



Tropical Storm Ophelia

6:00 PM

Friday, Sep 22, 2023




What has changed:

Hurricane Watch issued for Surf City to Ocracoke
Storm Surge Warning Issued for Western Carteret



Situation Overview



Tropical Storm Ophelia

Hazard	Impacts	Location	Timing
 Storm Surge & Inundation	Moderate impacts: Up to 2-5 ft of inundation (4-6 ft locally along the lower Neuse/Pamlico Rivers) will result in flooding of some very low-lying roadways and properties.	All of coastal eastern NC. Also soundside Outer Banks.	Now through Saturday night.
 Wind	Moderate impacts: Tropical storm force winds could result in scattered tree damage and power outages. Hurricane force winds possible.	All of eastern North Carolina with the strongest winds extending from Surf City to Cape Lookout and the Core Banks.	Now through Saturday.
 Flooding Rain	Moderate impacts. Widespread 3-5 inches, with localized amounts around 7 inches, will could produce localized flash flooding, especially for urban and poor drainage areas.	Flash flooding threat extends across all of eastern NC, with greatest threat along the southern NC coast.	Now through Saturday.



Situation Overview

Tropical Storm Ophelia

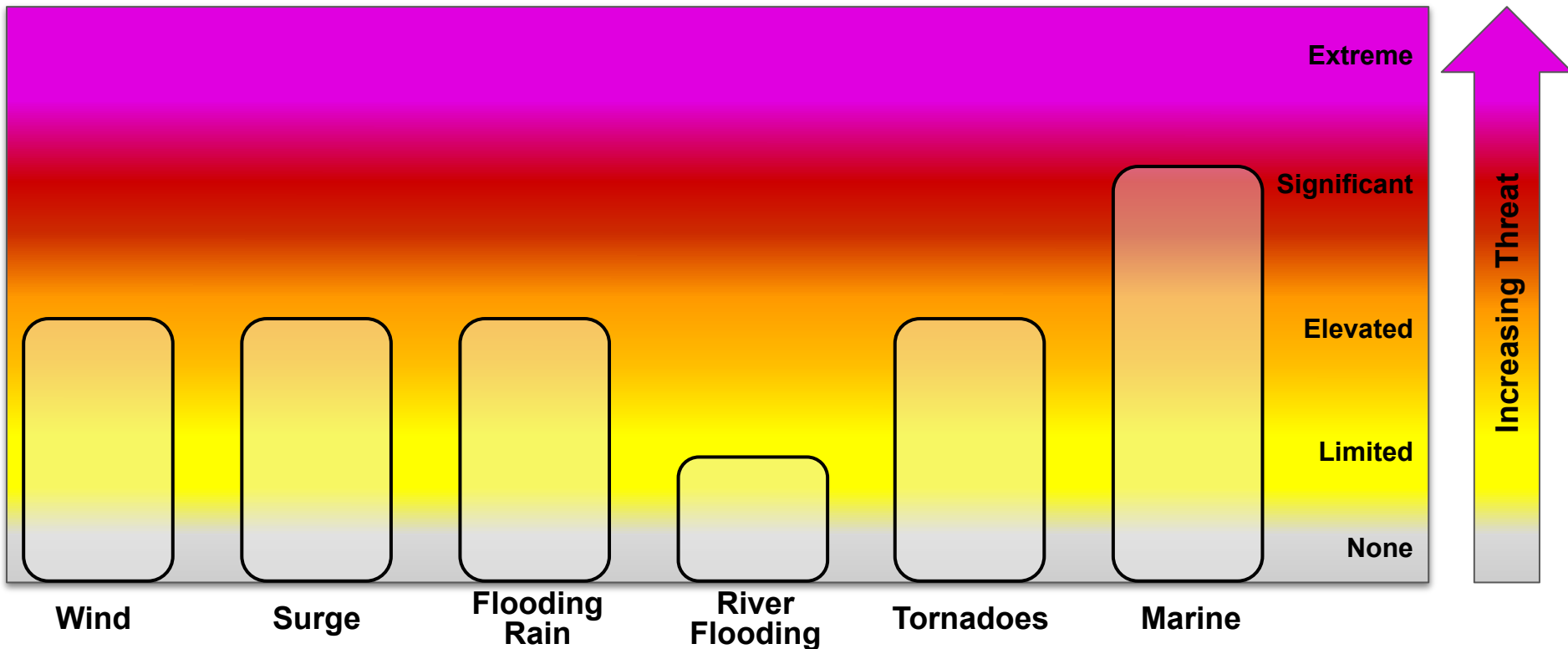
Hazard	Impacts	Location	Timing
 A black and white silhouette of a tornado funnel cloud extending from a dark, stormy cloud base to the ground.	<p>Moderate impacts: Several tornadoes are possible. A few places may experience tornado damage, along with power and communications disruptions.</p>	Coastal North Carolina	Now through Saturday.
 A black and white illustration of a large, curling wave crashing over a rocky shore.	<p>Significant impacts: Large dangerous seas, tropical storm force winds will produce life threatening conditions to mariners.</p>	All of NC coastal waters and sounds.	Now through Saturday night.



Threat Levels

Tropical Storm Ophelia

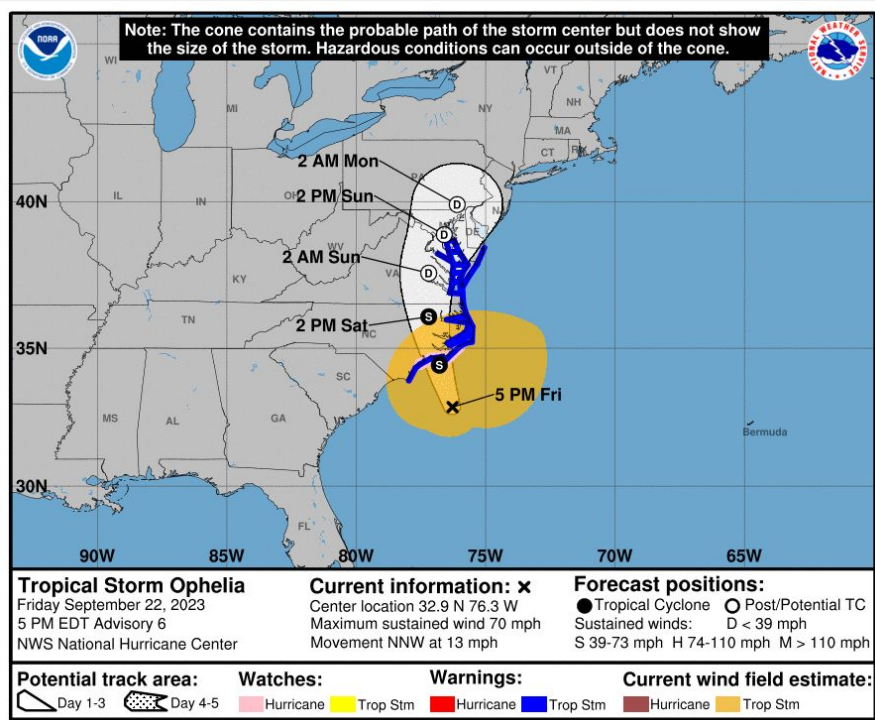
For information on specific hazards in this area, please go to: <https://www.weather.gov/srh/tropical?office=mhx>





Situation Overview

Tropical Storm Ophelia



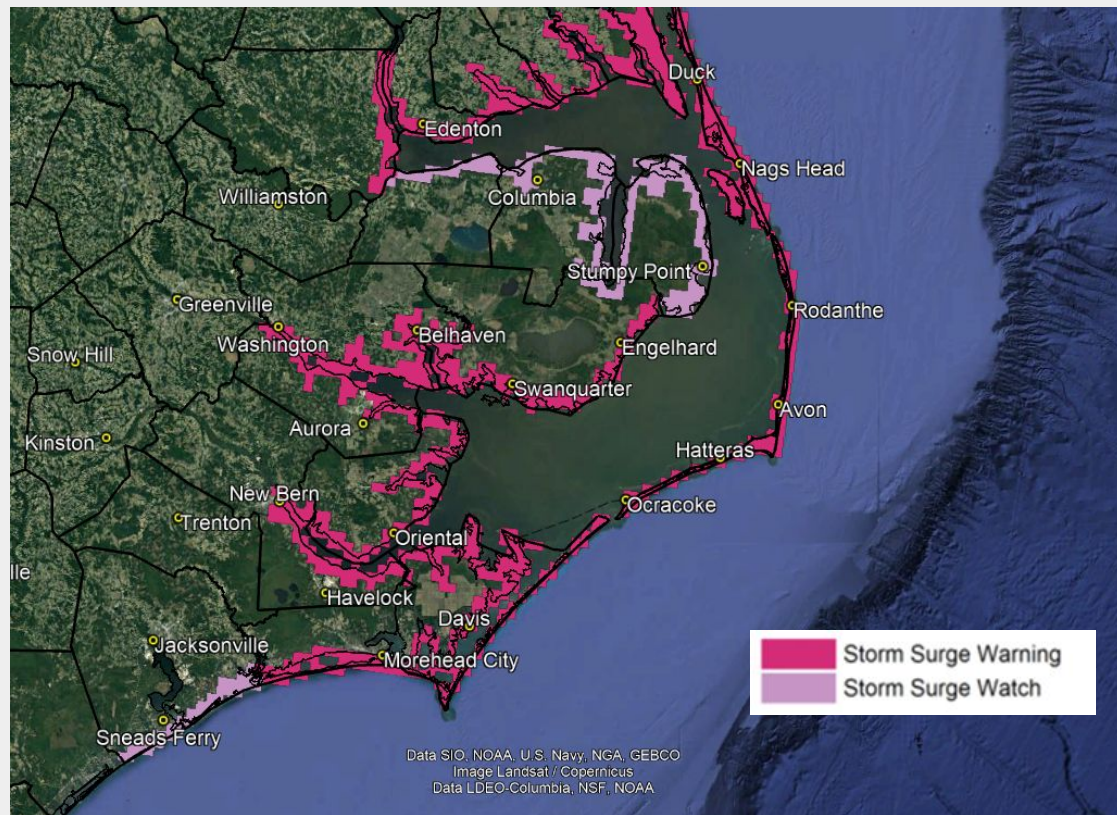
- Ophelia is a high end Tropical Storm at this time with maximum sustained winds of 70 mph.
- **A Hurricane Watch is now in place from Surf City to Ocracoke Inlet** as some strengthening is possible as the storm moves toward Eastern North Carolina, bringing impacts to our area through Saturday.
- The wind field is quite large, and WILL extend far from the actual center. Remember impacts CAN and WILL occur outside of the forecast cone.

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



Storm Surge Watches/Warnings

Tropical Storm Ophelia

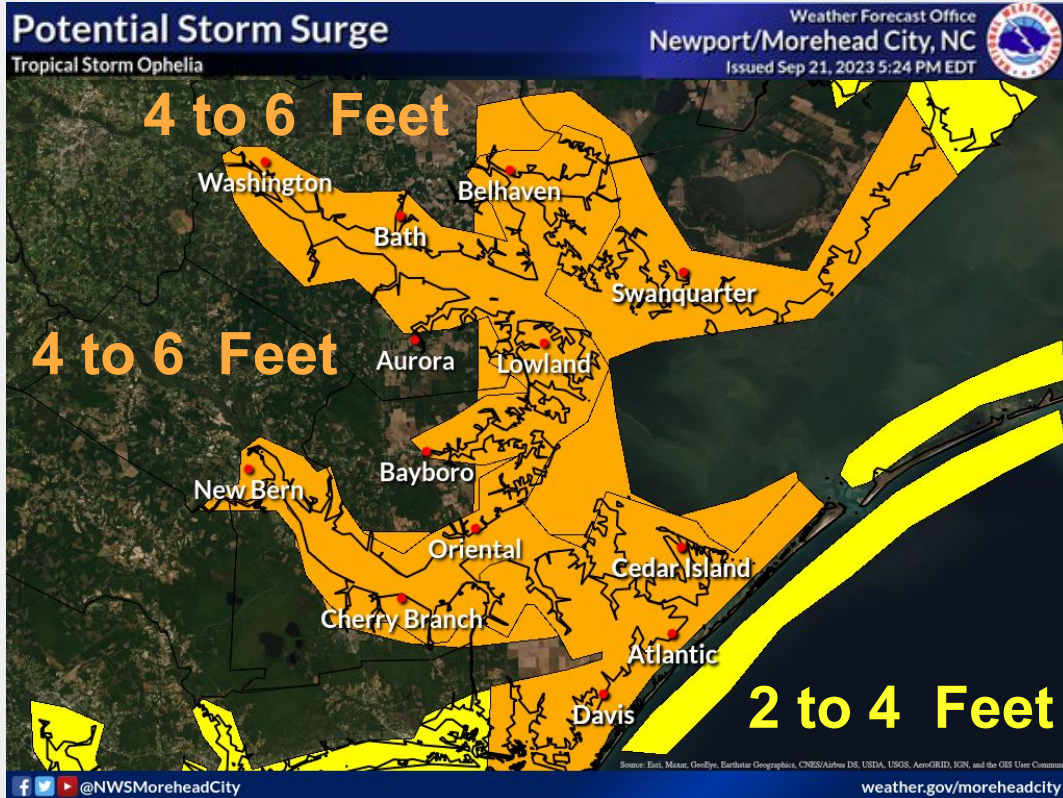


- Storm Surge Warning in effect for **Dark Pink Shaded Areas**
- Storm Surge Watch in effect for **Purple Shaded Areas**
- Storm Surge Warnings expanded to include the rest of Carteret County



Potential Storm Surge Impacts

Tropical Storm Ophelia



- Moderate impact

(Orange Shaded Area):

Areas of inundation with moderate damage to marinas and docks.

Sections of near-shore escape routes and secondary routes become washed out, especially in vulnerable low spots.



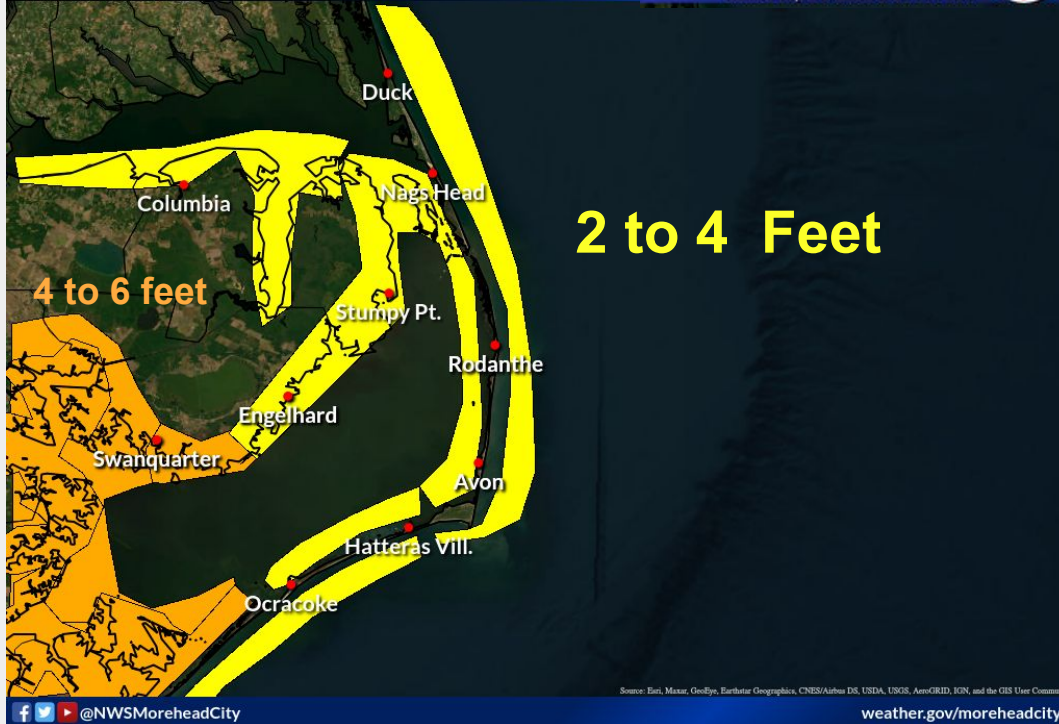
Potential Storm Surge Impacts

Tropical Storm Ophelia

Potential Storm Surge

Tropical Storm Ophelia

Weather Forecast Office
Newport/Morehead City, NC
Issued Sep 21, 2023 5:24 PM EDT



- Moderate impact
(Yellow Shaded Areas):
- **Potential for rapid water level rises (soundside) Saturday or Saturday evening.**

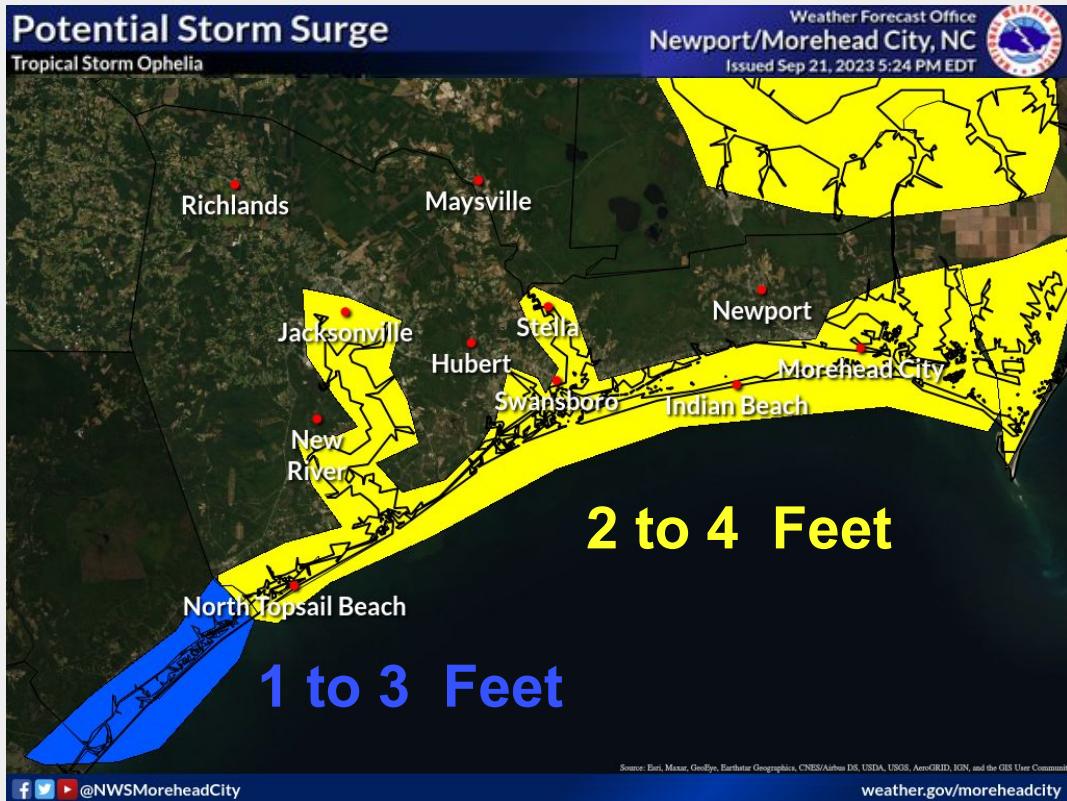
Areas of inundation with storm surge flooding accentuated by waves.

Moderate beach erosion and localized ocean over wash.



Potential Storm Surge Impacts

Tropical Storm Ophelia



- Moderate impact

(Yellow shaded areas):

Areas of inundation with moderate damage to marinas, docks.

- Elevated impact

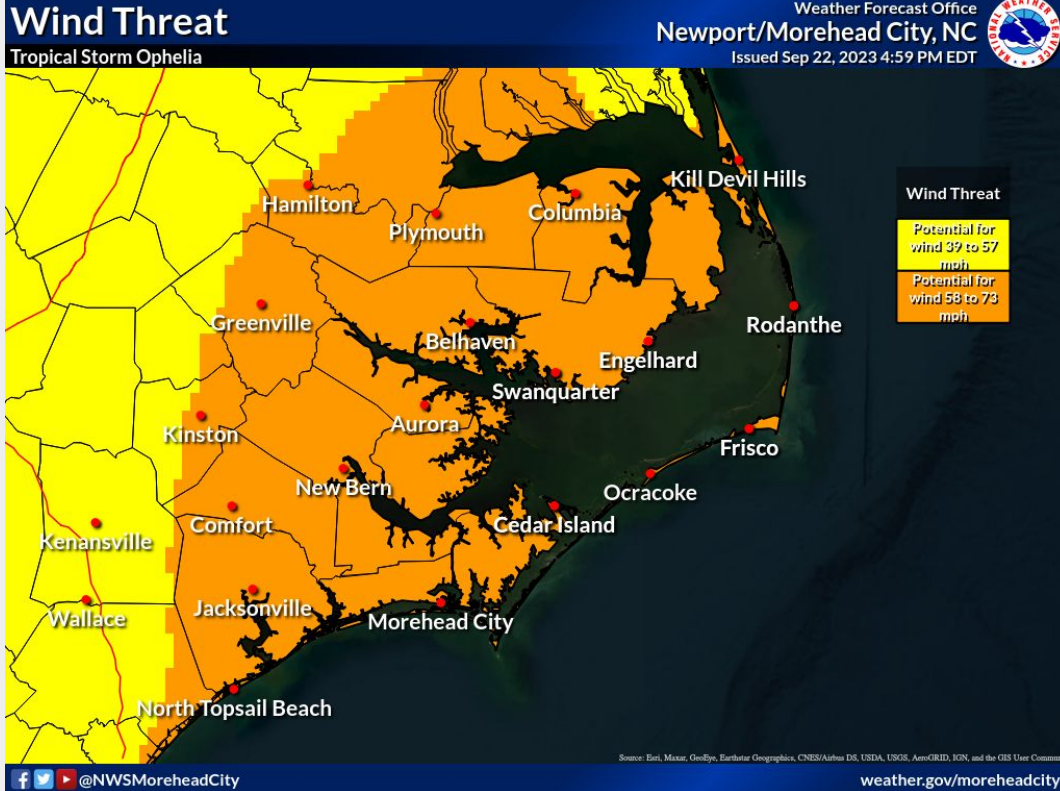
(Blue Shaded Areas):

Localized inundation, mainly along immediate shorelines and in low-lying spots.



Wind Threat / Potential Impact

Tropical Storm Ophelia



There is a potential for:

- Hurricane Force Winds along the southern coast.
- Scattered power and communication outages.
- Large trees snapped or uprooted. Some damage to roofing or siding possible.
- Highest potential will be in the **Orange Shaded** area, with the maximum winds closer to the coast.



Maximum Wind Gusts

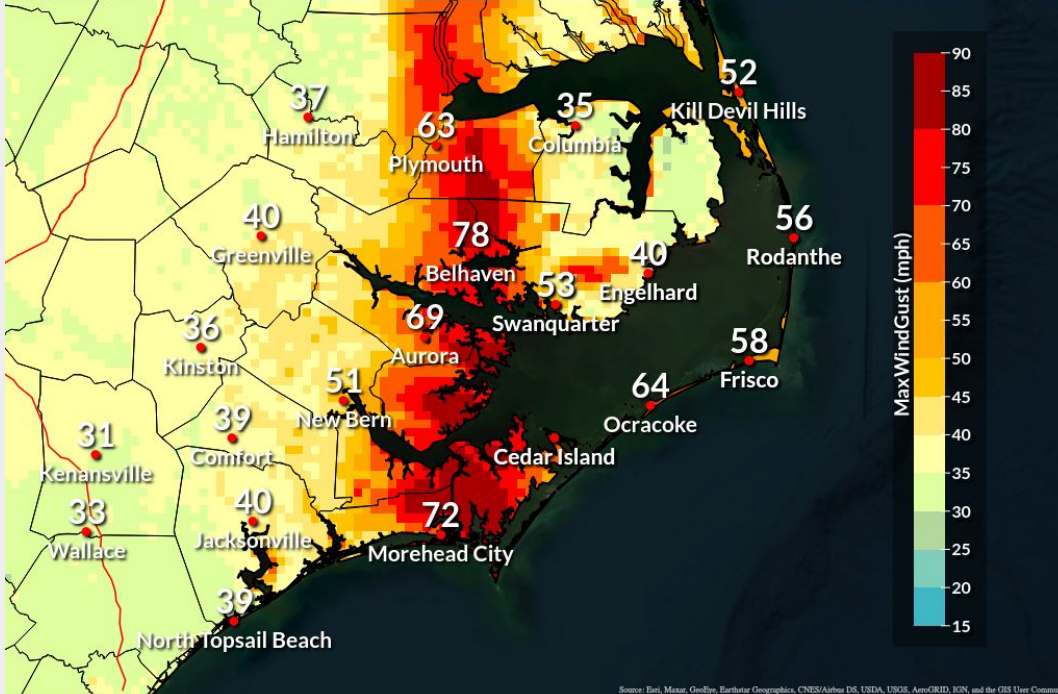
Tropical Storm Ophelia

Max Wind Gusts

Tropical Storm Ophelia

Weather Forecast Office
Newport/Morehead City, NC

Issued Sep 22, 2023 5:07 PM EDT



Source: Earthstar, Geodly, Barthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

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- A core of high winds is expected near and to the east of the final storm track.
- Higher winds also expected near the coast and exposed areas to water.
- Tropical storm force winds are already occurring especially in gusts. Hurricane force winds possible.
- Strongest winds are expected tonight through Saturday morning.



Inland Flooding Impacts

Tropical Storm Ophelia

Weather Forecast Office

Newport/Morehead City, NC

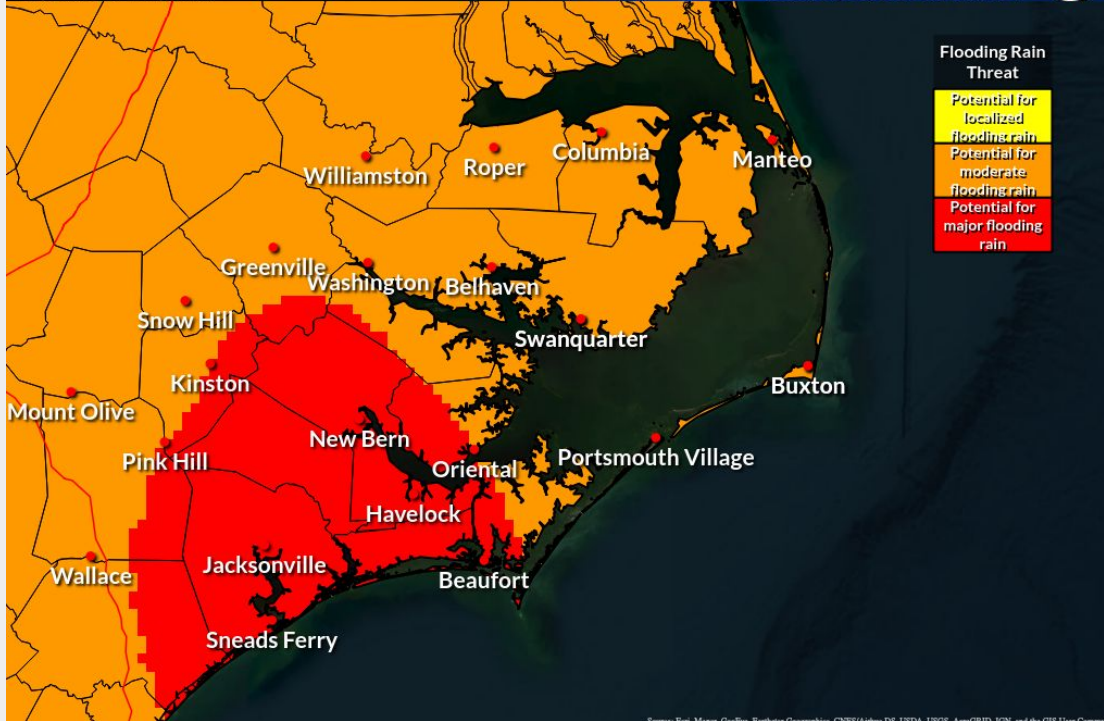
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Flooding Rain Threat

Tropical Storm Ophelia

Flooding Rain Threat



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

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- Areas shaded **Red** have the greatest potential for flash flooding through Saturday.
- Localized flash flooding, especially in urban and poor drainage areas.
- Do not drive through flooded roads. The majority of flood deaths are in vehicles. Turn around don't drown.



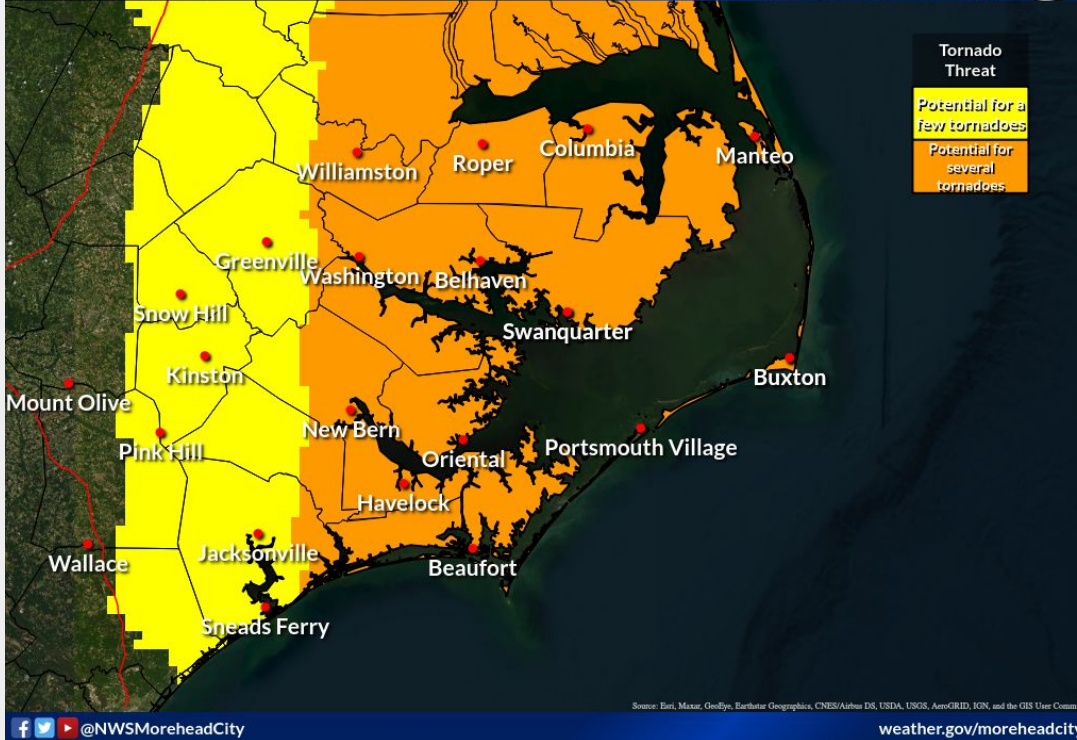
Potential Tornado Impacts

Tropical Storm Ophelia

Tornado Threat

Tropical Storm Ophelia

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- Highest threat in **Orange shaded areas**.
- Potential for several tornadoes in orange shaded areas. Be prepared to seek shelter quickly in an interior room, lowest level.
- A few places may experience tornado damage, along with power and communications disruptions.
- **Nighttime tornadoes are particularly dangerous!** Have multiple ways to receive warnings, and at least one that can wake you up at night!



Rip Currents/Beach Erosion/Overwash

Tropical Storm Ophelia

RIP CURRENTS

Know your options

The diagram illustrates the flow of rip currents. It shows a beach with waves breaking. A gap in the sandbars allows water to flow away from the shore, labeled as "RIP CURRENT". Arrows labeled "CURRENT" point towards the gap from both sides. Red arrows labeled "ESCAPE" point away from the rip current towards the shore. Silhouettes of swimmers are shown in the rip current, and a lifeguard is shown on the beach.

Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer away from shore. If at all possible, swim near a lifeguard.

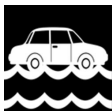
- **Dangerous Rip Currents are expected through the weekend.**
- Beach erosion and ocean overwash continuing through Saturday.



Key Take-Aways

Tropical Storm Ophelia

Confidence is **HIGH** that the event will occur
Confidence is **HIGH** regarding impacts



Storm surge inundation around 2-5 ft above ground is possible across coastal areas, with greatest confidence in impacts around the lower Pamlico and Neuse Rivers (4-6 ft possible).



Tropical storm force winds possible across much of the area with scattered tree damage and power outages possible. Hurricane force winds possible.



Flood Watch now in effect. Widespread rainfall of 3-6 inches, with locally up to 8", could result in flash flooding issues, especially around urban and poor drainage areas.



Several tornadoes could bring locally enhanced damage, mainly along and east of Highway 17.



Life-threatening surf conditions and dangerous marine conditions continue through the weekend.



Local Resources

Tropical Storm Ophelia

Next Briefing:
Final Briefing; Call Office For Any Needs
Method: N/A



Web: www.weather.gov/mhx



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