



# TROPICAL STORM ZETA BRIEFING

11:00 AM CT

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

*Prepared by: WFO Mobile/Pensacola*

# Key Points/Changes

## Tropical Storm Zeta



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- No significant changes to the forecast track and intensity. No changes to Watches/Warnings.
- Summary of Watches/Warnings/Advisories In Effect:
  - **Tropical Storm Warning** – Entire area
  - **Storm Surge Warning** – Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, and Santa Rosa Counties
  - **Coastal Flood Advisory** – Okaloosa County
  - **High Rip Current and High Surf Warning** – Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties
- Zeta will likely be a hurricane upon approach of the southeast Louisiana coast and will likely be a strong tropical storm when it moves across our area. We cannot rule out Zeta maintaining hurricane strength as it approaches coastal MS. Hurricane force wind gusts are possible in parts of southeast MS and coastal AL and strong tropical storm force gusts of 60-70mph are increasingly likely. The bottom line is there is an increasing potential for damaging winds that can bring down numerous trees and power lines.
- As Zeta moves inland, it will interact with a strong upper level system and this will result in the threat for tropical storm force winds FAR INLAND and across our entire area. These winds will likely result in downed trees and power lines.
- Regardless of any minimal weakening, impacts will occur along and well to the east of landfall
  - The bulk of the impacts are expected Wednesday evening into very early Thursday morning
  - Conditions are expected to quickly improve after daybreak Thursday.

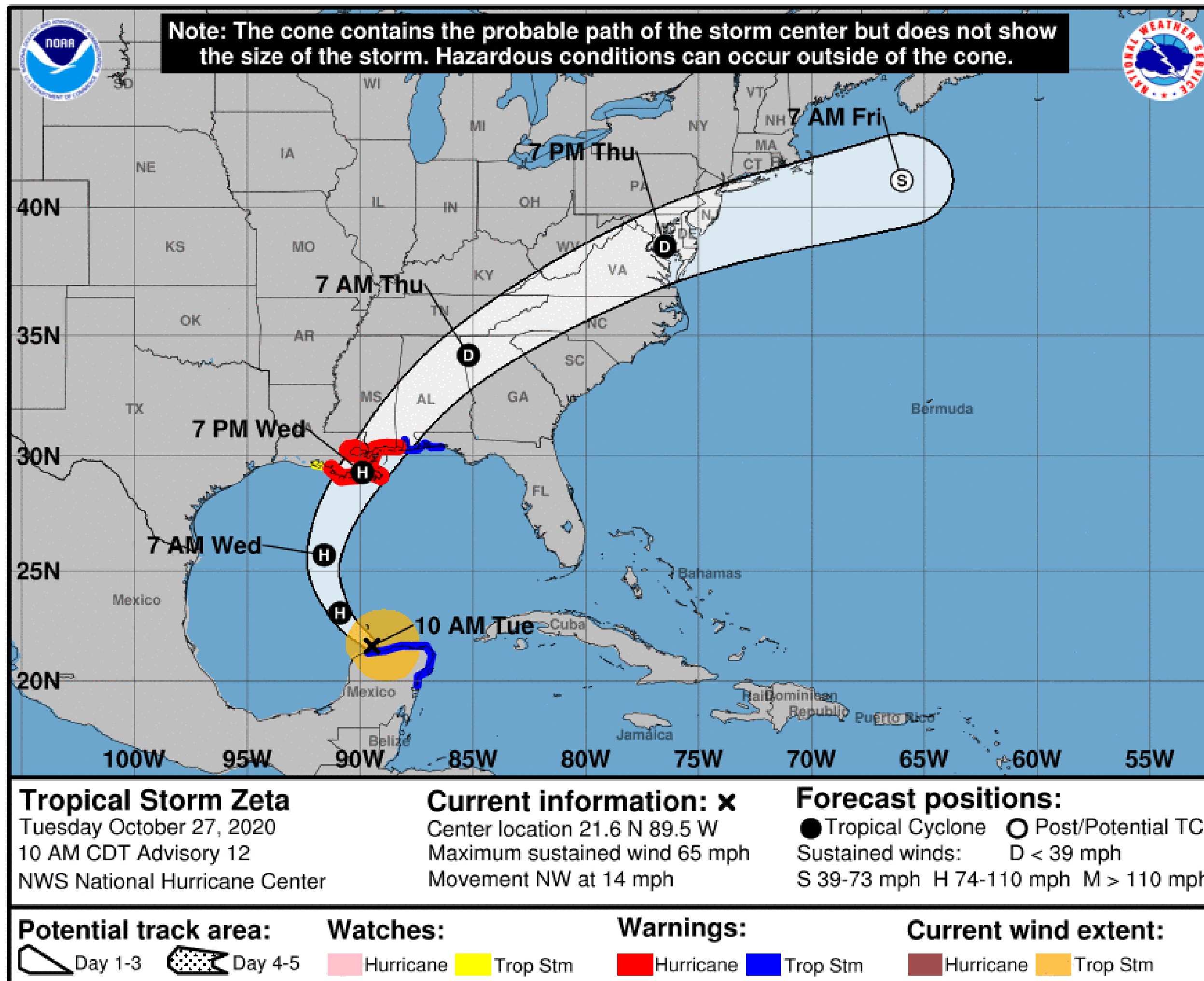
# Situation Overview

## Tropical Storm Zeta



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- **Tropical Storm Warning** for all of inland southeast Mississippi, southwest and south central Alabama, and the western Florida Panhandle
- **Storm Surge Warning** for coastal AL to Navarre, FL. Prepare for potential surge of:
  - MS/AL border to Dauphin Island: 5-8 ft
  - Mobile Bay to AL/FL line: 3-5 ft
  - AL/FL border to Navarre, FL: 2-4 ft
- Zeta will approach the Louisiana coast as a hurricane on Wednesday night and will most likely move into our area as a strong tropical storm late Wednesday night
- **Impacts: Prepare for the potential for damaging winds!** Hurricane force wind gusts cannot be ruled out across parts of southeast MS into coastal AL. Tropical storm force winds will likely spread far inland. There is also the threat of storm surge, dangerous surf, heavy rainfall, and a few tornadoes. Most of the impacts will occur Wednesday night into early Thursday morning.
- **Reminders: Do NOT focus on the specific intensity as there is not much difference between a strong tropical storm and minimal hurricane. Impacts will occur well to the east and northeast of landfall.**

**NOTE:** Do NOT focus on the exact track. Impacts can occur well outside the area enclosed by the cone.

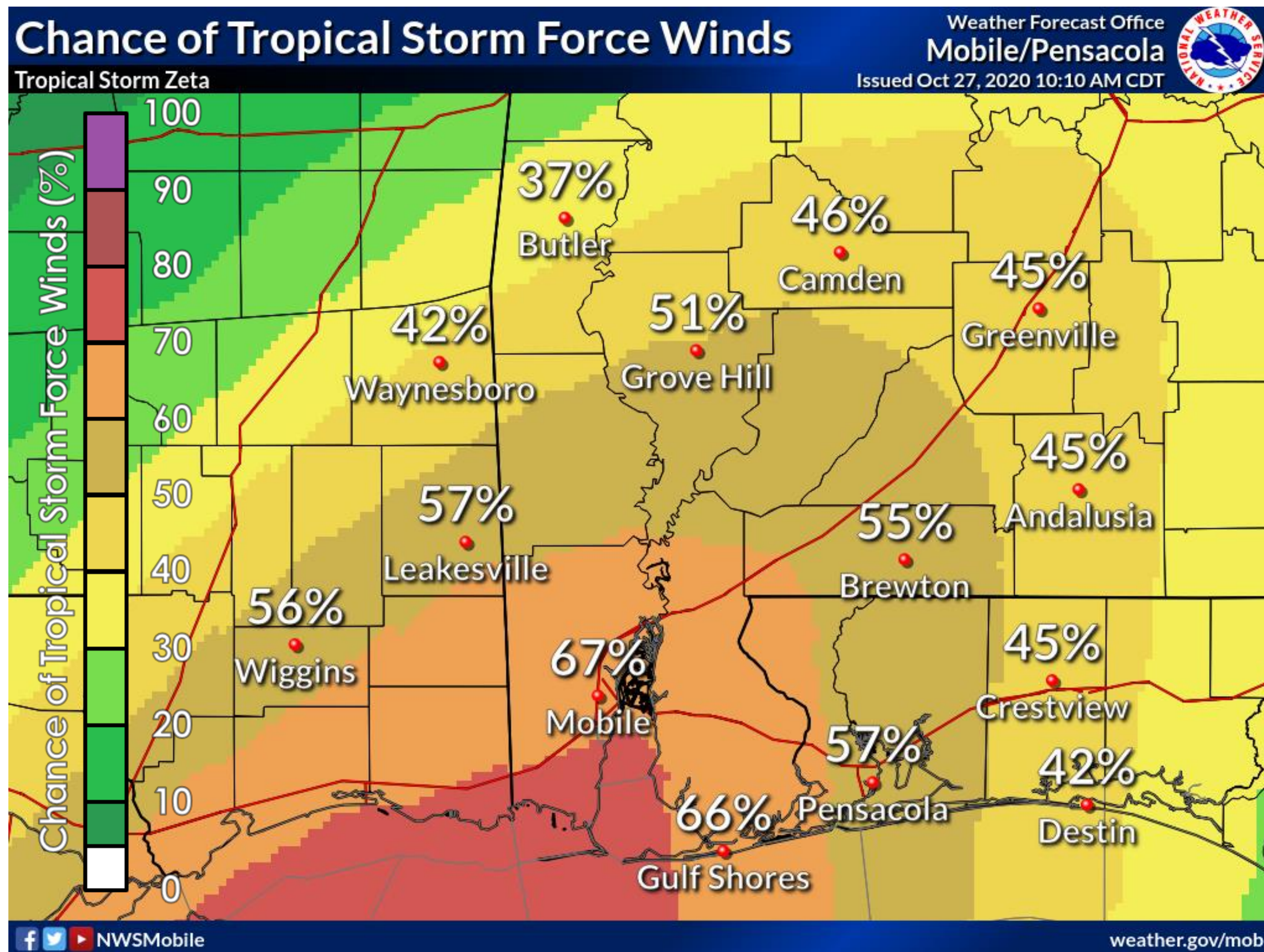
# TS Wind Speed Probabilities

Tropical Storm Zeta



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- There were some minor fluctuations in the probabilities from the last advisory, but the overall threat remains the same.
- There is a 4-in-10 to 7-in-10 chance for tropical storm force winds across the entire forecast area

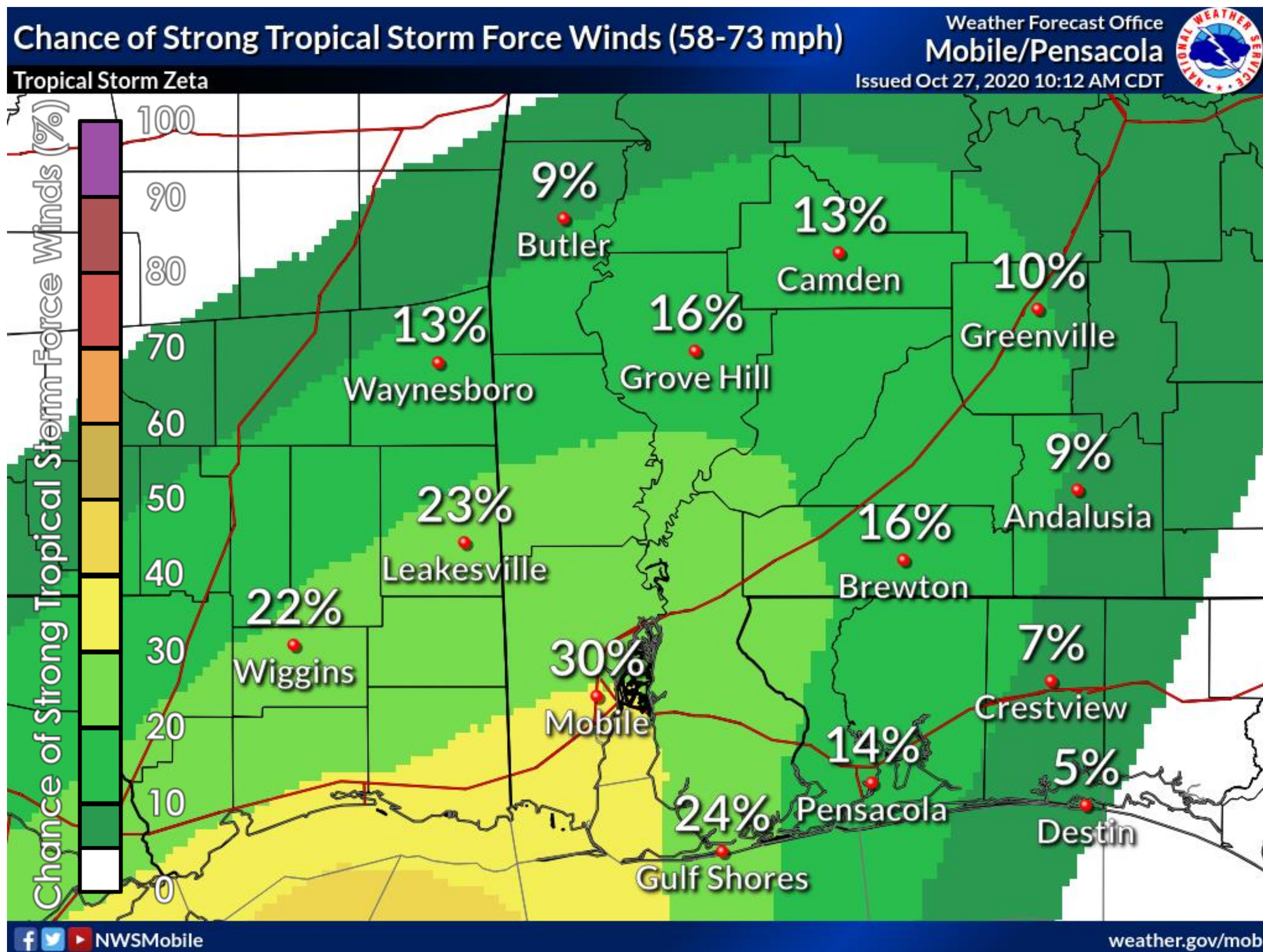
# Strong TS Wind Speed Probabilities

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- There were some minor fluctuations in the probabilities from the last advisory, but the overall threat remains the same.
- The chance of strong tropical storm force winds are 1-in-10 to 3-in-10 across the majority of the area.

# Hurricane Wind Speed Probabilities

Tropical Storm Zeta



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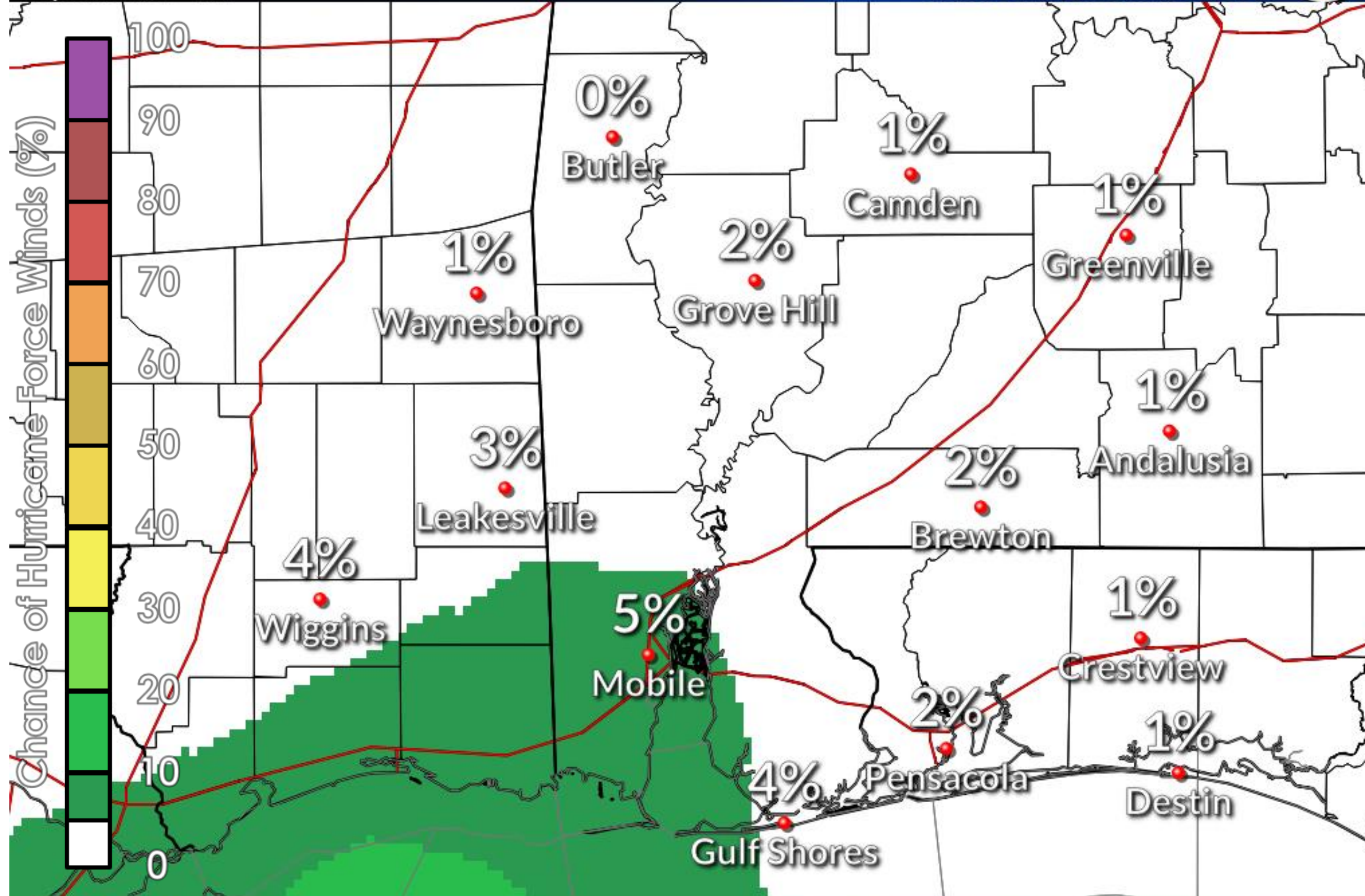
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## Chance of Hurricane Force Winds

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- The hurricane wind speed probabilities have remained nearly the same.
- Chance for hurricane force winds are around 5% for parts of coastal AL into parts of SE MS.
- Hurricane force wind gusts cannot be ruled out across southwest portions of the forecast area.

# Wind Threat / Potential Impact

Tropical Storm Zeta



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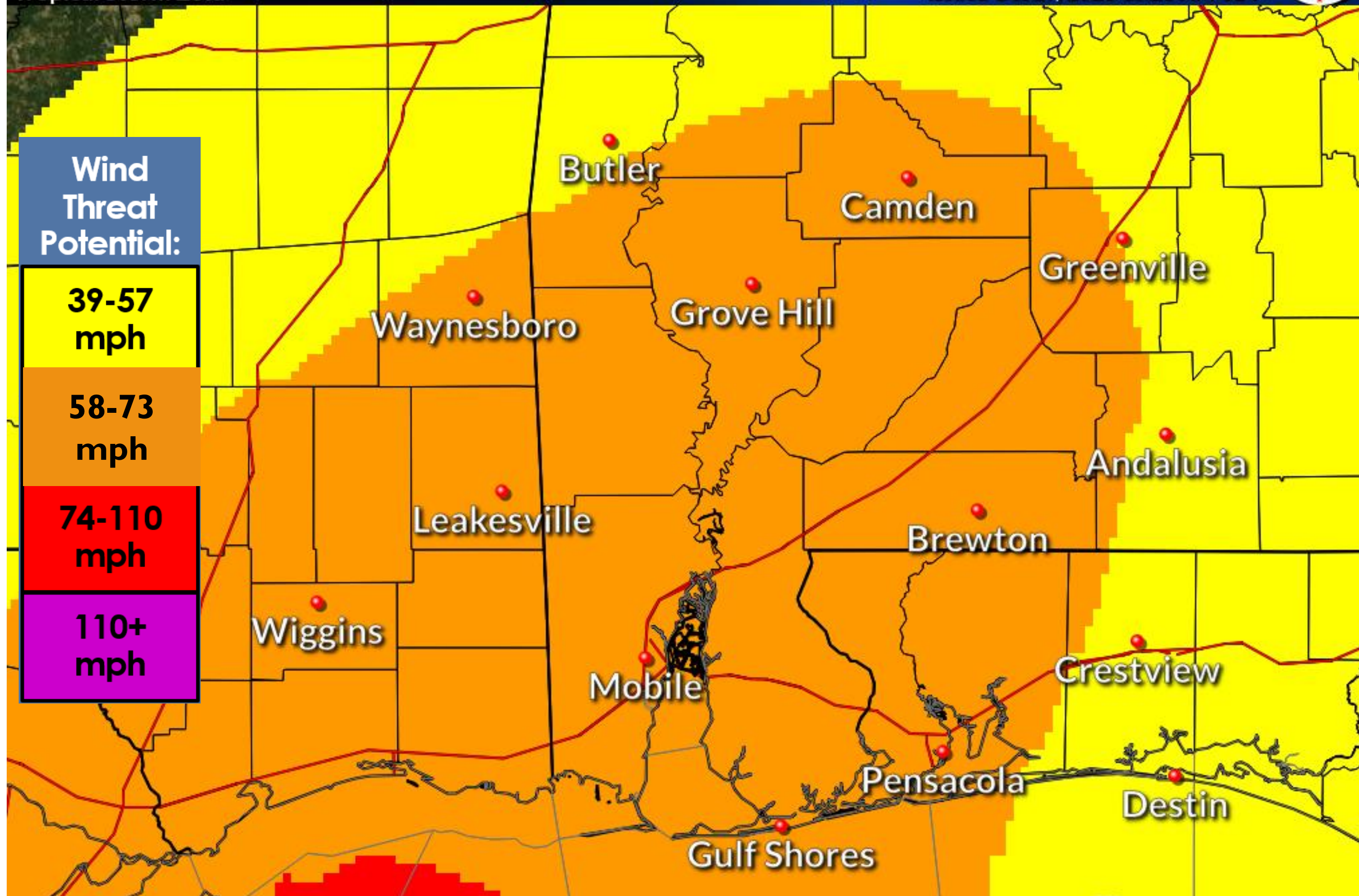
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## Wind Threat

Tropical Storm Zeta

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- There is a potential for:
  - Numerous downed trees and powerlines
  - Scattered to numerous power outages, especially across portions of far southeast Mississippi and coastal Alabama
  - The wind threat will extend well inland due to the fast forward motion of Zeta

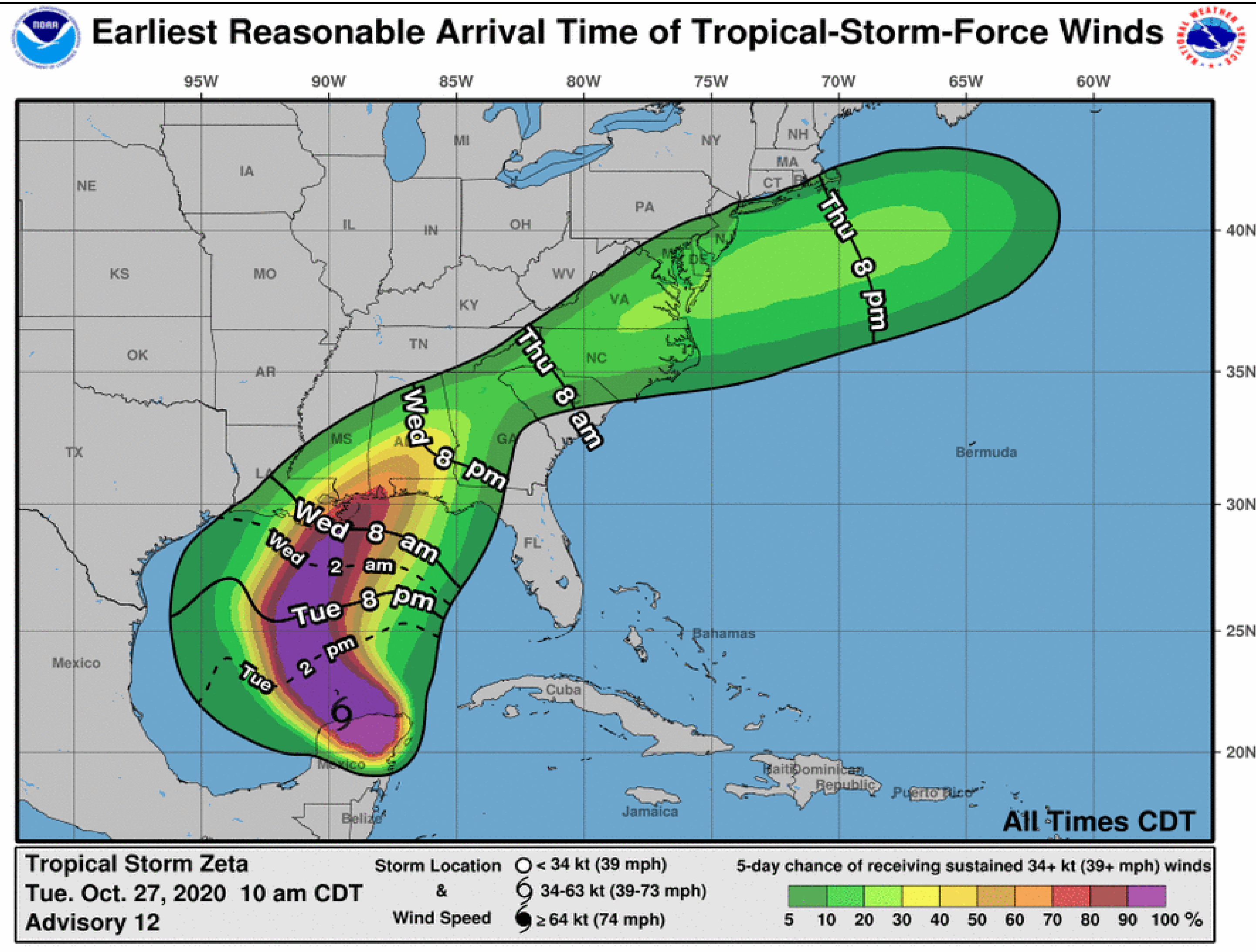
# Earliest Reasonable Time of Arrival

## Tropical Storm Zeta



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- The earliest reasonable time of arrival of Tropical Storm Force Winds is:
  - Coast: Wednesday afternoon
  - Inland: Wednesday evening



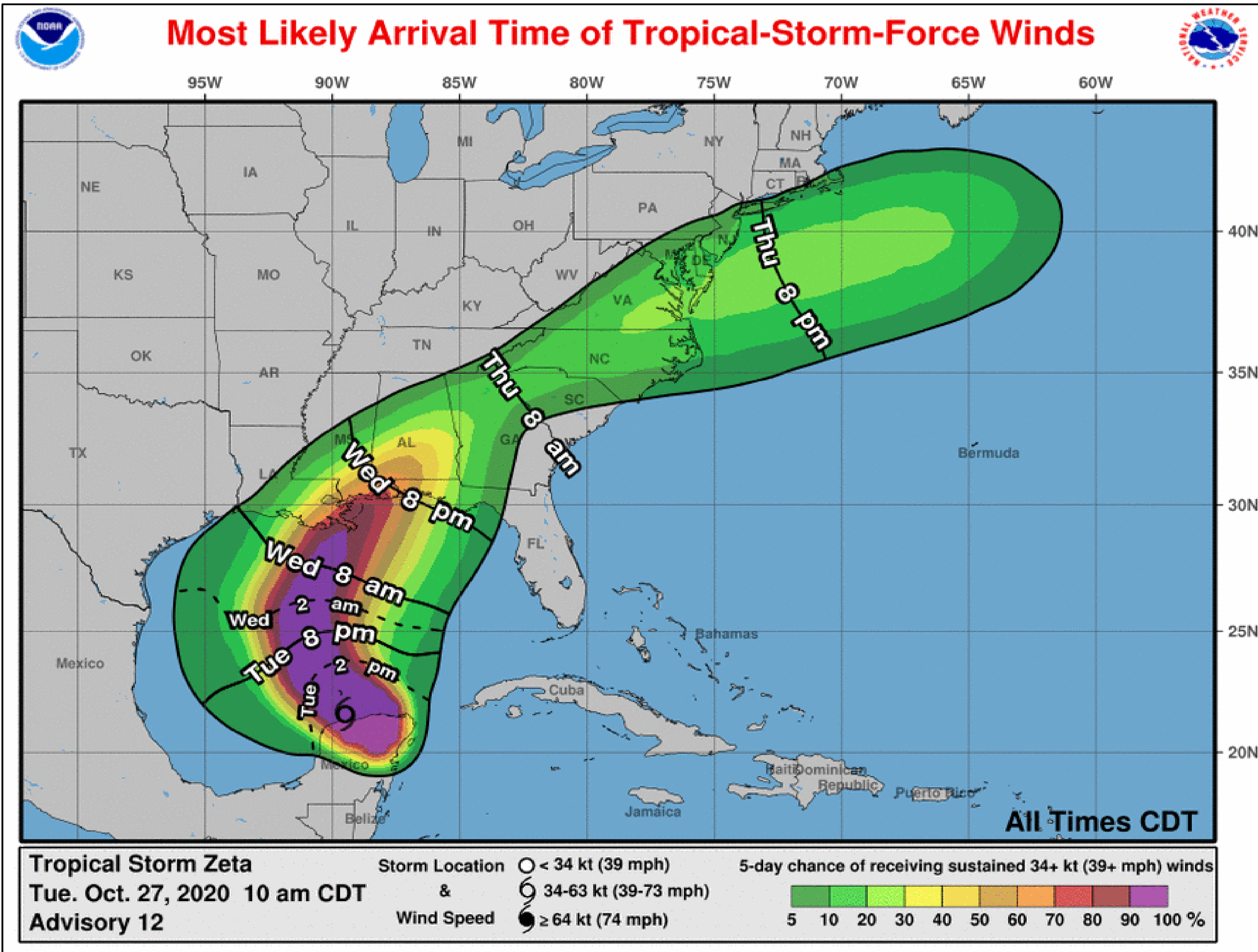
# Most Likely Time of Arrival

## Tropical Storm Zeta



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- The most likely time of arrival of Tropical Storm Force Winds is:
  - Coast: Wednesday evening
  - Inland: Late Wednesday evening



### Most Likely Time Frame for Winds

Location	Tropical Storm Force Winds	Hurricane Force Winds
Inland Southeast MS	7pm Wednesday to 3am Thursday (a few gusts to tropical storm force possible in Stone/George by 5pm Wednesday)	Hurricane force wind gusts around 75 mph are possible Wednesday night, especially in Stone/George counties.
Coastal AL	7pm Wednesday to 4am Thursday (a few gusts to tropical storm force possible mid to late afternoon Wednesday along immediate coast)	Hurricane force wind gusts around 75 mph are possible Wednesday night.
Inland Southwest AL	9pm Wednesday to 5am Thursday (a few gusts to tropical storm force possible by 7pm Wednesday)	Not expected at this time.
South Central AL (Butler, Crenshaw, Covington)	11pm Wednesday to 6am Thursday	Not expected at this time.
NW FL	7pm Wednesday to 3am Thursday (a few gusts to tropical storm force possible by early Wednesday evening)	Not expected at this time.

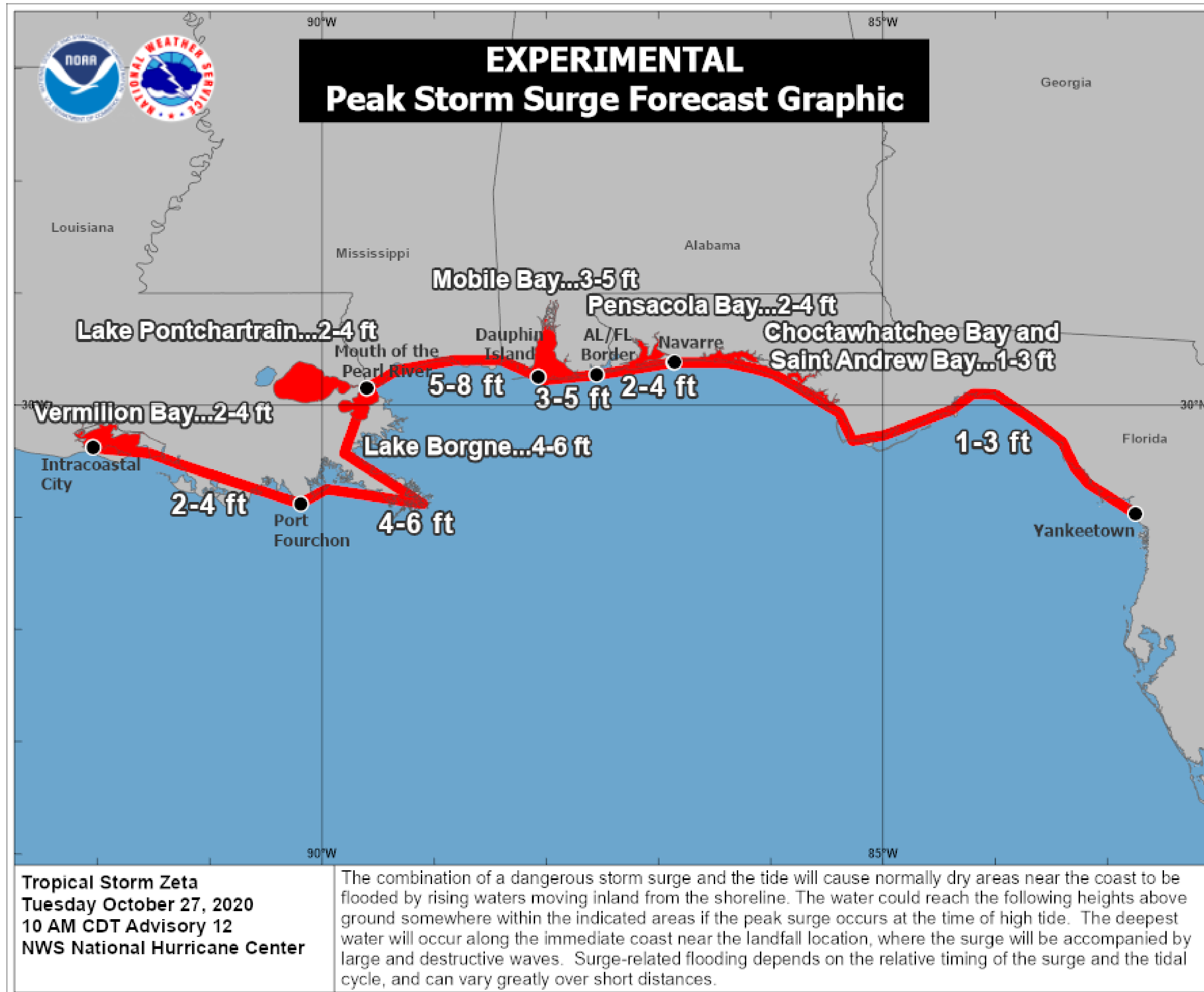
# Peak Storm Surge Forecast

## Tropical Storm Zeta



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- Potential storm surge inundation:
  - MS/AL Line to Dauphin Island: 5-8 ft
  - Mobile Bay to AL/FL border: 3-5 ft
  - AL/FL Border to Navarre: 2-4 ft
  - Navarre to Destin: 1-3 ft
- Timing:
  - Greatest surge potential is Wednesday night into early Thursday morning
  - Minor coastal flooding is likely to linger past daybreak Thursday through mid Thursday morning.

# Dangerous Surf

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## Rip Current Risk

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TODAY

Valid as of October 27, 2020 4:28 AM CDT



Outlook for Alabama Beaches, including: Dauphin Island, Fort Morgan, Gulf Shores, & Orange Beach

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WED NIGHT	THURSDAY	THU NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRI NIGHT
High	High	High	High	High	High	Moderate	Moderate

Outlook for Florida Beaches, including: Pensacola Beach, Navarre Beach, Fort Walton Beach, & Destin

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WED NIGHT	THURSDAY	THU NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRI NIGHT
High	High	High	High	High	High	Moderate	Moderate

Low

Rip current risk is low; Life threatening rip currents often occur in the vicinity of inlets, groins, jetties, and piers. Always supervise those who cannot swim.

Moderate

Life threatening rip currents are possible; Swim near a lifeguard. Remember to heed the advice of local beach patrol and flag warning systems.

High

Life threatening rip currents are likely; The surf is dangerous for all levels of swimmers. Heed the advice of local beach patrol and flag warning systems.

- A High Surf Warning is now in effect for all coastal areas of Alabama into the western Florida Panhandle
- Surf heights quickly build to 4-6 feet by Tuesday night, increasing to 10-15 feet late Wednesday afternoon into early Thursday morning
- Surf heights start to decrease on Thursday afternoon
- HIGH risk for rip currents Today through Thursday night

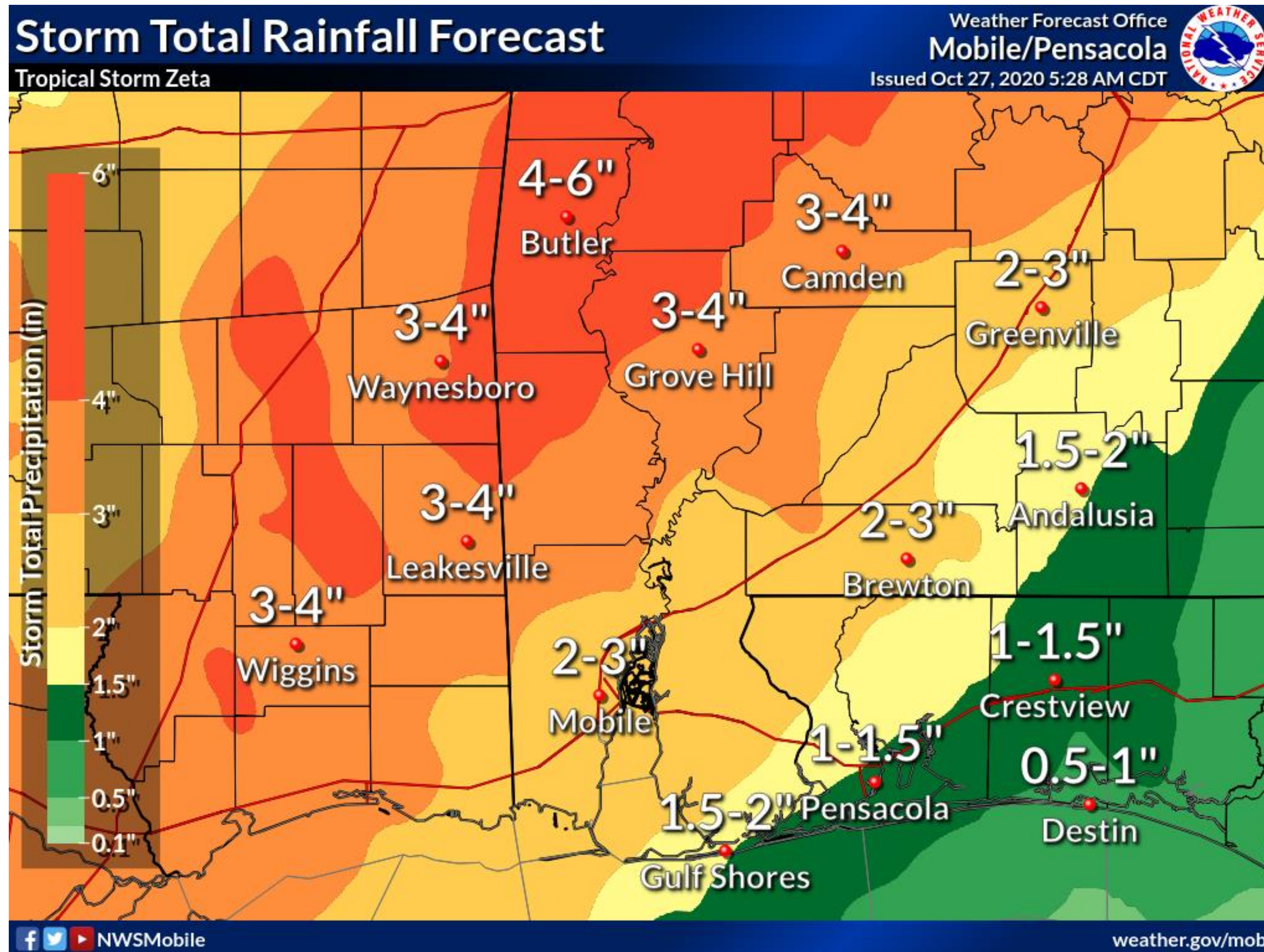
# Forecast Storm Total Rainfall

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- Storm total rainfall amounts of 3-6" with localized totals up to 8" possible west of I-65
- Lesser rainfall amounts further east
- Heavy rain could result in localized flooding

# Potential Tornado Impacts

Tropical Storm Zeta



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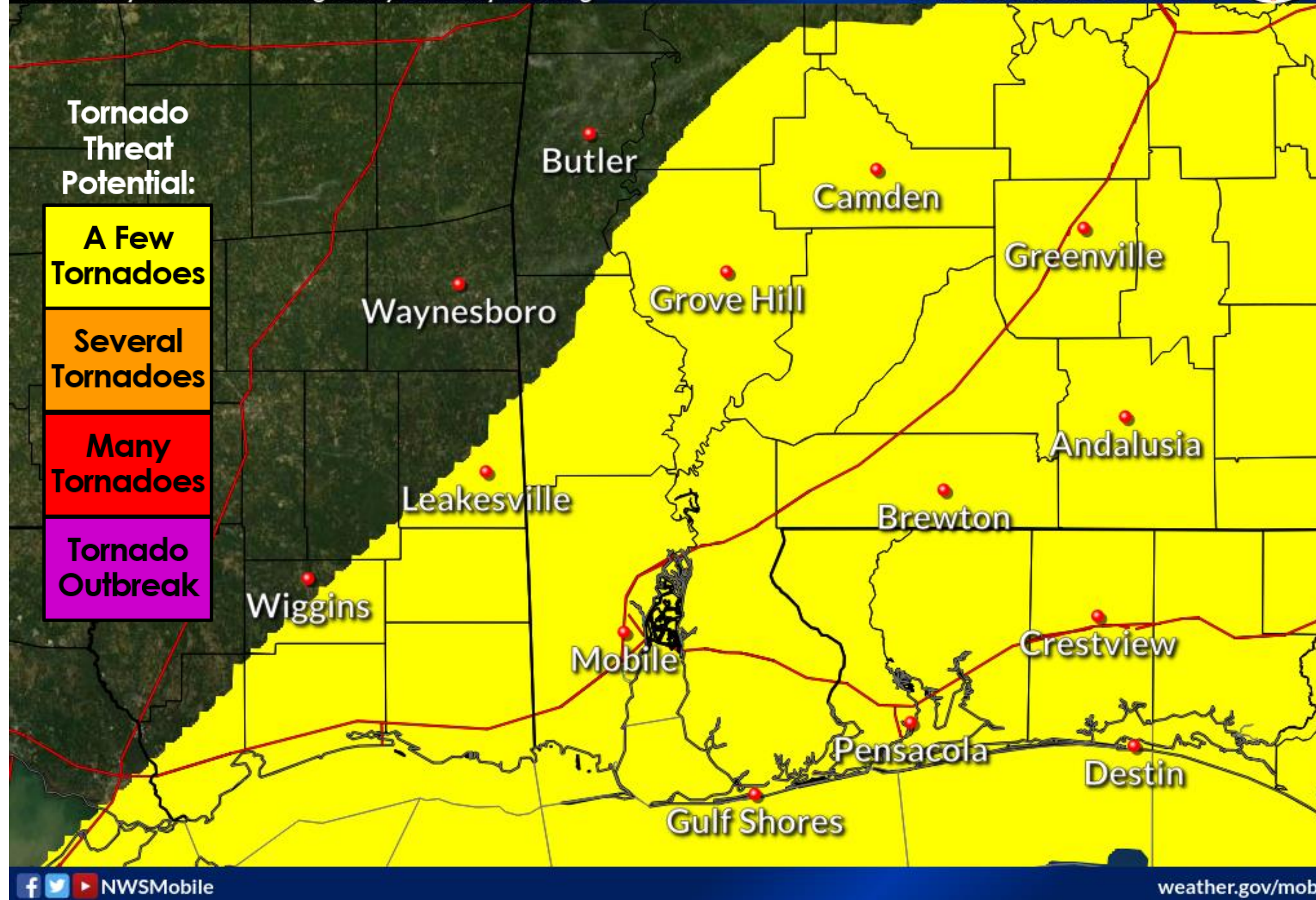
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## Tornado Threat

Wednesday Afternoon through Early Thursday Morning

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- Main threat for a few tornadoes is from mid-day on Wednesday through Wednesday night

# Key Take-Aways

## Tropical Storm Zeta



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- Summary of Watches/Warnings/Advisories In Effect:
  - **Tropical Storm Warning** – Entire area
  - **Storm Surge Warning** – Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, and Santa Rosa Counties
  - **Coastal Flood Advisory** – Okaloosa County
  - **High Rip Current and High Surf Warning** – Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties
- Zeta is forecast to make landfall along the southeast Louisiana early Wednesday evening and quickly move across our region Wednesday night.
- Zeta will most likely move into the area as a strong tropical storm, however there is a potential that Zeta remains a hurricane when entering coastal MS. Hurricane force wind gusts cannot be ruled out along coastal AL and parts of inland southeast MS. **\*NOTE\*** There is not much difference between a strong tropical storm and a minimal hurricane.
- The damaging wind threat will spread far inland.
- Impacts will likely occur along and well to the east of landfall, including well inland
  - Majority of the impacts will be Wednesday evening into early Thursday morning
  - Conditions rapidly improve after daybreak Thursday