



# HURRICANE ZETA BRIEFING

5:00 AM CT

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

*Prepared by: WFO Mobile/Pensacola*

# Key Points/Changes

## Hurricane Zeta



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- No significant changes to the forecast track but the forecast intensity has been increased
- 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
  - **Flash Flood Watch** – Along and west of I-65
- Zeta will approach the southeast Louisiana coast as a hurricane and will likely be a strong tropical storm when it moves across our area (cannot rule out Zeta maintaining hurricane strength as it approaches coastal MS)
  - Hurricane force wind gusts between 70-80 mph are now **increasingly likely** in far southeast MS
  - Strong Tropical Storm force wind gusts between 60-70 mph are **increasingly likely** in southwest AL
  - Zeta will interact with a strong upper level system as it moves inland, which will result in tropical storm force winds spreading FAR INLAND
  - **High potential for DAMAGING WINDS that can bring down numerous trees and power lines**
- The bulk of the impacts are expected this evening into early Thursday morning (conditions quickly improve after daybreak Thursday)

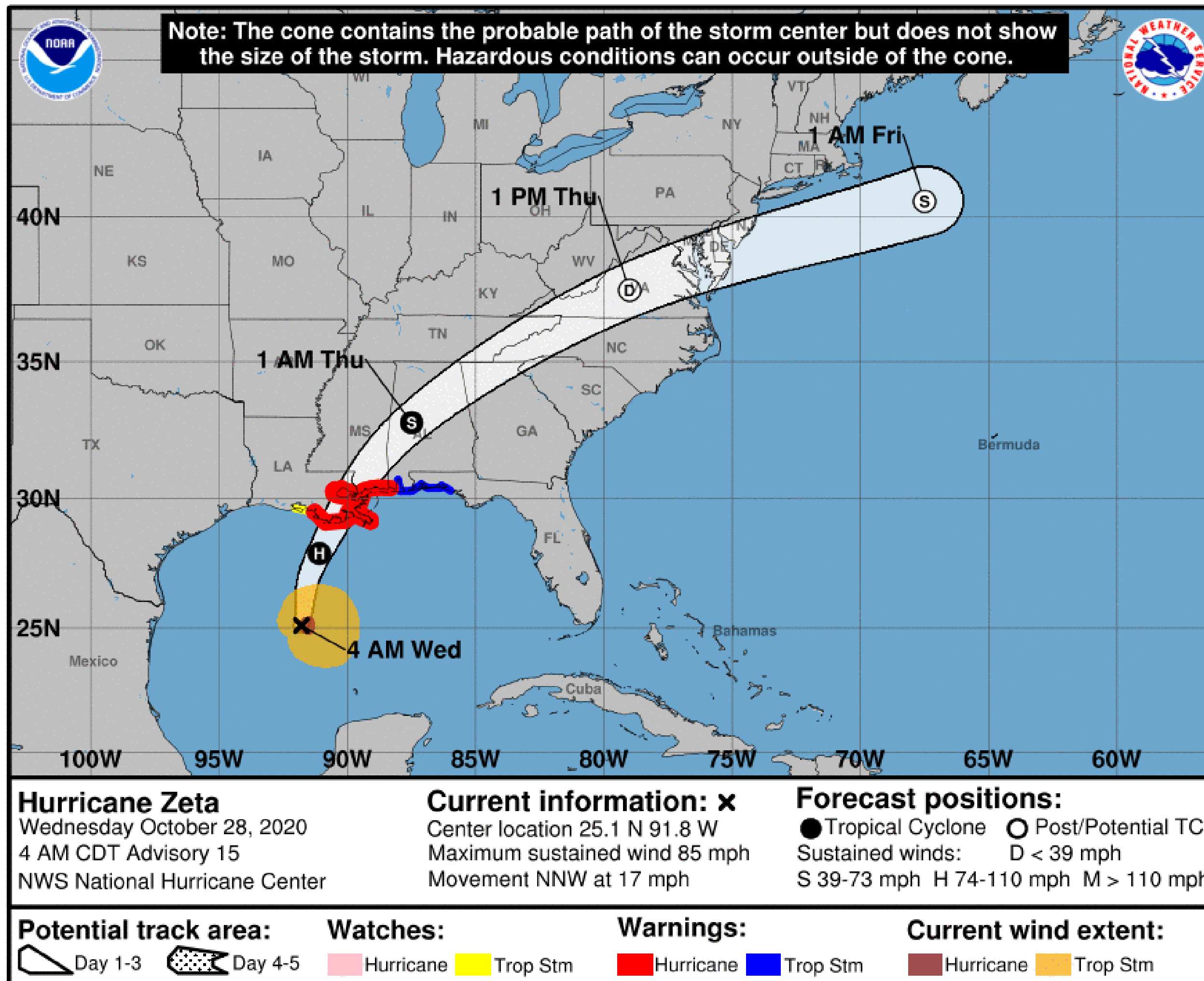
# Situation Overview

## Hurricane Zeta



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- **Tropical Storm Warning** for all of inland southeast Mississippi, southwest and south central Alabama, and northwest Florida
- **Storm Surge Warning** for coastal AL to Navarre, FL. Prepare for potential storm surge of:
  - MS/AL border to Dauphin Island: 6-9 ft
  - Mobile Bay to AL/FL border: 4-6 ft
  - AL/FL border to Navarre, FL: 2-4 ft
- Zeta will approach the Louisiana coast as a hurricane today and move into our area as a strong tropical storm tonight
- **Impacts: PREPARE FOR DAMAGING WINDS!** Hurricane force wind gusts are likely across parts of far southeast MS. 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 tonight into early Thursday morning, but the tornado threat will increase this morning.
- **Reminders:** Do NOT focus on the specific intensity as there is NOT much difference between a strong tropical storm and low-end hurricane. Impacts will occur 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.

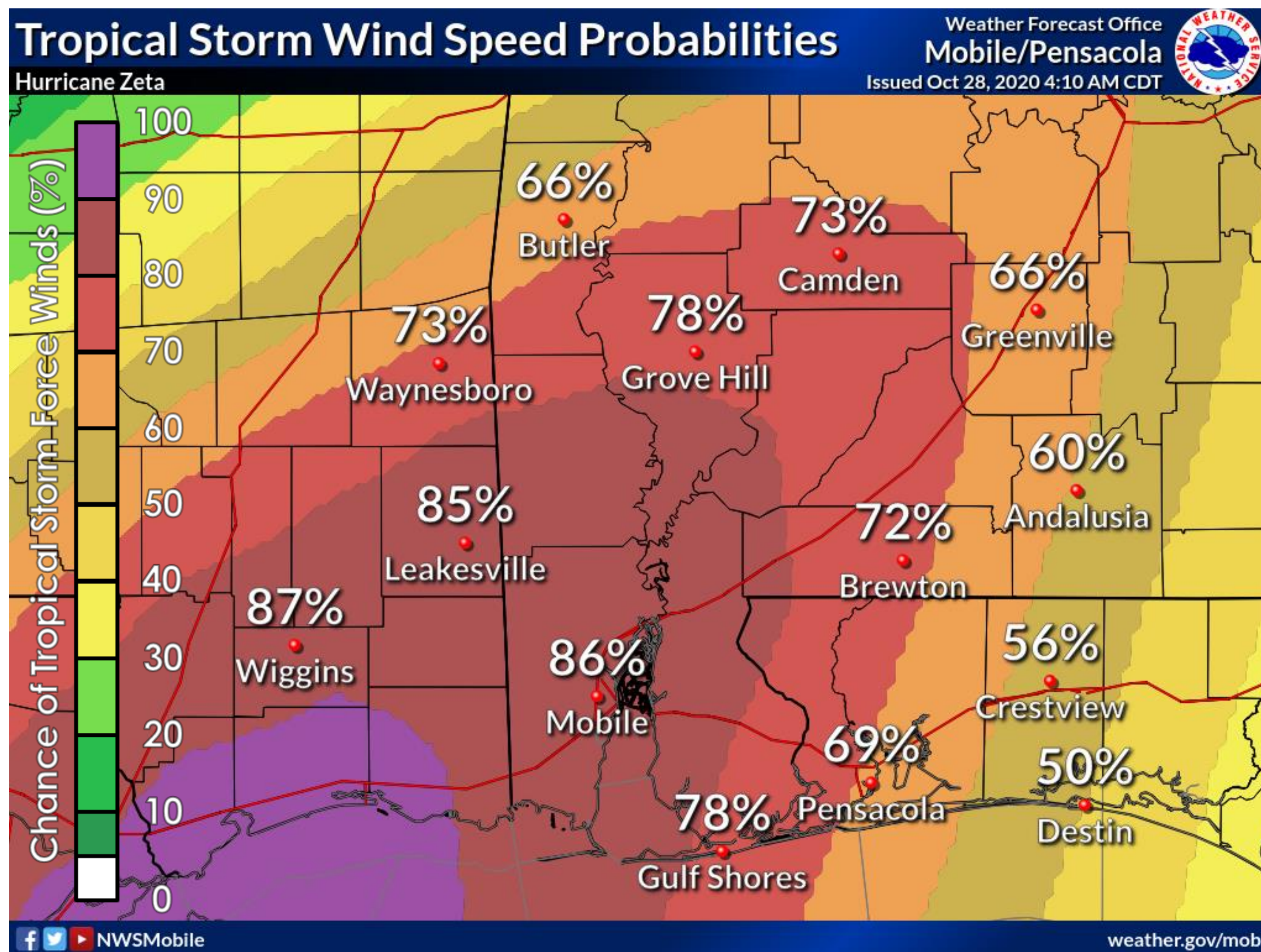
# TS Wind Speed Probabilities

Hurricane Zeta



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- Probabilities continue to increase area-wide
- There is a 8-in-10 to 9-in-10 chance for tropical storm force winds over much of southeast MS and southwest AL
- A 5-in-10 to 7-in-10 chance of tropical storm force winds elsewhere

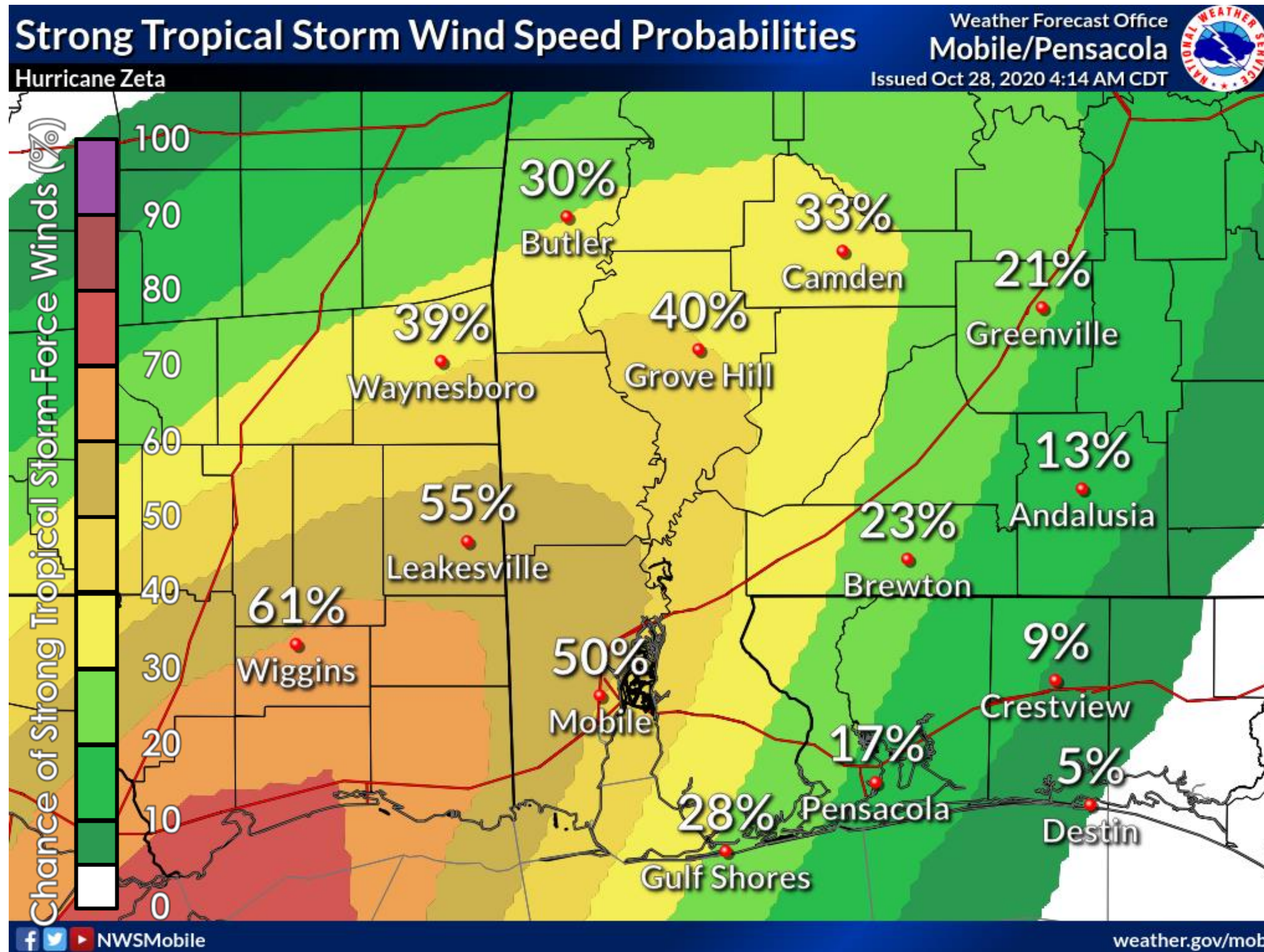
# Strong TS Wind Speed Probabilities

Hurricane Zeta



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- Probabilities continue to increase, especially across southeast MS and southwest AL
- The chance of strong tropical storm force winds are 4-in-10 to 6-in-10 over much of southeast MS and southwest AL

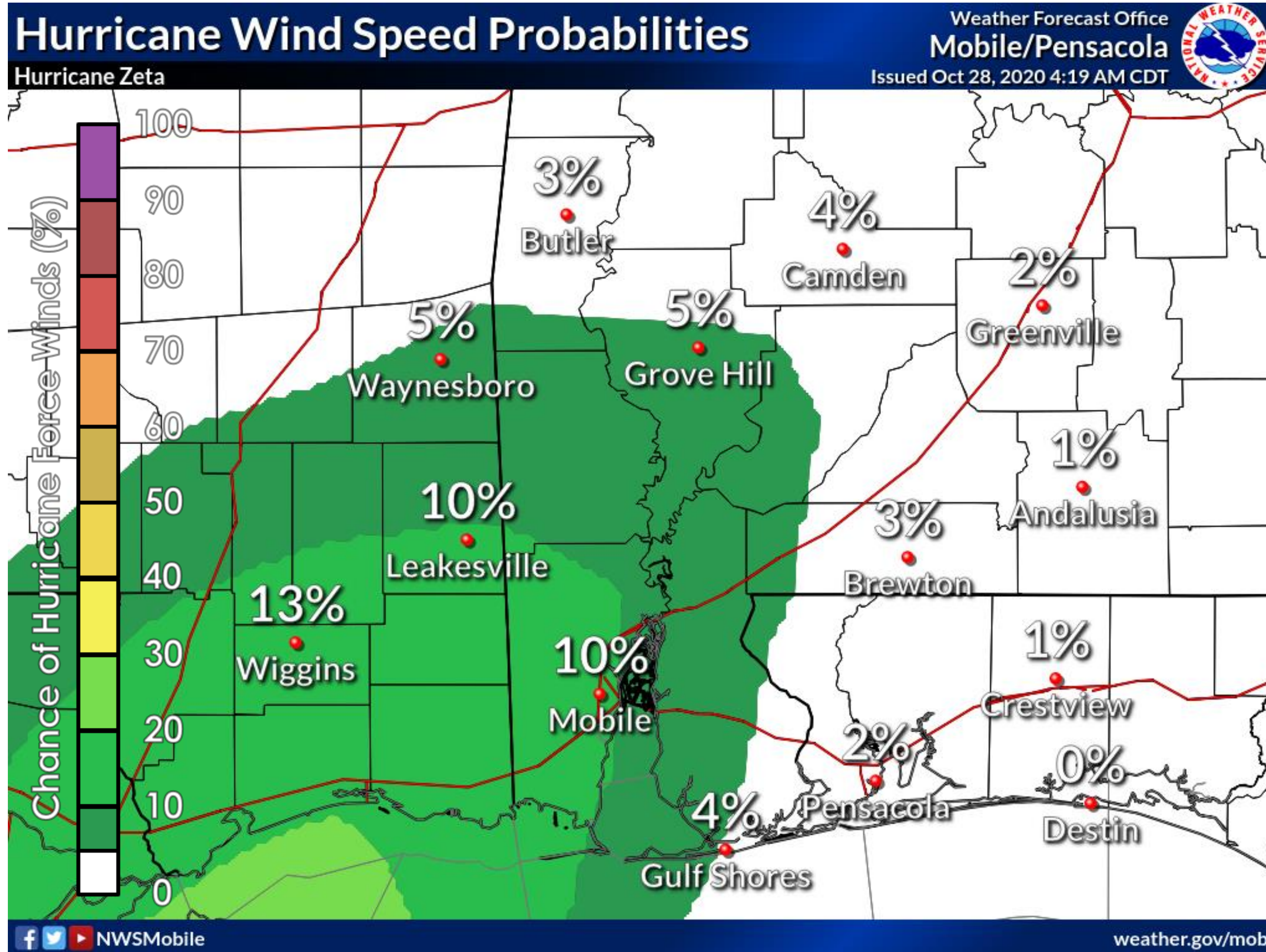
# Hurricane Wind Speed Probabilities

Hurricane Zeta



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- The hurricane wind speed probabilities increased across far southeast MS and coastal AL
- Chance for hurricane force winds are now between 10-15% across far southeast MS and coastal AL
- **NOTE:** Wind gusts to hurricane force are increasingly likely across the southwest portion of the forecast area

# Wind Threat / Potential Impact

Hurricane Zeta



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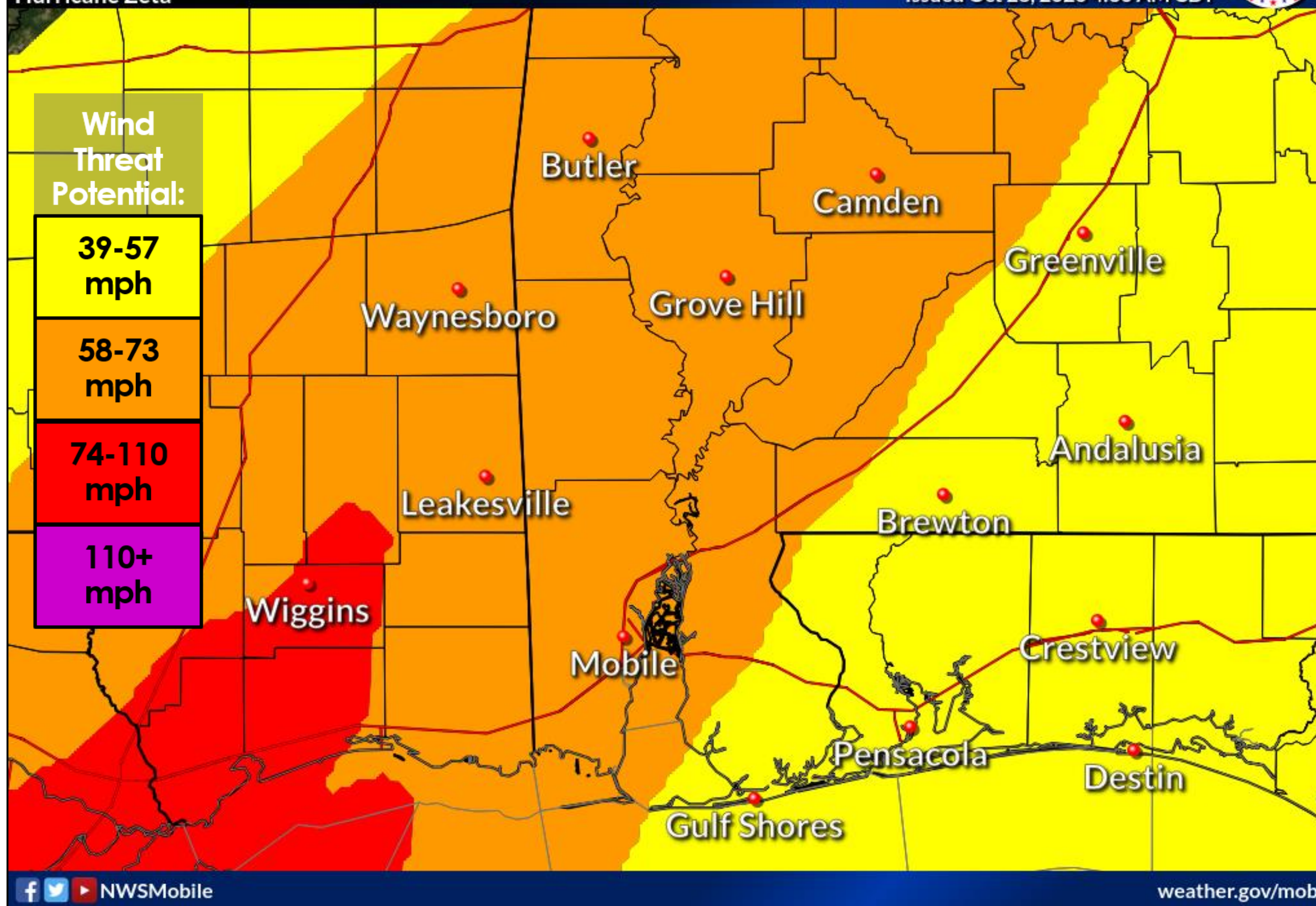
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## Wind Threat

Hurricane Zeta

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- There is a potential for:
  - Numerous downed trees and powerlines across much of the area
  - **Widespread power outages across far southeast Mississippi**
  - Scattered to numerous power outages across interior southeast Mississippi and southwest Alabama
  - The wind threat will extend well inland due to the fast forward motion of Zeta

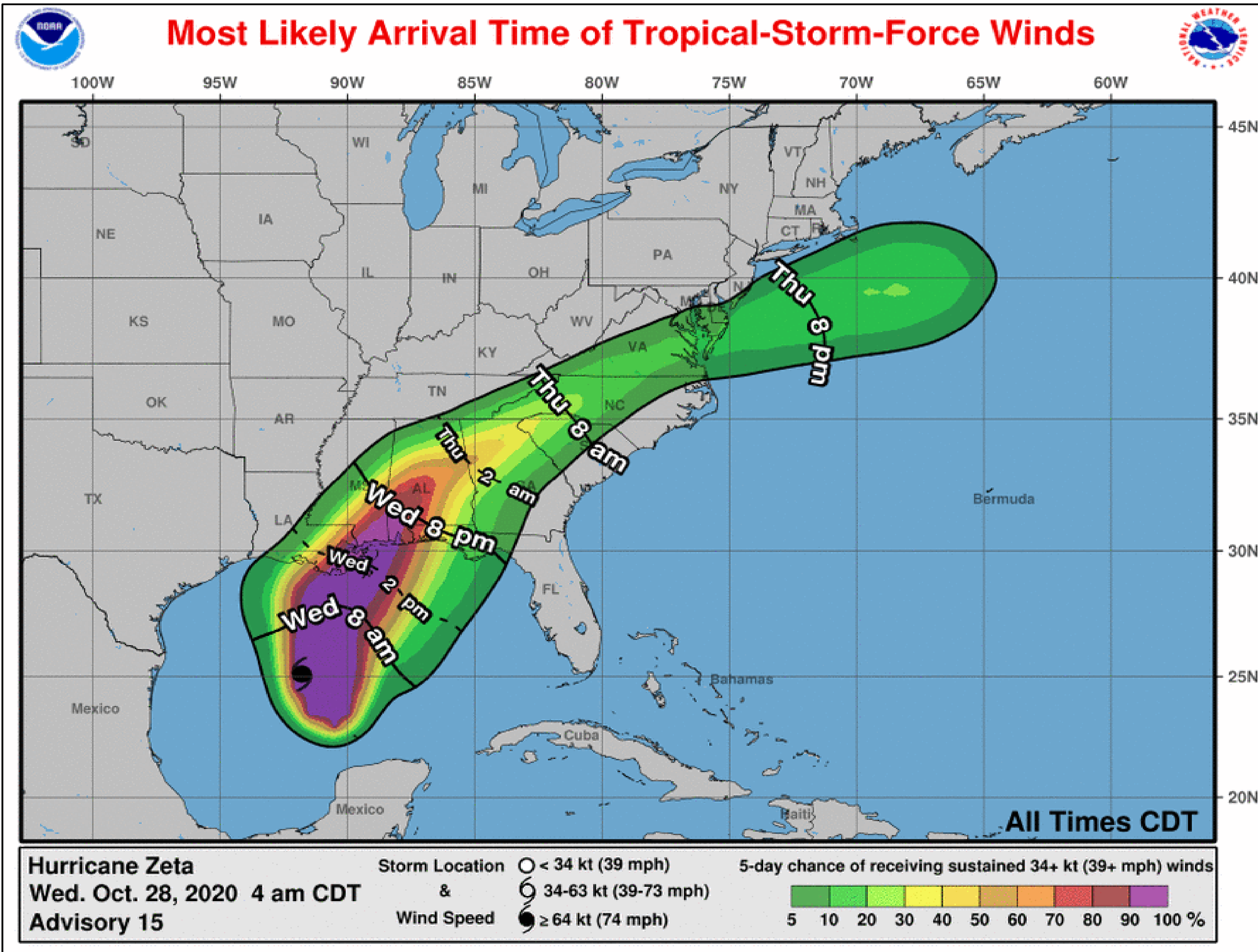
# Most Likely Time of Arrival

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





### Most Likely Time Frame for Winds

Location	Tropical Storm Force Winds	Hurricane Force Winds
Inland Southeast MS	This Evening Between 6pm to 11pm (a few gusts to tropical storm force possible in Stone/George Counties by 4pm Wednesday)	Hurricane force wind gusts between 70-80 mph are likely this evening, especially in Stone/George counties
Coastal AL (Mobile & Baldwin Counties)	This Evening Between 6pm to 11pm (a few gusts to tropical storm force possible mid to late afternoon Wednesday along immediate coast)	Hurricane force wind gusts up to 75 mph are possible this evening
Inland Southwest AL	8pm this Evening to 2am Thursday (a few gusts to tropical storm force possible by 6pm Wednesday)	Not expected at this time
South Central AL (Butler, Crenshaw, Covington Counties)	10pm this Evening to 3am Thursday	Not expected at this time
Northwest FL	8pm this Evening to 2am Thursday (a few gusts to tropical storm force possible by early Wednesday evening)	Not expected at this time

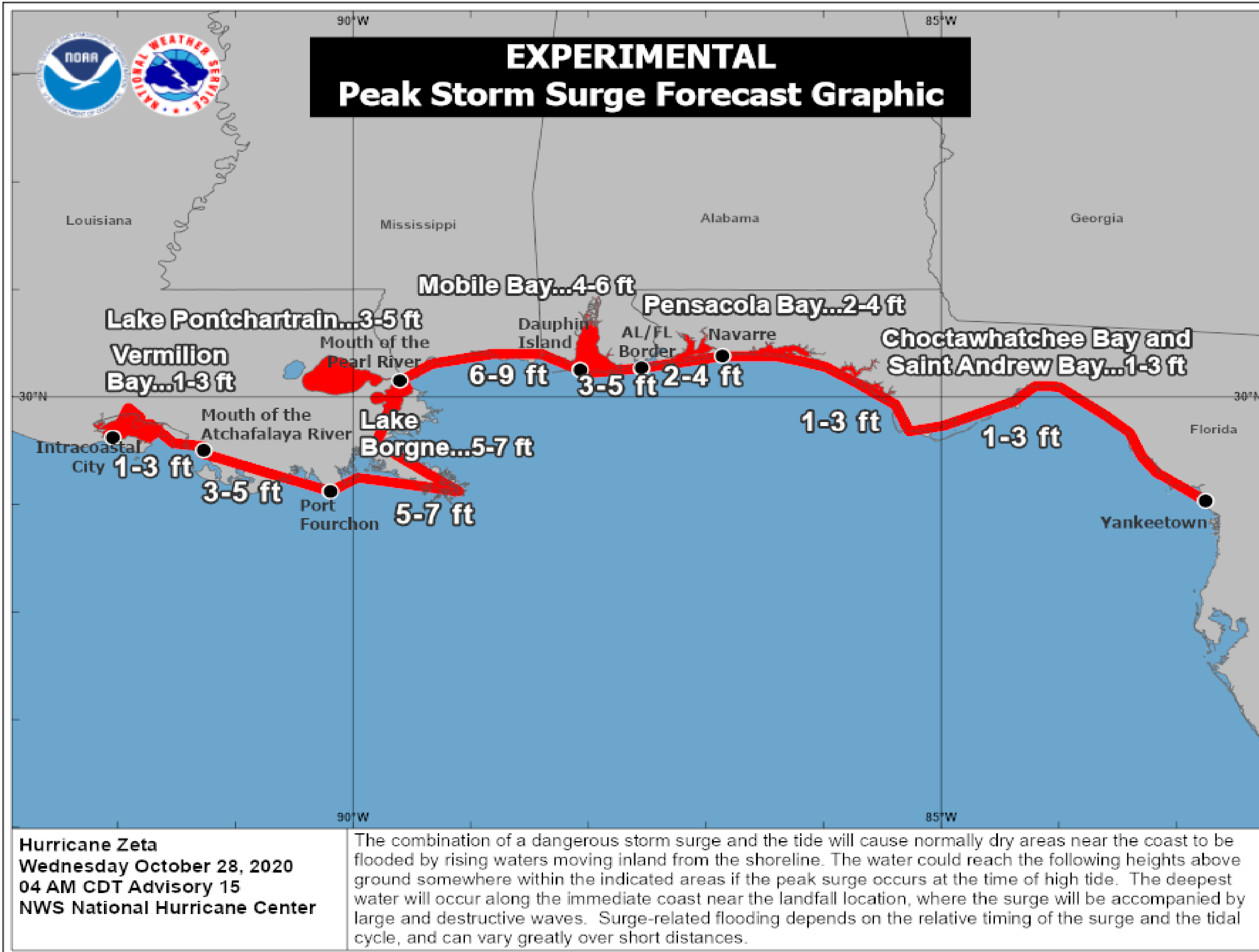
# Peak Storm Surge Forecast

Hurricane Zeta



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- **Potential Storm Surge Inundation:**

- MS/AL Border to Dauphin Island: **6-9 ft**
- Mobile Bay to AL/FL Border: 4-6 ft
- AL/FL Border to Navarre: 2-4 ft
- Navarre to Destin: 1-3 ft

- **Timing:**

- Greatest surge potential is tonight into early Thursday morning
- Minor coastal flooding is likely to linger past daybreak Thursday through mid Thursday morning

# Dangerous Surf

Hurricane Zeta



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## Rip Current Risk

TODAY

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

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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.

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- High Surf Warning remains in effect for all coastal areas of Alabama and northwest Florida
- Maximum Surf heights increase to 10-15 feet late this afternoon into early Thursday morning
- Surf heights start to slowly decrease on Thursday
- HIGH risk for rip currents through Thursday night

# Forecast Storm Total Rainfall

Hurricane Zeta



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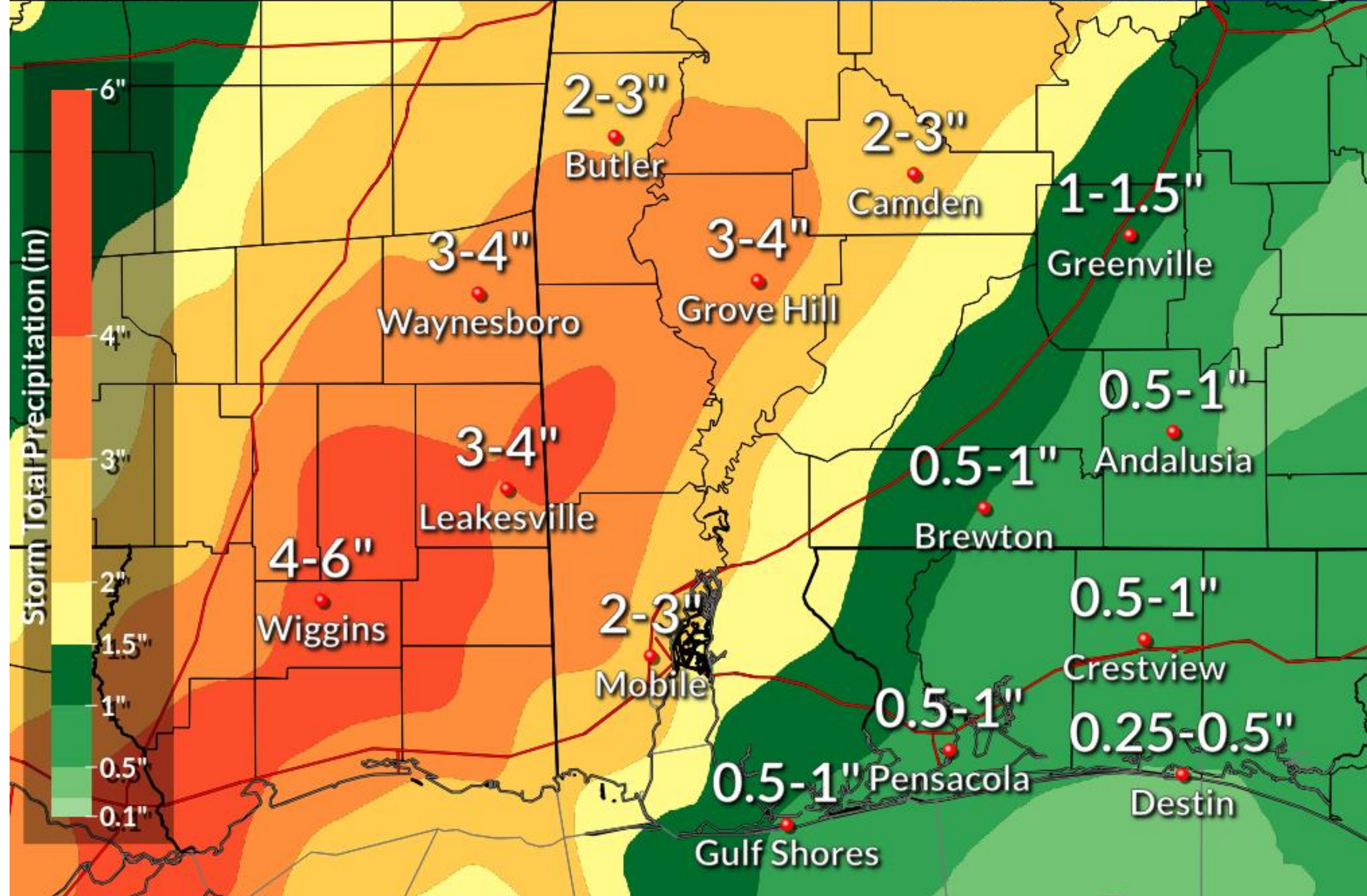
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## Rainfall Forecast

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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
- **Flash Flood Watch** in effect generally along and west of I-65

# Potential Tornado Impacts

Hurricane Zeta



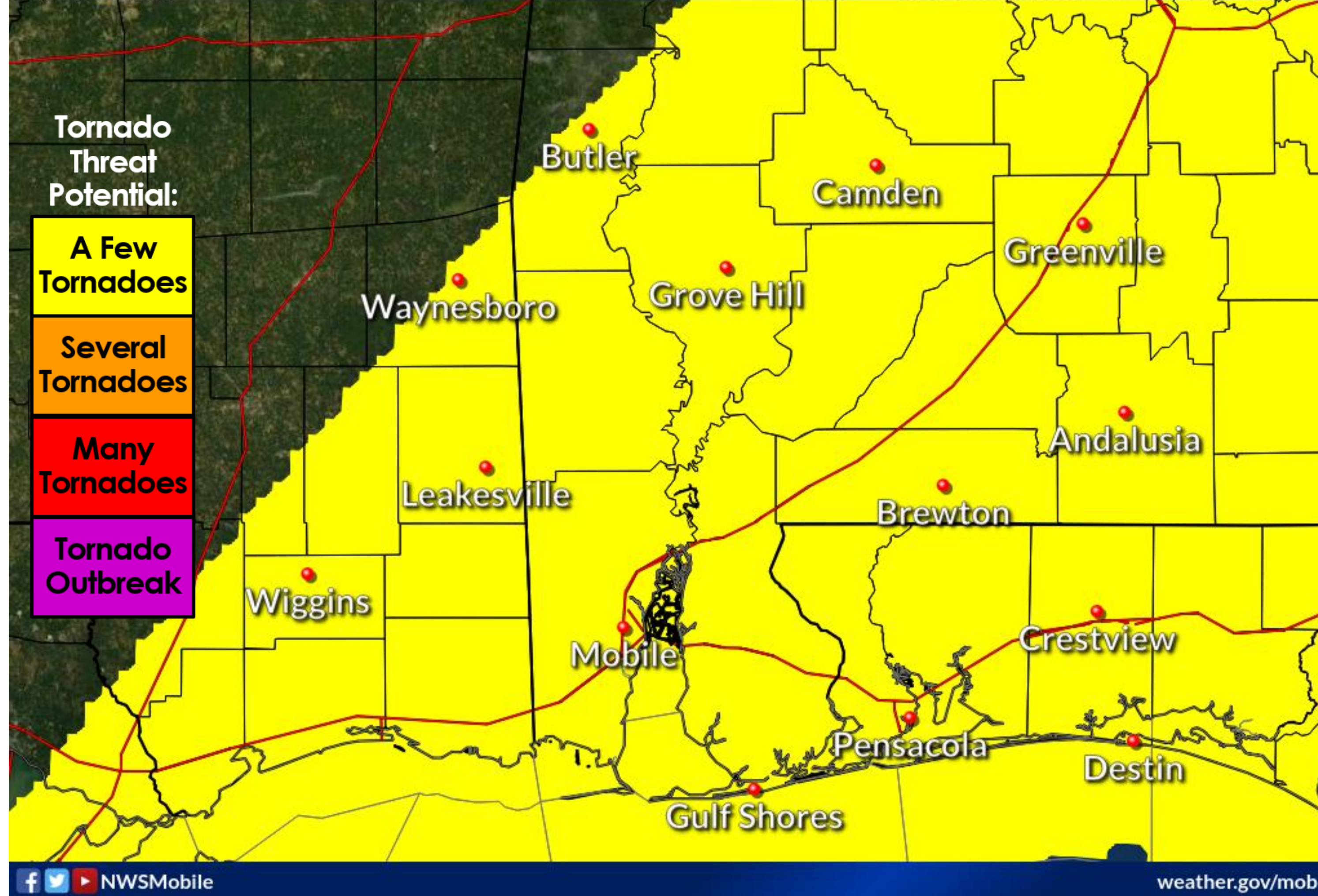
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## Tornado Threat

Hurricane Zeta

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- A few tornadoes will be possible today and tonight across much of the area

# 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
  - **Flash Flood Watch** – Along and west of I-65
- Zeta is forecast to make landfall along the southeast Louisiana coast this afternoon/evening and quickly move across our region tonight
- 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 Mississippi
  - Hurricane force wind gusts are likely across far southeast MS and possible over coastal Alabama and the remainder of interior southeast MS
  - The damaging wind threat will spread far inland
  - **\*NOTE\*** There is not much difference between a strong tropical storm and a minimal hurricane
- Majority of the impacts will be this evening into early Thursday morning with conditions rapidly improving by daybreak Thursday
- The tornado threat will begin this morning and continue through tonight



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



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