

High impact weather forecasts, climate assessment and prediction.

14 Boatwright's Loop Plymouth, MA 02360
Phone/Fax 508.927.4610
Cell: 508.813.3499
ClimateImpact@comcast.net

Climate Impact Company 10-day Tropical Outlook

Issued: Saturday, September 9, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

Irma track continues to budge slightly west, now a Florida west coast issue

Discussion: At 5AM EDT Category 4 Major Hurricane Irma was located at 22.5N/78.8W or about 245 miles south-southeast of Miami, FL moving west-northwest at 12 mph with maximum sustained wind near 155 mph and central pressure 930 MB.

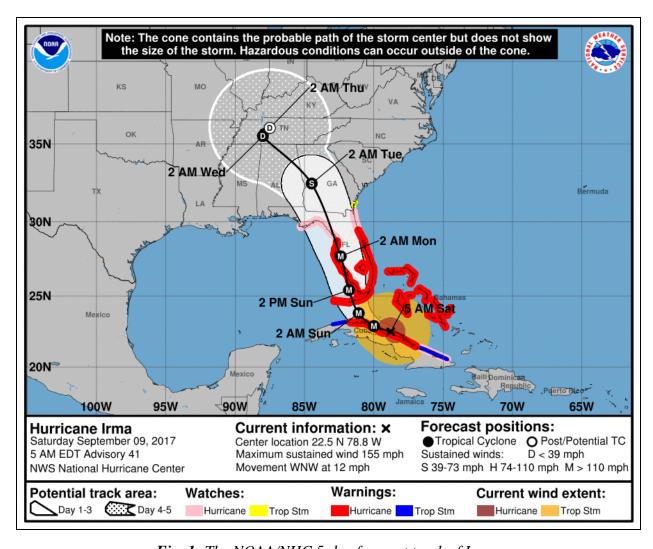


Fig. 1: The NOAA/NHC 5-day forecast track of Irma.

Irma is just north of the north-central Cuba coast yet amazingly maintains strong category 4 intensity ignoring the interaction with the mountainous terrain of Cuba. The NOAA/NHC 5-day forecast is ever-so-slightly further west than late yesterday turning Irma northwestward tomorrow morning as Irma rides the southwest side of an east-shifting and weaker Bermuda High then north-northwest feeling shear in the higher levels of the atmosphere. The NOAA/NHC forecast track takes Irma inland in southwest Florida near or just south of Fort Myers. Climate Impact Co. is using the ECMWF model for landfall which is a little farther north between Sarasota and Port Charlotte.

The storm surge forecast models indicate >9 feet in the Cape Coral. Bonita Springs, Naples, Marco Island and Everglade City areas. The ECMWF model indicates this storm surge potential could be slightly further north into Port Charlotte.

The 5-day forecast indicates Irma moves north over the Tampa area late Sunday night and weakens to a tropical storm in south-southwest Georgia later Monday. Irma turns into the Tennessee Valley and weakens to a depression Tuesday night.

Forecast models are in general agreement with the NOAA/NHC track including the ECMWF model. The trend has been slightly further west and we're still awaiting the all-important northwest to north turn of Irma. If Irma stays slightly offshore then all of the west coast of the Florida Peninsula would experience major hurricane conditions.

For those CIC clients receiving point forecasts the outlooks were based on the ECMWF model.

Please see schematics that follow.

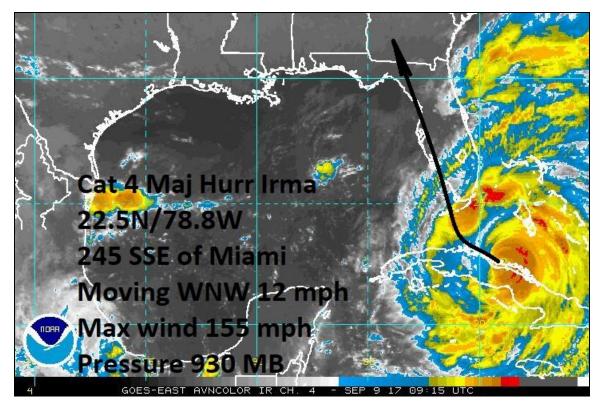


Fig. 2: Satellite view of Irma, a massive storm on the north coast of Cuba.

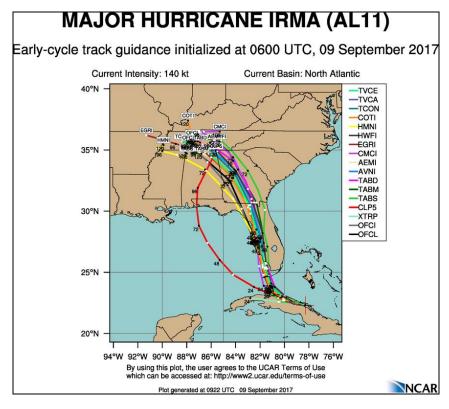


Fig. 3: Tropical cyclone model tracks for Irma.

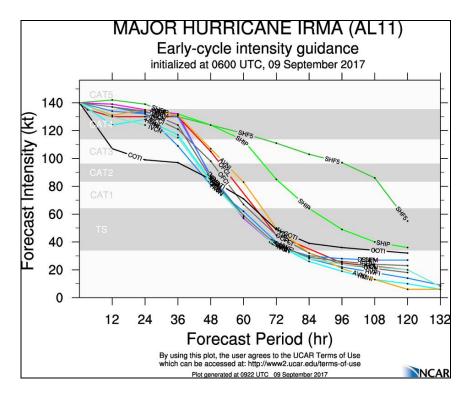


Fig. 4: Tropical cyclone model intensity forecast for Irma.

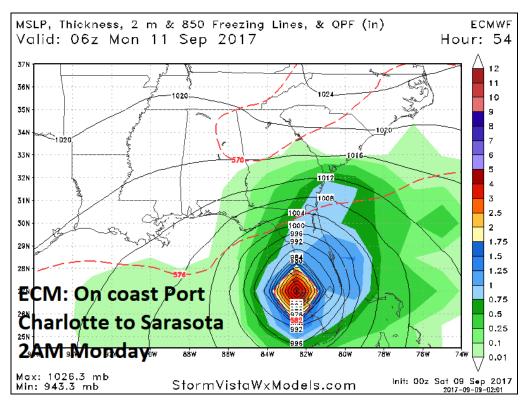


Fig. 5: The ECMWF landfall forecast is near Sarasota/Port Charlotte.

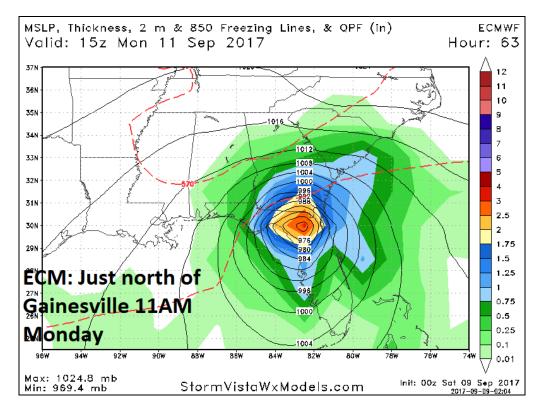


Fig. 6: The ECMWF late Monday morning forecast indicates Irma is just north of Gainesville and still a hurricane.

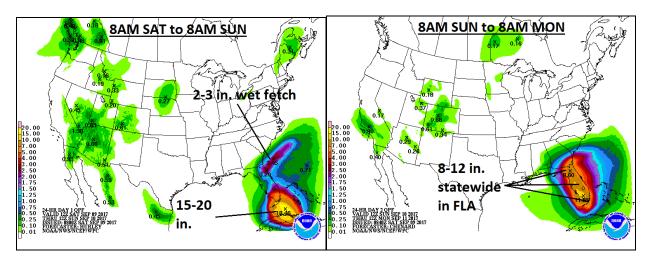


Fig. 7-8: The Saturday and Sunday rainfall forecasts by NOAA/WPC associated with Irma.

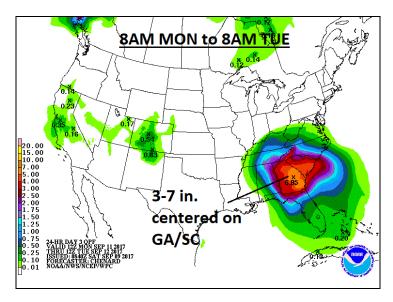


Fig. 9: The Tuesday rainfall profile forecast from NOAA/WPC for Irma.

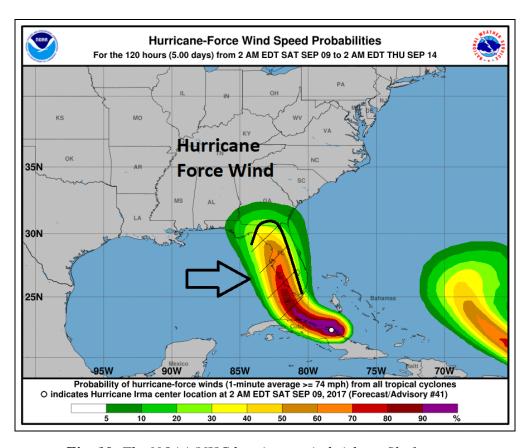


Fig. 10: The NOAA/NHC hurricane wind risk profile forecast.

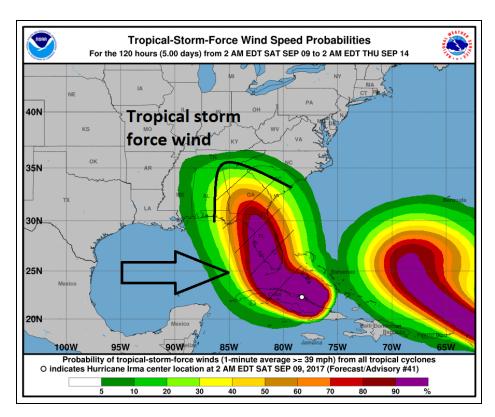


Fig. 11: The NOAA/NHC tropical storm force wind risk profile forecast.