

## Current Watches and Warnings

A **Hurricane Warning** is in effect for the coast of Nicaragua from the Honduras/Nicaragua border to Sandy Bay Sirpi

A **Tropical Storm Warning** is in effect from the northeastern coast of Honduras from Punta Patuca to the Honduras/Nicaragua border; the coast of Nicaragua from south of Sandy Bay Sirpi to Laguna de Perlas

A **Hurricane Watch** is in effect from the northeastern coast of Honduras from Punta Patuca to the Honduras/Nicaragua border

A **Tropical Storm Watch** is in effect from the northern coast of Honduras from west of Punta Patuca westward to Punta Castilla

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

**COORDINATES:** 13.6° north, 83.2° west

**LOCATION:** 30 miles (50 kilometers) south-southeast of Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua

**MOVEMENT:** west-southwest at 5 mph (7 kph)

**WINDS:** 145 mph (230 kph) with gusts to 175 mph (280 kph)

**RADIUS OF TROPICAL STORM-FORCE WINDS:** 115 miles (185 kilometers)

**RADIUS OF HURRICANE-FORCE WINDS:** 25 miles (35 kilometers)

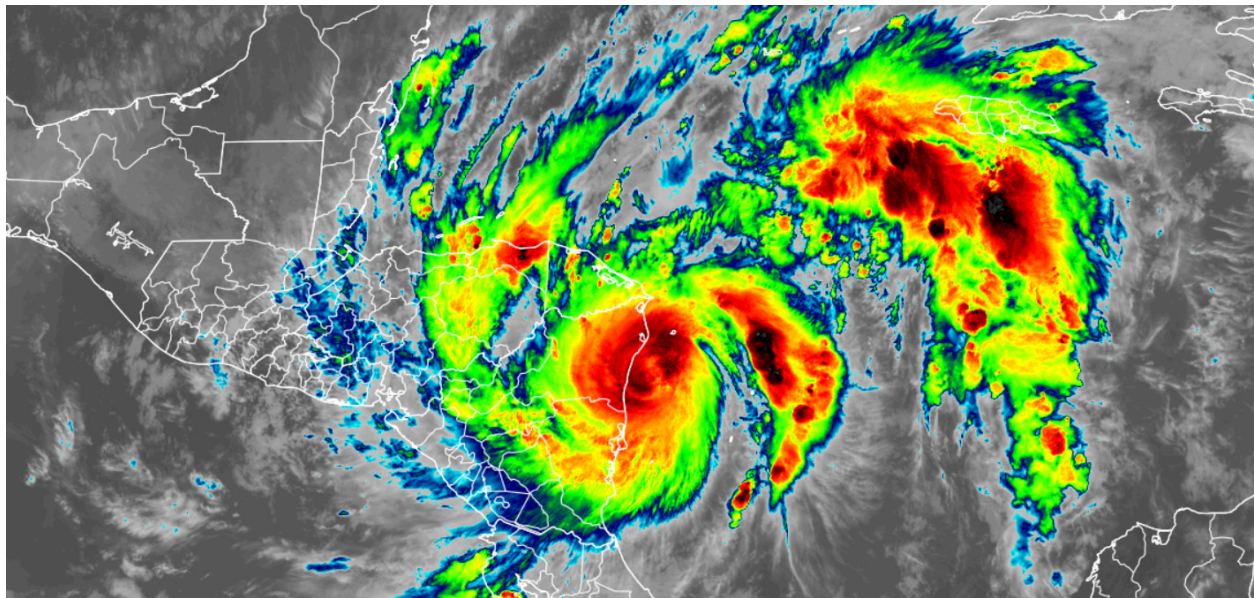
**MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE:** 938 millibars

**SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE RANKING\*:** Category 4

**FORECAST LANDFALL LOCATION:** Nicaragua

**FORECAST LANDFALL TIMEFRAME:** Tuesday afternoon local time

## Latest Satellite Picture



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

# Discussion

Hurricane Eta, located approximately 30 miles (50 kilometers) south-southeast of Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, is currently tracking west-southwest at 5 mph (7 kph). Eta appears to have peaked in intensity during the overnight hours as an eyewall replacement cycle occurred early this morning. This followed an explosive rapid intensification cycle that saw exceptional deepening of the system. Radar data from San Andres revealed concentric eyewalls and morning scans suggest that the inner-eye wall had weakened. Around that time, the eye became cloud filled and less distinct in infrared satellite imagery. An Air Force Reserve reconnaissance aircraft that provided a couple of center fixes this morning reported that the minimum pressure has risen about 15 millibars since last evening. Further data from the plane suggests that wind speeds have slightly declined, and the NHC has set an initial intensity at 145 mph (230 kph). This still keeps Eta as a dangerous Category 4 storm as it nears landfall in Nicaragua.

The storm remains highly capable of causing very high storm surge and catastrophic damage. Once the center of the hurricane moves onshore later today, rapid weakening is expected. It is still not certain if the surface circulation will survive its trek over Central America during the next several days, but the official NHC forecast continues to show the remnants of Eta emerging over the northwestern Caribbean Sea late this week.

Eta has been meandering just offshore of the coast of Nicaragua this morning, but the hurricane should turn westward very soon with the center crossing the coast today. A ridge of high pressure located to the north of Eta should steer the cyclone on a faster westward to west-northwestward heading over northern Nicaragua and Honduras during the next couple of days. After 72 hours, a developing trough over the northern Gulf of Mexico should cause Eta or its remnants to turn northward and then northeastward. Given that the system is expected to remain over land for at least a couple of days, there continues to be significant uncertainty in the long-range portion of the track and intensity forecast.

Since Eta is likely to be a very slow-moving system after it makes landfall in Central America, torrential rains and inland flooding will be an extremely serious threat over the next few days.

## Key Messages from the National Hurricane Center

1. Catastrophic wind damage is expected where Eta's eyewall moves onshore along the northeastern coast of Nicaragua. Tropical-storm-force or greater winds are already occurring within the Hurricane Warning area in Nicaragua. A Tropical Storm Warning is also in effect for the northeastern coast of Honduras.
2. A catastrophic and life-threatening storm surge, along with destructive waves, are expected along portions of the northeastern coast of Nicaragua near and to the north of where the center makes landfall. Water levels could reach as high as 14 to 21 feet above normal tide levels in some parts of the Hurricane Warning area.
3. Through Friday evening, heavy rainfall from Eta will lead to catastrophic, life-threatening flash flooding and river flooding across portions of Central America, along with landslides in areas of higher terrain. Flash and river flooding is also possible across Jamaica, southeast Mexico, El Salvador, southern Haiti, and the Cayman Islands.

### Additional Information

**WIND:** Catastrophic wind damage is expected where Eta's eyewall moves onshore within the Hurricane Warning area within the next few hours, with tropical storm conditions already occurring in this area. Tropical storm conditions are expected in the Tropical Storm Warning area this morning, and hurricane conditions are possible in the Hurricane Watch area. Tropical Storm conditions are possible in the Tropical Storm Watch area later today.

**RAINFALL:** Eta is expected to produce the following rainfall amounts through Sunday morning:

*Much of Nicaragua and Honduras:* 15 to 25 inches (380 to 635 mm), isolated amounts of 35 inches (890 mm)

*Eastern Guatemala and Belize:* 10 to 20 inches (255 to 510 mm), isolated amounts of 25 inches (635 mm)

*Portions of Panama and Costa Rica:* 10 to 15 inches (255 to 380 mm), isolated amounts of 25 inches (635 mm)

*El Salvador and southeast Mexico:* 5 to 10 inches (125 to 255 mm), isolated amounts of 15 inches (380 mm)

*Jamaica, Southern Haiti, the Cayman Islands:* An additional 3 to 5 inches (75 to 125 mm), isolated storm totals of 15 inches (380 mm)

This rainfall will lead to catastrophic, life-threatening flash flooding and river flooding, along with landslides in areas of higher terrain of Central America. Flash flooding and river flooding will be possible across Jamaica, southeast Mexico, El Salvador, southern Haiti, and the Cayman Islands.

**STORM SURGE:** A dangerous storm surge will raise water levels by as much as 14 to 21 feet above normal tide levels in areas of onshore winds along the coast of Nicaragua within the Hurricane Warning area, and 3 to 5 feet above normal tide levels along the coast of Honduras within the tropical storm warning area. Near the coast, the surge will be accompanied by large and destructive waves.

**SURF:** Swells generated by Eta are expected to affect portions of the coast of Central America and the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico during the next few days. These swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions.

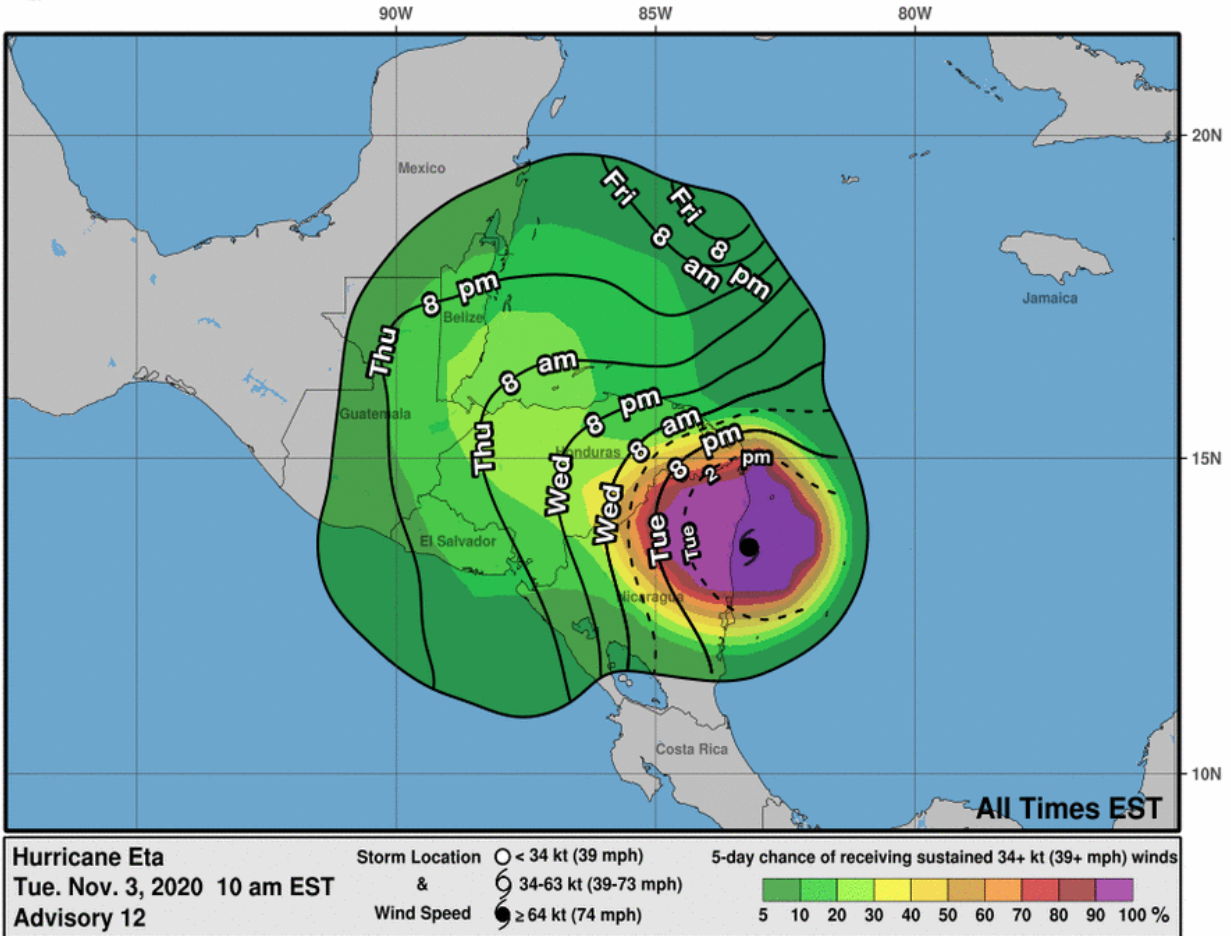
# National Hurricane Center (NHC) Forecast



# Most Likely Arrival Time of Tropical Storm-Force Winds

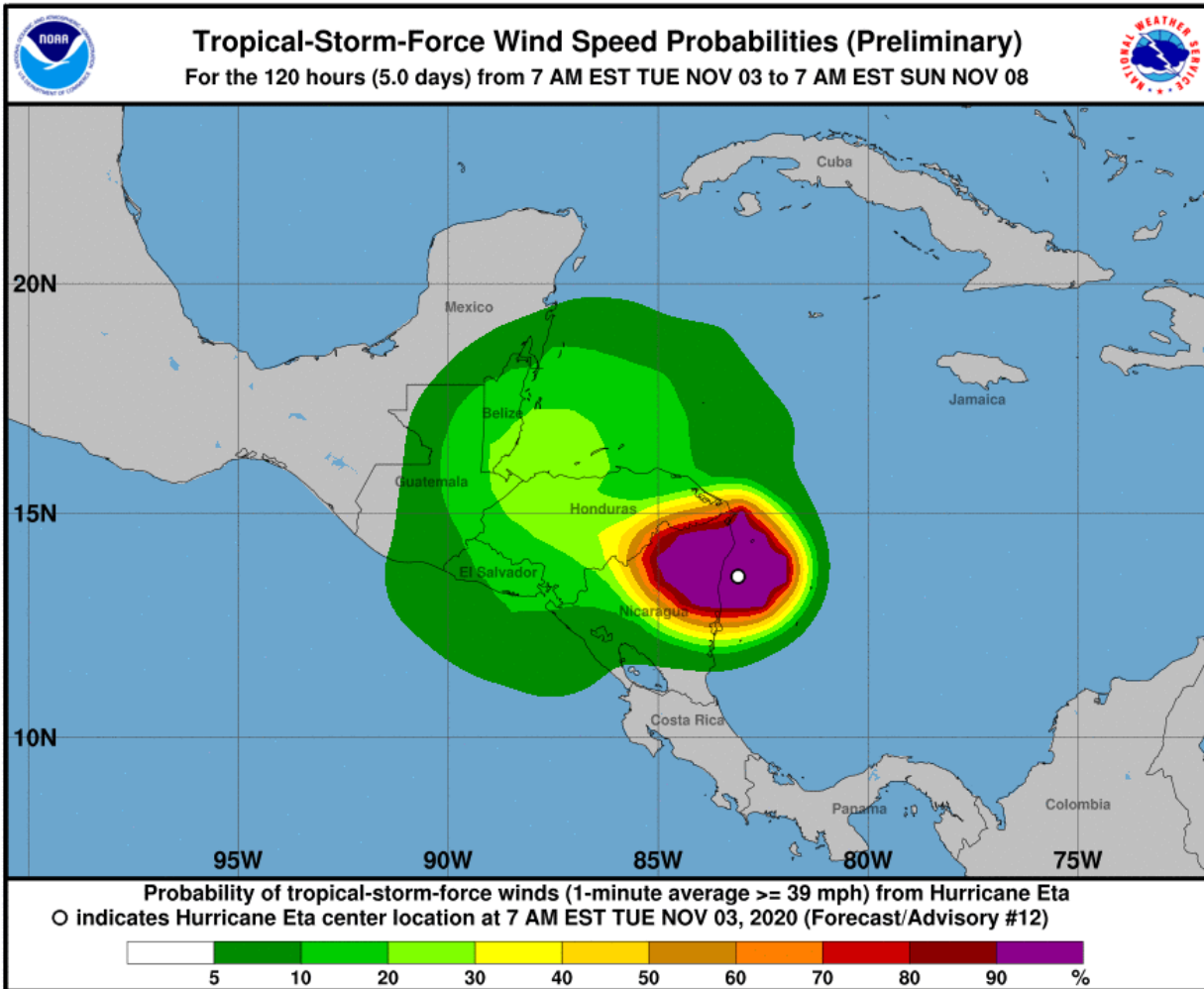


## Most Likely Arrival Time of Tropical Storm-Force Winds

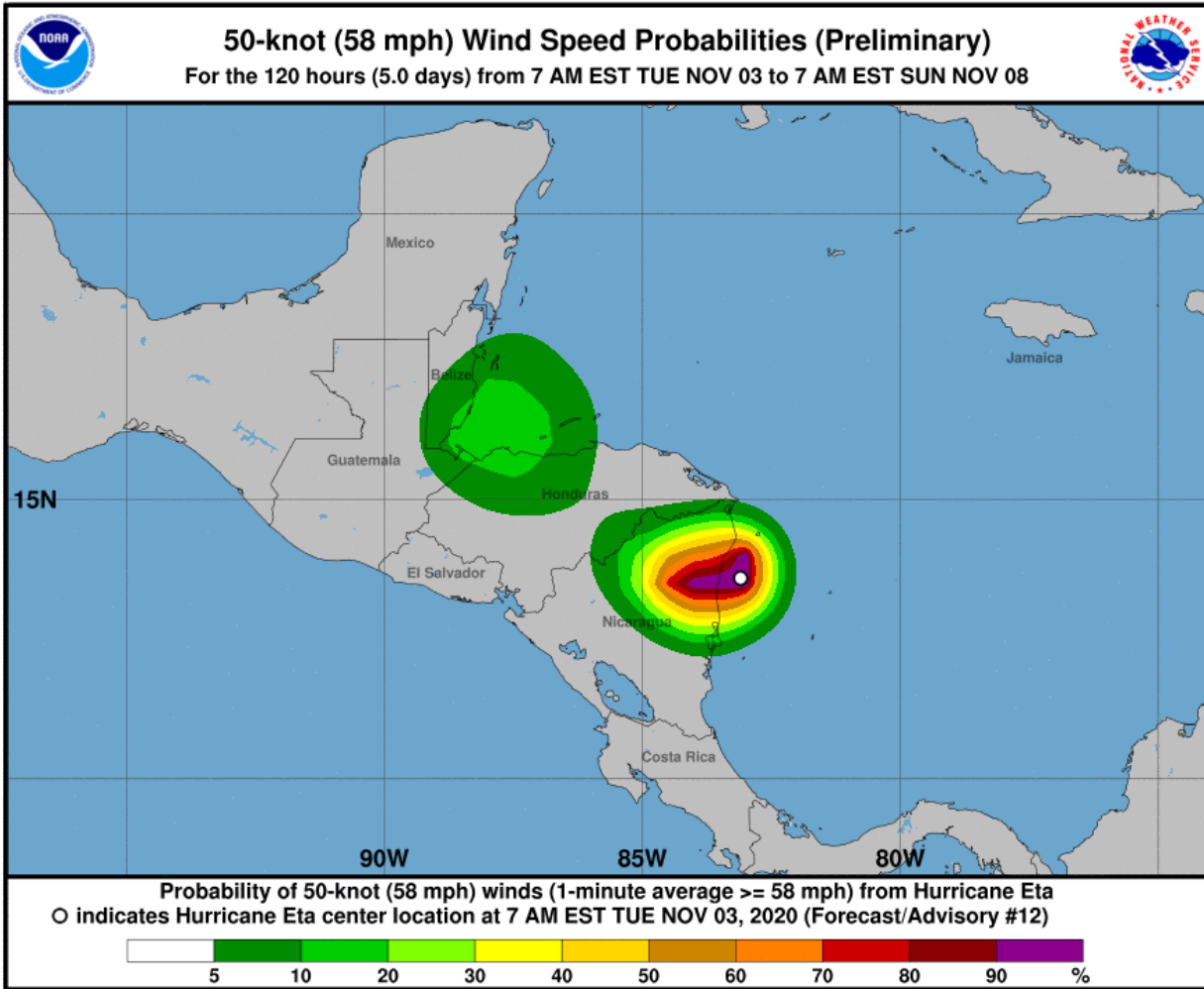


# National Hurricane Center: Wind Speed Probabilities

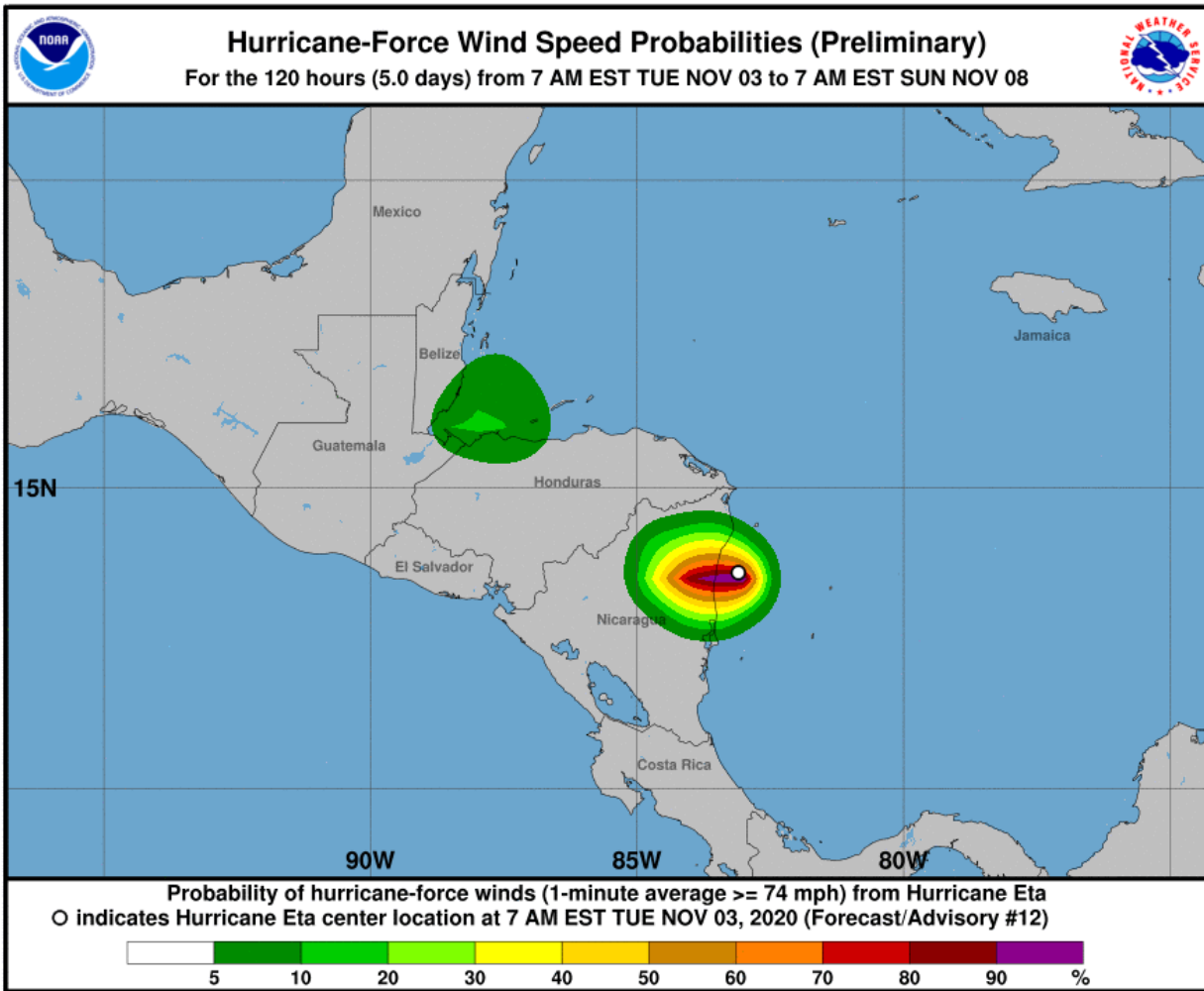
## Tropical Storm-Force Wind Probabilities ( $\geq 40$ mph (65 kph))



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

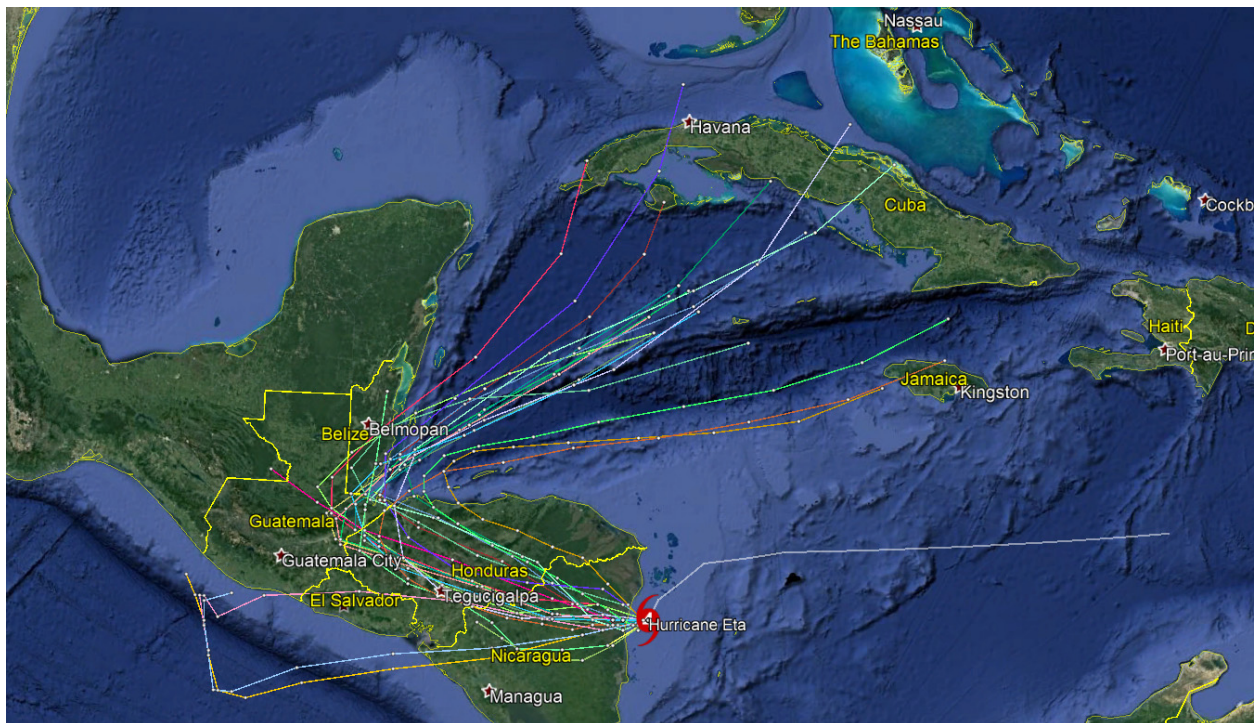


# Hurricane-Force Wind Probabilities ( $\geq 75$ mph (120 kph))





## 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 rapid weakening is anticipated after landfall occurs today, this will be the final Cat Alert. Please note that should the remnants of Eta re-emerge into the Caribbean Sea and redevelop into a tropical storm or hurricane while posing a possible threat to the United States or elsewhere, Impact Forecasting will re-initiate Cat Alerts as necessary.

## \*Tropical Cyclone Intensity Classifications for Global Basins

WIND SPEED			BASINS AND MONITORING BUREAU							
KTS <sup>1</sup>	MPH <sup>1</sup>	KPH <sup>1</sup>	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			Severe Tropical Storm	Cat. 2 Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 2 Tropical Cyclone	Severe Tropical Storm		Severe Cyclonic Storm
60	70	110								
65	75	120	Cat. 1 Hurricane	Typhoon		Cat. 3 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 3 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Tropical Cyclone	Very Severe Cyclonic Storm	
70	80	130								
75	85	140								
80	90	150	Cat. 2 Hurricane		Typhoon		Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone		Intense Tropical Cyclone
85	100	160								
90	105	170								
95	110	175	Cat. 3 Major Hurricane		Typhoon					
100	115	185								
105	120	195								
110	125	205	Cat. 4 Major Hurricane		Super Typhoon					Super Cyclonic Storm
115	130	210								
120	140	220								
125	145	230								
130	150	240	Cat. 5 Major Hurricane	Super Typhoon						
135	155	250								
140	160	260								
>140	>160	>260	Cat. 5 Major Hurricane	Super Typhoon						

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