

Hurricane Idalia

Current Watches and Warnings

A Hurricane Warning is in effect for...

- Middle of Longboat Key northward to Indian Pass, including Tampa Bay

A Hurricane Watch is in effect for...

- Mouth of the St. Mary's River to Edisto Beach South Carolina

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for...

- Dry Tortugas Florida
- Chokoloskee northward to the Middle of Longboat Key
- West of Indian Pass to Mexico Beach
- Sebastian Inlet Florida to South Santee River South Carolina

A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for...

- Lower Florida Keys west of the west end of the Seven Mile Bridge
- North of Surf City North Carolina to the North Carolina/Virginia border
- Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds

A Storm Surge Warning is in effect for...

- Englewood northward to Indian Pass, including Tampa Bay

A Storm Surge Watch is in effect for...

- Bonita Beach northward to Englewood, including Charlotte Harbour
- Mouth of the St. Mary's River to South Santee River South Carolina
- Beaufort Inlet to Drum Inlet North Carolina
- Neuse and Pamlico Rivers North Carolina

Current Details from the National Hurricane Center

LOCATION: 26.1N 84.8W

ABOUT 195 MI / 310 KM SW OF TAMPA FLORIDA

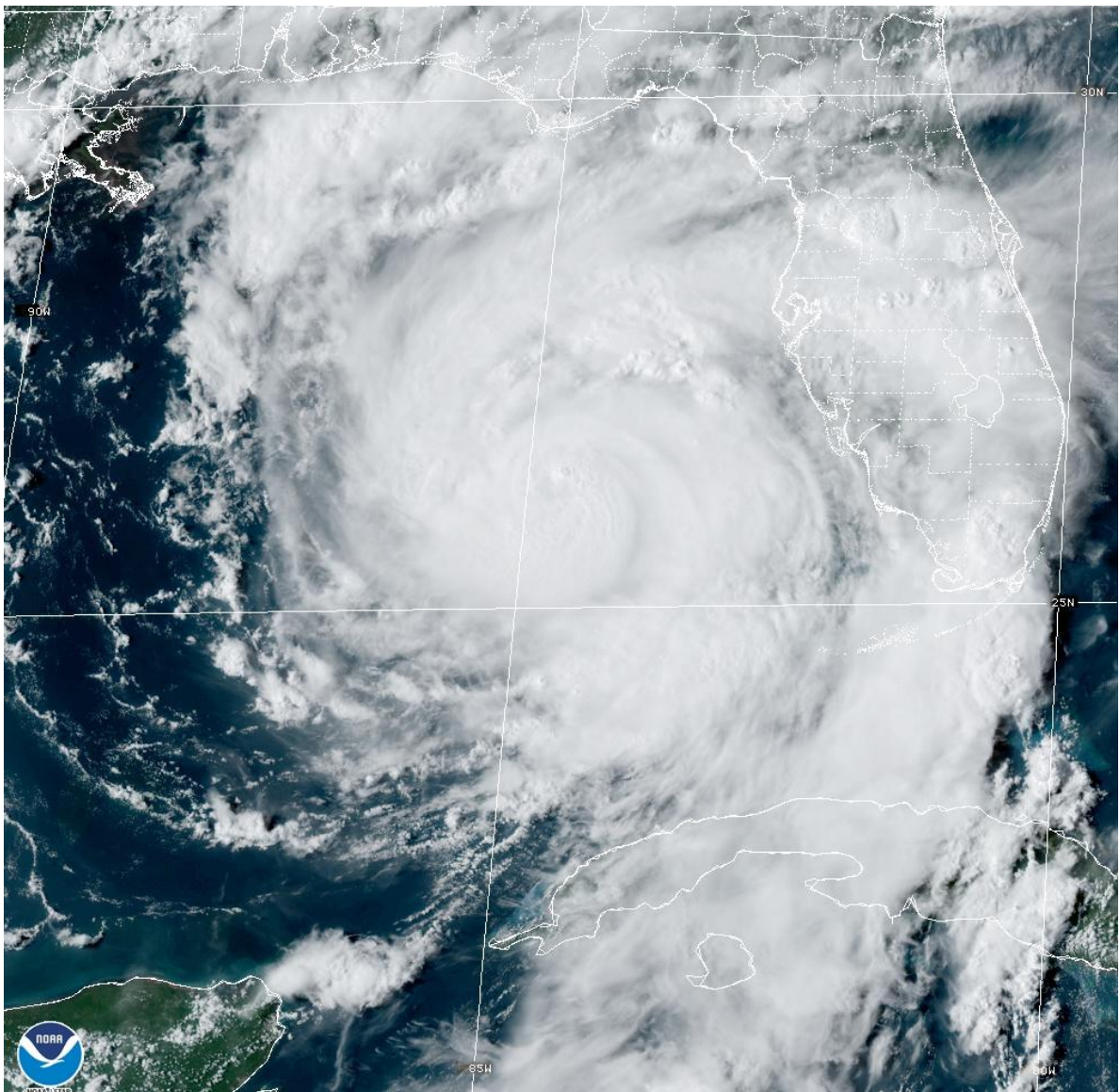
ABOUT 300 MI / 480 KM S OF TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS: 100 MPH / 155 KPH

PRESENT MOVEMENT: N OR 360 DEGREES AT 16 MPH / 26 KPH

MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE: 972 MB / 28.71 INCHES

Latest Satellite Imagery



29 Aug 2023 20:54Z - NOAA/NESDIS/STAR - GOES-East - GEOCOLOR Composite

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

Discussion

The first stages of an eye have been taking shape in visible satellite imagery. The hurricane has a relatively small Central Dense Overcast and a prominent band of deep convection extending over the eastern semicircle, reaching across the Florida peninsula southward across western Cuba. An Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircraft just measured a peak 700-mb flight-level wind of 91 kt with the pressure falling to 972 mb. The initial intensity is therefore set at 85 kt.

Idalia is moving faster toward the north, or 360/14 kt, between a mid-level trough over the northwestern Gulf of Mexico and a subtropical ridge over the Greater Antilles. Idalia is expected to continue moving northward and turn north-northeastward as it approaches the Big Bend region of Florida during the next 12-24 hours. There is very little spread among the track guidance, and the NHC official forecast has been placed very close to the HCCA and TVCX consensus aids during the first 24 hours. This has resulted in a westward shift of about 20-25 n mi compared to the previous forecast, although it should be stressed that additional shifts to the track will be possible until the center reaches land.

After landfall, Idalia is expected to turn toward the northeast and then east, moving near or along the coast of Georgia and the Carolinas in 36-48 hours. Uncertainty in the track forecast is still quite large after 48 hours, with many of the global models turning Idalia southward, while some of the regional hurricane models still show the storm moving out to sea. As a result, the official track forecast continues to show slow motion on days 4 and 5.

The 12-hour intensity forecast shows a 100-kt major hurricane. It is imperative to realize that Idalia is expected to continue strengthening beyond that time, possibly close to the 110 kt shown in the previous forecast, before the center reaches land. Weakening is expected after landfall, but due to the system's expected fast motion, it is possible that Idalia could maintain hurricane intensity as it moves across southern Georgia and approaches the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina. After Idalia's center moves offshore over the western Atlantic, strong shear is likely to limit re-intensification, and the official forecast essentially flatlines the intensity on days 2-5.

Key Messages from the National Hurricane Center

1. Catastrophic impacts from storm surge inundation of 10 to 15 feet above ground level and destructive waves are expected somewhere between Aucilla River and Yankeetown, Florida. Life-threatening storm surge inundation is likely elsewhere along portions of the Florida Gulf Coast where a Storm Surge Warning is in effect. Residents in these areas should follow any advice given by local officials.
2. There is the potential for destructive life-threatening winds where the core of Idalia moves onshore in the Big Bend region of Florida, with hurricane conditions expected elsewhere in portions of the Hurricane Warning area along the Florida Gulf Coast. Strong winds will also spread inland across portions of northern Florida and southern Georgia near the track of the center of Idalia where Hurricane Warnings are in effect. Residents in these areas should be prepared for long-duration power outages. Damaging hurricane-force winds are possible in portions of eastern Georgia and southeastern South Carolina where Hurricane Watches are in effect.
3. Areas of flash, urban, and moderate river flooding, with locally considerable impacts, are expected across the Florida Big Bend, central Georgia and South Carolina, through eastern North Carolina later tonight into Thursday.

Additional Information

STORM SURGE: The combination of a dangerous 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.

Aucilla River, FL to Yankeetown, FL: 10-15 ft
Yankeetown to Chassahowitzka, FL: 7-11 ft
Ochlockonee River, FL to Aucilla River, FL: 7-11 ft
Chassahowitzka, FL to Anclote River, FL: 6-9 ft
Anclote River, FL to Middle of Longboat Key, FL: 4-6 ft
Tampa Bay: 4-7 ft
Carrabelle, FL to Ochlockonee River, FL: 4-7 ft
Middle of Longboat Key, FL to Englewood, FL: 3-5 ft
Englewood, FL to Bonita Beach, FL: 2-4 ft
Charlotte Harbor: 2-4 ft
Indian Pass, FL to Carrabelle, FL: 3-5 ft
Mouth of the St. Mary's River to South Santee, SC: 2-4 ft
Beaufort Inlet to Drum Inlet, NC: 2-4 ft
Pamlico and Neuse Rivers: 2-4 ft
South of Bonita Beach to Chokoloskee, FL: 1-3 ft
South Santee, SC to Beaufort Inlet, NC: 1-3 ft
Drum Inlet to Duck, NC: 1-3 ft
Chokoloskee, FL to East Cape Sable, FL: 1-3 ft
Flagler/Volusia County Line, FL to Mouth of St. Mary's River: 1-3 ft
Indian Pass to Mexico Beach: 1 to 3 ft
Florida Keys: 1-2 ft

The deepest water will occur along the immediate coast in areas of onshore winds, where the surge will be accompanied by large and dangerous waves. Surge-related flooding depends on the relative timing of the surge and the tidal cycle, and can vary greatly over short distances. For information specific to your area, please see products issued by your local National Weather Service forecast office.

WIND: Hurricane conditions are expected within the hurricane warning area in Florida by tonight or early Wednesday, with tropical storm conditions beginning soon.

Tropical storm conditions are occurring in the Dry Tortugas and are possible within the Lower Florida Keys. Tropical storm conditions will begin within the tropical storm warning area along the Florida Gulf coast and the Florida west coast soon.

Hurricane conditions are possible within the hurricane watch area along the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina Wednesday and Wednesday night.



Tropical storm conditions are expected to begin on Wednesday in the warning area along the east coast of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, and spread into North Carolina Wednesday night and Thursday. Tropical storm conditions are possible within the watch area in North Carolina by Thursday.

RAINFALL: Idalia is expected to produce the following rainfall amounts:

Western Cuba: 4 to 7 inches, with isolated higher totals of 10 inches.

Portions of the west coast of Florida, the Florida Panhandle, southeast Georgia and the eastern Carolinas: 4 to 8 inches from Tuesday into Thursday. Isolated higher totals of 12 inches are possible, primarily near landfall in northern Florida.

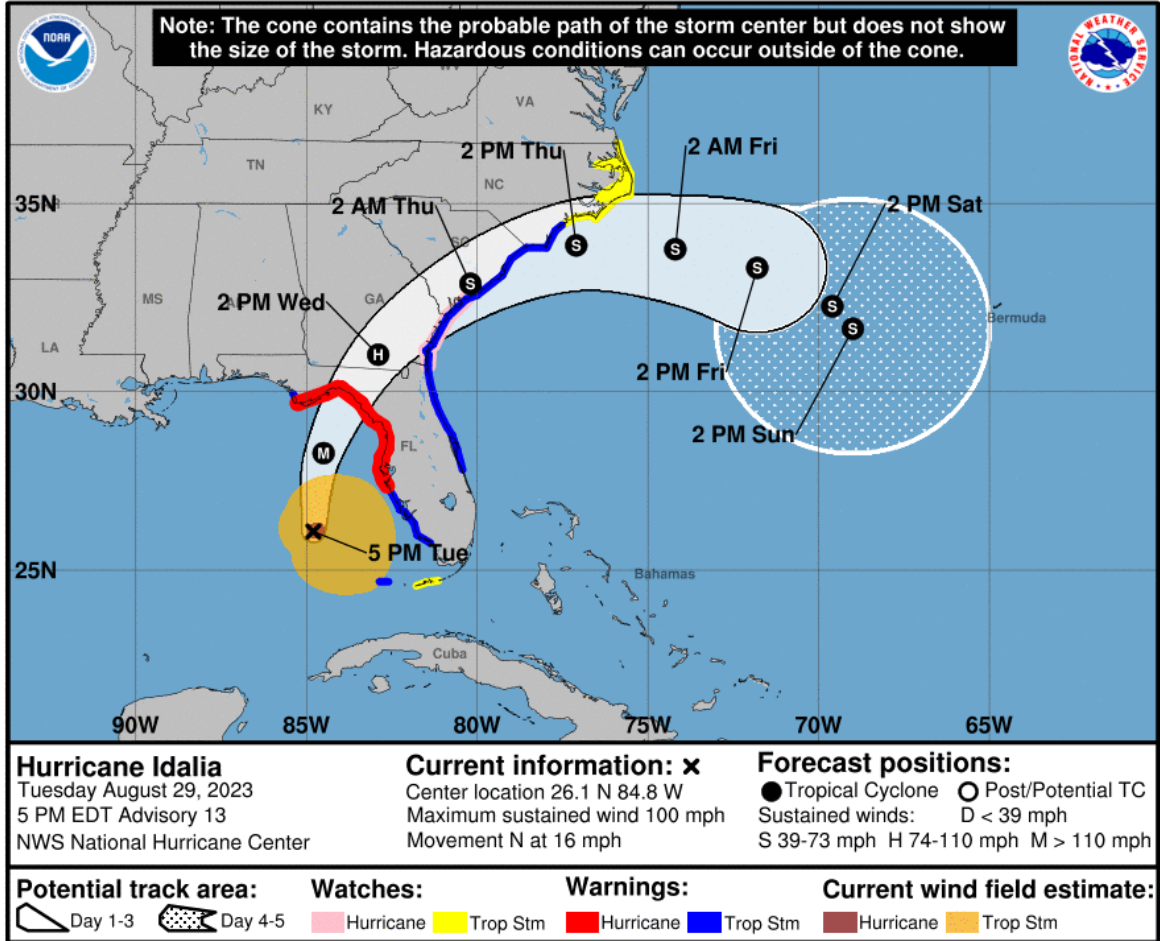
This rainfall may lead to flash and urban flooding, and landslides across western Cuba.

Areas of flash and urban flooding, some of which may be locally significant, are expected across portions of the west coast of Florida, the Florida Panhandle, and southern Georgia Tuesday into Wednesday, spreading into portions of the eastern Carolinas Wednesday into Thursday.

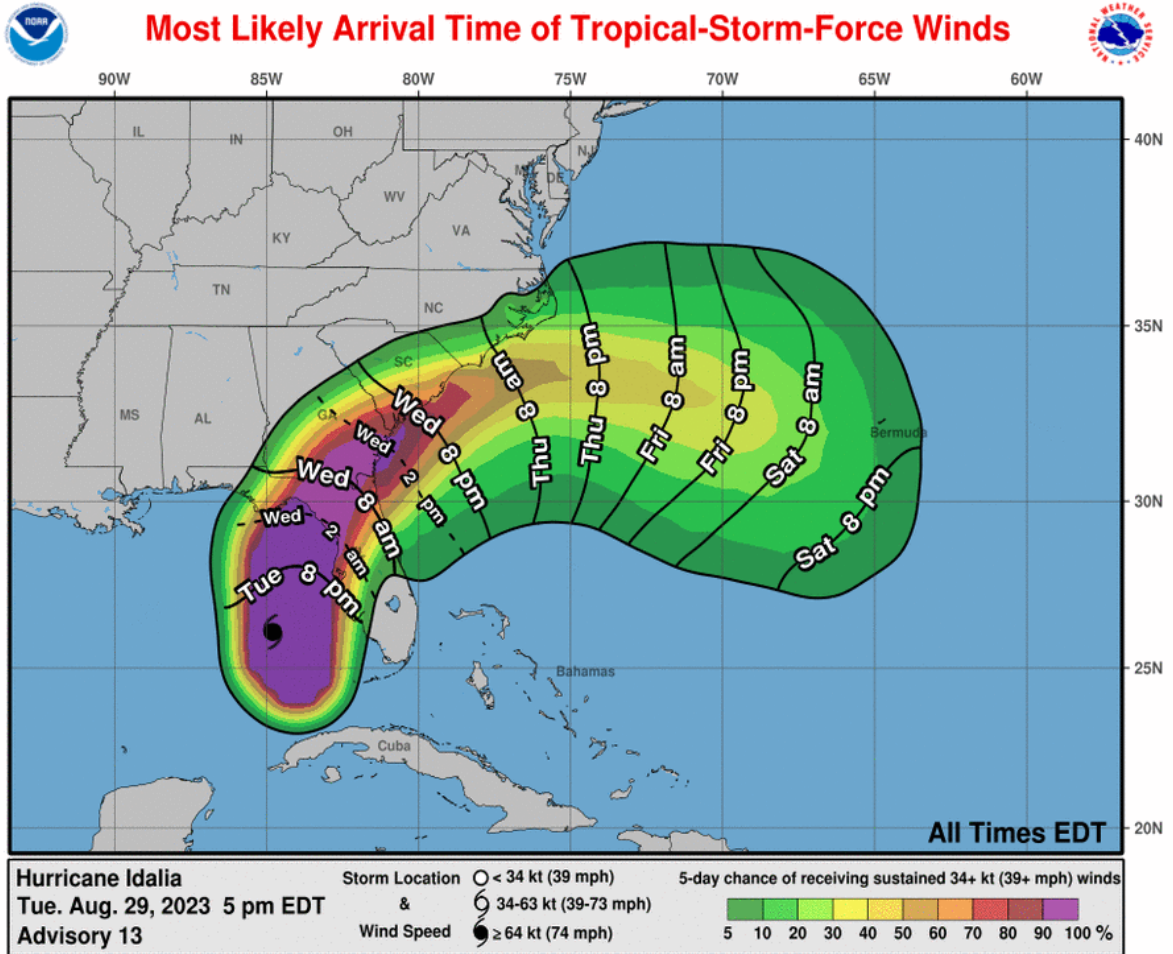
SURF: Swells generated by Idalia are affecting the southwestern coast of Florida and will spread northward and westward to the north-central Gulf coast through Wednesday. Swells affecting portions of the southern coast of Cuba will subside tonight. These swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions. Please consult products from your local weather office.

TORNADOES: A few tornadoes will be possible along the west central Florida coast through tonight. The tornado threat will also spread northward into the Florida Big Bend tonight, and toward southeast Georgia and the coastal Carolinas Wednesday.

National Hurricane Center Forecast

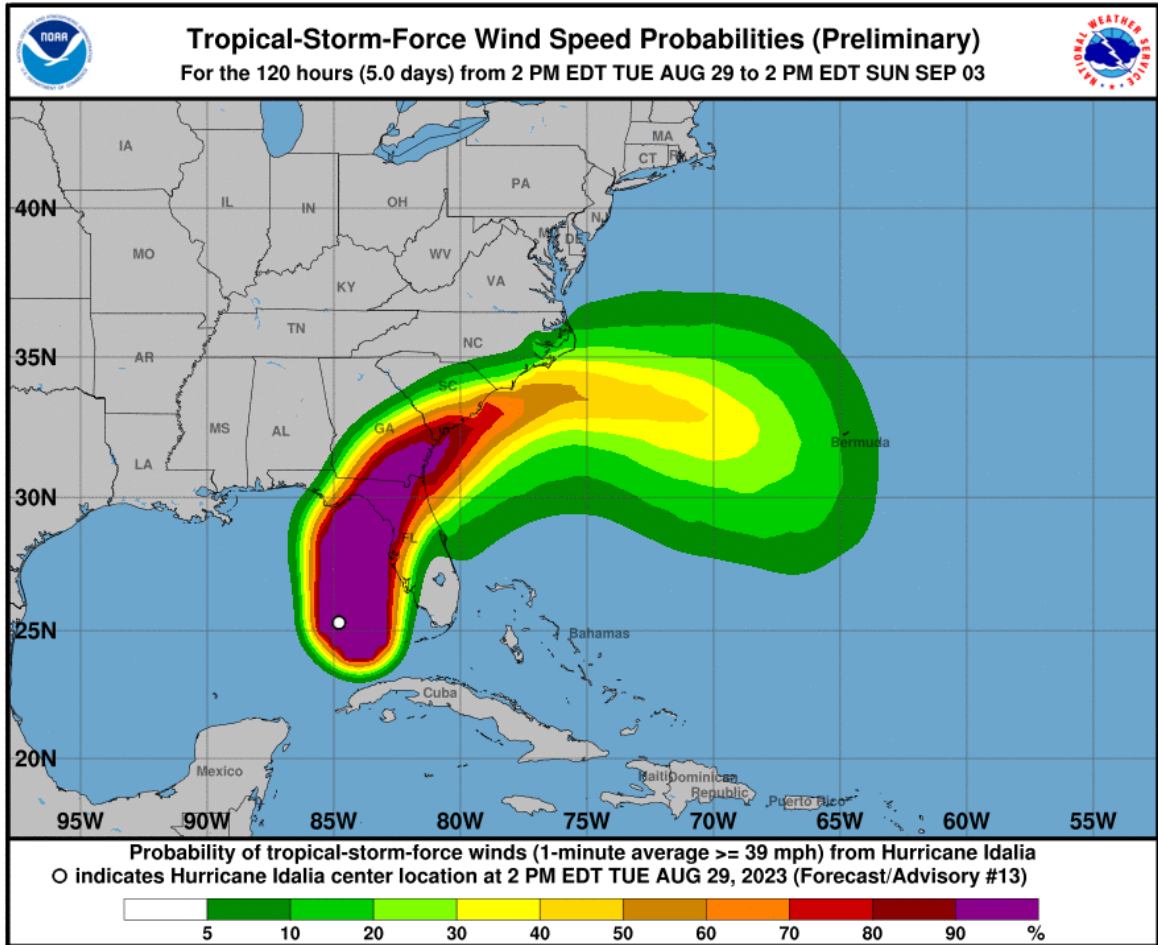


Most Likely Arrival Time of Tropical Storm-Force Winds

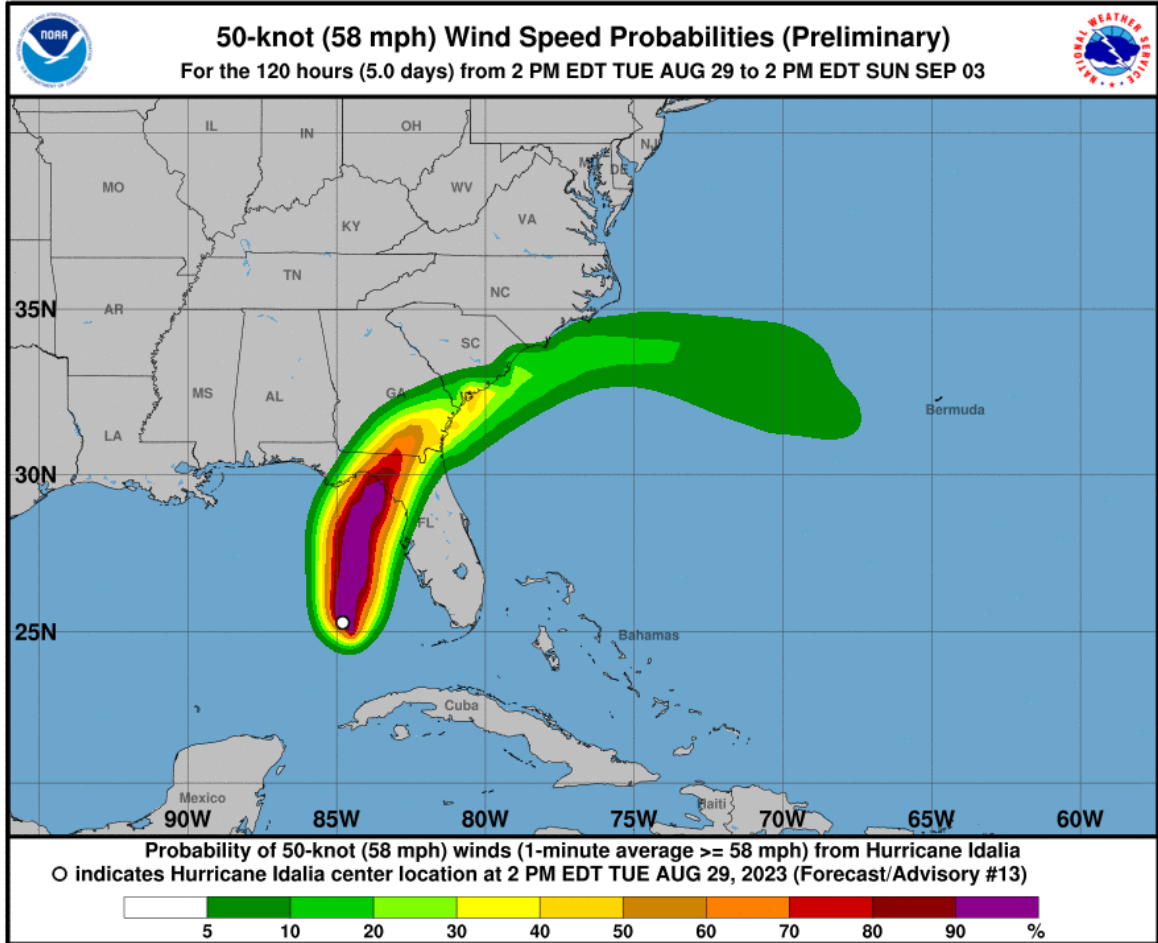


National Hurricane Center: Wind Speed Probabilities

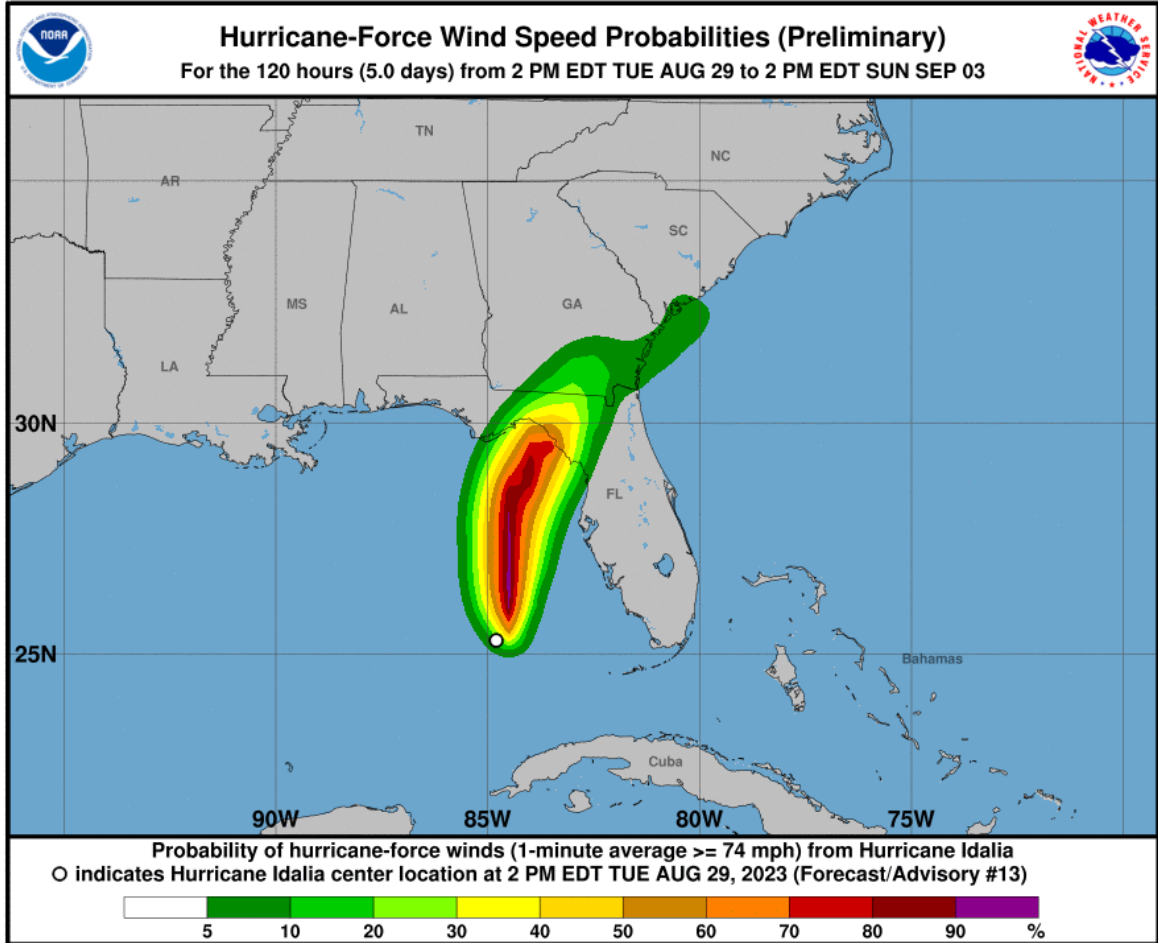
Tropical Storm-Force Wind Probabilities (≥ 40 mph (65 kph))



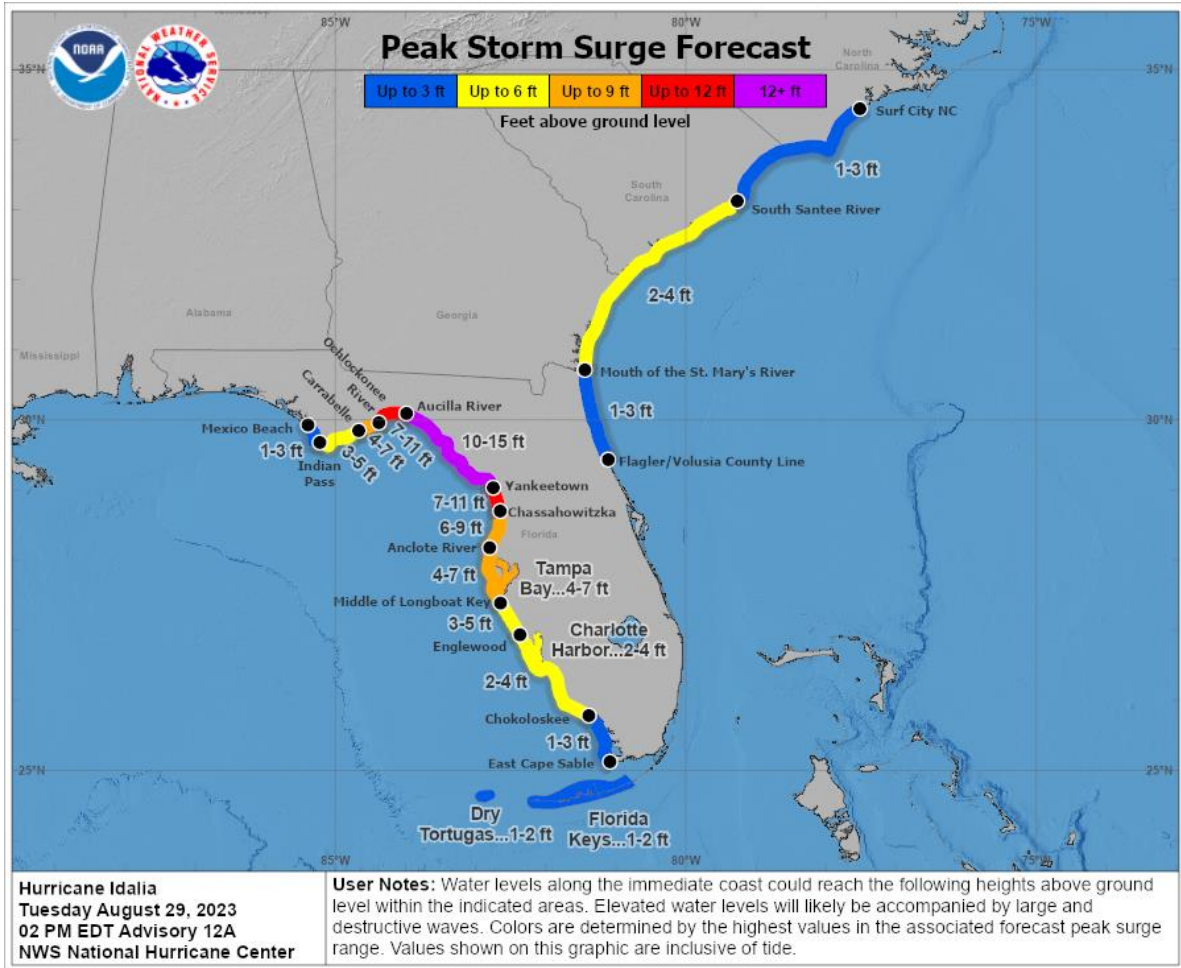
Wind Probabilities (≥ 60 mph (95 kph))



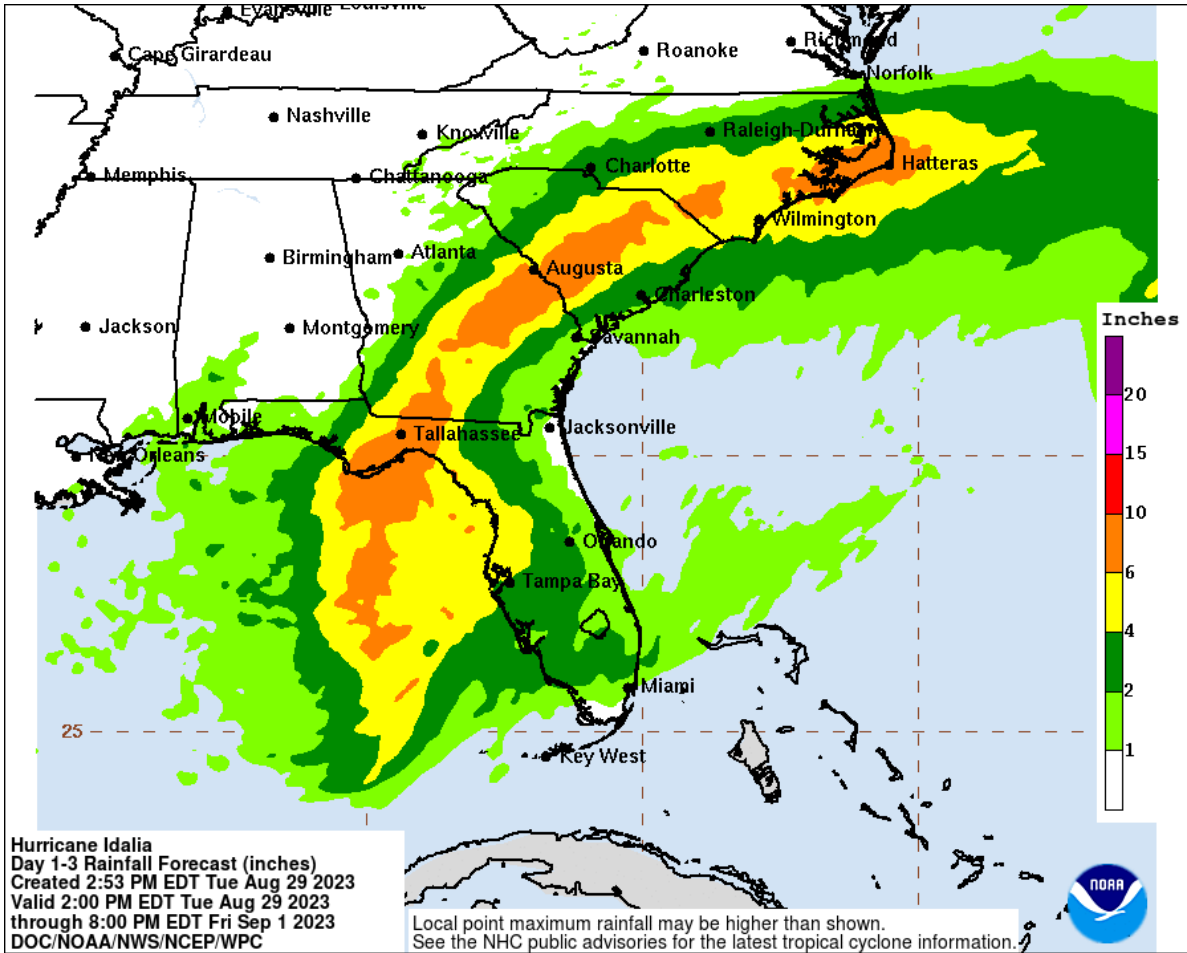
Hurricane-Force Wind Probabilities (≥ 75 mph (120 kph))



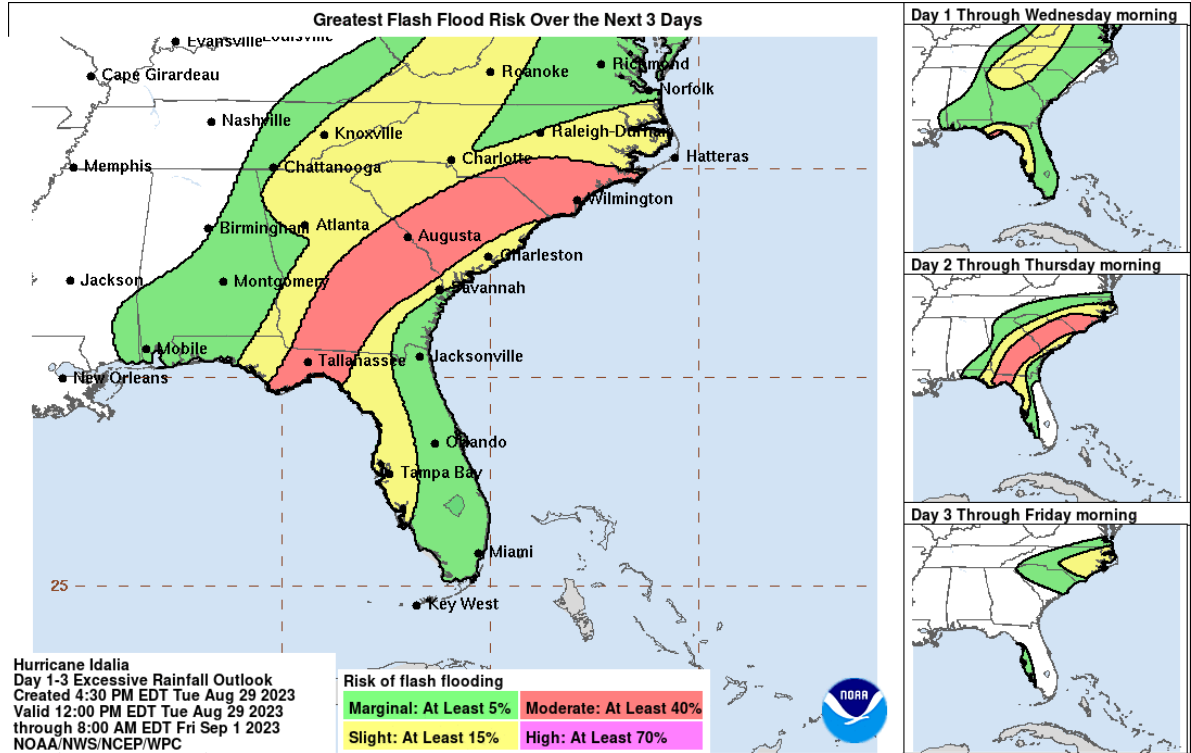
National Hurricane Center: Storm Surge Inundation Graphic



Weather Prediction Center: Rainfall Potential



Weather Prediction Center: Flash Flood Potential



Current Model Output Used in Impact Forecasting's Automated Event Response



Source: NOAA

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

NEXT CAT ALERT: Wednesday, August 30 after 15:00 UTC (10am CDT)

Appendix: 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. 2 Tropical Storm	Cat. 2 Tropical Storm	Cat. 2 Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 2 Tropical Cyclone	Severe Tropical Storm	Severe Cyclonic Storm	
65	75	120							
70	80	130							
75	85	140							
80	90	150							
85	100	160	Cat. 1 Hurricane	Typhoon	Typhoon	Cat. 3 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 3 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Tropical Cyclone	Very Severe Cyclonic Storm
90	105	170							
95	110	175							
100	115	185							
105	120	195							
110	125	205	Cat. 2 Hurricane	Typhoon	Typhoon	Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Intense Tropical Cyclone	Very Severe Cyclonic Storm
115	130	210							
120	140	220							
125	145	230							
130	150	240							
135	155	250	Cat. 3 Major Hurricane	Super Typhoon	Super Typhoon	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Very Intense Tropical Cyclone	Super Cyclonic Storm
140	160	260							
>140	>160	>260							

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