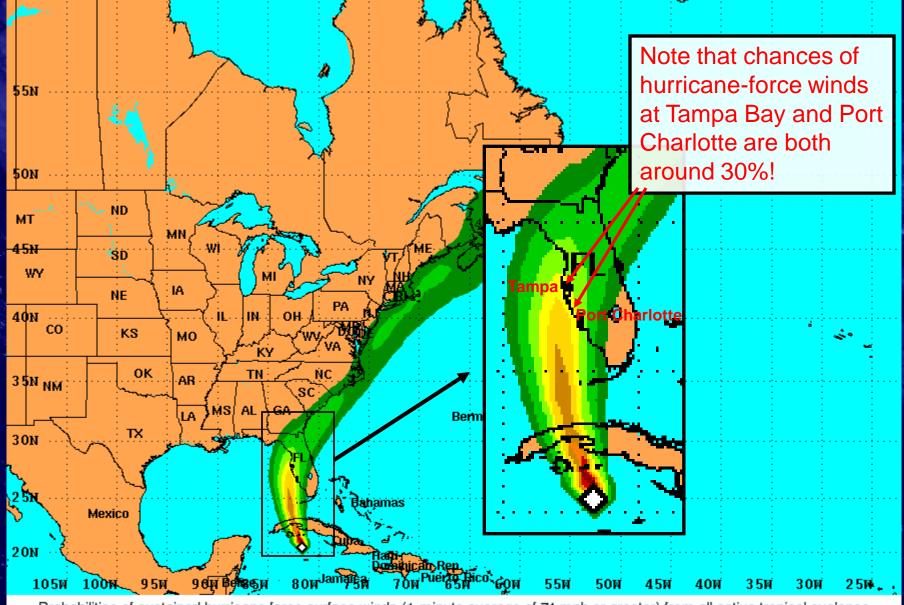
Wind Speed Probabilities

- Wind speed probabilities depict the chance and possible timing of 34-kt (tropical-storm force), 50-kt, and 64-kt (hurricane force) winds at any specific location during the five-day forecast period
- Accounts for combined uncertainty in track, intensity, and size
- Includes inland locations
- Designed to aid decision makers
- Graphics show cumulative probabilities to 5 days (120 h)



PRELIMINARY (SINGLE STORM) Hurricane Force Wind Speed Probabilities For the 120 hours (5 days) from 2 PM EDT Thu Aug 12 to 2 PM EDT Tue Aug 17





Probabilities of sustained hurricane force surface winds (1-minute average of 74 mph or greater) from all active tropical cyclones

indicates HURRICANE CHARLEY center location at 2 PM EDT Thu Aug 12 2004 (Forecast/Advisory #14)

5% 10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%

Interpretation of Text Output

Individual period probabilities (chance that winds of indicated speed will start during each period) are outside the parentheses

	FROM							
TIME	18Z FRI	06Z SAT	18Z SAT	06Z SUN	18Z SUN	18Z MON	18Z TUE	
PERIODS	TO							
	06Z SAT	18Z SAT	06Z SUN	18Z SUN	18Z MON	18Z TUE	18Z WED	
FORECAST HOUR	(12)	(24)	(36)	(48)	(72)	(96)	(120)	
LOCATION	KT							
	24 **				70/70	0,000	70(20)	
RALEIGH NC	34 X	X (X)	X(X)	2(2)	10(12)	8(20)	10(30)	
RALEIGH NC	50 X	X (X)	X(X)	X(X)	2(2)	3(5)	5(10)	
RALEIGH NC	64 X	X (X)	x(x)	x(x)	x(x)	2(2)	2(4)	
								
CAPE HATTERAS		X (X)	X(X)	1(1)	4(5)	3(8)	7(15)	
CAPE HATTERAS	5 50 X	x(x)	X(X)	x(x)	x(x)	1(1)	2(3)	
CHARLOTTE NC	34 X	x(x)	X (X)	3(3)	18(21)	12(33)	9(42)	
CHARLOTTE NC	50 X	x (x)	X (X)	X(X)	4(4)	6(10)	4(14)	
CHARLOTTE NC	64 X	X(X)	X(X)	X(X)	2(2)	2(4)	2(6)	



Interpretation of Text Output

Cumulative probabilities (chances that winds of indicated speed will occur between start of forecast and end of each period) are inside the parentheses

	-		-			01.6					-			
	FROM		FROM		FROM		FROM		FROM		FROM		FROM	
TIME	18Z	FRI	06Z	SAT	18Z	SAT	06Z	SUN	18Z	SUN	18Z	мои	18Z	TUE
PERIODS	7	O	T	O.	\mathbf{T}	o	r	O	7	ľO	Ţ	O	7	го
•	06Z	SAT	18Z	SAT	06Z	SUN	18Z	SUN	18Z	MON	18Z	TUE	18Z	WED
FORECAST HOUR		(12)) ((24)	(36)	(48)		(72)	((96)	(120)
				′			`						`-	
LOCATION	K	г												
200112 2011		-												
RALEIGH NC	34	1 x	X (X	х(X)	2 (2)	10	(12)	8 ((20)	10	(30)
RALEIGH NC	5(X (1	Х(X (2		3 ((10)
						_				•		- 1		-
RALEIGH NC	64	1 X	Х ((X)	Х(X)	Х (X)	X	(X)	2 ((2)	2	(4)
	_	_					_		_		_		_	
CAPE HATTERAS	34	1 X	Х ((X)	Х(1(4 (1	3 (1	7	(15)
CAPE HATTERAS	5 50) X	Х (X)	Х(X)	Х (X)	X ((X)	1((1)	2	(3)
CHARLOTTE NC	34	1 X	X ((X)	Х(X)	3 (3)	18	(21)	12((33)	9	(42)
CHARLOTTE NC	50) x	X ((X)	Х(X)	Х (X)	4 ((4)	6 ((10)	4	(14)
CHARLOTTE NC	64	1 x	X (х (X)	x (2	(2	2 (-		(6)
			'	لتتا	\	/	\	/		`		`		

Values in last column are same as shown on graphical products



Special Advisories

 Special advisory packages are issued when:

- Watches or warnings are required immediately
- Or when an unexpected significant change has occurred.



Tropical Cyclone Update

BULLETIN

TROPICAL STORM LORENZO TROPICAL CUCLONE UPDATE NUS TPC/NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL ALIBOOT THU SEP 27 2007

1250 PM CDT

DATA FROM A RECONNAISANCE PLANE INDICATE THAT THE TROPICAL DEPRESSION IN THE GULF OF MEXICO HAS BECOME TROPICAL STORM LORENZO AND WINDS HAVE INCREASED TO 60 MPH...95 HAVEN, A SPECIAL ADVISORY WILL BE ISSUED SHORTLY AND WILL REPLACE THE I PM CDT INTERMEDIATE ADVISORY.

FORECRITER RYILA

This product is issued when unexpected changes occur in the cyclone or to issue international watches and warnings.



Tropical Cyclone Position Estimate

HURRICATE CHARLES POSITION ESTIMATE

NUS TPC/NATIONAL HURRICATE CENTER MIAMI FL

4 PM EDT FRI AUG 13 2004

17 Y PM EDT....2000Z...THE EYE OF HURRICAME CHARLEY WAS ESTIMATED 10 MEST NORTH...LONGITUDE 82.2 WEST OR ABOUT 20 MILES 11 WEST NORTHWEST OF FORT MYERS FLORIDA. THIS POSITION IS ALSO MEAR LA 12 COSTA ISLAND BETWEEN CAPTIVA AND BOCA GRANDE.

FORECRITER LAMBENCE/BROMU

This product is issued between 2-hourly intermediate advisories.



Special Tropical Disturbance Statement

SPECIAL TROPICAL DISTURBANCE STATEMENT NWS TPC/NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL 845 AM EDT FRI SEP O7 2007

INTELLITE IMPOSES INDICATE THAT THE AREA OF LOW PRESSURE LOCATED BETWEEN BERMUDA AND THE SOUTHERST U.S. COAST HAS BECOME BETTER ORGANIZED OVERNIGHT. UPPER LEVEL WINDS ARE BECOMING MORE FAVORABLE FOR ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT...AND A TROPICAL DEPRESSION COULD FORM LATER TODAY. AN AIR FORCE RESERVE HURRICANE HUNTER AIRCRAFT IS SCHEDULED TO INVESTIGATE THIS SYSTEM THIS AFTERNOON, THE LOW IS FORECAST TO MOVE GENERALLY WESTWARD OR NORTHWESTWARD DURING THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS...AND INTERESTS ALONG THE EAST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CLOSELY MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF THIS SYSTEM.

II FORECAITER HARBB

This product is issued as needed to provide information on systems that are not officially tropical cyclones.



Tropical Weather Outlook

TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK

NWS TPC/NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL

1130 AM EDT TUE AUG 14 2007

FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC... CARIBBEAN SEA AND THE GULF OF MEXICO...

THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER IS ISSUING ADVISORIES ON RECENTLY UPGRADED TROPICAL STORM DEAN...LOCATED ABOUT 1490 MILES EAST OF THE LESSER ANTILLES.

INTELLITE IMAGES AND SURFACE DATA INDICATE THAT THE AREA OF LOW PRESSURE IN THE SOUTH CENTRAL GULF OF MEXICO IS GRADUALLY BECOMING BETTER ORGANIZED AND A TROPICAL DEPRESSION COULD BE FORMING. A RECONTAINS AND SERVED TO CHECK THE AREA THIS AFTERNOON THIS SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO MOVE TOWARD THE WEST-NORTHWEST OR NORTHWEST AT IO TO 15 MPH, ALL INTERESTS IN THE NORTHWESTERN GULF OF MEXICO...INCLUDING THE SOUTHERN TEXAS AND NORTHERSTERN MEXICO COASTAL AREA AND TEXAS AND THE PROGRESS OF THIS SYSTEM...AND BE READY TO TAKE ACTIONS. TROPICAL STORM WATCHES OR WARRINGS COULD BE PROMPTLY REQUIRED FOR A PORTION OF THE COAST.

ELSEWHERE...TROPICAL CUCLORE FORMATION IS NOT EXPECTED DURING THE NEXT 48 HOURS.

II FORECRITER RYILA

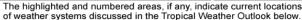
This product is routinely issued four times per day.



The Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

- A visual companion product to the text Tropical Weather Outlook
- A web-based graphic superimposed on the most recently available geostationary satellite mosaic of the GOES-East, GOES-West, and Meteosat 9 satellites
- Indicates the <u>current</u> locations of areas of disturbed weather discussed in the TWO by encircling them. No indication of motion or forecast
- Active tropical cyclones are also shown on the Graphical TWO with a cyclone symbol







The highlighted and numbered areas, if any, indicate current locations of weather systems discussed in the Tropical Weather Outlook below.

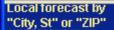
GTWO Changes for 2008

- Move the issuance times of the operational text Tropical Weather Outlook (TWO) and the experimental graphical TWO for both the Atlantic and East Pacific basins to synoptic time.
- 2. Increase the availability of the graphical TWO from two to four times daily.
- 3. Include 3-tiered categorical genesis forecasts (color-coding) in the experimental graphical TWO.
 - -Low-probability of genesis → less than 20%
 - -Medium-probability of genesis → between 20-50%
 - -High-probability of genesis → greater than 50%



Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

weather.gov



Go

Text-only version

Get Storm Info Satellite | Radar

Aircraft Recon
Advisory Archive
Experimental
Mobile Products
E-mail Advisories
GIS Data | RSS N
Help with Advisories

Marine Forecasts

Atlantic and E Pacific Forecast and Analysis Tools Help with Marine

Hurricane Awareness

Be Prepared | Learn Frequent Questions AOML Research Hurricane Hunters Saffir-Simpson Scale Forecasting Models Eyewall Wind Profiles Glossary/Acronyms Storm Names Breakpoints

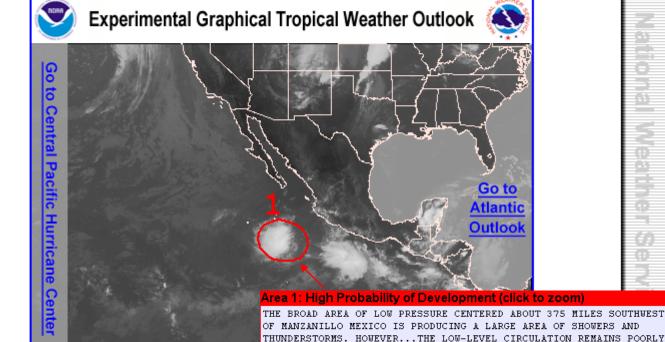
Hurricane History

Seasons Archive Forecast Accuracy Climatology Most Extreme

About the NHC Mission and Vision

Example 2 Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

Place your mouse cursor over areas of interest for more information



800 PM PDT SUN OCT 14 2007

Low < 20%

Color indicates probability of trop DEVELOPMENT OVER THE NEXT DAY OR SO...AND ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THIS SYSTEM WOULD RESULT IN THE FORMATION OF A OUTlined areas denote current personal depression.

Medium 20-50%

High >50%

DEFINED AND DISPLACED EAST OF STRONGEST SHOWER AND THUNDERSTORM

ACTIVITY. CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BECOME MORE FAVORABLE FOR

The highlighted and numbered areas, if any, indicate current locations of weather systems discussed in the Tropical Weather Outlook below.

WX4NHC Radio Contact Us – Help TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK NWS TPC/NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL 200 PM EDT THU OCT 11 2007

Comments or Questions

