



IRENE UPDATE #3 (8/26/11 – 2:00 pm)

Our [last update](#) described a worse-case scenario based on the conditions at that time, and as of this morning and the 2pm interim update by the National Hurricane Center, the projected track of *Irene* has shifted slightly towards the east. The official track now has the center (eye) making landfall at Cape Lookout as a Category 2 hurricane, which is presently located ~300 miles to the S/SW of this projected point (Fig. 1). The first bands entered the region this morning and now *Irene* is not expected to intensify to a Category 3 hurricane before making landfall – it has weakened today for a variety of reasons.

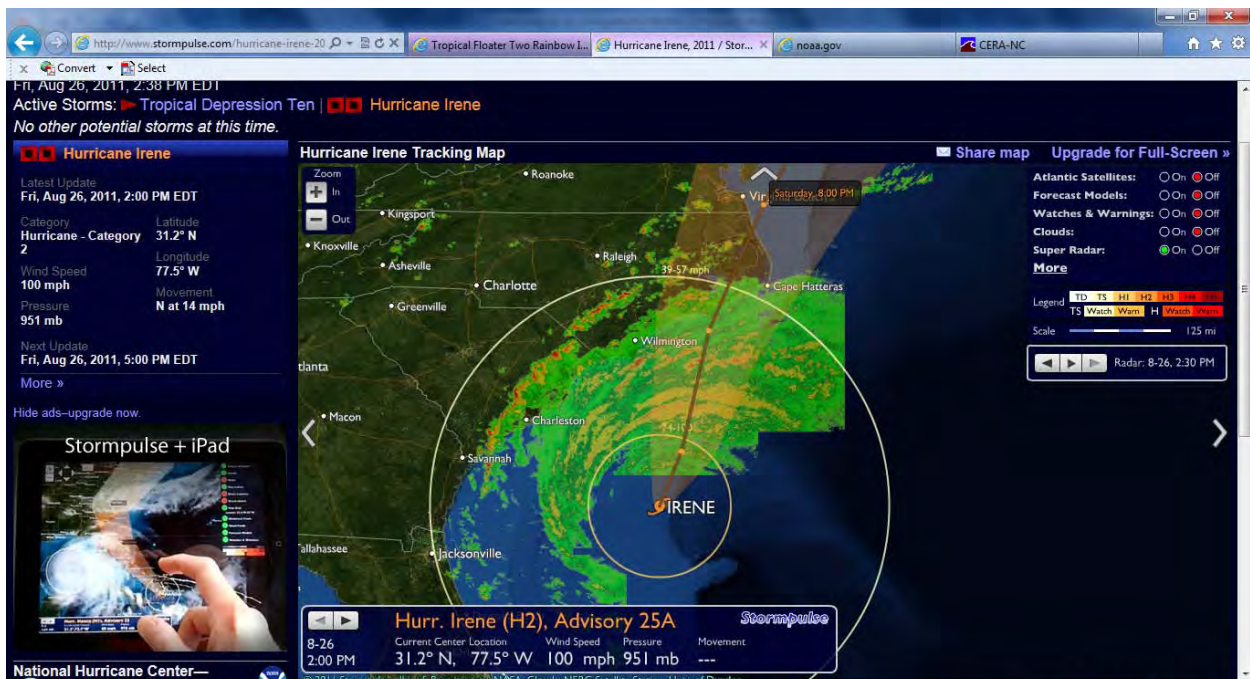


Fig. 1 – Projected modeled track for *Irene*.

Obviously there could be more changes to *Irene's* track on her final approach, and these subtle changes in direction will make a big difference in terms of oceanfront beach erosion. The transition of “bad/very bad” or “catastrophic” conditions for Bogue Banks is a tens-of-miles difference based on whether or not the island is located on the west or east side of the cyclone, respectively. Based solely on the current track, Bogue Banks is now barely situated along the west side of the hurricane, which is the opposite side of the northeast quadrant where the bulk of storm surge is generated and the highest winds often reside.

However, *Irene* has a very large and intense circulation, and significant impacts are therefore expected at great distances from the center of the cyclone. Storm surge will continue to be a factor because of the storm's size – that puts “a lot” of water in motion. Moreover and importantly, *Irene* continues to pose some other very significant and possibly life threatening conditions that were summarized in the last update – there have been few changes to these parameters. Down East Flooding

and debris will be considerable. The active, significant impacts will be experienced Saturday morning and should conclude late that evening – the 8:00 pm forecasted central position is near Virginia Beach. This will be the last update until after *Irene* passes. In the interim, below are list of links by the National Weather Service that may be useful;

TROPICAL CYCLONE IMPACTS

INLAND FLOODING - http://www.weather.gov/ghls/php/ghls_index.php?sid=mhx&threat=inland

COASTAL FLOODING - http://www.weather.gov/ghls/php/ghls_index.php?sid=mhx&threat=coastal

WIND - http://www.weather.gov/ghls/php/ghls_index.php?sid=mhx&threat=wind