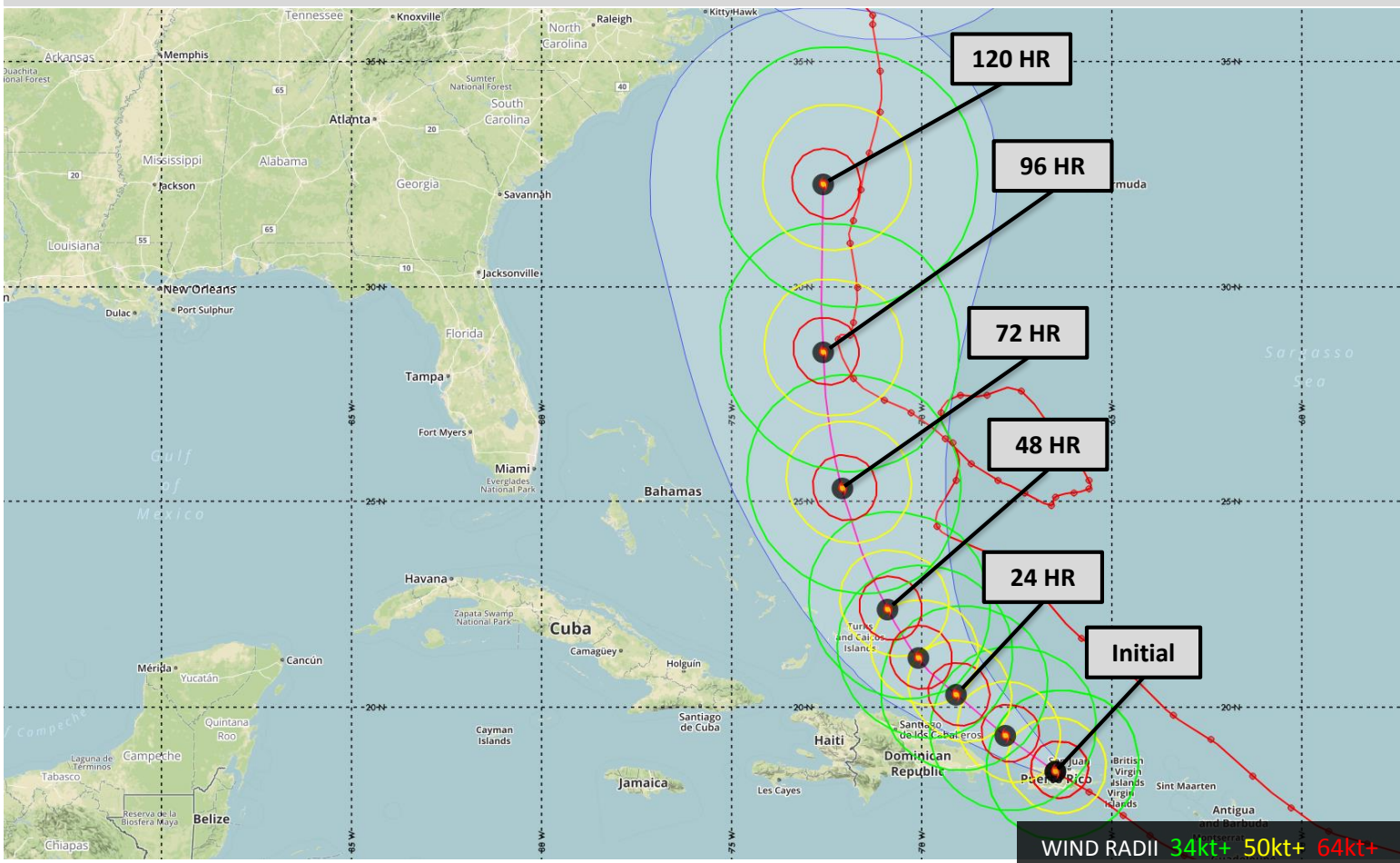


Hurricane Maria Advisory #24

Effective: September 20, 2017 1500 UTC

Storm Center	18.4N 66.5W (22 nm W of San Juan, Puerto Rico)			
Current Movement	NW at 10 knots			
Sustained Winds/Gusts	120 knots / 145 knots			
34 kt Wind Radii	130 NE	110 SE	100 SW	110 NW
50 kt Wind Radii	80 NE	70 SE	60 SW	80 NW
64 kt Wind Radii	50 NE	45 SE	35 SW	40 NW
Forecast Trend	The center of Maria continues to track directly through central Puerto Rico. Some reintensification is possible once Maria moves into the southwest Atlantic.			

WDT FORECAST TRACK



WIND RADII 34kt+ 50kt+ 64kt+

WDT Forecast Positions and Max Winds

Track Forecast Confidence: Average				Intensity Forecast Confidence: Average			
Date		Forecast Time/Hour		Position	Sustained Winds		Saffir-Simpson Scale
Wed	Sep 20	1500 UTC	Initial	18.4N 66.5W	120 KT	140 MPH	CAT 4
Thu	Sep 21	0000 UTC	12 Hour	19.3N 67.8W	120 KT	140 MPH	CAT 4
Thu	Sep 21	1200 UTC	24 Hour	20.3N 69.1W	125 KT	145 MPH	CAT 4
Fri	Sep 22	0000 UTC	36 Hour	21.2N 70.1W	125 KT	145 MPH	CAT 4
Fri	Sep 22	1200 UTC	48 Hour	22.4N 70.9W	120 KT	145 MPH	CAT 4
Sat	Sep 23	1200 UTC	72 Hour	25.3N 72.1W	110 KT	125 MPH	CAT 3
Sun	Sep 24	1200 UTC	96 Hour	28.5N 72.6W	100 KT	115 MPH	CAT 3
Mon	Sep 25	1200 UTC	120 Hour	32.3N 72.6W	90 KT	105 MPH	CAT 2

Changes from Previous Advisory

Maximum sustained winds have decreased to 120 knots.

Marine Weather Impacts

Tropical storm force winds currently extend out 130 nm from the center and will expand to 200+ nm during the next 5 days. Hurricane force winds extend 50 nm from the center.

Very rough seas extend out 240+ nm from the center and will expand to 300+ nm over the next 5 days. Very high to phenomenal seas expected within 50 nm of the center.

Onshore Impacts

Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands: Life-threatening, and potentially catastrophic, impacts are ongoing for the region. Winds in excess of 150 mph, 6 to 12 feet of storm surge, and 12 to 18 inches of rain with locally higher amounts are forecast to occur.

Hispaniola: Heavy rainfall in excess of 10 inches and tropical storm conditions will be possible today through Thursday for much of the Dominican Republic.

Turks and Caicos: Tropical storm conditions are forecast for this area Thursday night through Friday. Just a 10-20 mile deviation west of the current track would result in hurricane conditions.

Bahamas: The current forecast track brings Maria just east of most of the Bahamas. Winds just below tropical storm force could be possible, along with rainfall amounts of 2-4 inches.



WDT's next advisory will be issued at 2100 UTC

WDT Forecast Discussion

Observational Perspective: The high terrain of Puerto Rico has caused maximum sustained winds to decrease while the eye has become increasingly cloud-filled and ill-defined. Major hurricane force wind gusts have been measured across Puerto Rico despite several observing stations failing within the hardest hit areas. River gauges have already exceeded record levels.

Intensity Forecast: Sea surface temperatures and atmospheric conditions appear conducive for modest restrengthening once the center of Maria moves away from Puerto Rico. Beyond 48 hours, steady weakening is forecast as a result of increasing southwest and west shear.

Track Forecast: Reliable model guidance remains tightly clustered through the next 5 days, which is resulting in above average confidence in the track forecast. Over the next 48-72 hours, Maria is expected to gradually gain more of a northerly component. The storm will steadily move into a weakness in the Atlantic subtropical ridge generated by Jose, currently located off the Northeast US coast. All of the better performing models indicate that the inner core will remain east of the Bahamas at this time.

Infrared Satellite Image

