

September 24, 2017 – 6:15 pm

Jose wasn't able to open up an easy path out to sea for Maria, as a result a front will be building to our north which will cause Maria's track to slow as she nears NC. The expectation is that she will still track between NC and Bermuda, but the expected path has nudged much closer to the coast. Maria is currently forecast to move north through Tuesday then take a right turn out to sea off the Outer Banks Wednesday into Thursday. A Tropical Storm Watch has been issued for the coast of North Carolina. Tropical Storm watches for coastal VA are likely by Monday. As seems to commonly be the case for us, we'll be watching for the hard right turn to limit impacts for us.

Based on the 5pm National Weather Service (NWS) update, possible impacts could include the following: (Note, there is a moderate confidence on the expected impacts, however, a slight shift west along the forecast track would lead to greater impacts.)

Winds - The chance for tropical force winds has continued to increase across SE VA and NE NC. The Outer Banks currently has a 60%-70% chance of seeing tropical storm force winds (39+mph), interior eastern NC has a 50%-60% chance, extreme eastern VA has a 40%-50% and Isle of Wight in the 30%-40% chance band. Most likely timing for stronger winds is Tuesday into Wednesday and could linger into Thursday,

Coastal Flooding - Significant tidal flooding is possible. Moderate to potentially major tidal flooding is possible midweek with damaging flooding occurring during multiple high tides. Worst flooding is most likely during the high tide cycles Wednesday into Thursday. Numerous roads may be impacted and water could be 1-3 feet in some locations. A combination of storm surge and large waves could result in significant coastal erosion across SE VA and the Outer Banks.

Rain - Rain chances increase along the coast Tuesday into Tuesday night. The heaviest rainfall will likely remain offshore closer to the storm's actual track. Heavy rainfall and flooding is not expected at this time. However, exact rainfall amounts may change dependent on Maria's actual track.

As of the 5pm National Hurricane Center (NHC) update, Maria was located about 425 miles south southeast of Cape Hatteras with sustained winds of 105mph.

Maria is moving toward the north near 9 mph, and this general motion with some decrease in forward speed is expected through Tuesday. On the forecast track, the core of Maria will move well east of the southeast coast of the United States during the next day or so. Gradual weakening is expected by Monday night or Tuesday. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 60 miles from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 240 miles.

