



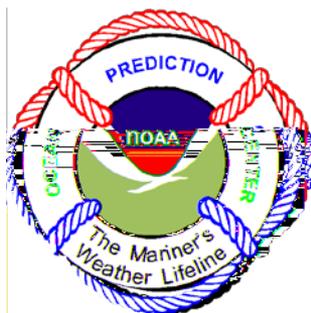
WEATHER AWARENESS

Joe Sienkiewicz, Chief, Ocean Applications Branch

Paul Vukits, Senior Marine Forecaster

NOAA National Weather Service

Ocean Prediction Center



College Park, MD

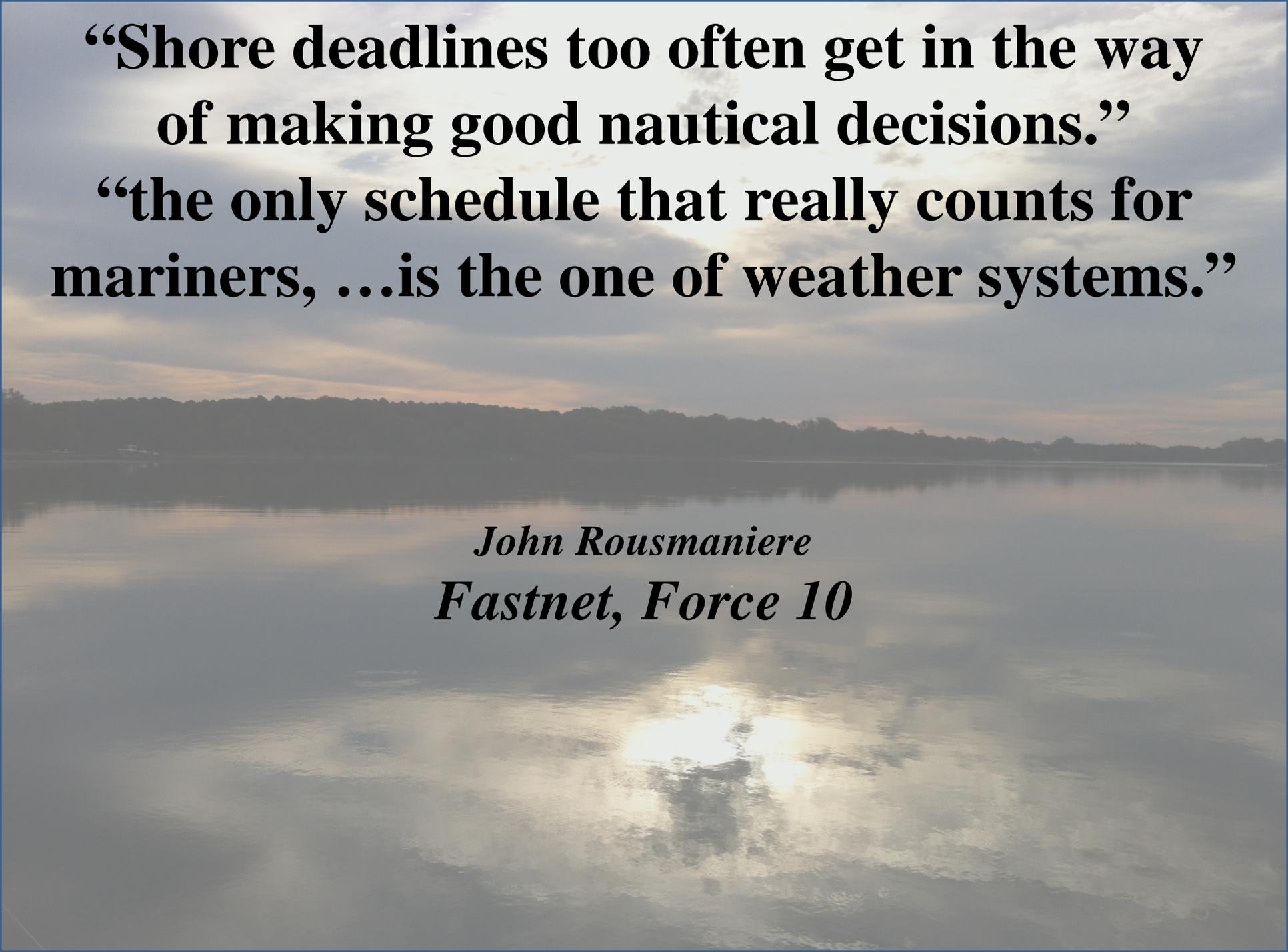
<http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.facebook.com/OceanPredictionCenter>

You just got on the boat.

What do you do with these, and why?





**“Shore deadlines too often get in the way
of making good nautical decisions.”**
**“the only schedule that really counts for
mariners, ...is the one of weather systems.”**

John Rousmaniere
Fastnet, Force 10





NWS / Ocean Prediction Center

mission/responsibility

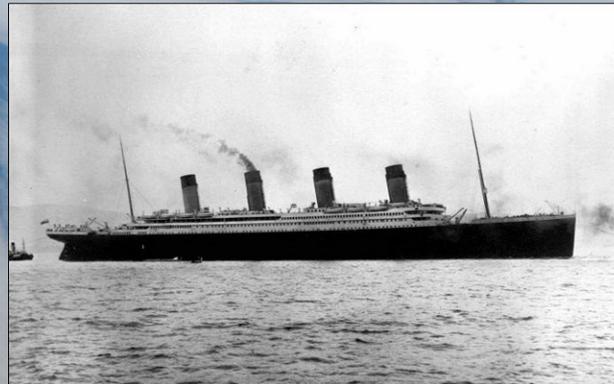
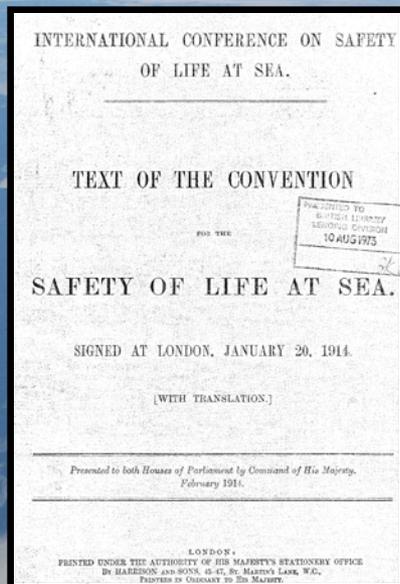


- **Protection of life and property, safety at sea, and enhancement of economic opportunity**
 - **Issue Warnings and Forecasts**
- Partially fulfill U.S. responsibilities with the World Meteorological Organization and Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS)
 - Global Maritime Distress Safety System *GMDSS*
(<http://www.gmdss.com/>)
- Forecast support
 - Government incident response (USCG,NOAA)
 - Government operations (USCG, Navy, NOAA)
- **Science AND service** based organization

Safety of Life At Sea, 1914

<http://www.imo.org>

- Chapter III – Safety of Navigation
 - Part I – Ice and Derelicts
 - Part II – Meteorological Information
- Chapter V - Radiotelegraphy



NOAA/NWS Marine Responsibility

High Seas - HSF

Offshore - OFF

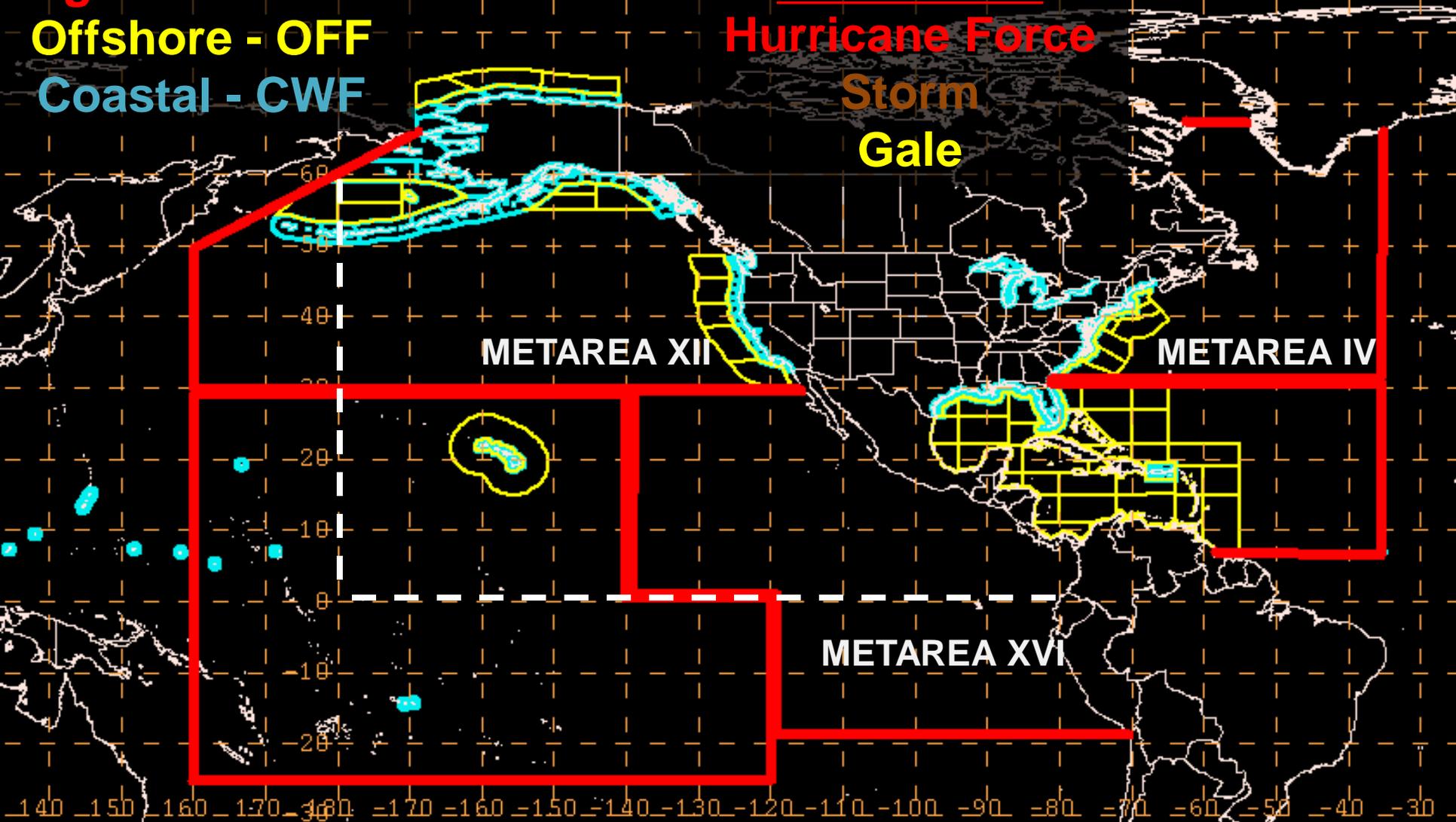
Coastal - CWF

WARNINGS

Hurricane Force

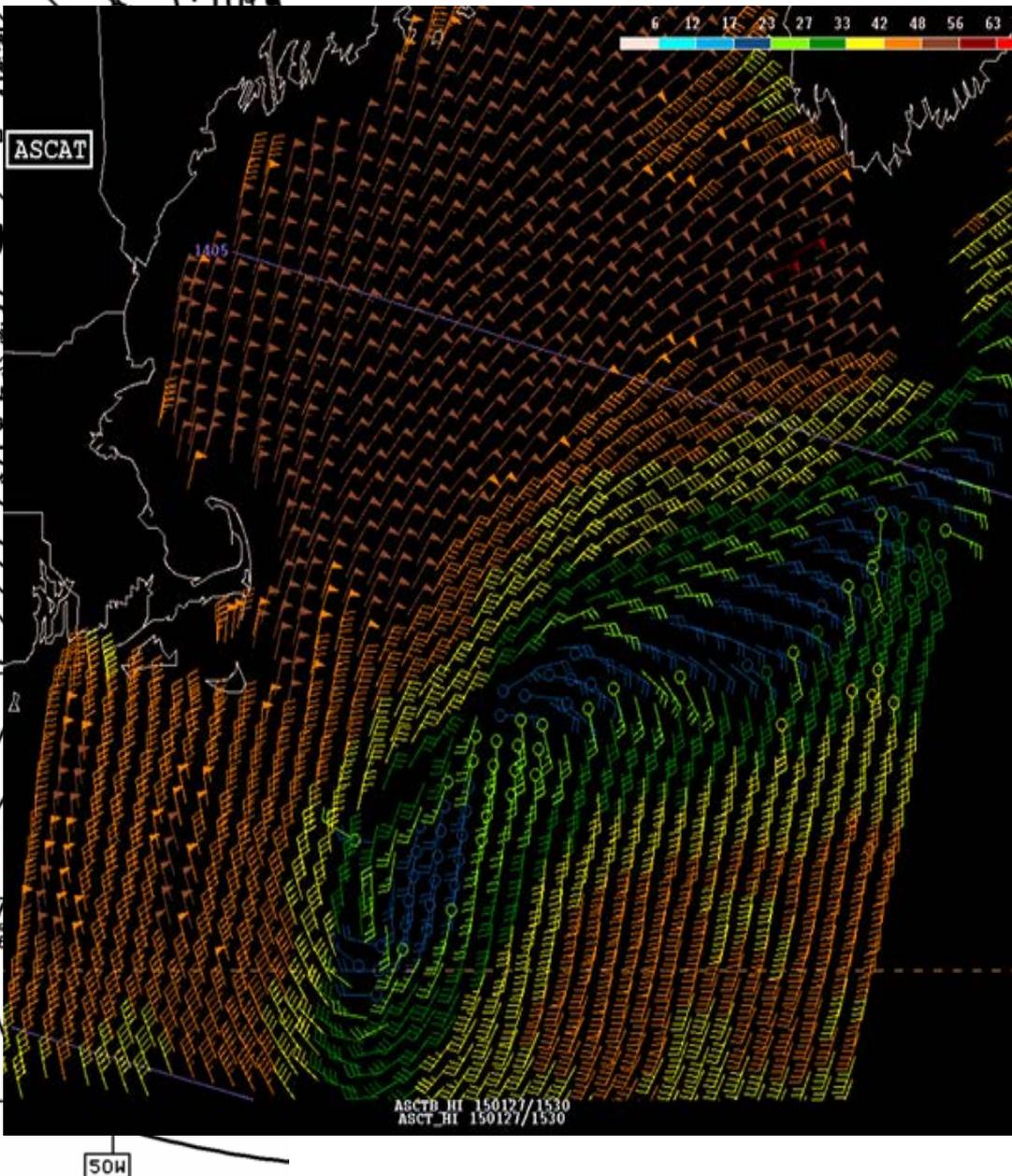
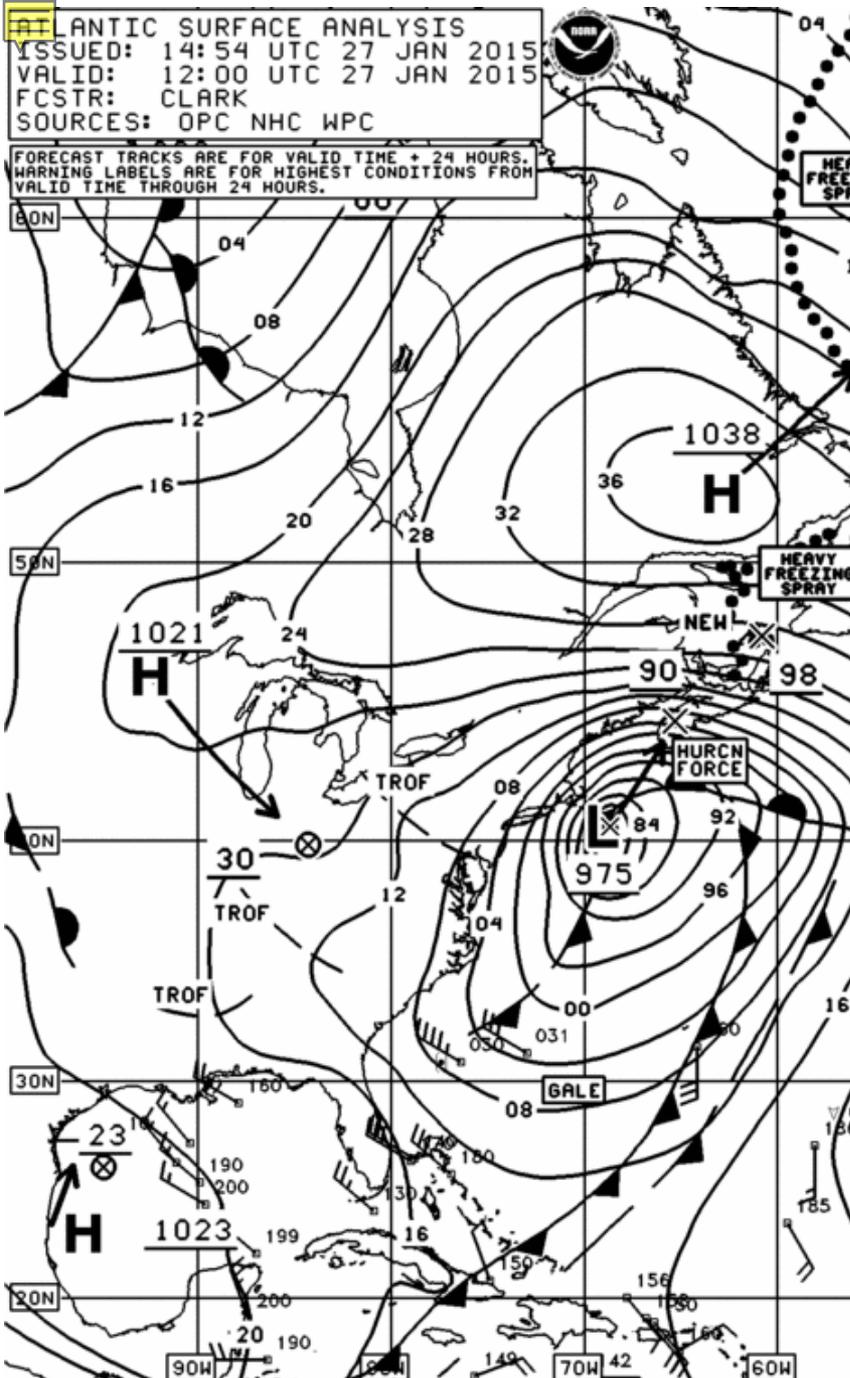
Storm

Gale

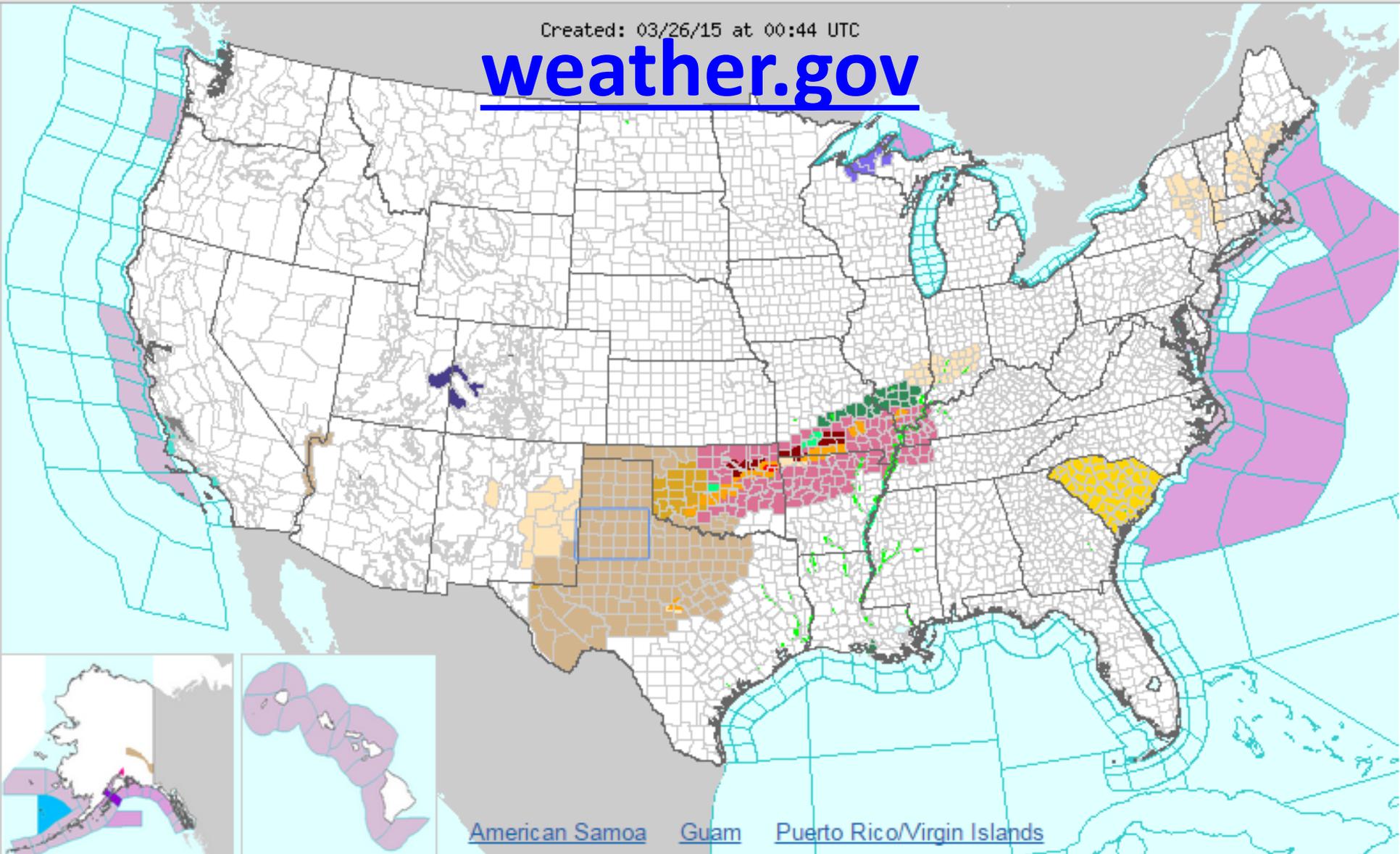


ATLANTIC SURFACE ANALYSIS
 ISSUED: 14:54 UTC 27 JAN 2015
 VALID: 12:00 UTC 27 JAN 2015
 FCSTR: CLARK
 SOURCES: OPC NHC WPC

FORECAST TRACKS ARE FOR VALID TIME + 24 HOURS.
 WARNING LABELS ARE FOR HIGHEST CONDITIONS FROM
 VALID TIME THROUGH 24 HOURS.



weather.gov



[American Samoa](#) [Guam](#) [Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands](#)

Click on the map above for detailed alerts or

[Tornado Alerts](#) [Severe Thunderstorm Alerts](#) [Heavy Freezing Spray Alerts](#) [Beach Hazards Alerts](#)

 [Tornado Warning](#)

 [Severe Thunderstorm Watch](#)

 [Heavy Freezing Spray Warning](#)

 [Beach Hazards Statement](#)



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

[HOME](#)

[FORECAST](#)

[PAST WEATHER](#)

[WEATHER SAFETY](#)

[INFORMATION CENTER](#)

[NEWS](#)

[SEARCH](#)

Local forecast by
"City, St" or ZIP code

[Location Help](#)

News Headlines

- [NWS Wakefield Public Zone Changes - Effective April 7, 2015](#)
- [Spring Severe Weather Season Upon Us](#)

Customize
Your
Weather.gov

Enter Your City, ST or
ZIP Code

Remember Me

[Privacy Policy](#)

NWS Forecast Office Wakefield, VA

[Weather.gov](#) > Wakefield, VA

[Current Hazards](#)

[Current Conditions](#)

[Radar](#)

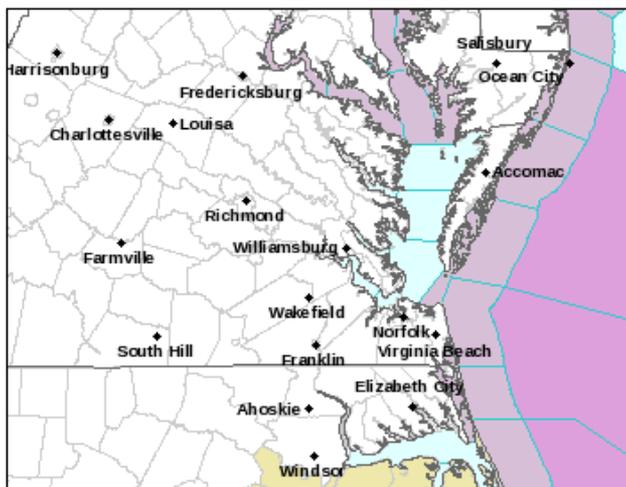
[Forecasts](#)

[Rivers and Lakes](#)

[Climate and Past Weather](#)

[Local](#)

Click on the map below to zoom in.



[Watches,
Warnings &
Advisories](#)



[Gale Warning](#)



[Small Craft Advisory](#)



[Hazardous Weather
Outlook](#)



Last Map Update: Wed, Mar. 25, 2015 at 8:52:04 pm EDT



[Radar](#)



[Current Weather](#)



[Rivers & Lakes](#)



[Satellite](#)



[Weather Information
Overlay](#)



[Local Forecast](#)

Location Help

- [NWS Wakefield Public Zone Changes - Effective April 7, 2015](#)
- [Spring Severe Weather Season Upon Us](#)

HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS

- Small Craft Advisory in effect from March 26, 06:00 AM EDT until March 27, 06:00 AM EDT

Last Update: 700 PM EDT WED MAR 25 2015

[View Nearby Observations](#)

4NM NE RUDEE INLET VA

For More Weather Information:
Wakefield, VA Local Forecast Office

MARINE ZONE FORECAST

...SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY IN EFFECT FROM 6 AM EDT THURSDAY THROUGH LATE THURSDAY NIGHT...

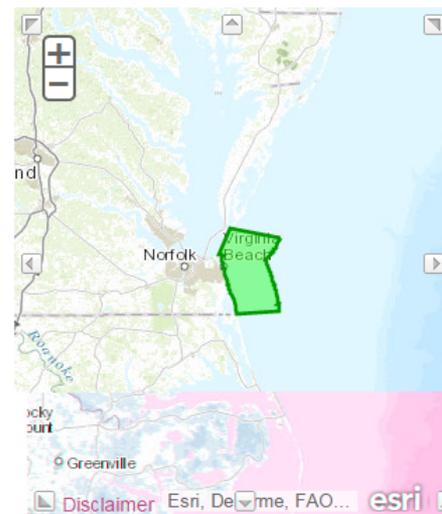
Synopsis: A WARM FRONT LIFTS NORTH OF THE WATERS THROUGH THIS EVENING. A STRONG COLD FRONT CROSSES THE WATERS THURSDAY NIGHT. HIGH PRESSURE BUILDS IN FROM THE NORTHWEST OVER THE WEEKEND.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Tonight | S winds 10 to 15 kt...increasing to 15 to 20 kt late. Seas 3 ft with a dominant period of 4 seconds. A slight chance of showers after midnight. |
| Thu | S winds 15 to 20 kt. Seas 4 to 5 ft with a dominant period of 7 seconds. A slight chance of showers until late afternoon. |
| Thu Night | S winds 15 to 20 kt...becoming SW after midnight. Seas 5 to 6 ft. Showers after midnight. |
| Fri | N winds 15 to 20 kt. Seas 4 to 5 ft. Showers. |
| Fri Night | N winds 10 to 15 kt...increasing to 15 to 20 kt after midnight. Seas 3 to 4 ft. Showers likely early in the evening...then a chance of showers in the late evening and early morning. |
| Sat | NW winds 15 to 20 kt. Seas 4 to 5 ft. |
| Sat Night | NW winds 10 to 15 kt...increasing to 15 to 20 kt after midnight. Seas 4 to 5 ft. |
| Sun | N winds 15 to 20 kt...becoming NW 10 to 15 kt in the afternoon. Seas 4 to 5 ft...subsiding to 3 ft in the afternoon. |
| Sun Night | S winds 5 to 10 kt...becoming SW 10 to 15 kt after midnight. Seas 3 to 4 ft. |
| Mon | SW winds 10 to 15 kt. Seas 3 to 4 ft. |

ADDITIONAL FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

ZONE AREA FORECAST FOR COASTAL WATERS FROM CAPE CHARLES LIGHT TO VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA BORDER OUT TO 20 NM

Topographic [Click Map For Detailed Forecast](#)



Requested Location Forecast Area

ABOUT THIS FORECAST

Last Update: 700 PM EDT WED MAR 25 2015

[Forecast Discussion](#)

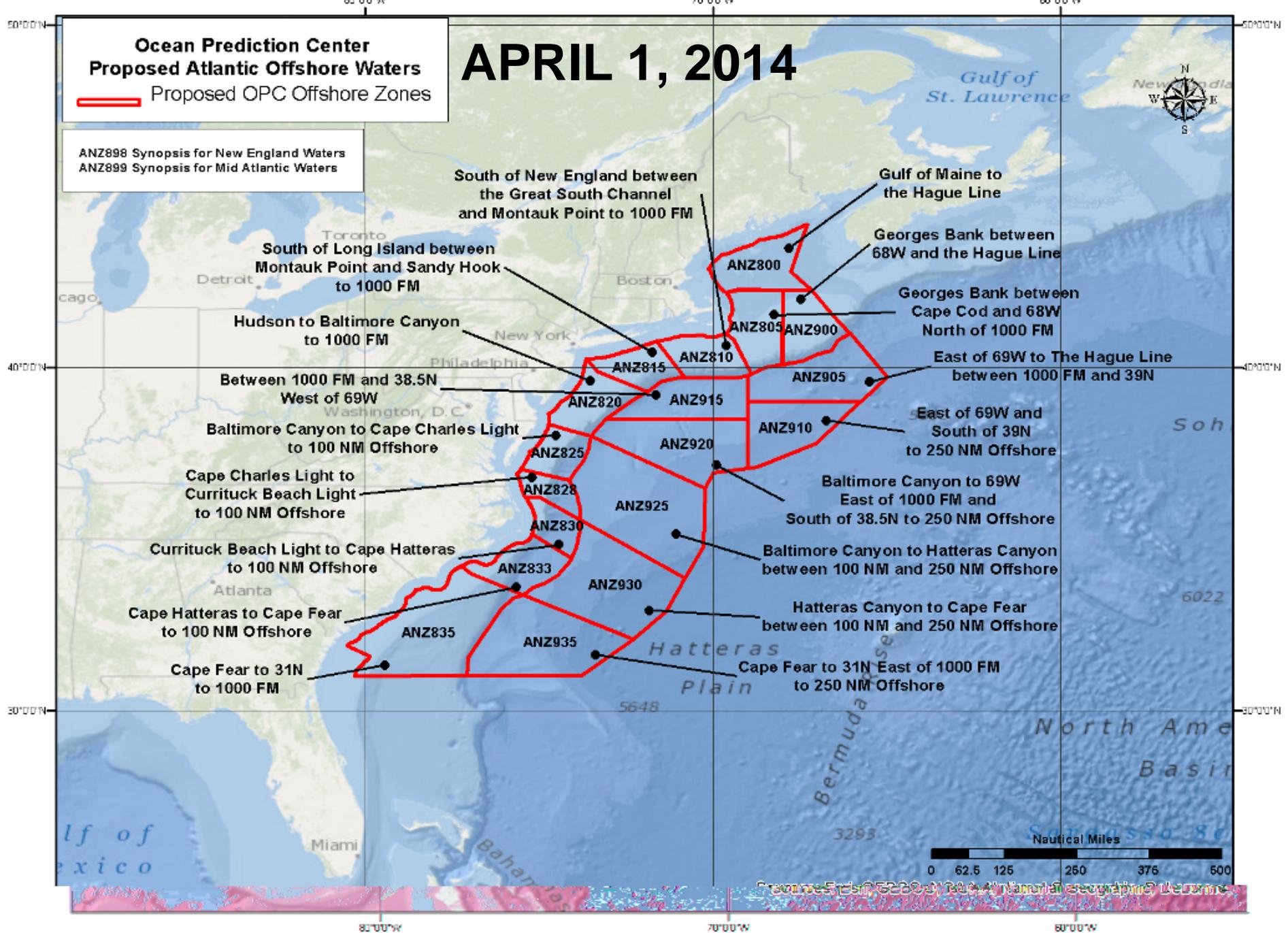


**Ocean Prediction Center
Proposed Atlantic Offshore Waters**

 Proposed OPC Offshore Zones

ANZ898 Synopsis for New England Waters
ANZ899 Synopsis for Mid Atlantic Waters

APRIL 1, 2014



- South of New England between the Great South Channel and Montauk Point to 1000 FM
- Gulf of Maine to the Hague Line
- South of Long Island between Montauk Point and Sandy Hook to 1000 FM
- Georges Bank between 68W and the Hague Line
- Hudson to Baltimore Canyon to 1000 FM
- Georges Bank between Cape Cod and 68W North of 1000 FM
- Between 1000 FM and 38.5N West of 69W
- East of 69W to The Hague Line between 1000 FM and 39N
- Baltimore Canyon to Cape Charles Light to 100 NM Offshore
- East of 69W and South of 39N to 250 NM Offshore
- Cape Charles Light to Currituck Beach Light to 100 NM Offshore
- Baltimore Canyon to 69W East of 1000 FM and South of 38.5N to 250 NM Offshore
- Currituck Beach Light to Cape Hatteras to 100 NM Offshore
- Baltimore Canyon to Hatteras Canyon between 100 NM and 250 NM Offshore
- Cape Hatteras to Cape Fear to 100 NM Offshore
- Hatteras Canyon to Cape Fear between 100 NM and 250 NM Offshore
- Cape Fear to 31N to 1000 FM
- Cape Fear to 31N East of 1000 FM to 250 NM Offshore

Ocean Prediction Center

- Role of forecaster changing
 - Forecaster tools allow
 - Direct interaction with model forecasts
 - Production of forecaster generated grids
 - GRIBs
 - Offshore bulletins from grids
 - Potential for growth and new products





<http://new.nowcoast.noaa.gov/>

nowCOAST 5.0 Beta
** EXPERIMENTAL **

Left-Click on Map for data values, hyperlinks or more information

Right-Click on Map for Weather Forecast at Inland & Coastal Locations

Layer Menu Legend

Current map scale: 1:9,244,649

Gridded Forecasts (NDFD)

Wind Velocity (Barbs)

- 5-knot Winds coming from West
- 15-knot Winds coming from East
- 50-knot Winds coming from West

Wind Speed



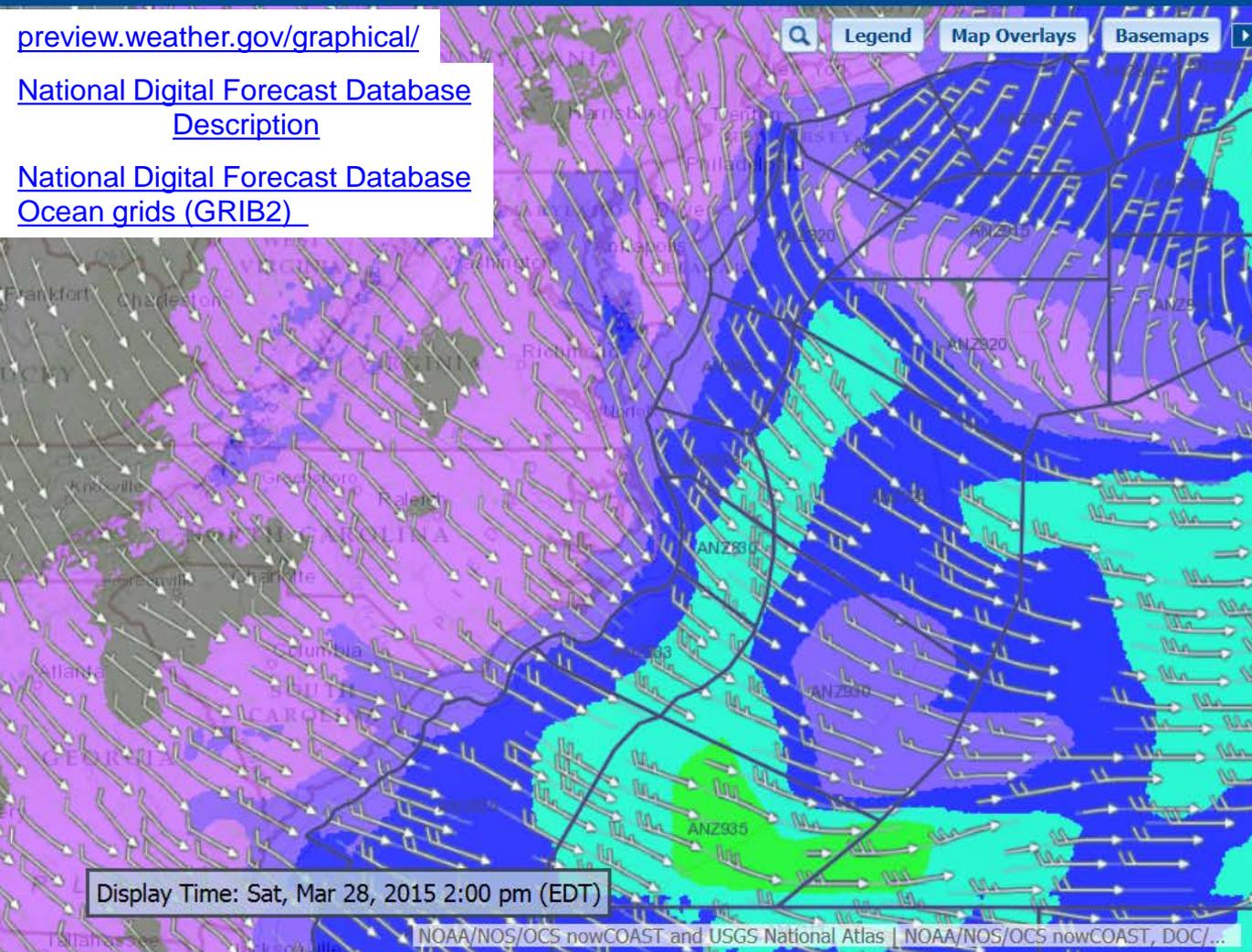
Tropical Cyclone Forecast & Observed Track

No active Tropical Cyclones at this time

U.S. Maritime Limits/Boundaries

- Overview
- Territorial Sea
- Contiguous Zone
- US EEZ
- Int'l Maritime Boundary
- Int'l Maritime Boundary N' EEZ
- Eastern Special Area
- Territorial Sea
- Int'l Boundary

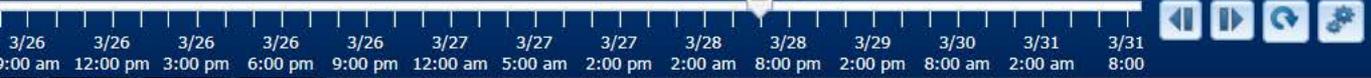
preview.weather.gov/graphical/
[National Digital Forecast Database Description](#)
[National Digital Forecast Database Ocean grids \(GRIB2\)](#)



Display Time: Sat, Mar 28, 2015 2:00 pm (EDT)

Time Control

3/28 2:00 pm (EDT)





<http://new.nowcoast.noaa.gov/>

nowCOAST 5.0 Beta
** EXPERIMENTAL **

Left-Click on Map for data values, hyperlinks or more information

Right-Click on Map for Weather Forecast at Inland & Coastal Locations

Layer Menu Legend

Current map scale: 1:9,244,649

Gridded Forecasts (NDFD)

Significant Wave Height
Forecast Issuance:
Wed, Mar 25 8:00 pm (EDT)



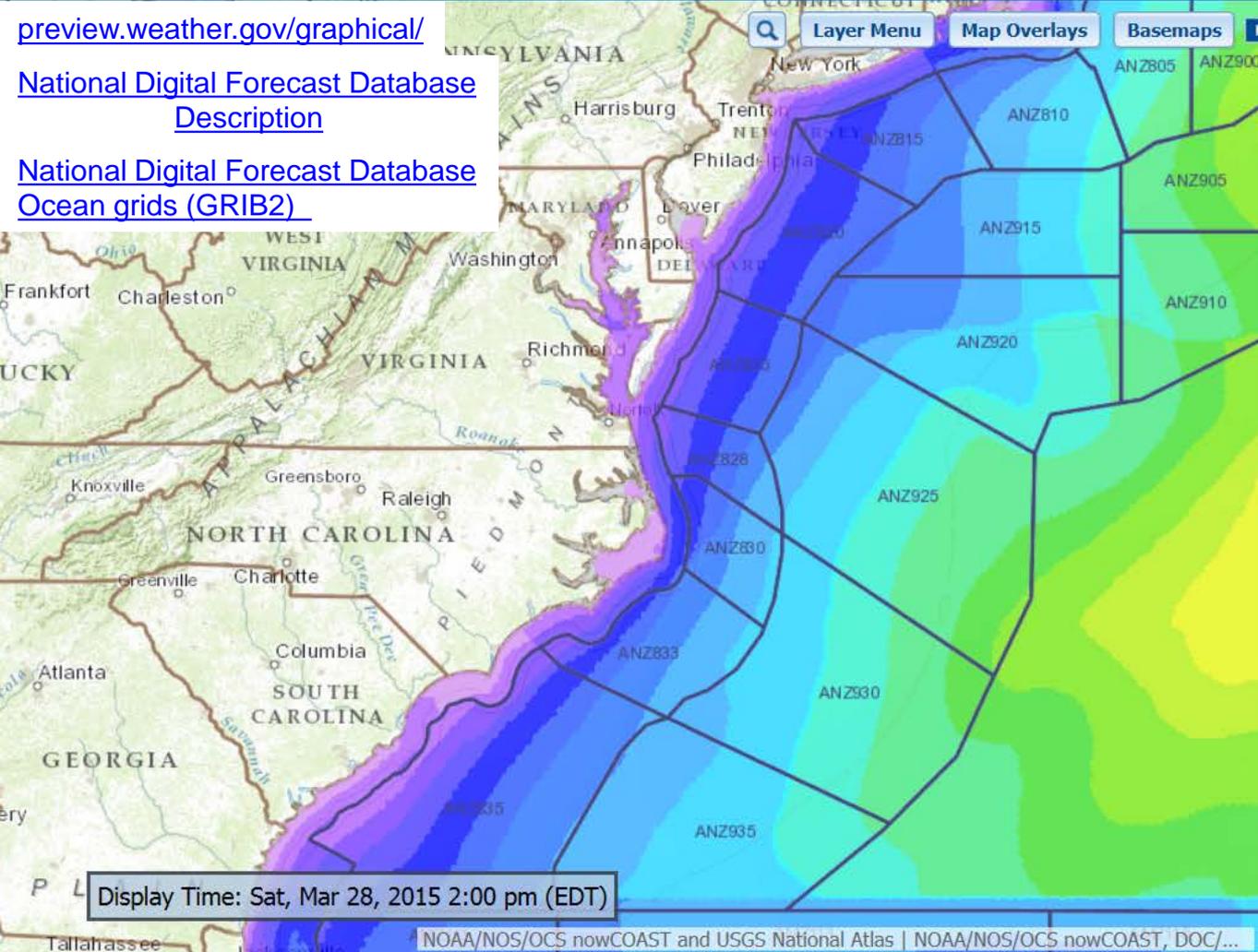
Tropical Cyclone Forecast & Observed Track

Observed Tracks are presently not available for storms in the Central Pacific
Latest Issuance or Update Time:
Wed, Mar 25 8:40 pm (EDT)
No active advisories at this time

U.S. Maritime Limits/Boundaries

- Overview
- Territorial Sea
- Contiguous Zone
- US EEZ
- Int'l Maritime Boundary
- Int'l Maritime Boundary N' EEZ
- Eastern Special Area
- Territorial Sea
- Int'l Boundary

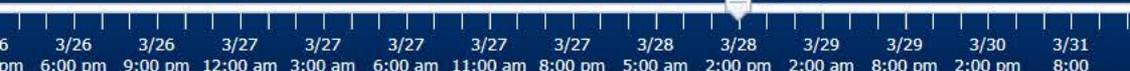
preview.weather.gov/graphical/
[National Digital Forecast Database Description](#)
[National Digital Forecast Database Ocean grids \(GRIB2\)](#)



Display Time: Sat, Mar 28, 2015 2:00 pm (EDT)

Time Control

3/28 2:00 pm (EDT)



Viewer Settings





Local forecast by "City, St" or "ZIP"

Go

NCEP Newsletter

Marine Weather

- OPC Products
- Atlantic | Pacific
- Mobile | RSS
- Special Support
- Experimental
- GRIB/GRIB2 data
- Product Guides
- Product Archive
- Fax Schedules
- Marine Weather Sites
- Forecast Support
- Quality Control
- Satellite Imagery
- Verification

Ocean Products

Coastal Guidance

Probabilistic Guidance

Environmental Prediction Guidance

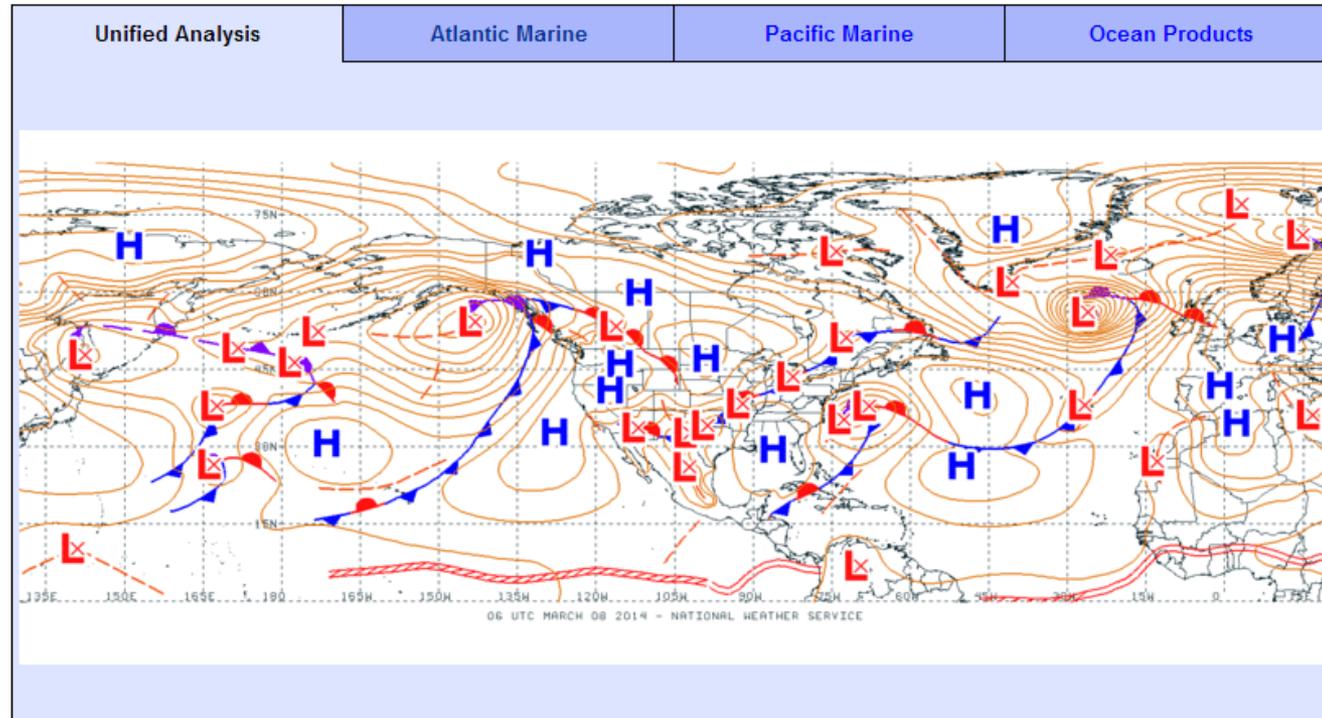
General Information

Contact Us



Top News at the Ocean Prediction Center

- The SEVIRI RGB Airmass Product and the 00Z OPC Atlantic Surface... [\(see our March 08 Facebook post for more\)](#)
- Please note OPC's Facebook URL has changed to www.facebook.com/NWSOPC
- Experimental lightning strike density product a useful tool for mariners
- New & smaller zones for the Offshore Waters Forecasts will be implemented April 1, 2014
- The Ocean Prediction Center has joined Twitter! Please follow us at: <https://twitter.com/NWSOPC>
- [News archive](#)



Last Update: Saturday, 08-Mar-2014 10:00:04 UTC

Click on the map above or choose from:

Unified Analysis Loops: Loop: [3] [7] [14] Days

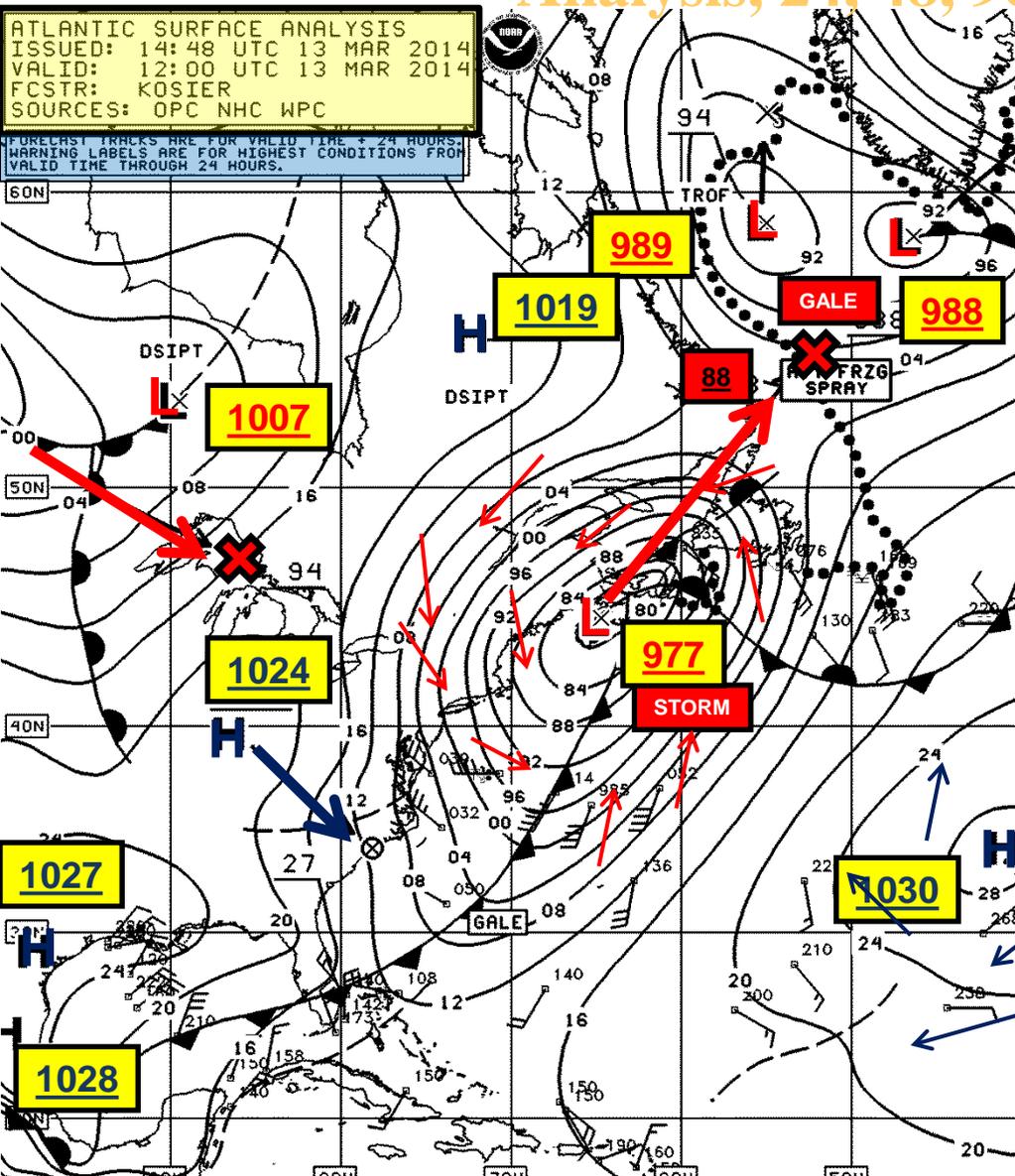
[Unified Surface Analysis Manual-PDF](#)

Surface Charts

Analysis, 24, 48, 96 HR Forecasts

ATLANTIC SURFACE ANALYSIS
 ISSUED: 14: 48 UTC 13 MAR 2014
 VALID: 12: 00 UTC 13 MAR 2014
 FCSTR: KOSIER
 SOURCES: OPC NHC WPC

FORECAST TRACKS ARE FOR VALID TIME + 24 HOURS.
 WARNING LABELS ARE FOR HIGHEST CONDITIONS FROM
 VALID TIME THROUGH 24 HOURS.



Fronts
Observations
Isobars

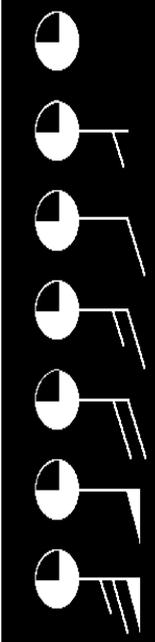
Pressure Centers L, H
 L – rising air
 converging
 H- sinking air
 diverging

**24 hr forecast position/
 intensity**

WARNINGS

Fronts – warm, cold, occluded
 boundaries between air of different temperature
 - Pressure trough
 - Wind shift
 - Weather (rain, clouds)

Global average sea level pressure
1013.2 millibars



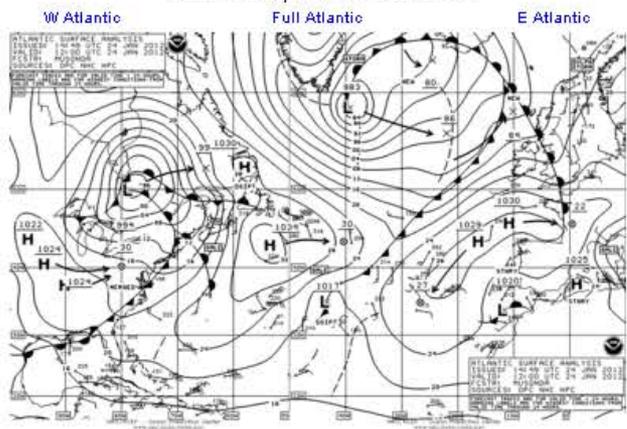
- Calm
- 5 Knots
- 10 Knots
- 15 Knots
- 20 Knots
- 50 Knots
- 65 Knots

- OPC Products
- Atlantic | Pacific
- Mobile
- Experimental
- GRIB/GRIB2 data
- Product Guides
- Product Archive
- Fax Schedules
- Marine Weather Sites
- Forecast Support
- Quality Control
- Satellite Imagery
- Verification

Atlantic Analysis

<http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/shtml/atlsch.shtml>

Click on the map below or choose from:



Surface Analysis

W Atlantic Loop:
[3] [7] [14] Days

Updated: Tue, 24-Jan-2012 15:00:13 UTC

E Atlantic Loop:
[3] [7] [14] Days

Updated: Tue, 24-Jan-2012 15:00:13 UTC



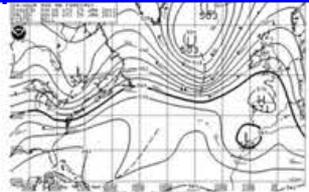
Wind and Wave Analysis

B&W Loop:
[3] [7] [12] Days

Updated: Tue, 24-Jan-2012 16:04:11 UTC

Atlantic Graphical Forecasts

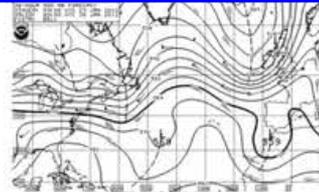
http://www.vos.noaa.gov/MWL/dec_08/milibar_chart.shtml



24-hour 500 mb

Loop: [3] [7] [14] Days

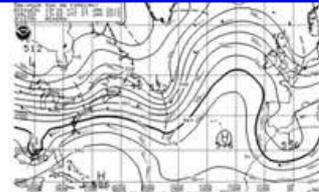
Updated: Tue, 24-Jan-2012 04:13:12 UTC



48-hour 500 mb

Loop: [3] [7] [14] Days

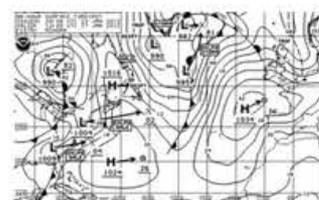
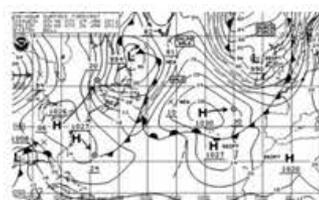
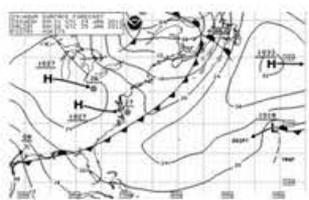
Updated: Tue, 24-Jan-2012 04:08:45 UTC



96-hour 500 mb

Loop: [3] [7] [14] Days

Updated: Mon, 23-Jan-2012 19:40:35 UTC



USA.gov
Government Made Easy

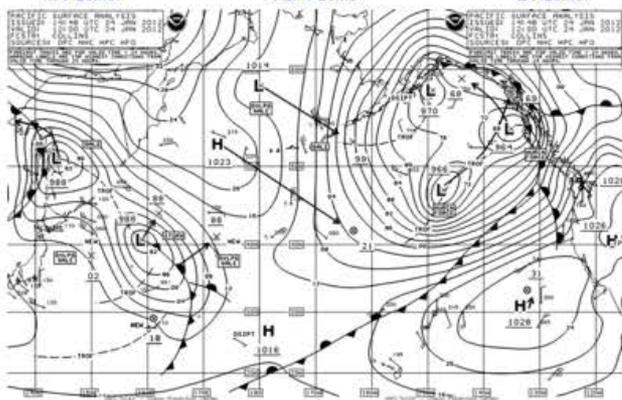
Find us on Facebook

Pacific Analysis

<http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/shtml/pacsch.shtml>

Click on the map below or choose from:

W Pacific Full Pacific E Pacific



Surface Analysis

W Pacific Loop:
[3] [7] [14] Days

Updated: Tue, 24-Jan-2012 14:57:54 UTC

E Pacific Loop:
[3] [7] [14] Days

Updated: Tue, 24-Jan-2012 14:57:53 UTC



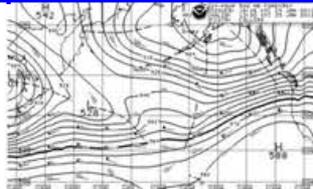
Wind and Wave Analysis

B&W Loop:
[3] [7] [12] Days

Updated: Tue, 24-Jan-2012 15:36:03 UTC

Pacific Forecasts

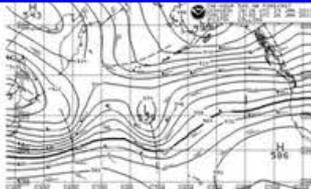
http://www.vos.noaa.gov/MWL/dec_08/milibar_chart.shtml



24-hour 500 mb

Loop: [3] [7] [14] Days

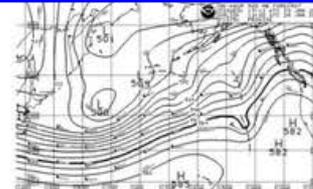
Updated: Tue, 24-Jan-2012 16:34:21 UTC



48-hour 500 mb

Loop: [3] [7] [14] Days

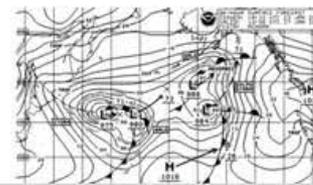
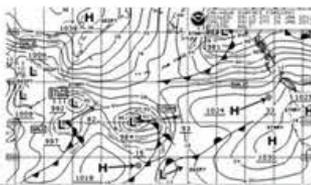
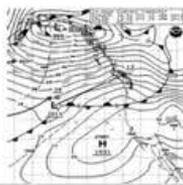
Updated: Tue, 24-Jan-2012 16:29:47 UTC



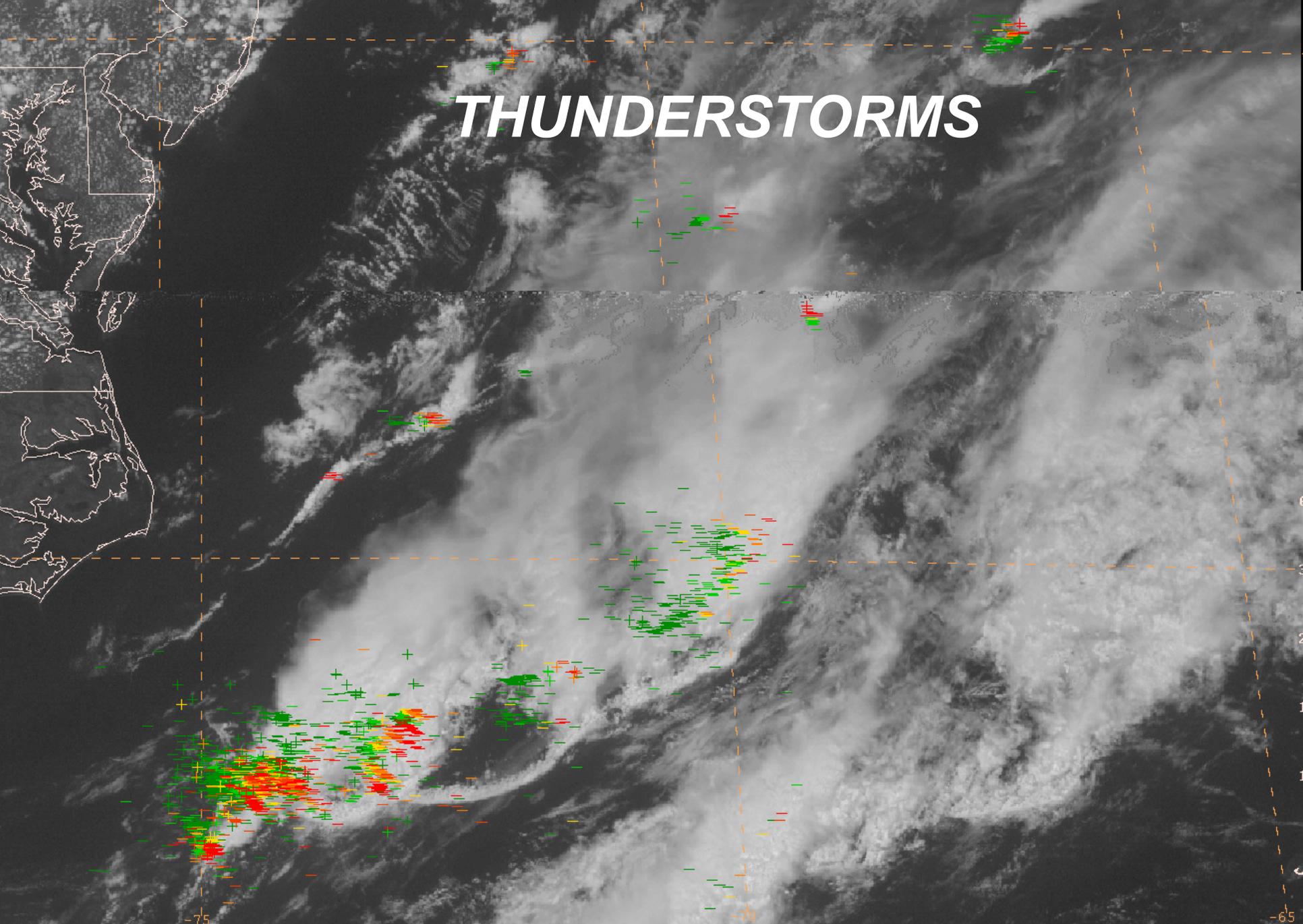
96-hour 500 mb

Loop: [3] [7] [14] Days

Updated: Tue, 24-Jan-2012 17:18:39 UTC



THUNDERSTORMS



-75

-70

-65

Single Cell Storm

Multicell cluster storm

Multicell line storm

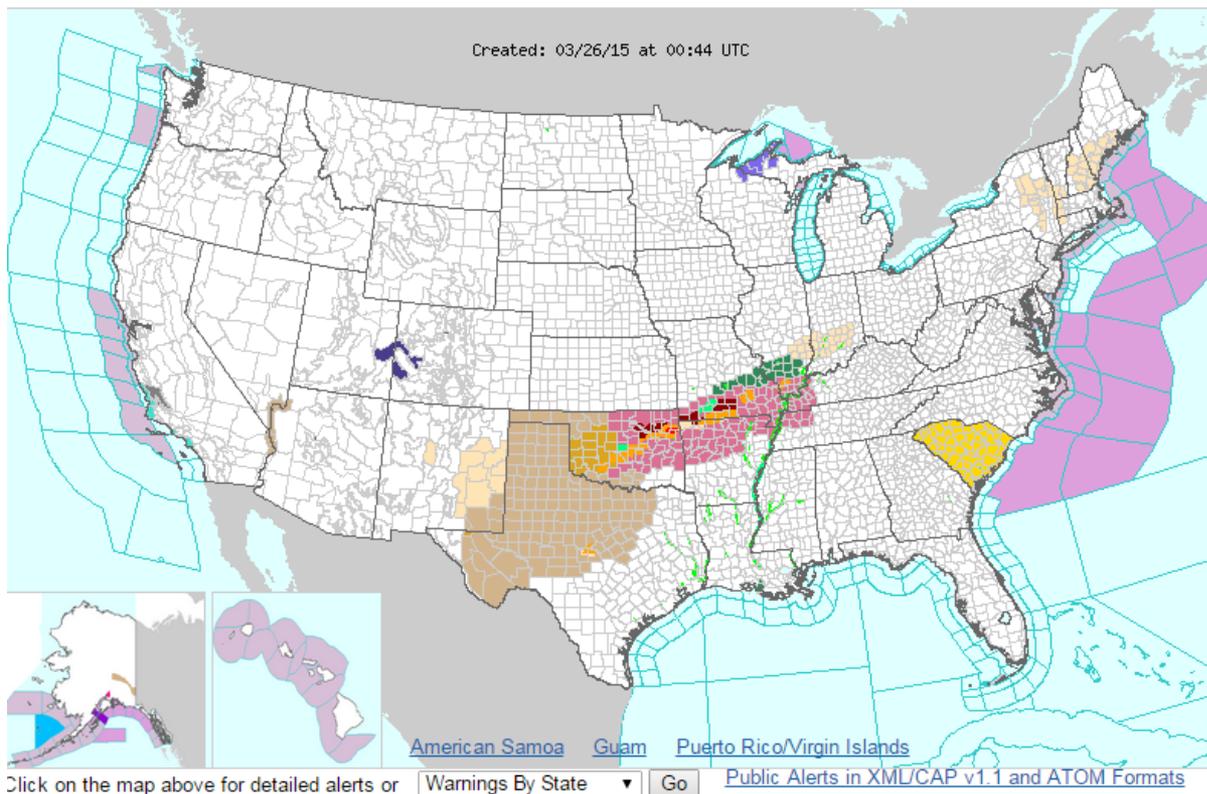
Supercell storm

<https://www.meted.ucar.edu/>
<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/education/svrwx101/>
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/?n=stormspotting-basics>
[http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/\(Gh\)/guides/mtr/svr/home.rxml](http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/(Gh)/guides/mtr/svr/home.rxml)

INCREASING

- **Shear**
 - Wind direction and speed with height
 - Separate up and down draft
- **Instability**
 - Potential
 - Fuel
- **Organization**
 - Structure
- **Lifespan**
 - Minutes to hours
- **Severity**
 - Minor damage
 - Catastrophic

2009 7 25



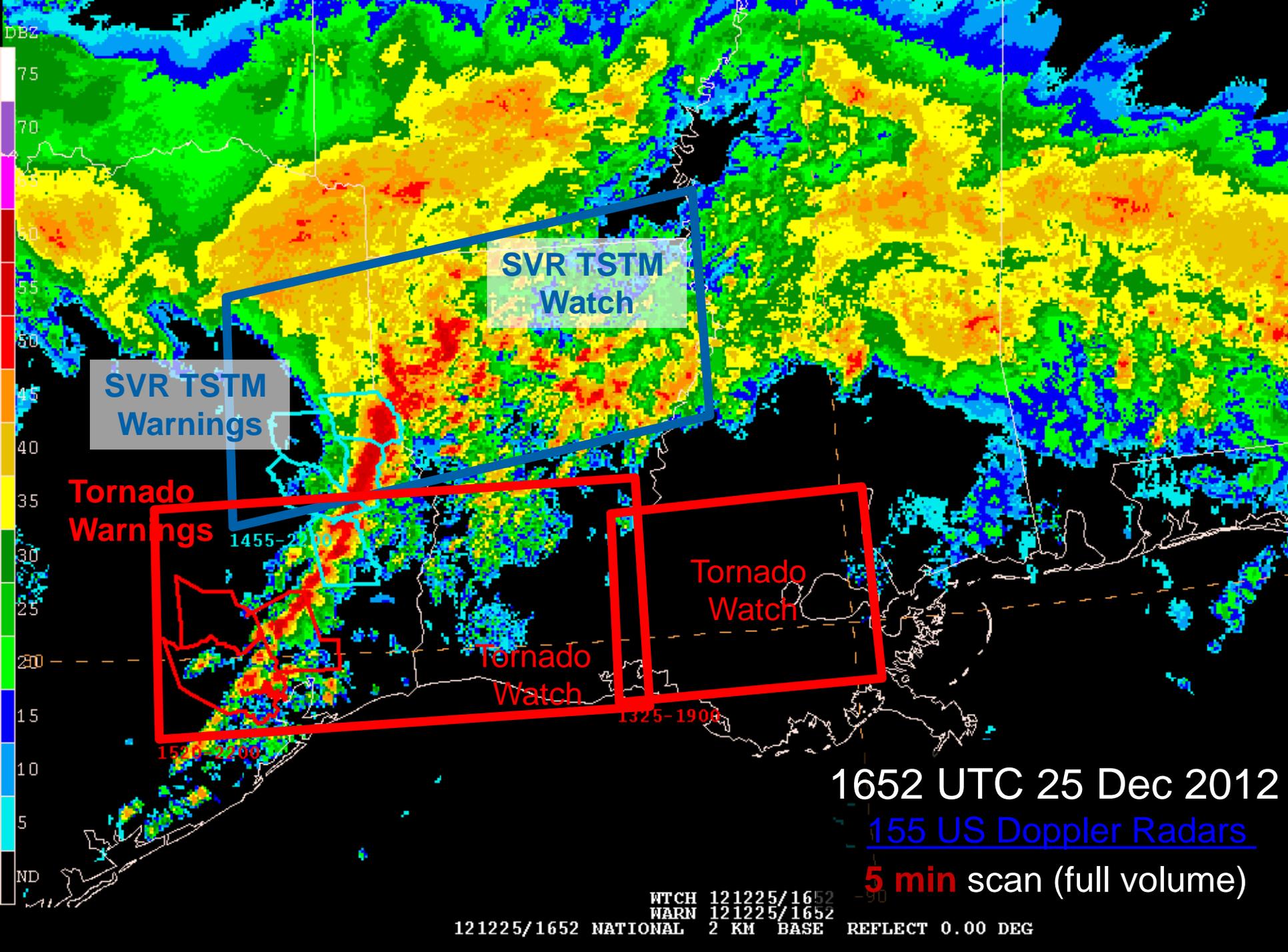
- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tornado Warning | Severe Thunderstorm Watch | Heavy Freezing Spray Warning | Beach Hazards Statement |
| Severe Thunderstorm Warning | Flash Flood Watch | Small Craft Advisory For Rough Bar | Flood Watch |
| Flash Flood Warning | Gale Warning | Small Craft Advisory For Winds | Special Weather Statement |
| Severe Weather Statement | Freeze Warning | Small Craft Advisory | Air Quality Alert |
| High Wind Warning | Red Flag Warning | Brisk Wind Advisory | |
| Storm Warning | Winter Weather Advisory | Wind Advisory | |
| Flood Warning | Flood Advisory | Child Abduction Emergency | |

WATCH - the **risk** of a hazardous weather event **has increased significantly**, but its occurrence, location, and/or timing is still uncertain. It is intended to provide enough lead time so that those who need to set their plans in motion can do so..

Tornado Severe Thunderstorm Storm Prediction Center

WARNING - hazardous weather ***is occurring, is imminent, or has a very high probability of occurring.*** A warning is used for conditions posing a **threat to life and property.**

Tornado Severe Thunderstorm Local Weather Forecast Office



1652 UTC 25 Dec 2012

155 US Doppler Radars

5 min scan (full volume)

WTCH 121225/1652
WARN 121225/1652
121225/1652 NATIONAL 2 KM BASE REFLECT 0.00 DEG

CUMULUS CLOUDS

Cumulonimbus

MATURING

GROWING

GROWING

GROWING

NEW

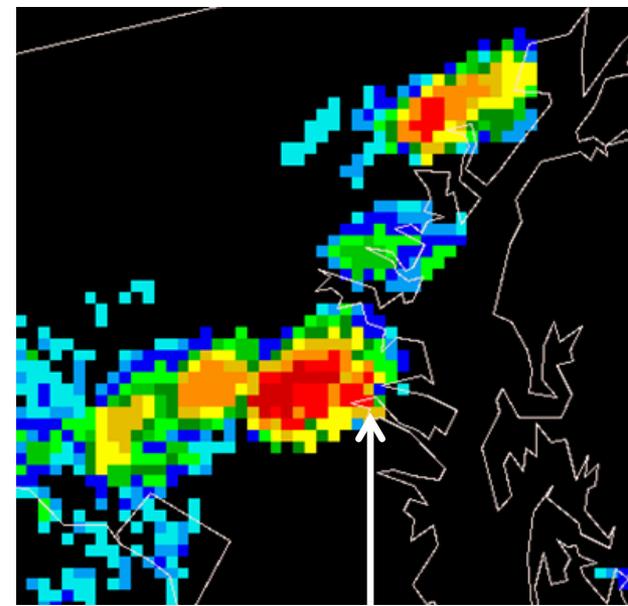


MATURING
Spreading out

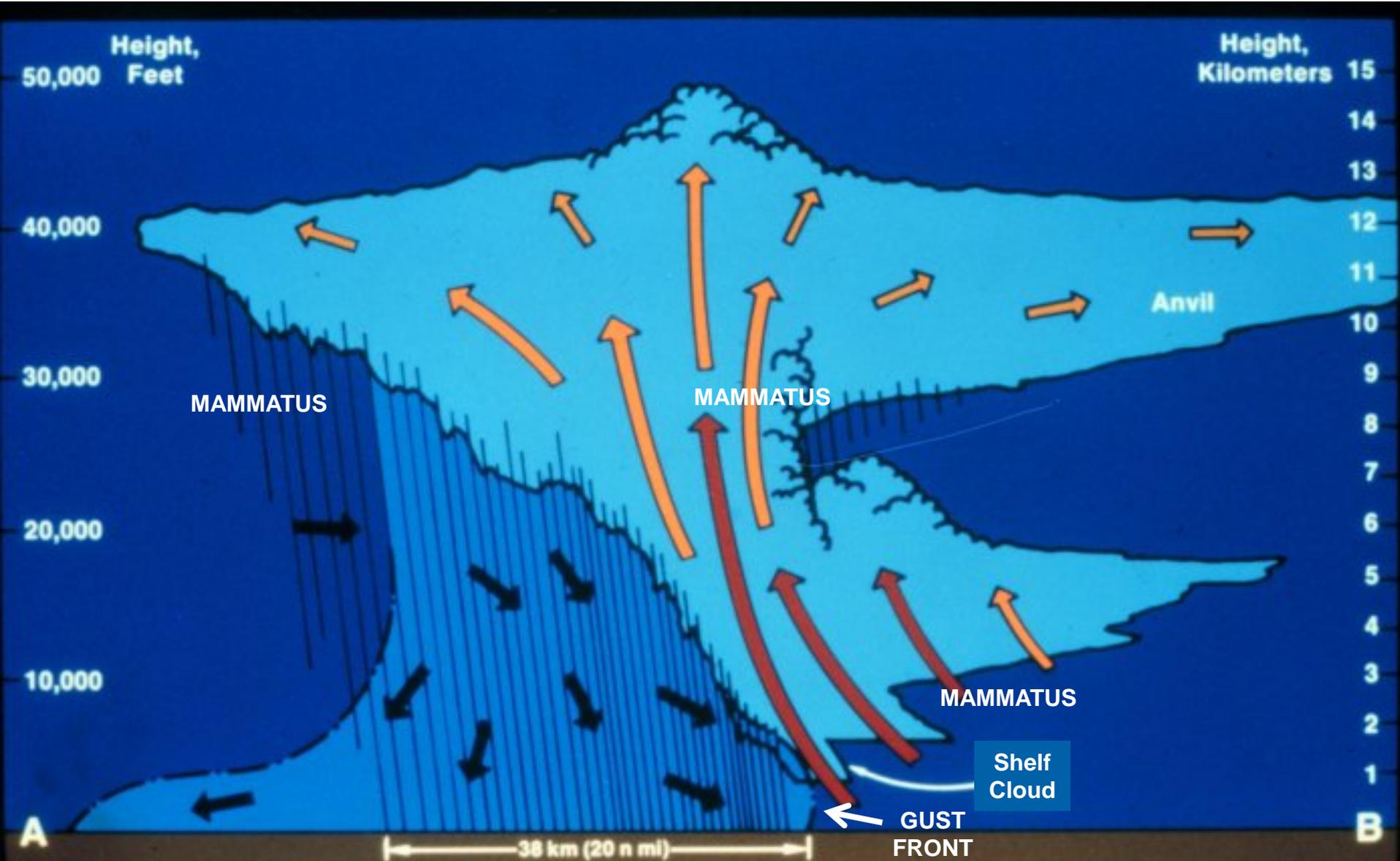
GROWING

Anvil
Ice cloud

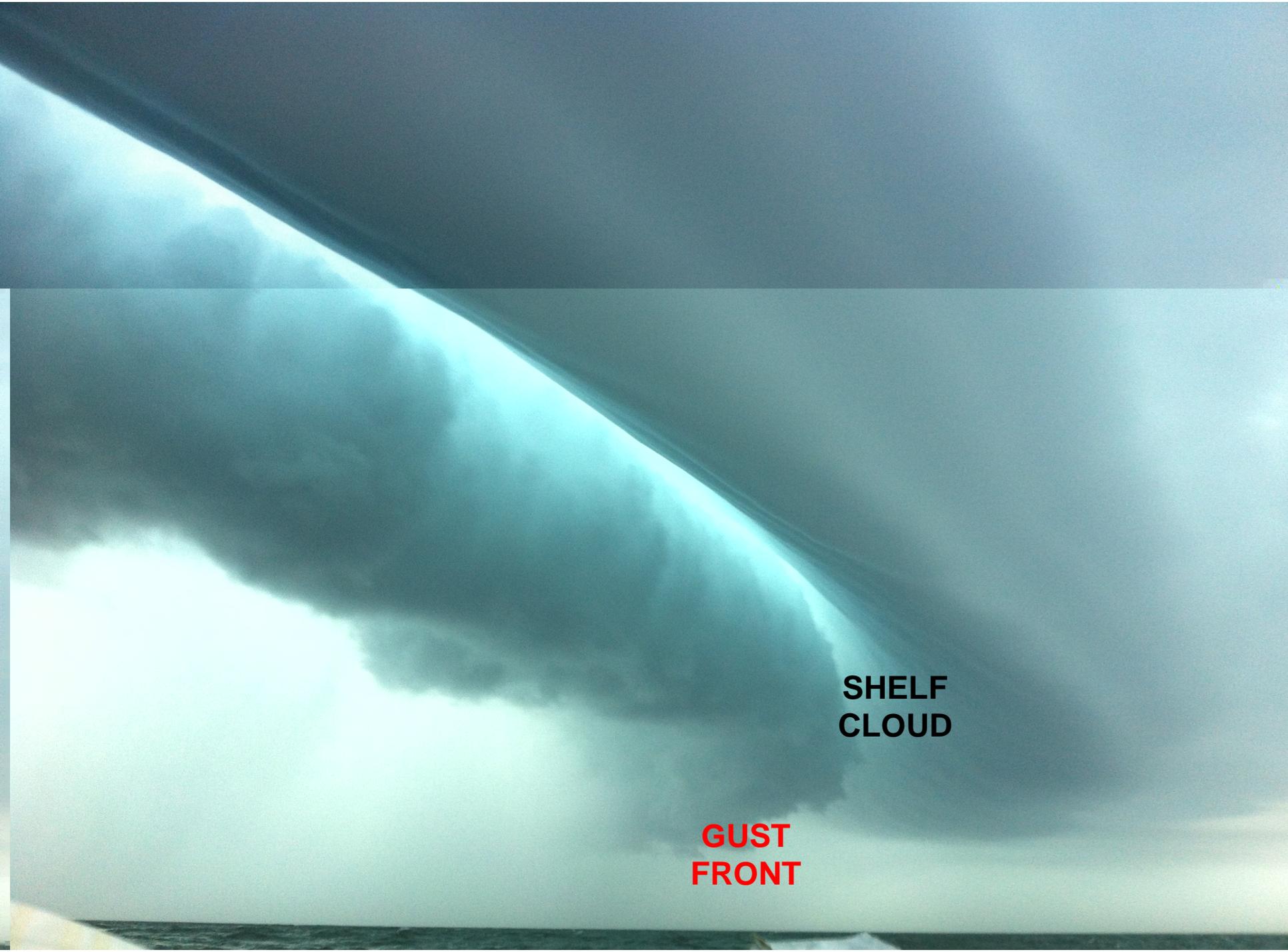
GROWING



SQUALL LINES



SCHEMATIC CROSS SECTIONAL VIEW OF SQUALL LINE



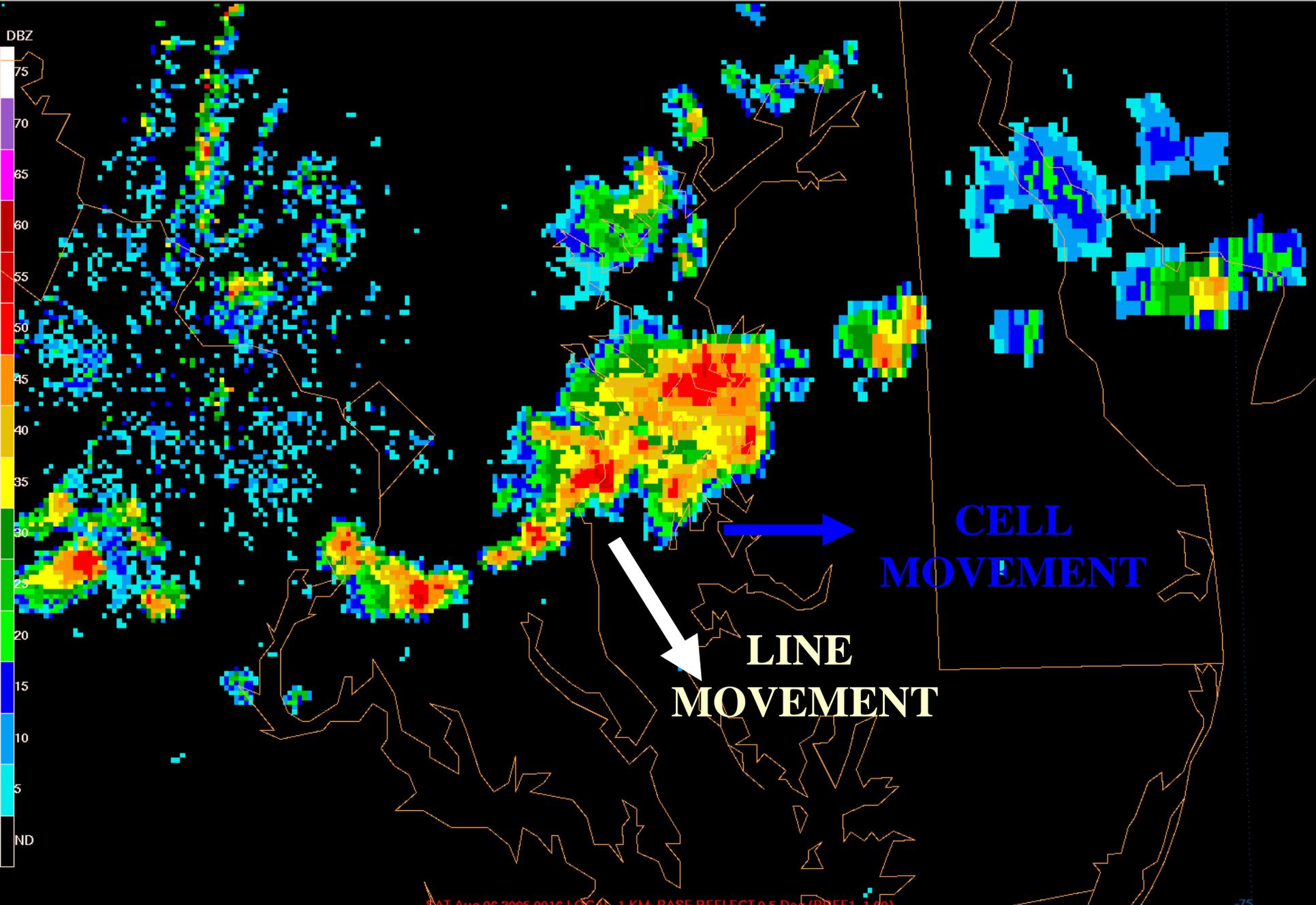
**SHELF
CLOUD**

**GUST
FRONT**

MAMMATUS



GREEN TINGE – potential for HAIL³⁰



SAT Aug 06 2005 0016 LOCAL 1 KM BASE REFLECT 0.5 Deg (BREF1_1.00)



THUNDERSTORM TIPS



Know the forecast!

NOAA WX Radio, weather.gov

Fronts, troughs, boundaries

Watch the sky!!! ACT EARLY!!!!

Smart phone, laptop (NWS radar), Satellite Radio

Beware of false sense of security!

Gulf Stream

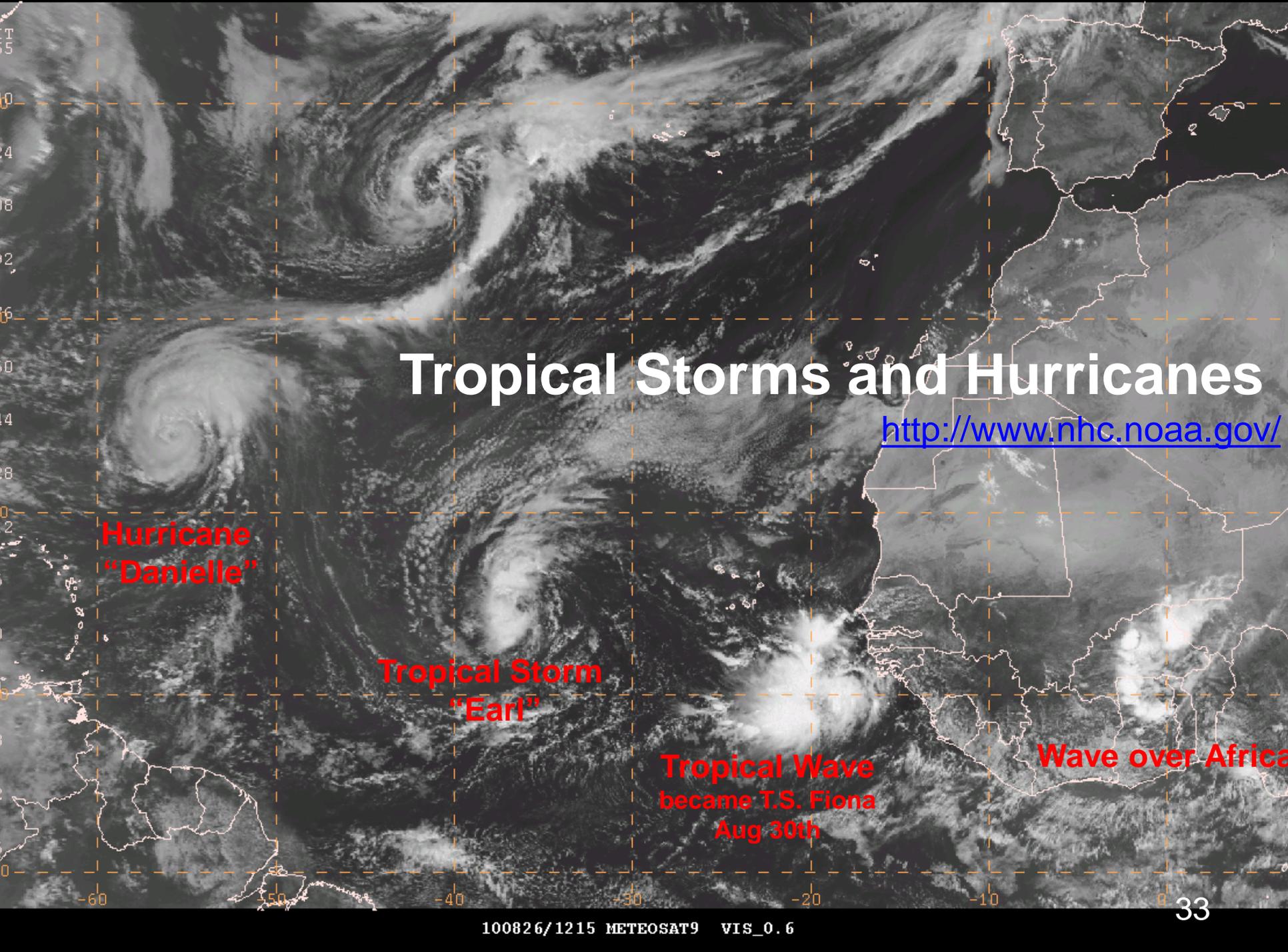
Flow parallel to the Stream

Maximum activity at night

AM Radio, Radar (rain clutter/sea clutter)

Squall Drill?

2009 7 25

A satellite image of the Atlantic Ocean showing several tropical weather systems. The image is overlaid with a dashed orange grid. The systems are labeled in red text: Hurricane "Danielle" (top left), Tropical Storm "Earl" (center), Tropical Wave became T.S. Fiona Aug 30th (bottom center), and Wave over Africa (bottom right). The landmasses of North and South America are visible on the right side of the image.

Tropical Storms and Hurricanes

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

**Hurricane
"Danielle"**

**Tropical Storm
"Earl"**

**Tropical Wave
became T.S. Fiona
Aug 30th**

Wave over Africa



Average Atlantic Hurricane Season

9.8 named storms

5.8 Hurricanes

www.nhc.noaa.gov

2014

8 “named” storms

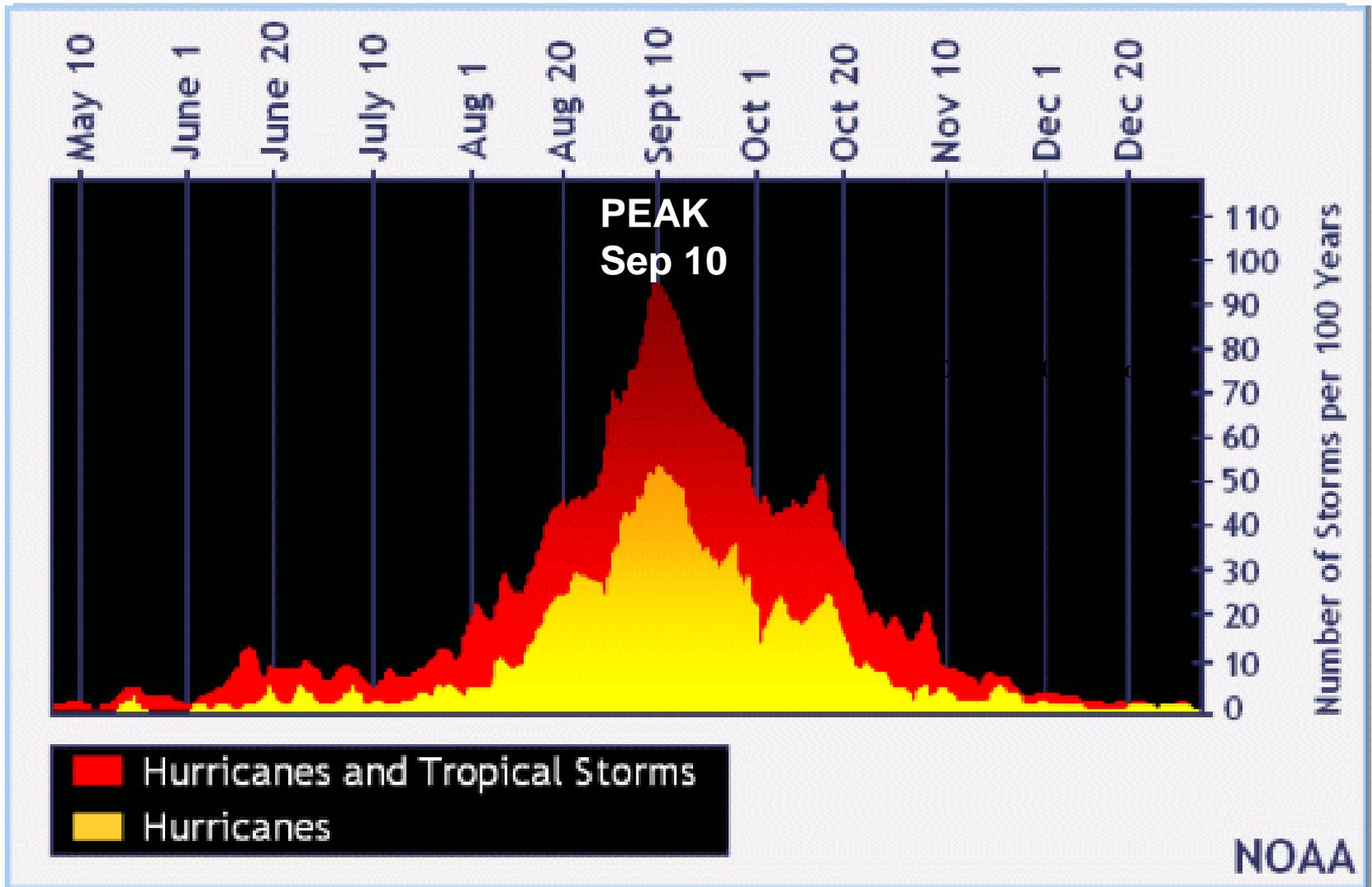
4 Hurricanes

A Slightly Below Average Season



<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/tracks/tracks-at-2013.png>





<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/climo/>



Dealing with Hurricane Season

- **Know the climatology...formation areas and favored tracks**

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pastprofile.shtml>

- **Know where to receive latest information, continue to monitor!!!**

<http://www.weather.gov>

- **We continue to get better at forecasting track and formation!**

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/verification/figs/OFCL_ATL_trk_error_trend.gif

- **Intensity still a big challenge!!!**

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/verification/figs/OFCL_ATL_int_error_trend.gif

- **Have seen more cyclones later in season...**

- **Hurricanes are just as dangerous in the northern latitudes**

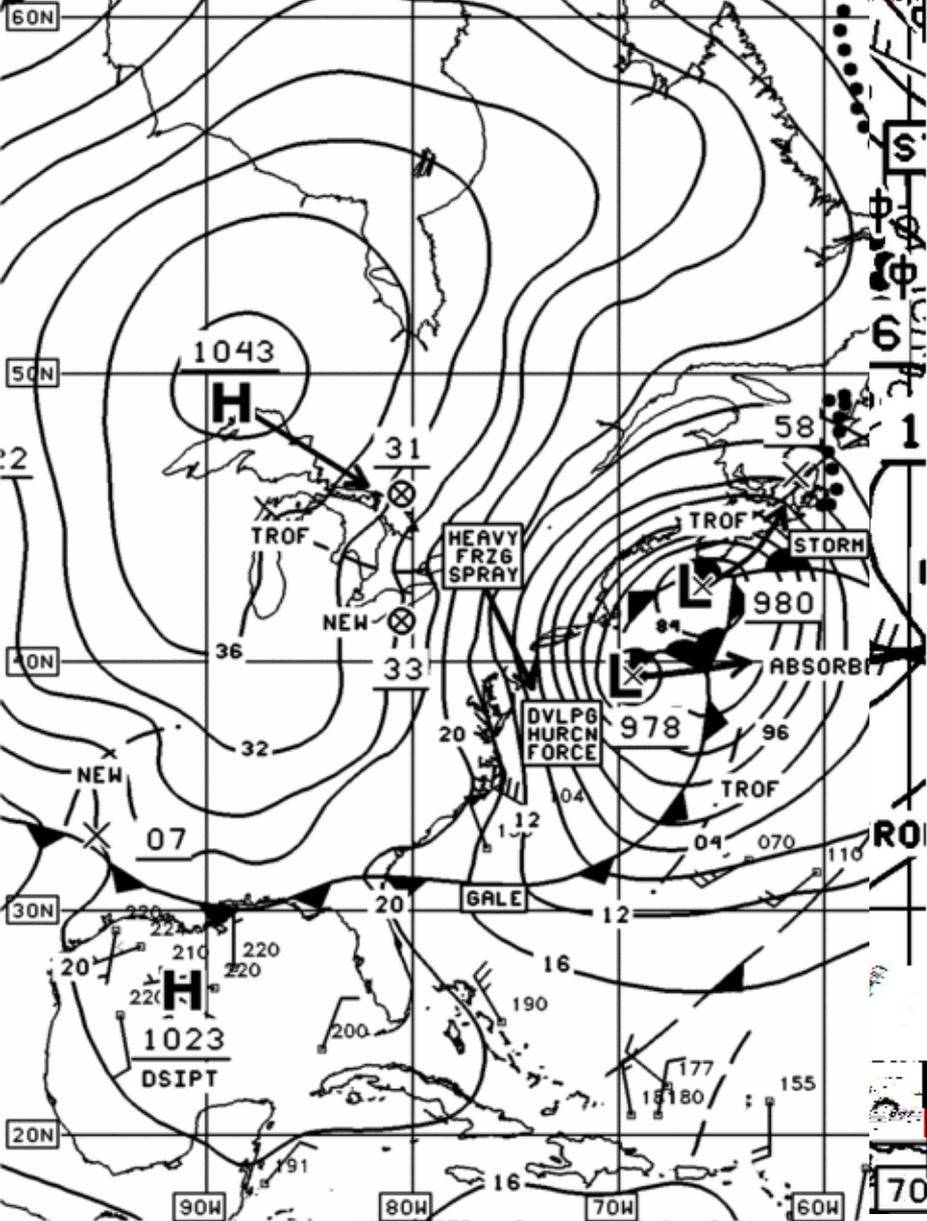
- **They move faster and are more efficient wave producers**

USCG Search and Rescue 15 February 2015

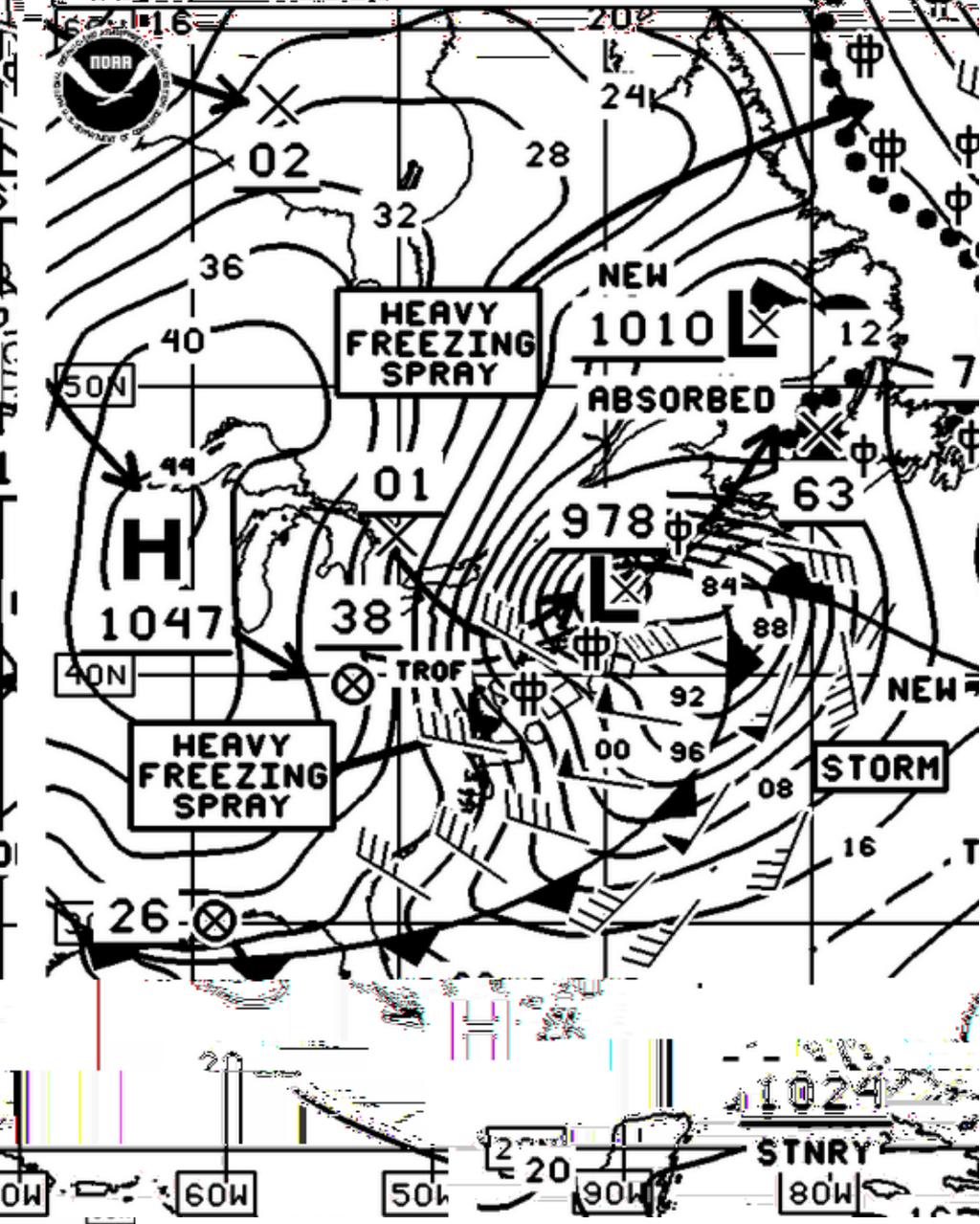


ANTIC SURFACE ANALYSIS
 ISSUED: 15:04 UTC 15 FEB 2015
 VALID: 12:00 UTC 15 FEB 2015
 FCSTR: COLLINS
 SOURCES: OPC NHC WPC

FORECAST TRACKS ARE FOR VALID TIME + 24 HOURS.
 WARNING LABELS ARE FOR HIGHEST CONDITIONS FROM
 VALID TIME THROUGH 24 HOURS.



96-HOUR SURFACE FORECAST
 ISSUED: 17:59 UTC 11 FEB 2015
 VALID: 12:00 UTC 15 FEB 2015
 FCSTR: MILLS



Before departing

- **Departure time may be the single most important decision.**
- **Know the forecast...and update!**
- **Monitor the weather via Internet....same products...get in rhythm**
- **Private weather routing service?**
- **Know your limitations (criteria)!**

Underway

- **Monitor the weather...**
 - **watch keeping/navigation**
 - **wind speed and/or direction changes, barometer, seas**
 - **know what to anticipate**
- **Is the weather evolving as planned?**
 - **If not...determine and redefine options**
- **KNOW THE CURRENT FORECAST!!!**
 - **Weatherfax, SSB, NOAA WX RADIO, ftpmail, etc...**

