



HURRICANE ZETA BRIEFING

5:00 AM CT

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Prepared by: WFO Mobile/Pensacola

Key Points/Changes

Hurricane Zeta



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- No significant changes to the forecast track and intensity
- 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. There is a potential for Zeta to maintain hurricane strength as it moves into far southeast Mississippi and portions of far southwest Alabama. Hurricane wind gusts appear increasingly likely in these locations
- 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 (at least in gusts) FAR INLAND and across our entire area
- 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 early Thursday morning
 - Conditions are expected to quickly improve after daybreak Thursday

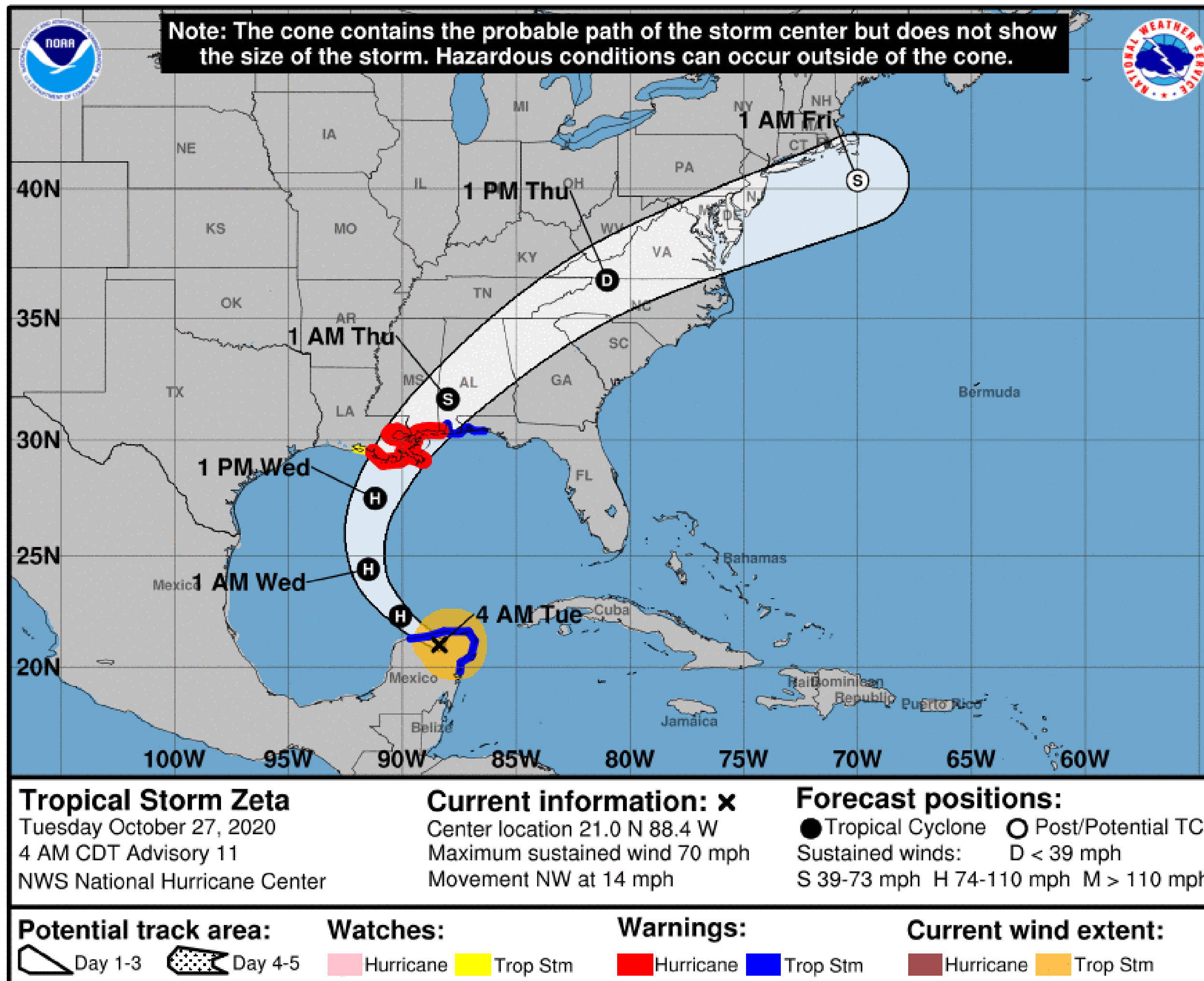
Situation Overview

Hurricane 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
- Zeta is forecast to remain at hurricane strength and speed up as it curves north and northeast over the Gulf of Mexico
- 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:** Threat of dangerous surf, damaging winds, storm surge, 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 likely 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

Hurricane Zeta



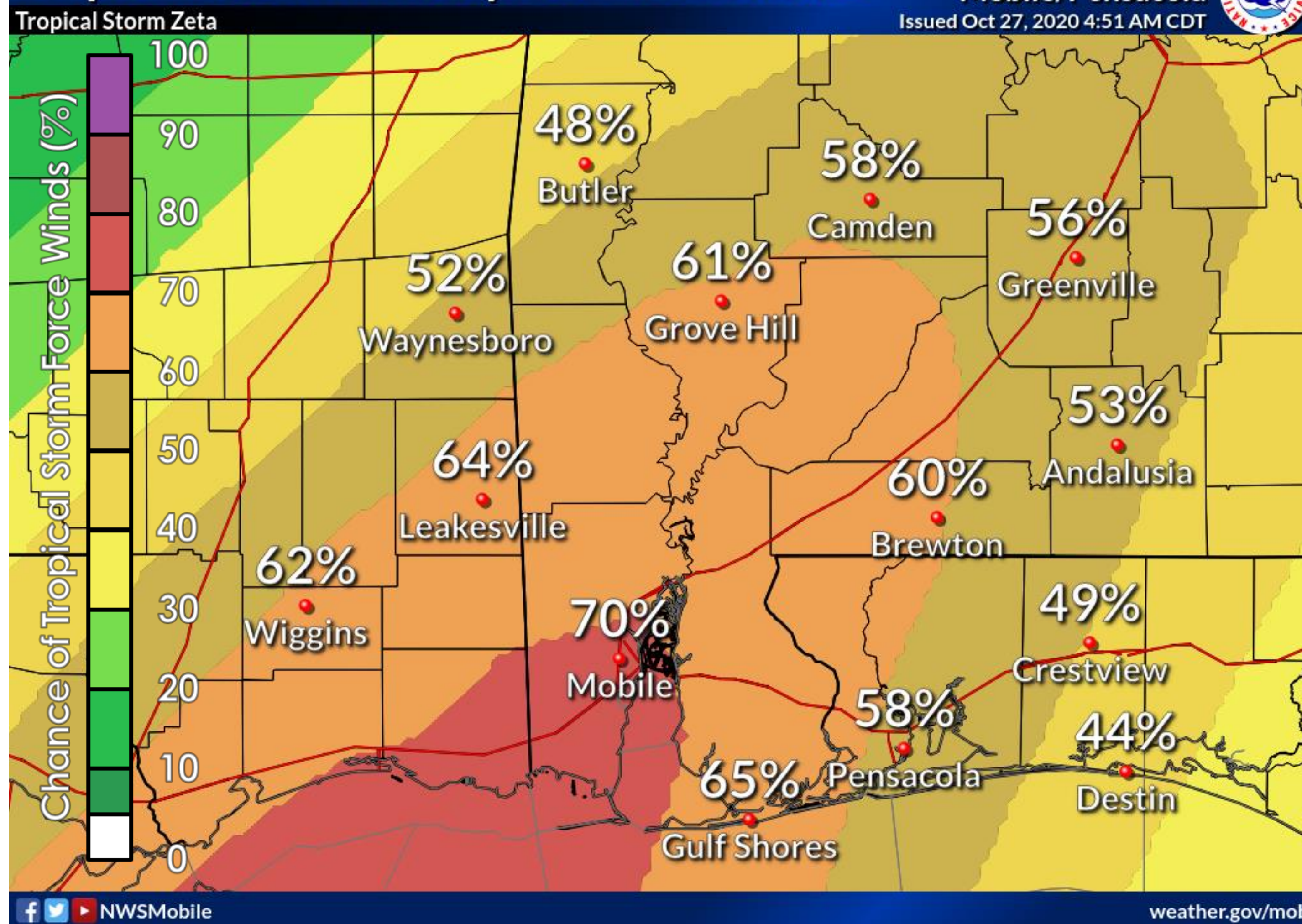
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Tropical Storm Wind Speed Probabilities

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- Probabilities have significantly increased
- There is a 5-in-10 to 7-in-10 chance for tropical storm force winds across the entire forecast area

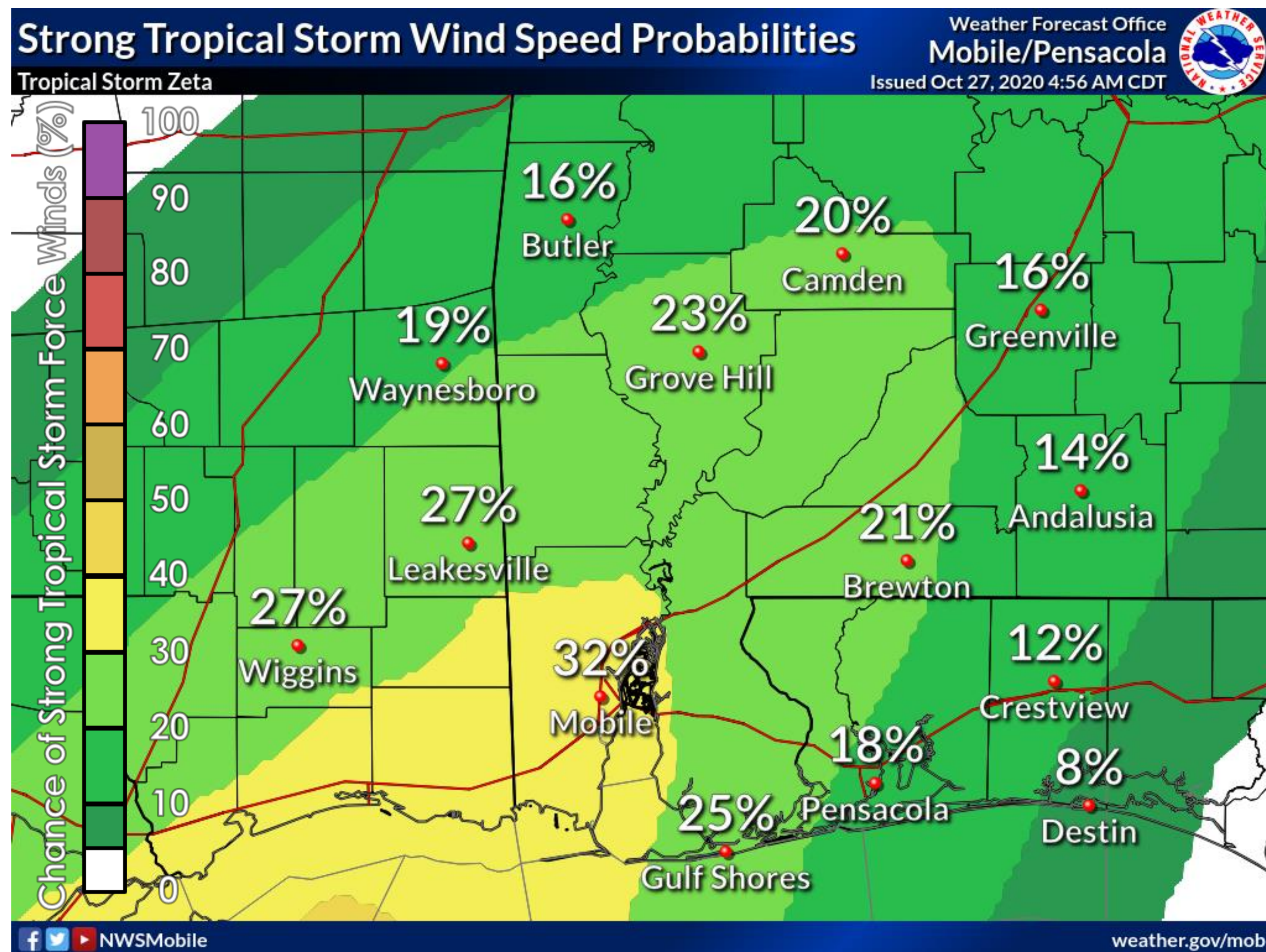
Strong TS Wind Speed Probabilities

Hurricane Zeta



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- The probability of strong tropical storm force winds has increased areawide
- The chance of strong tropical storm force winds are 2-in-10 to nearly 4-in-10 across portions of southeast Mississippi into southwest and south central Alabama

Hurricane Wind Speed Probabilities

Hurricane Zeta



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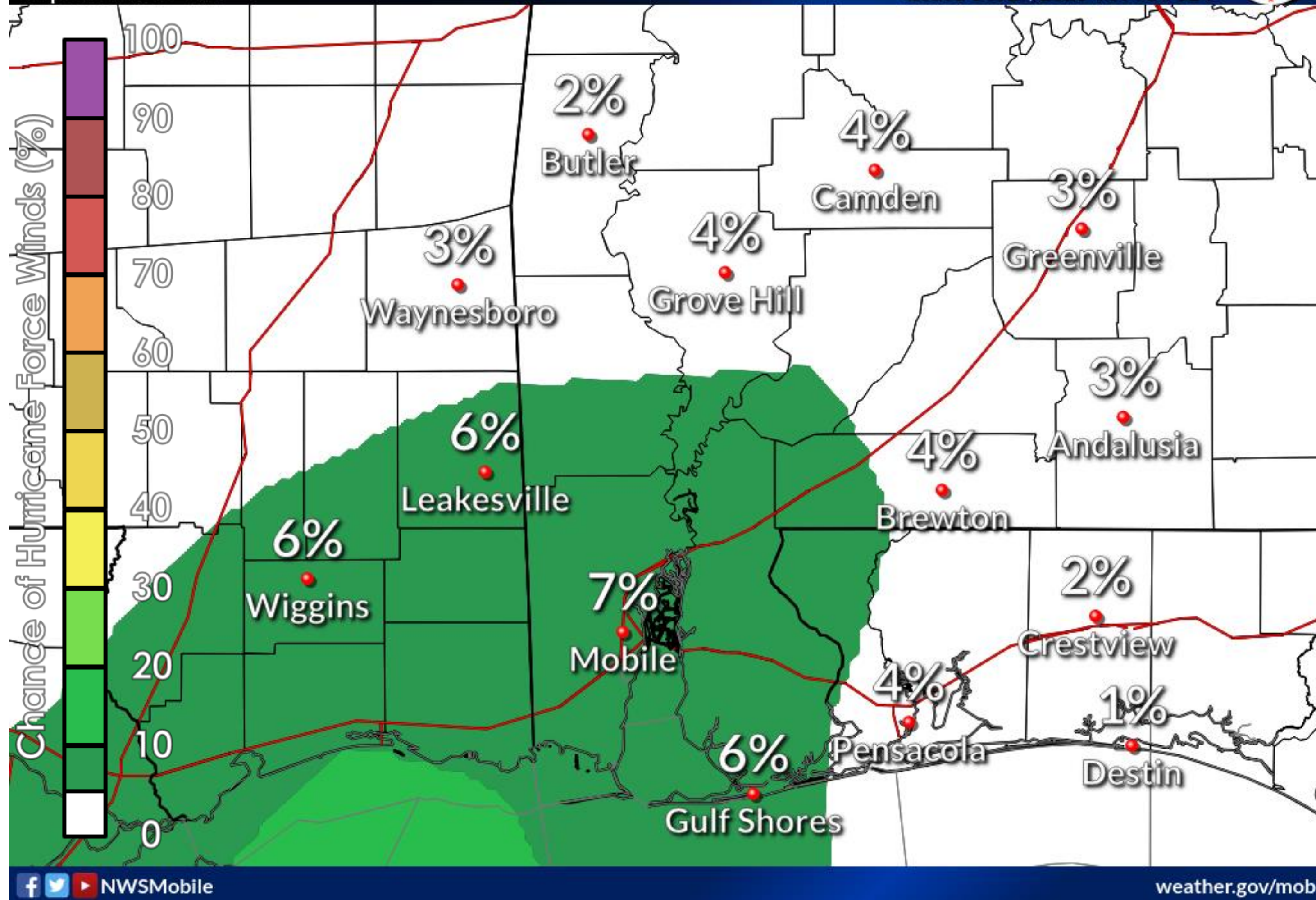
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Hurricane Wind Speed Probabilities

Tropical Storm Zeta

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- The hurricane wind speed probabilities have increased across portions of far southeast Mississippi and coastal Alabama
- Chance for hurricane force winds have nearly doubled in these areas and are now approaching a 10% chance
- Hurricane force winds cannot be ruled out across southwest portions of the forecast area

Wind Threat / Potential Impact

Hurricane Zeta



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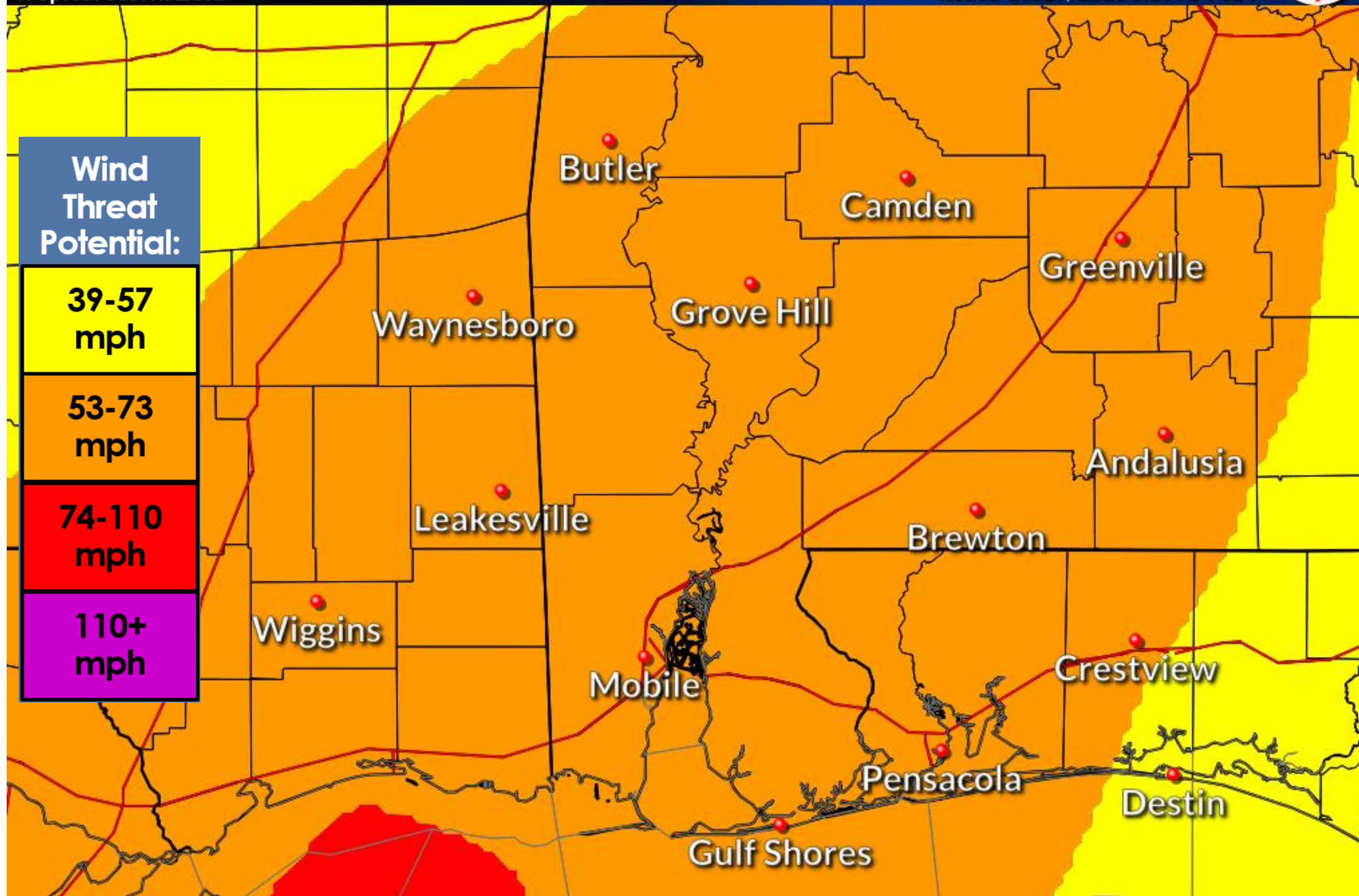
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Wind Threat

Tropical Storm Zeta

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| Wind Threat Potential: |
|------------------------|
| 39-57 mph |
| 53-73 mph |
| 74-110 mph |
| 110+ mph |

- 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

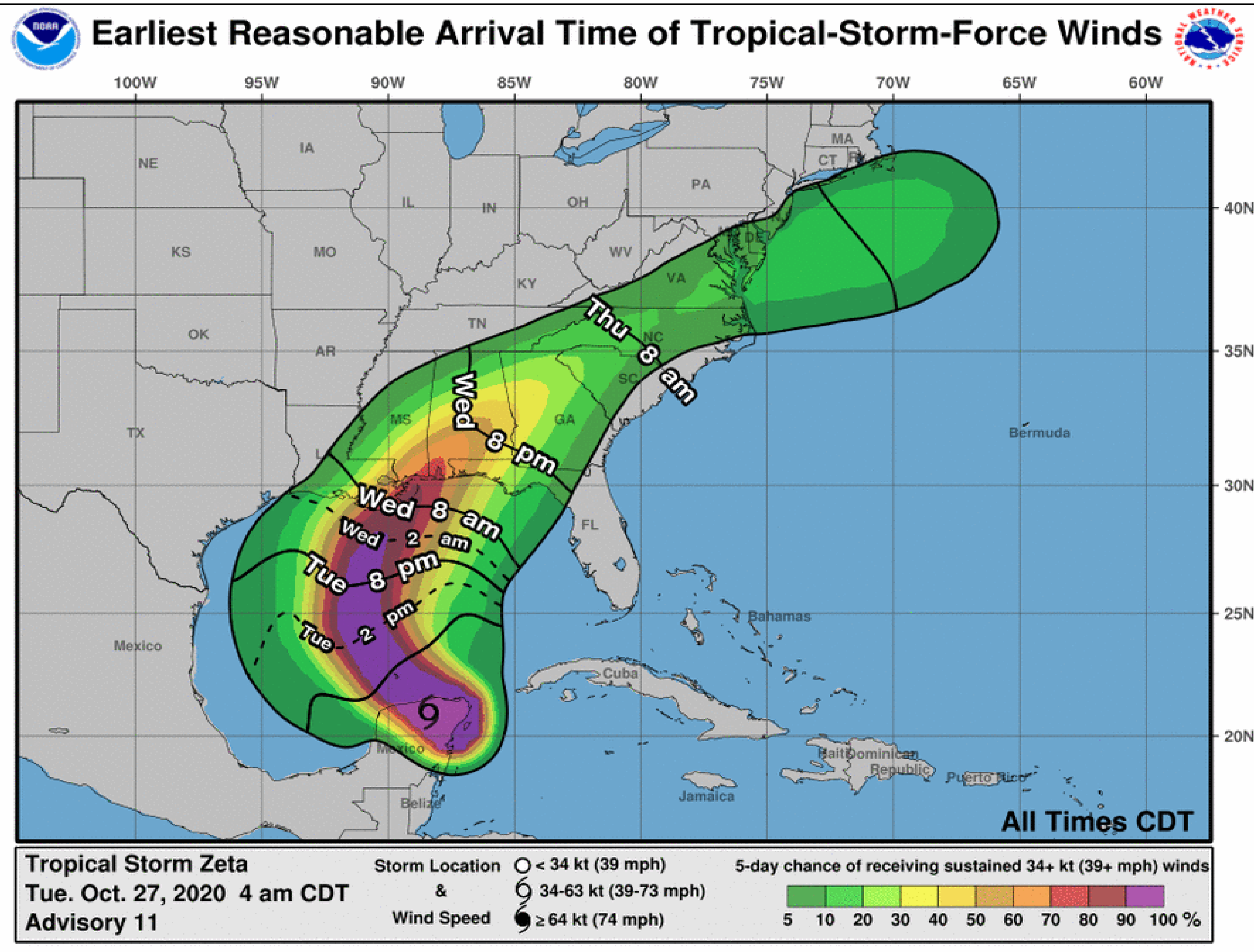
Earliest Reasonable Time of Arrival

Hurricane Zeta



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

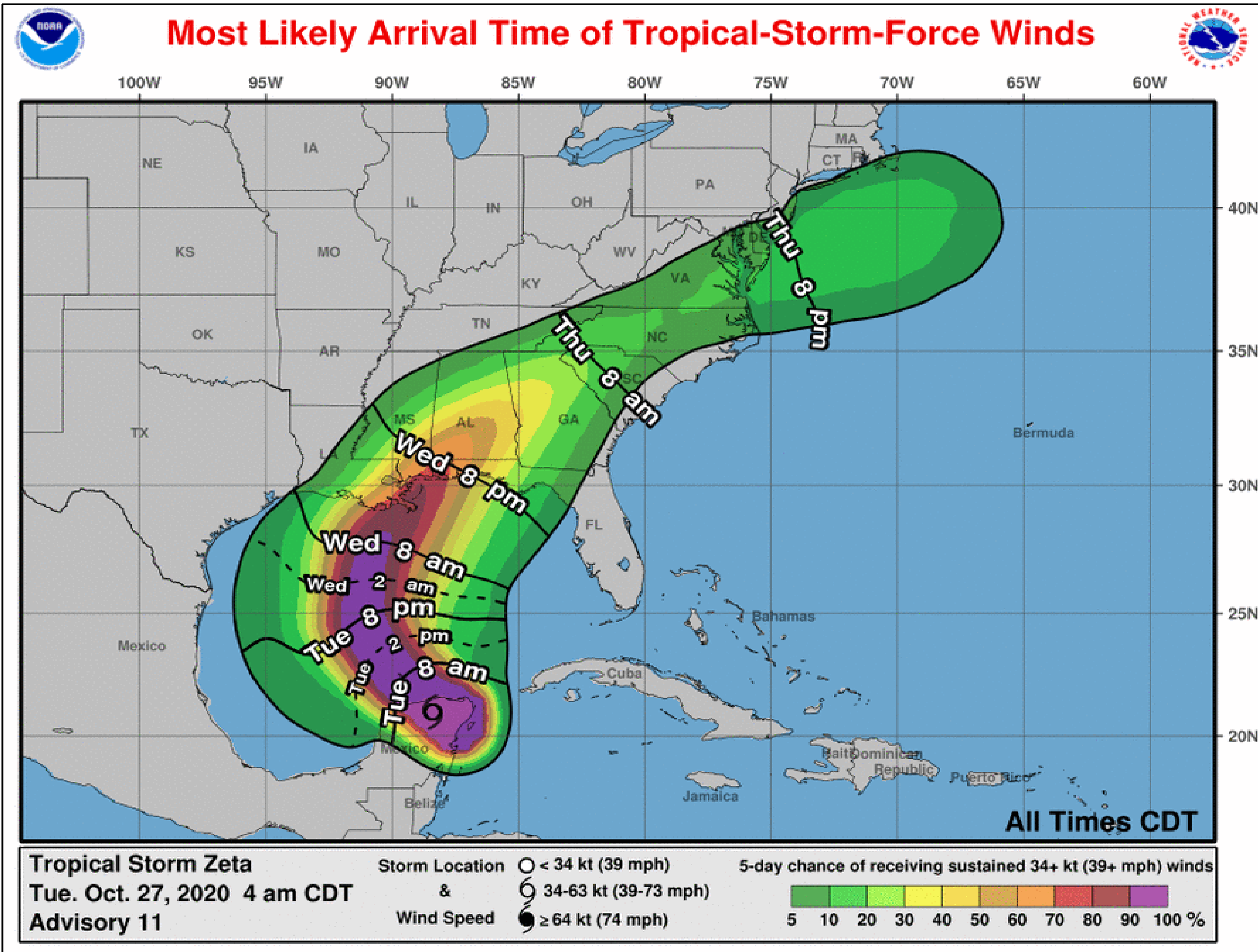
Most Likely Time of Arrival

Hurricane Zeta



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

Storm Surge Watch/Warning

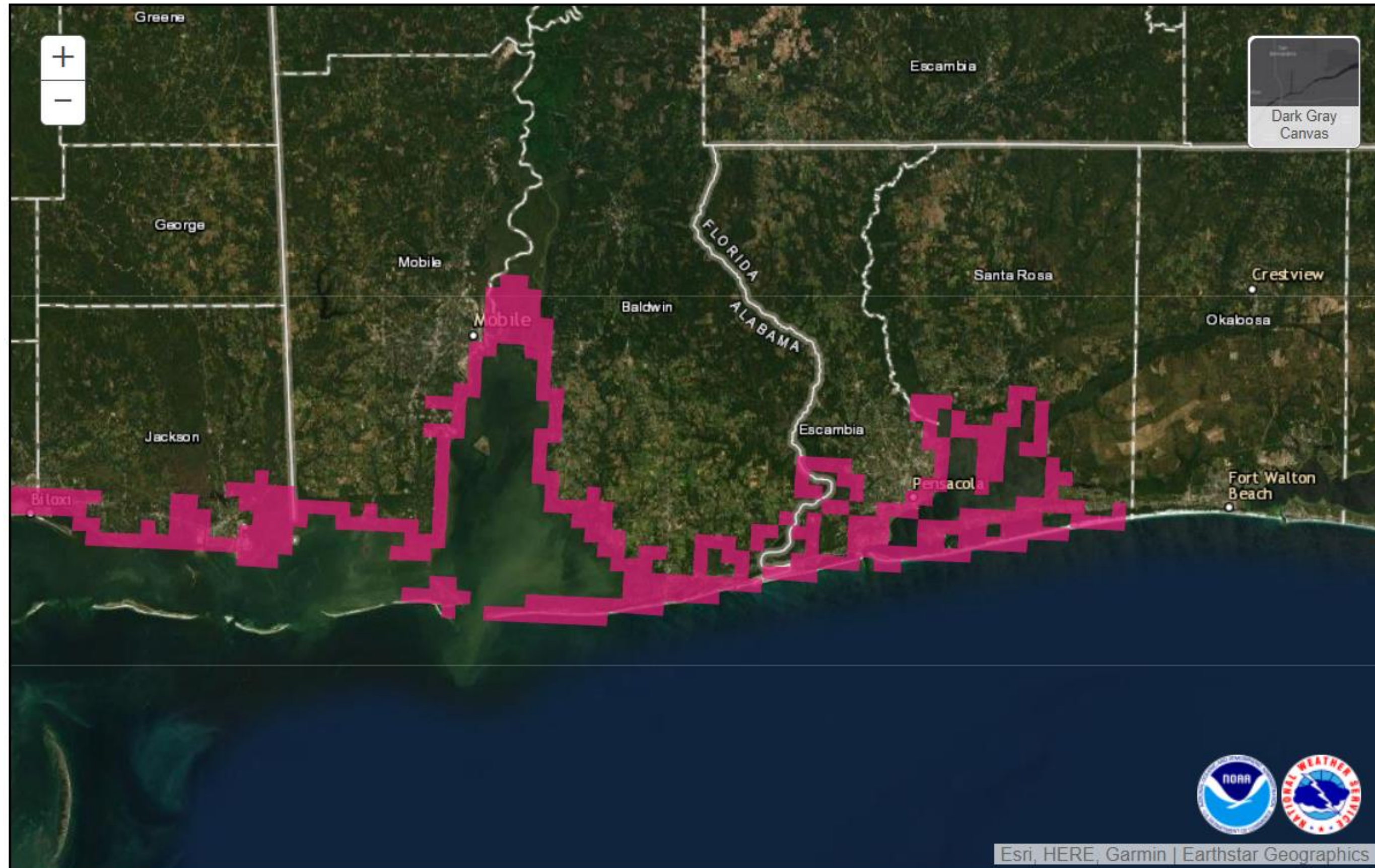
Hurricane Zeta



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Storm Surge Watch/Warning Graphic*

Tropical Storm Zeta
Advisory 011 Issued: 4:00 AM CDT Tue Oct 27



- Storm Surge **WARNING** now in effect from the MS/AL state line to Navarre, FL
- Possibility of life-threatening inundation from storm surge somewhere in the specified area within 36 hours
- Coastal Flood Advisory now in effect from Navarre to Destin, FL



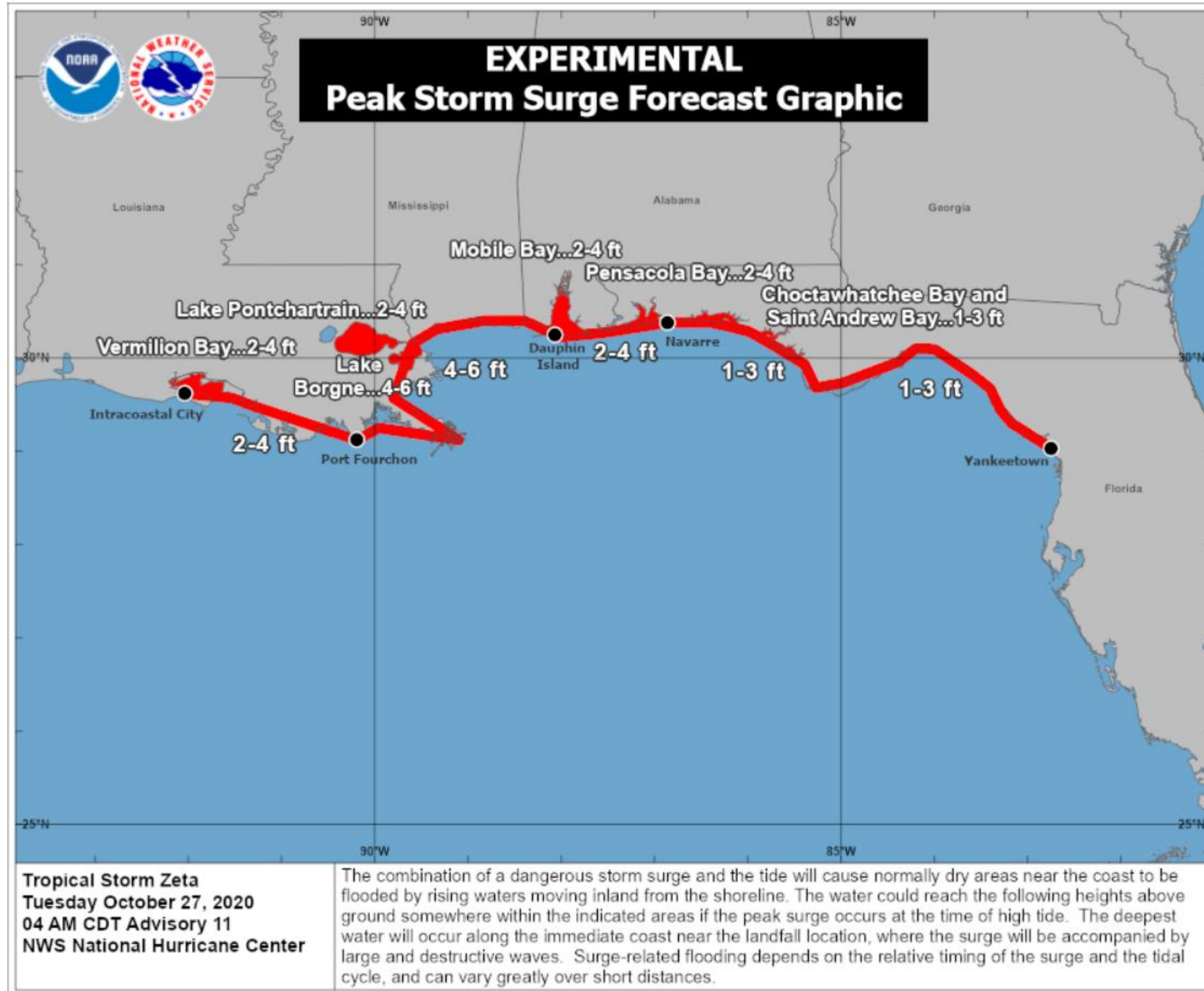
Peak Storm Surge Forecast

Hurricane Zeta



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- Storm surge inundation:
 - MS/AL Line to Dauphin Island: 4-6 ft
 - Dauphin Island east to Navarre (including Mobile Bay): 2-4 ft
 - Navarre to Destin: 1-3 ft
- If the current track and intensity forecast remain consistent, ***surge values may need to be increased in Mobile Bay***
- Timing:
 - Greatest surge potential is Wednesday night into early Thursday morning
 - Elevated water levels will likely remain through early Friday morning

Dangerous Surf

Hurricane Zeta



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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 Wednesday afternoon into early Thursday morning
- Surf heights start to decrease on Thursday afternoon
- HIGH risk for rip currents Today through Thursday night

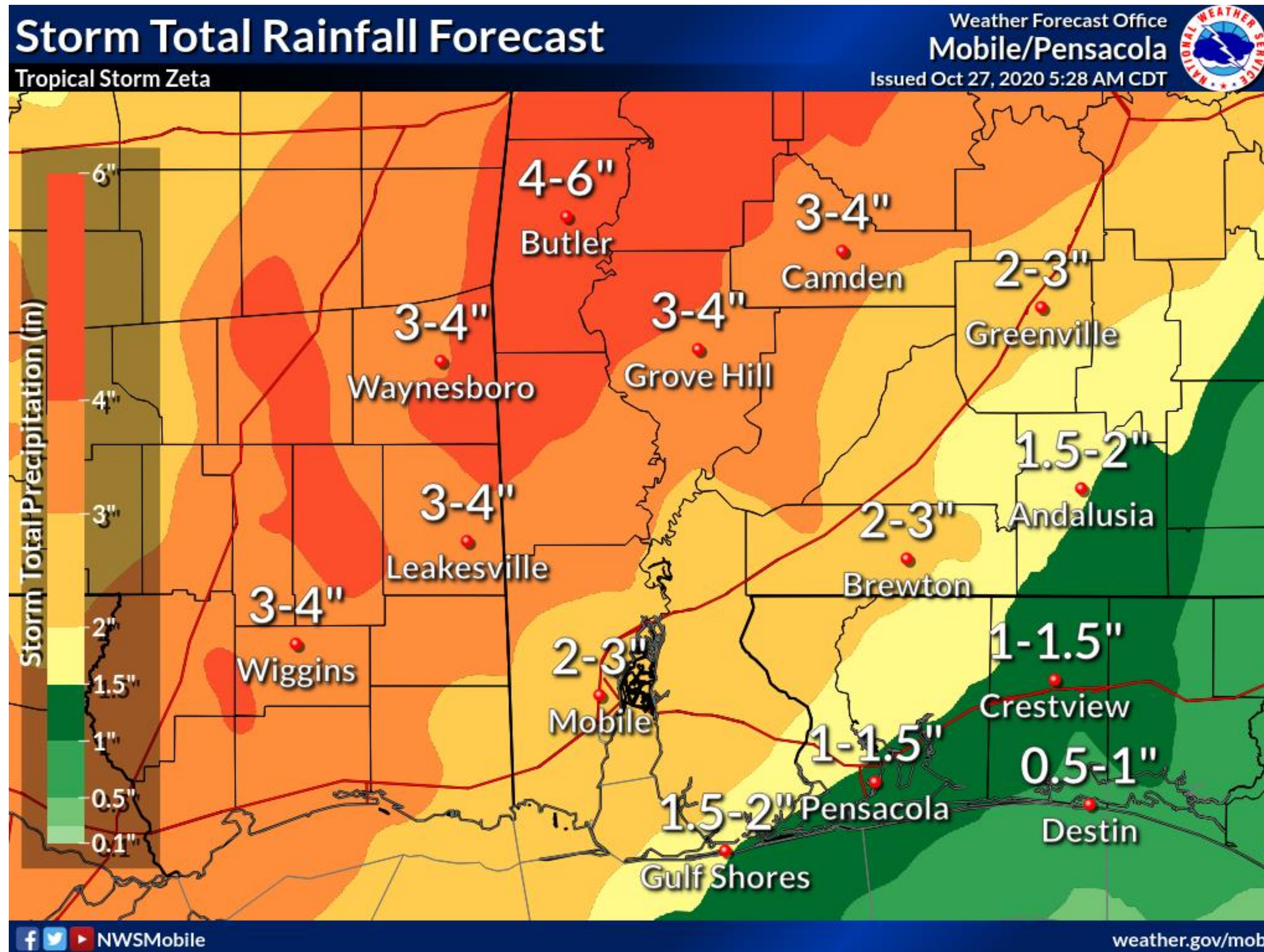
Forecast Storm Total Rainfall

Hurricane Zeta



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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

Hurricane Zeta



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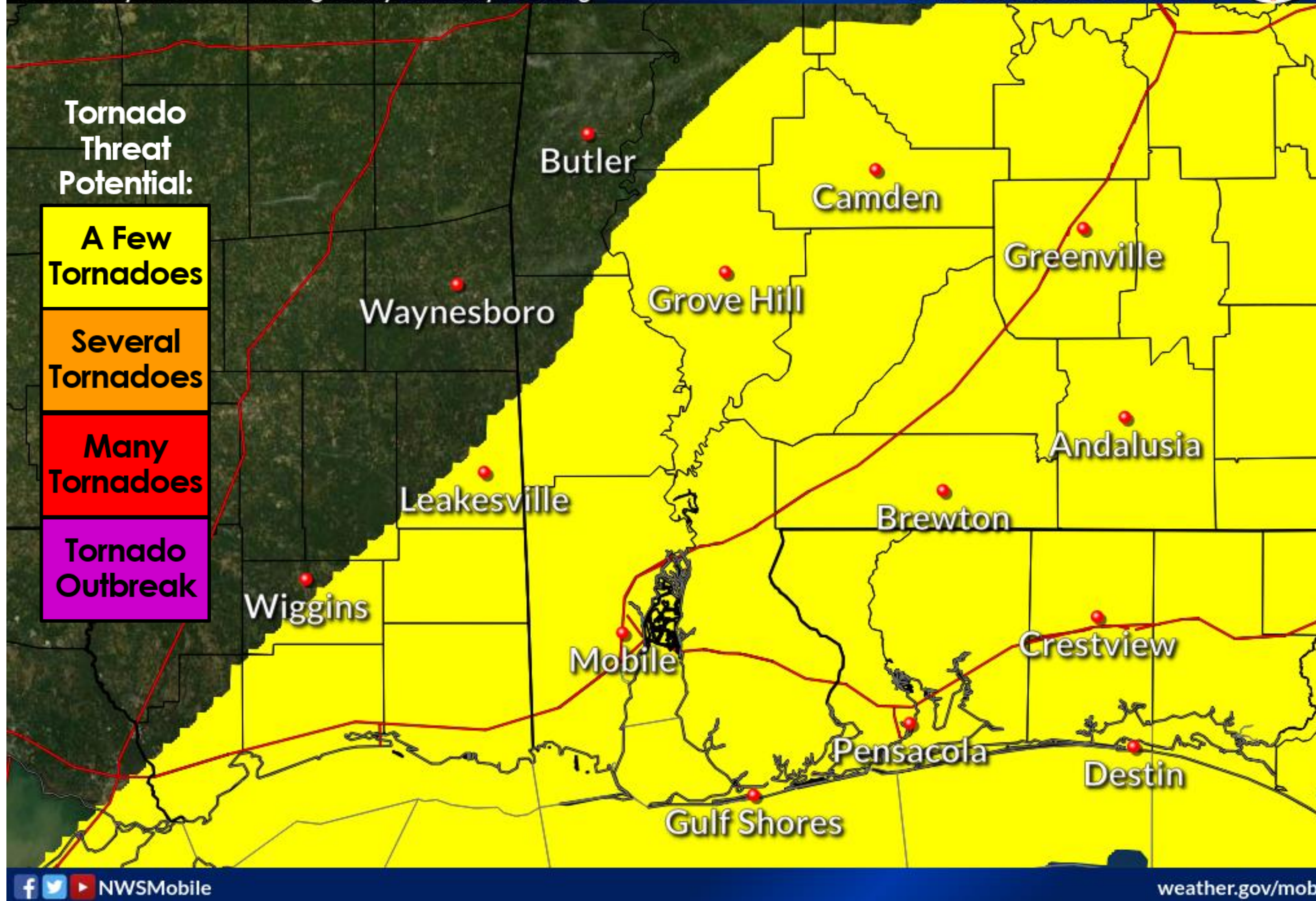
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Tornado Threat

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

Hurricane 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 or southern Mississippi coast Wednesday evening
- 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 far southeast Mississippi and coastal Alabama
 - ***NOTE*** There is not much difference between a strong tropical storm and a minimal hurricane
- 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



*The Next Webinar:
Tuesday 11:00 AM CT*



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