

Figure 1. Coastal population by county. Source *Hurricanes: Their Nature and Impacts on Society*, by Roger Pielke, Jr. and Roger A. Pielke, Sr.

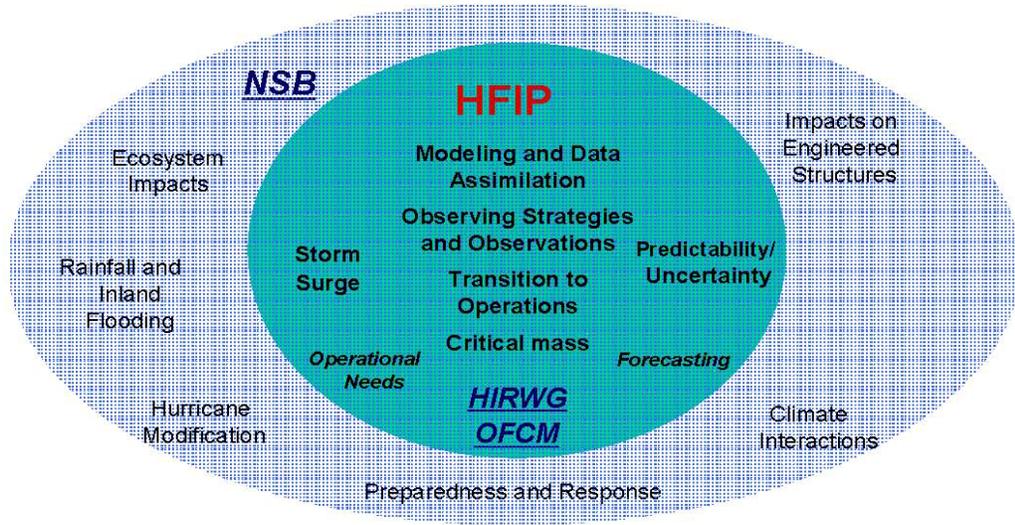


Figure 2. Scope of the NOAA Hurricane Forecast Improvement Project (HFIP).

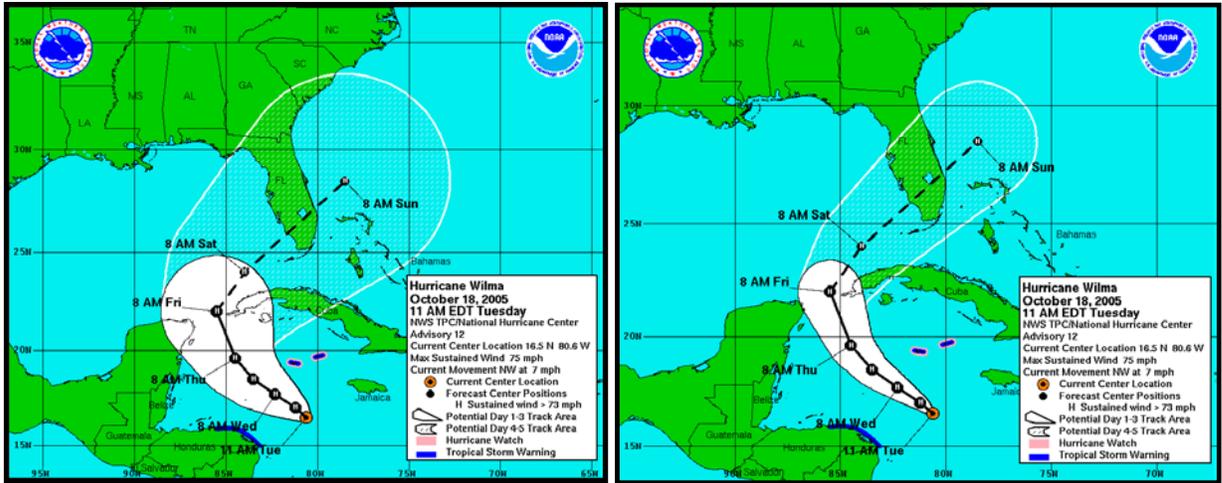


Figure 3. The panels above are examples of the NHC track forecast (cone graphic). The black line denotes the NHC forecast track for the center of the storm over a 5 day period. The cone is calculated such that the center remains within it two-thirds of the time based on official forecast errors over the previous 5 years. The panel on the left shows what the NHC hurricane cone graphic would look like today. The panel of the right shows the same storm with a 50% reduction in track error, the first goal of the HFIP.

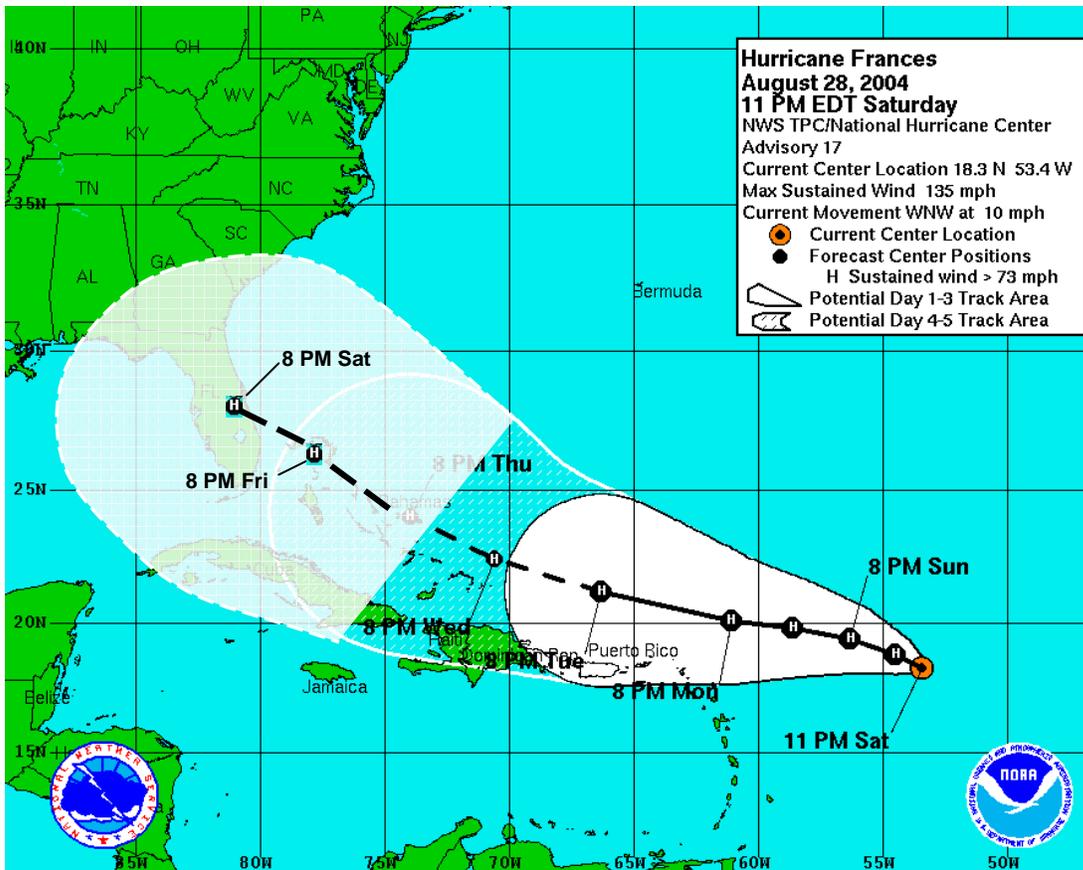


Figure 4. An example of a proposed 7-day NHC track forecast product.

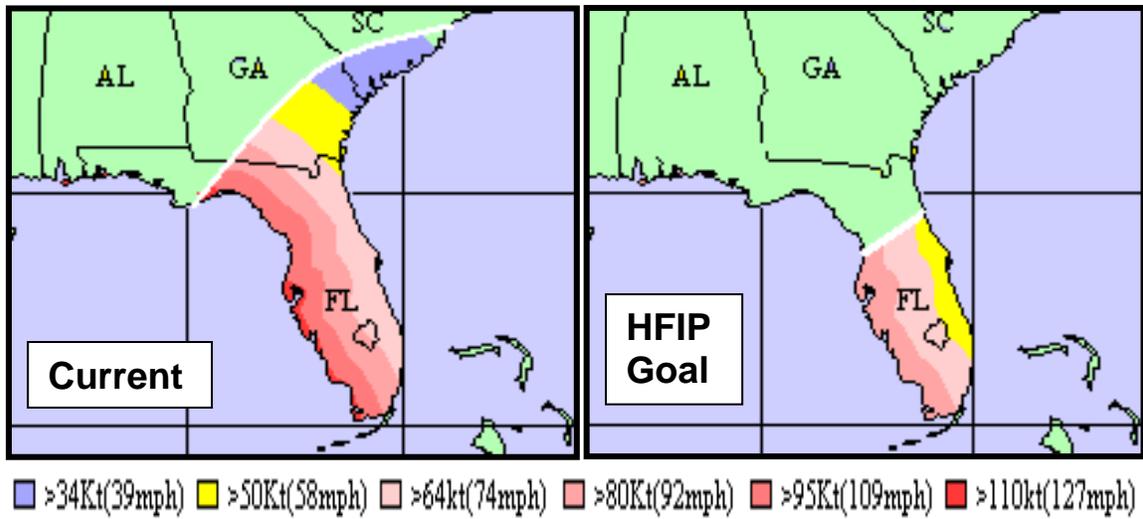


Figure 5: A depiction of a 50% improvement in intensity and track for the Gulf Coast. The HFIP goal (on the right) will allow a more focused effort by the emergency managers for their preparedness and evacuation activities.