



NOAA's nowCOAST® provides access to the National Hurricane Center Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map

Effective immediately, the NOAA nowCOAST® (nowcoast.noaa.gov) is providing access to the NWS/National Hurricane Center Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map through web mapping services. The access uses two different protocols: ArcGIS Representational State Transfer (REST) Map Service and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Web Map Service (WMS). These services allow NOAA users to integrate this map with their own map layers such as coastal evacuation routes and critical infrastructure on client or server-based Geographic Information Systems or other mapping applications. In addition, users are able to view the NHC map using the nowCOAST map viewer. Here is an example:

The Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map was developed by NHC over the course of several years in consultation with social scientists, emergency managers, broadcast meteorologists, and others. The map is intended to depict the risk associated with coastal flooding from storm surge associated with tropical cyclones. On June 1, 2016, it became an operational product, issued for all hurricanes and certain tropical storms that are expected to affect the Atlantic or Gulf Coasts of the United States.

nowCOAST is an ArcGIS-based web mapping application developed by the National Ocean Service's Office of Coast Survey and is hosted on NOAA's 24 x7 high availability Integrated Dissemination Program IT infrastructure operated by the NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction.

The nowCOAST map service provides access to the latest official NWS Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map, which depicts the geographical areas where inundation from storm surge could occur along with the heights, above ground, that water could reach in those areas (specifically, the Map indicates the amount of inundation that at any particular location has a 10 percent chance of being exceeded). These potential inundation amounts are represented with different colors based on water level:

- Greater than 1 foot above ground (blue)
- Greater than 3 feet above ground (yellow)
- Greater than 6 feet above ground (orange)
- Greater than 9 feet above ground (red)

Two versions of this graphic are provided in this map: one with a mask (depicted in gray) identifying Intertidal Zone/Estuarine Wetland areas, and another version without the IntertidalZone/Estuarine Wetland mask. Two additional layers are provided to depict first, the full geographic extent for which the map is presently valid (the "map boundary"), and second, Levee Areas, if any, within the affected area (symbolized with a black-and- white diagonal hatch pattern). If the map is not presently active, all layers will be blank except for the Map Boundary Layer, which will display a gray shaded region indicating the coverage area for any potential future graphics along with a text label indicating that the map is not presently available.

Once issued, the Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map will be updated by NHC every 6 hours in association with each new NHC Forecast Advisory. Due to processing requirements, however, it will take approximately 60 to 90 minutes following the release of the associated Forecast Advisory to produce the map, at which point nowCOAST will acquire it and update the map service within about 10 to 20 minutes. Thus, users can expect to see the product updated on nowCOAST within approximately 70 to 110 minutes after the associated Forecast Advisory is released.

The nowCOAST map service is found at http://nowcoast.noaa.gov/arcgis/rest/services/nowcoast/www_meteocean_tropicalcyclones_inundation/MapServer

Additional information about NHC's Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map is found at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/PDD-PotentialStormSurgeFloodingMap.pdf>

The official Service Chance Notice (SCN) is found at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/scn16-35nowcoastaaa.htm>

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September 29, 2016