

## Current Watches and Warnings

A **Storm Surge Warning** is in effect for the west coast of Florida from Aripeka to the Aucilla River

A **Tropical Storm Warning** is in effect for the west coast of Florida from Aripeka to Ochlockonee River; the mouth of St. Marys River, Georgia to Little River Inlet, South Carolina

A **Tropical Storm Watch** is in effect from north of Little River Inlet, South Carolina to Sandy Hook, New Jersey; Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds; Chesapeake Bay south of North Beach and the tidal Potomac south of Cobb Island; Delaware Bay south of Slaughter Beach

## Current Details from the National Hurricane Center (NHC)

**COORDINATES:** 29.9° north, 83.6° west

**LOCATION:** 65 miles (100 kilometers) north-northwest of Cedar Key, Florida

**MOVEMENT:** north at 14 mph (22 kph)

**WINDS:** 65 mph (100 kph) with gusts to 75 mph (120 kph)

**RADIUS OF TROPICAL STORM-FORCE WINDS:** 90 miles (150 kilometers)

**MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE:** 999 millibars

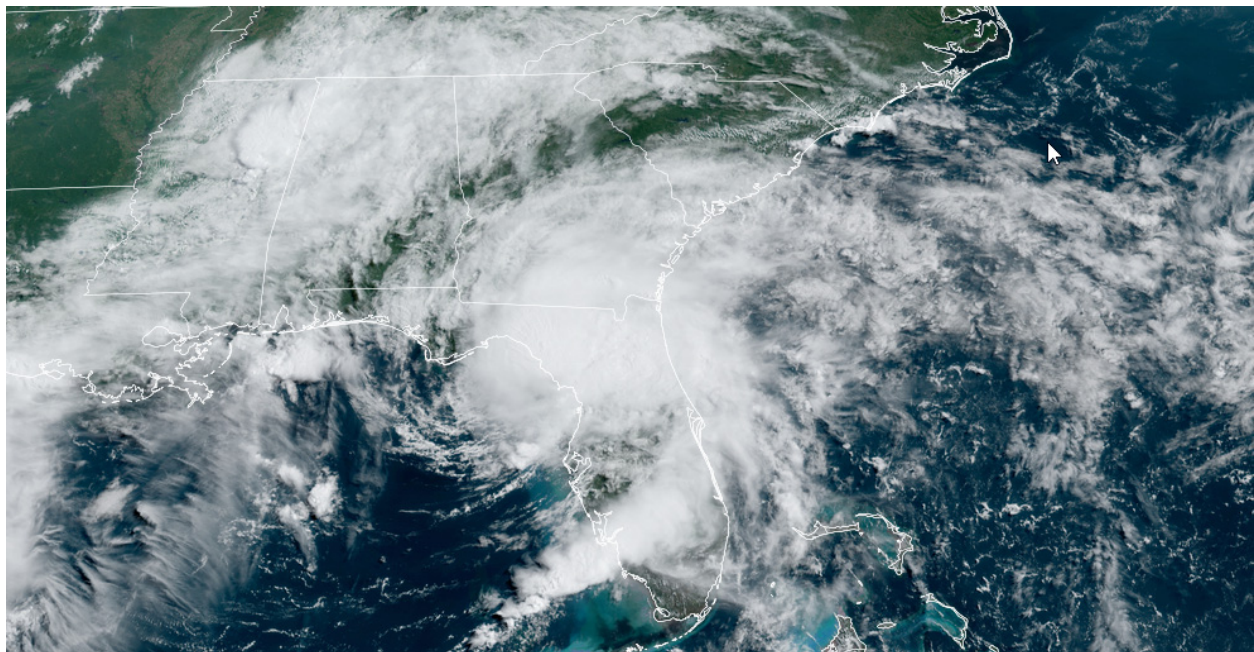
**SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE RANKING:** Tropical Storm

**U.S. LANDFALL LOCATION:** north coast of Florida (Taylor County)

**U.S. LANDFALL INTENSITY:** 65 mph (100 kph)

**U.S. LANDFALL TIMEFRAME:** 11:00 AM local time (15:00 UTC)

## Latest Satellite Picture



Source: NOAA / NASA / Colorado State University (RAAMB)

# Discussion

Tropical Storm Elsa, located approximately 65 miles (100 kilometers) north-northwest of Cedar Key, Florida, is currently tracking north at 14 mph (22 kph). An Air Force Hurricane Hunter aircraft has made several passes through Elsa this morning, and recent observations from the plane indicated that the center is now making landfall. The aircraft found that the central pressure remained about steady with maximum winds of 65 mph (100 kph) up to the point of landfall. Sustained tropical storm-force winds are being reported from observing sites within the warning area, with an unofficial report of a sustained wind of 62 mph (100 kph) at Horseshoe Beach in Dixie County, Florida during the past half hour.

Elsa has continued northward, and it is expected to turn towards the north-northeast today as it moves along the northwestern periphery of a ridge of high pressure in the Atlantic Ocean. On Thursday, the cyclone should begin to accelerate northeastward on the southeast side of a broad mid-level trough located over the eastern United States and Canada. The official NHC track forecast is in agreement with the latest multi-model consensus. This is only slightly to left of the previous NHC track, and shows the center moving near the U.S. Northeast coast within the next 48 hours.

Weakening will occur while the cyclone moves over land during the next 36 hours. However, since winds of 40 mph (65 kph) are possible near the coast well to the southeast of the center within the next day or two, the NHC has issued a Tropical Storm Warning for a portion of the U.S. Southeast coast. Some slight reintensification is shown when the center moves near the coast in 48 to 60 hours. However, since water temperatures are cool near the northeast coast, strengthening will probably be influenced by baroclinic forcing – differences in temperature and pressure – associated with a mid-level disturbance. The system will likely become extratropical by 72 hours if not sooner while it moves through Atlantic Canada.

## Key Messages from the National Hurricane Center

1. As Elsa moves across the western and northern Florida Peninsula today, heavy rainfall may result in considerable flash, urban, and isolated moderate river flooding. Heavy rainfall across southeast Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and southeastern Virginia may result in isolated flash and urban flooding, with considerable flash and urban flooding possible across southeast Georgia and the Lowcountry of South Carolina. Heavy rainfall across the Northeast and New England Thursday and Friday could lead to isolated flash and urban flooding.
2. There is still a danger of life-threatening storm surge along portions of the west coast of Florida today, and a Storm Surge Warning is in effect for that area.
3. Tropical storm conditions will continue today across portions of the northeast Gulf coast today within the warning area.
4. Although the center of Elsa is expected to remain inland of the coastline from Georgia through the Carolinas during the next day or two, tropical storm conditions are expected along much of the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina. Tropical storm conditions are also possible along the coast of the mid-Atlantic states by Thursday night or Friday.

### Additional Information

**WIND:** Tropical storm conditions will continue along the Gulf Coast of Florida in the warning area today. Tropical storm conditions are expected in the Tropical Storm Warning area along the Georgia coast by late today or tonight and along the South Carolina coast tonight and early Thursday. Tropical storm conditions are possible in the watch area in the mid-Atlantic and northeastern states by Thursday night and Friday.

**STORM SURGE:** The combination of a storm surge and the tide will cause normally dry areas near the coast to be flooded by rising waters moving inland from the shoreline. The water could reach the following heights above ground somewhere in the indicated areas if the peak surge occurs at the time of high tide:

Aripeka, FL to Aucilla River: 2 to 4 feet

Middle of Longboat Key, FL to Aripeka, FL, including Tampa Bay: 1 to 3 feet

Aucilla River to Ochlockonee River: 1 to 3 feet

Mouth of St. Marys River to South Santee River, SC: 1 to 2 feet

Surge-related flooding depends on the relative timing of the surge and the tidal cycle and can vary greatly over short distances.

**RAINFALL:** Elsa is expected to produce the following rainfall amounts and impacts the rest of this week:

Across western and northern portions of the Florida Peninsula: 3 to 6 inches with localized maximum storm totals up to 9 inches today, which may result in considerable flash and urban flooding, along with minor to isolated moderate river flooding

Across portions of southeast Georgia and the Lowcountry of South Carolina, 2 to 4 inches with isolated maximum totals up to 6 inches will be possible, which may result in considerable flash and urban flooding.

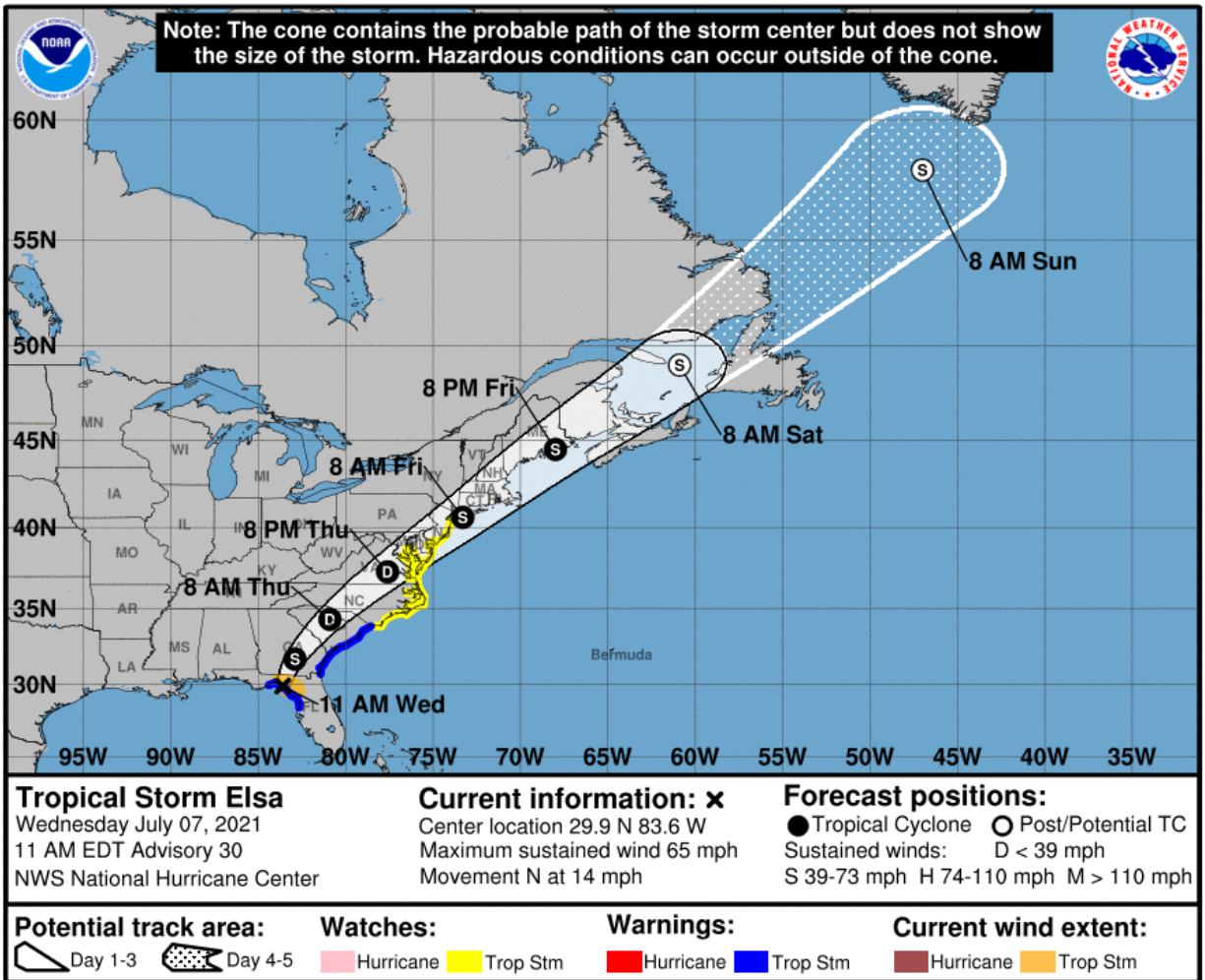
Across eastern North Carolina into southeastern Virginia: 1 to 3 inches with isolated totals up to 5 inches tonight through Thursday night, which could lead to isolated flash and urban flooding

Across the Northeast and New England, 1 to 3 inches with isolated totals up to 5 inches Thursday into Friday will be possible. This could lead to isolated flash and urban flooding.

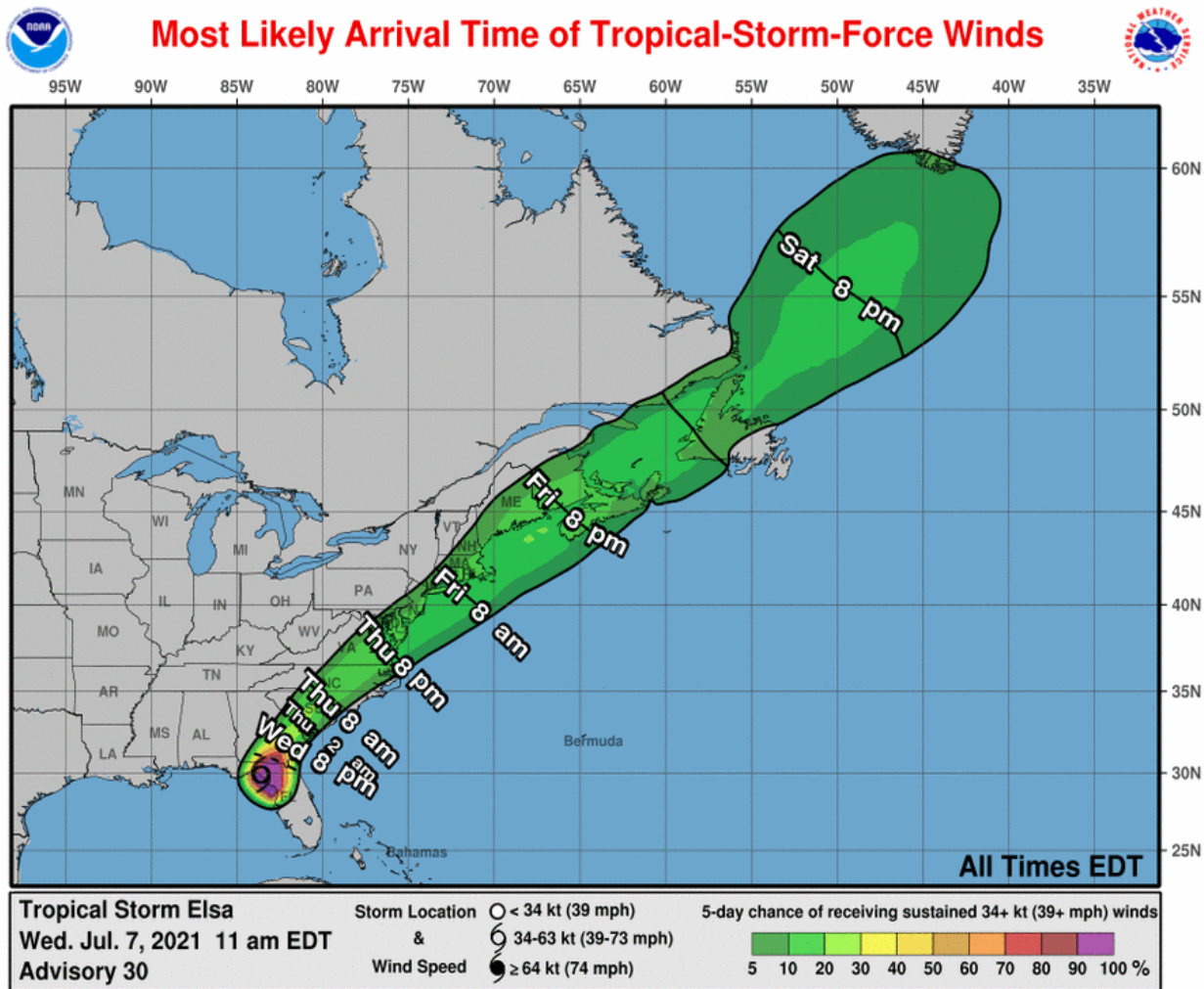
**TORNADOES:** A few tornadoes are possible today and tonight across northern Florida and southeastern Georgia into eastern South Carolina. The tornado threat should shift to the eastern Carolinas and far southeast Virginia on Thursday.

**SURF:** Swells will continue to affect portions of the west coast of Florida through today. These swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions.

# National Hurricane Center (NHC) Forecast



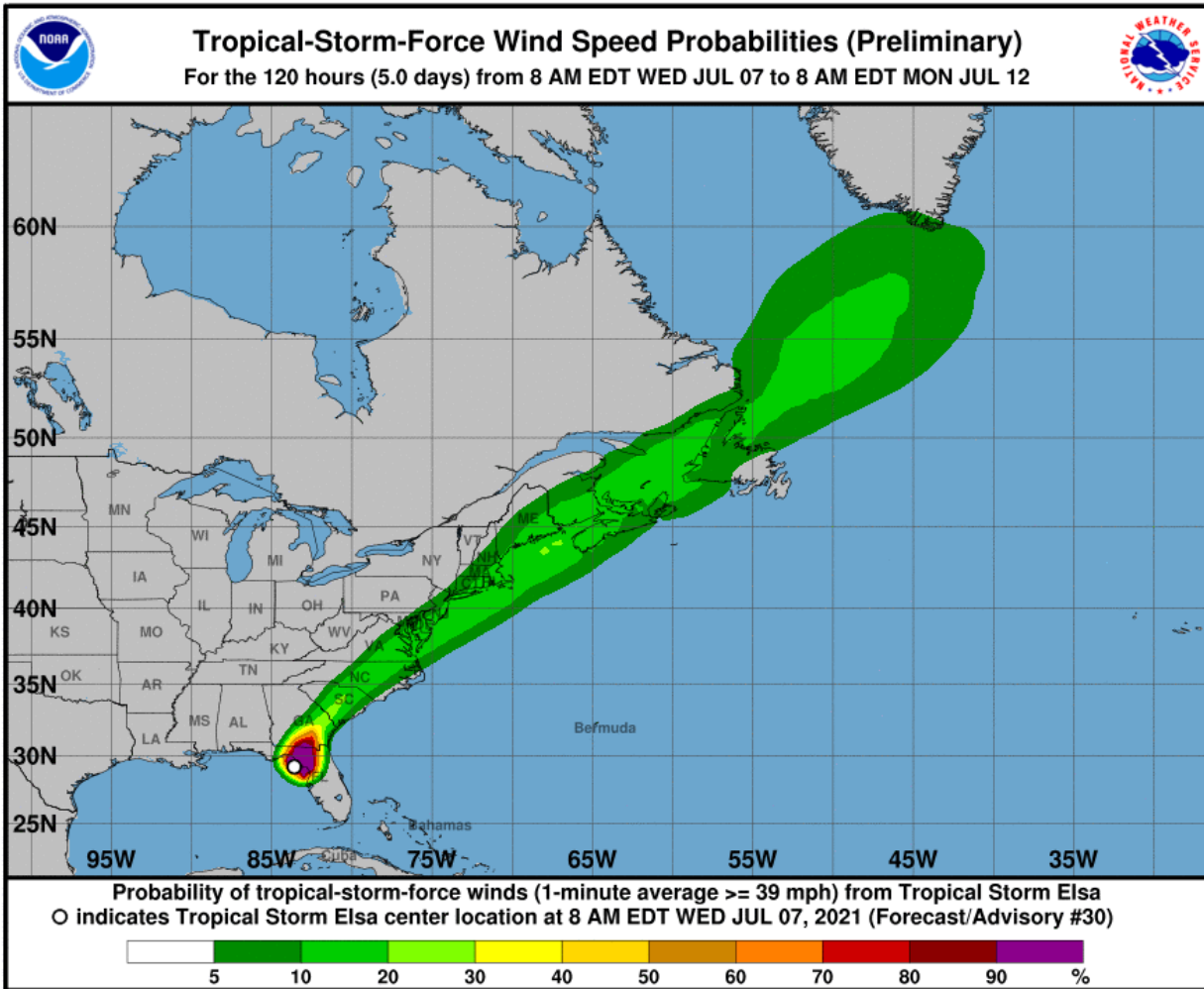
# Most Likely Arrival Time of Tropical Storm-Force Winds



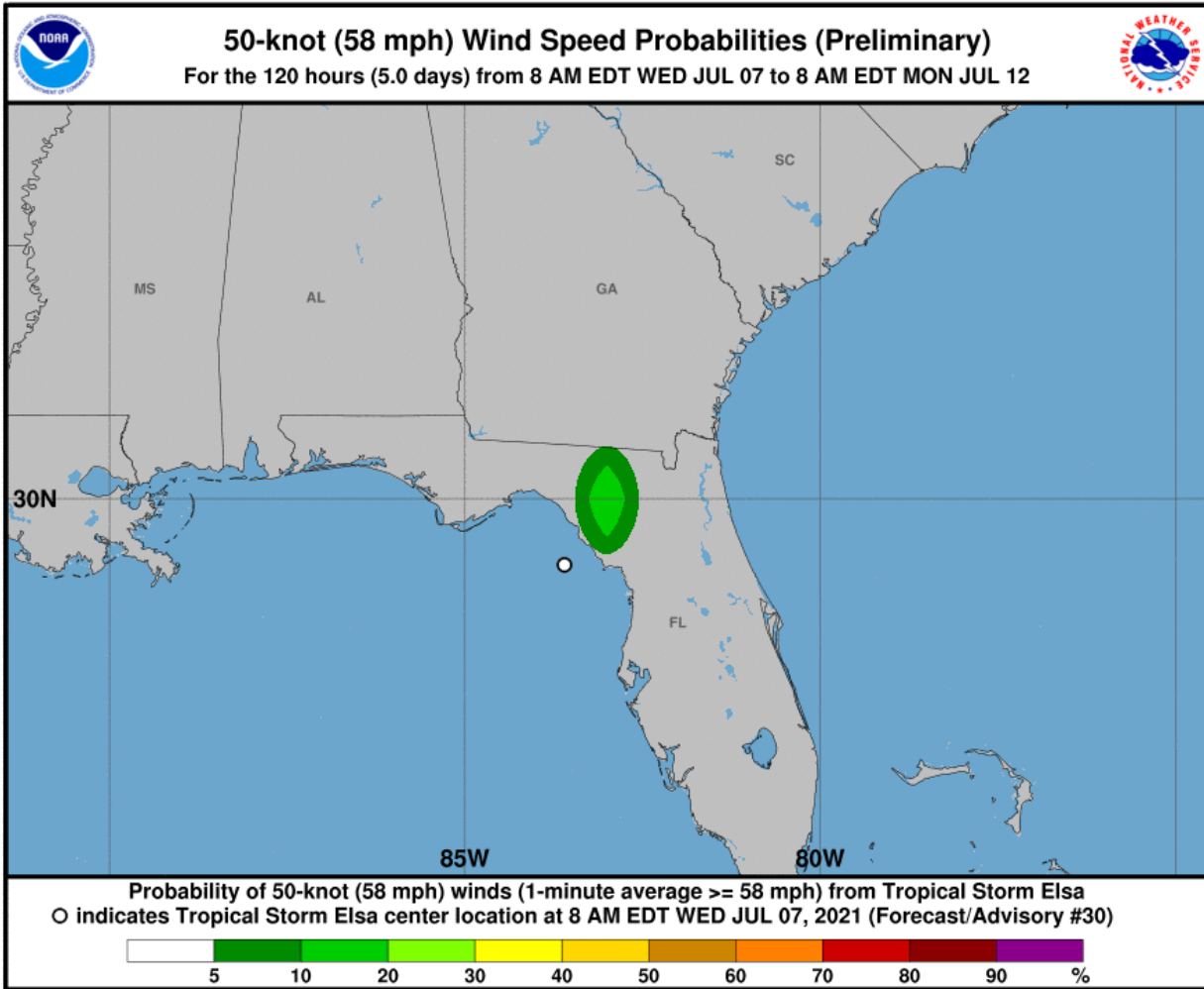


# National Hurricane Center: Wind Speed Probabilities

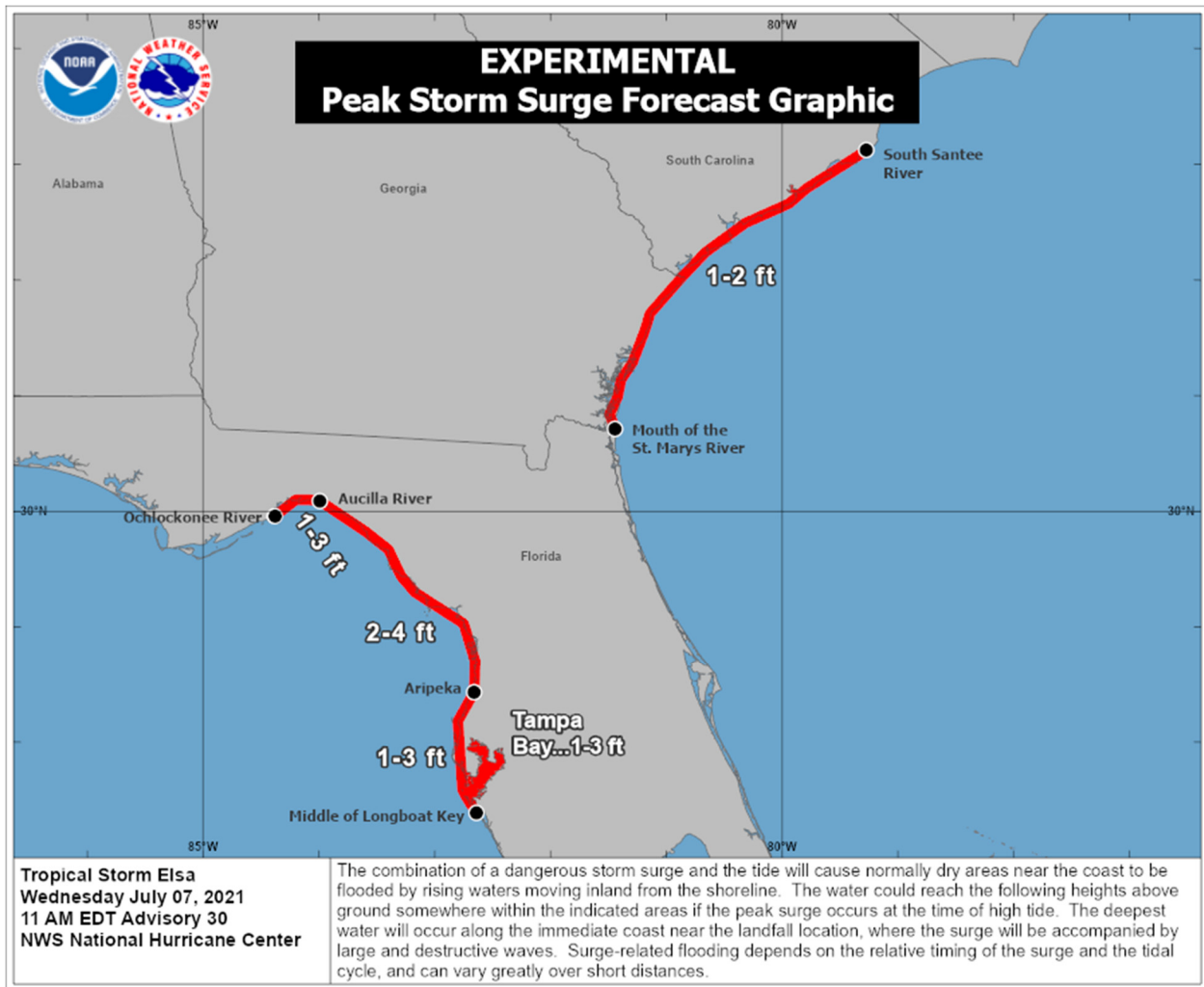
## Tropical Storm-Force Wind Probabilities ( $\geq 40$ mph (65 kph))



# Wind Probabilities ( $\geq 60$ mph (95 kph))

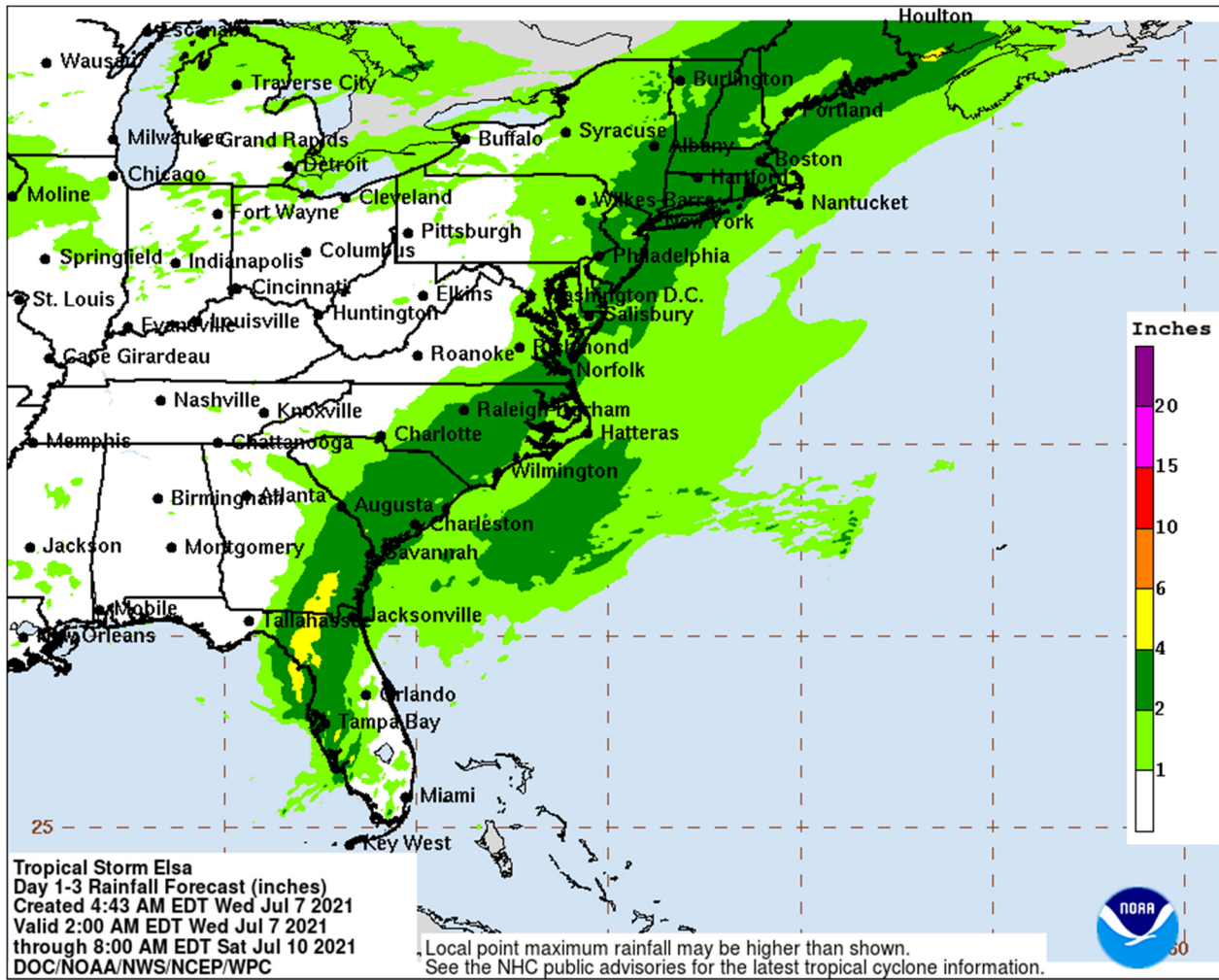


# NHC: Storm Surge Inundation Graphic

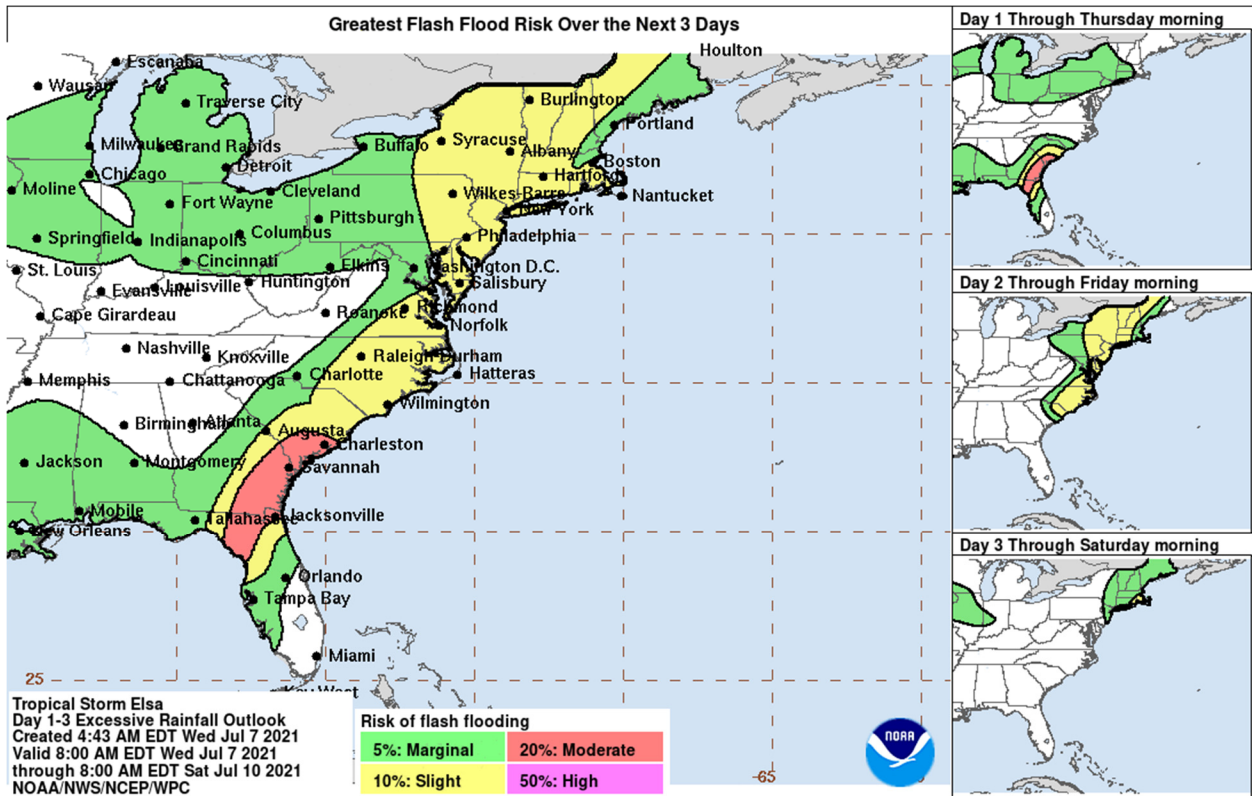




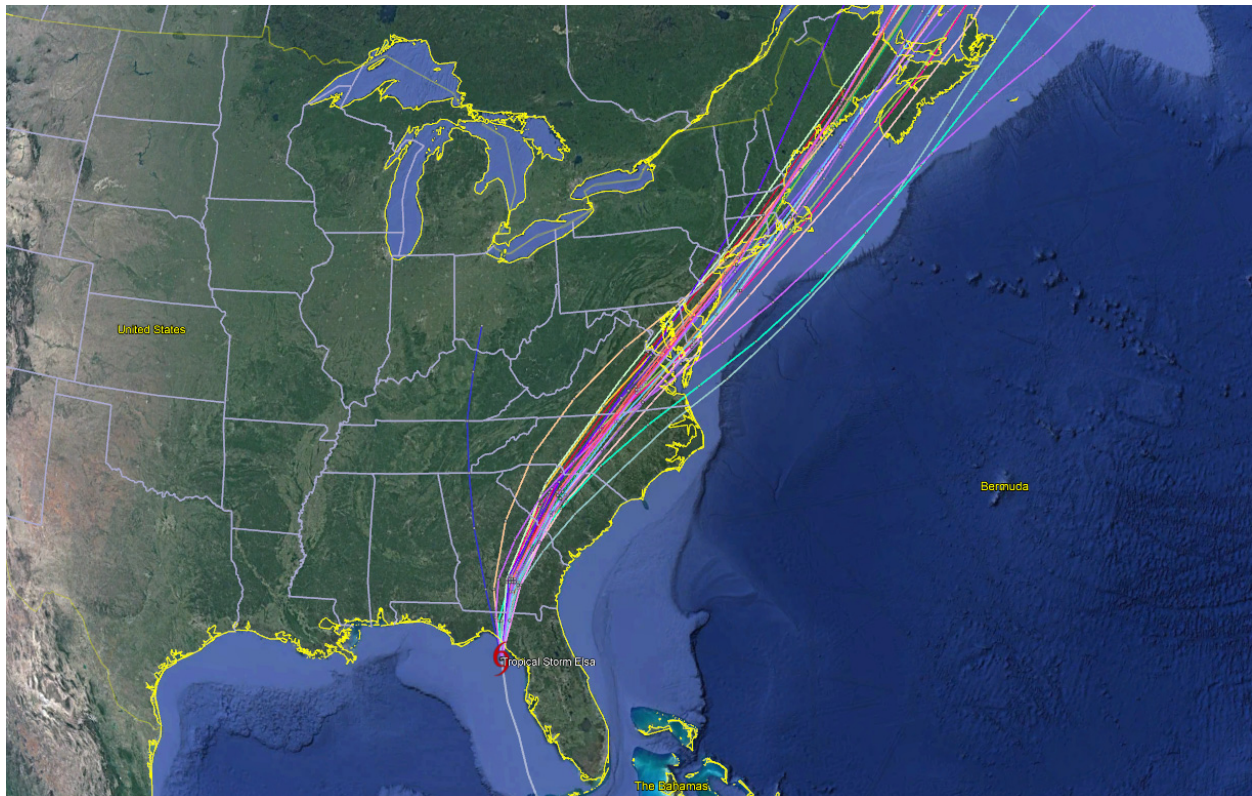
# Weather Prediction Center: Rainfall Potential



# Weather Prediction Center: Flash Flood Potential



## Current 'Spaghetti' Model Output Data



Source: NHC

## Additional Information and Update Schedule

Wind intensity forecasts and forecast track information can be found via the National Hurricane Center at [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

**NEXT CAT ALERT:** Since landfall has occurred and weakening will commence after coming ashore and tracking through the U.S. Southeast, this will be the final Cat Alert. Full details will be found in this week's Weekly Cat Report.

# Tropical Cyclone Intensity Classifications for Global Basins

WIND SPEED			BASINS AND MONITORING BUREAU							
KT	MPH	KPH	NE Pacific, Atlantic	NW Pacific	NW Pacific	SW Pacific	Australia	SW Indian	North Indian	
			National Hurricane Center (NHC)	Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC)	Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)	Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS)	Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)	Meteo-France (MF)	India Meteorological Department (IMD)	
30	35	55	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression	Tropical Low	Tropical Depression	Deep Depression	
35	40	65	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm	Cat. 1 Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 1 Tropical Cyclone	Moderate Tropical Storm	Cyclonic Storm	
40	45	75								
45	50	85								
50	60	95								
55	65	100								
60	70	110	Cat. 1 Hurricane	Typhoon	Typhoon	Cat. 3 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 3 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Tropical Cyclone	Very Severe Cyclonic Storm	
65	75	120								
70	80	130								
75	85	140								
80	90	150								
85	100	160			Cat. 2 Hurricane	Typhoon	Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone		Intense Tropical Cyclone
90	105	170								
95	110	175								
100	115	185			Cat. 3 Major Hurricane	Typhoon	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone		Very Intense Tropical Cyclone
105	120	195								
110	125	205								
115	130	210								
120	140	220	Cat. 4 Major Hurricane	Super Typhoon	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Very Intense Tropical Cyclone			
125	145	230								
130	150	240								
135	155	250	Cat. 5 Major Hurricane	Super Typhoon	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Very Intense Tropical Cyclone			
140	160	260								
>140	>160	>260								

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