

## Current Watches and Warnings

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

A **Hurricane Watch** is in effect for San Andres

A **Tropical Storm Warning** is in effect for San Andres; the coast of Nicaragua from south of Sandy Bay Sirpi to Bluefields; the northern coast of Honduras from west of Punta Patuca to the Guatemala/Honduras border; Bay Islands

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

**COORDINATES:** 13.5° north, 82.0° west

**LOCATION:** 100 miles (160 kilometers) east-southeast of Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua

**MOVEMENT:** west at 9 mph (15 kph)

**WINDS:** 160 mph (260 kph) with gusts to 195 mph (315 kph)

**RADIUS OF TROPICAL STORM-FORCE WINDS:** 150 miles (240 kilometers)

**RADIUS OF HURRICANE-FORCE WINDS:** 35 miles (55 kilometers)

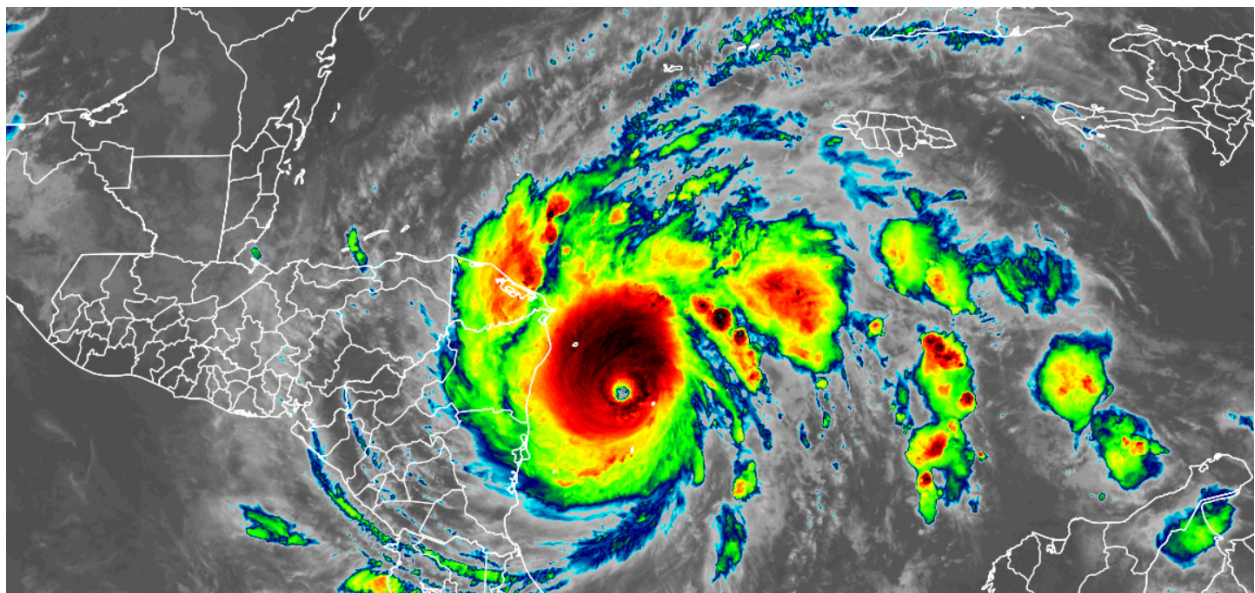
**MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE:** 917 millibars

**SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE RANKING\*:** Category 5

**FORECAST LANDFALL LOCATION:** Nicaragua

**FORECAST LANDFALL TIMEFRAME:** Monday evening local time

## Latest Satellite Picture



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

## Discussion

Hurricane Iota, located approximately 100 miles (160 kilometers) east-southeast of Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, is currently tracking west at 9 mph (15 kph). Iota is the latest Atlantic Hurricane to undergo rapid intensification. It is a very impressive hurricane, especially for this late in the year, with a distinct eye feature on satellite images. An Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircraft found believable surface-adjusted wind speeds of 160 mph (260 kph) and minimum central pressure down to 917 millibars. The NHC has followed suit with that as the official initial intensity. This makes Iota a Category 5 hurricane as it approaches Nicaragua. Iota has set a record for strongest hurricane on record in the Atlantic Ocean at such a late date in the calendar year, and also the lowest minimum pressure recorded during the months of November or December. Iota becomes just the second Category 5 on record during November or later.

A little more strengthening is possible today with fairly light wind shear and warm waters before Iota makes landfall tonight. Rapid weakening is anticipated over central America, and Iota should dissipate in a couple of days.

The hurricane is moving westward, and this general motion with perhaps a slight gain in latitude is expected through tonight due to a large ridge of the high pressure located to the north. After landfall, the cyclone should move a little faster, and dissipate over the higher terrain of central America. The new NHC forecast is a little south of the previous one, mostly owing to the initial position.

The NHC notes that this is a catastrophic situation unfolding for northeastern Nicaragua with an extreme storm surge of 15-20 feet forecast along with destructive winds and potentially 30 inches of rainfall. It is exacerbated by the fact that it should make landfall in almost the exact same location that Category 4 Hurricane Eta did roughly two weeks ago.

### Key Messages from the National Hurricane Center

1. Iota is expected to remain a catastrophic Category 5 hurricane when it approaches the coast of Nicaragua tonight. Extreme winds and a life-threatening storm surge are expected along portions of the coast of northeastern Nicaragua, where a hurricane warning is in effect.
2. Through Thursday, heavy rainfall from Iota will likely lead to life-threatening flash flooding and river flooding across portions of Central America. Flooding and mudslides in Honduras and Nicaragua could be exacerbated by Hurricane Eta's recent effects there, resulting in significant to potentially catastrophic impacts.
3. Hurricane conditions and storm surge impacts are likely still occurring on Providencia. Tropical storm conditions are expected and hurricane conditions are possible on San Andres.

### Additional Information

**STORM SURGE:** A life-threatening storm surge will raise water levels by as much as 15 to 20 feet above normal tide levels in areas of onshore winds along the coast of Nicaragua and Honduras. Near the coast, the surge will be accompanied by large and destructive waves.

**WIND:** Catastrophic wind damage is expected where Iota's eyewall moves onshore within the Hurricane Warning area in Nicaragua tonight with tropical storm conditions expected by this afternoon. Hurricane conditions are likely occurring on the island of Providencia, with tropical storm conditions expected through this afternoon. Tropical storm conditions are occurring on the island of San Andres, with hurricane conditions possible. Tropical storm conditions are expected in the Tropical Storm Warning area in Nicaragua by late afternoon and in the warning area in Honduras by tonight.

**RAINFALL:** Iota is expected to produce the following rainfall accumulations through Thursday:

*Honduras, northern Nicaragua, southeast Guatemala and southern Belize:* 10 to 20 inches (250 to 500 mm). Isolated maximum totals of 30 inches (750 mm) will be possible, especially from northeast Nicaragua into northern Honduras

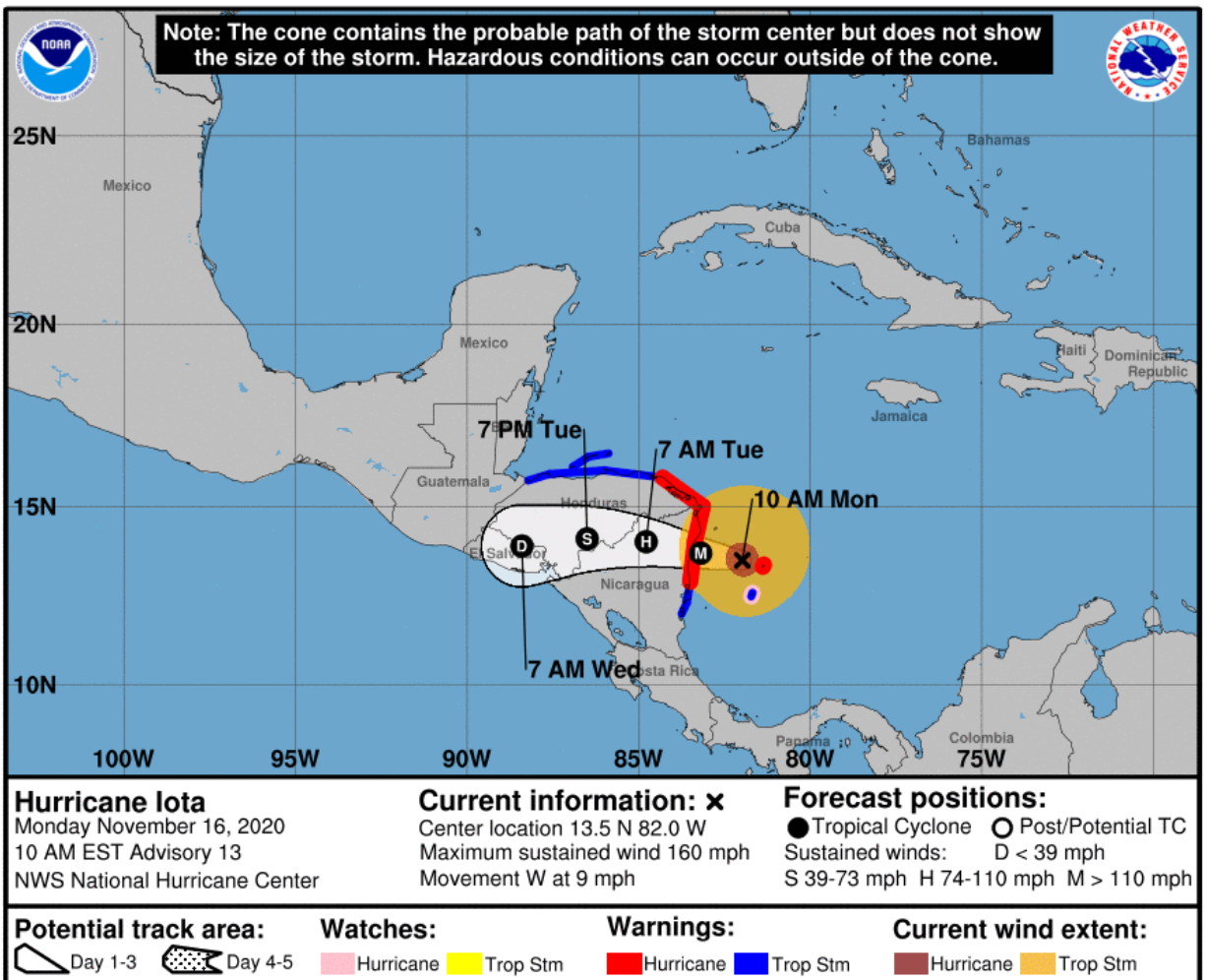
*El Salvador and Panama:* 4 to 8 inches (100 to 200 mm), with isolated maximum totals of 12 inches (300 mm)

This rainfall would lead to significant, life-threatening flash flooding and river flooding, along with mudslides in areas of higher terrain.

*Southern Nicaragua and Costa Rica:* 3 to 5 inches (75 to 125 mm), with isolated maximum totals of 10 inches (250 mm)

**SURF:** Swells generated by Iota will affect much of the coast of Central America, the Yucatan Peninsula, Jamaica, and Colombia during the next couple of days. These swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions.

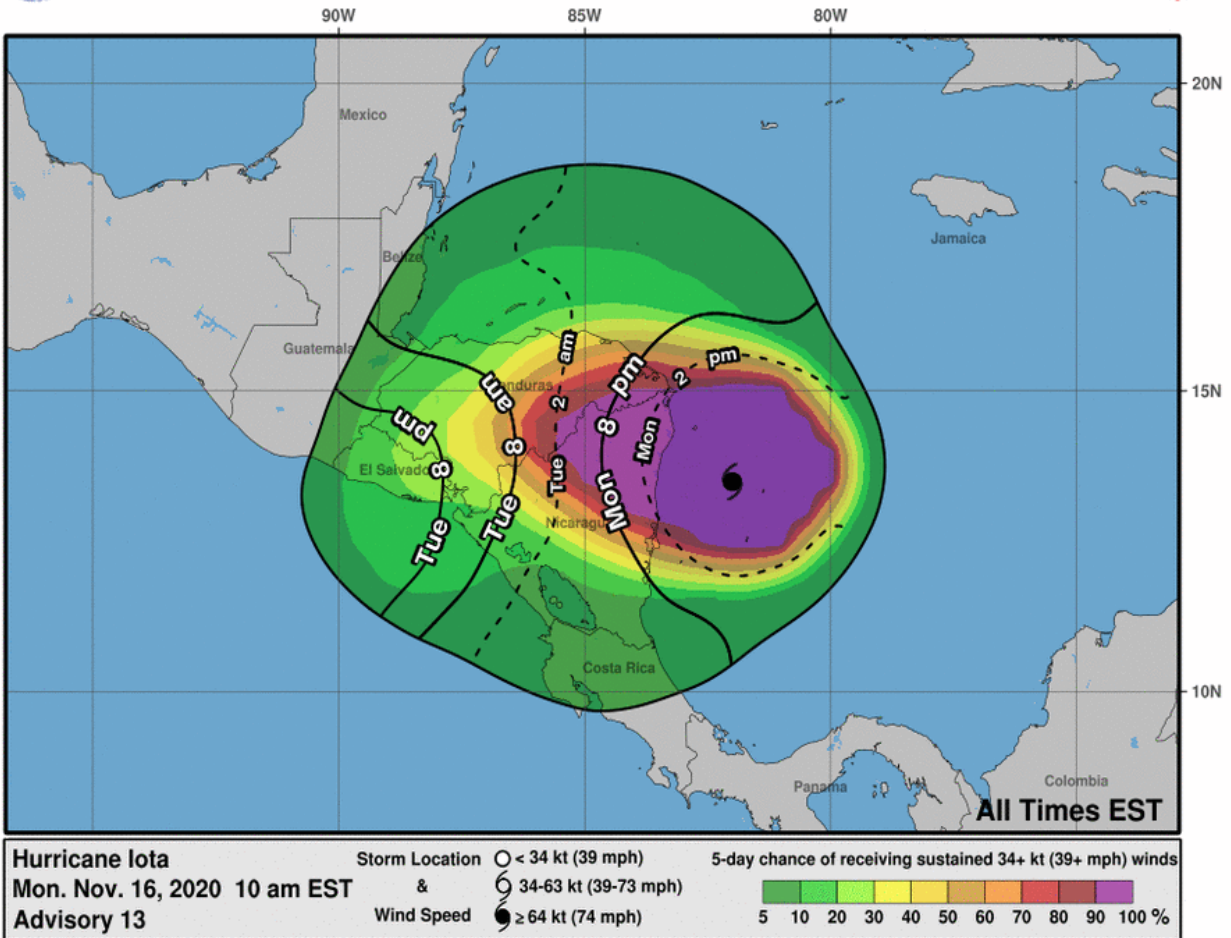
# National Hurricane Center (NHC) Forecast



# Most Likely Arrival Time of Tropical Storm-Force Winds

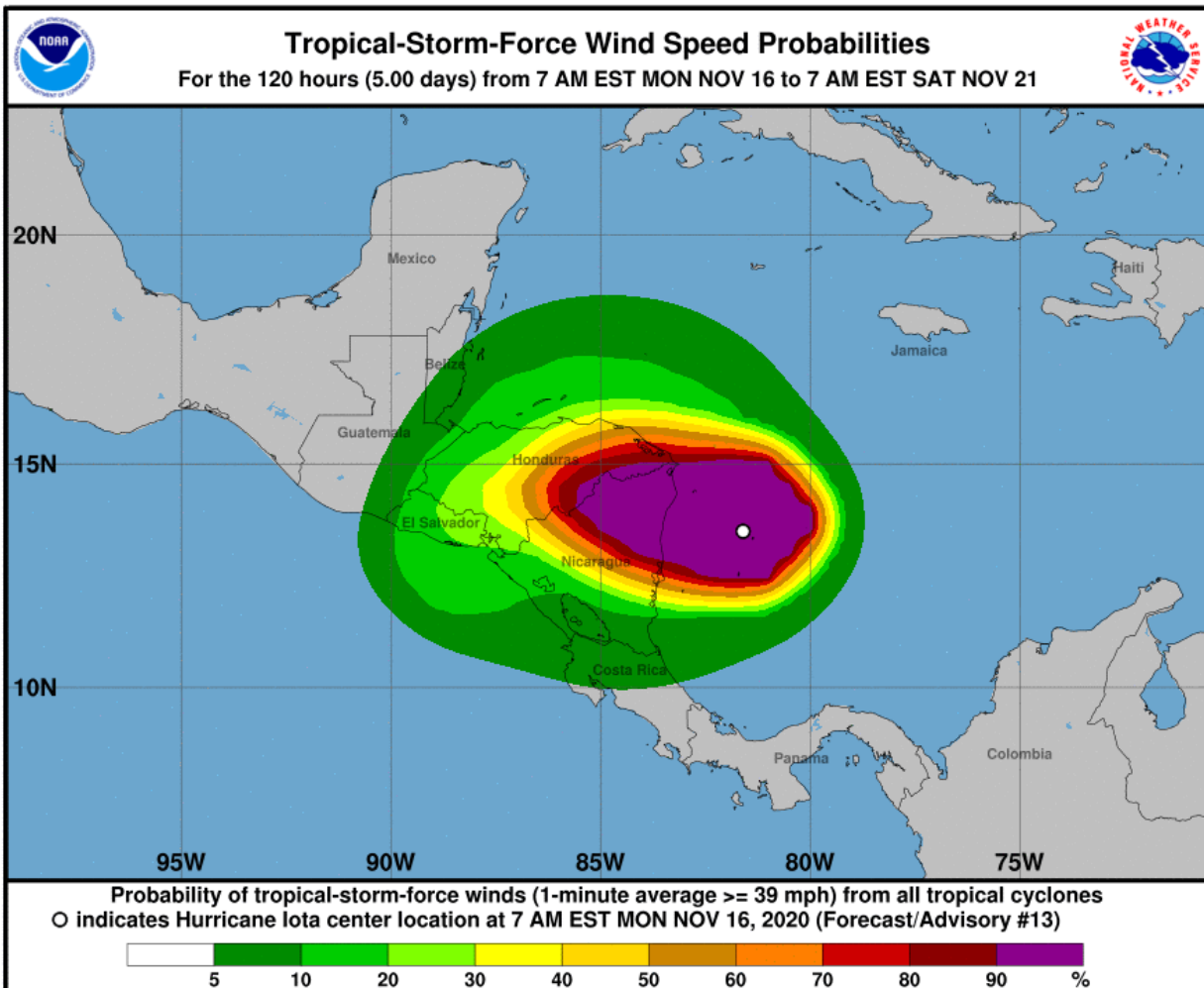


## Most Likely Arrival Time of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds

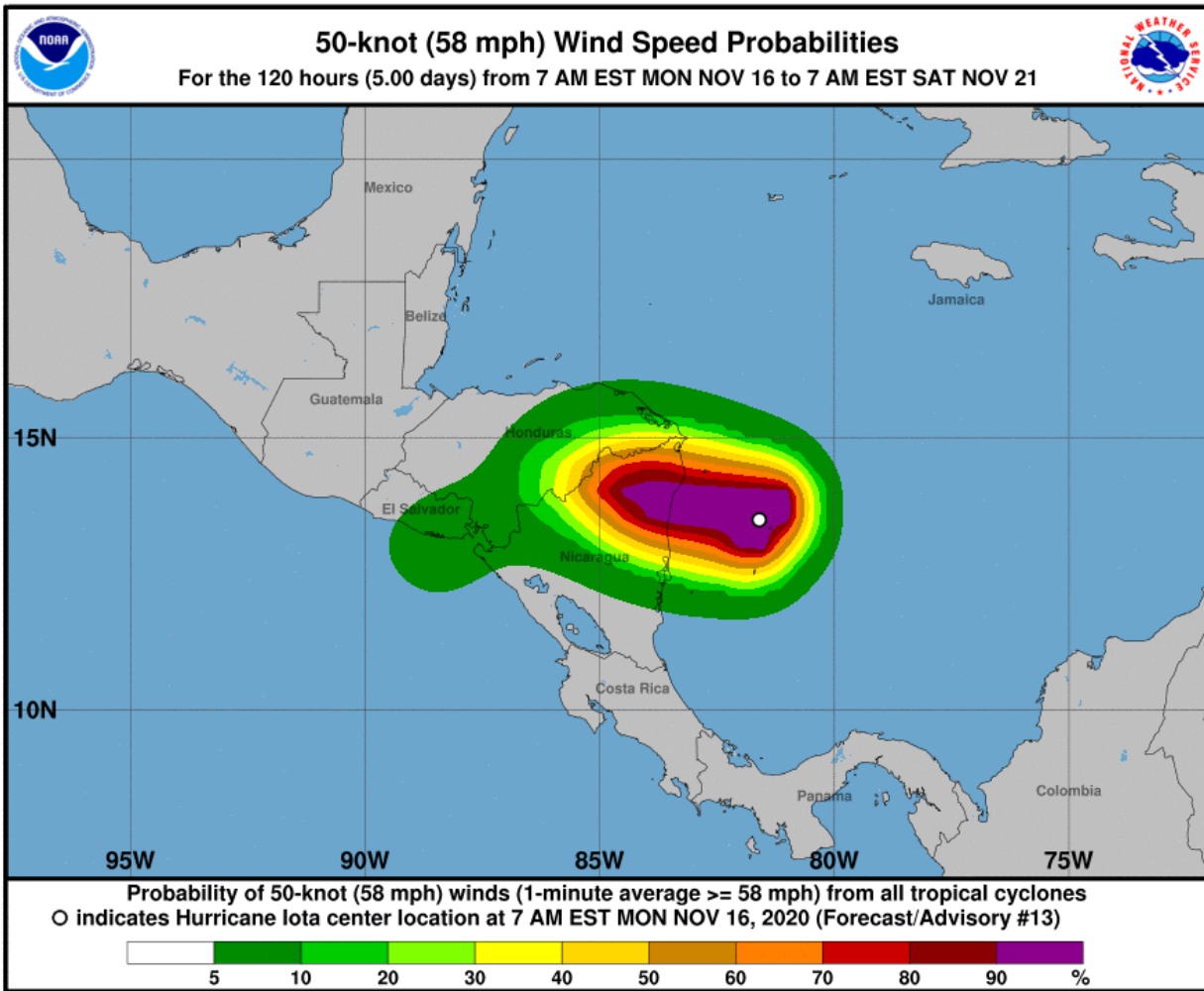


# National Hurricane Center: Wind Speed Probabilities

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

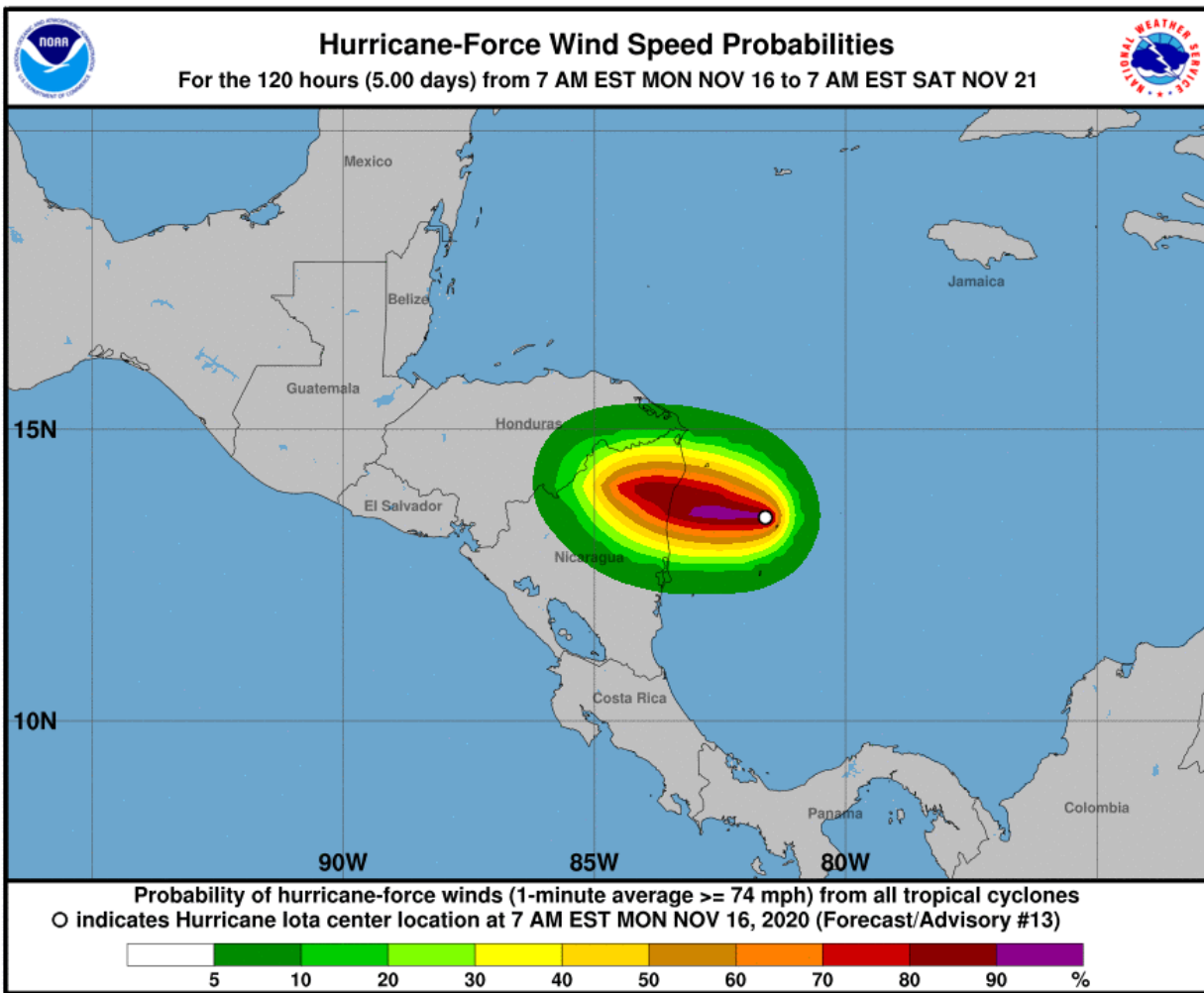


## Wind Probabilities ( $\geq 60$ mph (95 kph))



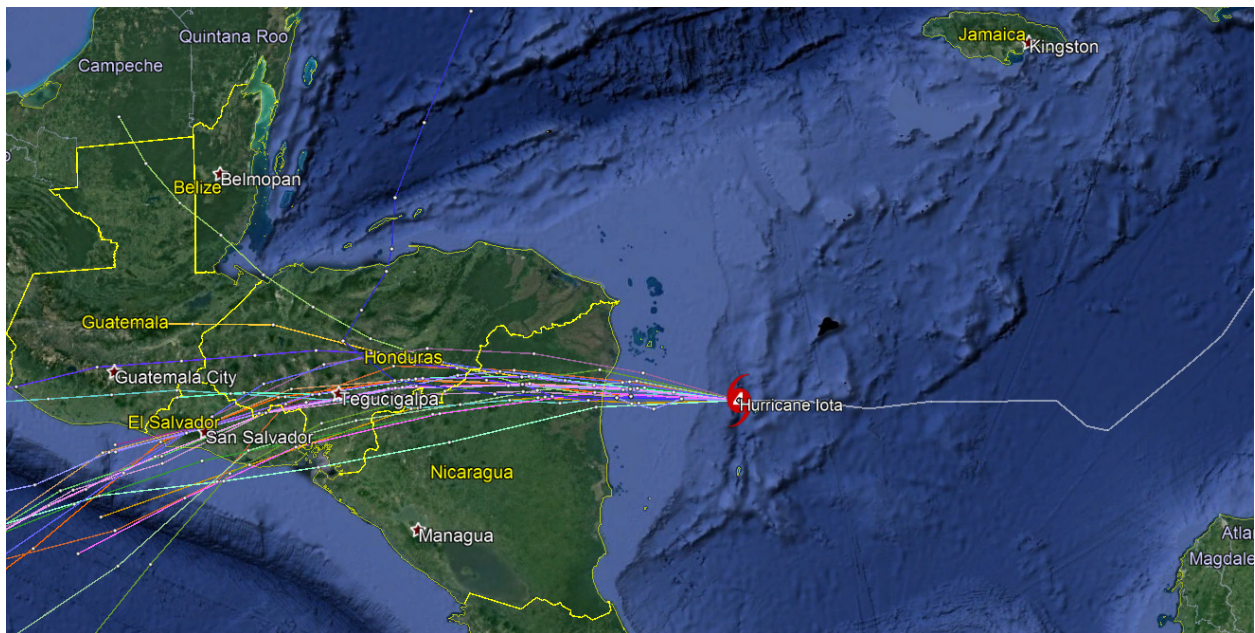


## Hurricane-Force Wind Probabilities ( $\geq 75$ mph (120 kph))





## 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 landfall will occur later on Monday, and rapid weakening is anticipated after coming ashore, this will be the final Cat Alert. Full details on Iota's impacts will be found in this week's Weekly Cat Report.

## \*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			Severe Tropical Storm	Cat. 2 Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 2 Tropical Cyclone	Severe Tropical Storm	Severe Cyclonic Storm	
50	60	95								
55	65	100								
60	70	110								
65	75	120	Cat. 1 Hurricane	Typhoon	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			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			Super Typhoon	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Very Intense Tropical Cyclone	Super Cyclonic Storm
100	115	185								
105	120	195								
110	125	205								
115	130	210	Cat. 4 Major Hurricane							
120	140	220								
125	145	230								
130	150	240								
135	155	250	Cat. 5 Major Hurricane							
140	160	260								
>140	>160	>260								

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