



TROPICAL STORM ZETA BRIEFING

11:00 AM CT

Monday, October 26, 2020

Prepared by: WFO Mobile/Pensacola



- The timing for landfall has been delayed just a little compared to yesterday. Watches are expected to be issued for a portion of the area with the 4pm advisory.
- There has been little change in the track and intensity forecast. Zeta will likely either be a strong tropical storm or minimal hurricane upon approach of the Louisiana coast, weakening some as it moves northeast toward our region.
- Regardless of any weakening, impacts will likely occur along and well to the east of landfall
 - The bulk of the impacts are expected Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday night. Rain could begin as early as Wednesday morning.
 - Local threat of dangerous surf, storm surge, strong winds, heavy rain, and a few tornadoes
 - Given the fast movement of the storm, tropical storm conditions could spread well inland.

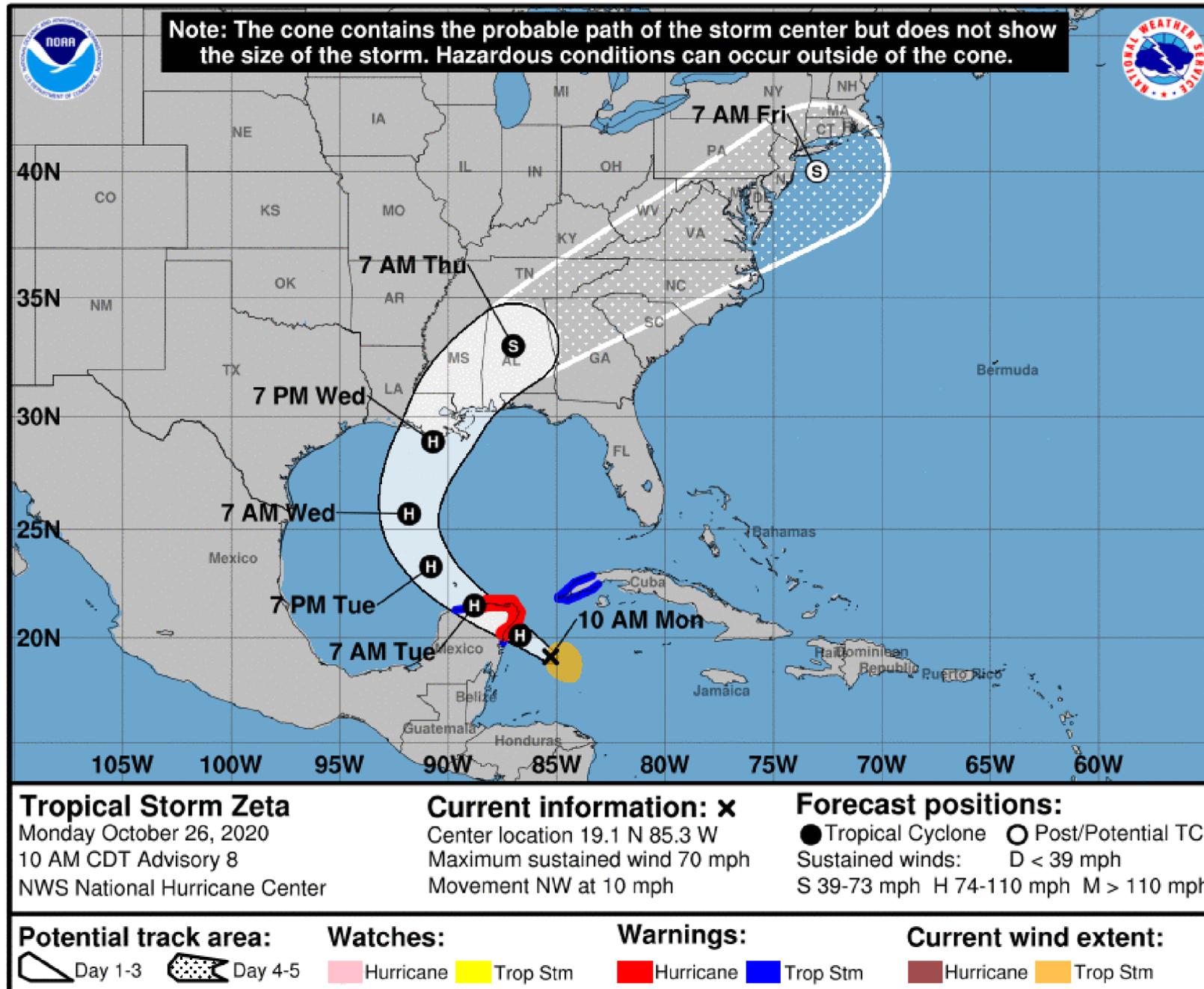
Situation Overview

Tropical Storm Zeta



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- Tropical Storm Zeta is forecast to be a hurricane in the southern and central Gulf of Mexico.
- Zeta will speed up as it curves north and northeast over the Gulf and is forecast to make landfall on Wednesday evening. Zeta could weaken slightly before landfall and is most likely to impact parts of our local area as a strong tropical storm.
- Don't focus on the specific intensity. There is not much difference between a strong tropical storm and minimal hurricane. Also remember, that impacts will likely occur well to the east of the center.
- Specific impacts depend on the eventual strength & track; however, we expect the threat of dangerous surf, strong winds, coastal flooding, heavy rainfall, and a few tornadoes. Most of the impacts will occur Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday night.

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

- **HIGH risk of rip currents Tuesday through Thursday**

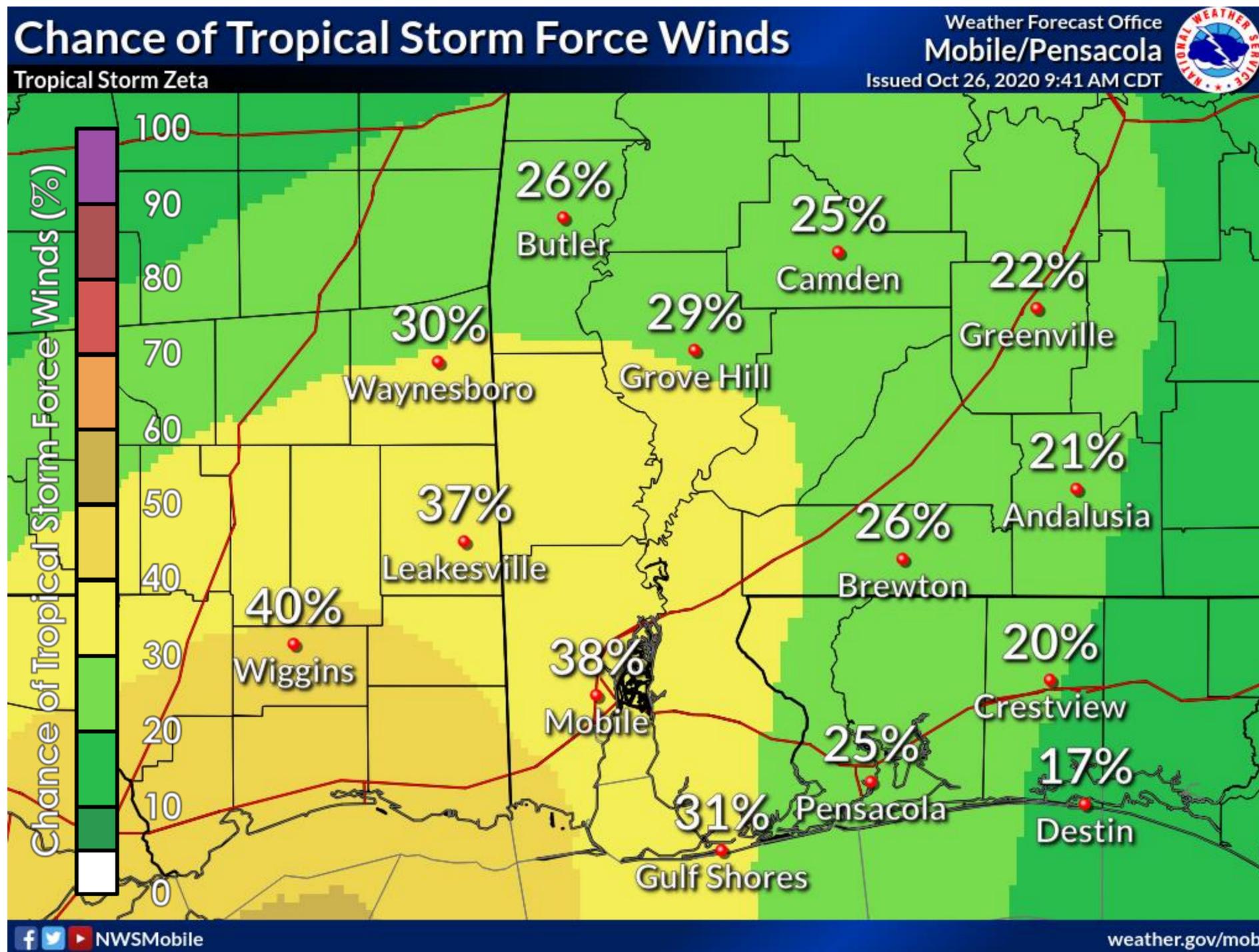
TS Wind Speed Probabilities

Tropical Storm Zeta



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- There is a 3 to 4 in 10 chance of tropical storm force winds across much of the region, with the highest potential over portions of southeast MS and southwest AL.
- There is a 2 in 10 chance over far eastern portions of the area.
- Probabilities have remained nearly steady for most of the area, except for a slight decrease across far eastern areas.

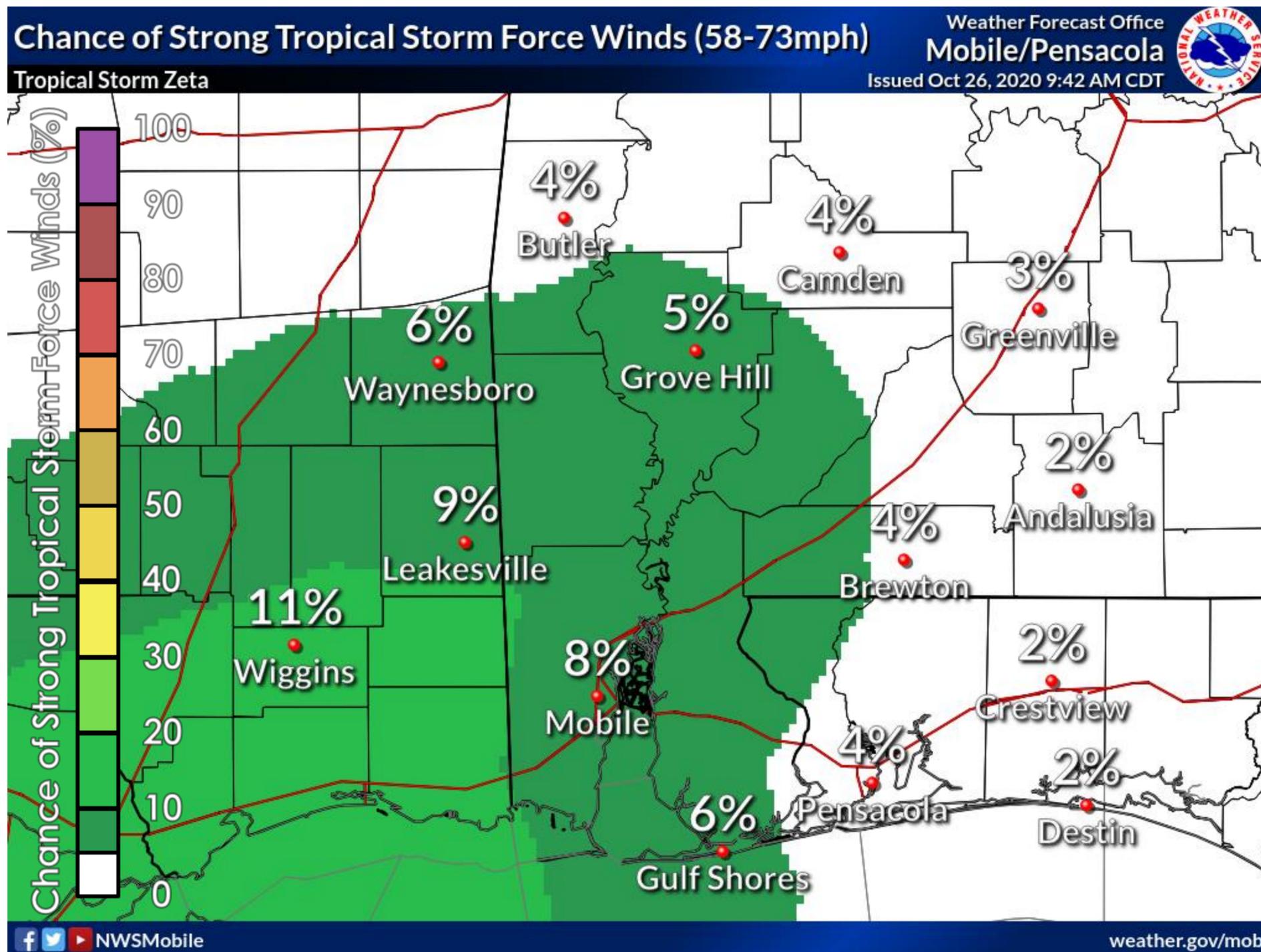
Strong TS Wind Speed Probabilities

Tropical Storm Zeta



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- The chance of strong tropical storm force winds are 1 in 10 over portions of southeast MS and southwest AL
- Less than 10% chance across the rest of the area
- Probabilities changed very little since the last advisory

Hurricane Wind Speed Probabilities

Tropical Storm Zeta



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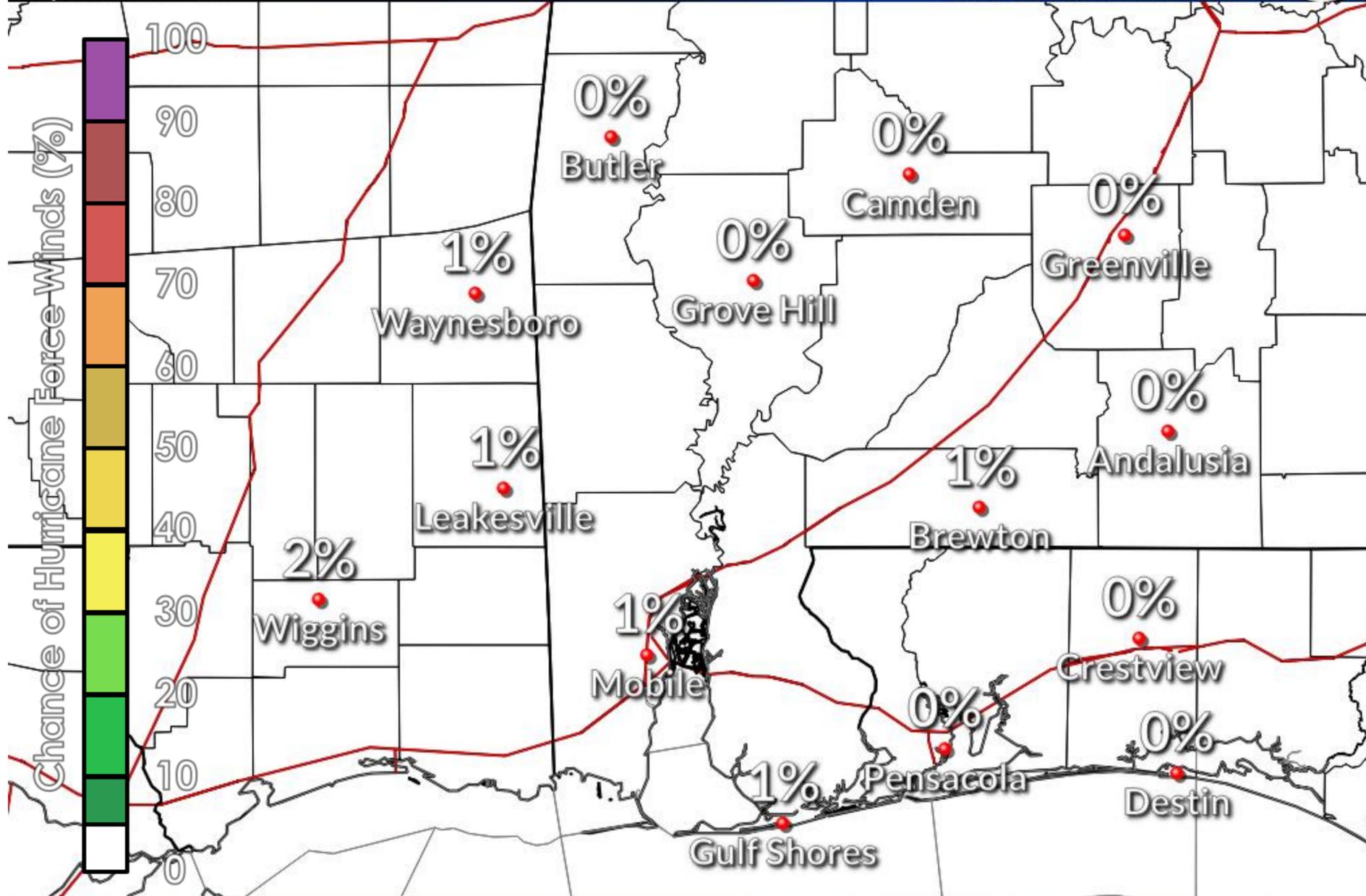
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Chance of Hurricane Force Winds

Tropical Storm Zeta

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- There is still less than a 5% chance of hurricane force winds
- These probabilities have remained steady since the last advisory

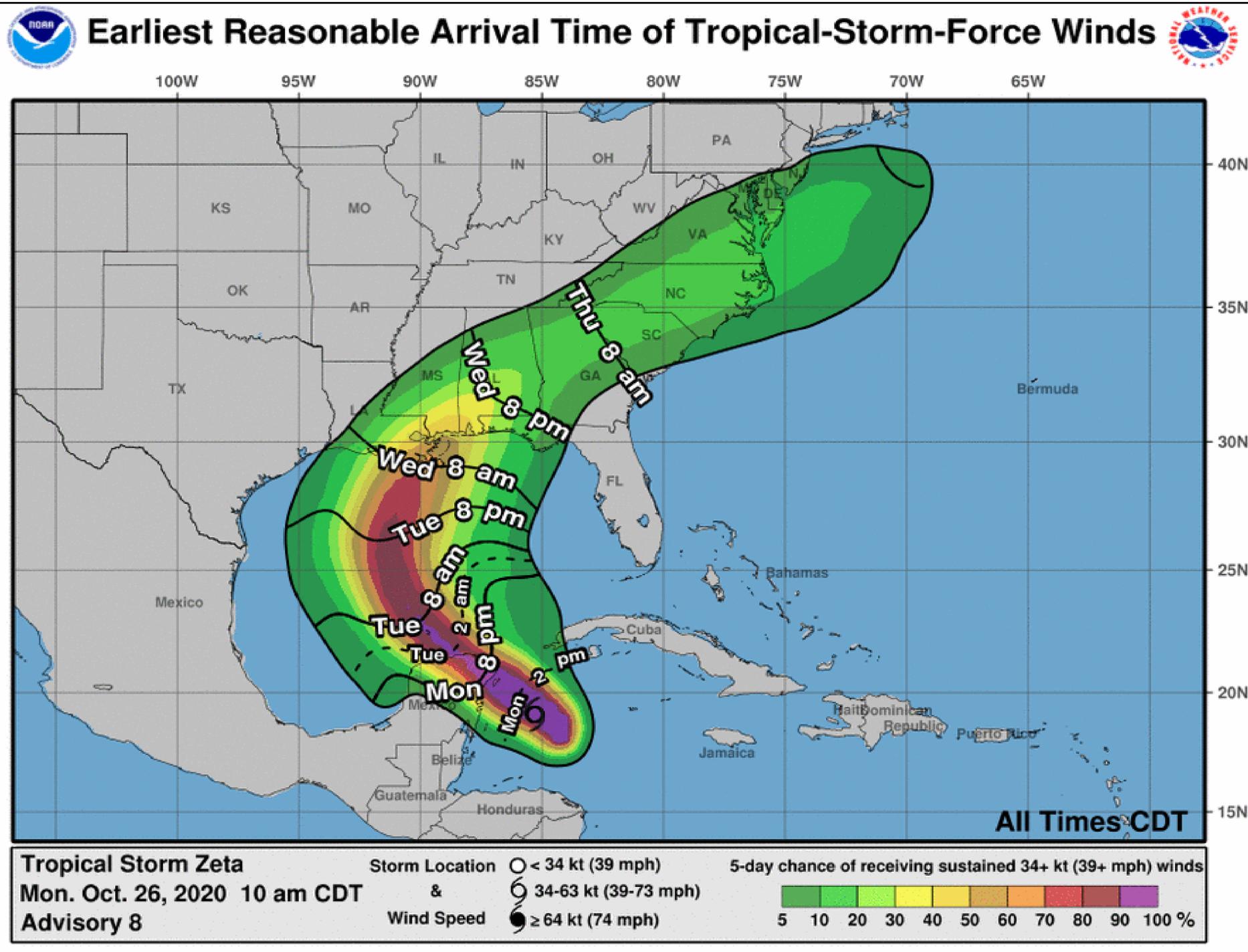
Earliest Reasonable Time of Arrival

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

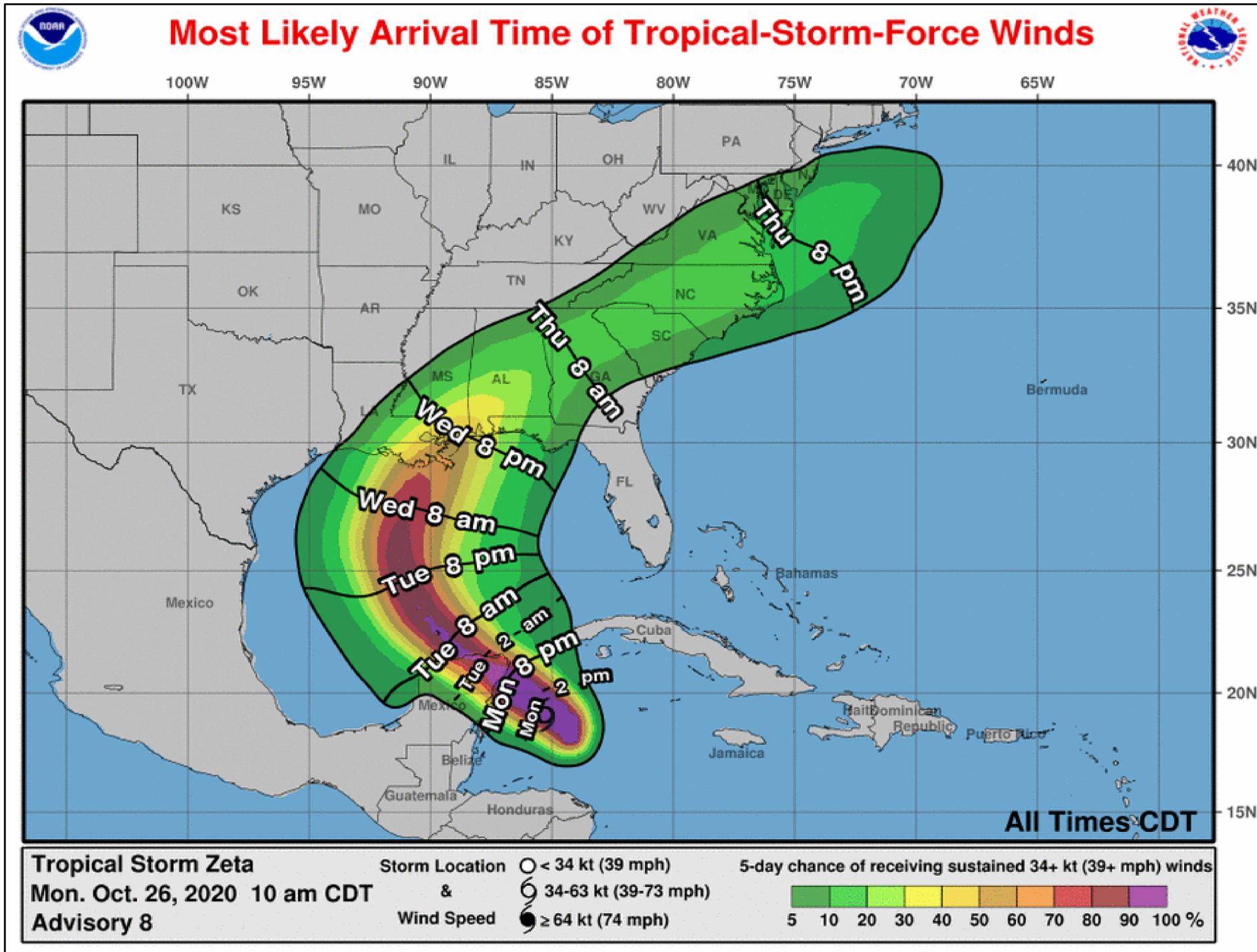
Most Likely Time of Arrival

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 night

Potential Storm Surge

Tropical Storm Zeta

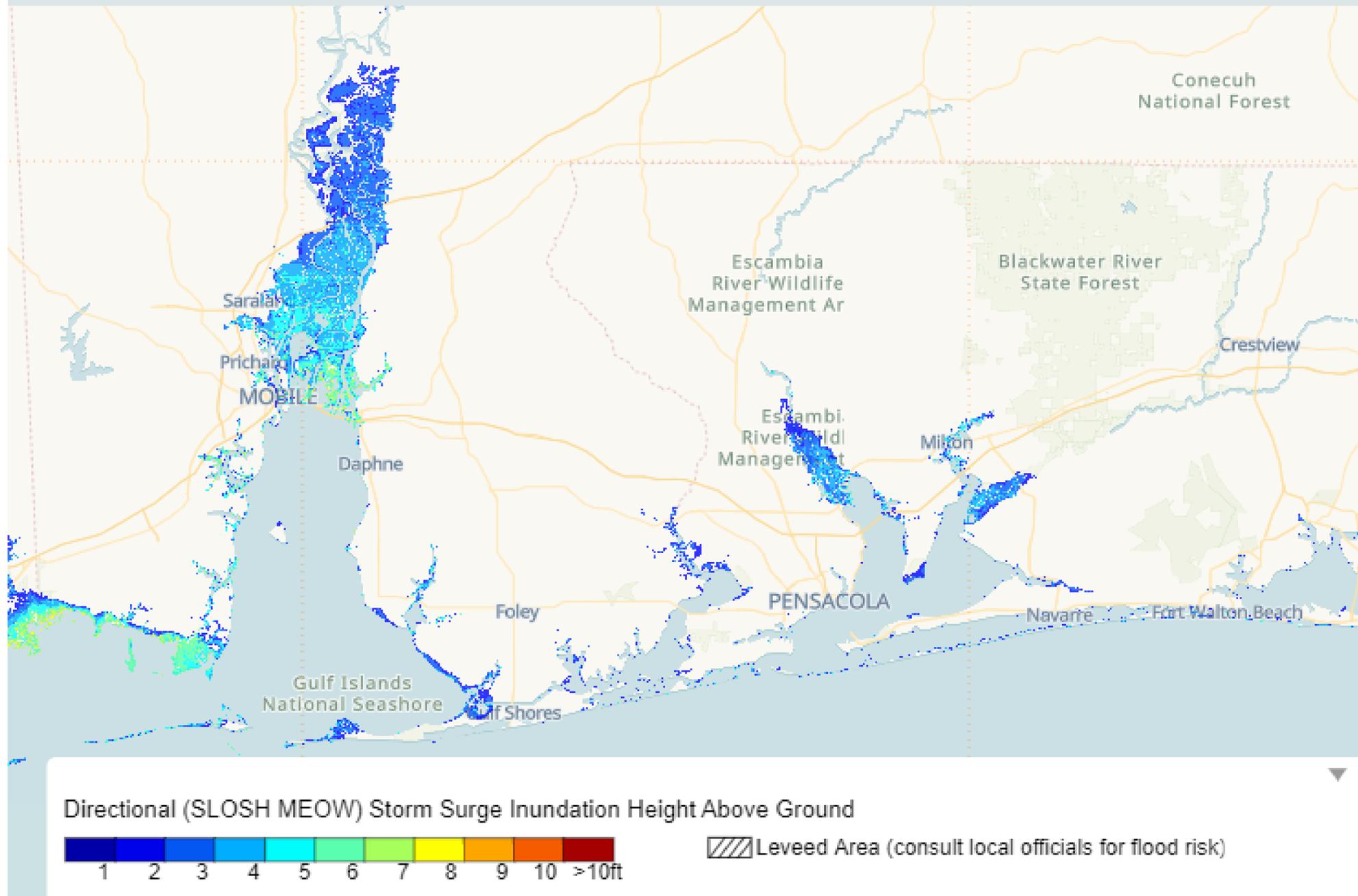


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This is not a storm specific forecast and is for informational purposes

SLOSH MEOW for a Strong Tropical Storm moving NNE at 15 mph at high tide - AGL



- This map is a ***reasonable worst case scenario*** for a strong tropical storm moving NNE at 15mph and is NOT a storm specific forecast
- Areas of greatest risk:
 - Low lying, typical flood prone areas are of the most concern in this scenario
- Timing:
 - Surge may begin as early as Wednesday afternoon.
 - Greatest surge potential is Wednesday night into early Thursday morning

Dangerous Surf

Tropical Storm Zeta



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Rip Current Risk

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TODAY

Valid as of October 26, 2020 4:45 AM CDT



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

TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	TUE NIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WED NIGHT	THURSDAY	THU NIGHT
Low	Moderate	High	High	High	High	Moderate	Moderate

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

TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	TUE NIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WED NIGHT	THURSDAY	THU NIGHT
Low	Moderate	High	High	High	High	Moderate	Moderate

IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

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.

- Surf heights quickly build to 4-6 feet Tuesday night, increasing to 8-12 feet Wednesday afternoon into Wednesday night
- Surf heights start to decrease on Thursday
- HIGH risk for rip currents Tuesday through at least Thursday

Forecast Storm Total Rainfall

Tropical Storm Zeta



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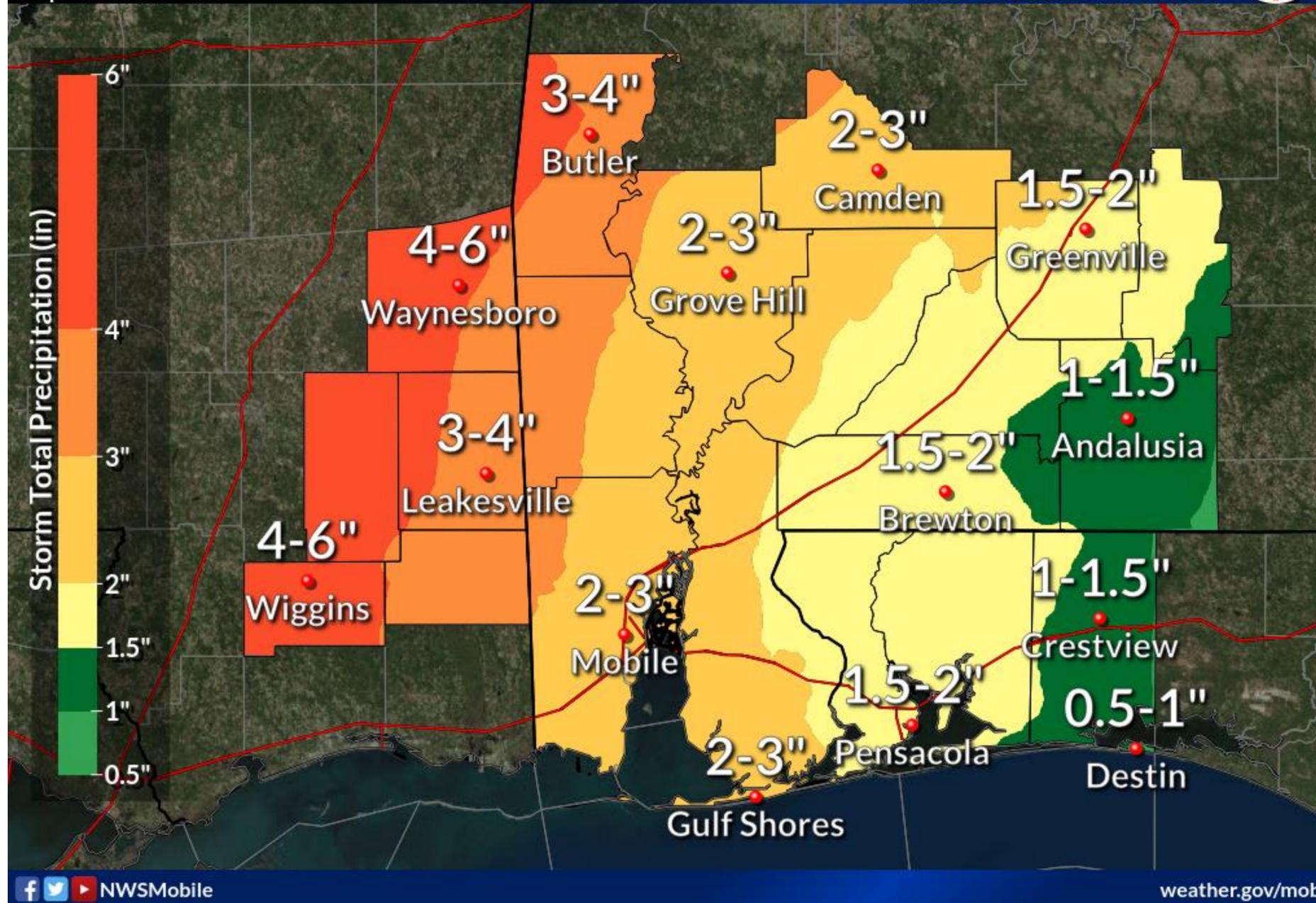
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Storm Total Rainfall Forecast

Tropical Storm Zeta

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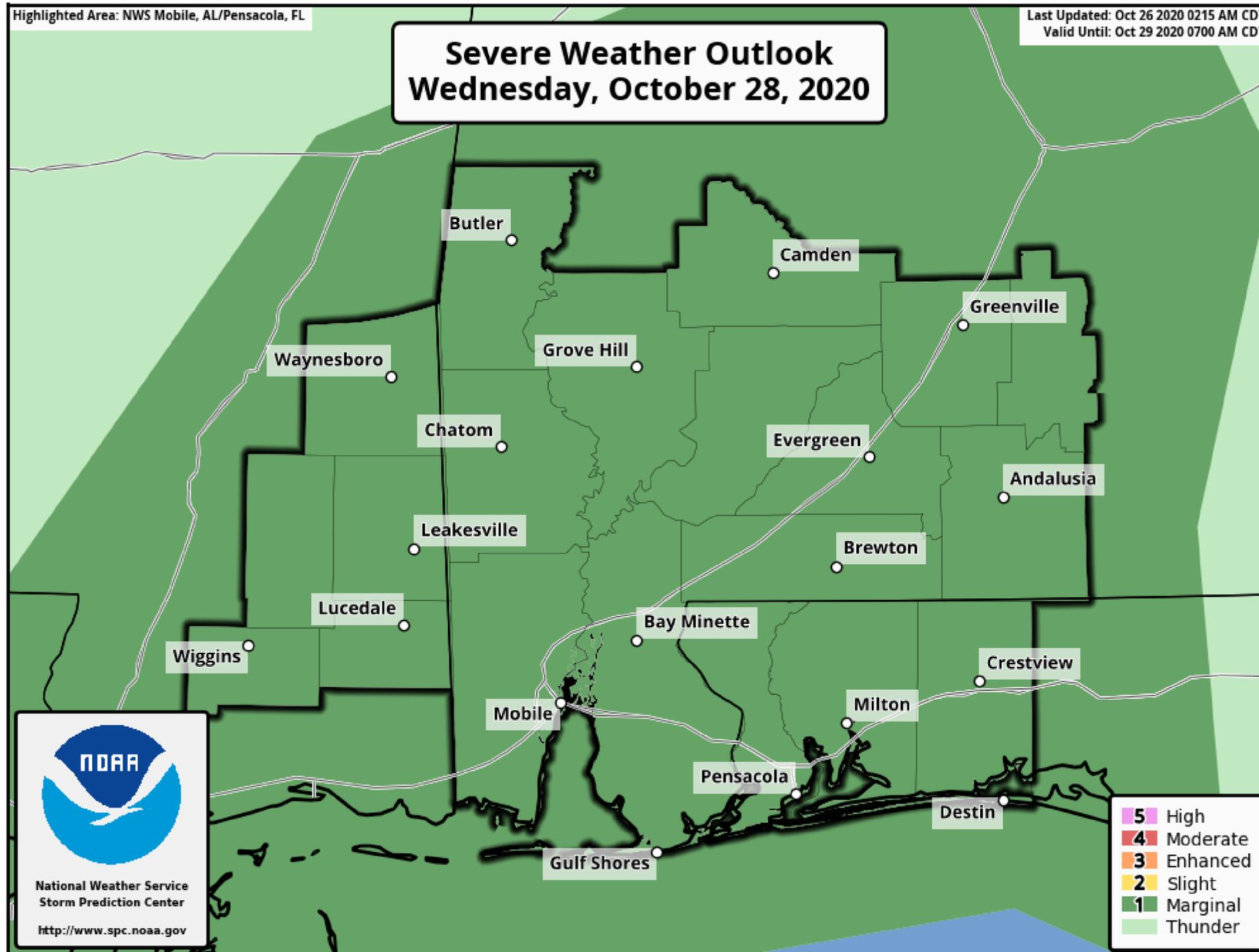
- Storm total rainfall forecast has increased since the last advisory
- Maximum storm total rainfall amounts between 4-6" with localized totals up to 8" will be possible

Tornado Potential

Tropical Storm Zeta



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- Isolated tornadoes will be possible Wednesday and Wednesday night
- There is a Marginal Risk for Severe Weather across the entire region



- Tropical Storm Zeta is forecast to make landfall along the north central Gulf Coast Wednesday evening.
- Zeta will most likely be a strong tropical storm or minimal hurricane at landfall. [***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
 - Impacts expected to begin as early as Wednesday morning and last through Thursday morning (with the bulk of the impacts Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday night)
 - Local threat of dangerous surf, storm surge, strong winds, heavy rain, and a few tornadoes
- Based on the latest timing and track - WATCHES are expected across portions of the northern Gulf Coast this afternoon.