

September 14, 2017 – 12:25 pm

The forecast track for Jose has continued to shift westward and is currently a tropical storm. As of the 11am National Hurricane Center (NHC) forecast update, the Outer Banks of NC are now located within the forecast cone uncertainty. Overall expectation is still that Jose will not make a NC/VA landfall, and the forecast track currently takes Jose between Bermuda and the east coast as it moves northward. However, with the continued westward trend in his projected track, landfall in the Outer Banks is in the realm of possibilities. With the westward forecast shift, the Outer Banks has a 10-30% chance of seeing tropical force winds (39+mph), the rest of very eastern NC and Hampton Roads are in the 10-20% chance of tropical force winds and the rest of eastern NC/VA are in the 5-10% chance range. Jose will likely be as far north as Bermuda by Monday morning and almost as far north as the NC/VA border by Tuesday morning. Based on the current NCH forecast, **IF** we see tropical force winds, the most likely arrival time would during the day on Monday.

As of the 11am NHC forecast, Jose was located 435 miles SE of the Bahamas and has sustained winds of 70mph (tropical force winds). Tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 115 miles from the center. Strengthening is likely on Friday since Jose will be over warm water and he is expected to regain his hurricane status. Jose is forecast to remain a CAT1 hurricane as it moves northward. Jose is moving toward the west-northwest near 7 mph, and this motion is expected to continue through Friday, followed by a turn to the northwest on Saturday.

In addition to Jose, two other systems have moved off the coast of Africa. The first one (96L) currently has a 20% chance of becoming a named system in the next 48 hours (60% in next 5 days) – it is currently expected to head towards the Lesser Antilles. The 2nd system (97L) currently has a 30% chance of becoming a named system in the next 48 hours (40% next 5 days) – a recurve out to sea, is more possible with this system.

We'll continue to watch Jose closely and the other 2 systems and will provide updates as necessary. Keep those eastwardly thoughts coming!

