

# Monitoring Tropical Storms for Emergency Preparedness

Amita Mehta

May 10, 2018

# Course Outline

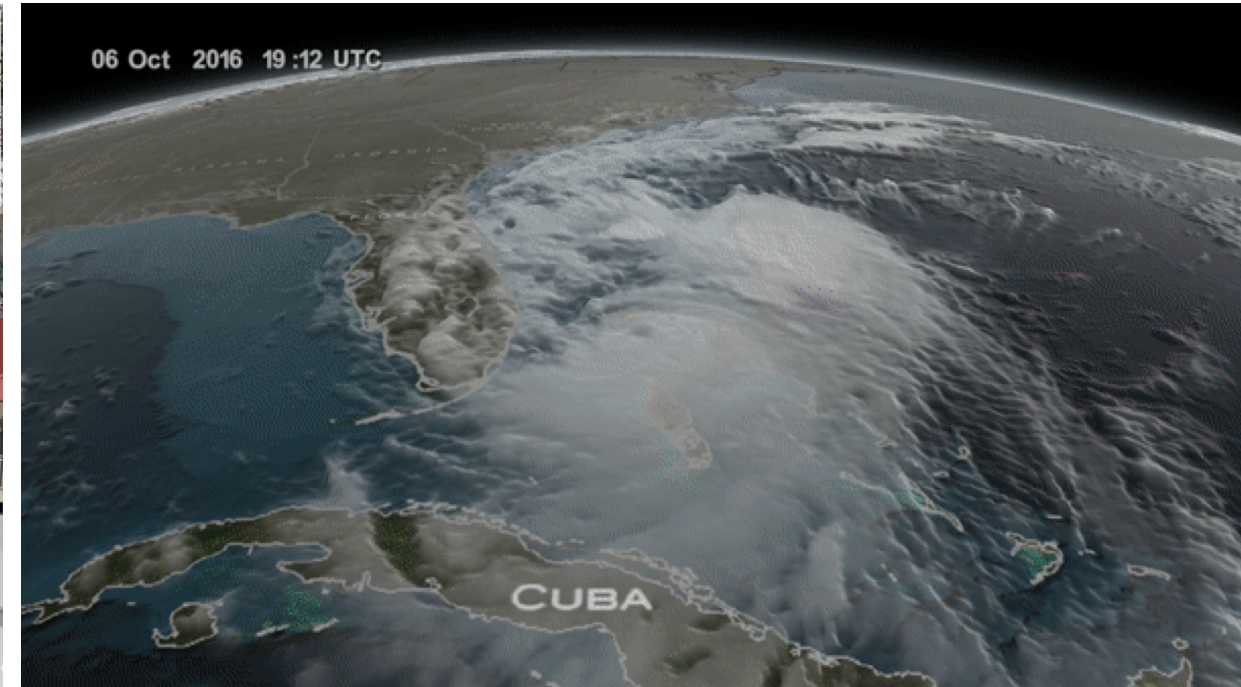
**May 3**

Overview of Tropical Storms and Their Impacts



**May 10**

Monitoring Tropical Storm Conditions During and After Storms



In this animation Hurricane Matthew travels up the east coast from Florida to the Carolinas. On October 8, 2016 Matthew (still a category 2 hurricane) dumps massive amounts of rain throughout the southeast dousing North and South Carolina.



# Homework and Certificates

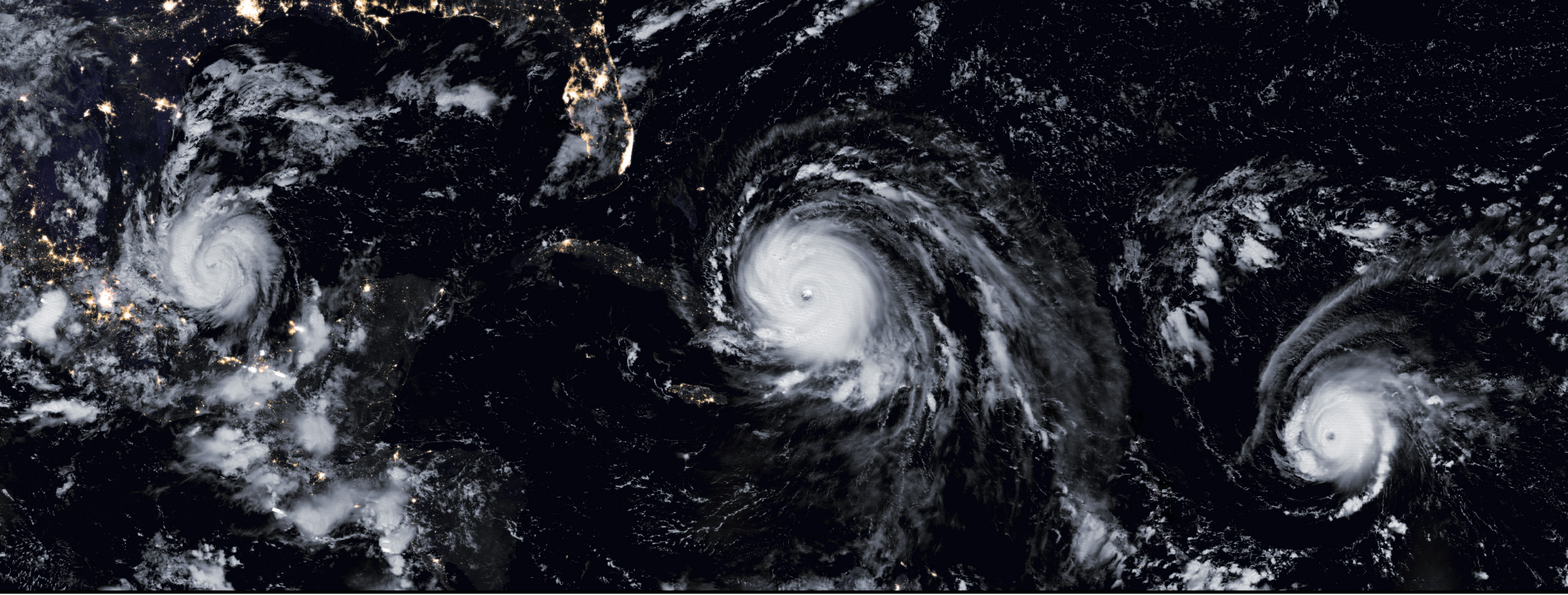
- Homework will be available after Session-1 and Session-2 from <https://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/water/webinars/>
- **Answers must be submitted via Google Form**
- Certificate of Completion:
  - Attend both webinars
  - Complete homework assignment by the deadline (31 May 2018)
  - You will receive certificates approx. two months after the completion of the course from: [marines.martins@ssaihq.com](mailto:marines.martins@ssaihq.com)



# Outline For Session 2

- Review from Session 1
- Monitoring Winds, Precipitation, Storm Surge
- Monitoring Flooding During and After Storms for Emergency Response and Relief Planning
  - Extreme Rainfall Detection System (ERDS)
  - Global Flood Monitoring System (GFMS)
  - The Flood Observatory
  - MODIS NRT Flood Mapping
  - Synthetic Aperture Radar Imagery
- Examples of NASA Remote Sensing Data Applications
- Demonstration of Case Studies: Hurricane Harvey





Review From Session 1

# Tropical Cyclone Intensity

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/climo/>

- **Tropical Depression**

- tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (61 km/h, 33 kt) or less

- **Tropical Storm**

- tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (62-117 km/h, 34-63 kt)

- **Hurricane or Typhoon**

- tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (119 km/h, 64 kt) or higher
- in the western North Pacific, hurricanes are called typhoons – similar storms in the Indian Ocean and South Pacific Ocean are called cyclones

- **Major Hurricane**

- tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 111 mph (178 km/h, 96 kt) or higher

# Hurricane Category

[https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/sshws\\_2012rev.pdf](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/sshws_2012rev.pdf)

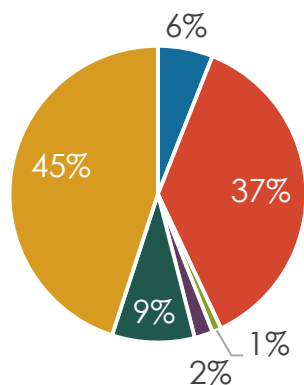
Hurricane Category	Saffir-Simpson Wind Scale
1	74-95 mph (119-153 km/h, 64-82 kt)
2	96-110 mph (154-177 km/h, 83-95 kt)
3	111-129 mph (178-209 km/h, 96-112 kt)
4	130-156 mph (209-251 km/h, 113-136 kt)
5	≥ 157 mph (≥ 252 km/h, ≥ 137 kt)

In the western North Pacific, a super typhoon is  
≥ 150 mph (≥ 241 km/h, ≥ 130 kt)

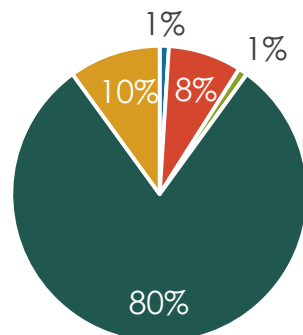
# Cyclone Impacts

## Impacts of Tropical Storms (1980-2009)

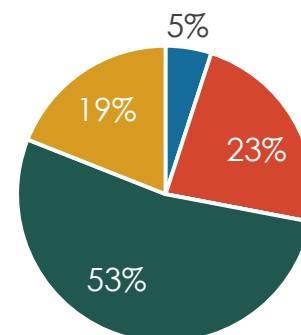
Frequency by Region  
(n=1,080)



Deaths by Region  
(n=393,201)



Affected Population by Region  
(n=151,425,74)



### WHO Regions

- AFRO = African Region
- AMRO = Region of the Americas
- EURO = European Region
- EMRO = Eastern Mediterranean Region
- SEARO = Southeast Asia Region
- WRPRO = Western Pacific Region

- Southeast Asia, the Western Pacific, and regions of America are impacted substantially
- The Western Pacific and American regions have high storm frequency but the Southeast Asian region has the highest number of storm-related deaths

Image Credit: Doocy S, et al. The Human Impact of Tropical Cyclones: a Historical Review of Events 1980-2009 and Systematic Literature Review. PLOS Currents Disasters. 2013 Apr 16 . Edition 1. doi: 10.1371/currents.dis.2664354a5571512063ed29d25ffbce74.





# Cyclone Impacts

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/hazards.php>

Major Causes For Damage, Destruction, Loss of Lives:

- Storm Surge and Coastal Flooding
- Heavy Rainfall and Inland Flooding
- High Sustained Winds and Gusts
- Tornadoes
- Rip Currents

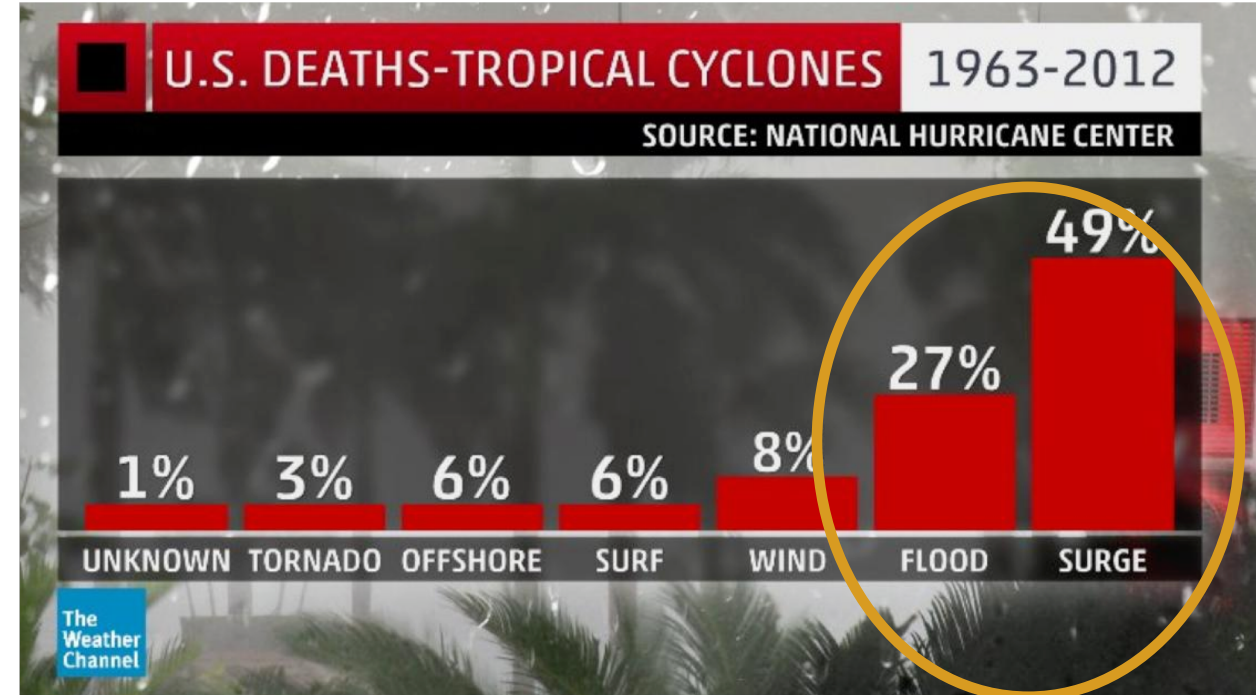


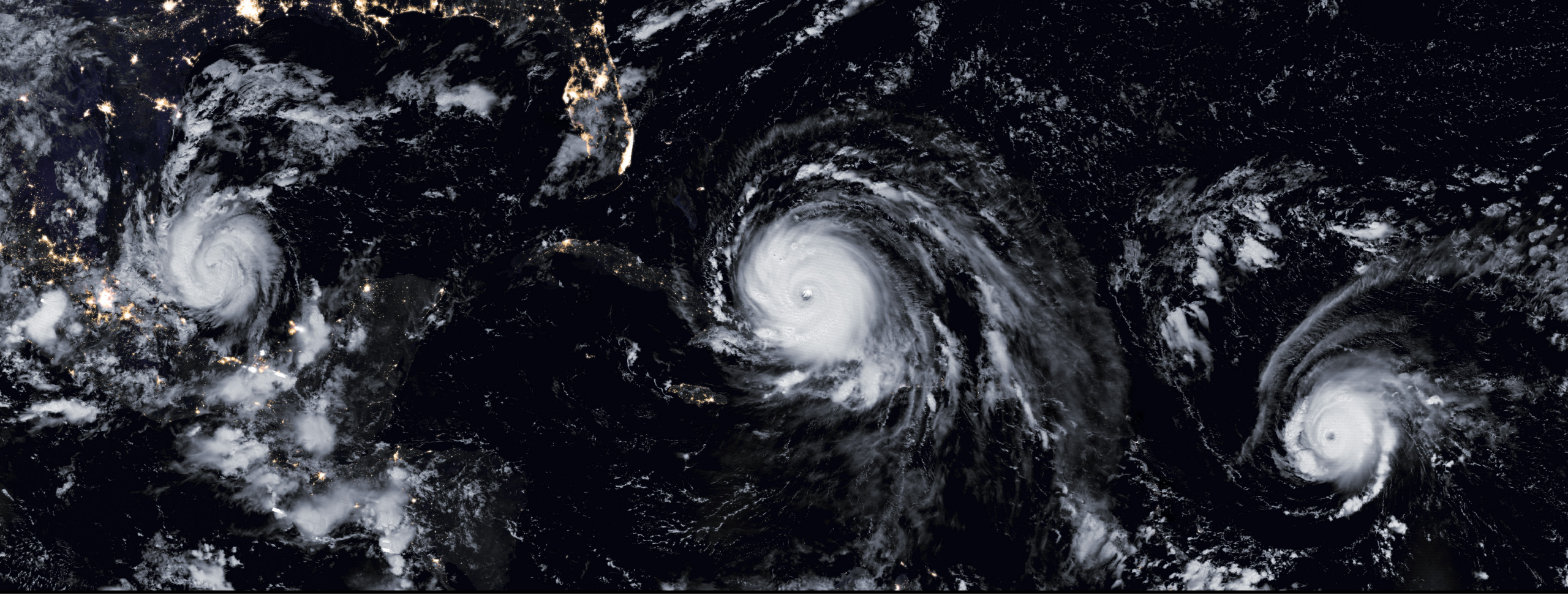
Image Credit: The Weather Channel



# Monitor an Approaching Storm

Data	Source	Tool
Precipitation	GPM IMERG	Giovanni, <a href="http://giovanni.gsfc.nasa.gov/giovanni">http://giovanni.gsfc.nasa.gov/giovanni</a>
Winds and Sea Level Pressure	GEOS-5 Model	<a href="https://fluid.nccs.nasa.gov/weather/wxmaps/">https://fluid.nccs.nasa.gov/weather/wxmaps/</a>
Clouds, True Color Images, Night Light Imagery	Terra and Aqua MODIS, SNPP-VIIRS	Worldview: <a href="https://worldview.earthdata.nasa.gov/">https://worldview.earthdata.nasa.gov/</a>
Alerts, Rain, Storm Surge, Damage, and Destruction Reports	Satellites, Models, Media Reports	GDACS: <a href="http://www.gdacs.org/">http://www.gdacs.org/</a>



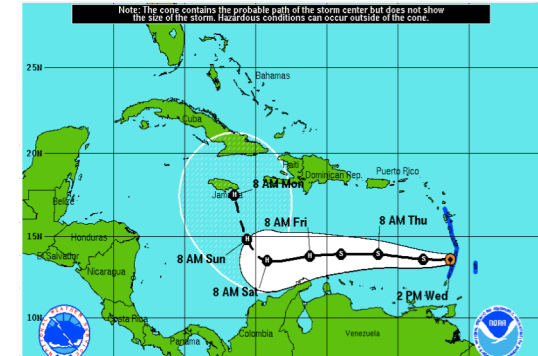


Monitoring Winds, Precipitation, Storm Surge  
Hurricane Matthew  
September 28 – October 9, 2016

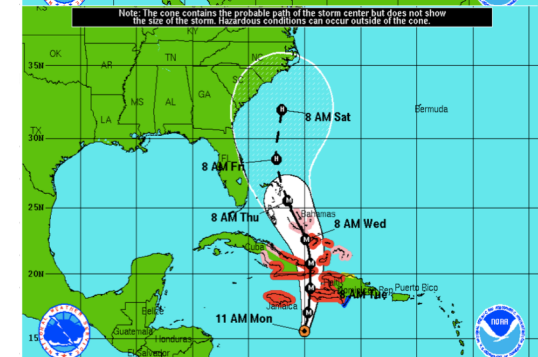
# Monitoring Precipitation and Winds

- Operational centers (NHC, CPHC, JTWC) provide early warnings for hurricanes, cyclones, and typhoons
  - Tracks
  - Forecast maps
  - Wind probability
- GPM IMERG and GEOS-5 data can be used to monitor precipitation and winds

Sept 28



Oct 3



Oct 6



Image Credit: [https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/archive/2016/graphics/all14/loop\\_5W.shtml](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/archive/2016/graphics/all14/loop_5W.shtml)

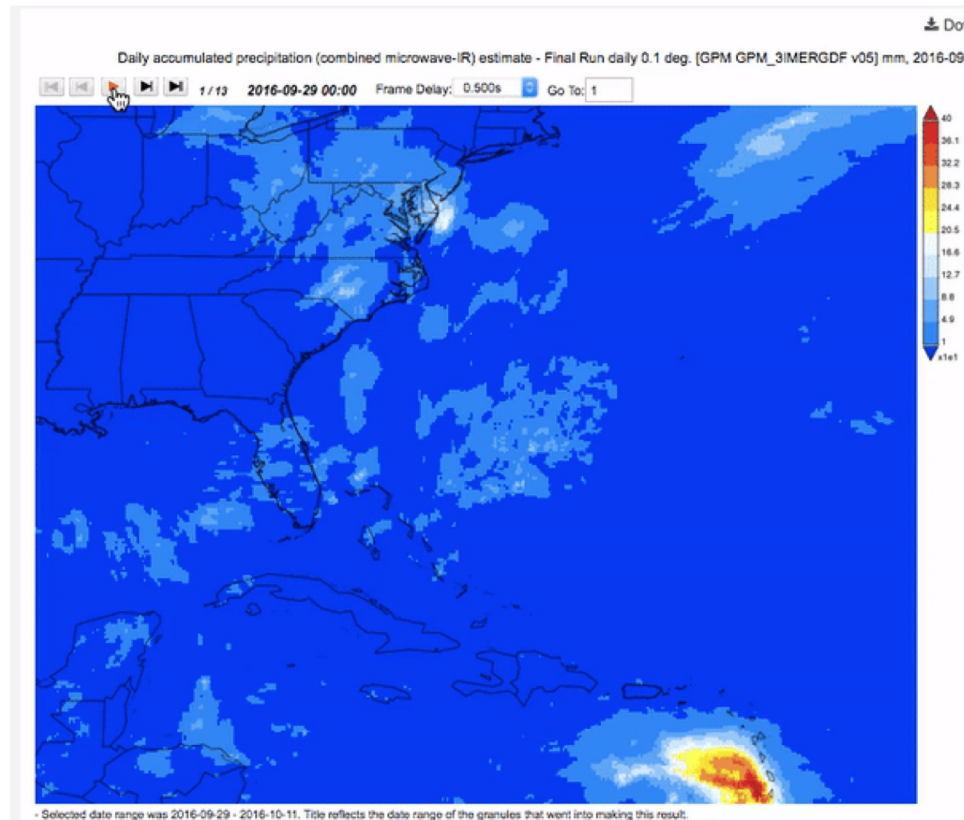


# GPM IMERG Precipitation During Hurricane Matthew

Giovanni: <https://giovanni.gsfc.nasa.gov/giovanni/>

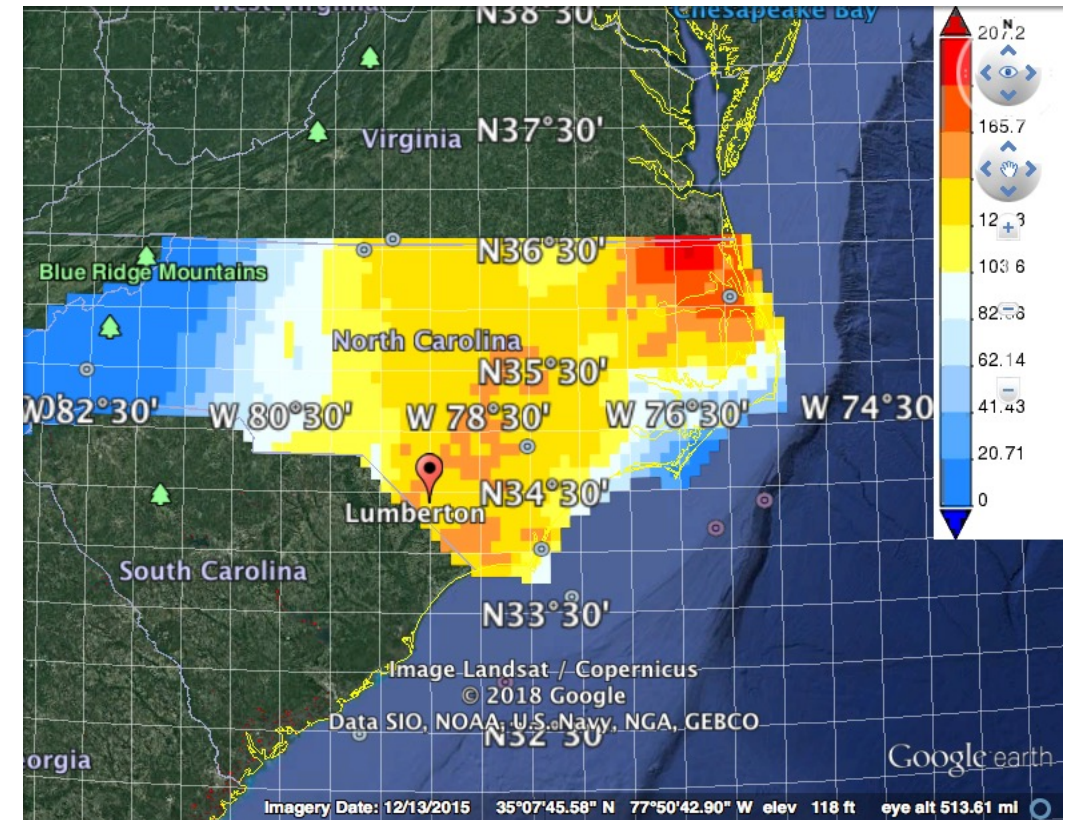
Daily Precipitation

September 29 - October 11, 2016



Accumulated Precipitation

October 6-10, 2016



# GPM IMERG Precipitation During Hurricane Matthew

Giovanni: <https://giovanni.gsfc.nasa.gov/giovanni/>

## Half-Hour Rain Rate in and around Lumberton, NC

Time Series, Area-Averaged of Multi-satellite precipitation estimate with gauge calibration - Final Run (recommended for general use) half-hourly 0.1 deg. [GPM GPM\_3IMERGHH v05] mm/hr over 2016-10-08 00:00Z - 2016-10-11 23:59Z, Region 79W, 34.6N, 79W, 34.6N

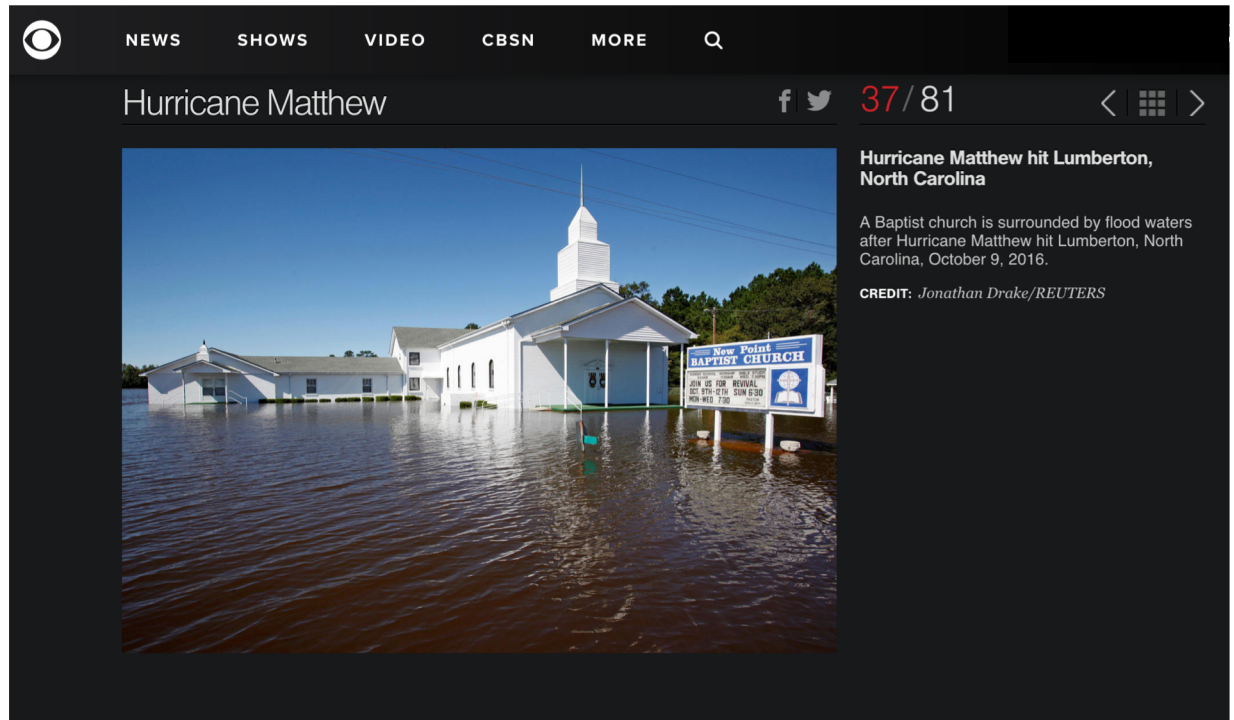
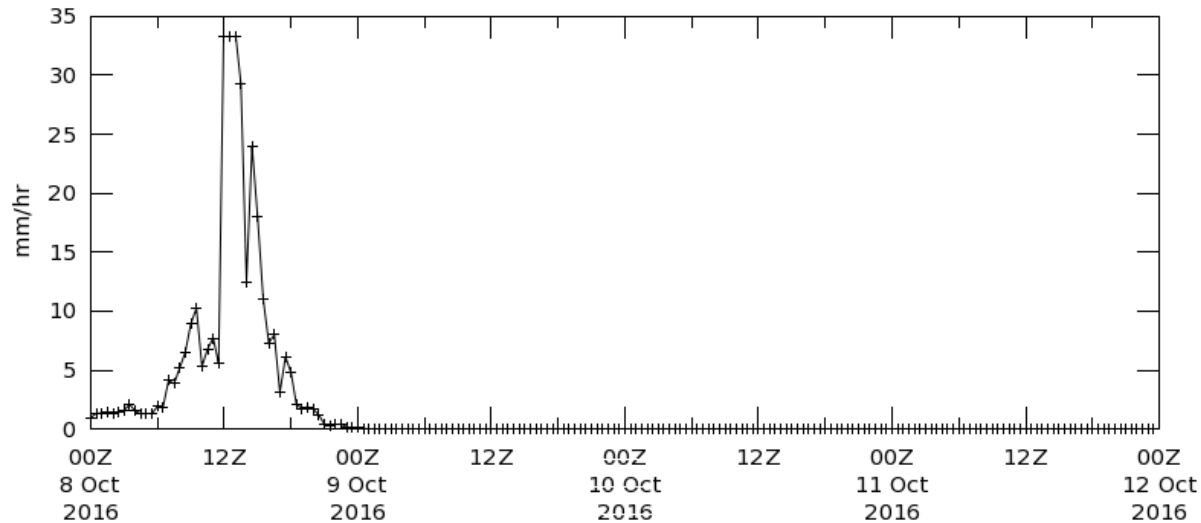




Image Credit: CBS News



# GEOS-5 Winds

<https://fluid.nccs.nasa.gov/weather/>

Global Modeling and Assimilation Office

[Weather](#) | [Seasonal](#) | [Reanalysis](#) | [Mission Support](#)

### Navigation

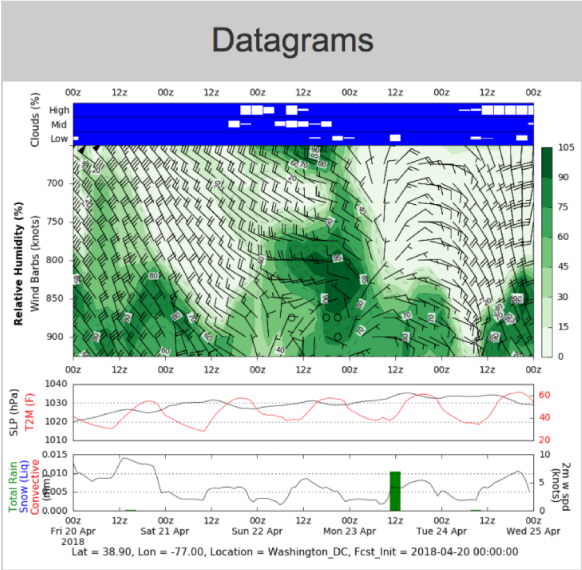
- » Datagrams
- » WxMaps
- » Chem Maps
- » Observing System Stats
- » Radiances Monitoring
- » Observation Impacts
- » WMS Viewer: GEOS Aerosols

### Data Access

- » HTTPS  
[Assimilation](#) | [Forecast](#)
- » OPeNDAP  
[Assimilation](#) | [Forecast](#)
- » FTP (No Password)  
[Assimilation](#) | [Forecast](#)

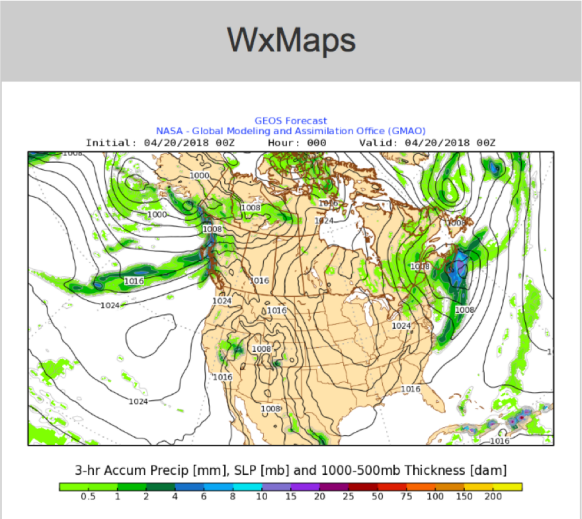
## Weather Analyses and Forecasts

### Datagrams



Lat = 38.90, Lon = -77.00, Location = Washington\_DC, Fcst\_Init = 2018-04-20 00:00:00

### WxMaps



Initial: 04/20/2018 00z Hour: 000 Valid: 04/20/2018 00z

Data



Maps



# GEOS-5 Winds

[https://portal.nccs.nasa.gov/datashare/gmao\\_ops/pub/fp/das/](https://portal.nccs.nasa.gov/datashare/gmao_ops/pub/fp/das/)

## NCCS Dataportal - Datashare

Name	Last modified	Size	Description
Parent Directory			
GEOS.fp.asm.const_2d_asm_Nx.00000000_0000.V01.nc4	17-Apr-2018 05:50	26M	
Y2014/	03-Jun-2015 13:42	-	
Y2015/	01-Dec-2015 11:19	-	
Y2016/	01-Dec-2016 09:35	-	
Y2017/	01-Dec-2017 11:03	-	
Y2018/	01-Apr-2018 13:33	-	

## NCCS Dataportal - Datashare

Name	Last modified	Size	Description
Parent Directory			
M01/	31-Jan-2016 09:52	-	
M02/	29-Feb-2016 10:14	-	
M03/	31-Mar-2016 10:09	-	
M04/	30-Apr-2016 10:09	-	
M05/	31-May-2016 10:44	-	
M06/	30-Jun-2016 10:11	-	
M07/	31-Jul-2016 09:56	-	
M08/	31-Aug-2016 10:06	-	
M09/	30-Sep-2016 09:35	-	
M10/	31-Oct-2016 09:36	-	
M11/	30-Nov-2016 10:05	-	
M12/	31-Dec-2016 09:33	-	

Name Last modified Size Description

Parent Directory			
D01/	02-Oct-2016 09:42	-	
D02/	03-Oct-2016 09:42	-	
D03/	04-Oct-2016 09:41	-	
D04/	05-Oct-2016 09:56	-	
D05/	06-Oct-2016 09:37	-	
D06/	07-Oct-2016 09:42	-	
D07/	08-Oct-2016 13:29	-	
D08/	09-Oct-2016 09:45	-	
D09/	10-Oct-2016 09:49	-	
D10/	11-Oct-2016 09:45	-	
D11/	12-Oct-2016 09:44	-	
D12/	13-Oct-2016 10:00	-	
D13/	14-Oct-2016 09:49	-	
D14/	15-Oct-2016 09:55	-	
D15/	16-Oct-2016 10:12	-	
D16/	17-Oct-2016 11:17	-	
D17/	18-Oct-2016 09:47	-	
D18/	19-Oct-2016 09:41	-	
D19/	20-Oct-2016 09:43	-	
D20/	21-Oct-2016 10:19	-	
D21/	22-Oct-2016 09:55	-	
D22/	23-Oct-2016 09:49	-	

GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_0030.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 09:38	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_0130.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 09:38	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_0230.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 09:38	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_0330.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 13:56	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_0430.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 13:56	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_0530.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 13:56	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_0630.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 13:56	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_0730.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 13:56	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_0830.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 13:56	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_0930.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 20:53	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_1030.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 20:53	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_1130.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 20:53	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_1230.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 20:53	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_1330.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 20:53	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_1430.V01.nc4	09-Oct-2016 20:53	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_1530.V01.nc4	10-Oct-2016 01:54	47M	
GEOS.fp.asm.tavg1_2d_slv_Nx.20161009_1630.V01.nc4	10-Oct-2016 01:54	47M	

### Data Access

» HTTPS

Assimilation | Forecast

» OPeNDAP

Assimilation | Forecast

» FTP (No Password)

Assimilation | Forecast

HTTP Files

Year & Month

Day


Hourly File Name



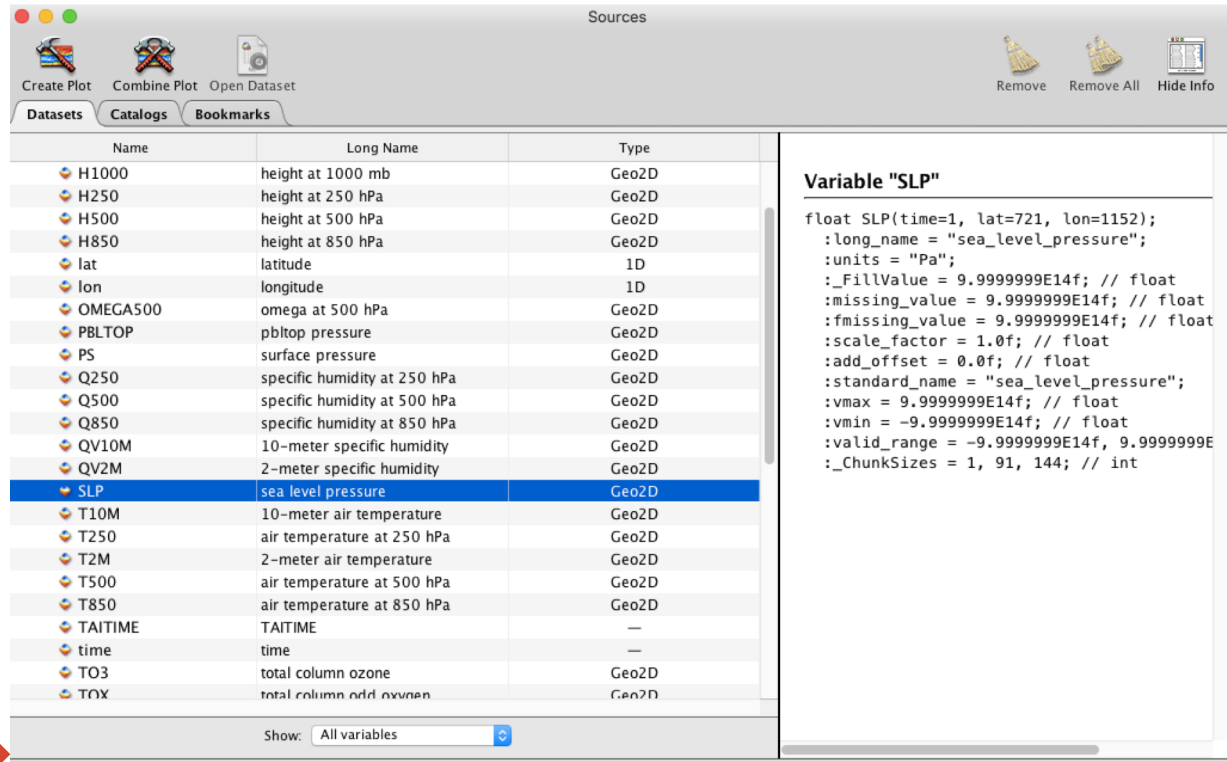


# GEOS-5 Winds During a Cyclone

[https://portal.nccs.nasa.gov/datashare/gmao\\_ops/pub/fp/das/](https://portal.nccs.nasa.gov/datashare/gmao_ops/pub/fp/das/)

- Download Single Level (SLV) files (hourly\_ during a cyclone
  - See this document for filename convention:  
[https://gmao.gsfc.nasa.gov/products/documents/GEOS\\_5\\_FP\\_File\\_Specification\\_ON4v1\\_1.pdf](https://gmao.gsfc.nasa.gov/products/documents/GEOS_5_FP_File_Specification_ON4v1_1.pdf)
- Download and install Panoply (analysis and visualization tool)
  - Instructions:  
<https://www.giss.nasa.gov/tools/panoply/download>
- Open the SLV file using Panoply 

SLV File for 13:30Z, October 9, 2016  
Opened in Panoply



The screenshot shows the Panoply 'Sources' window. On the left, a table lists various datasets with columns for Name, Long Name, and Type. The 'SLP' dataset is highlighted. On the right, the variable definition for 'SLP' is displayed in a code block.

Name	Long Name	Type
H1000	height at 1000 mb	Geo2D
H250	height at 250 hPa	Geo2D
H500	height at 500 hPa	Geo2D
H850	height at 850 hPa	Geo2D
lat	latitude	1D
lon	longitude	1D
OMEGA500	omega at 500 hPa	Geo2D
PBLTOP	pbtop pressure	Geo2D
PS	surface pressure	Geo2D
Q250	specific humidity at 250 hPa	Geo2D
Q500	specific humidity at 500 hPa	Geo2D
Q850	specific humidity at 850 hPa	Geo2D
QV10M	10-meter specific humidity	Geo2D
QV2M	2-meter specific humidity	Geo2D
SLP	sea level pressure	Geo2D
T10M	10-meter air temperature	Geo2D
T250	air temperature at 250 hPa	Geo2D
T2M	2-meter air temperature	Geo2D
T500	air temperature at 500 hPa	Geo2D
T850	air temperature at 850 hPa	Geo2D
TAITIME	TAITIME	—
time	time	—
TO3	total column ozone	Geo2D
TOX	total column odd oxygen	Geo2D

```
Variable "SLP"
float SLP(time=1, lat=721, lon=1152);
:long_name = "sea_level_pressure";
:units = "Pa";
:_FillValue = 9.999999E14f; // float
:missing_value = 9.999999E14f; // float
:fmissing_value = 9.999999E14f; // float
:scale_factor = 1.0f; // float
:add_offset = 0.0f; // float
:standard_name = "sea_level_pressure";
:vmx = 9.999999E14f; // float
:vmin = -9.999999E14f; // float
:valid_range = -9.999999E14f, 9.999999E14f;
:_ChunkSizes = 1, 91, 144; // int
```

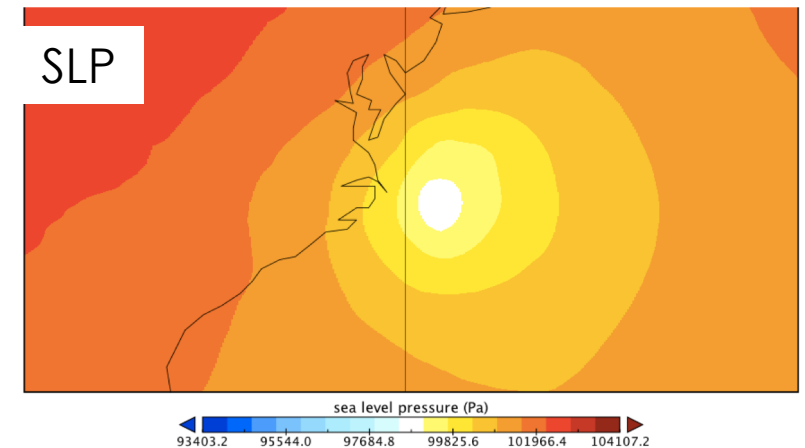
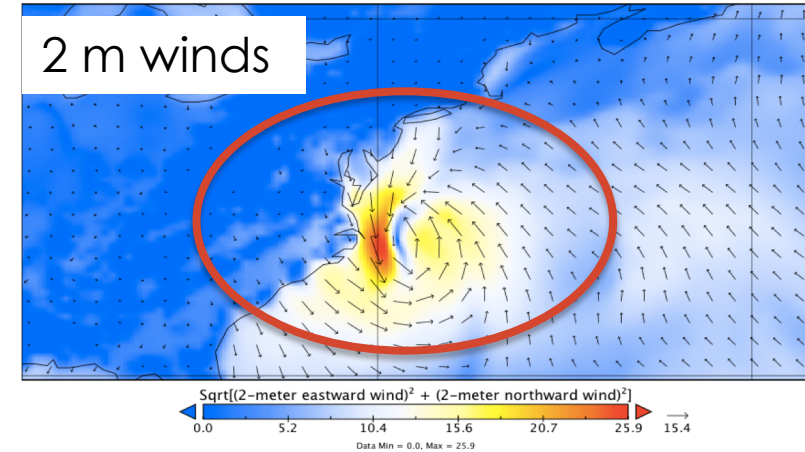


# GEOS-5 Winds During Hurricane Matthew

[https://portal.nccs.nasa.gov/datashare/gmao\\_ops/pub/fp/das/](https://portal.nccs.nasa.gov/datashare/gmao_ops/pub/fp/das/)

- Plot wind speed and wind vectors using Panoply
- GEOS-5 winds and sea level pressure (SLP) for near real-time and forecasts can be examined using Panoply

13:30Z, October 9, 2016



# Monitoring Storm Surge: U.S.

<http://slosh.nws.noaa.gov/>

- Based on Sea Lake and Overland Surge from Hurricanes (SLOSH)
- The SLOSH model computes storm surge heights from tropical cyclones to create a model of the wind field using
  - Pressure
  - Size
  - forward speed
  - track data
- Applies to:
  - The entire U.S. East coast, Gulf of Mexico, Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U. S. Virgin Islands coastal regions

The screenshot shows the MDL Storm Surge website with the following content:

- MDL STORM SURGE** NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
- Navigation tabs: MDL SURGE PRODUCTS, STORM SURGE INFO, PARTNER LINKS, ORGANIZATION
- Section: Home | Team | Products | Software
- Product thumbnails: SLOSH Model, SLOSH Display Program, P-Surge (circled in red), ET-Surge 1.0 Mirror, ET-Surge 2.0, P-ETSS, Meteorol Devel Lab, Decision Support, MDL Storm Surge, Storm Surge V-Lab, National Hur Center, Ocean Pred Center
- Storm Surge Info
  - [NOAA Storm Surge Info](#)
  - [MDL Storm Surge Info](#)
  - [NHC Storm Surge Info](#)
  - [Publications - MDL Storm Surge](#)
  - [FAQ - MDL Storm Surge](#)
  - [MDL Catalog of ET Surge Guidance](#)
  - [NOAA Accessing ET Guidance](#)
- Water Guidance
  - [Advanced Hydrological Pred. System](#)
  - [Tides Online](#)
  - [Now Coast](#)
  - [CO-OPS Stations](#)
- Wind Guidance
  - [GFS Guidance](#)
  - [HWRF Guidance](#)
- Other MDL Surge Products
  - [ESTOFS](#)
  - [About SLOSH Basin Dev \(TBD\)](#)
  - [About ETSS \(Retired/TBD\)](#)
- Retired Websites
  - [ETSS \(v2.0\) Original \(Retired\)](#)
  - [ETSS \(v2.0\) Original-Mirror \(Retired\)](#)
  - [P-Surge 1.0 \(Retired\)](#)
  - [MDL Evaluation Branch \(Retired\)](#)

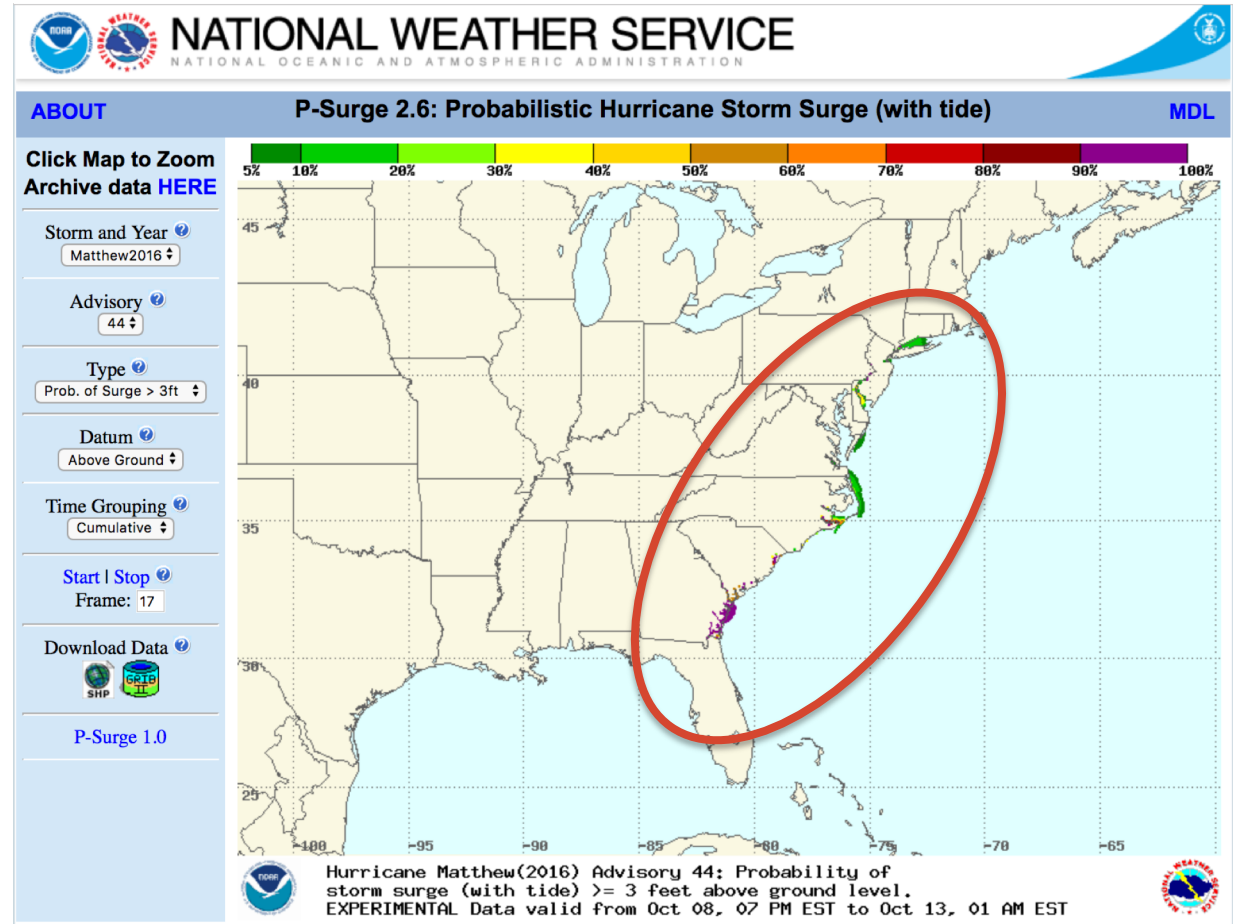
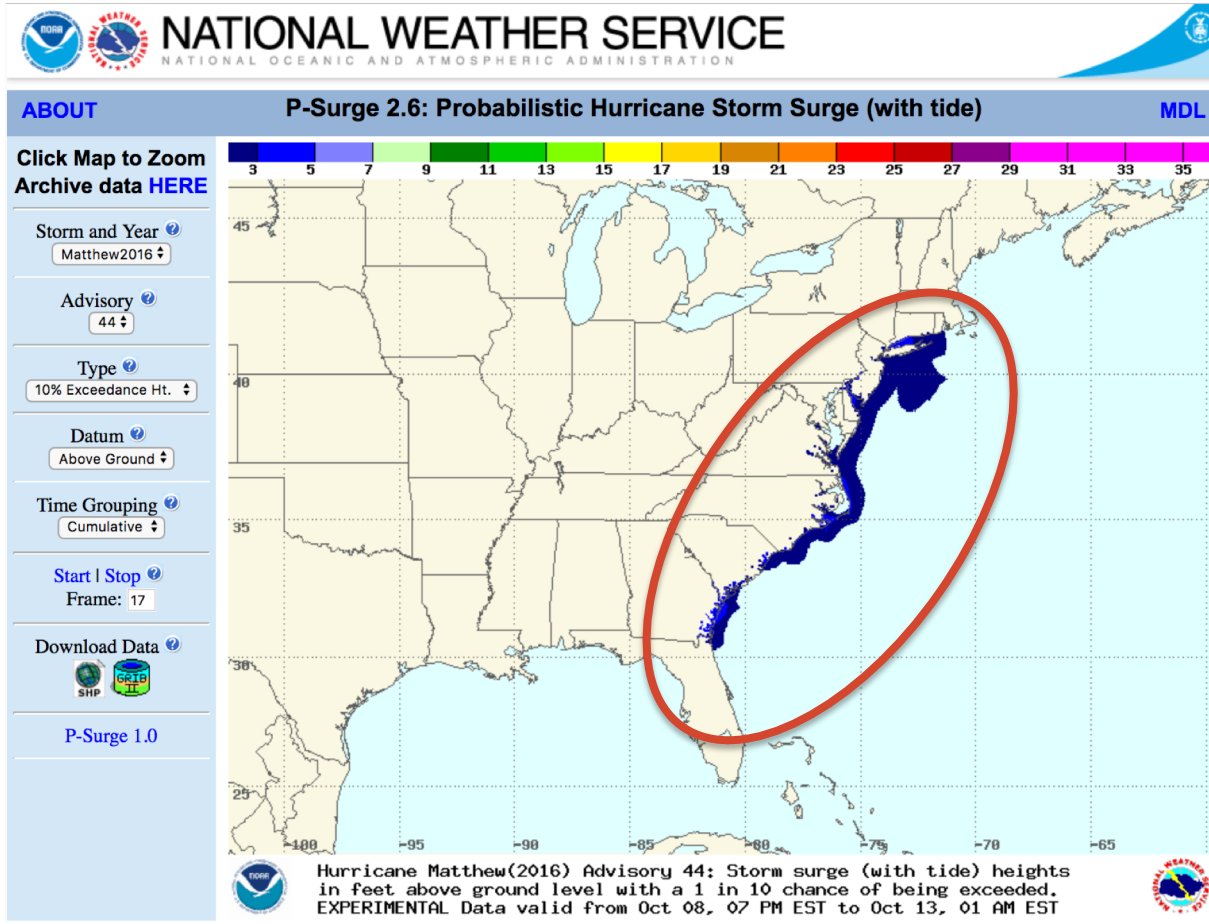
Probabilistic Hurricane Storm Surge



# Monitoring Storm Surge: Hurricane Matthew

<http://slosh.nws.noaa.gov/psurge/>

Areas with probability of surge > 3 ft

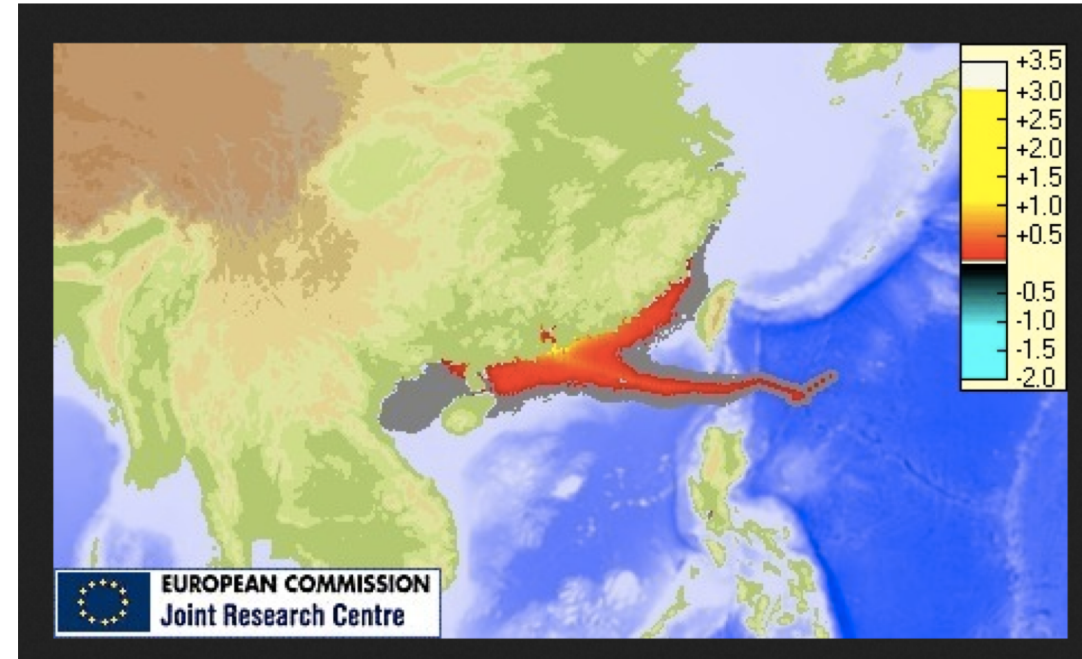


# Monitoring Storm Surge: Global

Hurricane Matthew  
Maximum Surge



Cyclone Hato (Aug 2017)  
Maximum Surge



Based on Joint Research Center Storm Surge Calculation Model (Delf3D)

<http://bit.ly/2J9kP7d>

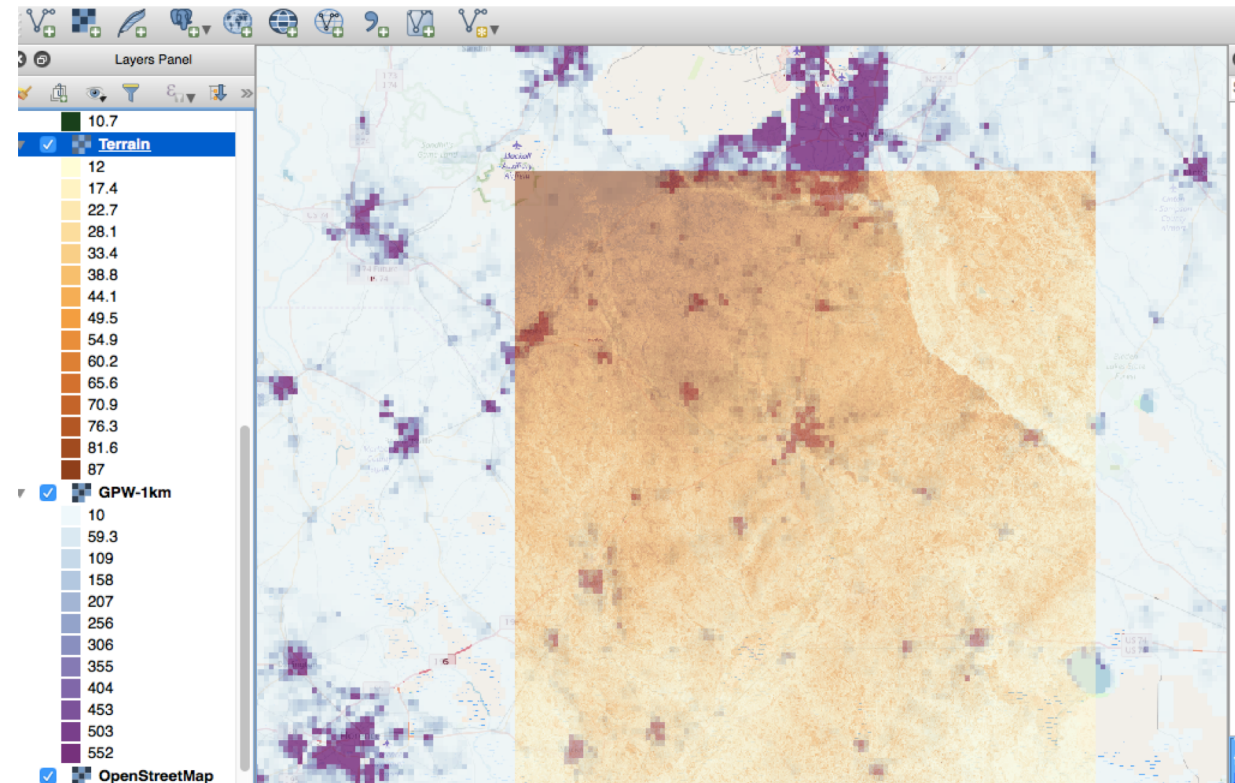
Image Credits: [WEBCRITECH - JRC](http://www.webcritech.com)

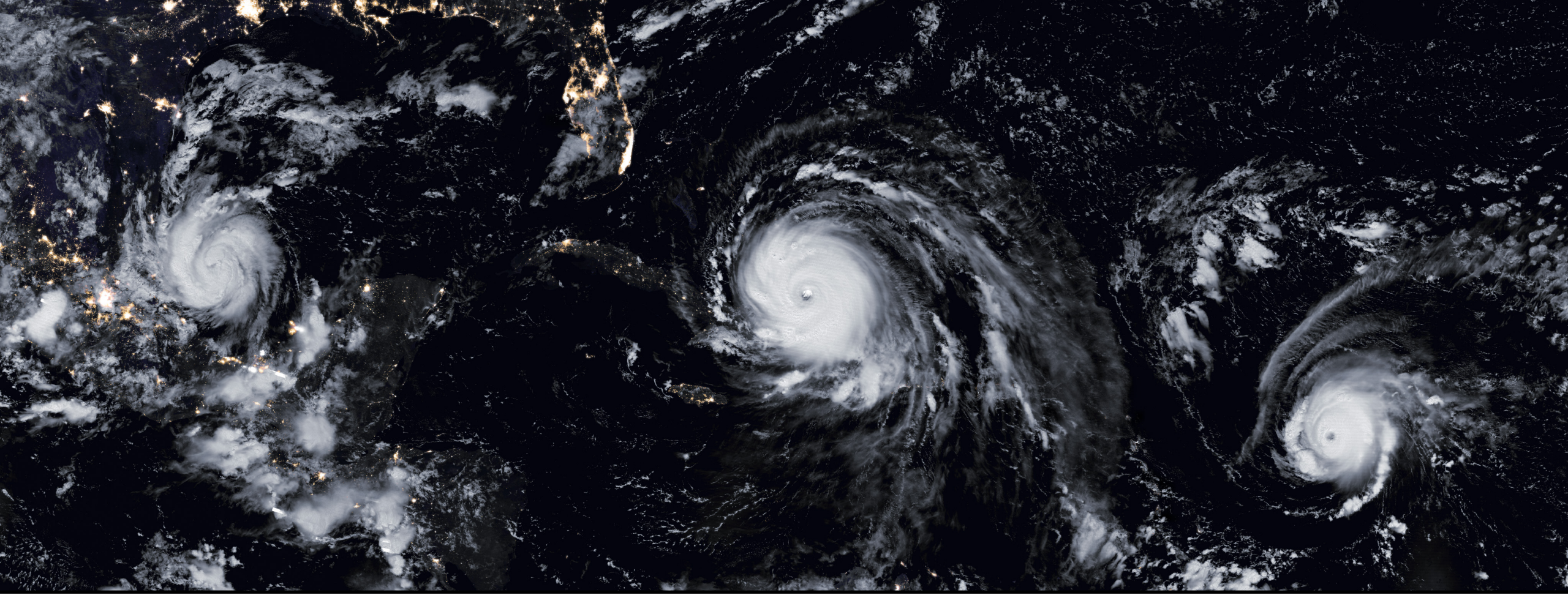


# Terrain, Roads, and Population Data for Emergency Planning

- SRTM terrain, obtained from GDEX:
  - <https://gdex.cr.usgs.gov/gdex/>
- Population density per km obtained from SEDAC
  - <http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/>
- Import data into geospatial software (e.g. QGIS)

North Carolina





## Monitoring Flooding During and After Storms for Emergency Response Planning

# Remote Sensing-Based Flood Detection

There are three approaches to using remote sensing observations for flood monitoring:

1. Hydrology models that derive streamflow and runoff, using precipitation and weather data from satellites and models
2. Infer flooding conditions using satellite-derived precipitation
3. Detect flood water on previously dry land surfaces using satellite-derived land cover observations

Note: Each flooding tool also uses model and/or surface-based data in addition to satellite data

Learn more in ARSET's Advanced Webinar: [Using NASA Remote Sensing for Flood Monitoring and Management](#)





# Precipitation-Based Flood Tools

- ERDS uses GPM-IMERG
- GFMS uses TRMM Multi-satellite Precipitation Analysis (TMPA) data
- GFMS will be transitioning to using GPM-IMERG data



# Extreme Rainfall Detection System (ERDS)

<http://erds.ithacaweb.org/>

- Uses near real-time GPM IMERG precipitation data and NOAA Global Forecasting System (GFS) rainfall for monitoring and forecasting accumulated rainfall
- The Global Precipitation Climatology Center land-based rain gauge mean data are used as reference to calculate extreme rainfall thresholds

- ERDS is one of the tools used by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) Emergency Preparedness Unit



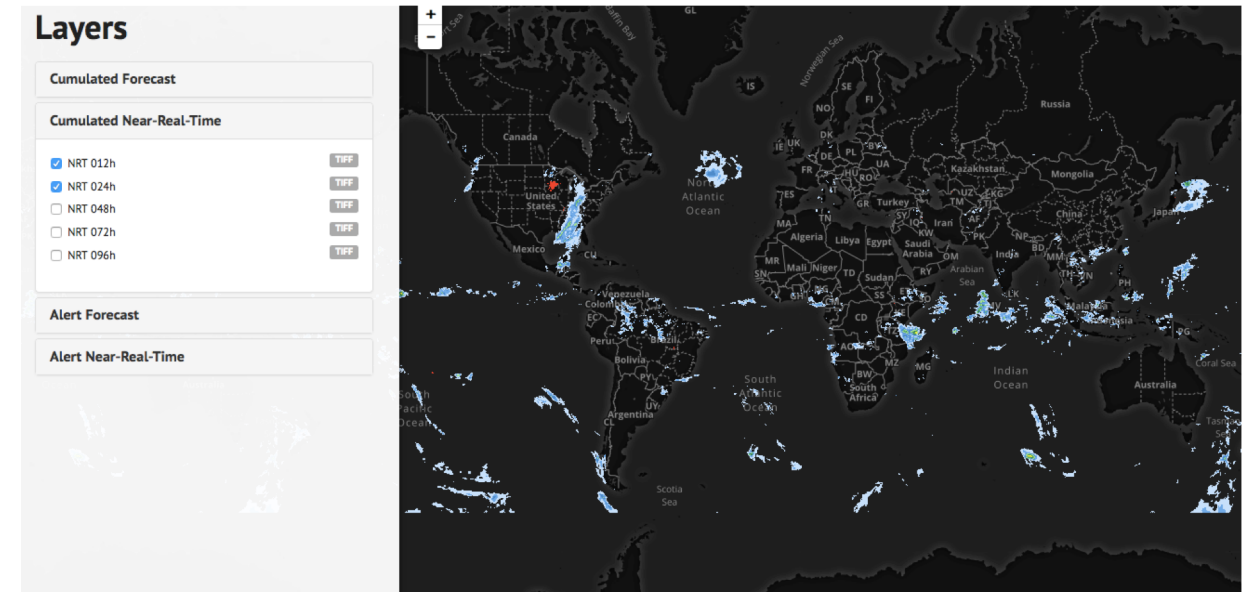
# Extreme Rainfall Detection System (ERDS)

<http://erds.ithacaweb.org/>

- Provides cumulative precipitation based on near real-time IMERG data and 6-day GFS Forecast
- Provides alerts for extreme rainfall and potential flooding
- Experimental product – needs verification at local scale

Demonstration of ERDS

## 24 Hour Accumulated Rain



Last analyzed GPM date: 15 Apr 2018 - 18:59 UTC  
Last analyzed GFS date: 17 Apr 2018 - 00:00 UTC



# Global Flood Monitoring System (GFMS)

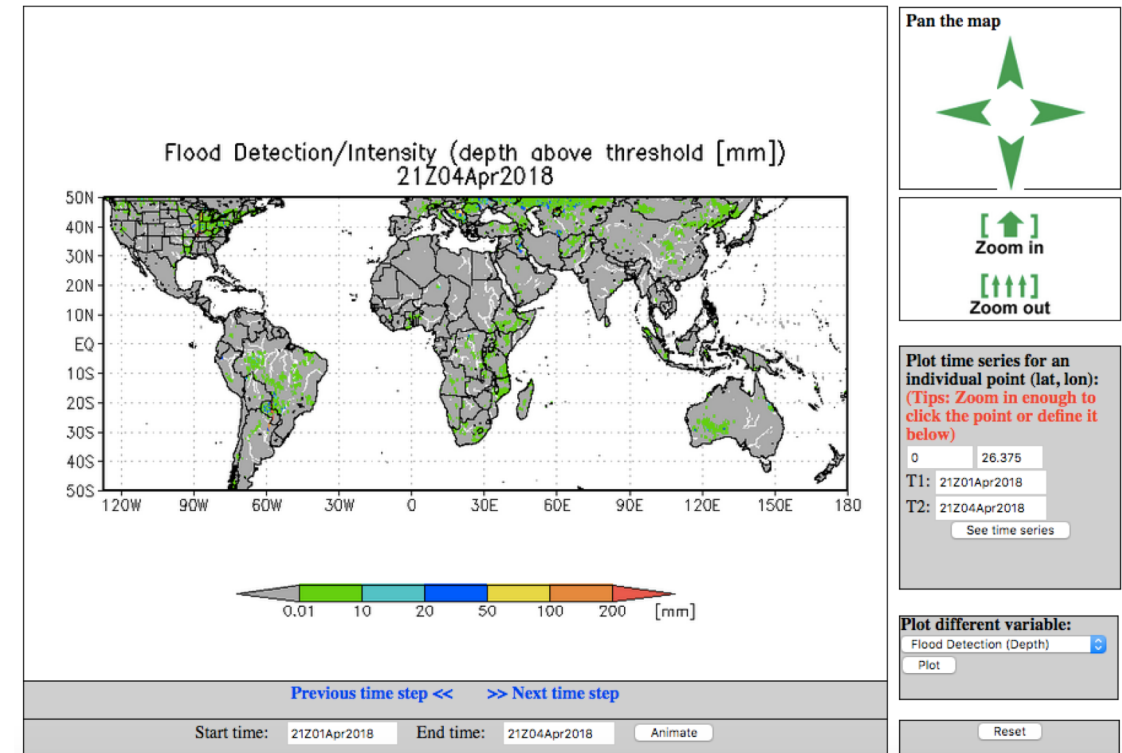
<http://flood.umd.edu/>

- Provides global maps, time series, and animations (50°S-50°N) of:
  - instantaneous rain rate every 3 hrs
  - accumulated rain over 24, 72, and 168 hrs
  - streamflow rates and flood intensity at 1/8th degree (~12 km) and 1 km
  - Near real-time and archives since 2013

Note: TRMM is no longer flying, but TRMM-based calibration is used to provide near real-time rainfall from a constellation of national & international satellites for flooding applications. Near real-time IMERG data available from:

<ftp://jsimpson.pps.eosdis.nasa.gov>

## Interactive Features



# GFMS

<http://flood.umd.edu/>

- Uses a hydrological model together with:
  - TMPA
  - Surface temperature and winds from NASA reanalysis model, Modern Era Retrospective Analysis for Research and Applications (MERRA)
  - Runoff generation from the UW Variable Infiltration Capacity (VIC) model
  - Runoff routing model from UMD

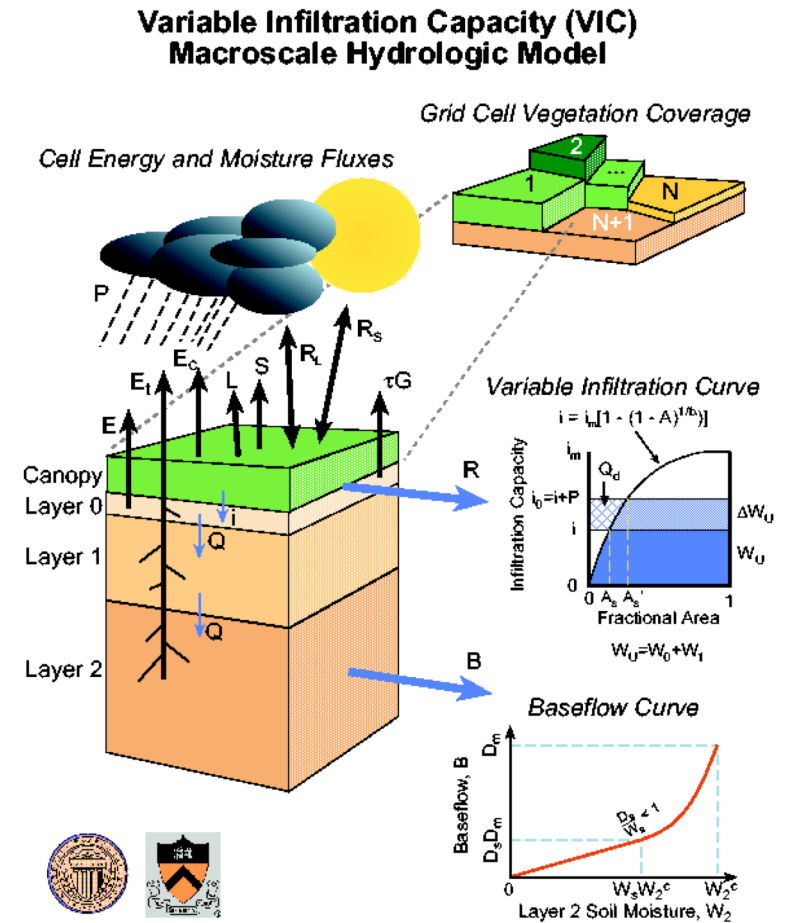
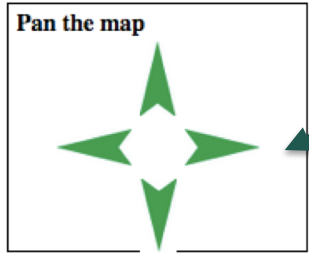
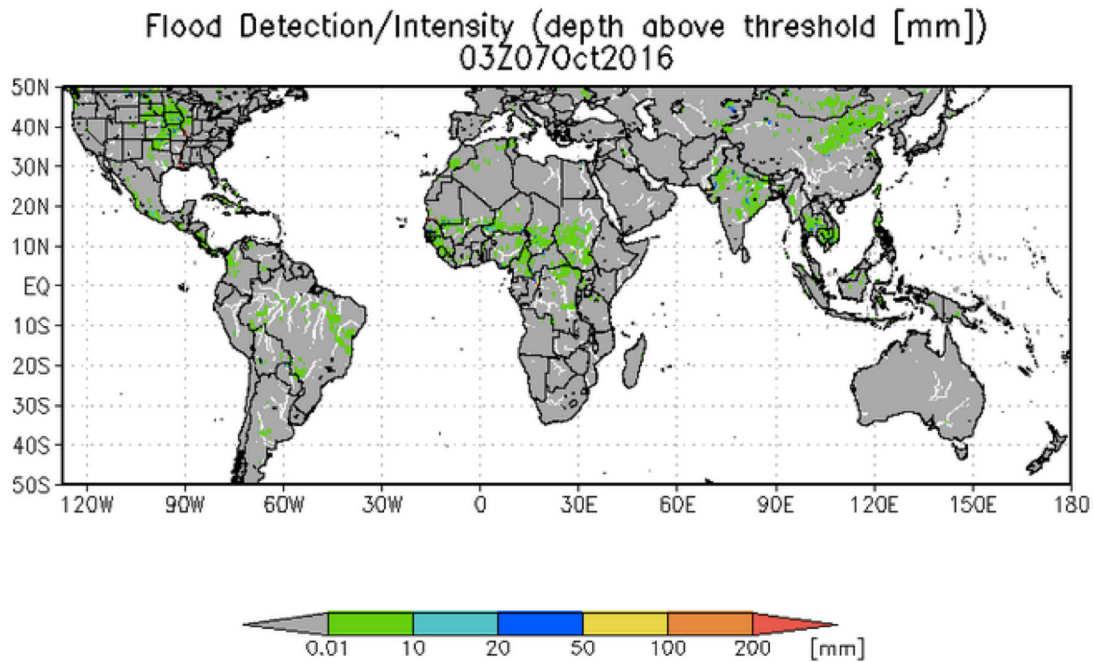


Image Credit: [UW VIC Macroscale Hydrologic Model](#); References: Wu, H., R. F. Adler, Y. Tian, G. J. Huffman, H. Li, and J. Wang (2014), Real-time global flood estimation using satellite-based precipitation and a coupled land surface and routing model, *Water Resour. Res.*, 50, 2693-2717, doi:10.1002/2013WR014710.; Wu H., R. F. Adler, Y. Hong, Y. Tian, and F. Policelli (2012), Evaluation of Global Flood Detection Using Satellite-Based Rainfall and a Hydrologic Model. *J. Hydrometeorol.*, 13, 1268-1284

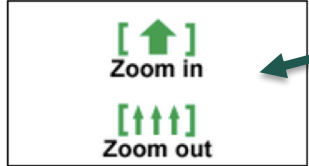


# GFMS

<http://flood.umd.edu/>



Map Navigation



Zoom in/out

Plot time series for an individual point (lat, lon):  
(Tips: Zoom in enough to click the point or define it below)

61.76 -152.4

T1: 03Z07Oct2016  
T2: 21Z07Oct2016

See time series

Select individual grid point for time series data

Plot different variable:

Flood Detection (Depth)

Plot

Plot different variables

Previous time step << >> Next time step

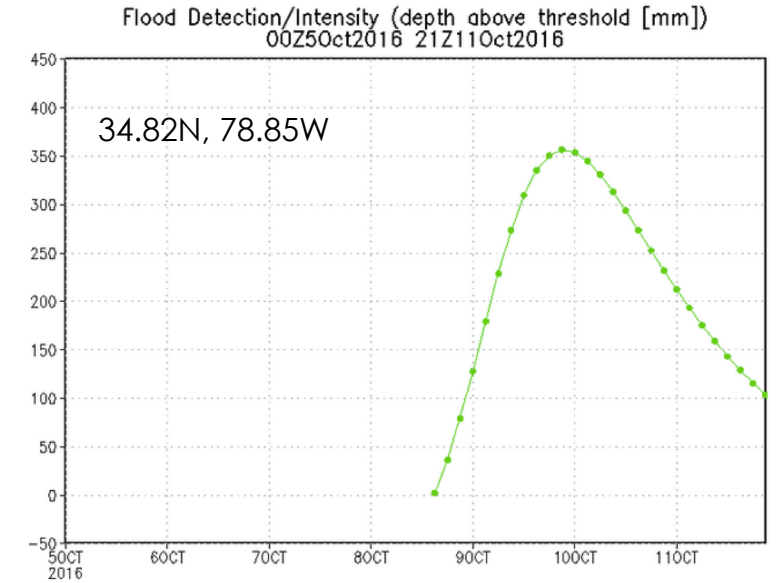
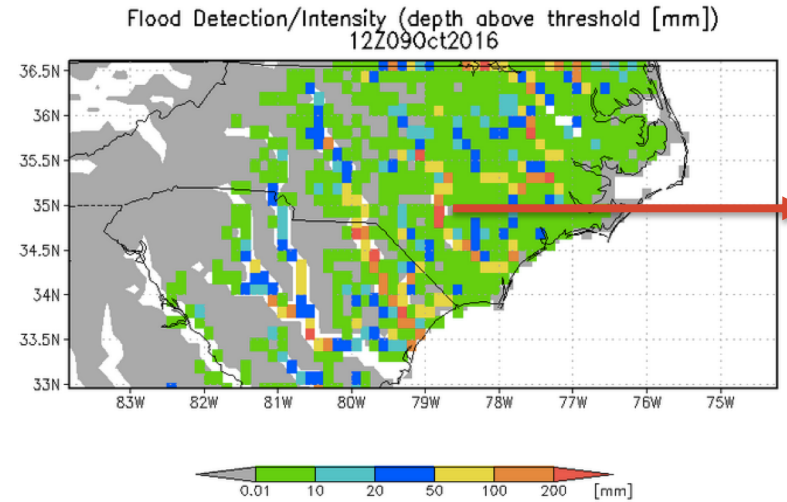
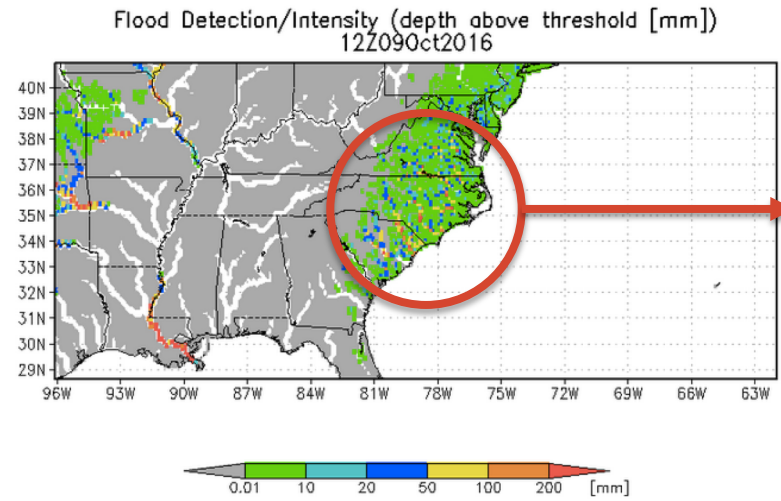
Start time: 03Z07Oct2016 End time: 21Z07Oct2016 Animate

Reset

Animation



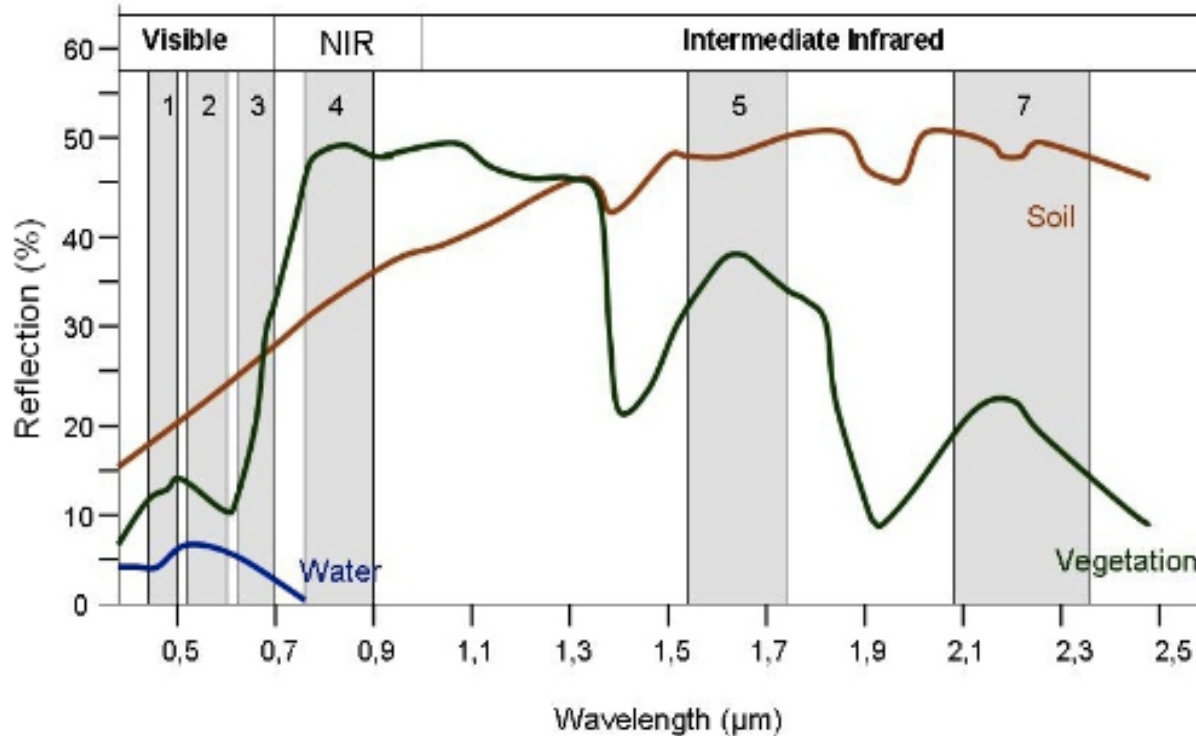
# GFMS: Flooding from Hurricane Matthew



# Land Cover Based Flooding Tools

## Visible Radiation

- Reflected by the surface and depends on surface type



## Used for Flood Mapping

- Source
  - Terra/Aqua MODerate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) reflectance changes
- Tools
  - MODIS NRT Flood Mapping
  - Dartmouth Flood Observatory

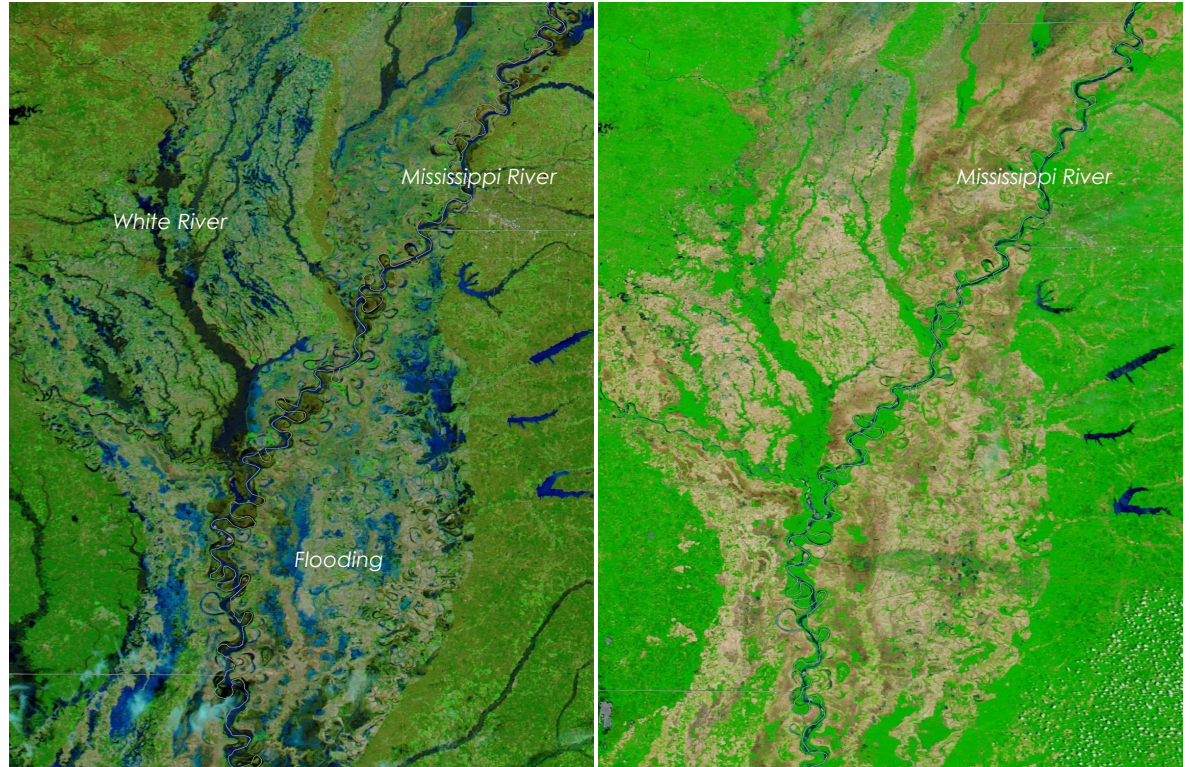




# MODIS-Based Inundation Mapping

- MODIS provides observations 1-2 times per day
- Certain bands indicate water on previously dry surfaces:
  - Band 1: 620-670 nm
  - Band 2: 841-876 nm
  - Band 7: 2105-2155 nm
- Mapped with respect to a global reference database of water bodies
- MODIS cannot see the surface in the presence of clouds

## Mississippi River Flooding 2016



MODIS (Aqua)  
Mar 15, 2016

MODIS (Terra)  
May 13, 2016



# MODIS NRT Global Flood Mapping

<http://oas.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

- Based on MODIS reflectance at 250 m resolution composited on 2, 3, and 14 days
- Flood maps available on 10°x10° tile
- Permanent and surface flood water data available
- Cloud or terrain shadows can be misinterpreted as surface water
- Provides near real-time flood mapping since Jan 2013

**NRT Global Flood Mapping**

**Global Map**  
Click for ArcGIS Portal map interface

10° Flood Map Tile Production

For more information, please contact floodmap at [lists.nasa.gov](mailto:lists.nasa.gov)  
**NOTE: THIS IS AN EXPERIMENTAL PRODUCT AND SYSTEM**

**News/Status**  
11-Nov-2014: ArcGIS Online Map available.  
10-Nov-2014: MODIS flood product evaluation report available.  
[> Go to News/Status page](#)

**Data Viewer**  
Product Description  
Documents  
Future Enhancements  
News/Status

**Mailing list**  
To subscribe to our mailing list to receive email notification of updates, please, click here.

NASA Official: Frederick Policell  
Page Last Updated: January 13, 2015  
[Privacy Policy & Important Notices](#)  
[Contact Us](#)



# MODIS NRT Global Flood Mapping: Available Quantities

<http://oas.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

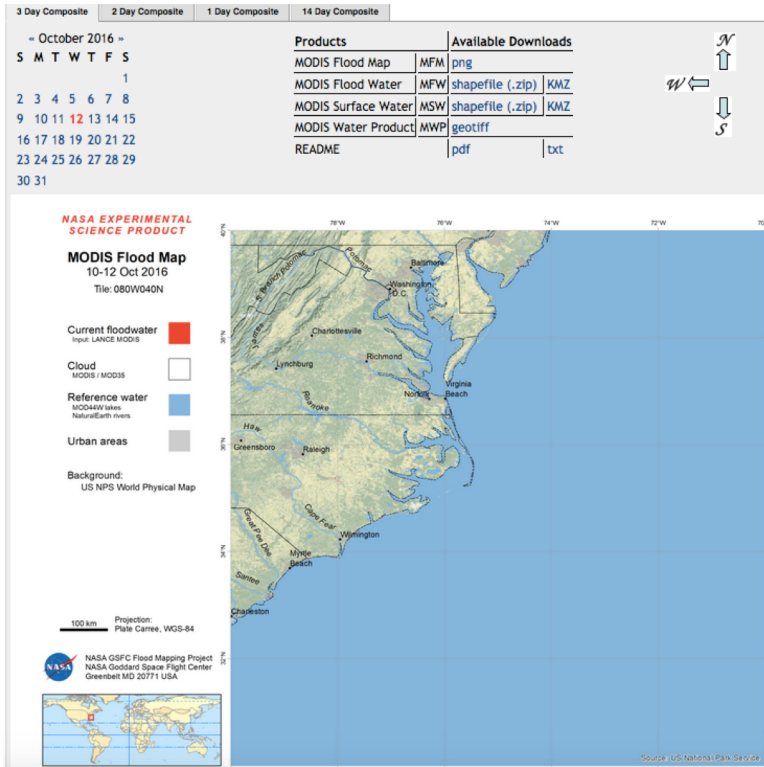
Products		Available Downloads	
MODIS Flood Map	MFM	png	
MODIS Flood Water	MFW	shapefile (.zip)	KMZ
MODIS Surface Water	MSW	shapefile (.zip)	KMZ
MODIS Water Product	MWP	geotiff	
README		pdf	txt



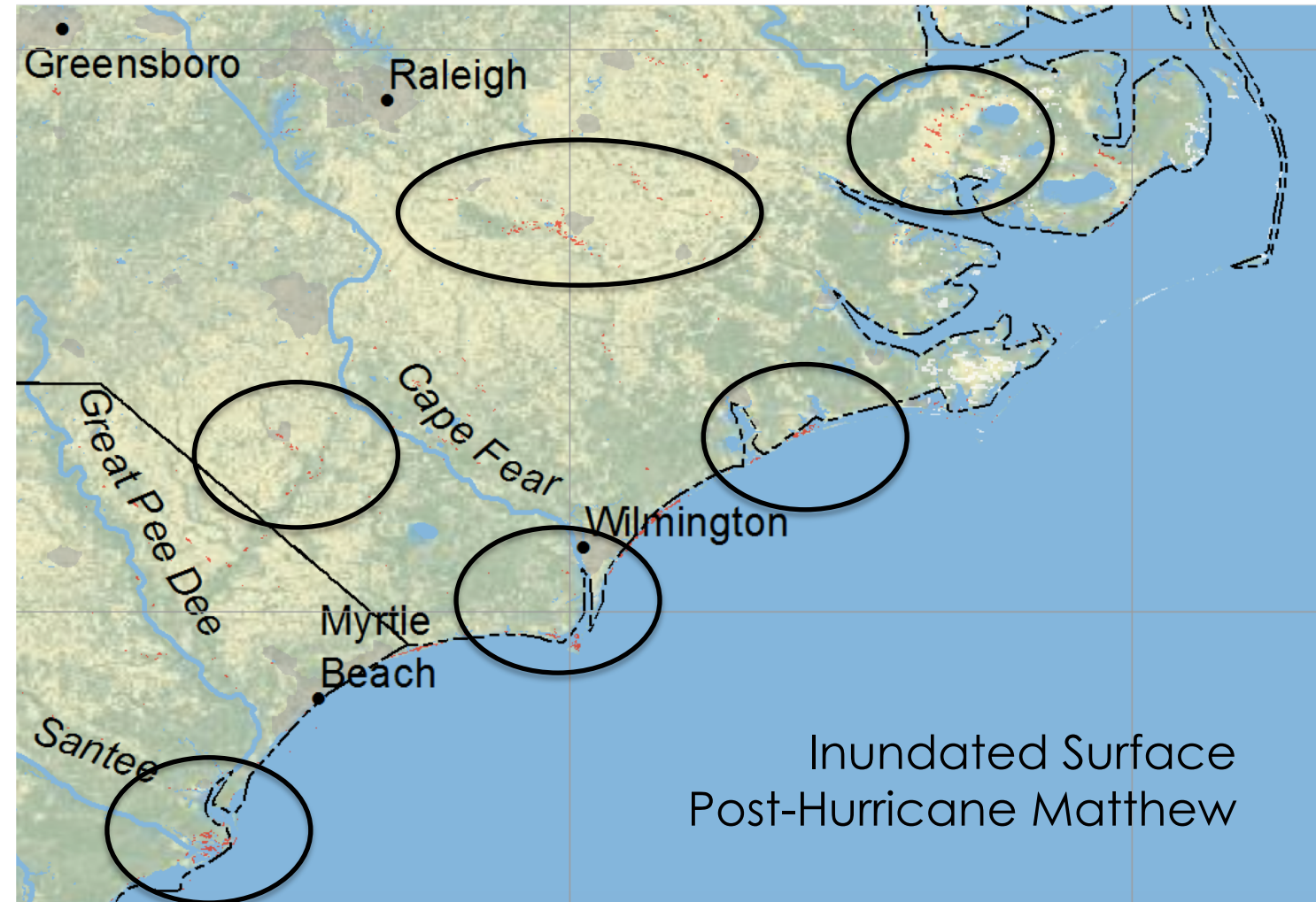
# MODIS NRT Global Flood Mapping: North Carolina Oct 10-12, 2016

<http://oas.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

Tile 80W40N



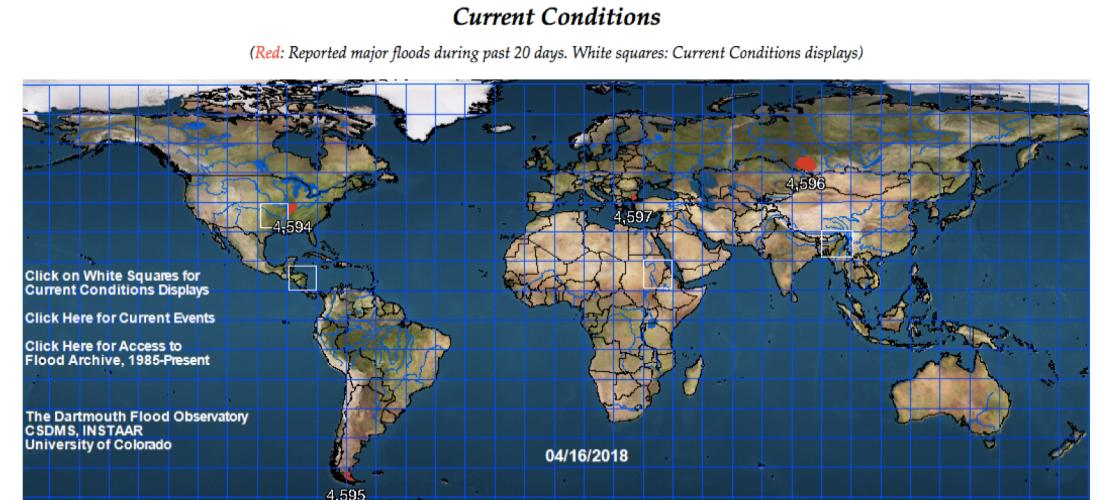
Note: MODIS cannot see the surface when clouds are present



# Dartmouth Flood Observatory (DFO)

<http://floodobservatory.colorado.edu/>

- Uses flood mapping based on MODIS reflectance
  - same as MODIS NRT
- Also uses Landsat 8, EO-1, and ASTER images
  - uses COSMO-SkyMed and Sentinel-1 synthetic aperture radar (SAR) when available)
- Current flood events are analyzed with multiple data sources, including media report



- Provides near real-time, current, and past flood event mapping
- Red areas (above) indicate inundated surfaces

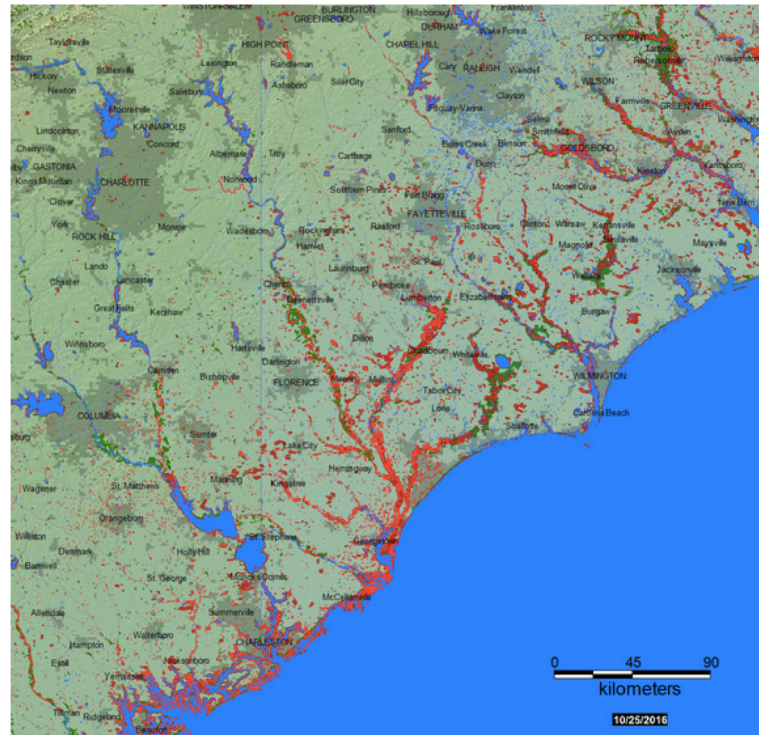


# DFO: Flooding Due to Hurricane Matthew

<https://floodobservatory.colorado.edu/Events/2016USA4402/2016USA4402.html>

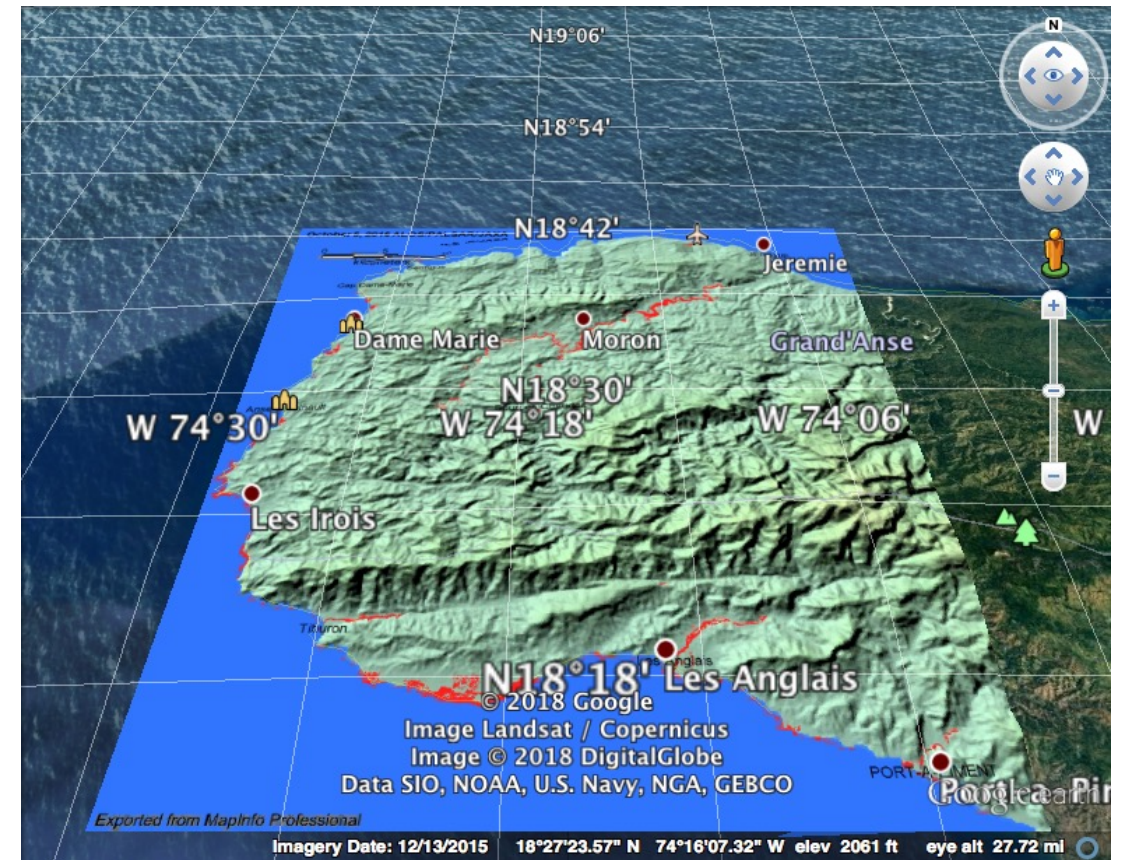
Flooded Areas for Previous 14 Days  
(MODIS)

*Flood Map (Southeastern U.S. Coast and Vicinity)*  
*Red colors are flood water during past 14 days from MODIS 250 m and Landsat 8 data. Green is previous flooding, 2000-present. Dark blue is permanent surface water*



[Credit version](#)

Flood Map (Grand'Anse SUD, Haiti)  
JAXA ALOS/PALSAR: October 5, 2016



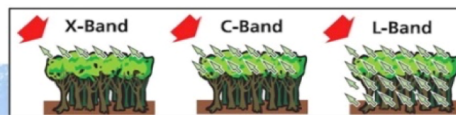
# Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Imagery For Flood Detection

<https://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/disasters/webinars/intro-SAR>

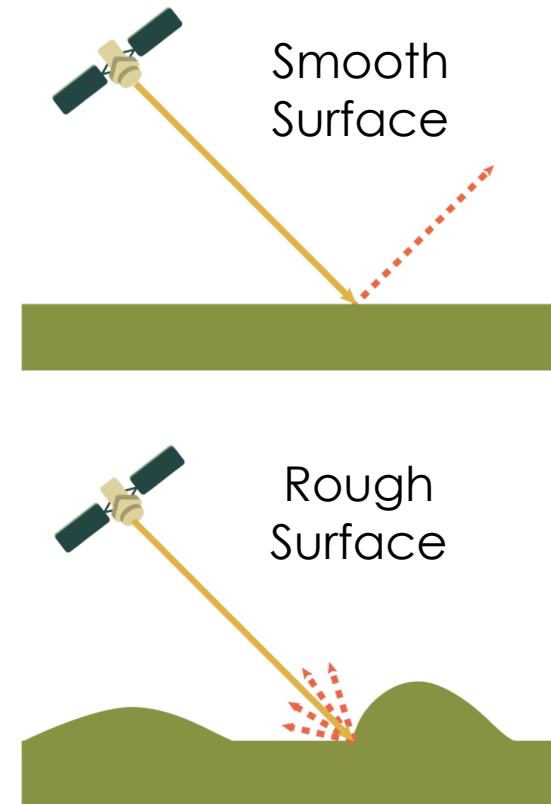
- SAR is an active sensor operating in microwave frequencies – collect backscattered signal
- The backscatter signal is primarily sensitive to surface structure
- The scale of the objects on the surface relative to the wavelength determine how rough or smooth they appear to the radar signal and how bright or dark they will appear on the image

Commonly Used Frequency Bands

Frequency band	Frequency range	Application Example
• VHF	300 KHz - 300 MHz	Foliage/Ground penetration, biomass
• P-Band	300 MHz - 1 GHz	biomass, soil moisture, penetration
• L-Band	1 GHz - 2 GHz	agriculture, forestry, soil moisture
• C-Band	4 GHz - 8 GHz	ocean, agriculture
• X-Band	8 GHz - 12 GHz	agriculture, ocean, high resolution radar
• Ku-Band	14 GHz - 18 GHz	glaciology (snow cover mapping)
• Ka-Band	27 GHz - 47 GHz	high resolution radars





## Backscattering Mechanisms



# Radar Data from Different Satellites

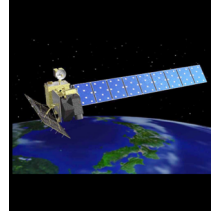
■ freely accessible  
■ freely accessible & reliably repeated acquisition plan

The Legacy:

 1978  
  
 SeaSAT

 1991-2011  
  
 ERS 1/2

 2002-2012  
  
 ENVISAT

● 2002-2012  
  
 ALOS-1

 1995-2013  
  
 Radarsat-1

The New:

 2007  
  
 TanDEM-X



 2007  
  
 Radarsat-2

 2007  
  
 COSMO-SkyMed

● 2014  
  
 ALOS-2

 2014  
  
 Sentinel-1



The Future:

 2018  
  
 SAOCOM

 2018  
  
 PAZ SAR

 2018  
  
 RCM

 2021  
  
 NISAR

 2021  
  
 Biomass



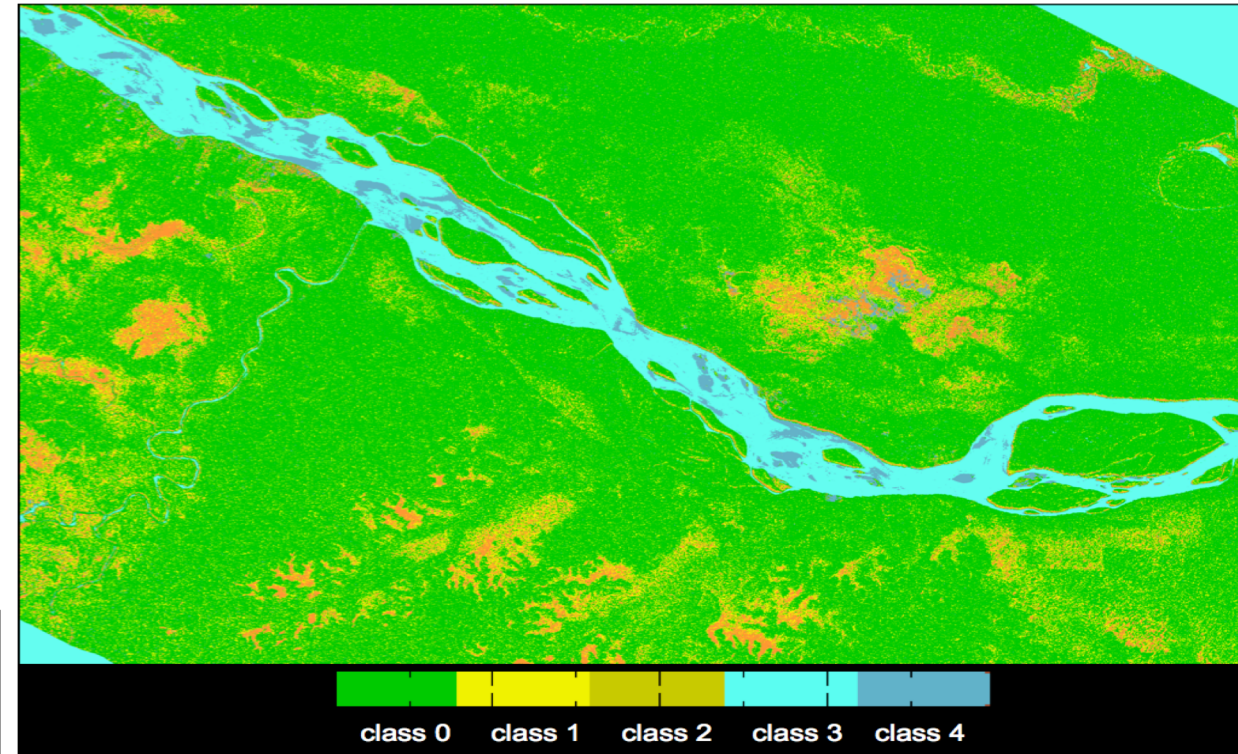


# SAR Applications

1. Wetland Ecosystems
2. Vegetation Studies
- 3. Disaster Monitoring**
4. Ground Subsidence
5. Cryosphere
6. Oceans
7. Urban Area/Infrastructure Change

Unlike optical sensors, such as MODIS and VIIRS, microwave SAR can see through clouds!

## Classification Based on SAR Observables



**Green:** not inundated  
**Yellow & Orange:** inundated vegetation  
**Blue** (light & dark): open water



# Sentinel 1 SAR Image Processing

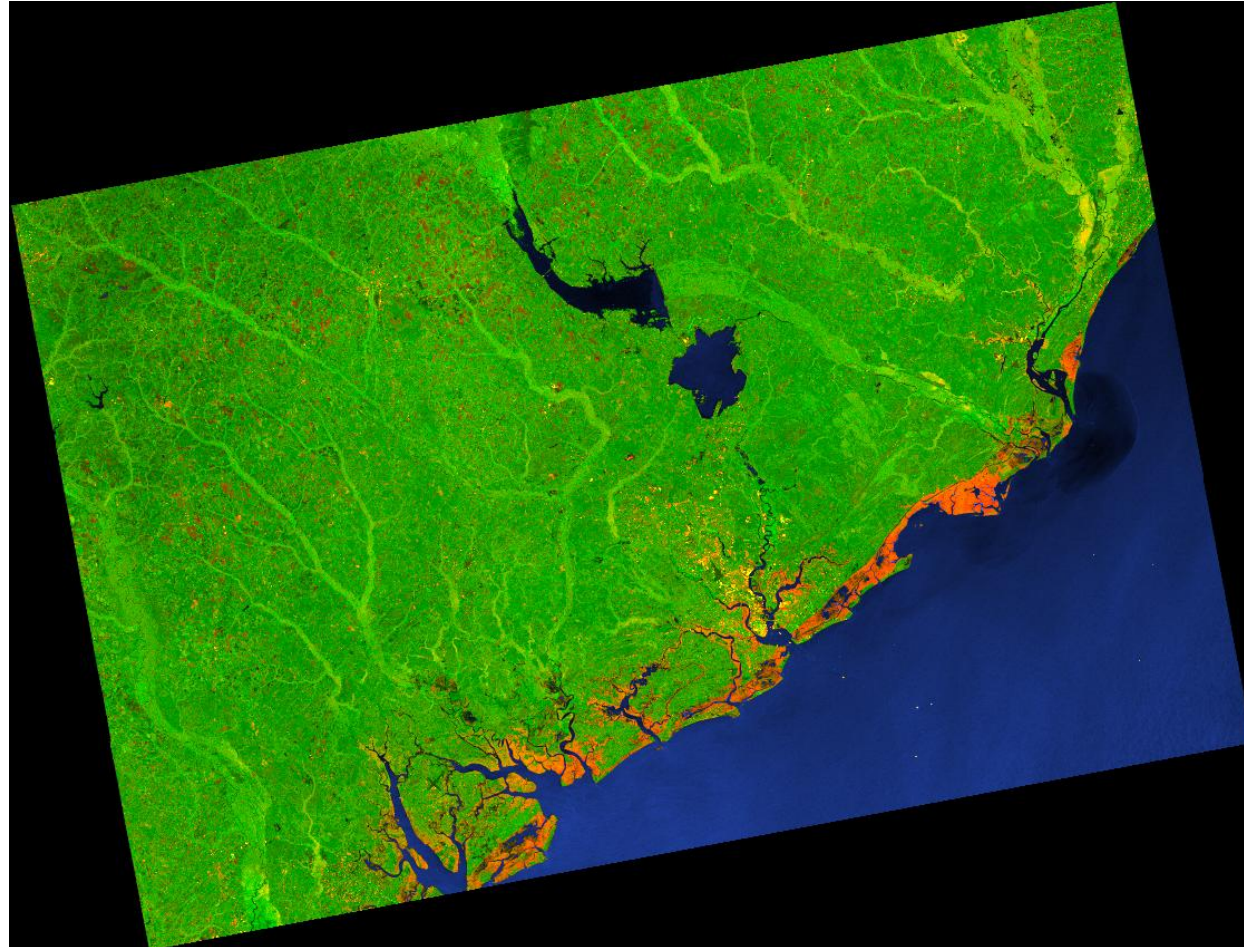
- Sentinel-1 SAR data are available from:
  - <https://vertex.daac.asf.alaska.edu/>
- Sentinel-1 SAR data can be processed by using Sentinel-1 Application Toolbox (SNAP)
- SNAP is an open source toolbox and can be downloaded from:
  - <http://step.esa.int/main/download/>
- Processing SAR images is complex and require advance training
- For more information see
  - <https://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/disasters/webinars/intro-SAR>

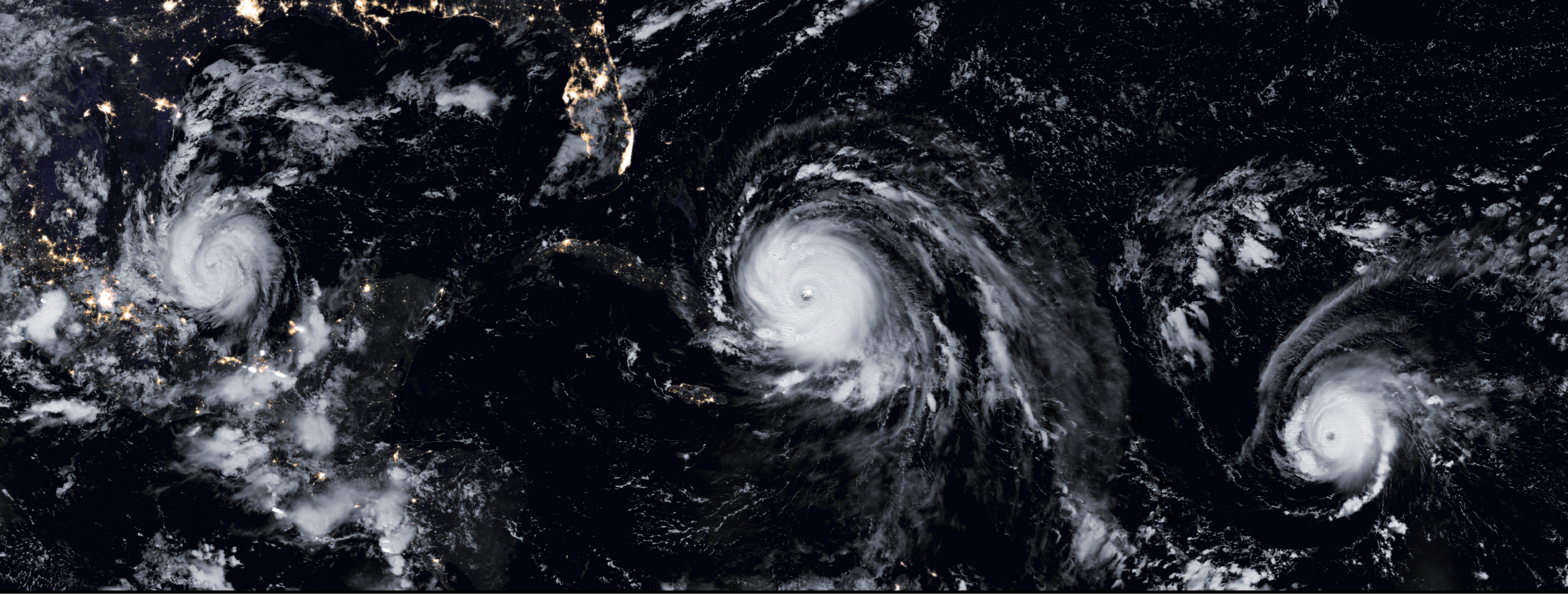
ARSET will host an advanced webinar on SAR data and applications in July 2018



# Sentinel 1 SAR Images: Before and After Hurricane Matthew

Inundation in Coastal North Carolina





# Examples of NASA Remote Sensing Data Applications

# NASA Data for FEMA After Hurricane Harvey

Remote Sensing Map: (27 August 2017, 1700 EST)  
FEMA-4332-DR-TX

Aug 27:  
FEMA Situation Briefing includes SAR Threshold Flood Extent Map and request for UAV SAR

*SAR Threshold Flood Extent Map provided from NASA MSFC showing normal/daily water areas (dark blue) vs. likely flooded areas (light blue); Image created using RadarSat-2 and TerraSAR-X collections from 8/26; threshold may be affected by signal from wind or other constraints (e.g., moist agricultural fields, sensor resolution, etc.)*

Sep 4:  
New flood extents available derived from COSMO-SkyMed (Copernicus) and SPOT6 (NASA MSFC)

Aug 25:  
Hurricane Harvey makes landfall

Remote Sensing Map: SAR Derived Flood Extents (30 August 2017, 0900 EST)  
FEMA-4332-DR-TX

Aug 31:  
Remote sensing products from NASA available on FEMA FTP server

NASA MSFC & JPL generate flood extents based on ALOS-1 & Sentinel data



# NASA Data for FEMA After Hurricane Harvey



## Index of /NationalDisasters/HurricaneHarvey/Data/RemoteSensing/NASA

<u>Name</u>	<u>Last modified</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Description</u>
<a href="#">Parent Directory</a>		-	
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<a href="#">20170826_NASA_MSFC_Radarsat2_SARThresholdFloodExtent.zip</a>	27-Aug-2017 13:32	4.4M	
<a href="#">20170827_182327_alos2_threshold00sd_WGS84.zip</a>	29-Aug-2017 13:00	9.6M	
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<a href="#">SP06N29_273468W096_1994622017083000000000MS00_GG003002001_water_20170830.zip</a>	04-Sep-2017 12:08	2.3M	

Aug 25:  
Hurricane

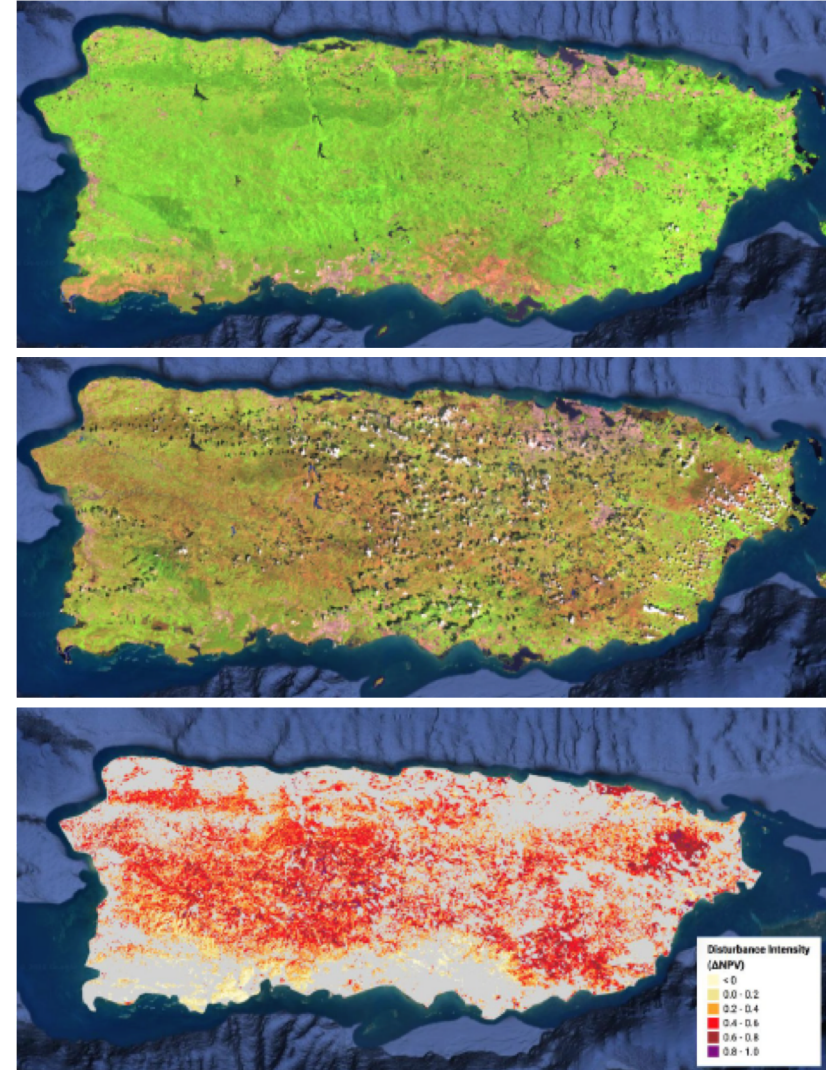
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# Tracking Vegetation Changes in Puerto Rico After Hurricane Maria

- Quantify forest disturbance on Puerto Rico as a result of Hurricane Maria (Sep 2017)
- Used Landsat 8 scenes
- Top figure: Pre-Maria false color Landsat 8 image
- Middle figure: Post-Maria false color Landsat 8 image – heavily impacted areas show up as large increases in SWIR (red)
- Bottom figure: map of change in non-photosynthetic vegetation (NPV) – exposed wood and surface litter

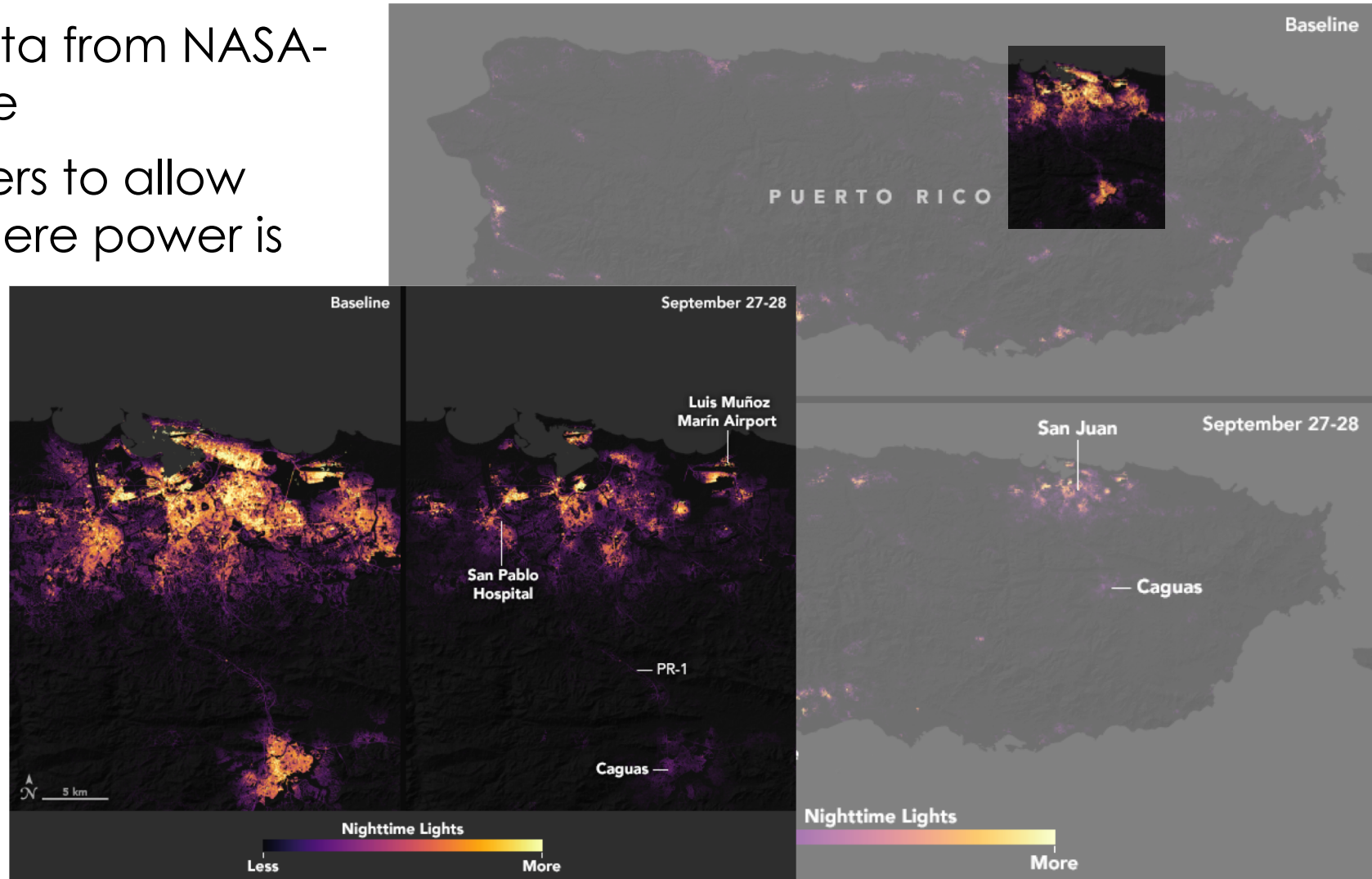


Feng, Y., Negron-Juarez, R., Patricola, C. M., Collins, W. D., Uriarte, M., Hall, J.S., Clinton, N., Chambers, J. (2018). Rapid remote sensing assessment of impacts from hurricane maria on forests of puerto rico. PeerJ PrePrints, <http://dx.doi.org/10.7287/peerj.preprints.26597v1>



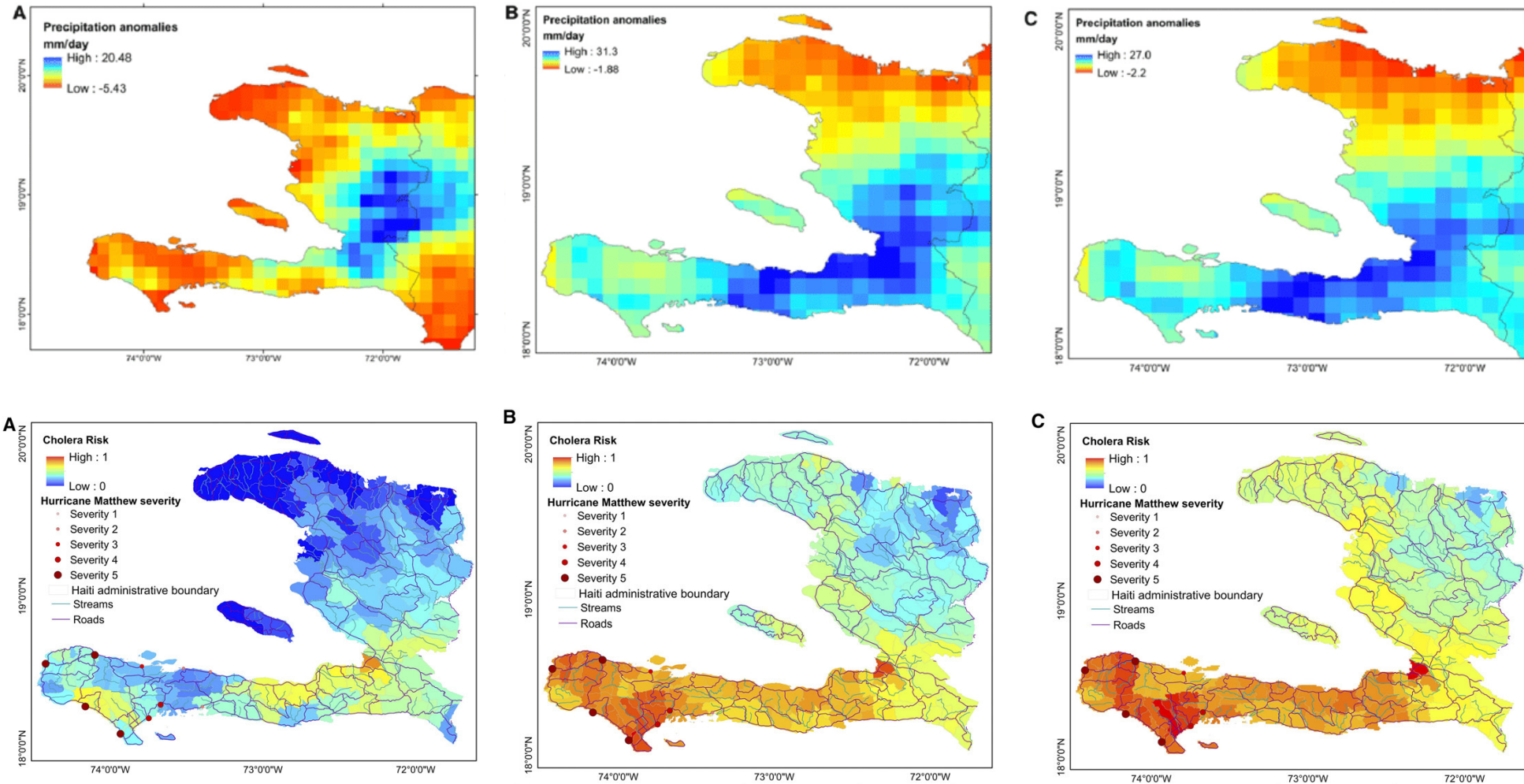
# Monitoring Power Outages as a Result of Hurricane Maria

- Generated based on data from NASA-NOAA Suomi NPP satellite
- Provided to first responders to allow them to quickly know where power is out



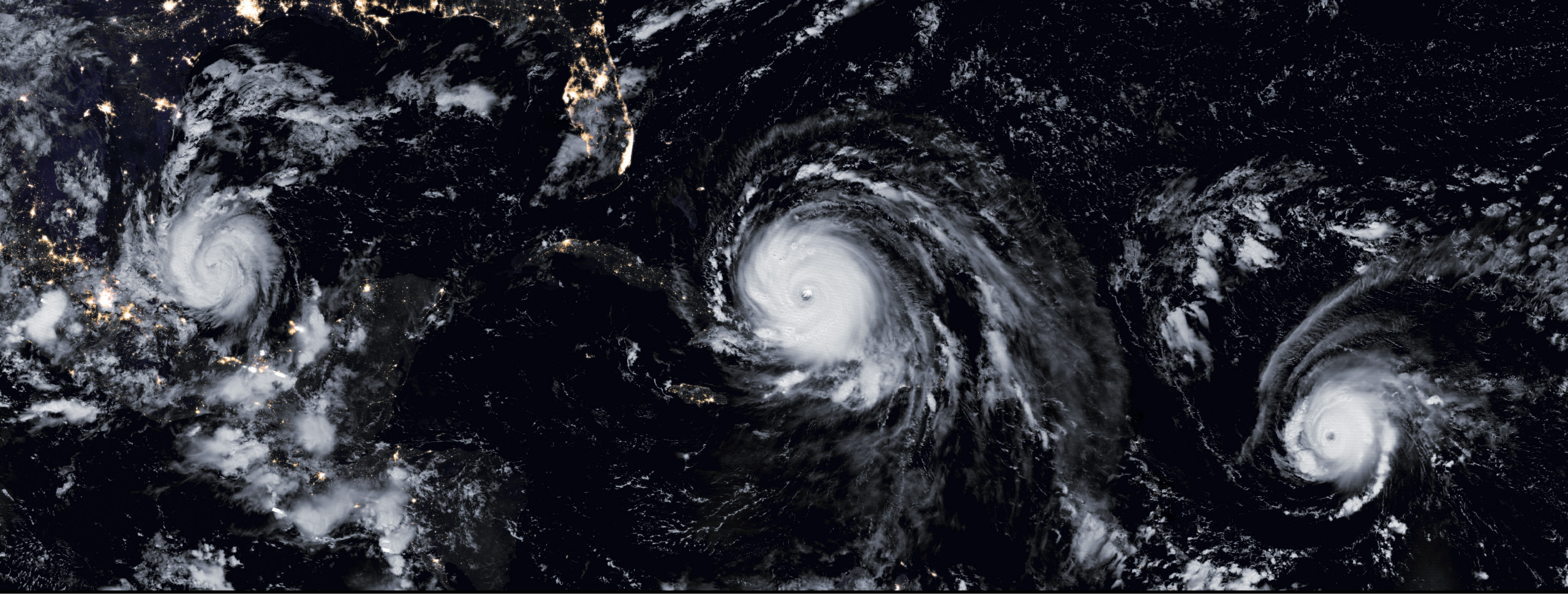


# GPM Used to Estimate Cholera Risk After Hurricane Matthew



Khan, R., Anwar, R., Akanda, S., McDonald, M., Huq, A., Jutla, A., Colwell, R. (2017) Assessment of Risk of Cholera in Haiti Following Hurricane Matthew. American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, <http://www.ajtmh.org/content/journals/10.4269/ajtmh.17-0048>





Demonstration of Case Studies

# Summary

- NASA remote sensing and Earth system model data **augment operational tropical storm data** from centers such as NHC, CPHC, JTWC, and compliment storm monitoring capability at different stages: initiation, propagation, and dissipation
- At a given location, NASA data can be used in decision-making to prepare for emergencies by enabling access before, during, and after storm conditions, specifically:
  - Wind and Sea Level Pressure (GEOS-5)
  - Precipitation (GPM IMERG)
  - True Color Imagery (MODIS, VIIRS)
  - River Flooding & Surface Inundation (ERDS, GFMS, MODIS Inundation Mapping, and the Flood Observatory)
  - Night Light Imagery (VIIRS)
- NOAA and JRC provide storm surge monitoring capability



# Summary

- Storm related emergency preparedness, response, and relief operations can benefit from the combined use of
  - Weather data
  - Flooding data
  - Terrain data
  - Socioeconomic data



# Remote Sensing Data Applications for Preparedness and Planning

- Satellite data provides a comprehensive history of storm tracks, intensity, precipitation and flooding
  - GOES-5, TMPA/IMERG, and MODIS have a combined historical record of ~20 years
- Combining with in situ data about storm damages, destruction, and economic impacts can help with the decision-making process

- Monitor winds, rain, and flooding
- Low-lying areas
- Flooded streets and roads

Now/Prepare	During/Survive	After/Be Safe
<p><b>Sign up</b> for local alerts and warnings. Monitor local news and weather reports.</p> <p><b>Prepare to evacuate</b> by testing your emergency communication plan(s), learning evacuation routes, having a place to stay, and packing a “go bag.”</p> <p><b>Stock emergency supplies.</b></p> <p><b>Protect your property</b> by installing sewer backflow valves, anchoring fuel tanks, reviewing insurance policies, and cataloging belongings.</p> <p><b>Collect and safeguard</b> critical financial, medical, educational, and legal documents and records.</p>	<p><b>Follow guidance</b> from local authorities.</p> <p><b>If advised to evacuate</b>, grab your “go bag” and leave immediately.</p> <p><b>For protection from high winds</b>, stay away from windows and seek shelter on the lowest level in an interior room.</p> <p><b>Move to higher ground</b> if there is flooding or a flood warning.</p> <p><b>Turn Around Don’t Drown.®</b> Never walk or drive on flooded roads or through water.</p> <p><b>Call 9-1-1</b> if you are in life-threatening danger.</p>	<p><b>Return to the area</b> only after authorities say it is safe to do so. Do not enter damaged buildings until they are inspected by qualified professionals.</p> <p><b>Never walk or drive</b> on flooded roads or through floodwaters.</p> <p><b>Look out</b> for downed or unstable trees, poles, and power lines.</p> <p><b>Do not remove heavy debris</b> by yourself. Wear gloves and sturdy, thick-soled shoes to protect your hands and feet.</p> <p><b>Do not drink tap water</b> unless authorities say it is safe.</p>

[For more resources about hurricane risk, visit ready.gov/prepare](https://www.ready.gov/prepare)

- Monitor flooding
- Monitor power outages with night light imagery

Image Credit: [FEMA](https://www.fema.gov)



# Remote Sensing Data Advantages and Limitations

- Remote sensing and modeling data provide global coverage
- Data are open source and are available not only for near-real time monitoring but also for past storms which together with in situ and impacts data can be used to develop emergency planning strategies
- NASA data tools help easy access, analysis, and visualization capabilities, convenient for monitoring emergency situations
- NASA data covered here result from research and local/regional validation is recommended
- Remote sensing and model data from various sources have different spatial and temporal resolutions – often require further analysis for quantitative applications (e.g. integrated in GIS or hydrological model)





Thank You!