



# TROPICAL UPDATE



5:00 PM EDT

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Hurricane Zeta

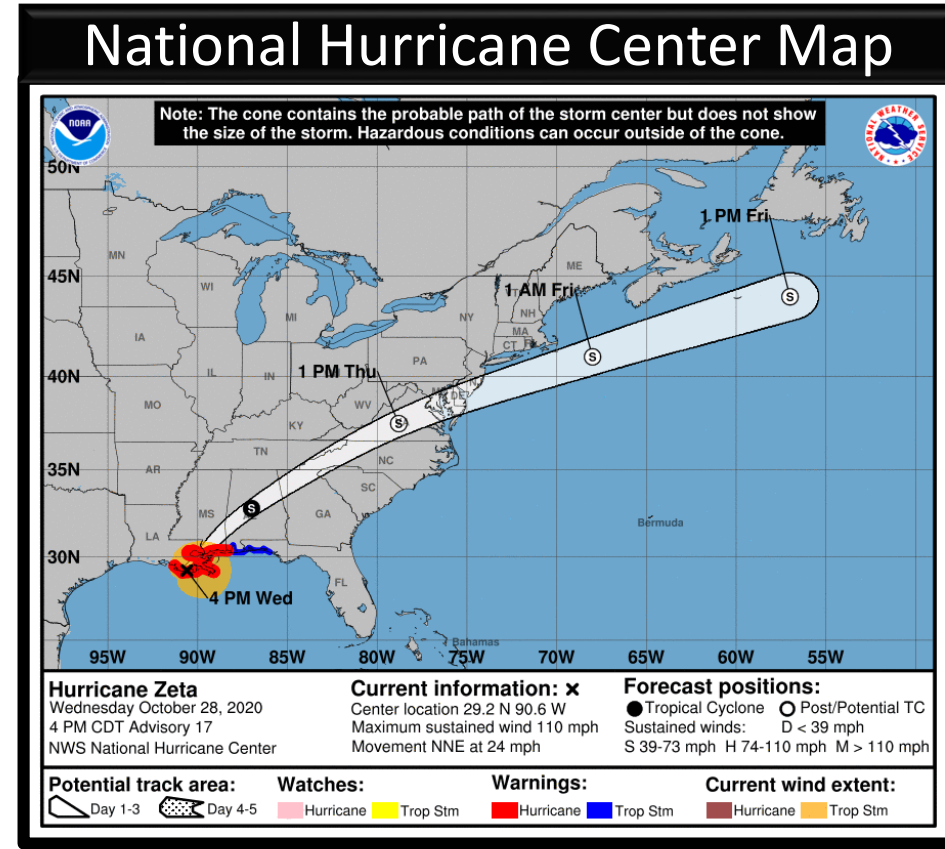
This update is intended for government and emergency response officials, and is provided for informational and situational awareness purposes only. Forecast conditions are subject to change based on a variety of environmental factors. For additional information, or for any life safety concerns with an 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](http://www.hurricanes.gov).



# Hurricane Zeta

## 5 PM Wednesday: Florida Threats & Changes Since Last Packet

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



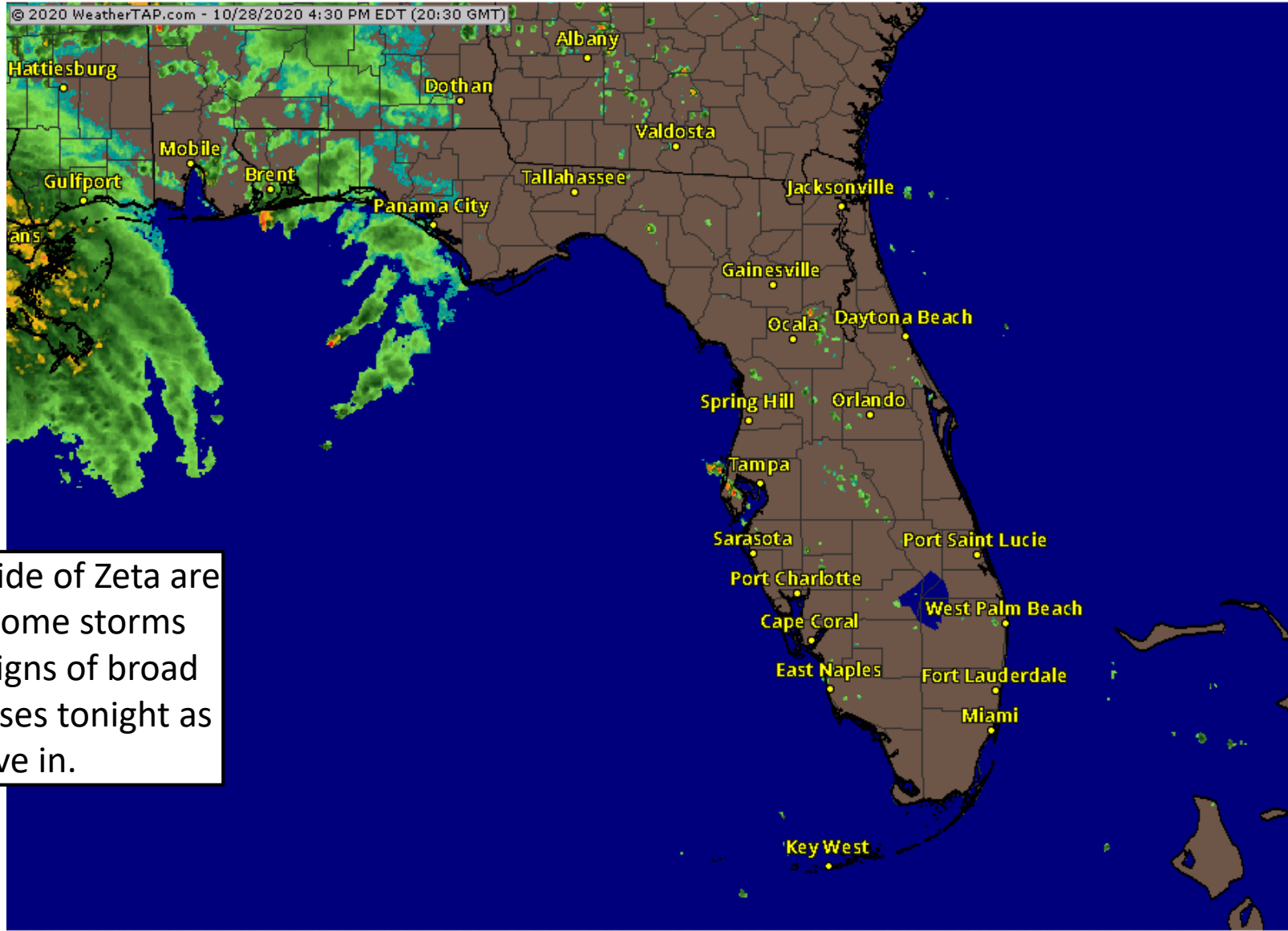
### Overview/Recent Changes:

Zeta is making landfall near Cocodrie, LA as a powerful Category 2 hurricane.  
No changes to warnings as of this advisory.  
Impacts will still extend well east of the center into the Panhandle tonight.



# Current Florida Radar

As of 4:30 PM ET/3:30 PM CT



Some showers on the eastern side of Zeta are moving into the Panhandle. Some storms offshore have been showing signs of broad rotation. Tornado threat increases tonight as more outer bands move in.



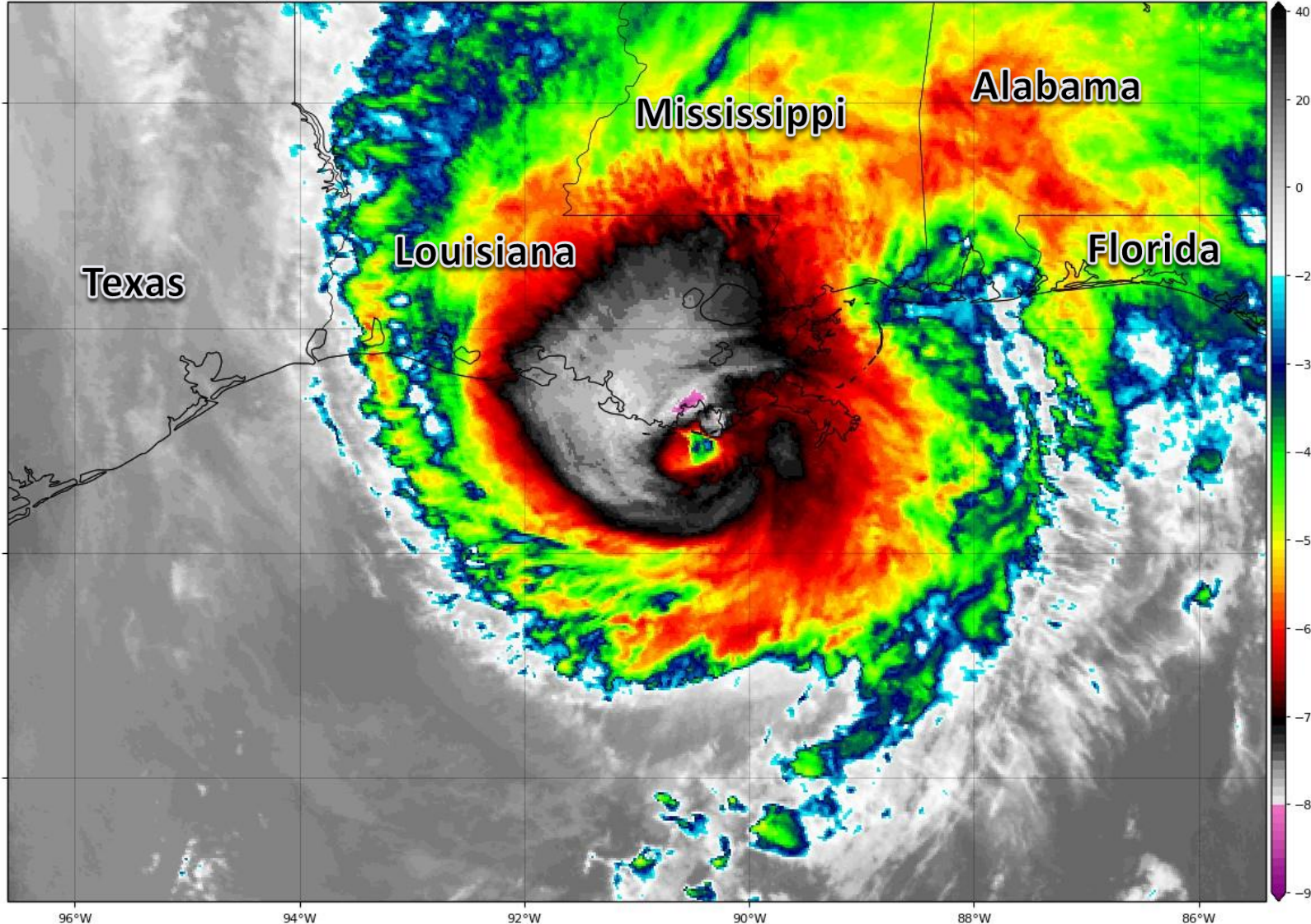


# Satellite Imagery

## Hurricane Zeta – Gulf of Mexico

GOES-16 Channel 13 (IR) Brightness Temperature (°C) at 20:32Z Oct 28, 2020

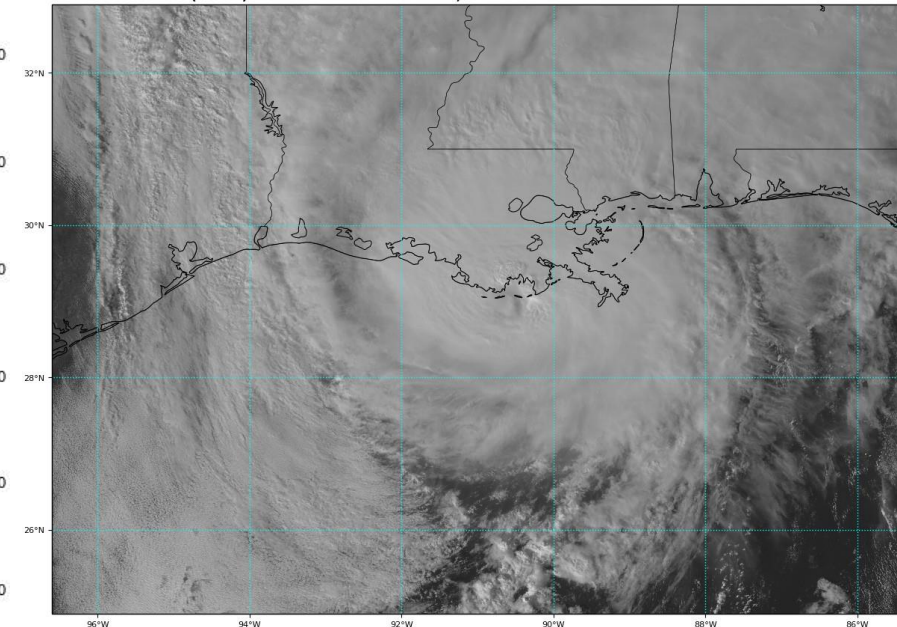
TROPICALTIDBITS.COM



Zeta is making landfall near Cocodrie, Louisiana as a strong Category 2 hurricane. Zeta will zoom across the southeast U.S. overnight and be near the southern Appalachians near sunrise Thursday morning.

GOES-16 Channel 2 (visible) Reflectance at 20:37Z Oct 28, 2020

TROPICALTIDBITS.COM

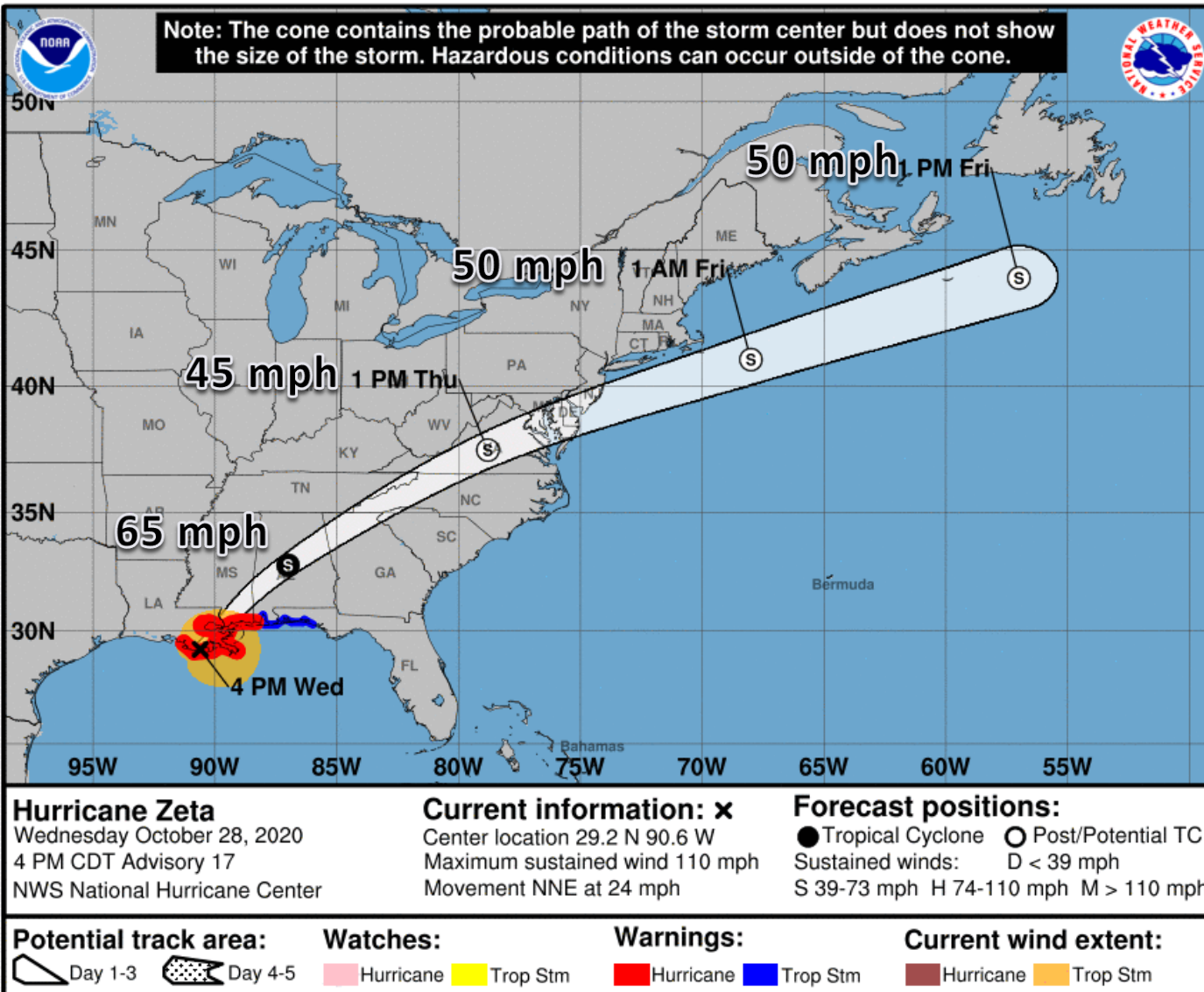






# Official Forecast Track

From the National Hurricane Center – Hurricane Zeta



- The center of Hurricane Zeta is located near Cocodrie, LA, or about 65 miles SSW of New Orleans, moving north-northeast at 24 mph.
- A turn towards the northeast is forecast tonight as a cold front moves in and accelerates Zeta over the Southeast U.S.
- Zeta has maximum sustained winds of 110 mph (Category 2 Hurricane). Weakening is forecast as it moves inland.
- With its fast forward speed, strong, damaging winds are expected well inland over the southeast US.



# Damaging Wind Threat Overview

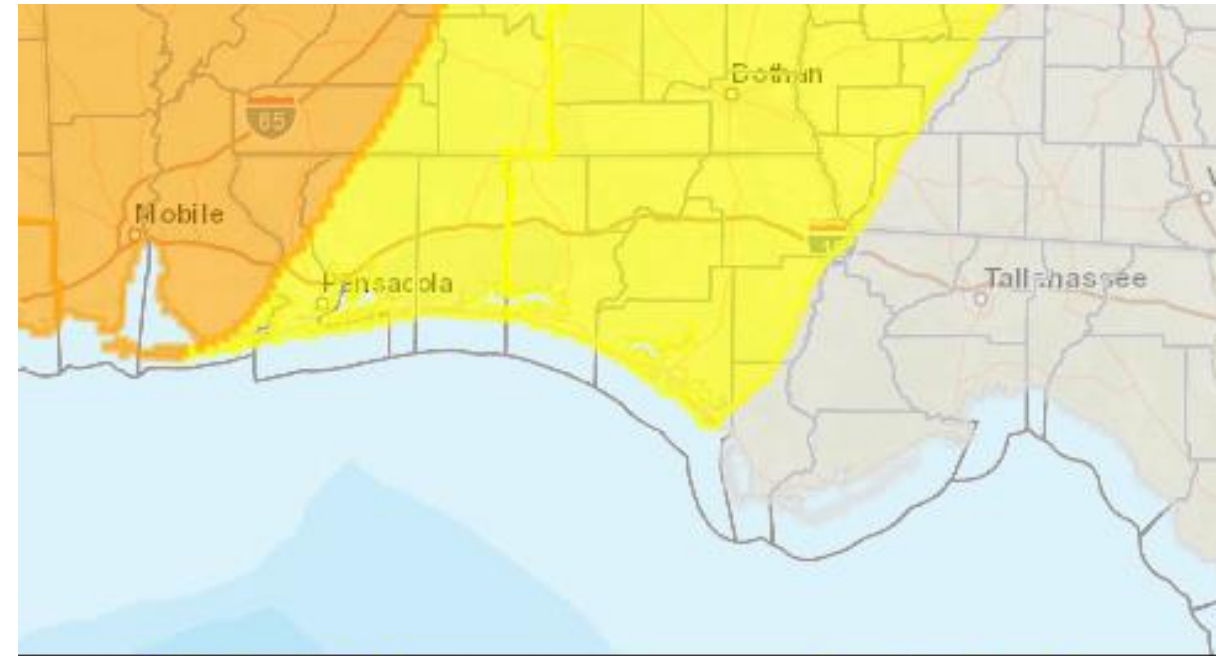
## Hurricane Zeta

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



[\[Download KML\]](#)

[\[Download Image\]](#)

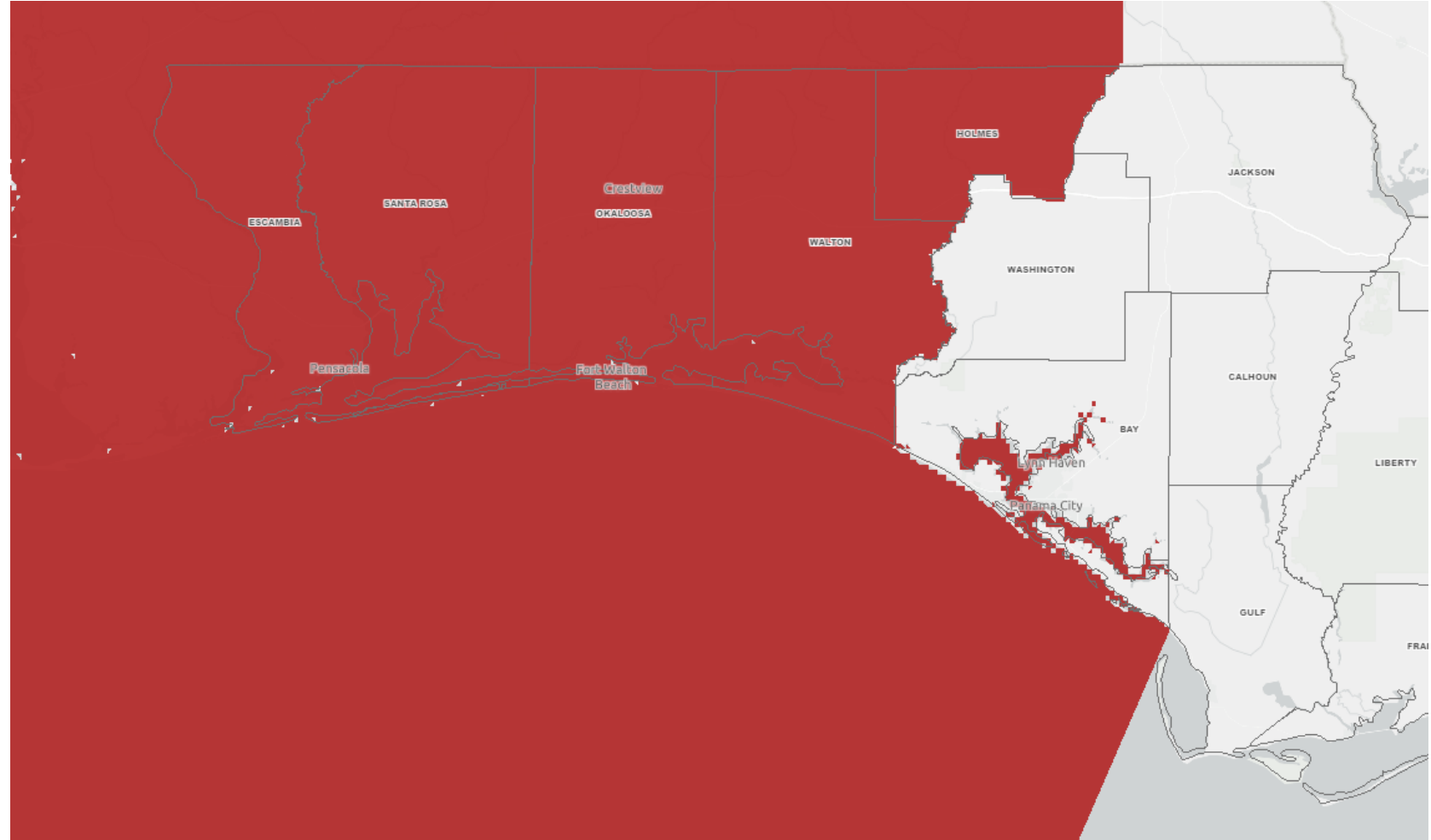
Wind Threat
Potential for wind greater than 110 mph
Potential for wind 74 to 110 mph
Potential for wind 58 to 73 mph
Potential for wind 39 to 57 mph
Wind less than 39 mph



# Wind Watches and Warnings

In Effect Until Further Notice

**Tropical Storm Warnings are in effect for Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, and Holmes Counties.**



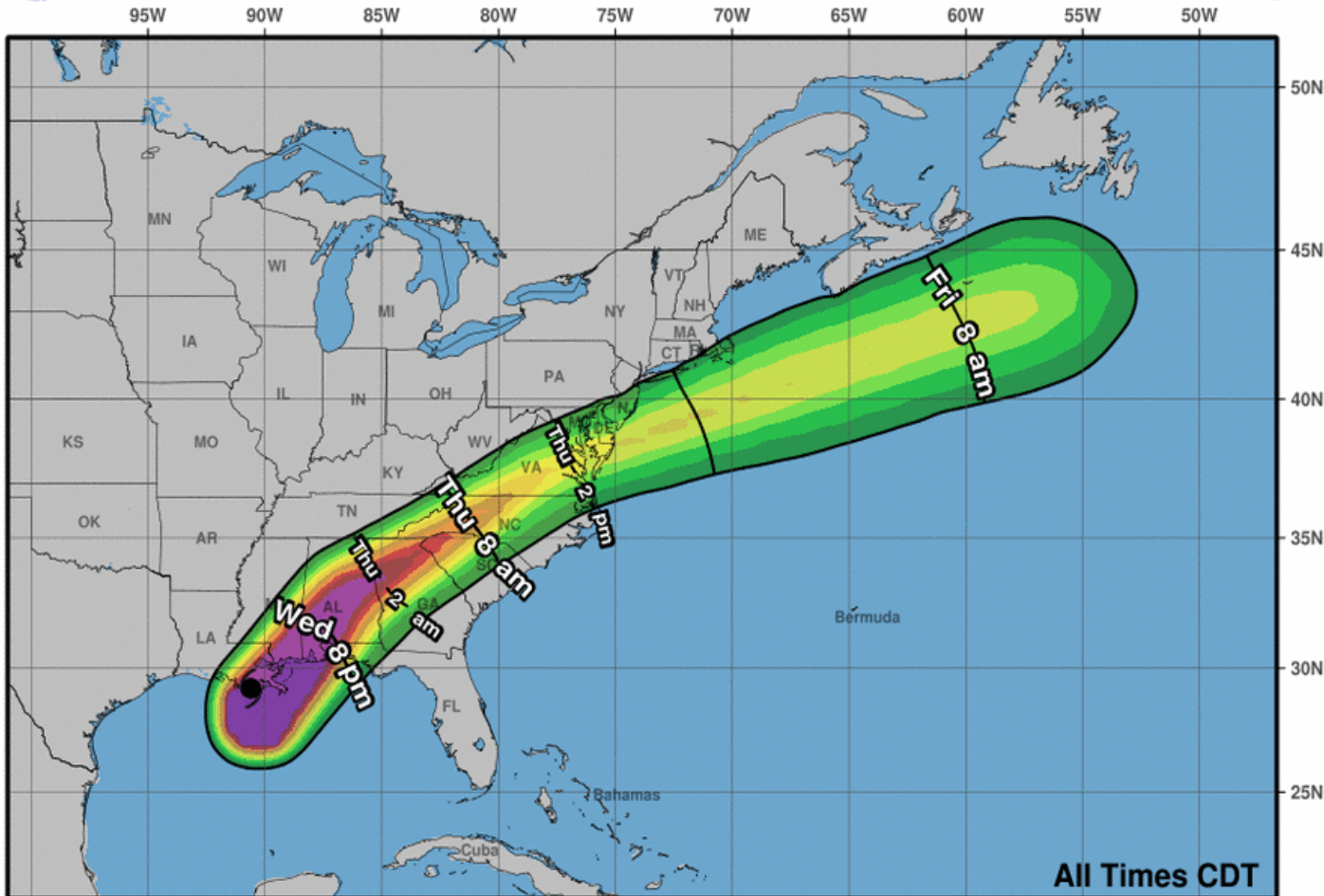




# Time of Arrival & Wind Speed Probabilities

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

## Most Likely Arrival Time of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds



**Pensacola NAS: 95% (+18)**

**Pensacola: 94% (+17)**

**Milton: 93% (+16)**

**Destin: 44% (-5)**

**Panama City: 55% (-10)**

*\*Numbers in Parentheses are changes in probabilities since the last packet\**

Tropical storm force winds will begin tonight along the Panhandle coast..

The odds of tropical storm force winds have **INCREASED** in the western Panhandle. *Be prepared for strong, damaging winds.*

**Hurricane Zeta**  
**Wed. Oct. 28, 2020 4 pm CDT**  
**Advisory 17**

Storm Location & Wind Speed  
○ < 34 kt (39 mph)  
○ 34-63 kt (39-73 mph)  
● ≥ 64 kt (74 mph)

5-day chance of receiving sustained 34+ kt (39+ mph) winds  
5 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 %





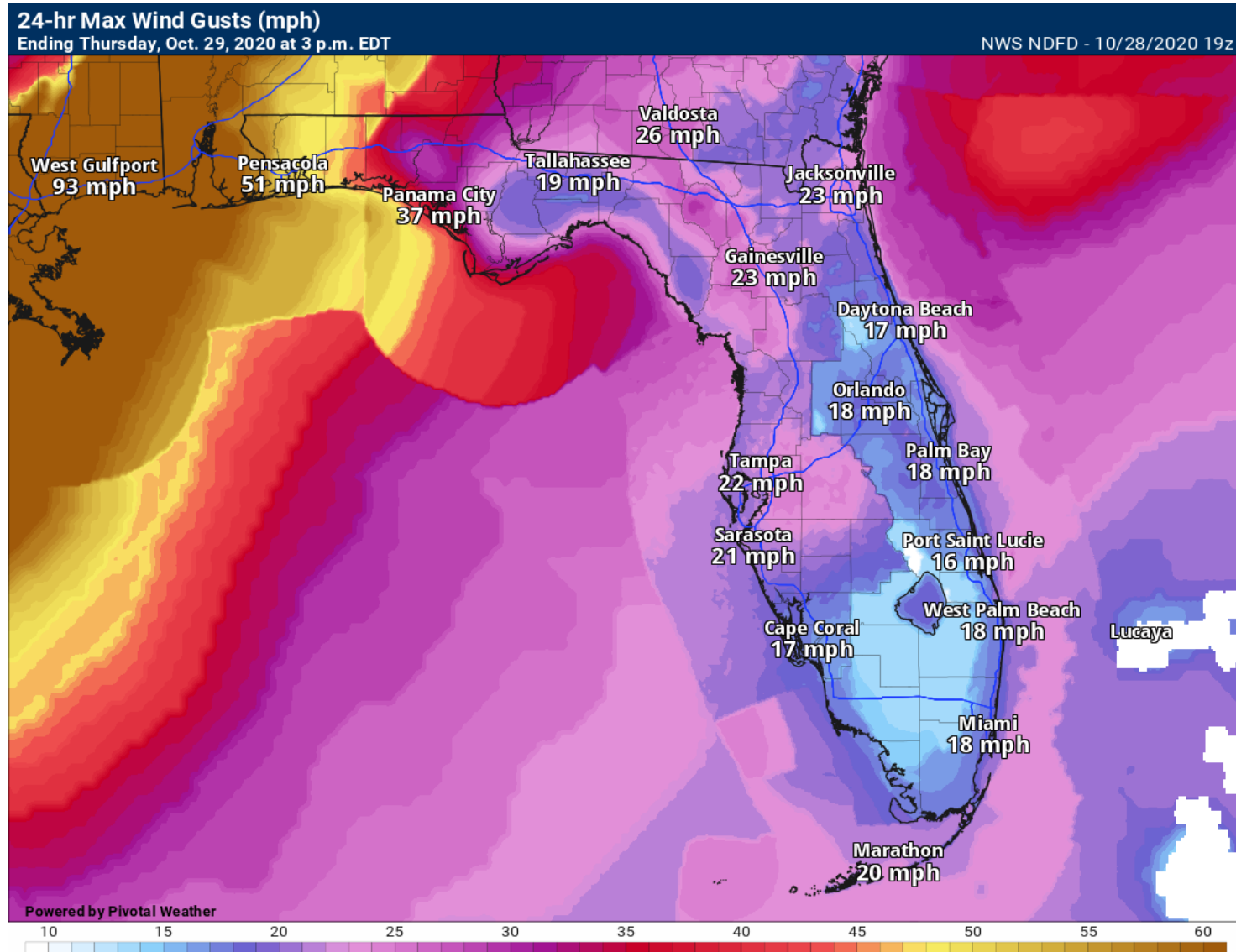
# Maximum Wind Gusts

## Next 24 Hours

Wind gusts of 40-55 mph will be possible over the western Panhandle.

Gusts of 60-70 mph are possible in the rain bands, especially closer to Pensacola.

**Tropical Storm Warnings are in effect for coastal Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, and Holmes**





# Surge Watches and Warnings

In Effect Until Further Notice

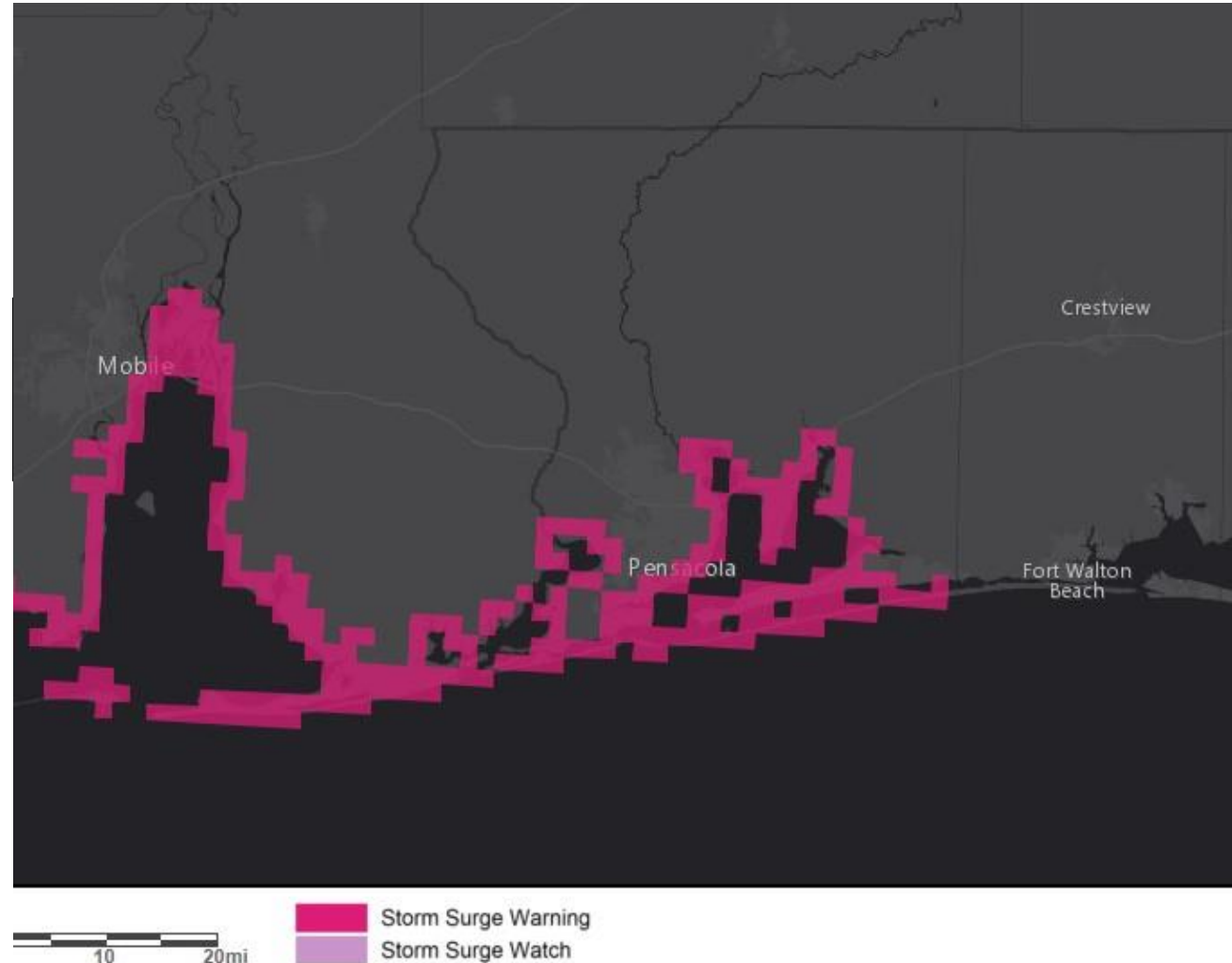
**Storm Surge Warnings** are in effect from the **Alabama/Florida line eastward to Navarre Beach**, including Perdido Bay, Pensacola Bay, and Santa Rosa Sound.

This includes Escambia County and most of Santa Rosa County.

**Coastal Flood Advisories** are in effect from Okaloosa County through Dixie County.

[https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics\\_at3+shtml/204401.shtml?wsurge#contents](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics_at3+shtml/204401.shtml?wsurge#contents)

Interactive Watch/Warning Map





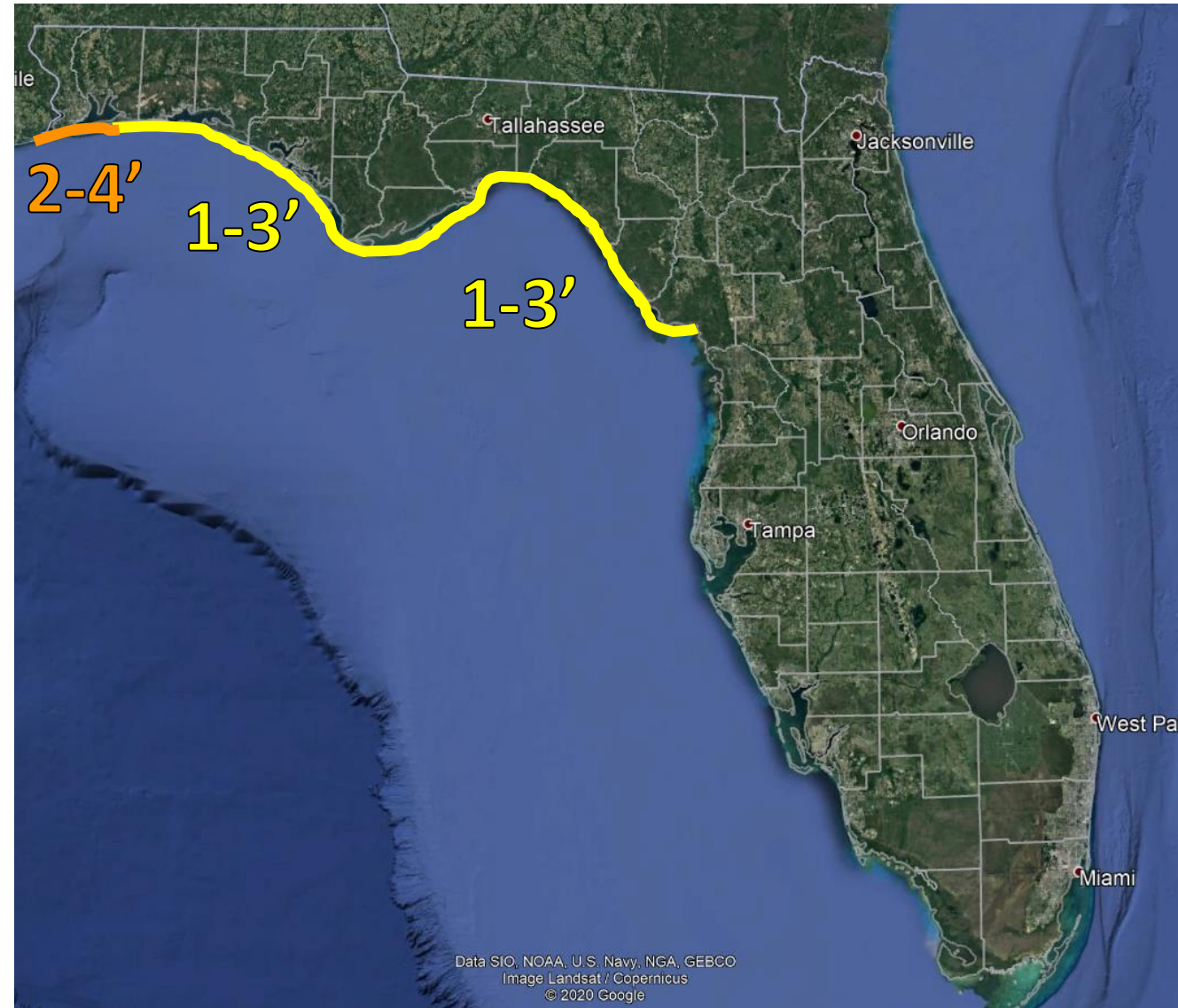
# Storm Surge/Coastal Flooding

Wednesday – Hurricane Zeta

Onshore winds associated with Zeta will result in some minor coastal flooding along the Panhandle, particularly at high tide today through Thursday.

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.**

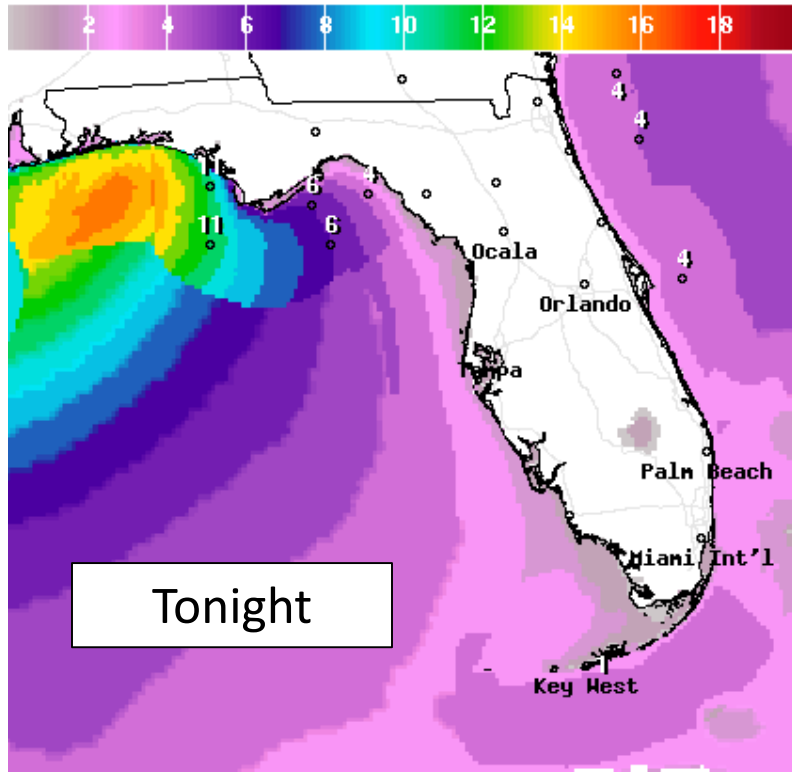






# Forecast Wave Heights

## Today & Thursday

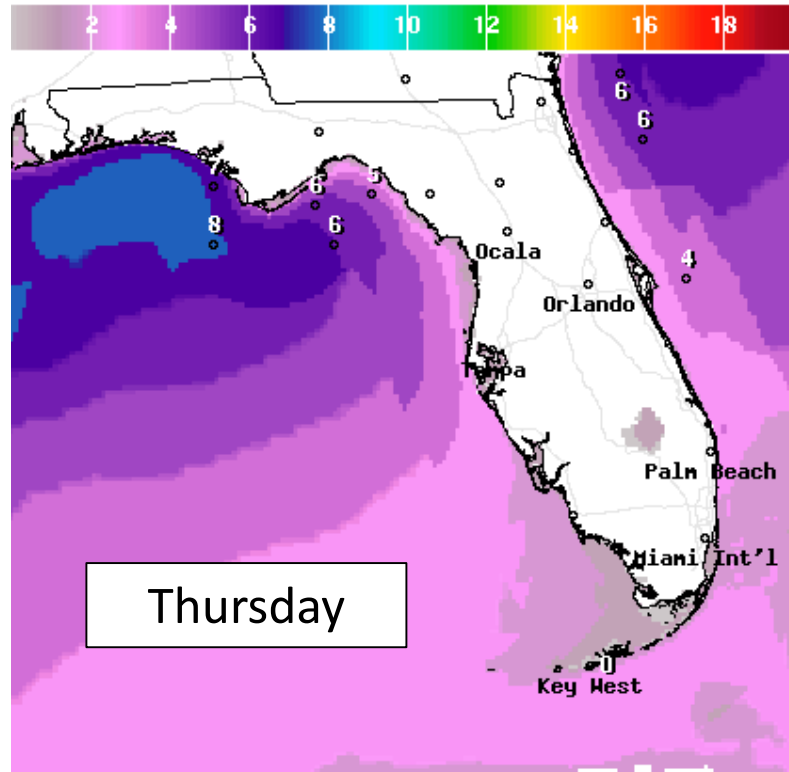


Wave Height(ft) Ending Thu Oct 29 2020 2AM EDT  
(Thu Oct 29 2020 06Z)



National Digital Forecast Database

19z issuance Graphic created-Oct 28 3:22PM EDT

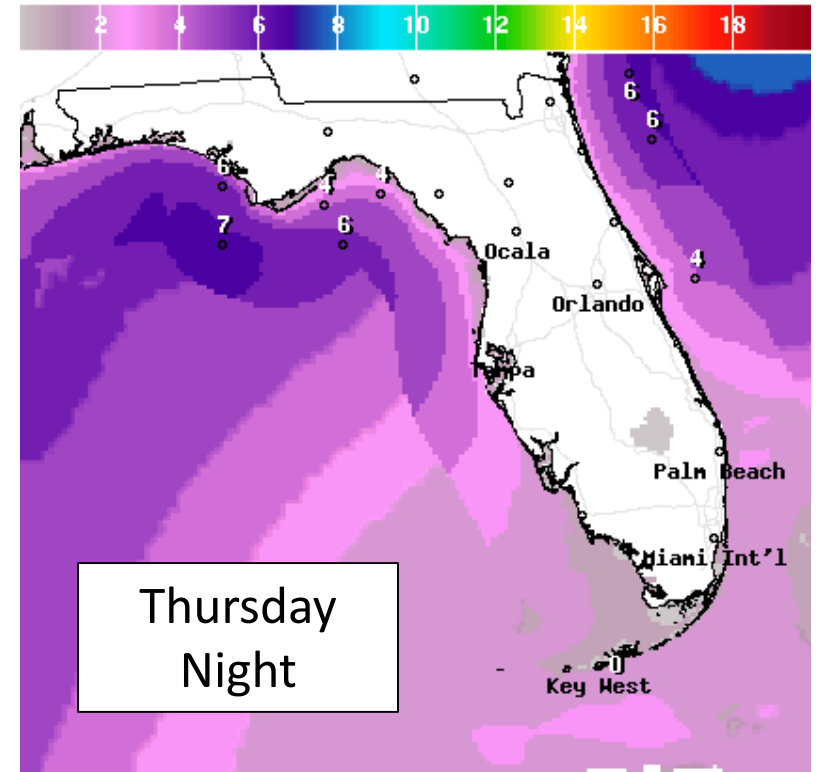


Wave Height(ft) Ending Thu Oct 29 2020 2PM EDT  
(Thu Oct 29 2020 18Z)



National Digital Forecast Database

19z issuance Graphic created-Oct 28 3:22PM EDT



Wave Height(ft) Ending Fri Oct 30 2020 2AM EDT  
(Fri Oct 30 2020 06Z)



National Digital Forecast Database

19z issuance Graphic created-Oct 28 3:23PM EDT



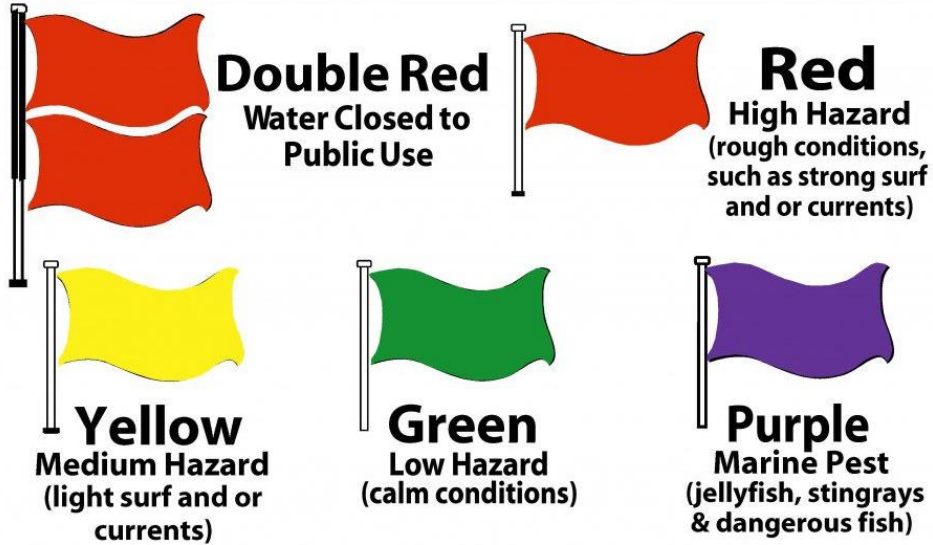
Wave heights will gradually build along the Panhandle. Wave heights will peak at 10-15' tonight, in the western Panhandle and 8-12' further east. Beach erosion with a few spots of more significant erosion/overwash is possible in the western Panhandle, especially in areas with damaged dune lines from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



# Rip Current Outlook

Today

## BEACH FLAG WARNING SYSTEM



Extremely dangerous rip currents are expected at Gulf Coast beaches through Thursday, possibly into Friday.





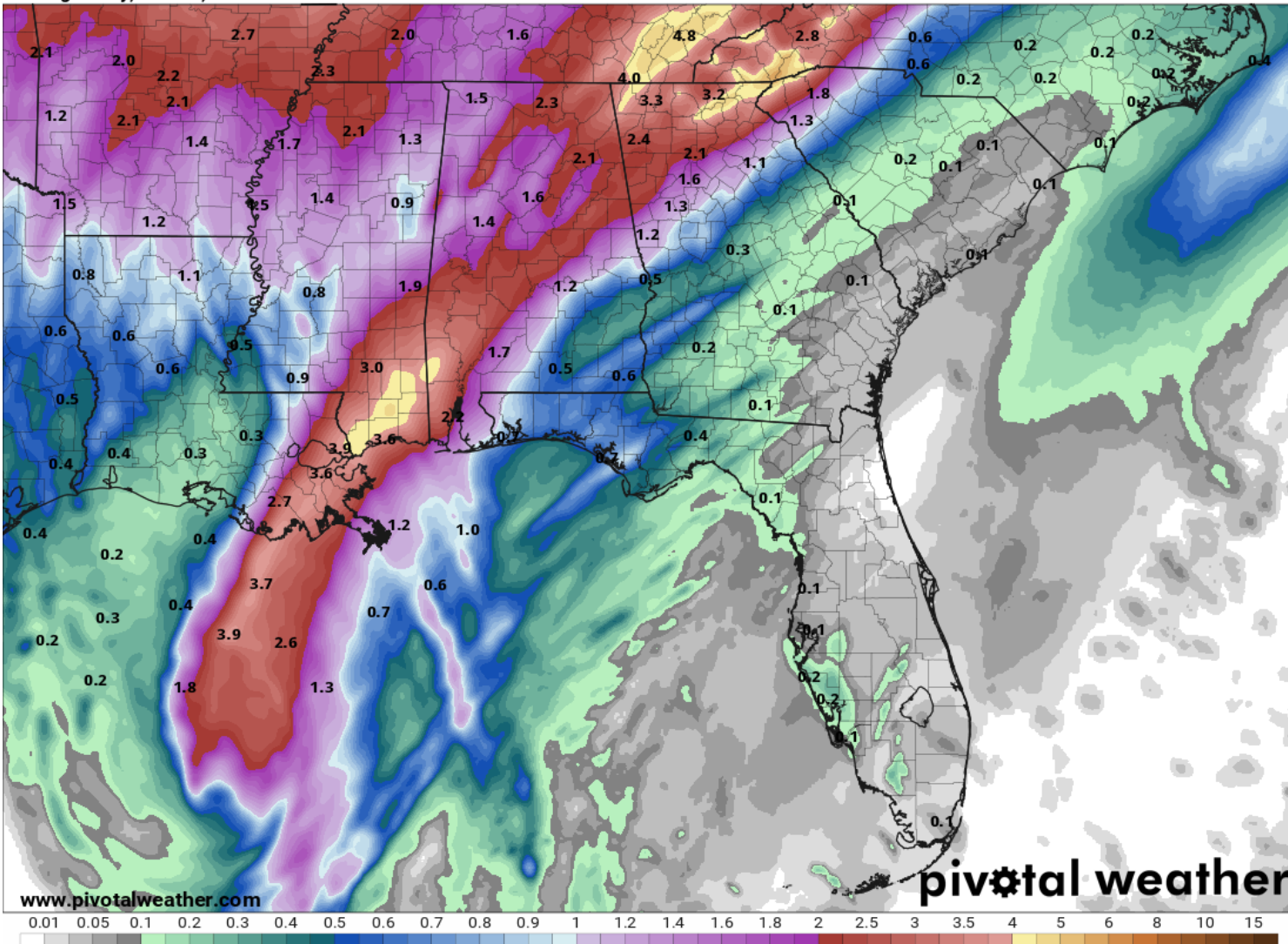
# Rainfall Totals Next 48 Hours

Ending 8 AM ET Thursday

48-Hour Precipitation (in)

Ending Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 at 8 a.m. EDT

Init: Wed 2020-10-28 12z WPC



Zeta will be moving quick limiting the flash flood risk. 1-2" 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 Outlook

From the Weather Prediction Center ([LINK](#))



Isolated flash flooding is possible today & tonight in the western Panhandle, especially if rain bands begin training.

## Understanding WPC Excessive Rainfall Risk Categories

No Area/Label	MARGINAL (MRGL)	SLIGHT (SLGT)	MODERATE (MDT)	HIGH (HIGH)
Flash floods are generally not expected.	Isolated flash floods possible	Scattered flash floods possible	Numerous flash floods likely	Widespread flash floods expected
<a href="http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov">@NWSWPC</a>	Localized and primarily affecting places that can experience rapid runoff with heavy rainfall.	Mainly localized. Most vulnerable are urban areas, roads, small streams and washes. Isolated significant flash floods possible.	Numerous flash flooding events with significant events possible. Many streams may flood, potentially affecting larger rivers.	Severe, widespread flash flooding. Areas that don't normally experience flash flooding, could. Lives and property in greater danger.
Flash flooding near me?	Flash Flooding	Flash Flooding	Flash Flooding	Flash Flooding
NO Flash Flooding				
 WEATHER PREDICTION CENTER				

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

**HIGH: > 50%**

**SLGT: 10%-20%**

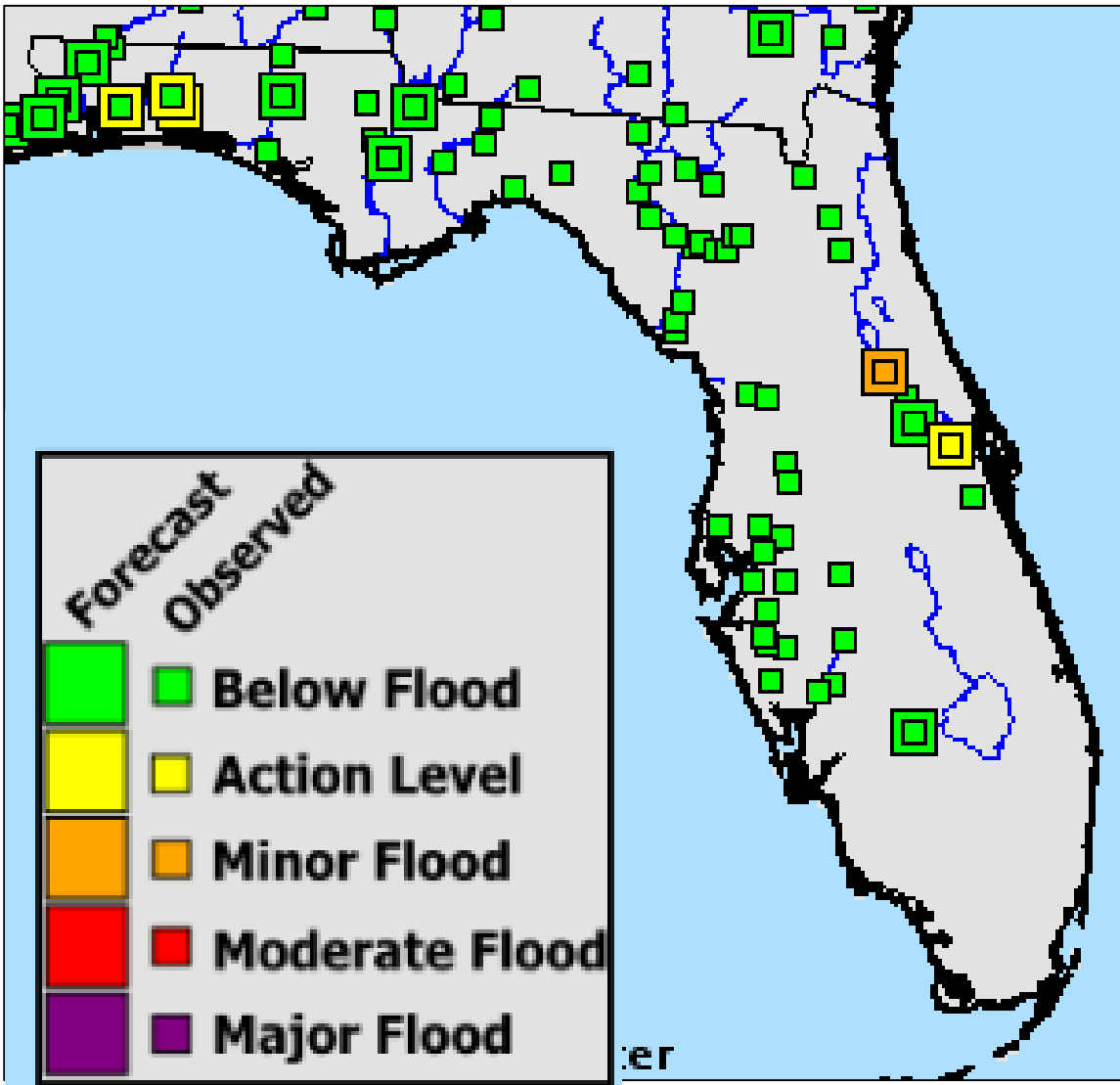
**MDT: 20%-50%**

**MRGL: 5%-10%**



# River Forecast

## Current and Forecast River Levels



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

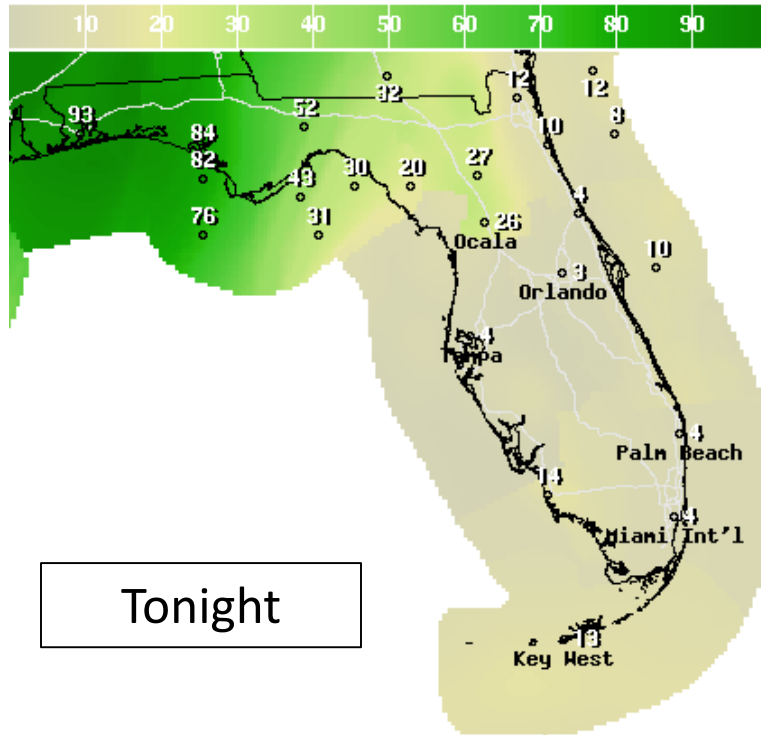
However, Zeta will be quick, limiting the river flood threat.

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".

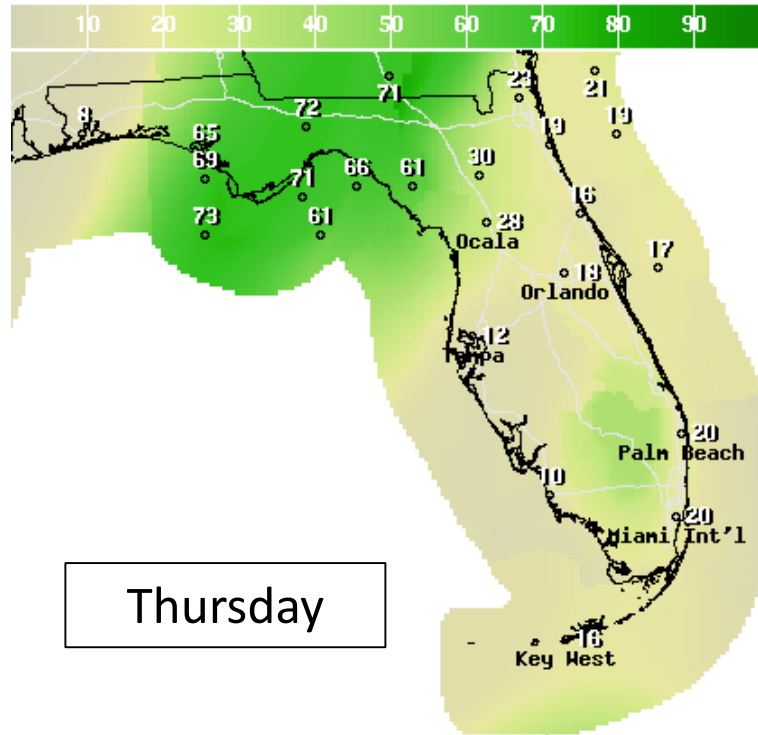


# Forecast Rain Chances

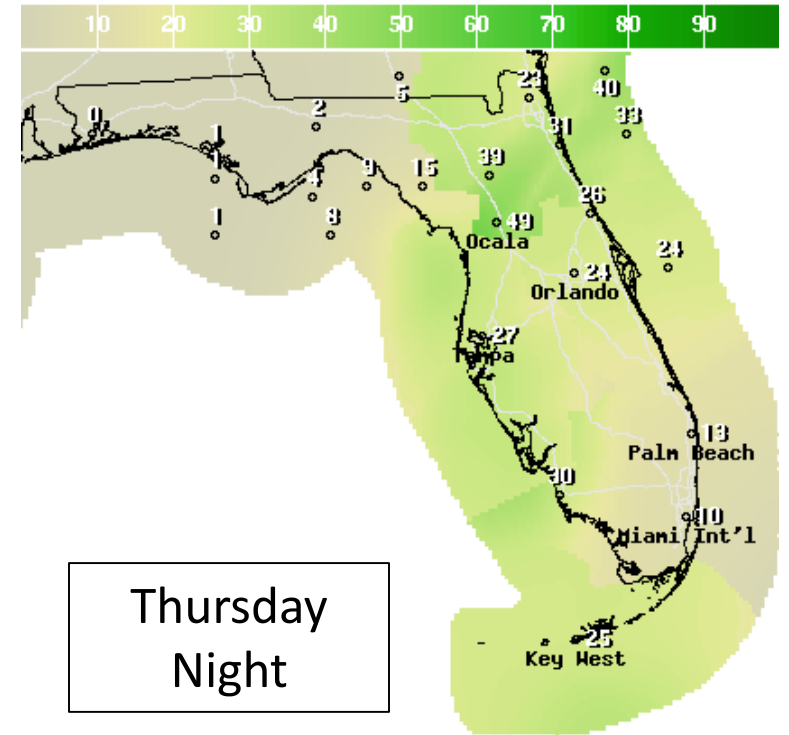
## Next 2 Days



12Hr Prob.Precip(%) Ending Thu Oct 29 2020 8AM EDT  
(Thu Oct 29 2020 12Z)  
National Digital Forecast Database  
18z issuance Graphic created-Oct 28 2:42PM 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 28 2:42PM EDT



12Hr Prob.Precip(%) Ending Fri Oct 30 2020 8AM EDT  
(Fri Oct 30 2020 12Z)  
National Digital Forecast Database  
18z issuance Graphic created-Oct 28 2:42PM EDT

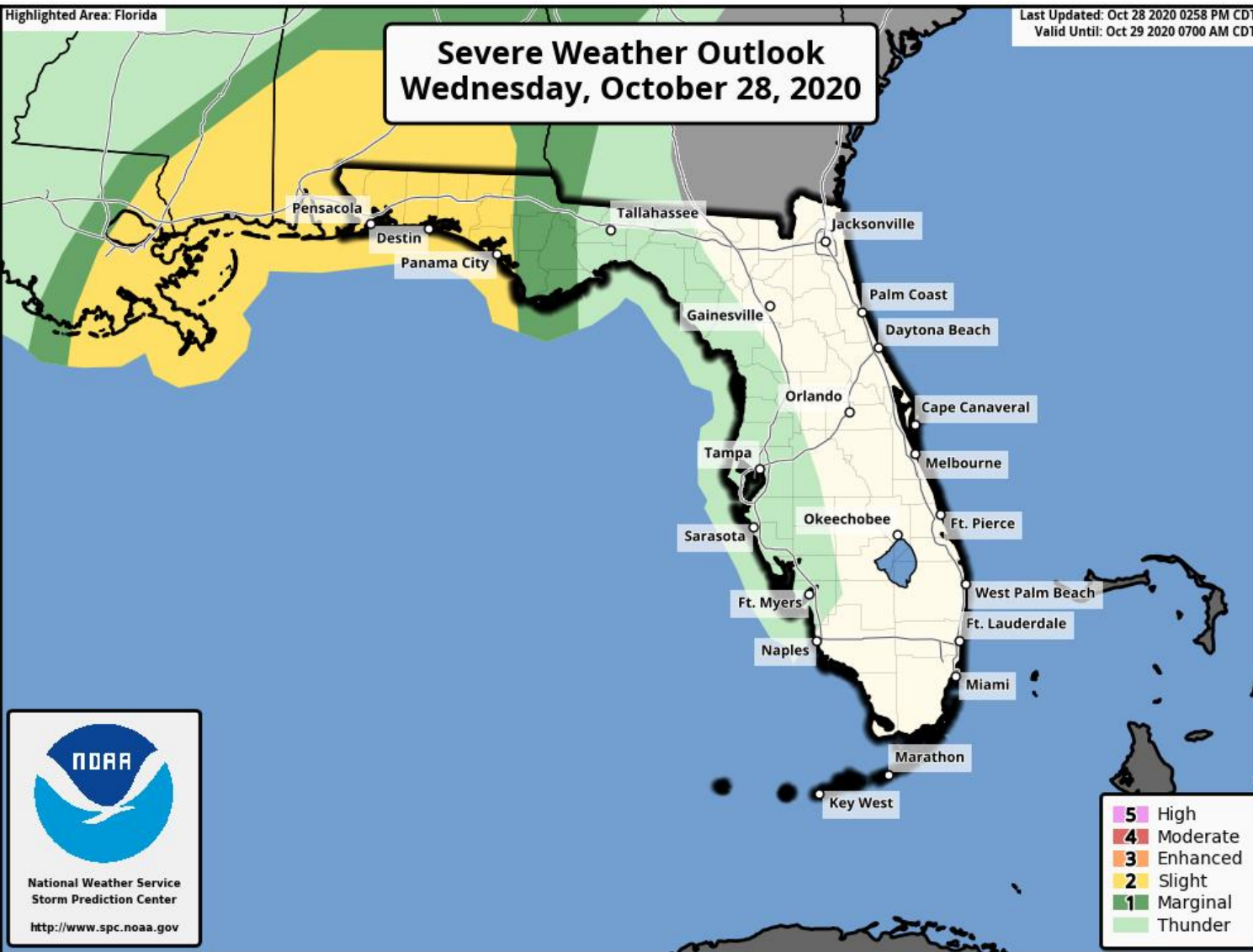
Widespread rain chances are forecast tonight in the Panhandle as Zeta moves inland, with rain chances continuing on Thursday across North Florida.  
Some scattered showers and storms in the Peninsula.





# Severe Weather Outlook

From the Storm Prediction Center – Today & Tonight



As the outer bands from Zeta move through the Panhandle through tonight, a few tornadoes are possible. There is a **Slight Risk** (level 2 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

\* 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](http://www.spc.noaa.gov)





# Tornado Watch

In Effect Until Midnight CT

## Tornado Watch

Valid Until  
12:00 AM CDT Thursday  
October 29, 2020

### Threat Information



#### TORNADOES

A Couple Tornadoes  
Possible



#### HAIL

Isolated Hail Up To  
No Hail Size Possible



#### WIND

Isolated Gusts  
Up To 0 MPH Possible

### Potential Exposure



Population: 3,495,582  
Schools: 1030  
Hospitals: 116



Tornado Watch for Escambia, Santa Rosa,  
and Okaloosa Counties.

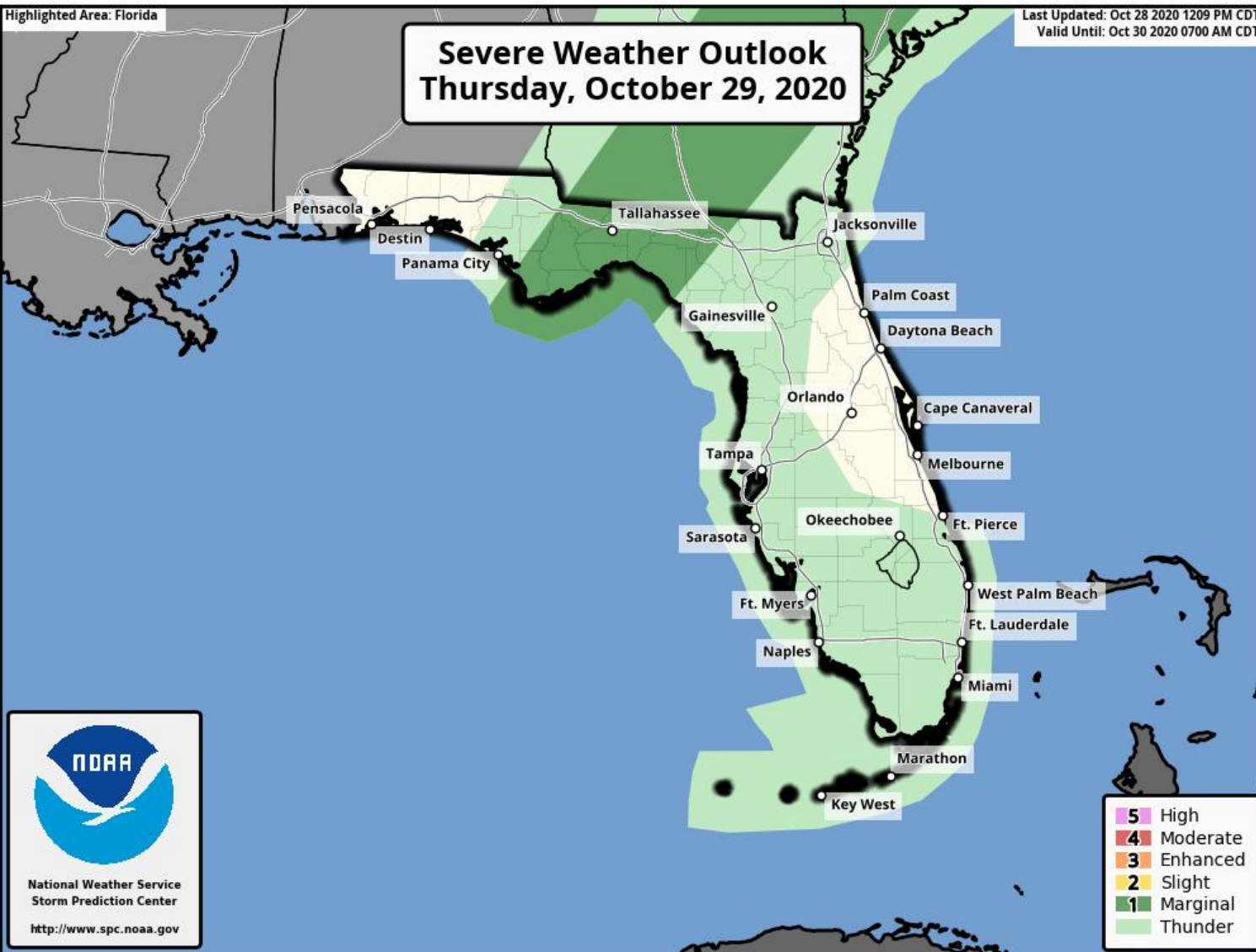
Additional watches may be needed later  
tonight.





# 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
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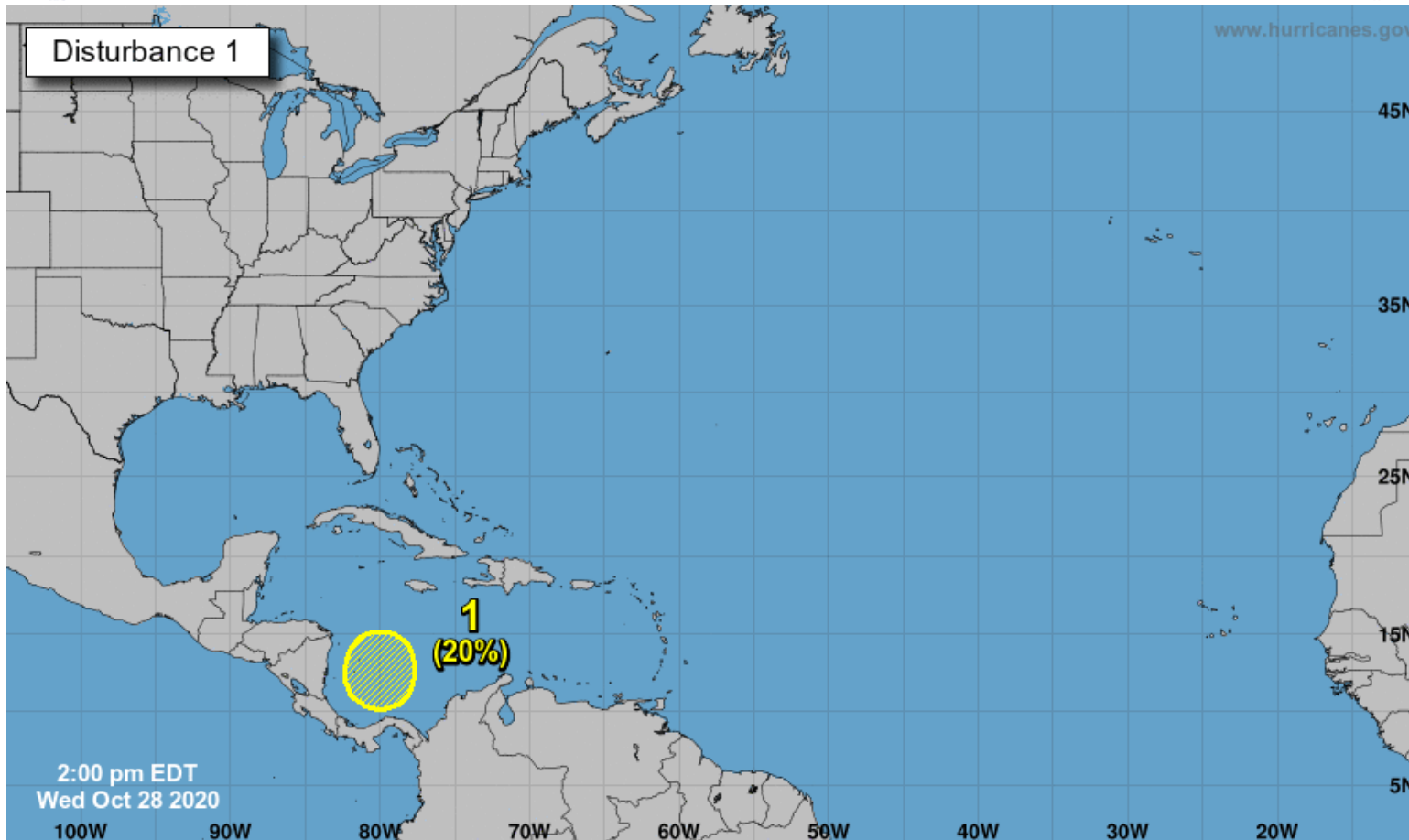
# Tropical Weather Outlook

Possible Areas of Development During the Next 5 Days ([LINK](#))



## Five-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida



A broad area of low pressure is expected to form over the southwestern Caribbean Sea during the next few days.

Some slow development of this system is possible over the weekend or early next week while it is nearly stationary over the southwestern Caribbean Sea.

**\*Formation chance through 48 hours...low...near 0%.**

**\*Formation chance through 5 days...low...20%.**

Current Disturbances and Five-Day Cyclone Formation Chance: < 40% 40-60% > 60%

Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone: Depression Storm Hurricane

Post-Tropical Cyclone or Remnants





# Florida Outlook

## Florida Outlook:

- Zeta is making landfall near Grand Isle, Louisiana as a powerful Category 2 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 110 mph.
- Zeta will race northeastward across Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia overnight.
- ***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, Okaloosa, Walton, and Holmes Counties.
- If tropical storm force winds were to occur, it would most likely be tonight 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 tonight.
- Dangerous rip currents and beach erosion are expected with wave heights 8-15' along the western Panhandle.
- Locally heavy rainfall is possible across the Panhandle through Thursday. 1-2" 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 into tonight. There is currently a Slight Risk (Level 2 of 5) of severe weather. A Tornado Watch is in effect until midnight CT for Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties.
- Isolated tornadoes are possible in the Big Bend on Thursday as remnant bands and a cold front move through.

The next briefing packet will be issued with the 5 PM ET NHC advisory. For the latest information on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center website at [www.hurricanes.gov](http://www.hurricanes.gov).



# TROPICAL UPDATE



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State Meteorological Support Unit

Florida Division of Emergency Management

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