



TROPICAL UPDATE



5:00 PM EDT

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Tropical Storm Zeta

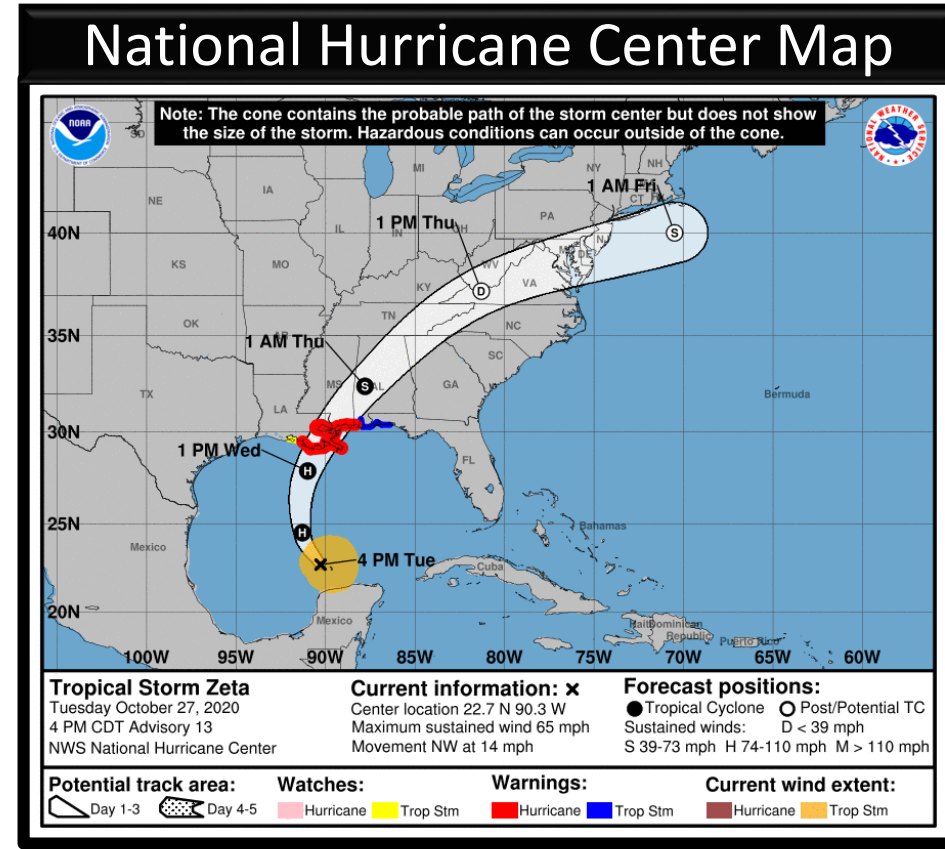
This update is intended for government and emergency response officials, and is provided for informational and situational awareness purposes only. Forecast conditions are subject to change based on a variety of environmental factors. For additional information, or for any life safety concerns with an active weather event please contact your County Emergency Management or Public Safety Office, local National Weather Service forecast office, or visit the National Hurricane Center website at www.hurricanes.gov.



Tropical Storm Zeta

5 PM ET Tuesday: Florida Threats & Changes Since Last Packet

	MINIMAL	Low	MODERATE	HIGH	EXTREME
WINDS					
STORM SURGE					
FLASH FLOODING					
TORNADOES					
	Low	MODERATE		HIGH	
RIP CURRENTS					



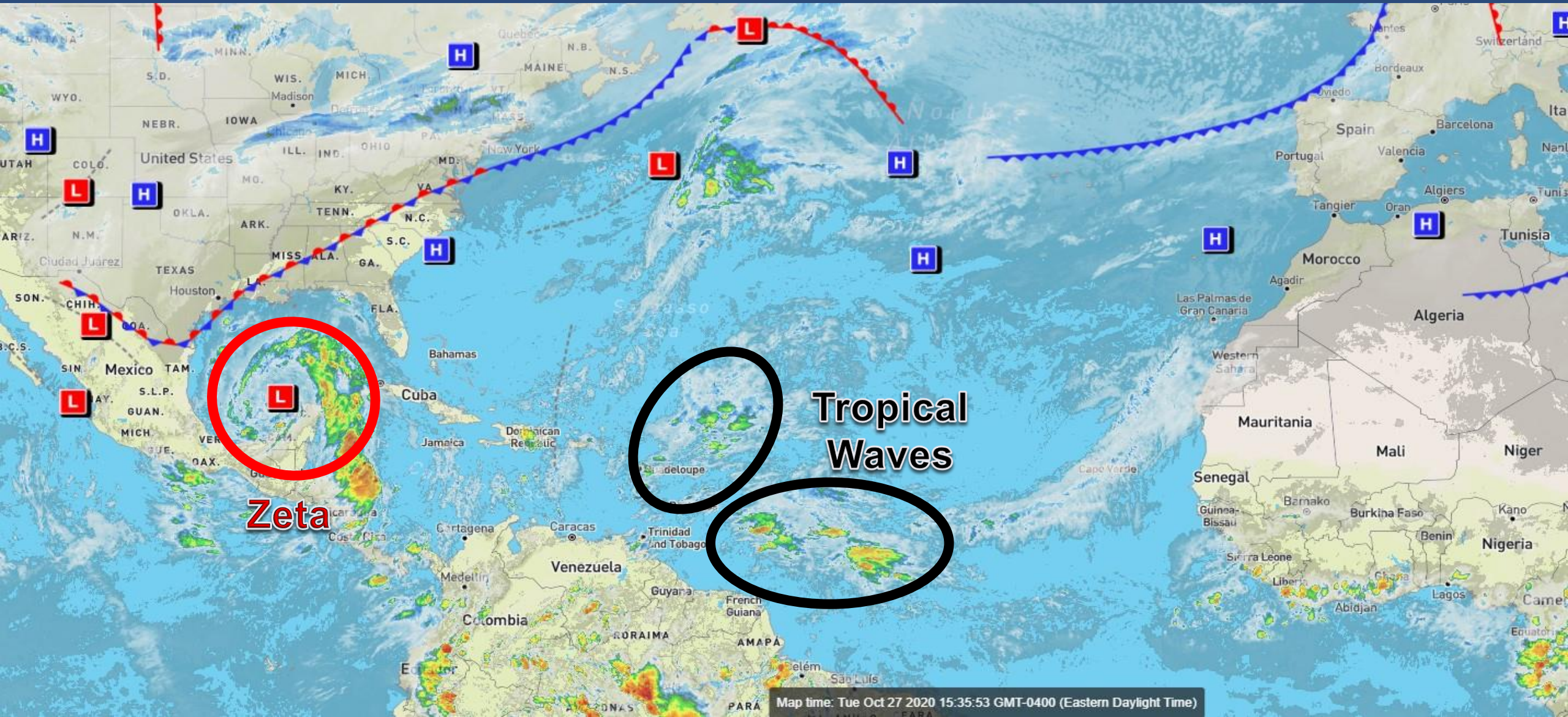
Overview/Recent Changes:

Zeta has moved back over the Gulf of Mexico and is in the process of re-organizing. There has been no change in the forecast track or to the watches and warnings. Impacts will still extend well east of the center into the Panhandle Wednesday night.



Atlantic Basin Satellite Image

Chance of development: — None — Low — Medium — High



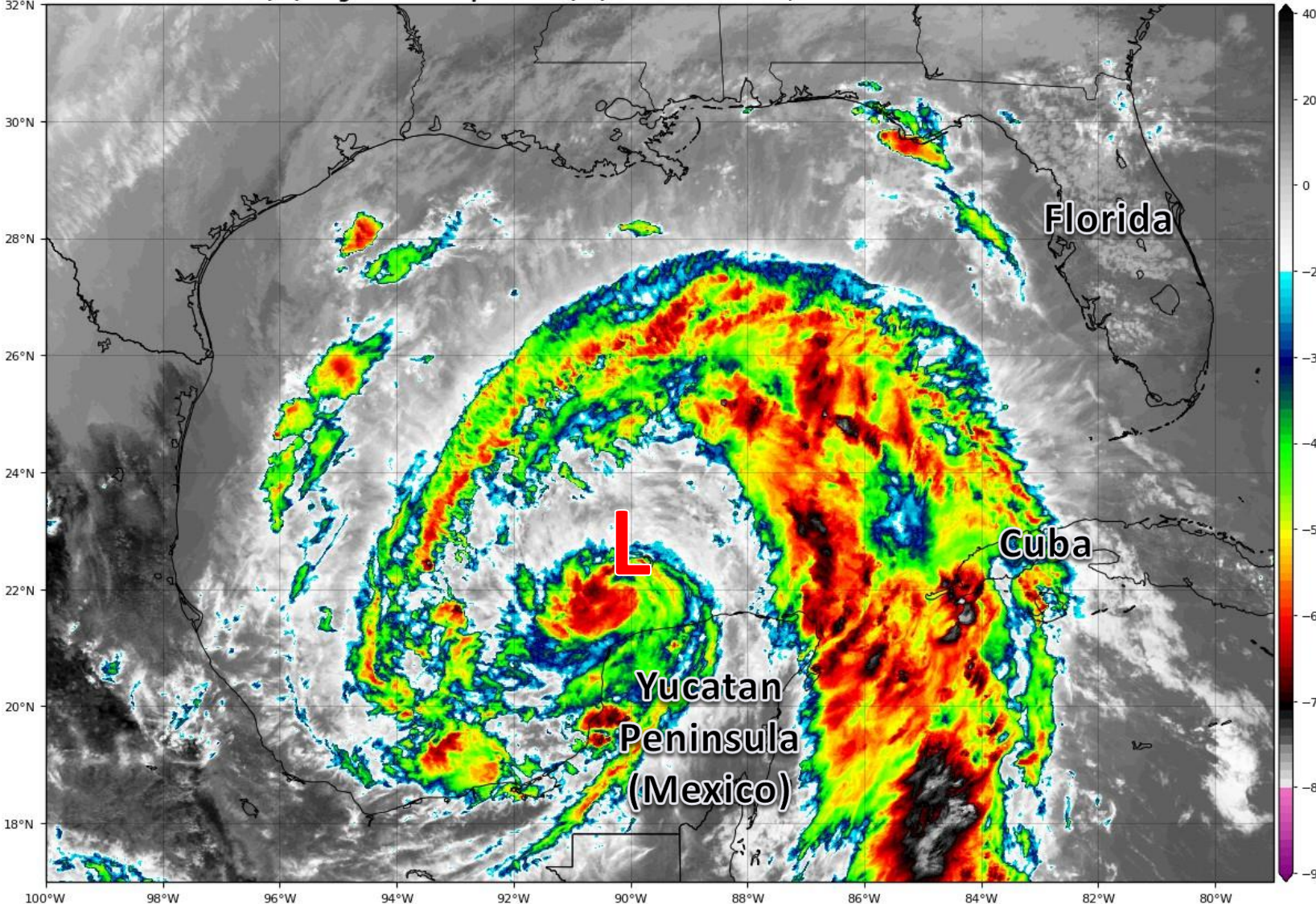


Satellite Imagery

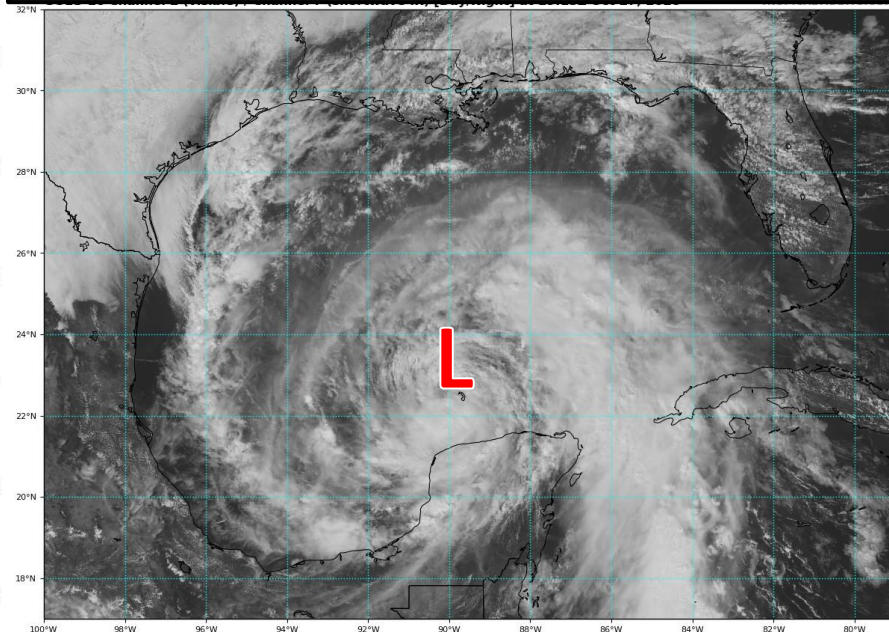
Tropical Storm Zeta – Gulf of Mexico

GOES-16 Channel 13 (IR) Brightness Temperature (°C) at 19:15Z Oct 27, 2020

TROPICALTIDBITS.COM



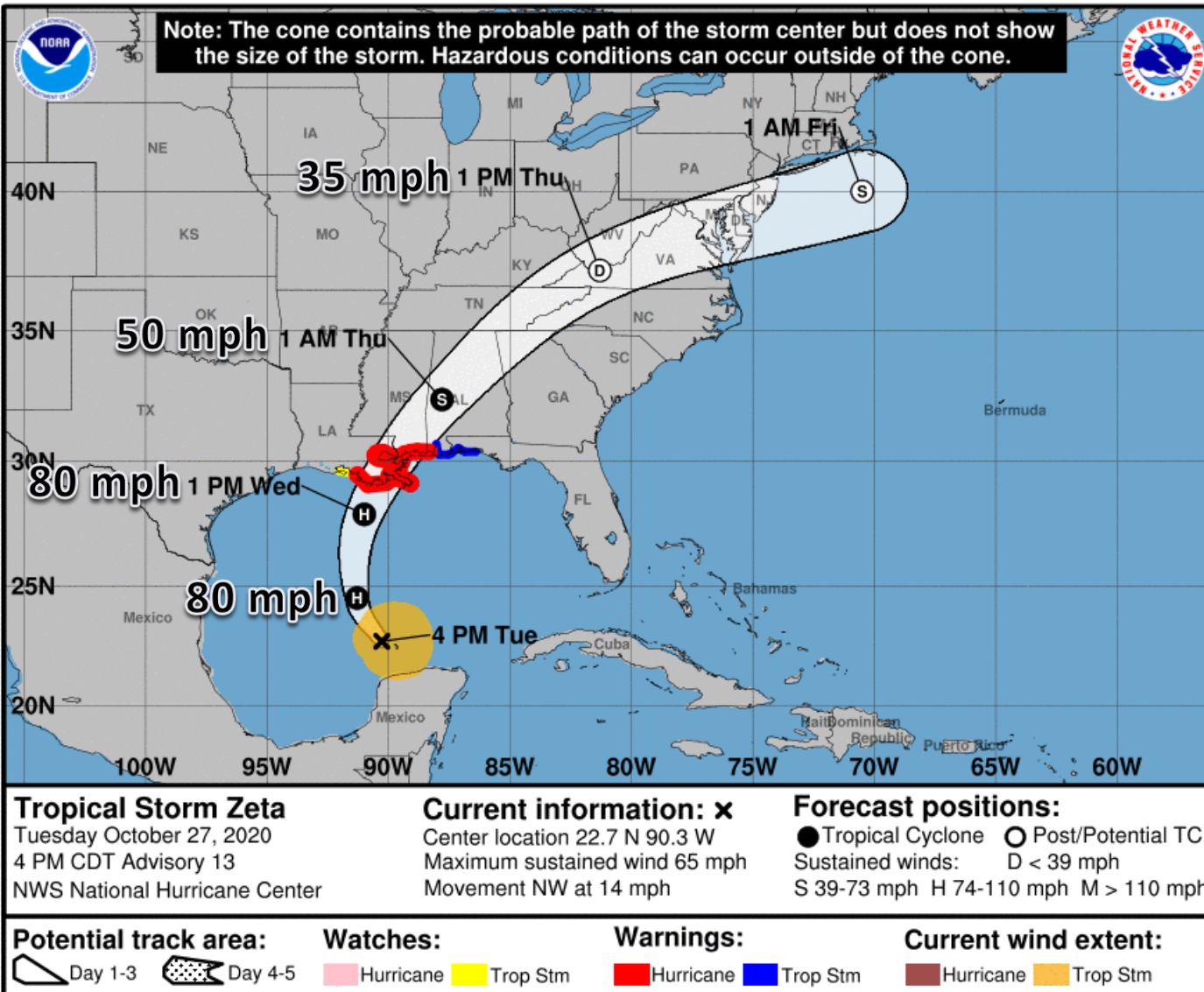
Zeta is in the process of reorganizing after moving across the Yucatan Peninsula. It has grown in size today with showers and thunderstorms extending well east of the center of circulation. Some dry air may have wrapped into the center. Regardless, gradual strengthening is likely tonight.





Official Forecast Track

From the National Hurricane Center – Tropical Storm Zeta



- The center is located over the Yucatan Peninsula, or about 500 miles southwest of Pensacola, Florida. Zeta is moving to the northwest at 14 mph.
- A turn towards the north and northeast is forecast on tonight and Wednesday as a cold front moves into the south and accelerates Zeta towards the Gulf Coast.
- Zeta has maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (tropical storm). However, Zeta appears to be strengthening again and the environment remains favorable overnight.
- Zeta is forecast to be a category 1 hurricane at landfall in southeast Louisiana and Mississippi.



Damaging Wind Threat Overview

Tropical Storm Zeta

The greatest wind threat will be in the western Panhandle, where wind gusts of 60-70 mph may occur Wednesday night. Sustained winds of 40-50 mph are possible.

Gusts to tropical storm force (40-50 mph) remain possible in the eastern Panhandle to the Apalachicola River, particularly in any rain bands that move through late Wednesday night and early Thursday morning.

[https://www.weather.gov/srh/tropical?
office=mob](https://www.weather.gov/srh/tropical?office=mob)

Click on "Threats and Impacts" Tab



[\[Download KML\]](#)

[\[Download Image\]](#)

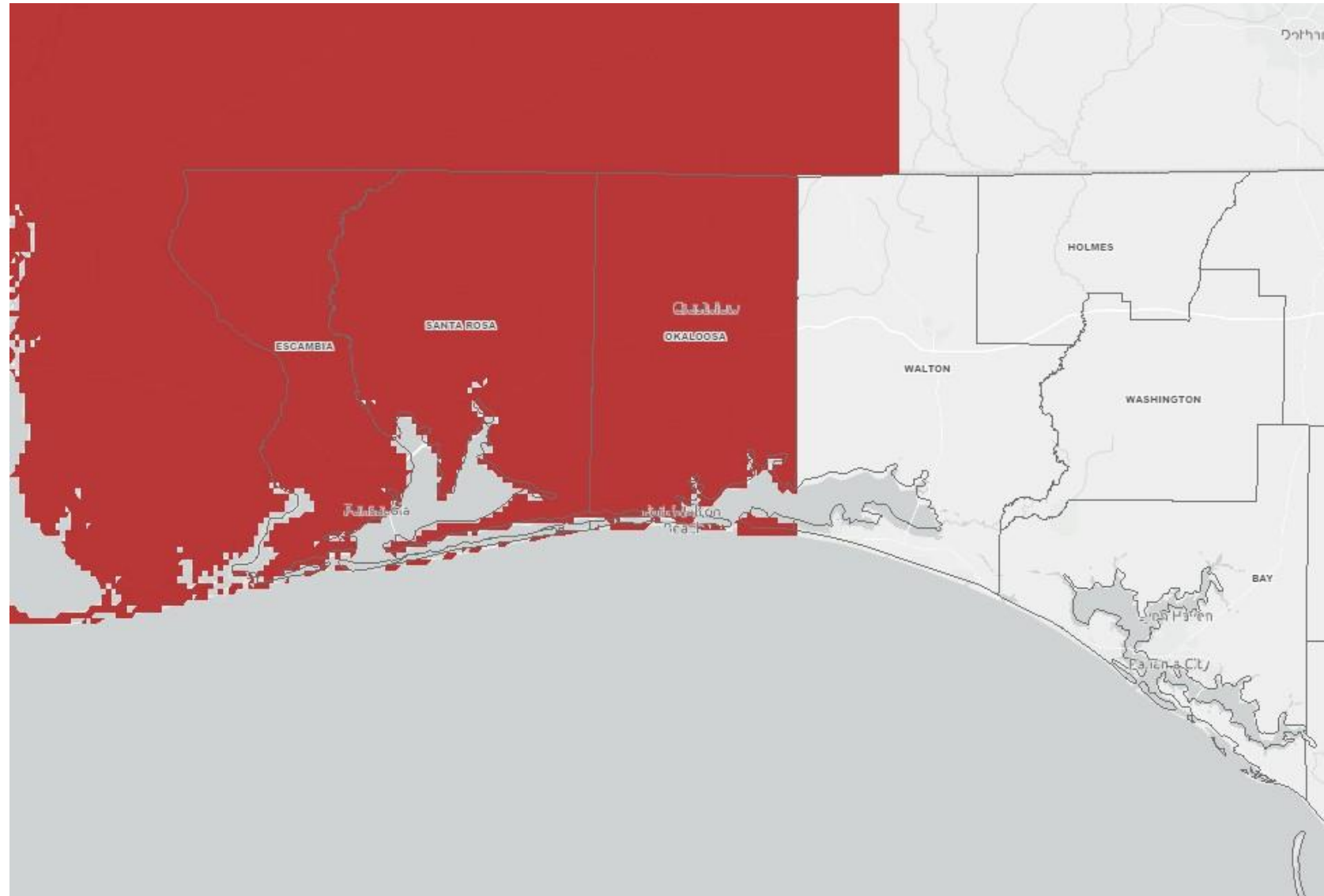
Wind Threat
Potential for wind greater than 110 mph
Potential for wind 74 to 110 mph
Potential for wind 58 to 73 mph
Potential for wind 39 to 57 mph
Wind less than 39 mph



Wind Watches and Warnings

In Effect Until Further Notice

Tropical Storm Warnings are in effect for coastal and inland portions of Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa County.



Tropical Storm & Hurricanes

Watches Versus Warnings

WATCH

Tropical storm and/or hurricane conditions are **POSSIBLE** in Watch area

Issued up to 48 hours in advance of tropical storm force winds

WARNING

Tropical storm and/or hurricane conditions are **EXPECTED** in Warning area

Issued up to 36 hours in advance of onset of tropical storm force winds

Hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force. **Watches & Warnings are issued in advance of onset of tropical storm force winds, 39-73mph**



NWSMobile



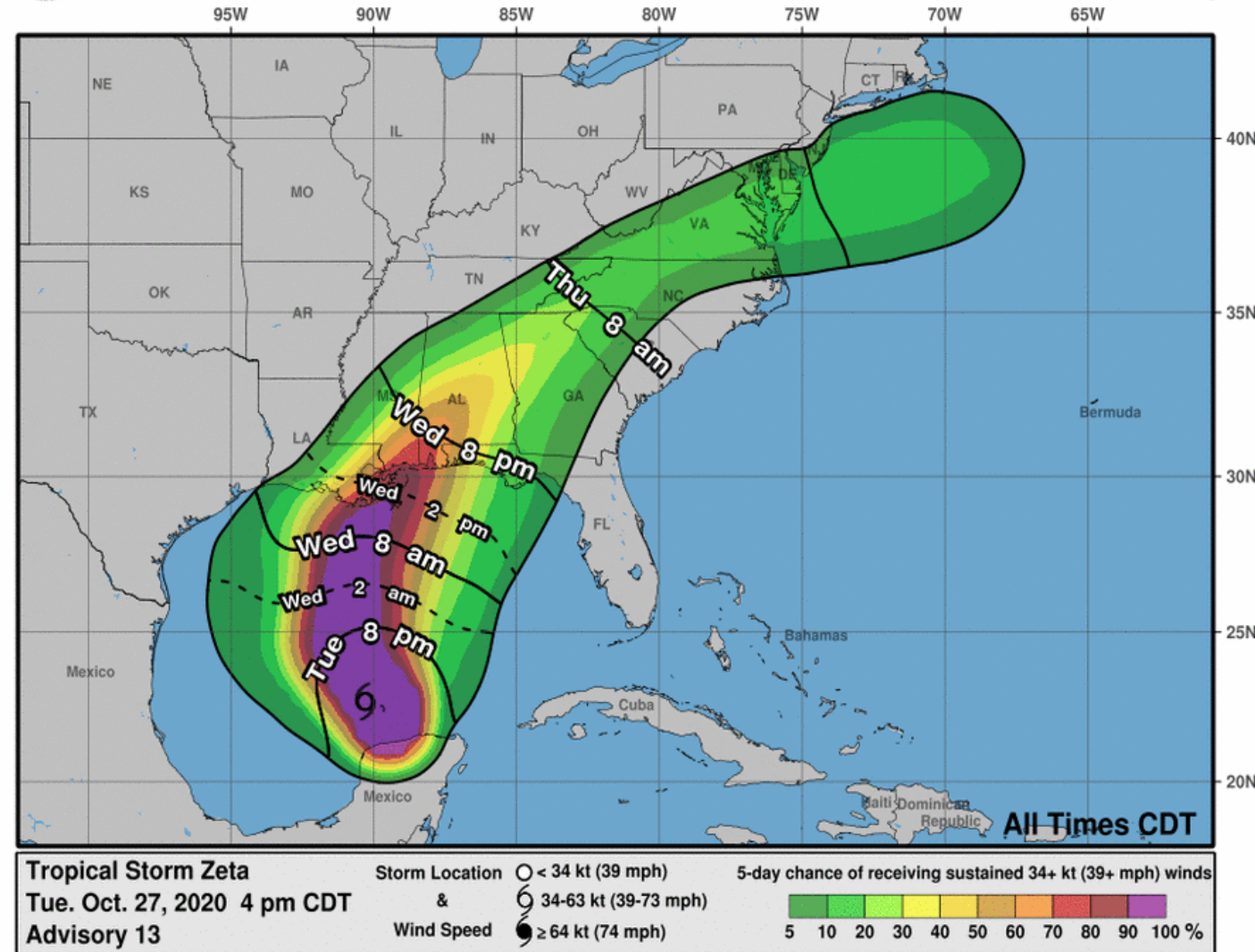
weather.gov/mob



Time of Arrival & Wind Speed Probabilities

MOST LIKELY Time of Arrival of Tropical Storm Force Winds (>39 mph)

Most Likely Arrival Time of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds



Pensacola NAS: 55% (-8)

Pensacola: 52% (-8)

Milton: 49% (-10)

Destin: 36% (-11)

Panama City: 19% (-8)

Apalachicola: 13% (-5)

Tallahassee: 10% (-7)

Numbers in Parentheses are changes in probabilities since the last packet

Tropical storm force winds could begin Wednesday afternoon along the coast, but would most likely begin in the evening and overnight.

The odds of tropical storm force winds decreased, but still remain significant in the western Panhandle.



Surge Watches and Warnings

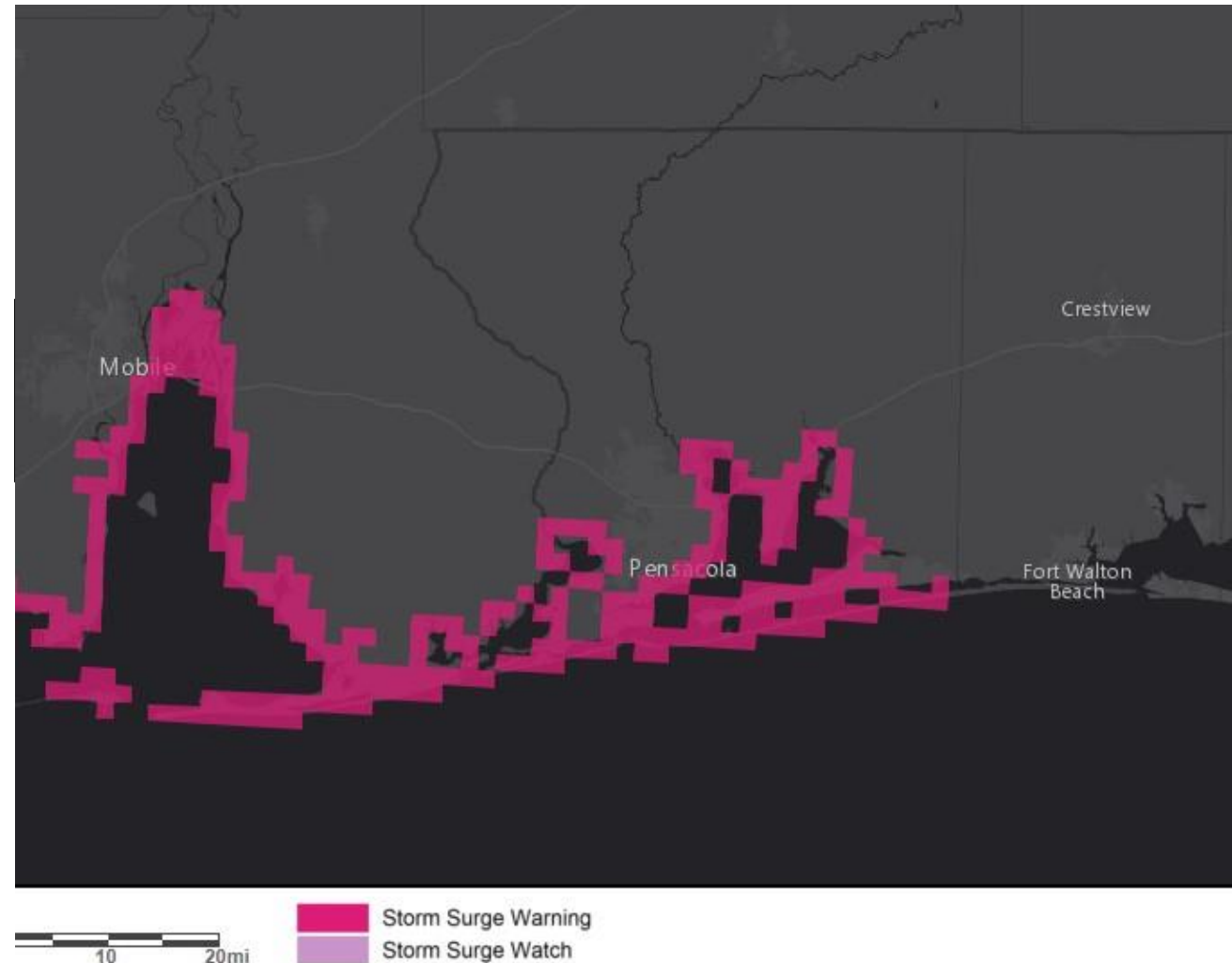
In Effect Until Further Notice

Storm Surge Warnings are in effect from the **Alabama/Florida line eastward to Navarre Beach**, including Perdido Bay, Pensacola Bay, and Santa Rosa Sound.

This includes Escambia County and most of Santa Rosa County.

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics_at3+shtml/204401.shtml?wsurge#contents

Interactive Watch/Warning Map



Storm Surge Warning

There is a **danger of life-threatening inundation** from rising water moving inland from the shoreline generally **within 36 hours**.

Promptly follow evacuation and other instructions from local officials.

Storm Surge Watch

There is a **possibility of life-threatening inundation** from rising water moving inland from the shoreline generally **within 48 hours**.

Promptly follow evacuation and other instructions from local officials.





Storm Surge/Coastal Flooding

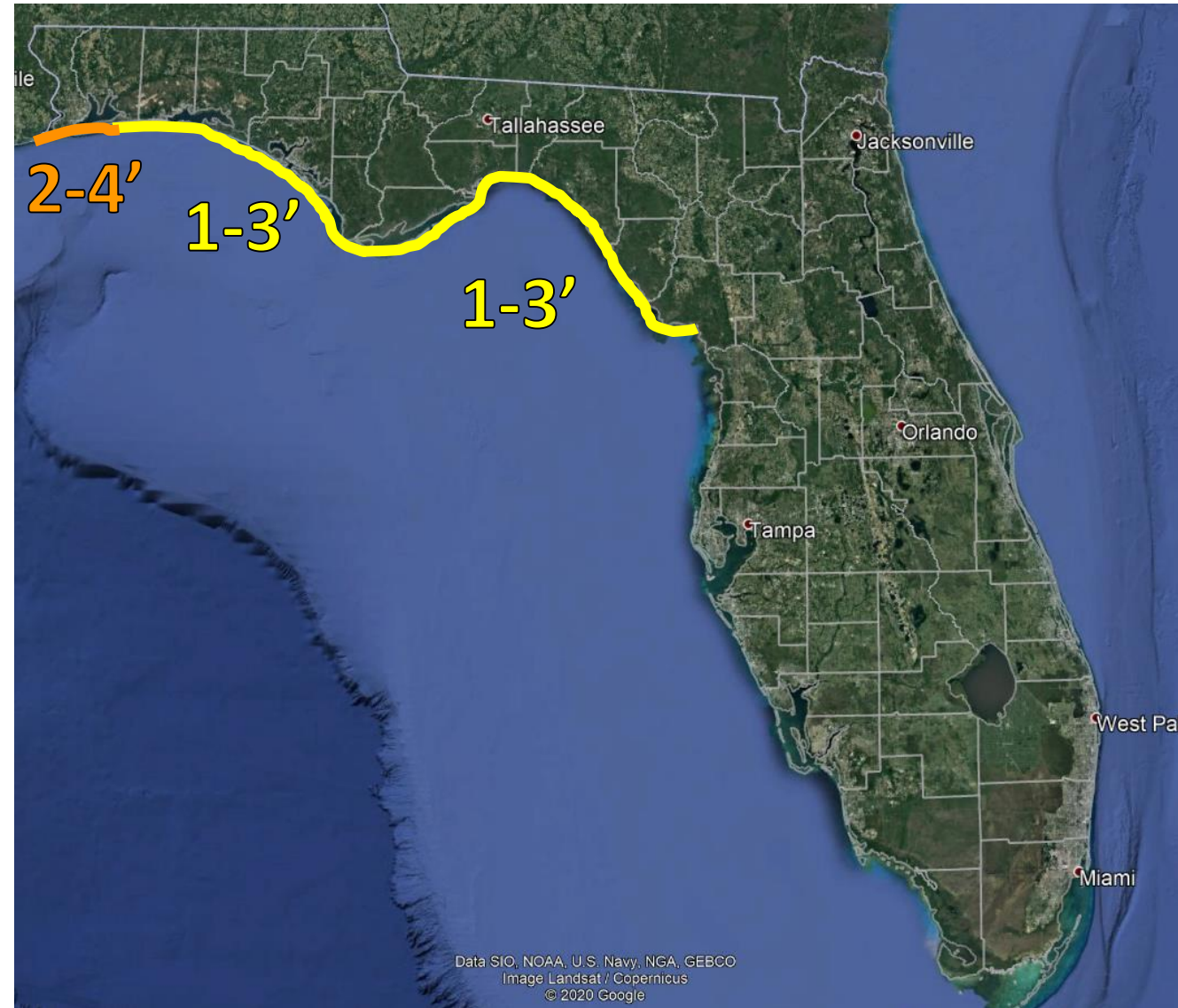
Wednesday – Tropical Storm Zeta

Onshore winds associated with Zeta will result in some minor coastal flooding along the Panhandle, particularly at high tide Wednesday and Wednesday night.

Water levels will remain elevated on Thursday as they gradually return to normal.

Moderate flood stage at Pensacola can't be ruled out.

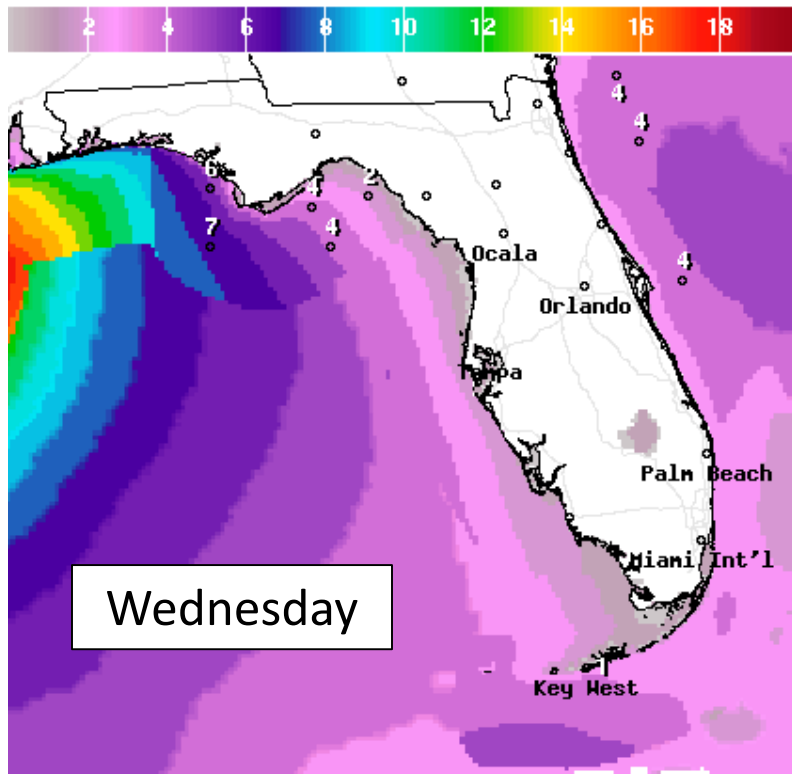
2-4' of storm surge is possible in the western Panhandle, including Pensacola Bay with 1-3' further east into Apalachee Bay.





Forecast Wave Heights

Early This Week



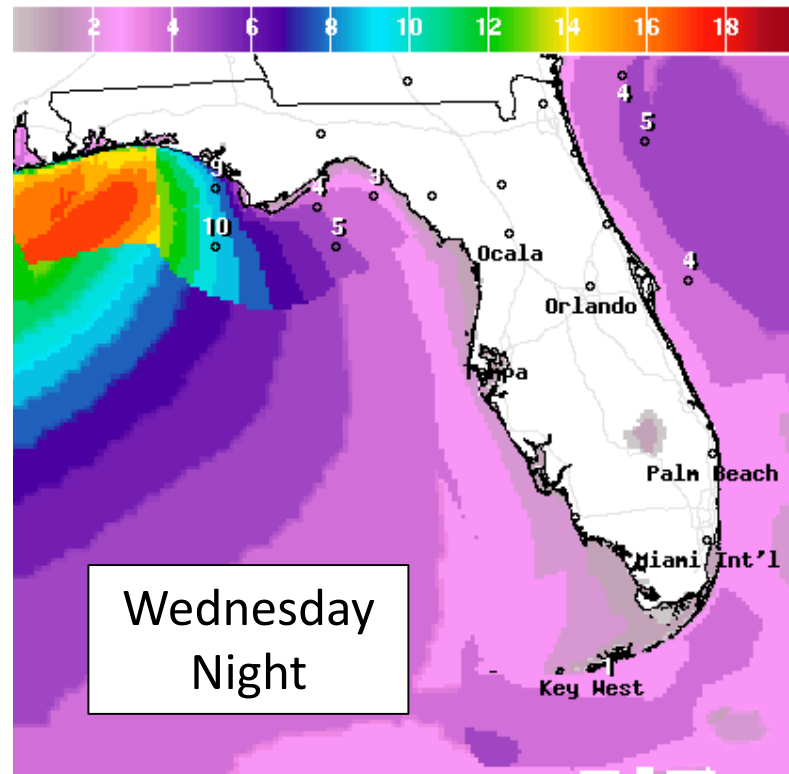
Wednesday

Wave Height(ft) Ending Wed Oct 28 2020 8PM EDT
(Thu Oct 29 2020 00Z)



National Digital Forecast Database

18z issuance Graphic created-Oct 27 3:03PM EDT



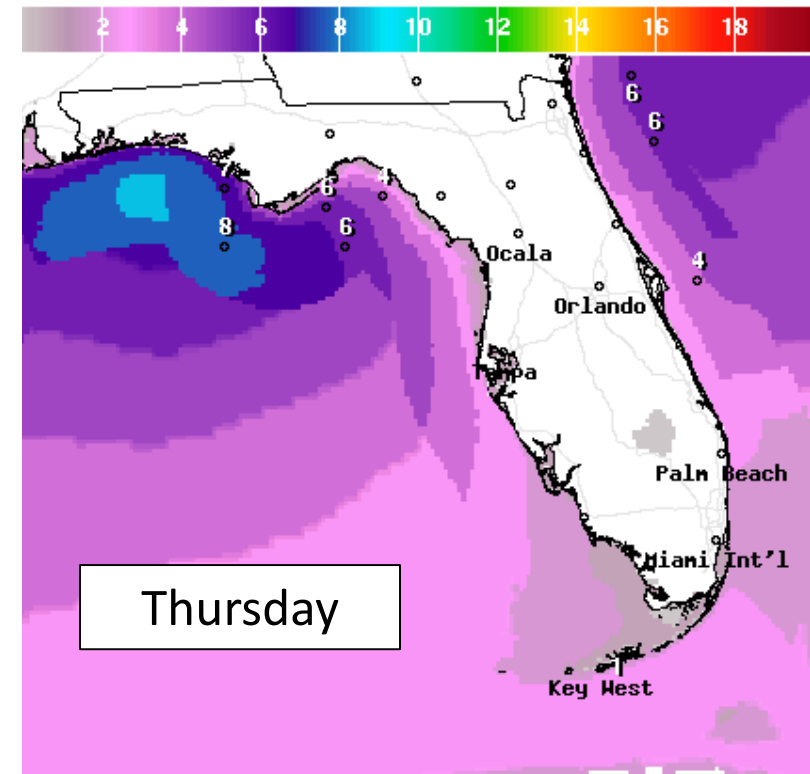
Wednesday
Night

Wave Height(ft) Ending Thu Oct 29 2020 2AM EDT
(Thu Oct 29 2020 06Z)



National Digital Forecast Database

18z issuance Graphic created-Oct 27 3:04PM EDT



Thursday

Wave Height(ft) Ending Thu Oct 29 2020 2PM EDT
(Thu Oct 29 2020 18Z)



National Digital Forecast Database

18z issuance Graphic created-Oct 27 3:04PM EDT



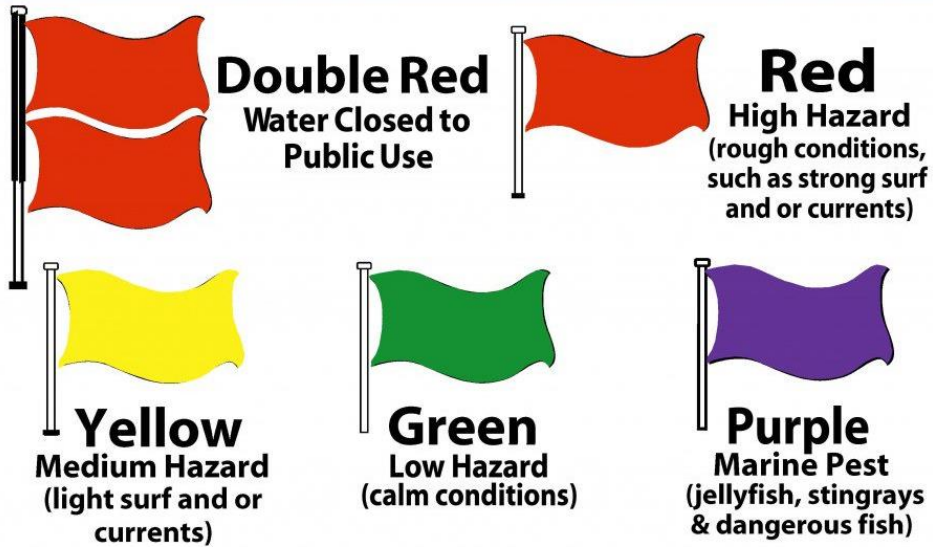
Wave heights will gradually build along the Panhandle. Wave heights will peak at 10-15' Wednesday night, in the western Panhandle and 8-12' further east. Beach erosion with a few spots of more significant erosion/overwash is possible in the western Panhandle, especially in areas with damaged dune lines from Sally.



Rip Current Outlook

Today

BEACH FLAG WARNING SYSTEM



Long period swells from Epsilon will keep the rip current risk elevated at Atlantic beaches. The rip current risk along the Gulf Coast will increase with a high rip current risk expected at all Panhandle beaches at least through Thursday.





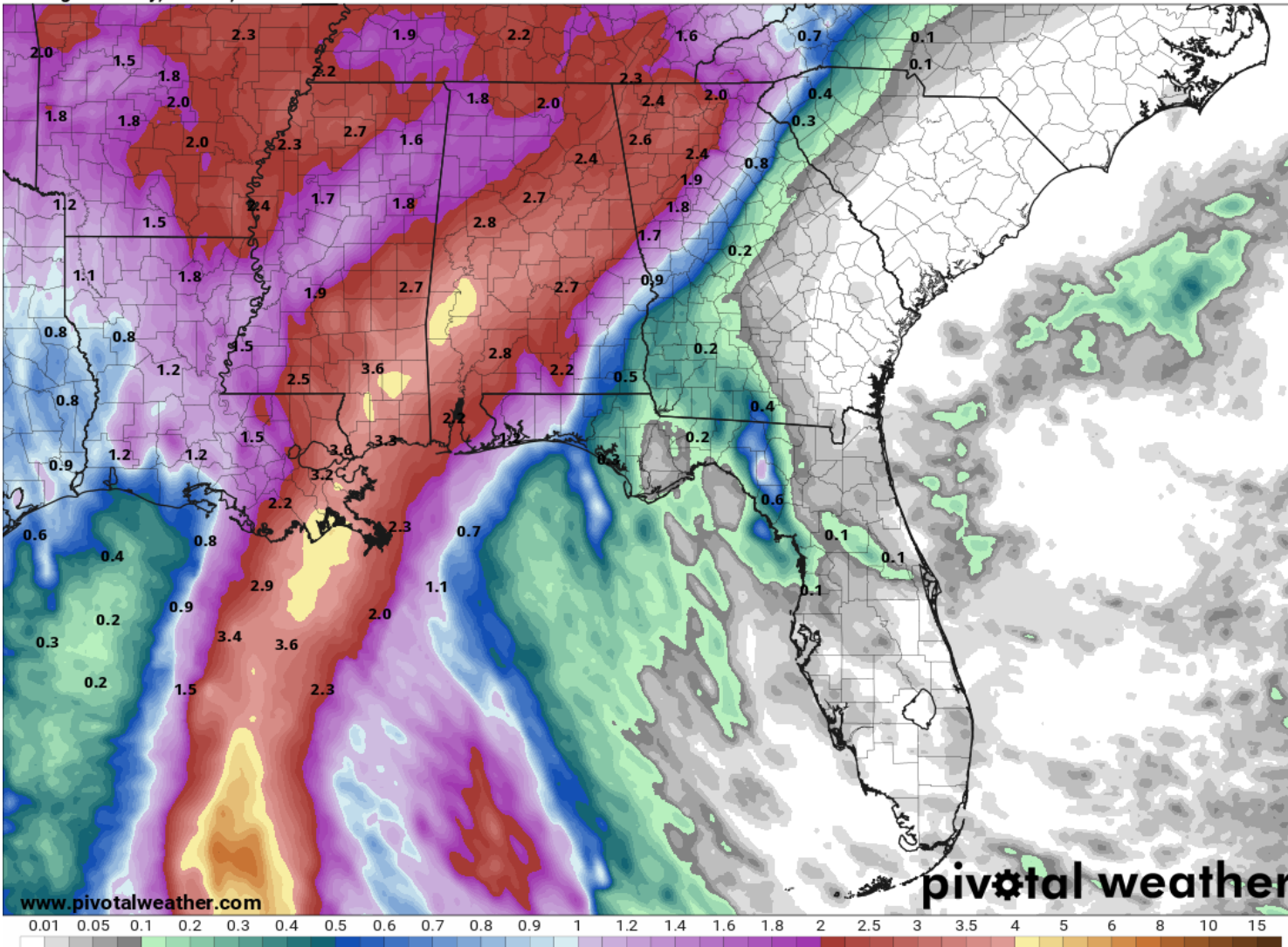
Rainfall Totals Next 48 Hours

Ending 8 AM ET Thursday

48-Hour Precipitation (in)

Ending Thursday, Oct. 29, 2020 at 8 a.m. EDT

Init: Tue 2020-10-27 12z WPC



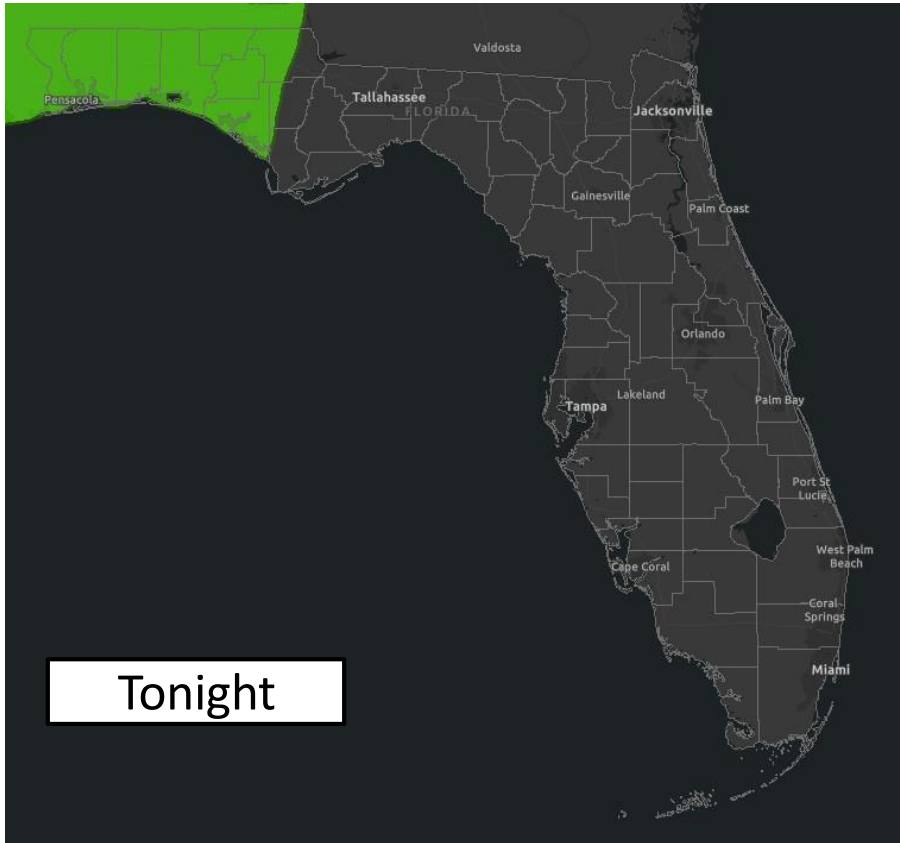
Zeta will be moving quick limiting the flash flood risk. 1-3" of rain is currently expected across the Panhandle through Wednesday night, with locally higher amounts of 4-6".

There are no flash flood watches at this time.

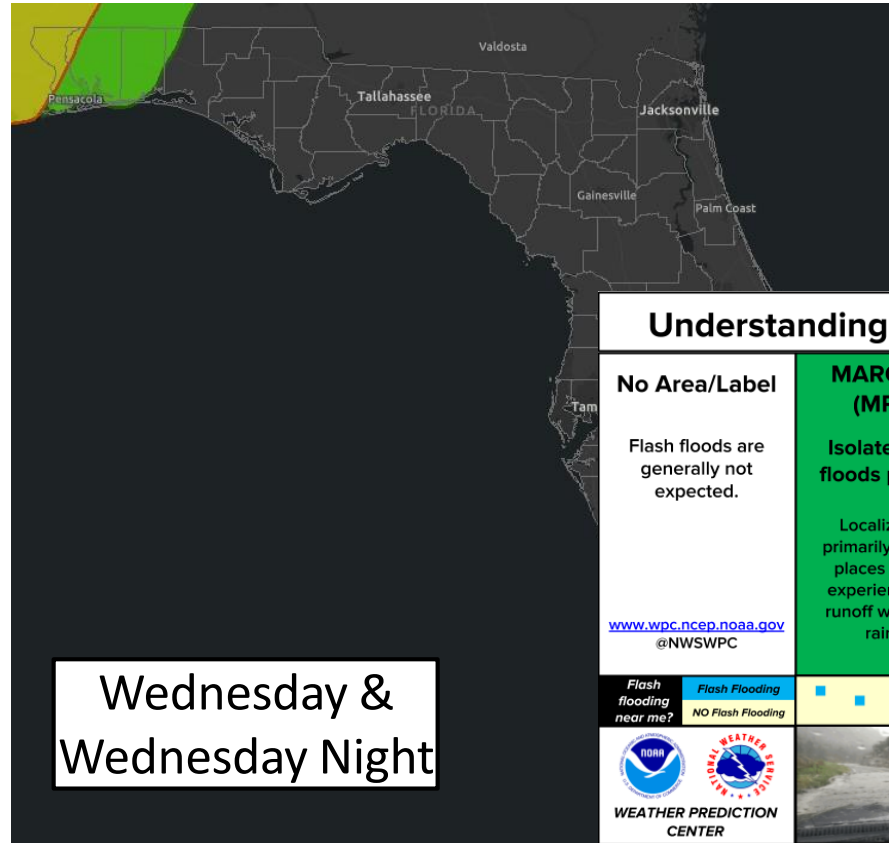


Flash Flood Outlooks

From the Weather Prediction Center



Tonight



Wednesday &
Wednesday Night

Understanding WPC Excessive Rainfall Risk Categories

No Area/Label

Flash floods are generally not expected.

[@NWSWPC](http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

MARGINAL (MRGL)

Isolated flash floods possible

Localized and primarily affecting places that can experience rapid runoff with heavy rainfall.

SLIGHT (SLGT)

Scattered flash floods possible

Mainly localized. Most vulnerable are urban areas, roads, small streams and washes. Isolated significant flash floods possible.

MODERATE (MDT)

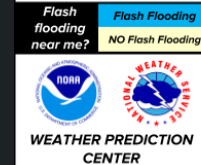
Numerous flash floods likely

Numerous flash flooding events with significant events possible. Many streams may flood, potentially affecting larger rivers.

HIGH (HIGH)

Widespread flash floods expected

Severe, widespread flash flooding. Areas that don't normally experience flash flooding, could. Lives and property in greater danger.



Risk of rainfall exceeding flash flood guidance within 25 miles of a point to the right of a line

HIGH: > 50%

SLGT: 10%-20%

MDT: 20%-50%

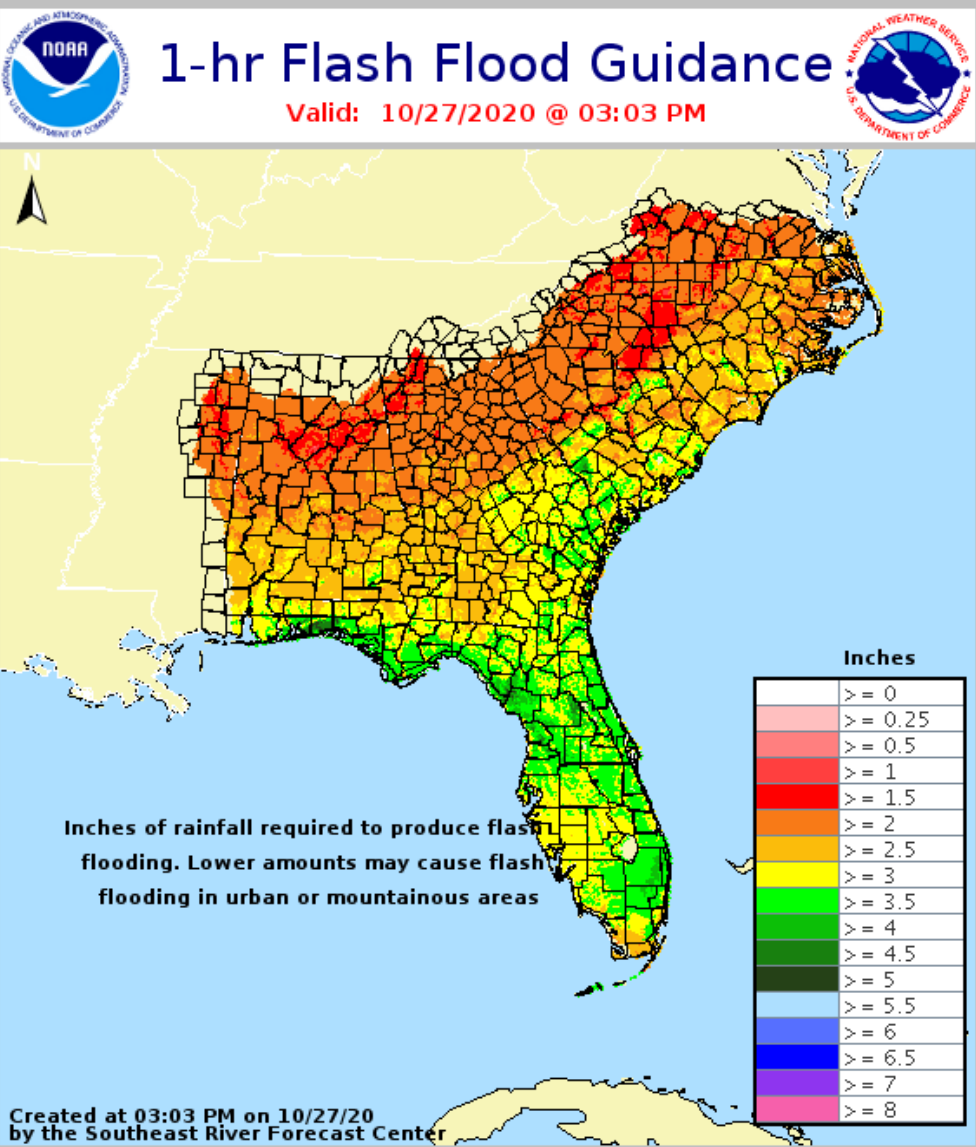
MRGL: 5%-10%

Slow moving thunderstorms will continue this evening ahead of Zeta, and rain bands will bring a flash flood threat Wednesday night.



Flash Flood Guidance

How Much Rain is Needed to Create Flash Flooding?



With heavy rainfall across the Panhandle and South Florida recently, only 2-3" of rain within 1 hour or about 3-5" within 6 hours is needed to cause flash flooding.

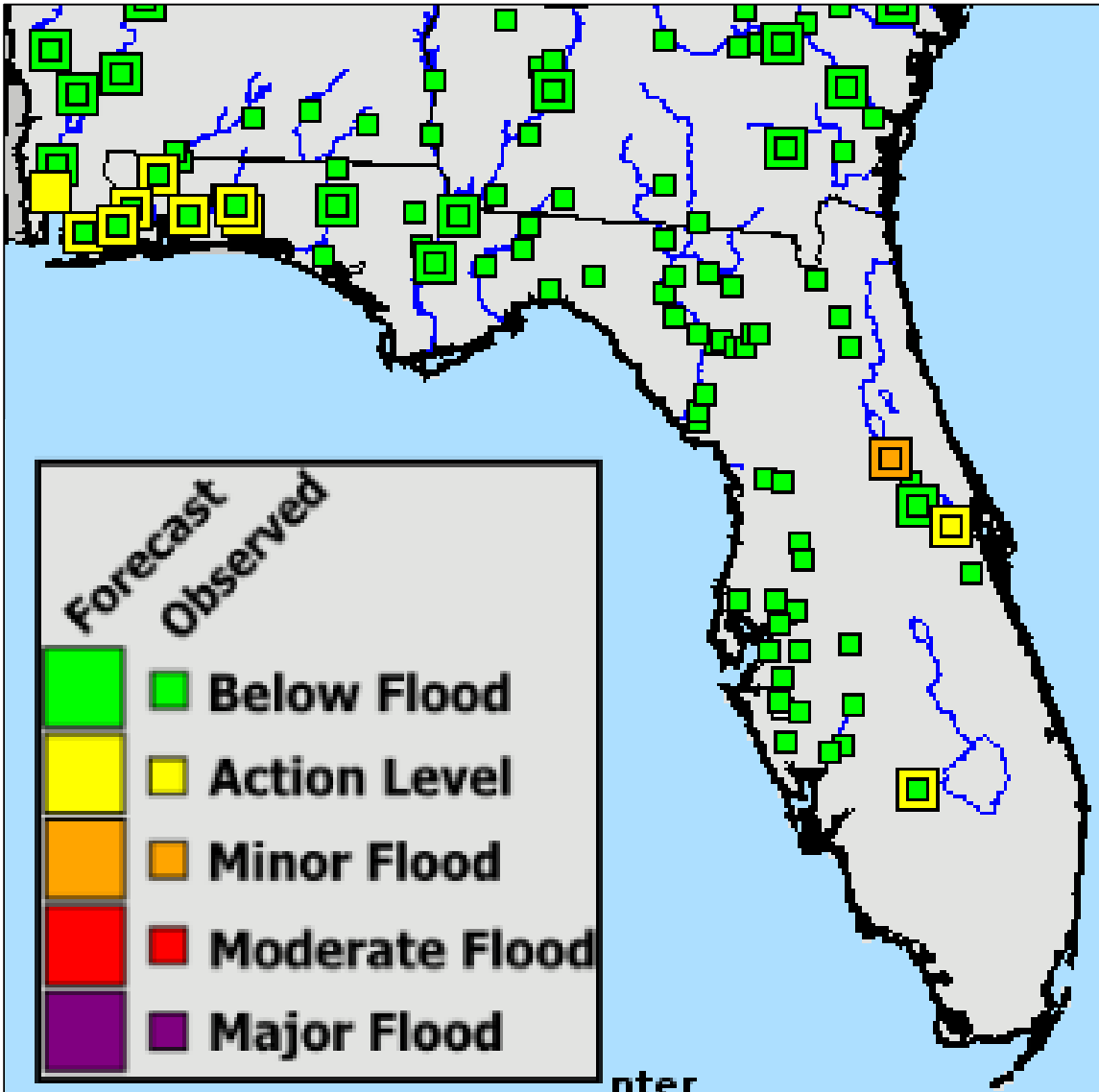
Soils remain super-saturated in these areas, and rainfall will more easily run off, causing flooding concerns in urban areas.

There are no flash flood watches in effect at this time.



River Forecast

Current and Forecast River Levels



Rivers, streams, and creeks continue to run high from recent heavy rainfall.

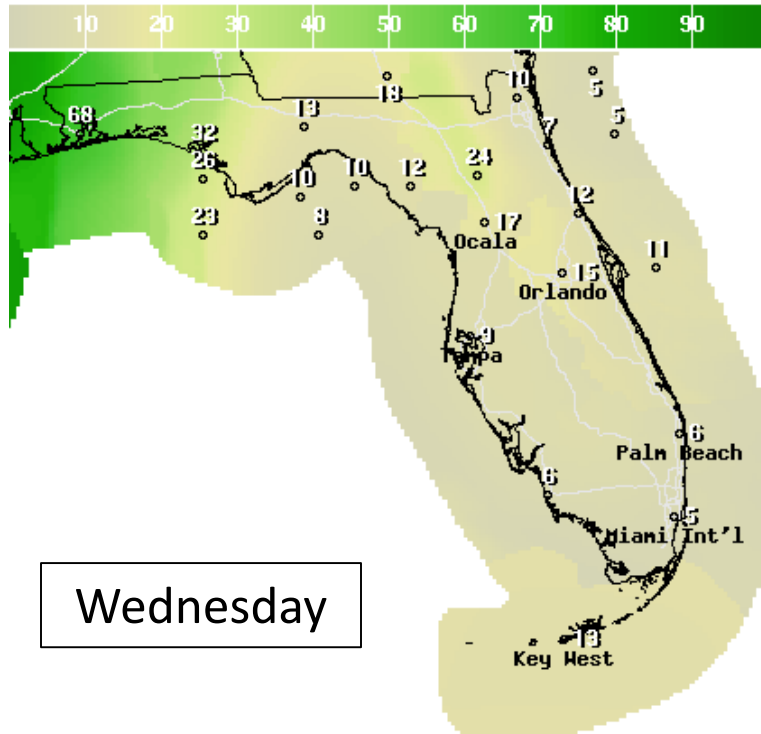
However, Zeta will be quick, limiting the river flood threat.

Rainfall totals over 4" will generally be needed to bring rivers to minor flood stage, but rises to bank-full (Action Stage) are anticipated in the western Panhandle based off of current rainfall forecasts of 1-3".

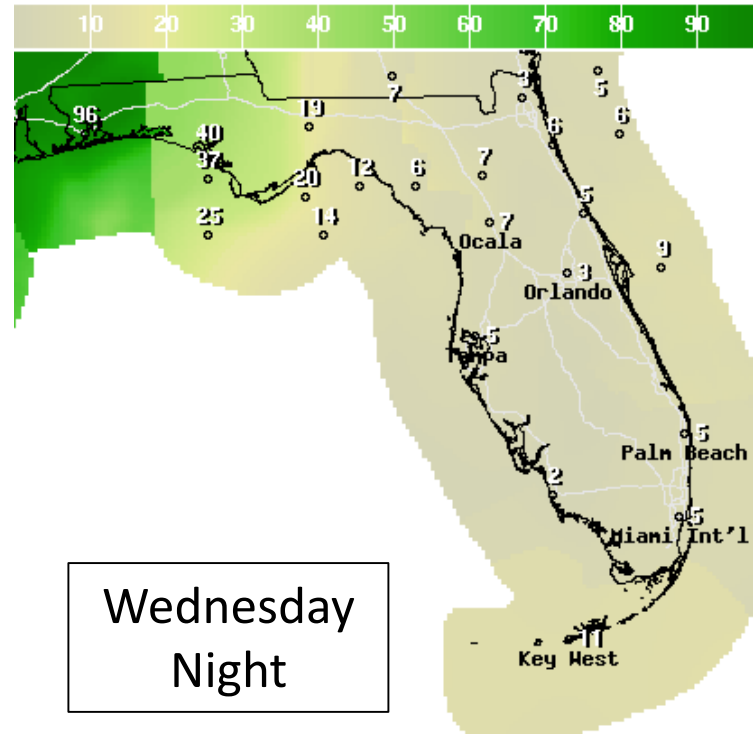


Forecast Rain Chances

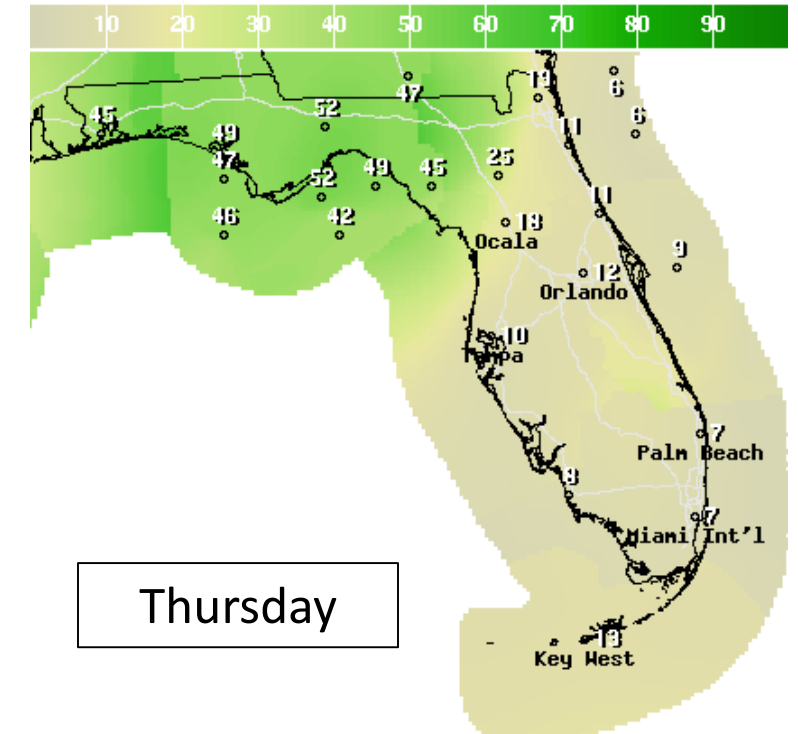
Next 3 Days



12Hr Prob.Precip(%) Ending Wed Oct 28 2020 8PM EDT
(Thu Oct 29 2020 00Z)
National Digital Forecast Database
18z issuance Graphic created-Oct 27 3:07PM EDT



12Hr Prob.Precip(%) Ending Thu Oct 29 2020 8AM EDT
(Thu Oct 29 2020 12Z)
National Digital Forecast Database
18z issuance Graphic created-Oct 27 3:07PM EDT



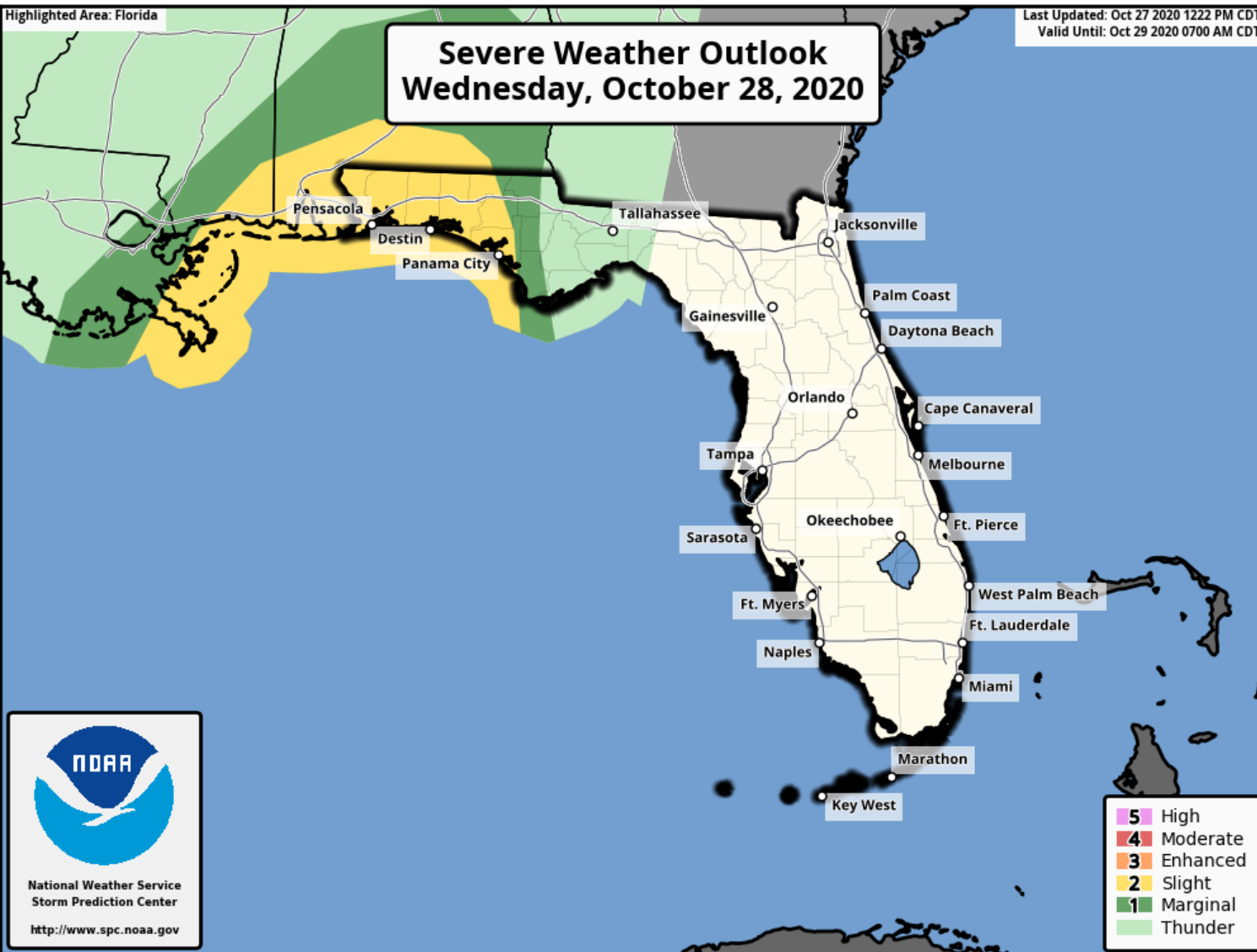
12Hr Prob.Precip(%) Ending Thu Oct 29 2020 8PM EDT
(Fri Oct 30 2020 00Z)
National Digital Forecast Database
18z issuance Graphic created-Oct 27 3:07PM EDT

Central & South Florida dry out after a long stretch of wet weather. Widespread rain chances are forecast for Wednesday and Wednesday night in the western Panhandle as Zeta moves inland, with rain chances continuing on Thursday across North Florida.



Severe Weather Outlook

From the Storm Prediction Center – Wednesday Night



As the outer bands from Zeta move through the Panhandle Wednesday evening and Wednesday night, a few tornadoes are possible. There is a **Slight Risk** (level 2 of 5) of Severe Weather, and Tornado Watches could be issued.

Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Lightning/flooding threats exist with <u>all</u> thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense

* NWS defines a severe thunderstorm as measured wind gusts to at least 58 mph, and/or hail to at least one inch in diameter, and/or a tornado. All thunderstorm categories imply lightning and the potential for flooding. Categories are also tied to the probability of a severe weather event within 25 miles of your location.



National Weather Service

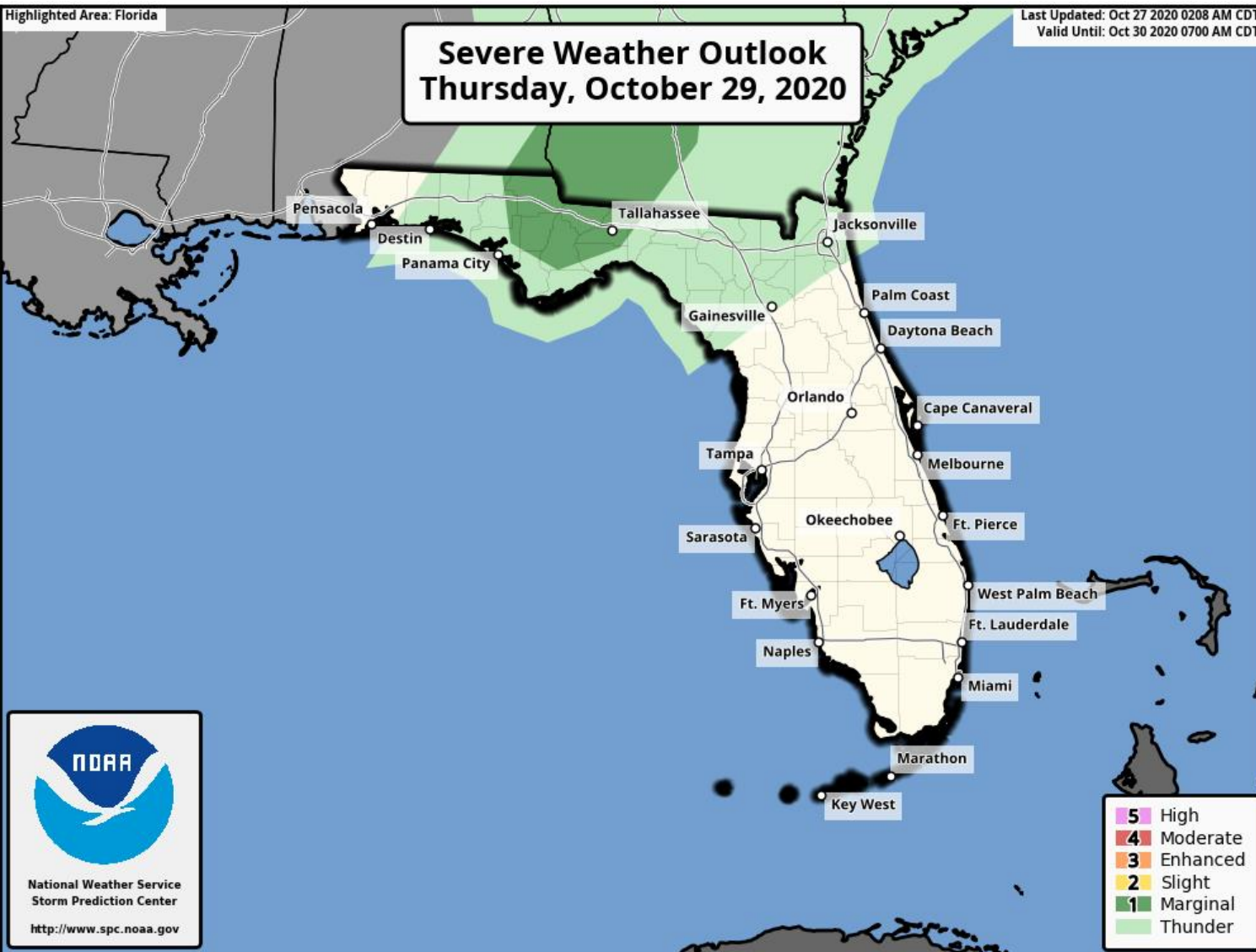
www.spc.noaa.gov





Severe Weather Outlook

From the Storm Prediction Center - Thursday



As the remnant outer bands of Zeta and a weak cold front move through North Florida on Thursday, an isolated tornado or damaging wind gust is possible. There is a **Marginal Risk** (level 1 of 5) of Severe Weather.

Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Lightning/flooding threats exist with <u>all</u> thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense

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National Weather Service

www.spc.noaa.gov





Florida Outlook

Florida Outlook:

- Zeta has moved back over the Gulf of Mexico and is in the process of re-organizing.
- Zeta is forecast to strengthen back into a hurricane tonight and remain a hurricane as it approaches Louisiana.
- Zeta will be moving quickly to the northeast on Wednesday night at the time of landfall, with the center likely making its closest approach to Florida as it tracks across southern Alabama early Thursday morning.
- ***However, impacts will occur well away from the center, particularly to the east of landfall as Zeta is likely to be lopsided.***
- Tropical Storm Warnings are in effect for Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties.
- If tropical storm force winds were to occur, it would most likely be late Wednesday night into early Thursday.
- Storm Surge Warnings are in effect from the Alabama/Florida border to Navarre Beach, including Pensacola Bay.
- Storm surge of 2-4' is forecast for the western Panhandle and 1-3' eastward towards Cedar Key on Wednesday.
- Dangerous rip currents and beach erosion are expected with wave heights 8-12' along the western Panhandle.
- Heavy rainfall is possible across the Panhandle Tuesday Afternoon-Thursday. 1-3" of rain is likely, but locally higher amounts of 4-6" are possible. Flash flooding and minor river flooding are possible with the higher totals.
- A few tornadoes are possible in outer bands across the Panhandle, particularly Wednesday night. There is currently a Slight Risk (Level 2 of 5) of severe weather. Tornado watches may be issued.

The next briefing packet will be issued Wednesday morning. For the latest information on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center website at www.hurricanes.gov.



TROPICAL UPDATE



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State Meteorological Support Unit

Florida Division of Emergency Management

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