



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HURRICANE FLORENCE - STATEMENT #1

North Myrtle Beach, SC – September 5, 2018 – NO, Hurricane Florence is NOT threatening the East Coast at this time but it may be wise to check in with your favorite weather person over the next several days to familiarize yourself with this hurricane, if for no other reason than it is not following forecast patterns.

Here is a September 5th National Hurricane Center discussion regarding Hurricane Florence:

"Remarkably, Florence has continued to strengthen. The hurricane has a compact central dense overcast with cold cloud tops completely encircling a clear, well-defined eye...with Florence having become a major hurricane earlier this morning.



Graphic from AccuWeather website.

"Given the estimated maximum winds, Florence has been rapidly intensifying since yesterday, an event that was not foreseen by any intensity models, nor forecasters.

"Diagnostics have been consistently showing southwesterly shear of 20-25 kt in the vicinity of Hurricane Florence, but it is possible that those schemes are averaging over a larger area than might be reasonable given the hurricane's small size. Florence has apparently been able to find a small pocket of relatively low shear, and with waters becoming progressively warmer, the hurricane has strengthened significantly more than anticipated. This makes the intensity forecast incredibly uncertain. SHIPS actually shows the shear increasing over the next 24 hours, but global model fields suggest that the hurricane may still be able to continue within the protected pocket of lower shear for the next several days. As a result, the National Hurricane Center official forecast keeps Florence's intensity well above the available guidance, which all show the hurricane weakening over the next day or two. The new National Hurricane Center prediction

follows this trend and also shows some weakening, but this is a low-confidence forecast. Either way, Florence is expected to remain a hurricane throughout the five-day period.

"The track forecast also has its challenges. The initial motion estimate is northwestward, but it now appears that stronger upper-level ridging may take shape to the north of Florence over the next few days, forcing the hurricane to turn back toward the west-northwest from 36-72 hours. After 72 hours, a break in the ridge should allow Florence to turn back toward the northwest, but the bulk of the track models have trended westward since yesterday.

"In light of these trends, the National Hurricane official track forecast has been shifted westward on days four and five, but not quite as far as the various model consensus aids. It is worth stressing that there is still a significant amount of spread among the GFS and ECMWF ensemble members by the end of the forecast period and, just like the intensity forecast, the track forecast is of low confidence."

Again, there is no imminent threat to the East Coast from Hurricane Florence but the Atlantic Ocean is now active and all should be aware that we are in the middle of the formal hurricane season. Tune in now and then to see what's up in the Atlantic.

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