

Hurricane Joaquin

Eastern North Carolina

Threat Assessment

National Weather Service
Newport/Morehead City, NC

Date/Time Created: 6 AM 10/2/15

Overview

Overview: Joaquin has now begun its northward turn. *Confidence at this time has increased significantly with the forecast track of Joaquin. It is now very likely that the storm is going to move northeast well away from the North Carolina Coast.* This is excellent news, as had this powerful storm moved closer to the coast, significant impacts would have been the result.

Hurricane Joaquin Advisory #18 Specifics

Advisory Time: 5 AM EDT 02 October 2015

Position: 23.3N 74.7W
50 miles south-southwest of San Salvador

Intensity: 130 mph (Category 4 Hurricane)

Movement: Northwest at 3 mph

Minimum Pressure: 935 mb (27.64 inches)



Impacts Summary

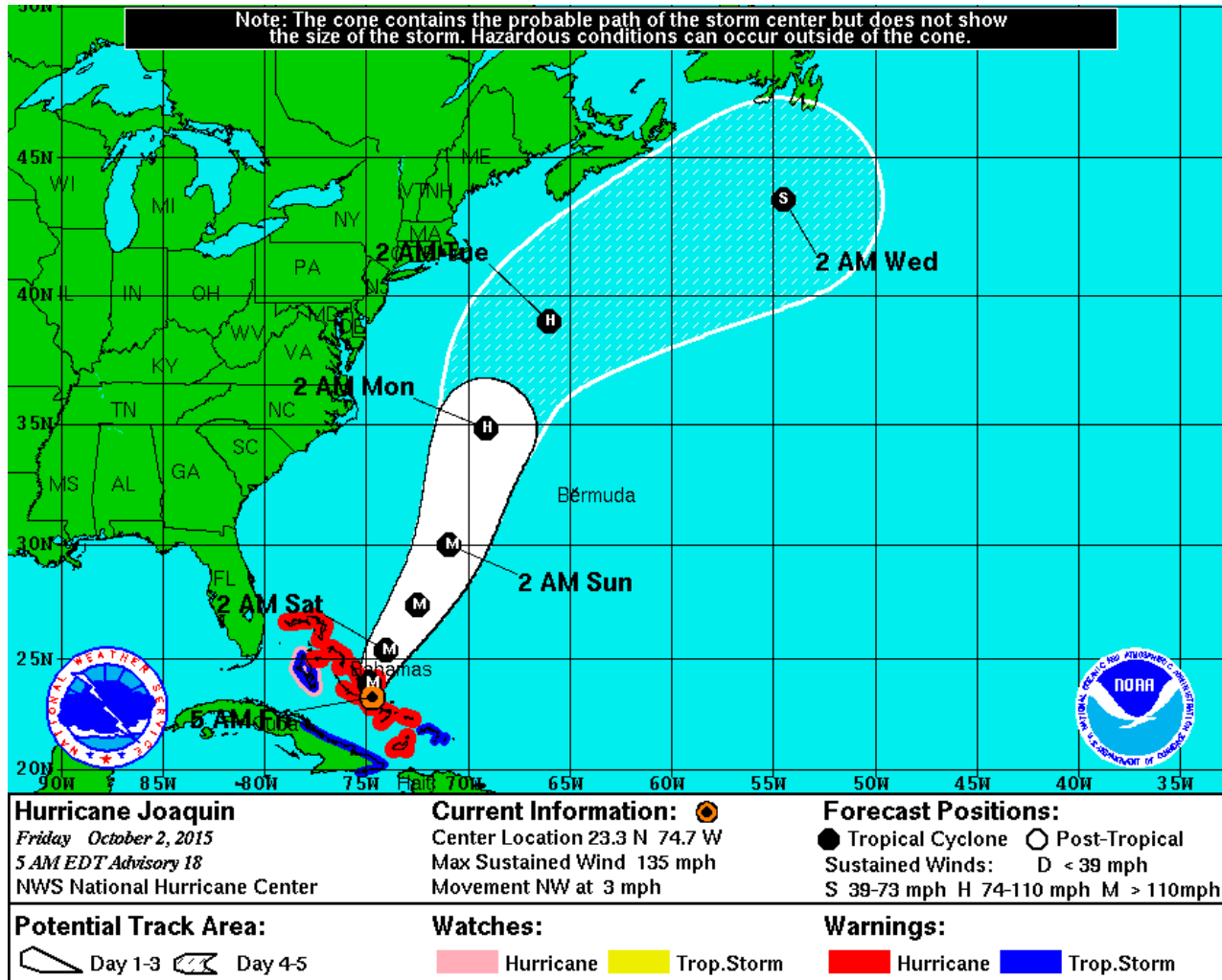
Significant Rainfall – *Regardless of Joaquin moving well off the coast*, widespread heavy rain has begun across the area associated with an upper low and frontal system. The first batch of heavy rain will bring an average of 2 to 4 inches of rain before it shifts to our south and west tonight into Saturday. This will provide a brief respite until the chance of heavy rains return Sunday Night into Monday with a chance for an additional 1 to 3 inches of rain. Localized heavier amounts remain possible. ***Given the already saturated ground, flooding in some low lying, urban and poor drainage areas is possible.*** With the axis of the heavy rains shifting so far south and west, ***the threat of significant river flooding has diminished, although some main stem rivers will be elevated next week close to action or flood stage.*** Continue to monitor the river forecasts into next week for more details.

Coastal and Marine Impacts– *Regardless Joaquin moving well off the coast*, the coast and coastal waters will receive impacts including:

- **Along the coast:** Dangerous rip currents, and high surf with powerful breaking waves will still likely result in significant beach and dune erosion. The threat of overwash has diminished, but can't be ruled out in a few highly vulnerable locations on the Outer Banks. Minor coastal flooding is possible sound side in downeast Carteret, Pamlico, and Craven Counties given already high water levels.
- **Across the waters:** Tropical storm force winds will likely remain east of our coastal waters, but seas will build to 15 to 20 ft Saturday into Sunday.

Wind – *With the expected forecast track of Joaquin now so far off of the coast, wind impacts are greatly diminished.* At this time ***NO sustained winds to tropical storm force are likely***, although should the track change a bit back to the west, the Outer Banks could see a small chance of tropical storm force winds Sunday into Monday Morning. ***Wind speeds currently forecast should not result in much of an issue with trees, although with the saturated ground, a few isolated trees could go down in higher gusts.***

Coastal Watches/Warnings and 5-Day Forecast Cone



Joaquin forecast track has shifted well east of the North Carolina Coast!

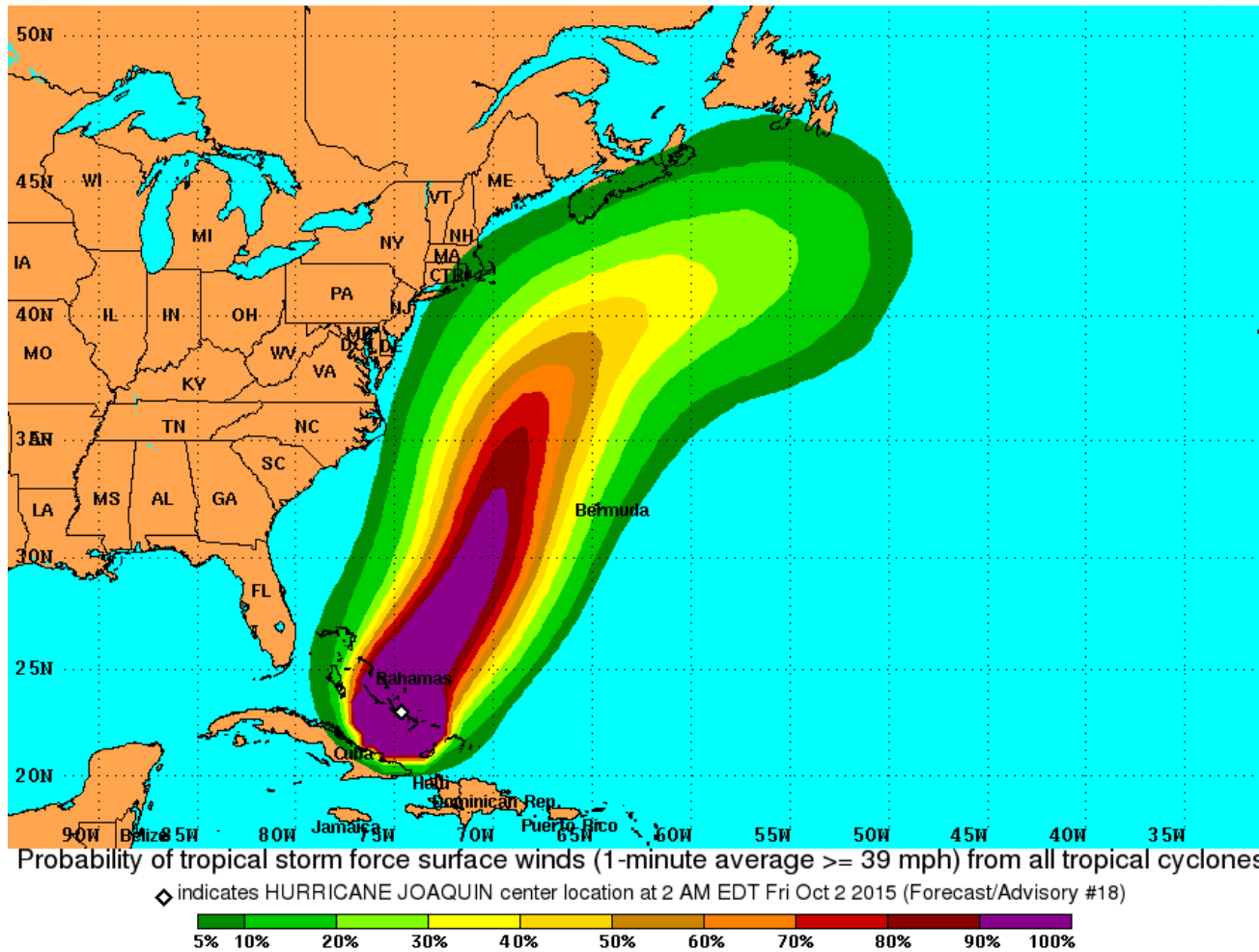
Tropical Storm Wind Probabilities

34 KT Wind Probabilities

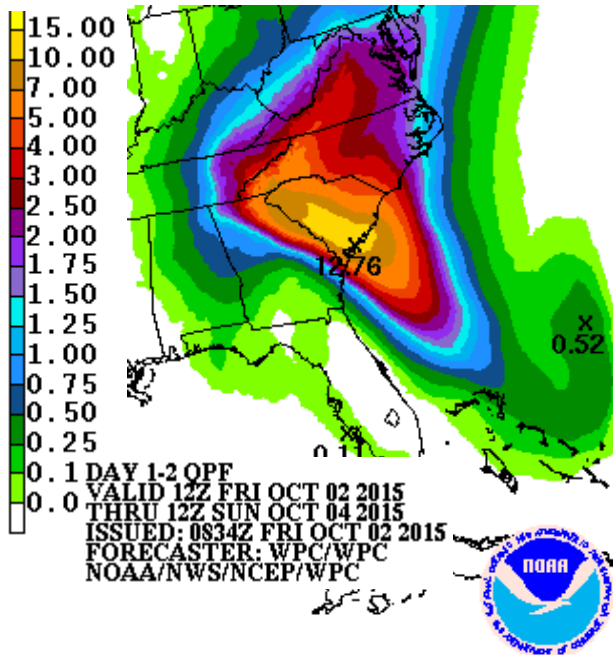
(Shifted off the coast!)



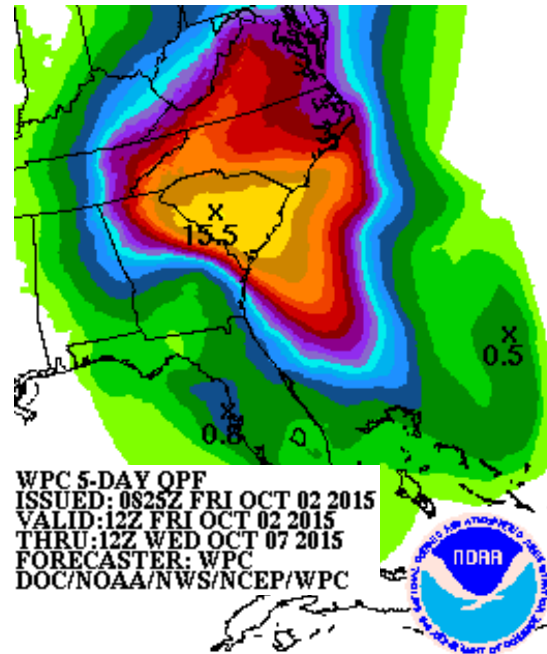
Tropical Storm Force Wind Speed Probabilities
For the 120 hours (5 days) from 2 AM EDT Fri Oct 2 to 2 AM EDT Wed Oct 7



Storm Total Rainfall



Two Day Rainfall Through
8 AM Sunday



Five Day Rainfall Through
8 AM Sunday

- 2 to 4 inches of storm total rainfall is forecast with locally higher amounts possible with heavy rains through tonight. Another round of heavy rain will come Sunday Night into Monday with another 1 to 3 inches possible, with highest amounts across the southern counties.

Although the forecast for overall amounts have lessened, given the thoroughly saturated ground, we still expect some ***flooding in urban, low lying, and poor drainage areas.***

- With the axis of the heavy rains shifting so far south and west, ***the threat of significant river flooding has diminished, although some main stem rivers will be elevated next week close to action or flood stage.*** Continue to monitor the river forecasts into next week for more details.

For updates call the forecaster on Duty
(252) 223-5122 x5

References: NWS Newport/Morehead City <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/mhx/>

Rainfall Forecasts (QPF)

<http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/qpf2.shtml>

National Hurricane Center

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

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