



TROPICAL STORM LAURA BRIEFING

4:30 PM CT

Monday August 24th

Prepared by: Dan Reilly, WFO Houston/Galveston

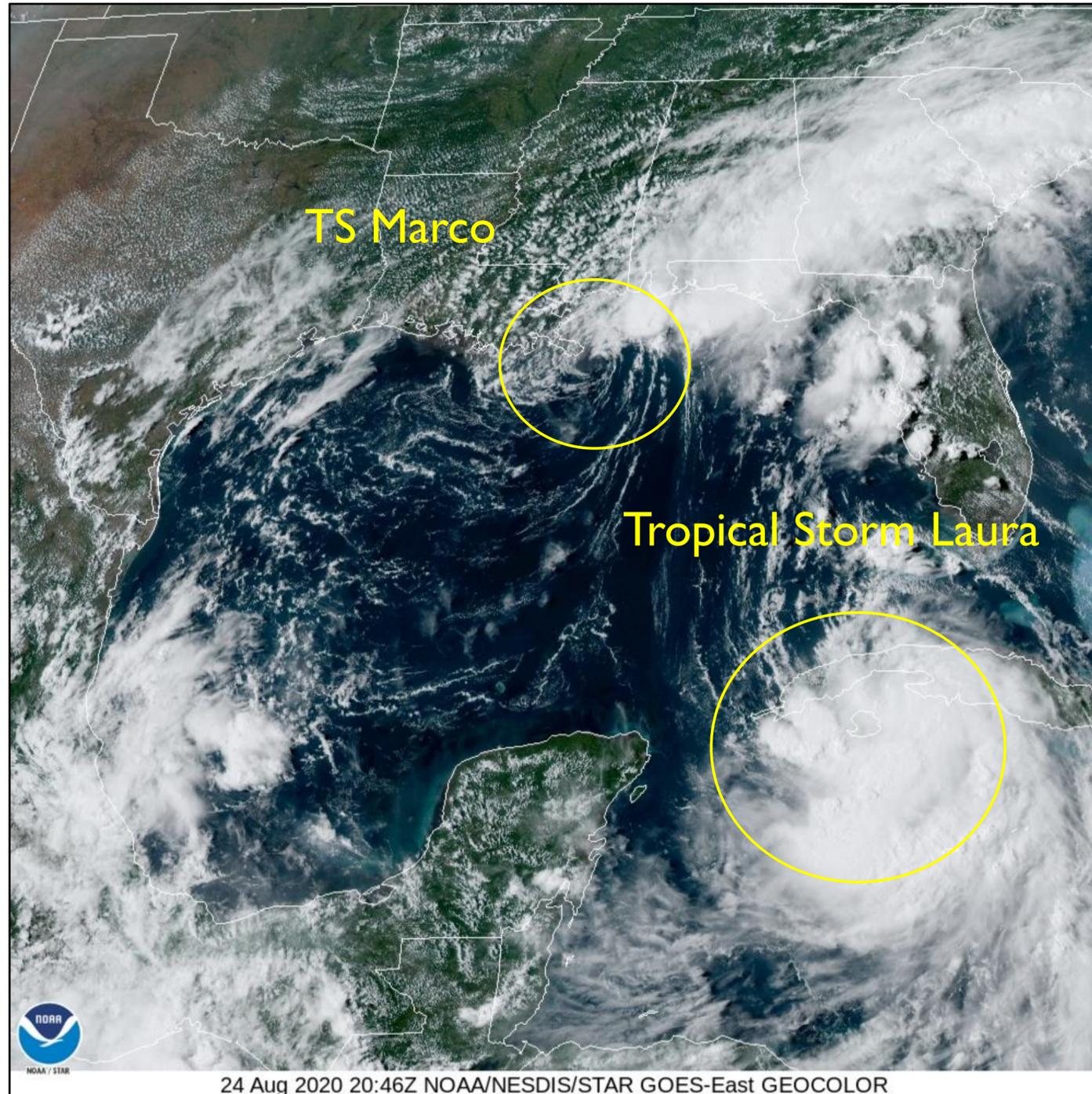
Changes: Hurricane, Tropical Storm and Storm Surge Watches have been Issued for Parts of the Area. Confidence has increased in a track into Beaumont/Port Arthur or SW Louisiana although still some uncertainty remains.

Current Satellite View

Tropical Storm Laura



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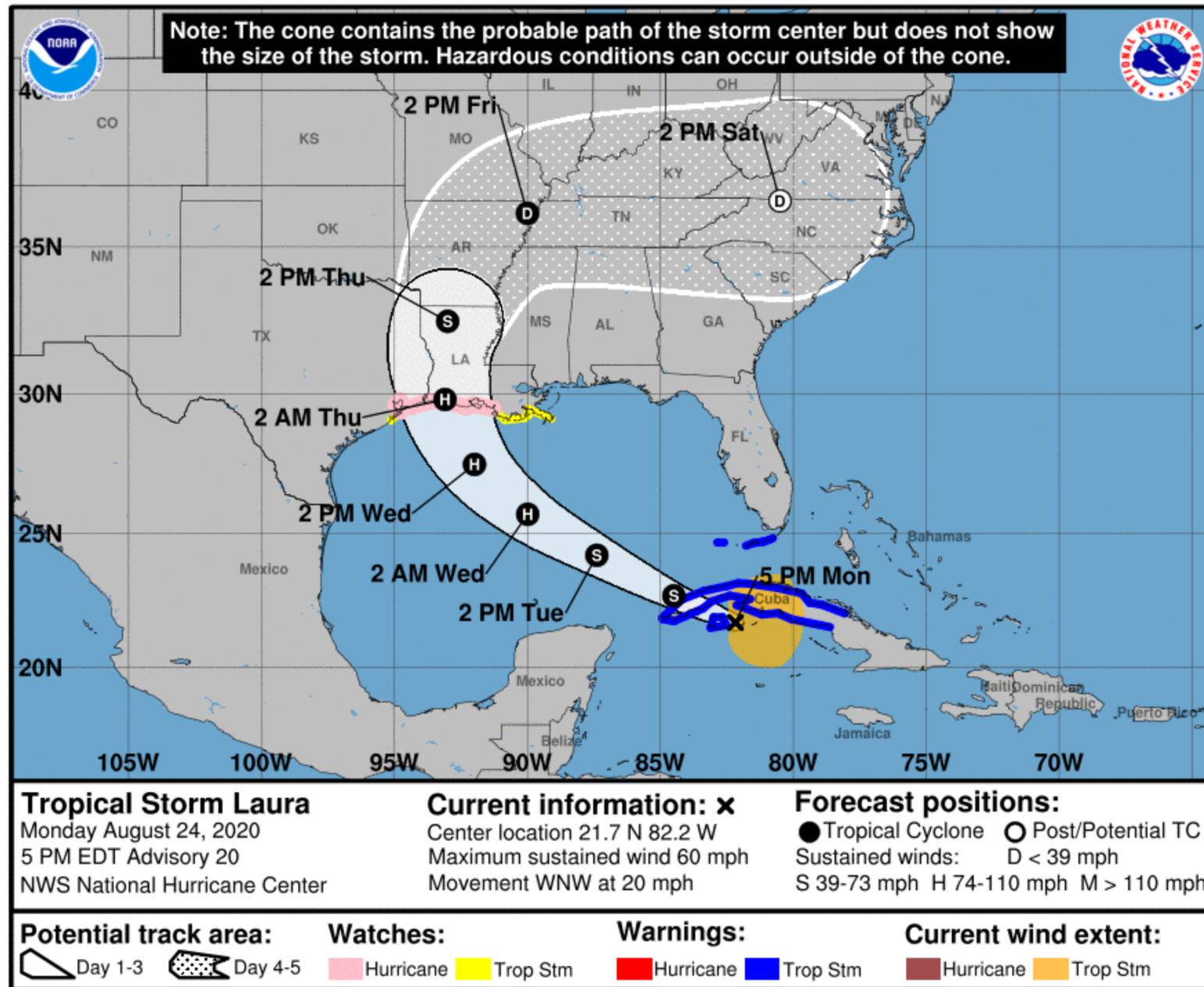
- Marco has continued to weaken. Should have minimal impacts. Will need to focus on Laura, forecast to strengthen to a hurricane after it crosses western tip of Cuba and tracks across the Gulf of Mexico.
- A landfall of Laura as a hurricane along the SW Louisiana coast is increasingly likely. Dangerous storm surge flooding and damaging winds are expected near and right of landfall location.
- Can't rule out a westerly shift in the track which would bring more severe impacts to Texas. Hurricane, Tropical Storm and Storm Surge Watches are in effect for parts of the area.

Situation Overview

Tropical Storm Laura



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

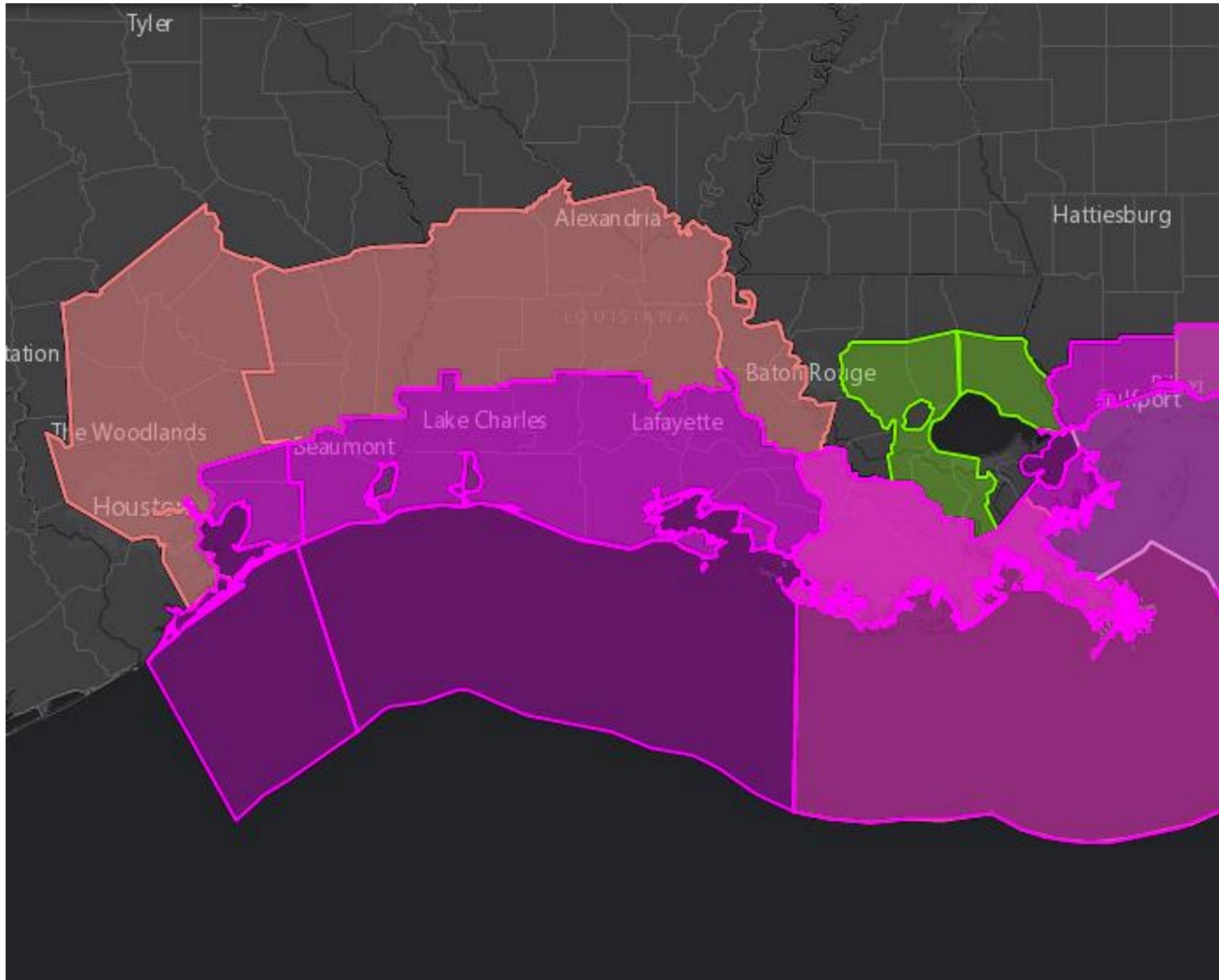
- Forecast track for Laura has changed very little since the last advisory. Confidence is increasing in its track into eastern portions of the Upper TX coast or SW Louisiana.
- Intensity at landfall forecast to be 90 knots or 105 mph which would make it a Cat 2 on Saffir Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.
- A Hurricane Watch is in effect from Port Bolivar, TX to Morgan City, LA; Tropical Storm Watch in effect from Port Bolivar, TX to San Luis Pass. Storm surge watch in effect from San Luis Pass to Ocean Springs, MS.
- Additional Hurricane Watches may be required if the forecast shifts westward tonight and Tuesday.
- Based on past mean track errors, center will track within the cone 2/3 of the time.

Watches and Warnings



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Tropical Storm Laura



Hurricane Watch shown in
Purple

Tropical Storm Watch in
Orange

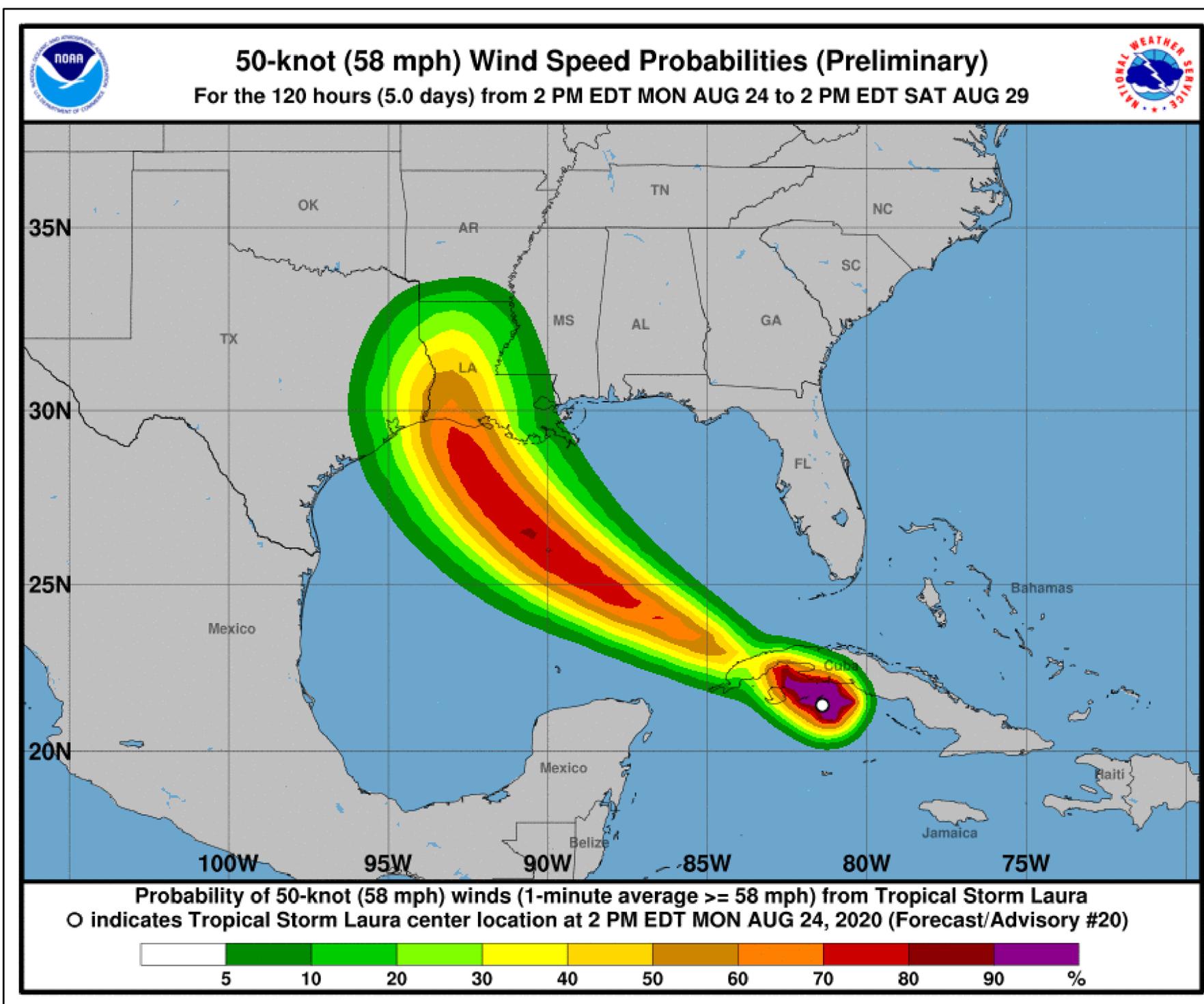
Hurricane Watch could be
extended farther west if
storm track shifts.

50kt Wind Speed Probabilities

Tropical Storm Laura



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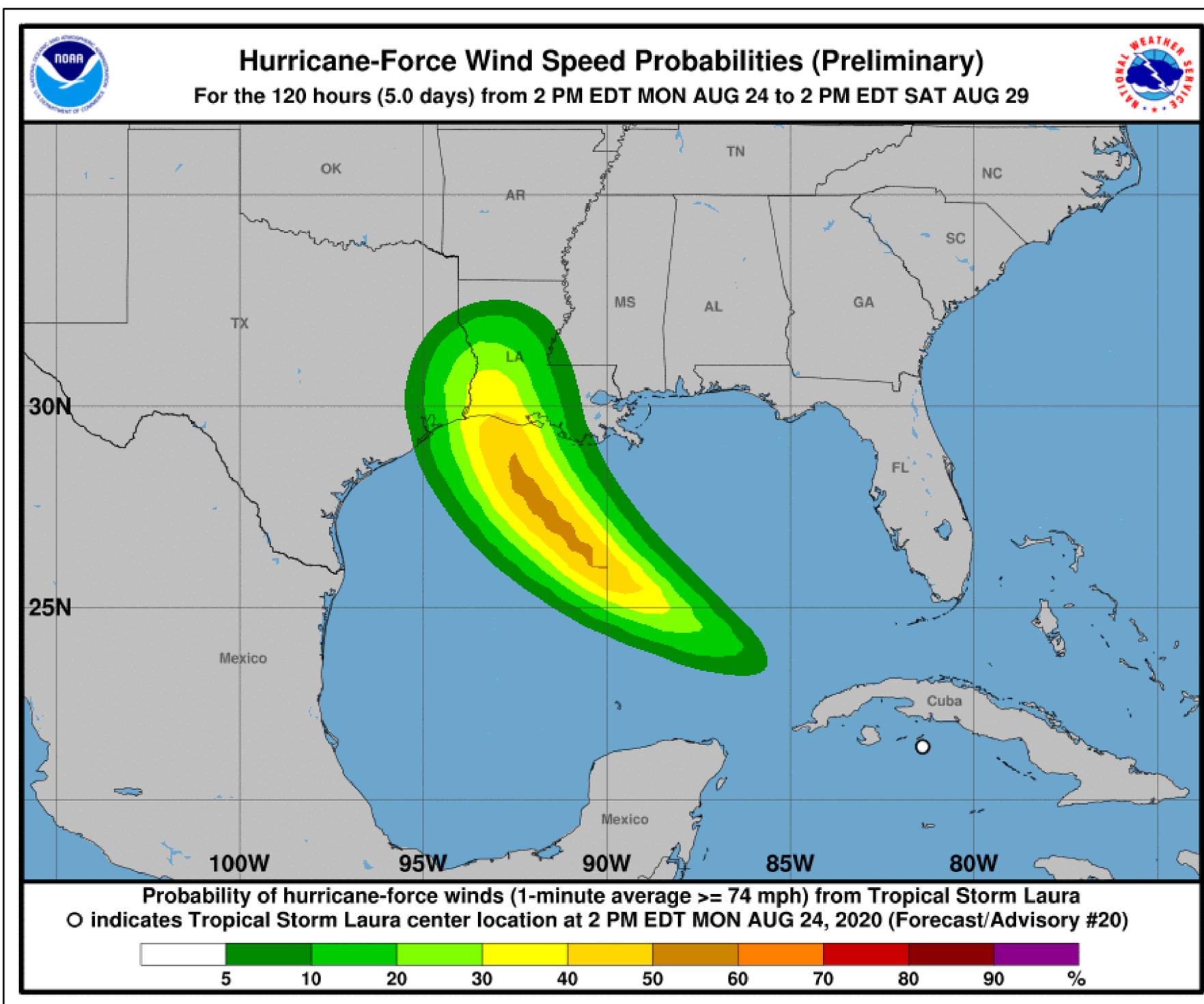
- Point probabilities of 58 mph sustained winds over the next 5 days are shown for Laura.
- Axis of highest values Upper TX coast, East TX and SW LA and points well inland.
- Still some uncertainty in track and intensity, but confidence increasing.

Hurricane Wind Speed Probabilities

Tropical Storm Laura



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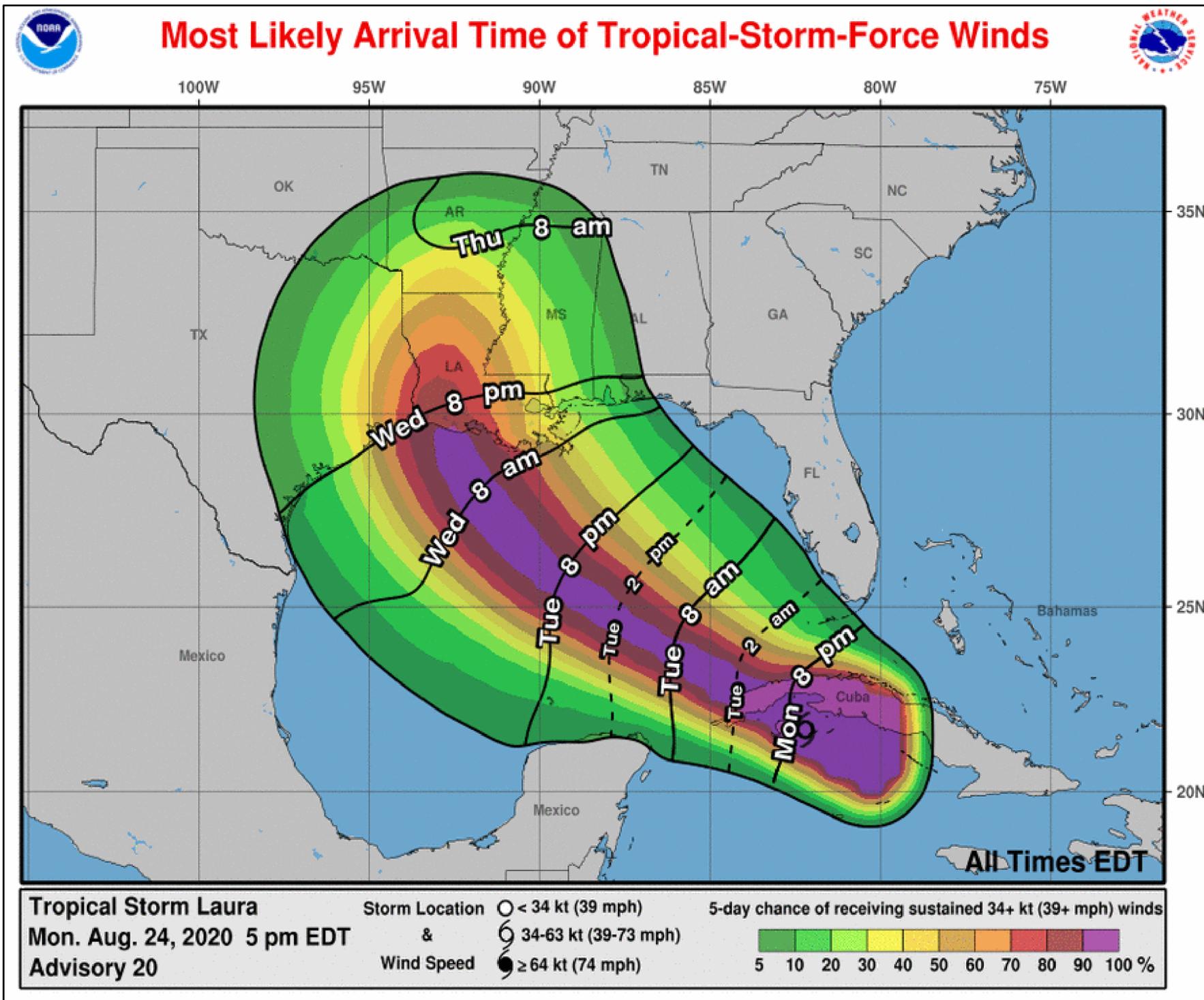
- Point probabilities of hurricane force sustained winds over the next 5 days are shown for Laura.
- **Still uncertainty** in track and intensity but highest values focussed on Upper TX coast and SW LA.
- This pattern would shift if Laura were to take a more westerly track.

Most Likely Time of Arrival

Tropical Storm Laura



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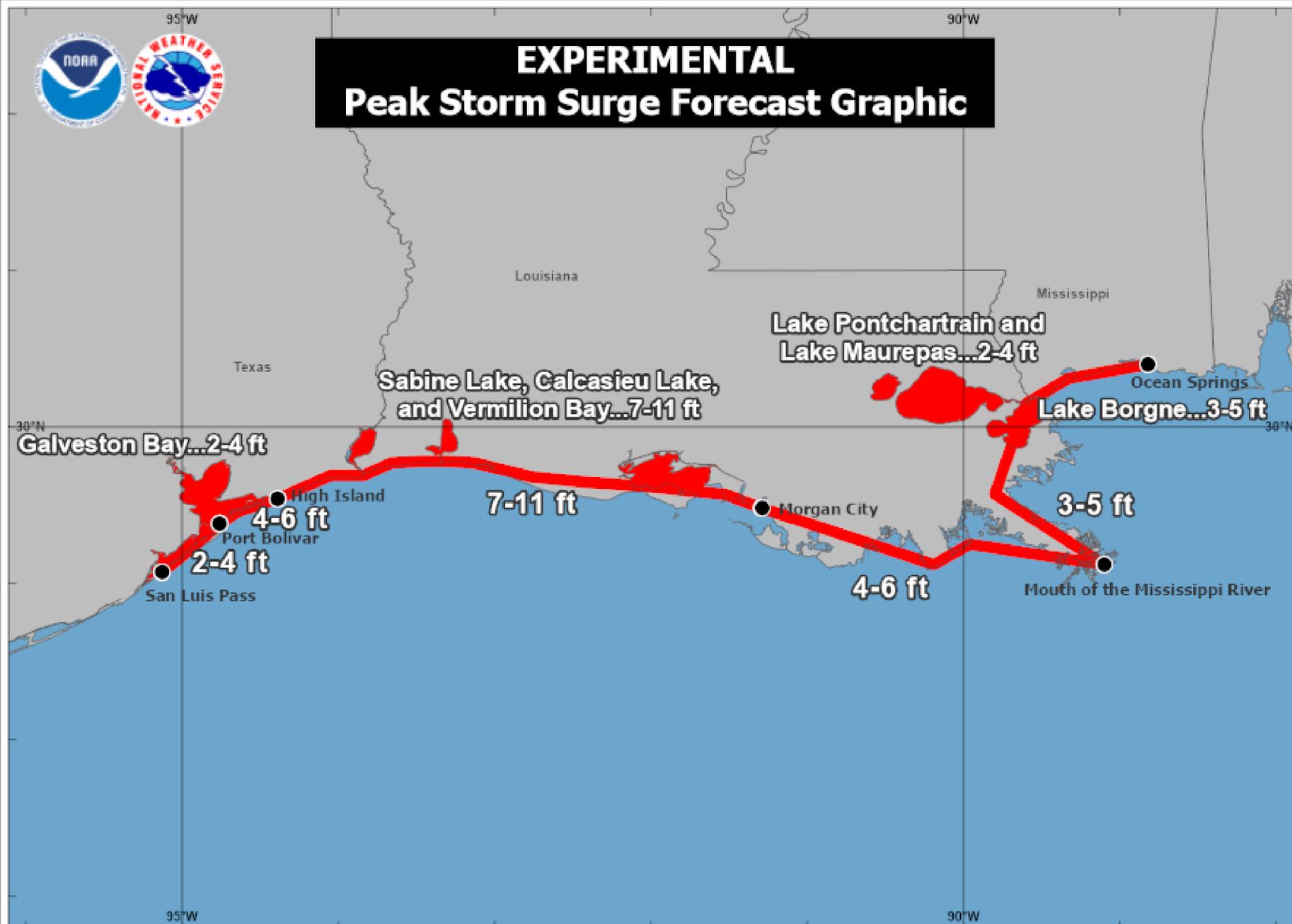
- Time arcs show most likely arrival times of tropical storm force winds for TS Laura. Colors show the probability of TS force winds over next 5 days.
- Most likely arrival time of TS winds from Laura would be Wednesday evening.

Potential Storm Surge from Laura



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Tropical Storm Laura



Tropical Storm Laura
Monday August 24, 2020
05 PM EDT Advisory 20
NWS National Hurricane Center

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 within the indicated areas if the peak surge occurs at the time of high tide. The deepest water will occur along the immediate coast near the landfall location, where the surge will be accompanied by large and destructive waves. Surge-related flooding depends on the relative timing of the surge and the tidal cycle, and can vary greatly over short distances.

Map shows potential inundation/flooding due to storm surge for different parts of the coastline.

Possible maximum water level above ground along the coast.

Storm Surge Watch/Warning

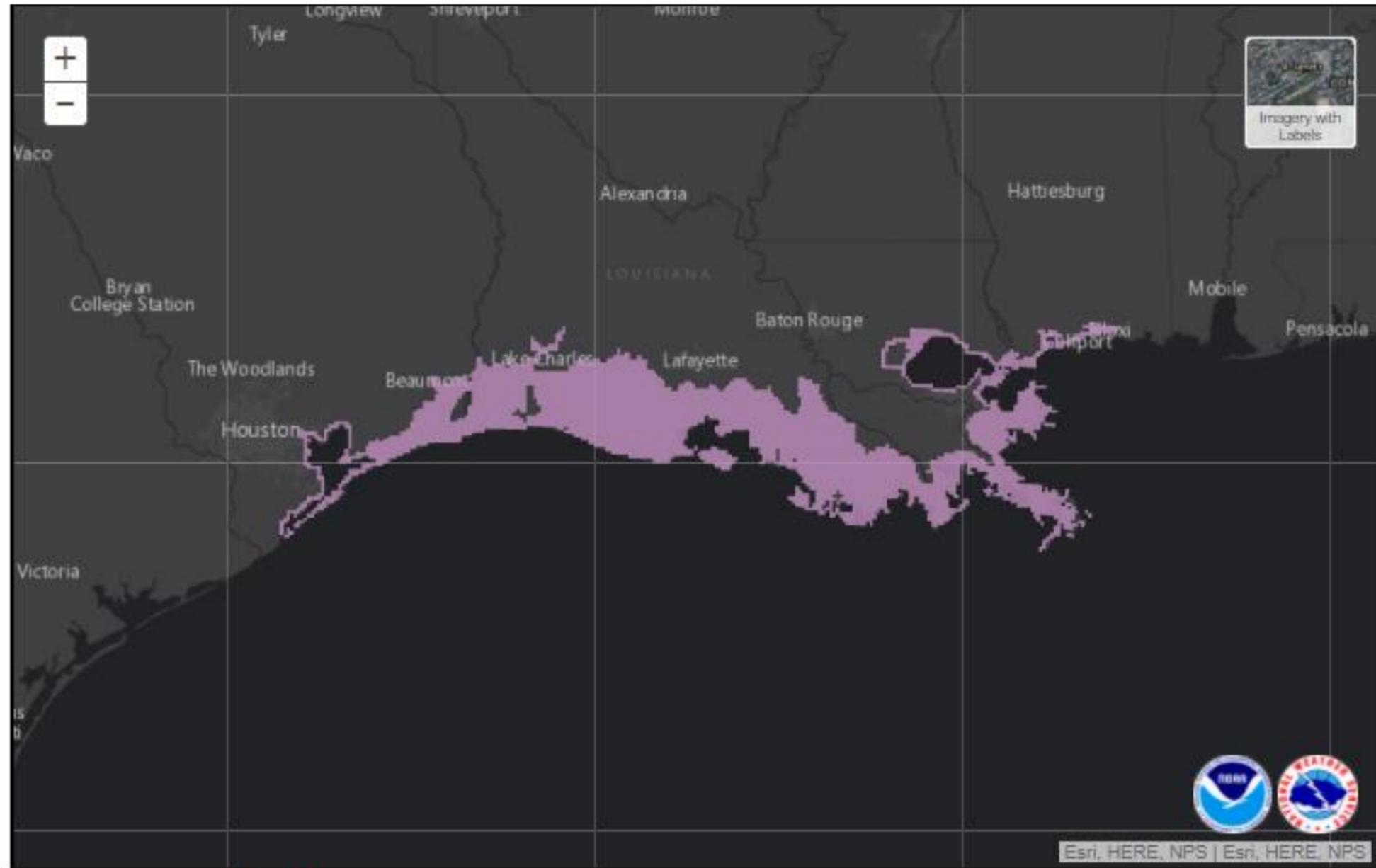
Tropical Storm Laura



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Storm Surge Watch/Warning Graphic*

Tropical Storm Laura
Advisory 020 Issued: 5:00 PM EDT Mon Aug 24

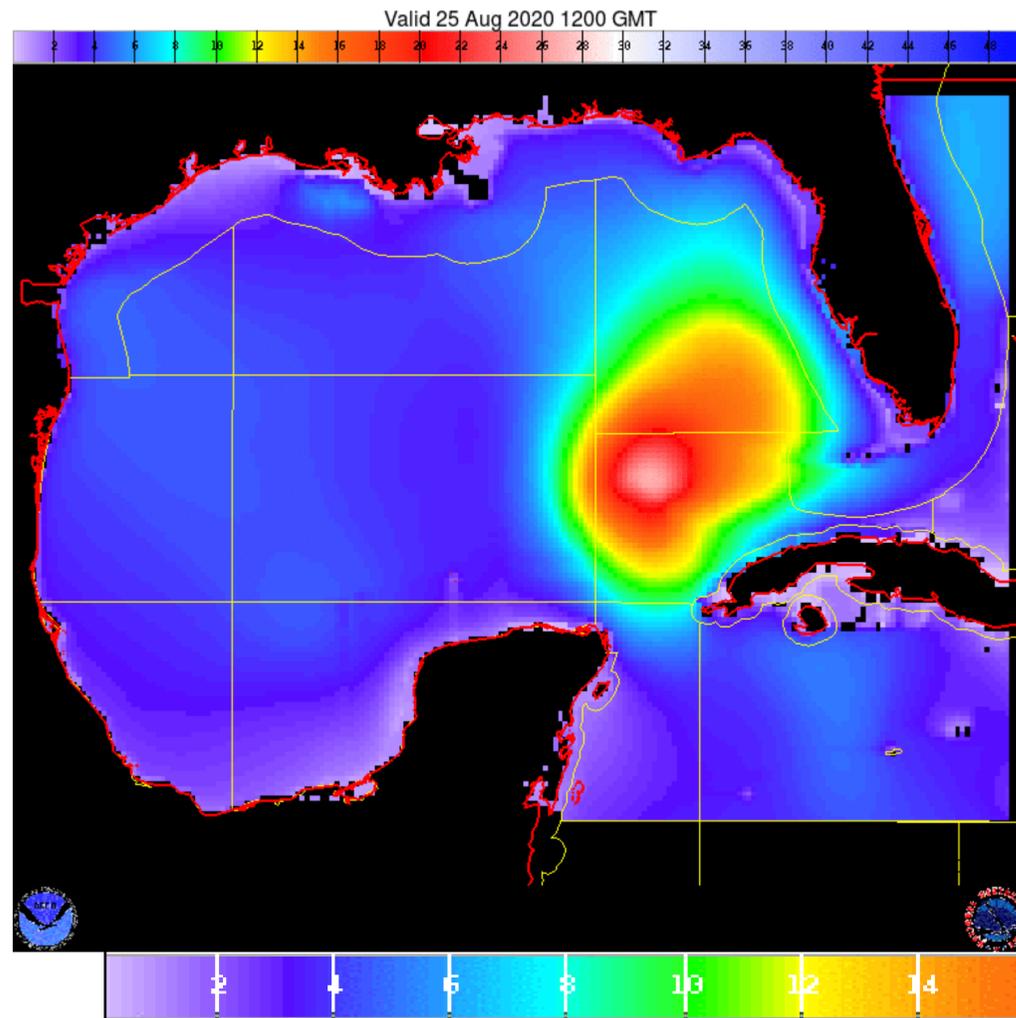


- Storm surge watch for areas shown.
- Possibility of life-threatening inundation from storm surge somewhere in the specified area with Laura.

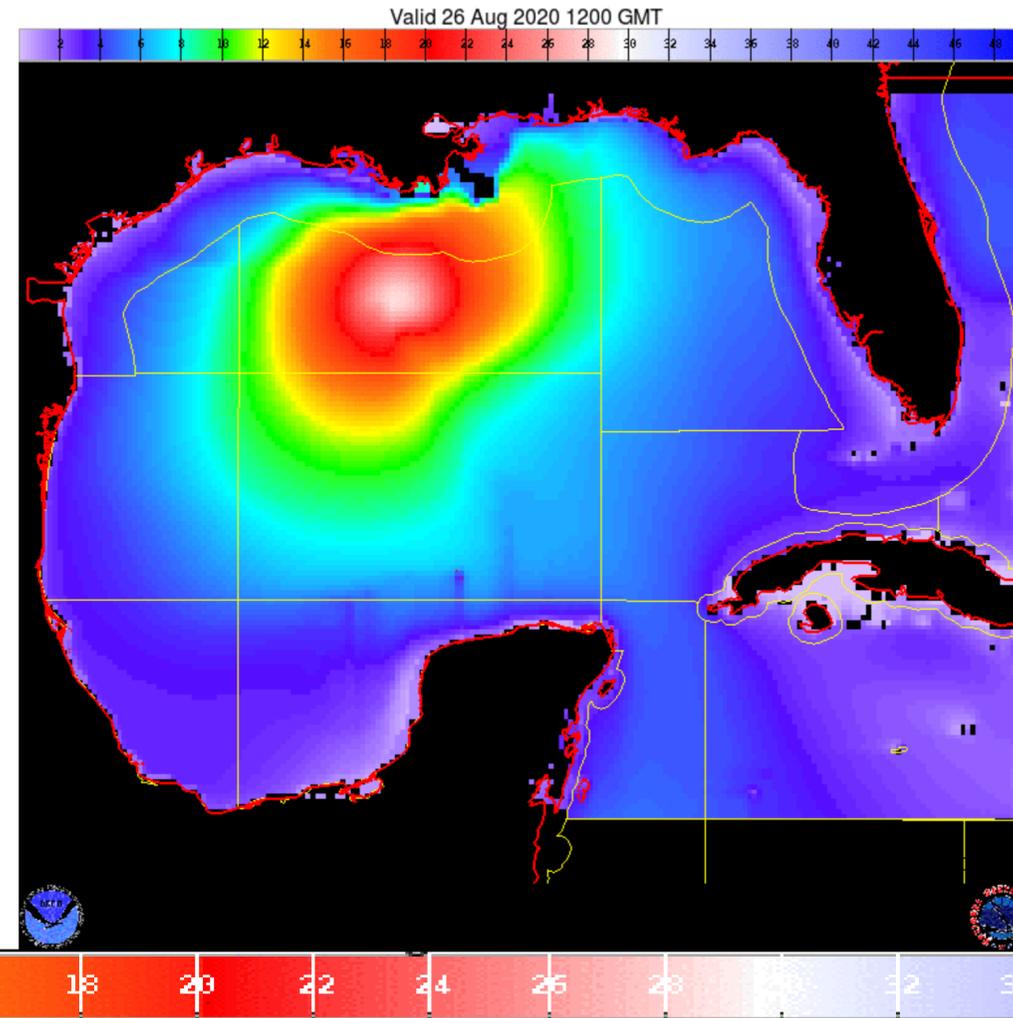


- ❑ Higher period swell from Laura will begin to show up Wednesday.
- ❑ Possible onset of seas \geq 6 feet within 60 NM: **Wednesday**.
- ❑ Peak seas: **15-20 feet Wednesday night** off the Upper Texas Coast (will depend on track).
- ❑ Increased surf, water levels and rip current risk.

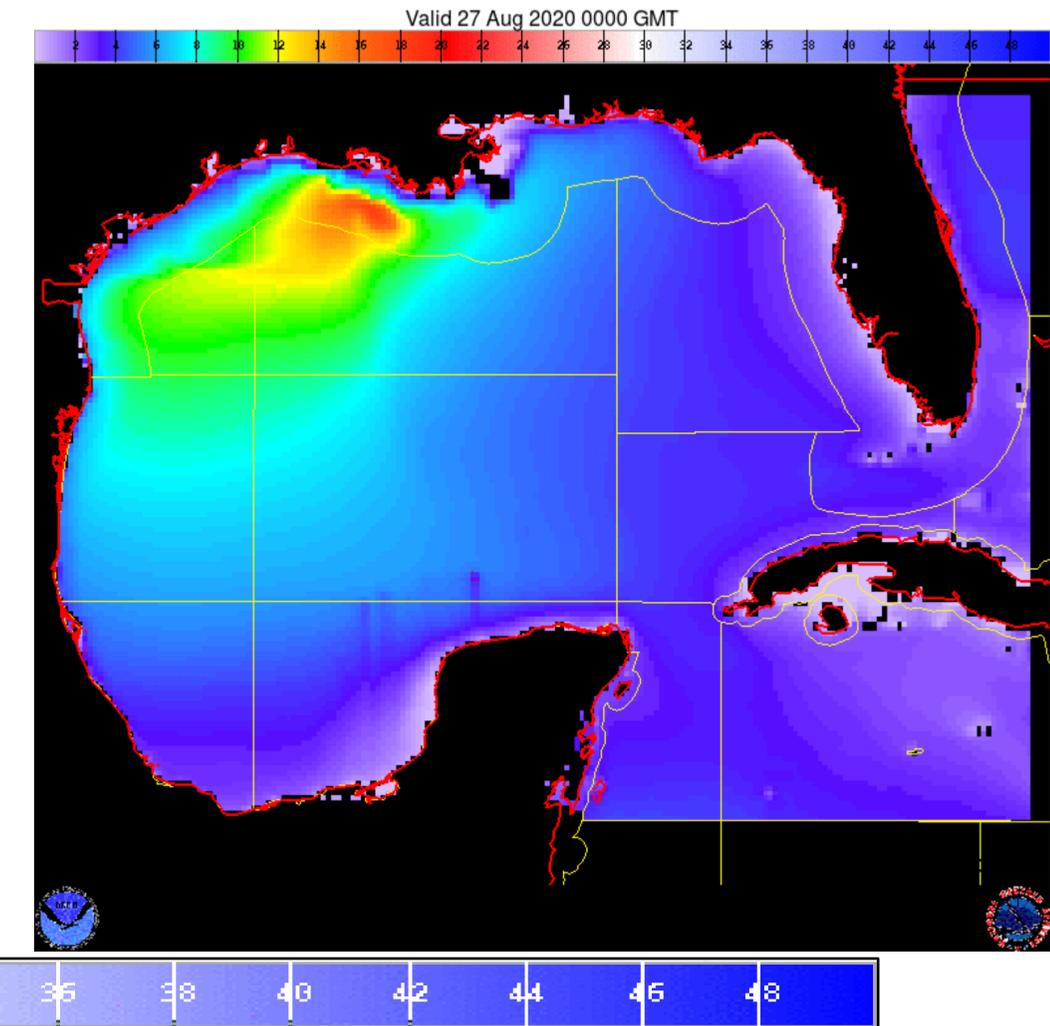
Tuesday Morning



Wednesday Morning



Wednesday Evening



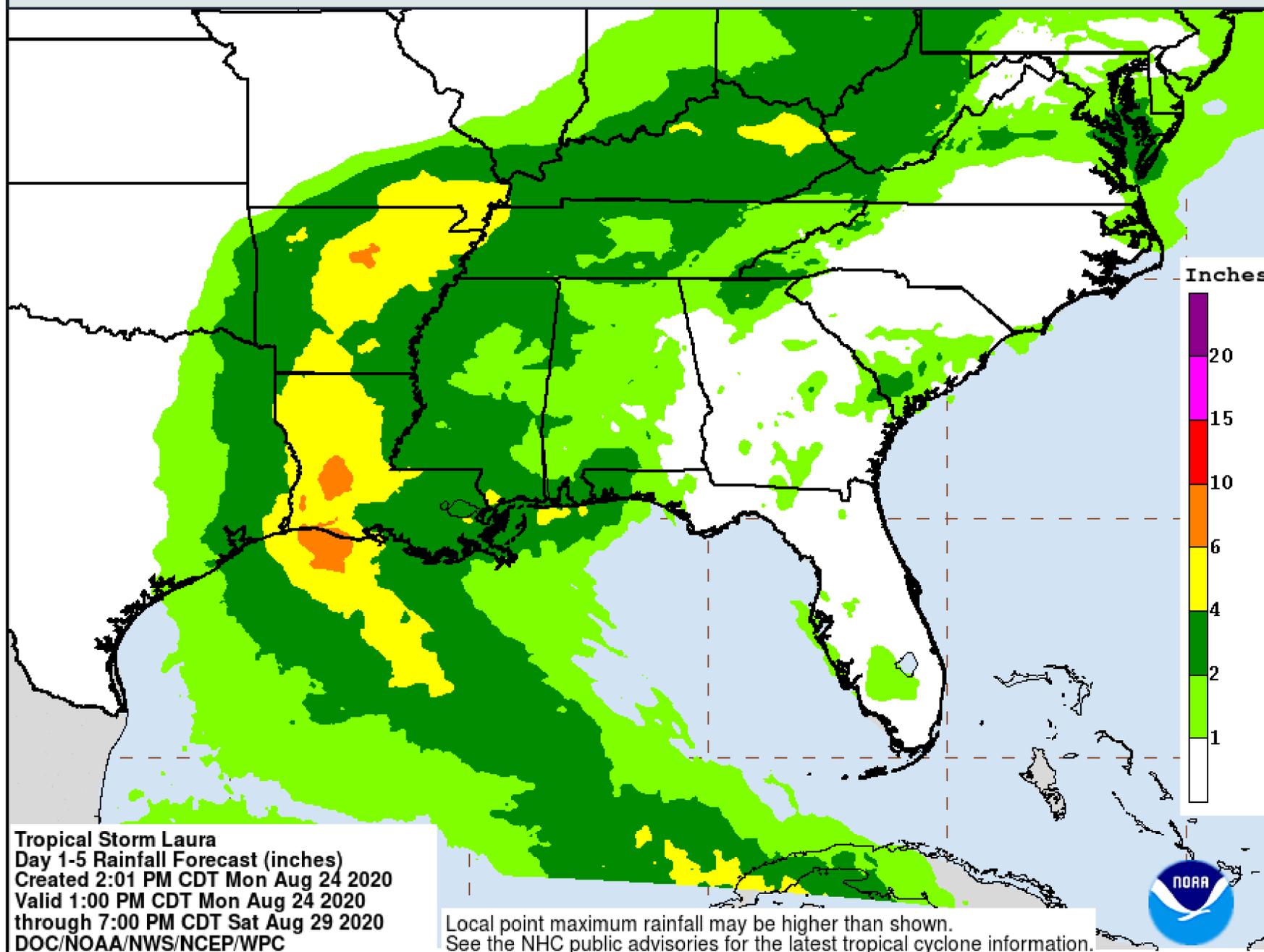
Expected Storm Total Rainfall

Tropical Storm Laura



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Note: There will likely be locally higher amounts



- Storm Total rainfall forecast valid Wednesday through Thursday
- Locally, most rain will occur

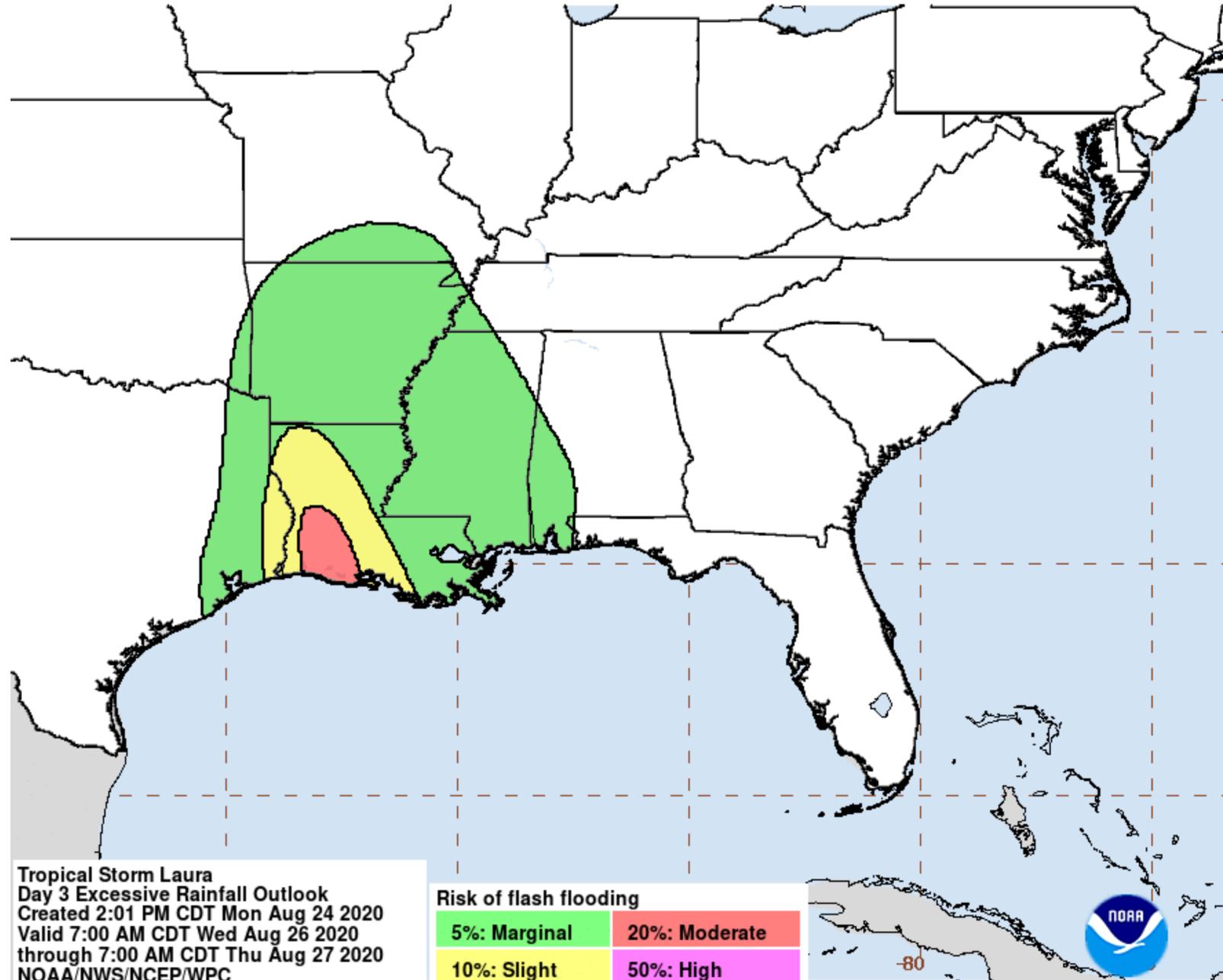
Excessive Rainfall Outlook

Tropical Storm Laura



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Excessive Rainfall Outlook Valid Wed/Wed Night



- Flash flood risk shown for Laura.
- Greatest risk in yellow and red areas.
- Again if track were to shift so would the threat areas.

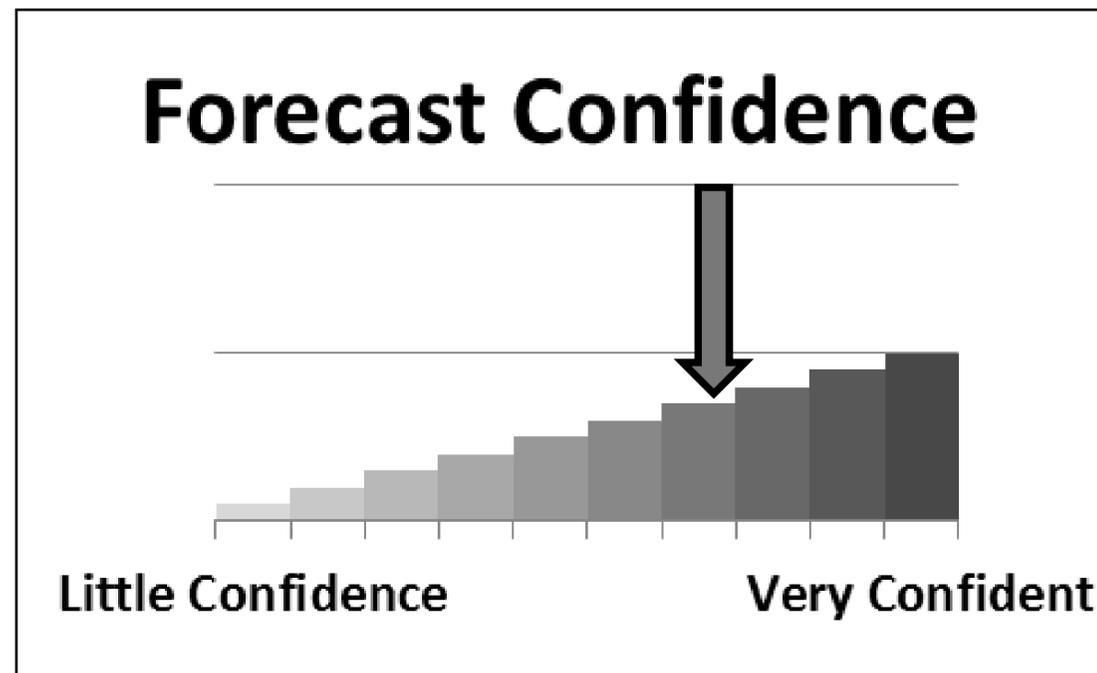
Key Take-Aways, Changes



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Tropical Storm Laura

- Confidence increasing in a track over SW LA or far E TX. Still can't rule out a shift to the west into farther down the TX coast.
- Hurricane, Tropical Storm and Storm Surge Watches have been issued for portions of the area.
- National Hurricane Center may shift the Hurricane Watches farther Southwest along the TX coast if a shift in the forecast track occurs.



Confidence in the track and intensity forecast increasing. However a westward shift in the forecast track is still possible which would bring more severe storm surge and winds to the area.



The Next Advisory: Monday at 10 PM CDT. Next webinar 1030 PM Monday.



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For the latest graphics and information go to: www.hurricanes.gov or weather.gov/srh/tropical?office=hgx