



# NOAA/NWS Jacksonville Support for the Saint Simons Sound Incident

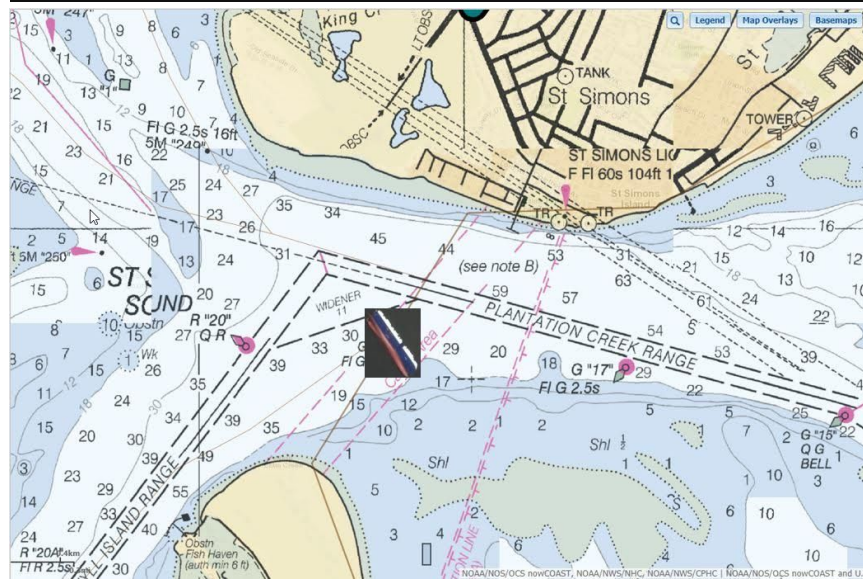
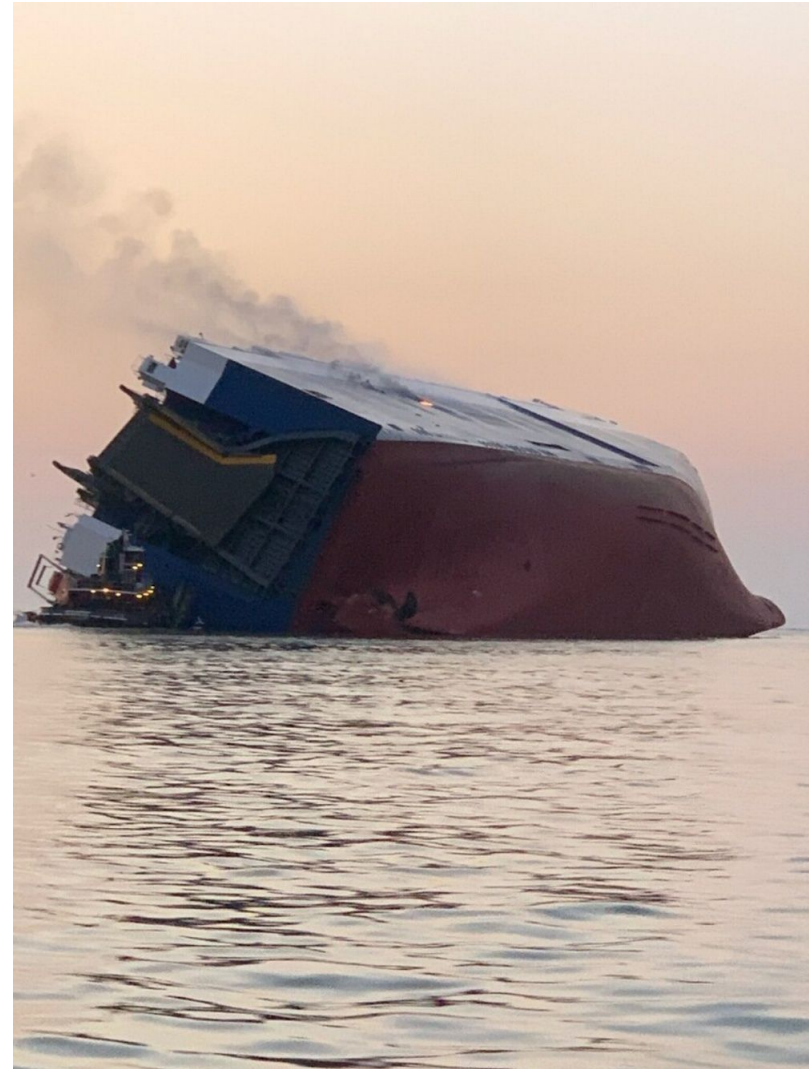
Al Sandrik

Warning Coordination Meteorologist  
NWS WFO Jacksonville, Florida



# Day 1

I See This on the TV Monitor While Working The NFL's Jacksonville Vs. Kansas City Game!





# Initial NWS JAX Response

Coordinating Initial Forecasts, etc...

So WHILE involved in this planned “Event” at the Stadium  
I was also coordinating “Incident response” with the Office & NOAA SSC  
Remember your G-300/400 Classes? Well here it is!!!!

**Office:** WFO Jacksonville

**Date(s) of Event:** September 8, 2019

**Brief overview of the Event:** Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Kansas City Chiefs

**Location of Event:** TIAA Bank Stadium

**Partner(s) Being Supported:** City Officials, County or Parish Officials, State Officials, FEMA, Other Federal-Level Partner

**Partner Specifics:** Jacksonville Fire-Rescue City of Jacksonville Emergency Preparedness Division Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Jacksonville Transportation Authority FEMA/DHS FBI Florida Division of Law Enforcement

**DSS Provided:** Phone Briefing(s), Email briefing and/or graphics, In-Person briefing at the Partner(s) location (EOC, etc)

**Specifics:** Written Outlooks (2), Written Forecast (1) Stand up briefing at security meeting On site support

**Was there significant weather observed (or being forecasted)?:** Yes

**Weather Details:** Temperature of 98F, Parking lot Heat Index of 100 to 104F West Stands HI of 100 to 104F East Stands, in full sun and shielded from sea breeze, 104 to 108F Plume from any incident would travel toward the N and NW and with a dispersion index of 22 to 30 would hover near the ground. Safest approach for first responders would be from the SE.

**Are you aware of any decisions made or plans changed due to your forecast?:** Extra cooling busses. Fans allowed to bring in one bottle of water each Jacksonville Fire-Rescue has declared a Mass Casualty Event (MCE) and added extra medical personnel and ambulances. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office officers have been given information on signs of heat related illnesses in order to intervene as early as possible. Constant communications from command centre with officers to ensure safety at all times.

**Feedback:** Very well received and appreciated

**Other:** Negative



# Initial NWS JAX Response

## Coordinating Initial Spot Forecasts, with the NOAA SSC, Southern Region HQ, etc...

Re: NOAA point person on car carrier oil issues SSSI - Hold x



**Al Sandrik - NOAA Federal** <al.sandrik@noaa.gov>  
to Scott ▾

FYI have coordinated with Brad Benggio at USCG D7 and Jay. We are providing a Spot Forecast this morning to Jay and Brad and Jay will provide to USCG.

On Sun, Sep 8, 2019 at 9:09 AM Bradford Benggio, NOAA <[brad.benggio@noaa.gov](mailto:brad.benggio@noaa.gov)> wrote:

Thanks Al. Look fwd to working with you as always.

Brad Benggio

On Sep 8, 2019, at 9:07 AM, Al Sandrik - NOAA Federal <[al.sandrik@noaa.gov](mailto:al.sandrik@noaa.gov)> wrote:

[brad.benggio@noaa.gov](mailto:brad.benggio@noaa.gov)

### Marine Accident/Incident Report

**Office:** WFO Jacksonville

**Date / Time of Event:** September, 8, 2019 2AM

**Location:** St Simons Island Sound, GA

**Fatalities:** unknown

**Injuries:** unknown.

**Event Details:** Initially aware via social media of marine incident of car carrier cargo ship severely listing. Weather likely Not a factor. Fire on board the ship Sunday morning as well. We were requested for spot forecast report about 9 am which we submitted to the EMA and NOAA officials. 20 people have been safely removed and 4 people remain unaccounted for on the M/V Golden Ray, a 656 ft vehicle carrier. Ship was built in 2017. Reports indicated the incident started around 2 AM Sunday morning.

**Watches/Warnings/Advisories/Statements:** Weather was benign early Sunday morning. Not advisories, watches, warnings, or statements in effect.

**Decision Support Services:** This is an ongoing incident. We have provided a spot forecast for the incident.

**Media response:** This has produced a local media response and some national news companies are picking up on the story. <https://www.news4jax.com/news/georgia/coast-guard-evacuating-crew-from-cargo-ship-listing-in-port-of-brunswick> <https://www.foxnews.com/us/cargo-ship-georgia-coast-guard-listing> <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/cargo-ship-crew-evacuated-port-closed-vessel-movement-65465614>

**Equipment Status:** No issues.

### Car Carrier

National Weather Service Jacksonville

2019-09-08 9:28 AM EDT

Spot Forecast for Car Carrier...Glynn County EMA  
National Weather Service Jacksonville FL  
928 AM EDT Sun Sep 8 2019

Forecast is based on forecast start time of 1000 EDT on September 08. If conditions become unrepresentative...contact the National Weather Service.

Please contact our office at (904) 741-4370, if you have questions or concerns with this forecast.

.DISCUSSION...

Initially southerly winds will shift to out of the east-southeast at about 1-2 PM this afternoon, reaching upwards of 10-15 mph sustained with gusts as high as 20 mph before weakening this evening and return to being out of the south dropping to below 10 mph. Heat index values are expected to reach up to 100 degrees for the Brunswick area, with Min RH values dropping to about 50%. Low dispersion values are expected over the southeast Georgia coast and nearshore waters.

.TODAY...

TIME (EDT)	10A	11A	12P	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM
Sky (%)	2	2	3	4	5	5	5	5
Weather cov	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Weather type	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tstm cov	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chc of pcprn (%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temp	84	87	89	92	93	93	92	91
RH	70	61	57	51	51	51	54	58
SFC wnd dir	SSW	S	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE



# Luckily She Didn't Capsize in St Johns River and...

...at least we **JUST** missed Hurricane Dorian's CPA!!!!!!

## Evacuations lifted for Georgia coast as Dorian moves away

All coastal counties closed schools; residents evacuated Monday



Photo by Ginny Adams Worthington taken on St. Simons at 1:30 p.m. Thursday

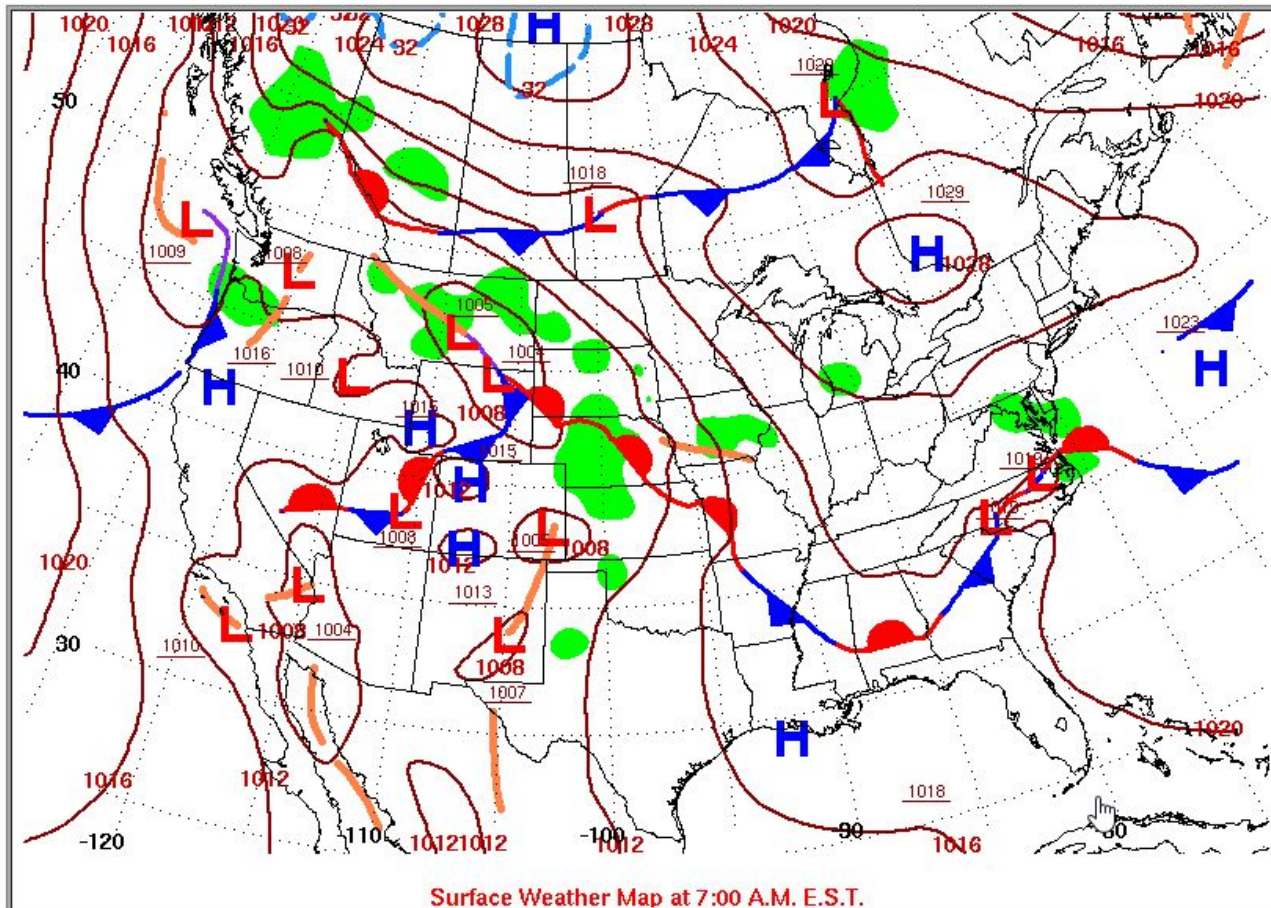


# Day 2 - NWS Jacksonville Deploys Personnel to the SSSI

And right into the Breach, but at least we missed Hurricane Dorian's CPA!!!!!!

## Daily Weather Maps

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

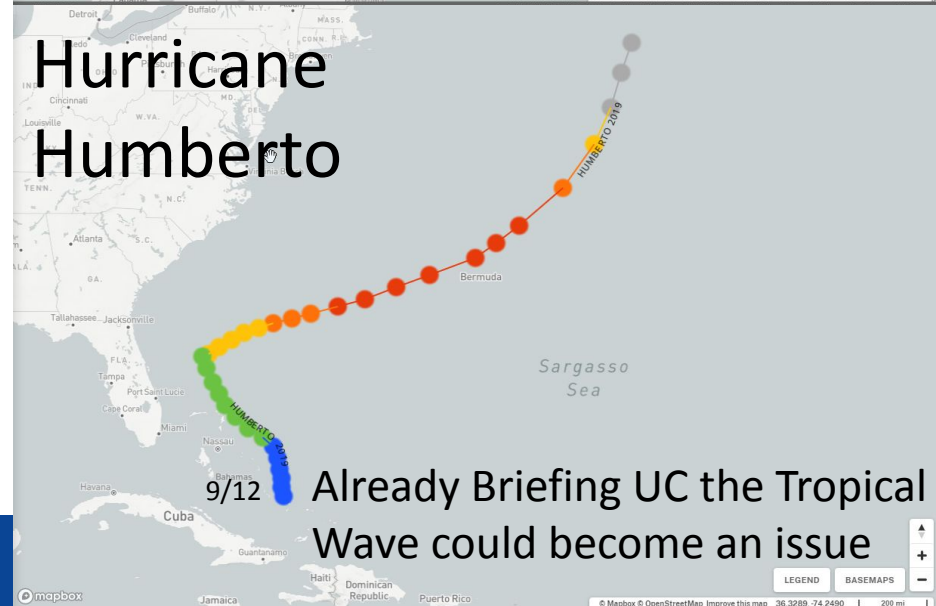


## T.S. Gabrielle



Not a Concern for US, but in South Korea!

## Hurricane Humberto



Already Briefing UC the Tropical Wave could become an issue



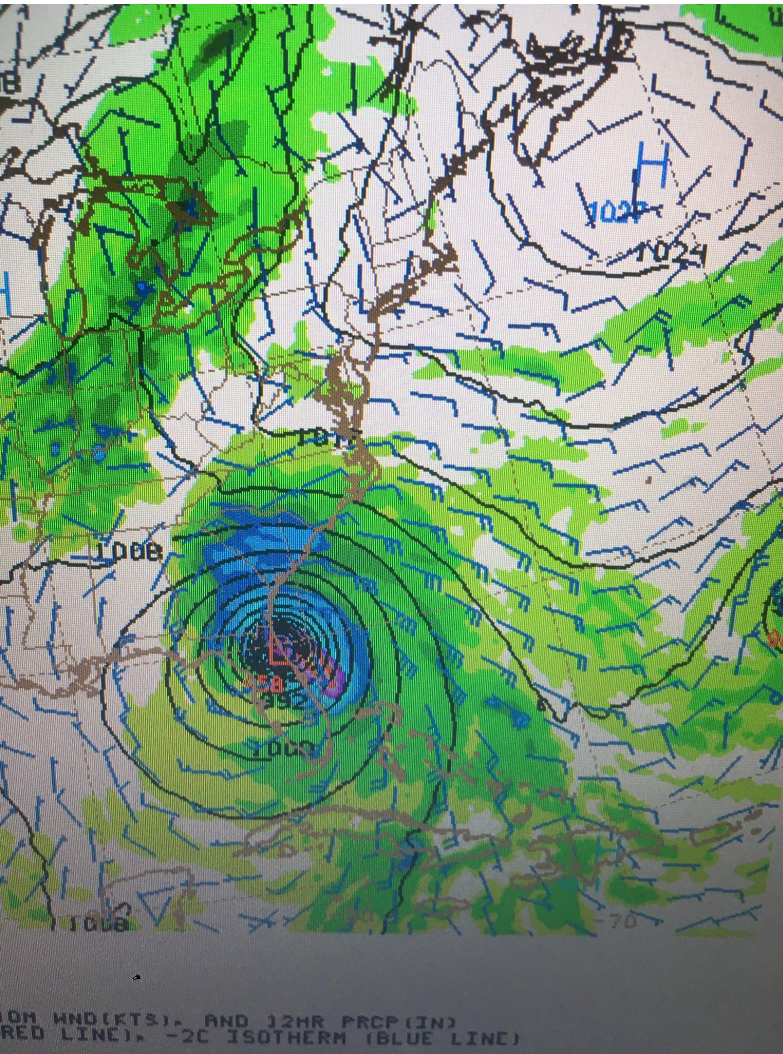
# Our First PLanning Meeting

Embassy Suites, Brunswick, GA on 9 September 2019



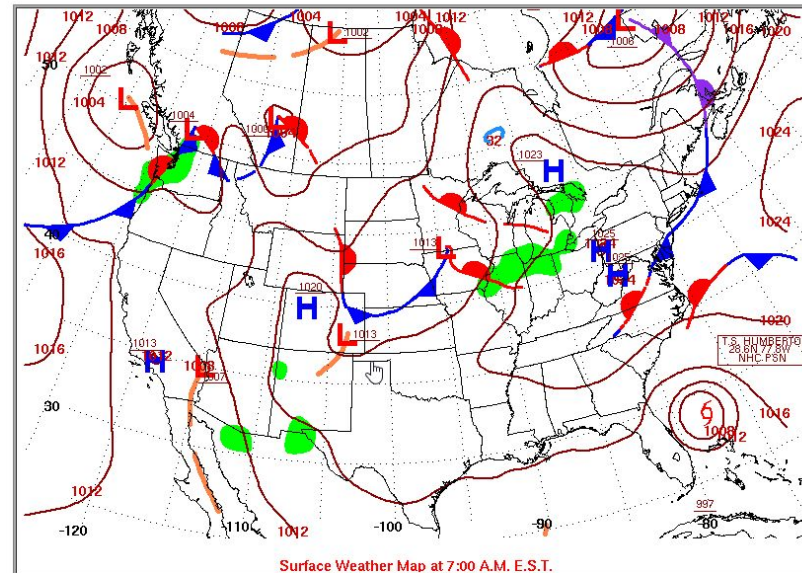


# Of Course Here is the GFS Forecast for the Wave that Became Humberto



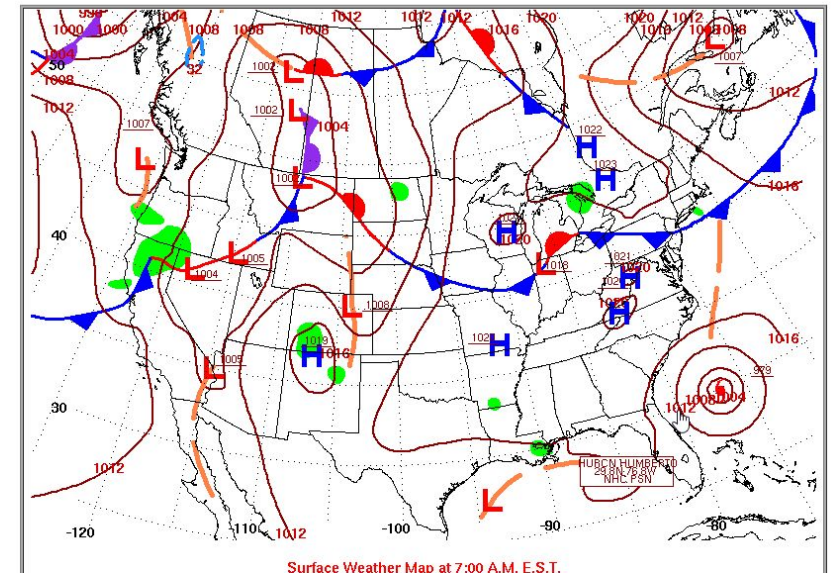
## Daily Weather Maps

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2019



## Daily Weather Maps

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

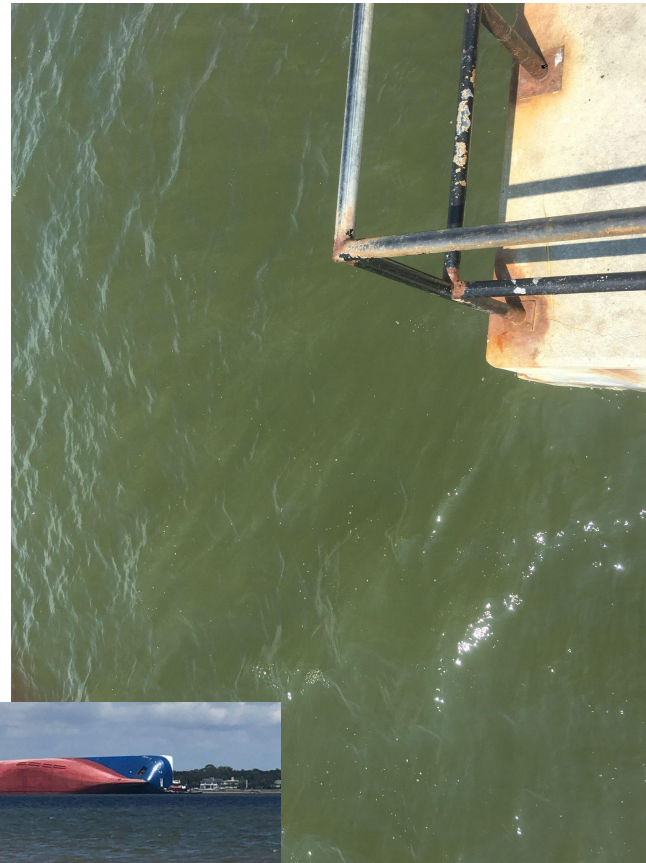






# UNOFFICIAL Field Observer

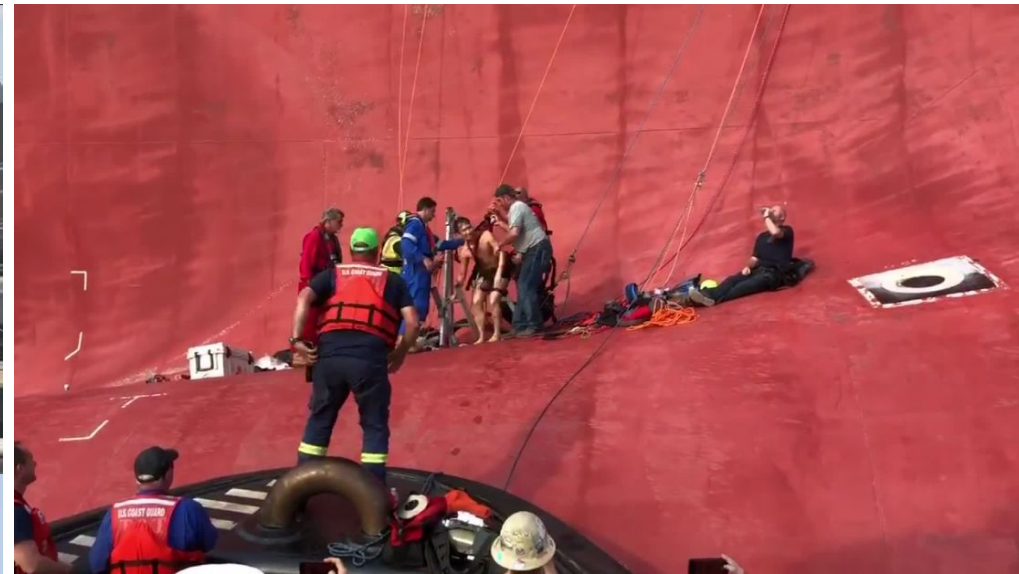
Brad couldn't get right up here so I was describing and texting photos of what I saw





# Day 2 - The "Poseidon Adventure" Rescue

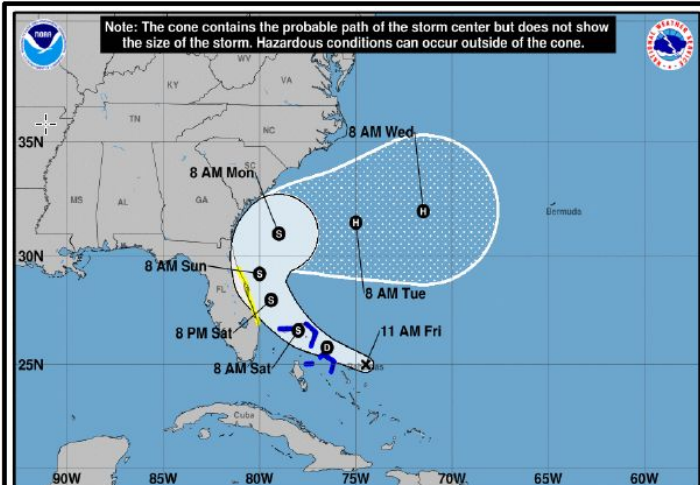
Four Crew Members Cut out of the Vessel that Evening! Blue House Briefing.





# PTC 9 / Hurricane Humberto

Friday the 13th! (September 13th, 2019)

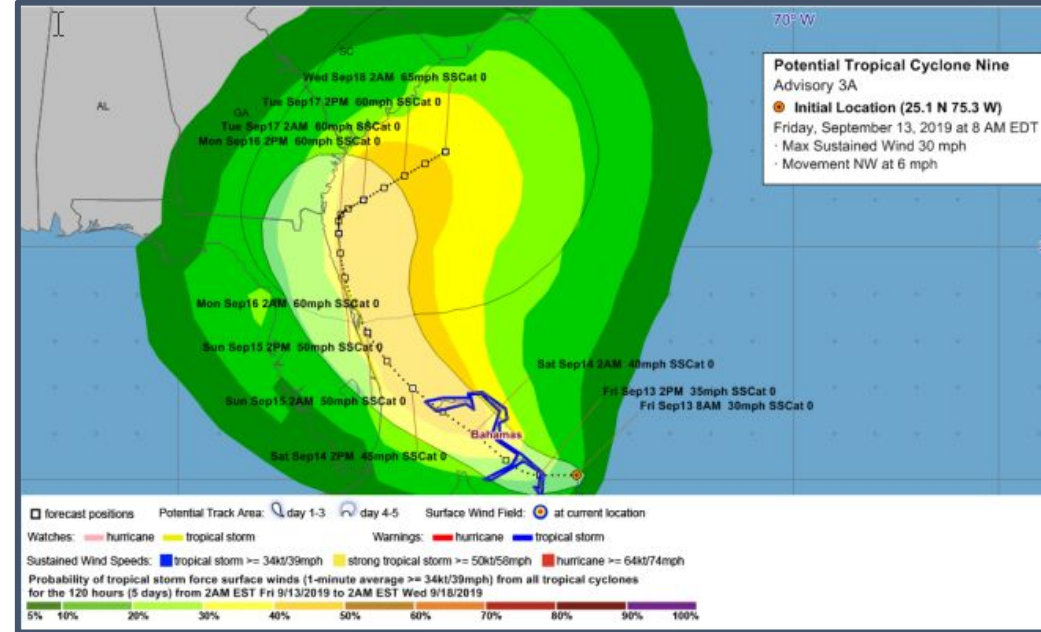
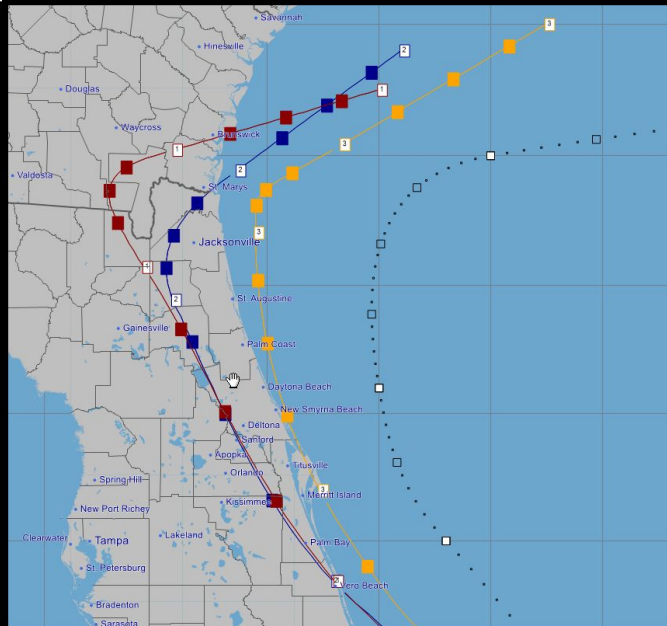


**Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine**  
 Friday September 13, 2019  
 11 AM EDT Advisory 4  
 NWS National Hurricane Center

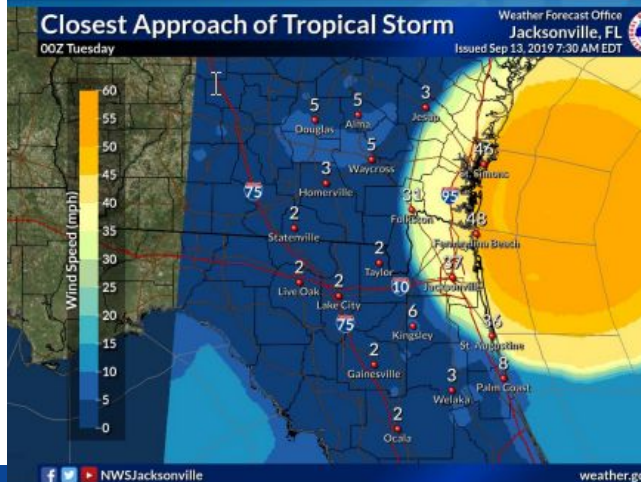
**Current information: x**  
 Center location 25.0 N 74.5 W  
 Maximum sustained wind 30 mph  
 Movement NW at 1 mph

**Forecast positions:**  
 ● Tropical Cyclone ○ Post/Potential TC  
 Sustained winds: D < 39 mph  
 S 39-73 mph H 74-110 mph M > 110 mph

**Potential track area:** Day 1-3 Day 4-5  
**Watches:** Hurricane Trop Stm  
**Warnings:** Hurricane Trop Stm  
**Current wind extent:** Hurricane Trop Stm



- Based on a **ABSOLUTELY PERFECT** forecast, there is no such thing as a perfect forecast this early!
- Most Likely Time of arrival of Tropical Storm Force Winds: Sunday 18:00 to Monday 06:00 EDT



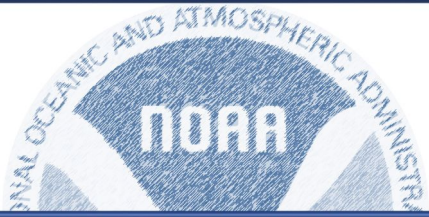
- Structure and speed of forward motion at CPA will be key to local impacts.
- Track will shift, more likely to the east/more offshore.
- On this forecast track: 40 to 50 knots with gusts to 60 knots.
- More likely: 25 to 35 knots Gusts 45 knots in a narrow band.
- Tides:
  - .75 to 1' Above astronomical near Golden Ray site.
  - 1 to 1.5 feet above normal astronomical along Jekyll Causeway and west of Sidney Lanier Bridge.



# Other Early Briefings / Climatological Data



Saint Simons Sound Incident  
Late Sept. & Oct. Climatology



NWS WFO Jacksonville, Florida  
Friday, September 20, 2019  
9:31 AM



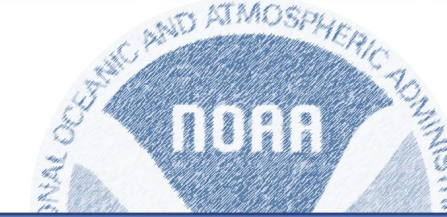
Saint Simons Sound Incident  
T.S. Karen Briefing



NWS WFO Jacksonville, Florida  
Monday, September 23, 2019  
8:13 AM



Saint Simons Sound Incident  
Forecasted Northeaster Events



NWS WFO Jacksonville, Florida  
Friday, September 27, 2019  
7:25 AM



Saint Simons Sound Incident  
Forecasted Northeaster Events



NWS WFO Jacksonville, Florida  
Monday, September 30, 2019  
12:24 PM



Saint Simons Sound Incident  
Gale Center (Tropical Storm?)  
18-19 October 2019



NWS WFO Jacksonville, Florida  
Thursday, October 17, 2019  
9:58 AM

## Tropical Storm Nestor

Latest Information As Of: 11 AM EDT October 18, 2019

Weather Forecast Office

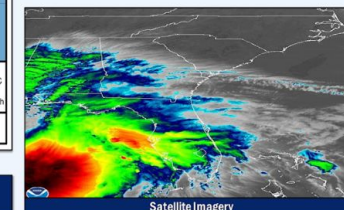
Jacksonville

Issued October 18, 2019 1:54 PM ET



### Things to Know For NE FL & SE GA

- Impacts Saturday, Midnight to 6 p.m.
- Gales and minor flooding along the coast.
- Possible severe storms and isolated tornadoes
- Rainfall of 1 to 4 inches



Visit [hurricanes.gov](http://hurricanes.gov) and [floridadisaster.org](http://floridadisaster.org)



# Burps, Capping the Vents, Draining Tanks & Deployable Tide Gauges

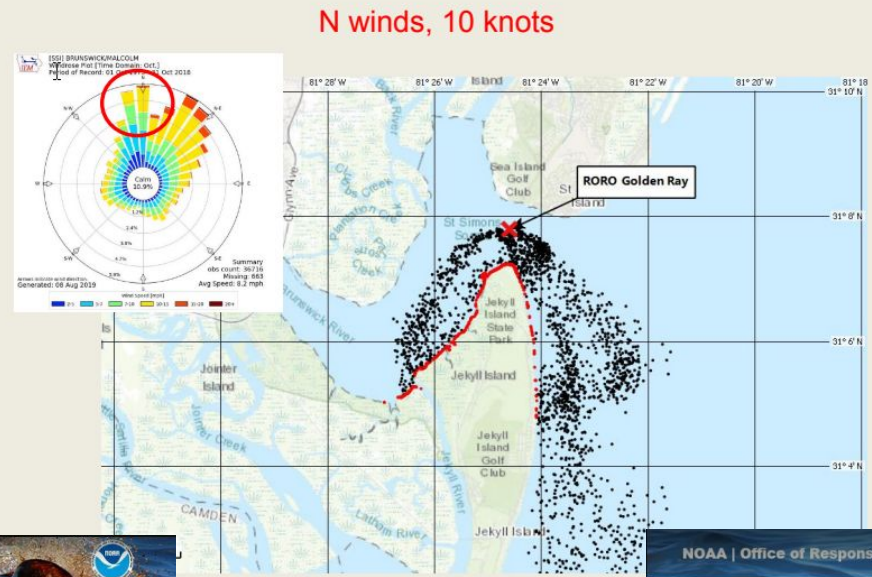
## Working with OR&R and the SSC's

### Incident Information

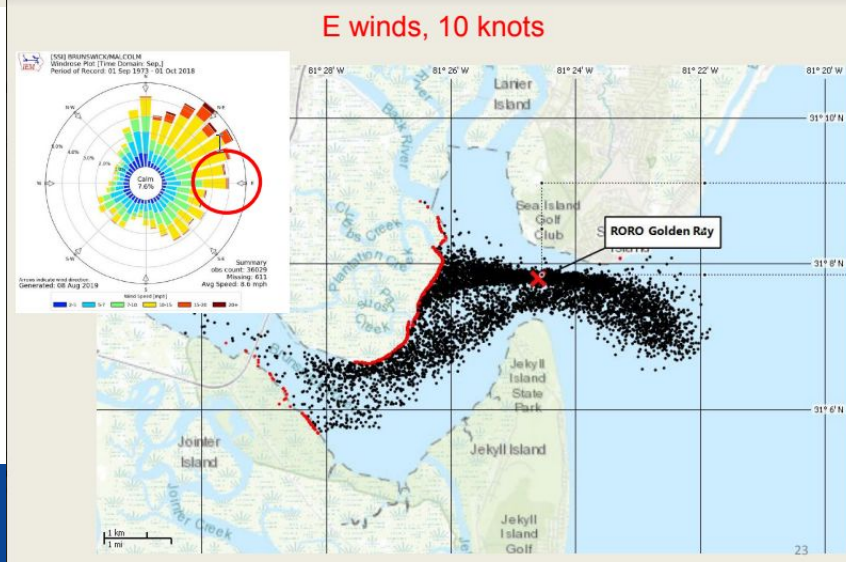
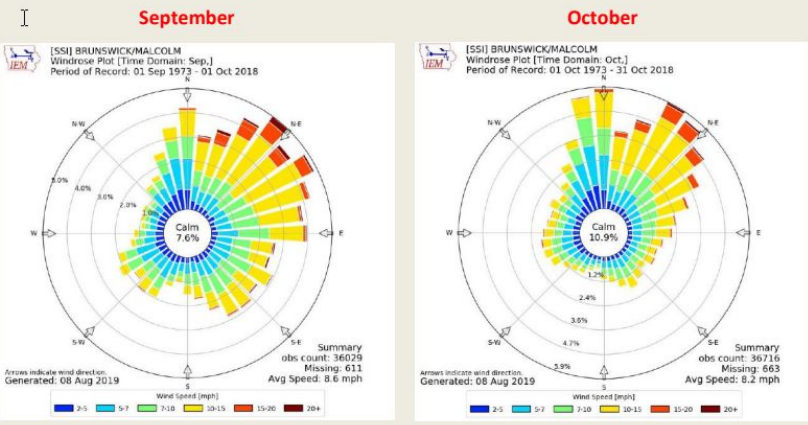
The ROR vessel Golden Ray capsized off Brunswick, Georgia on the morning of September 8, 2019.

The vessel has an estimated 32,780 gallons of diesel fuel onboard. Vessel is just south of the #19 buoy on the entrance to St Simons sound in ~30 feet of water.

NOAA is providing a trajectory analysis of potential releases from the vessel during recovery efforts. Trajectories have been developed using tidal currents and climatological wind data (from NWS).



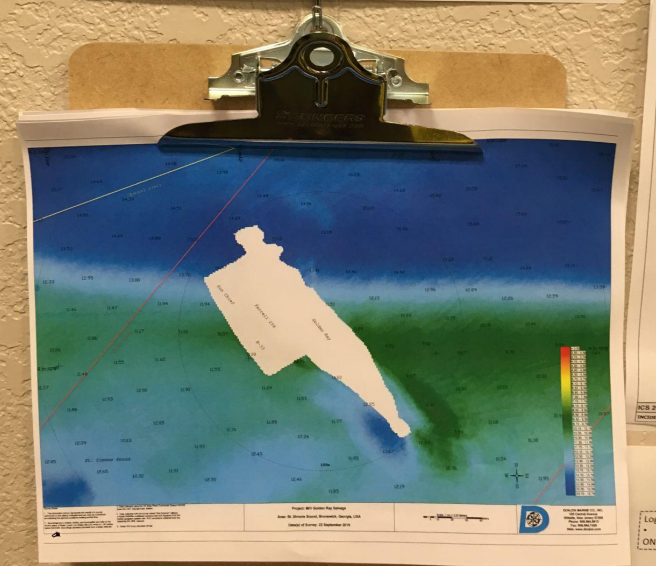
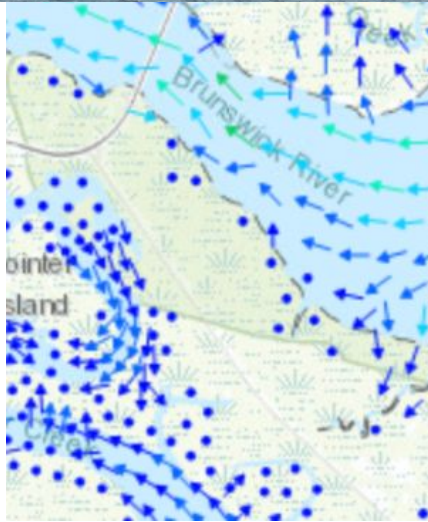
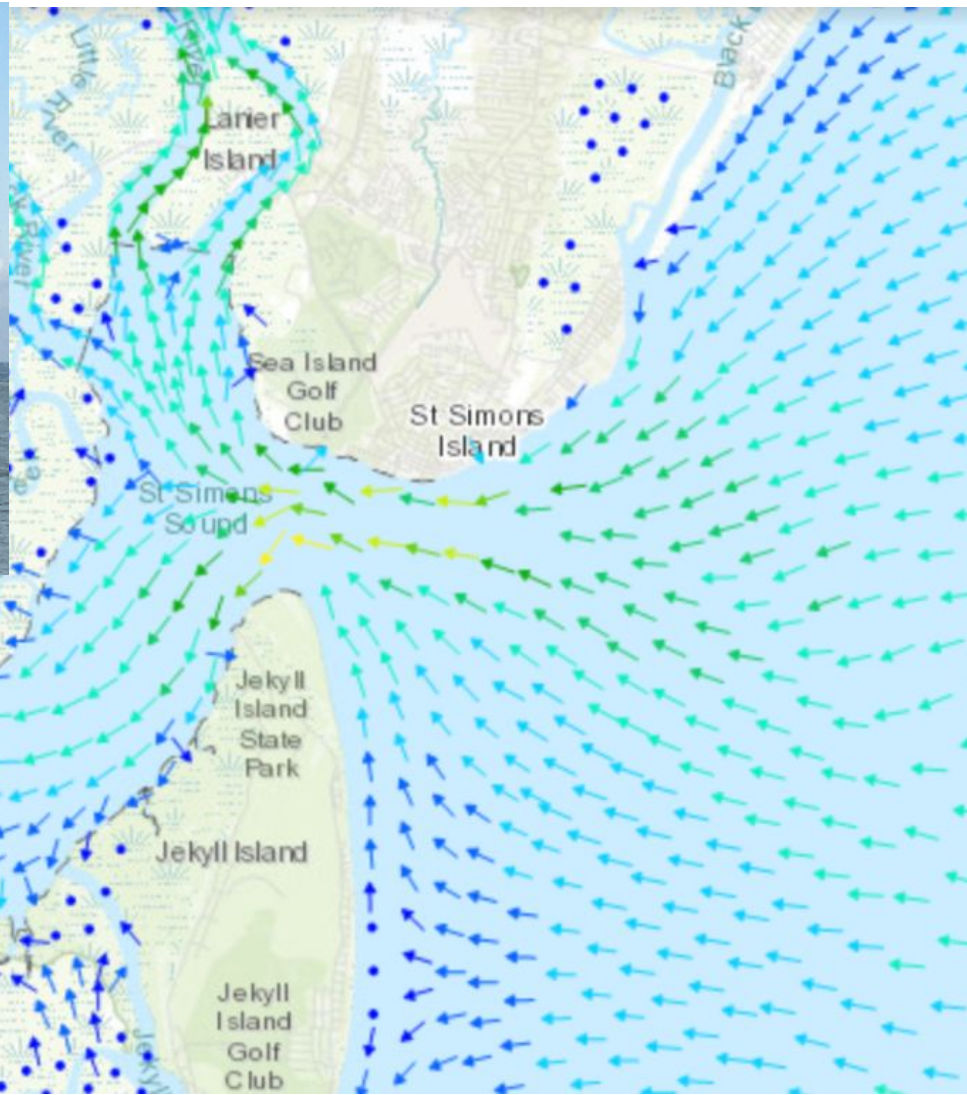
### 1973-2018 Winds at Brunswick





# Currents, Scour and Hogging

Oh My!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



ICS 207 - Organization Chart  
INCIDENT ACTION PLAN SOFTWARE™

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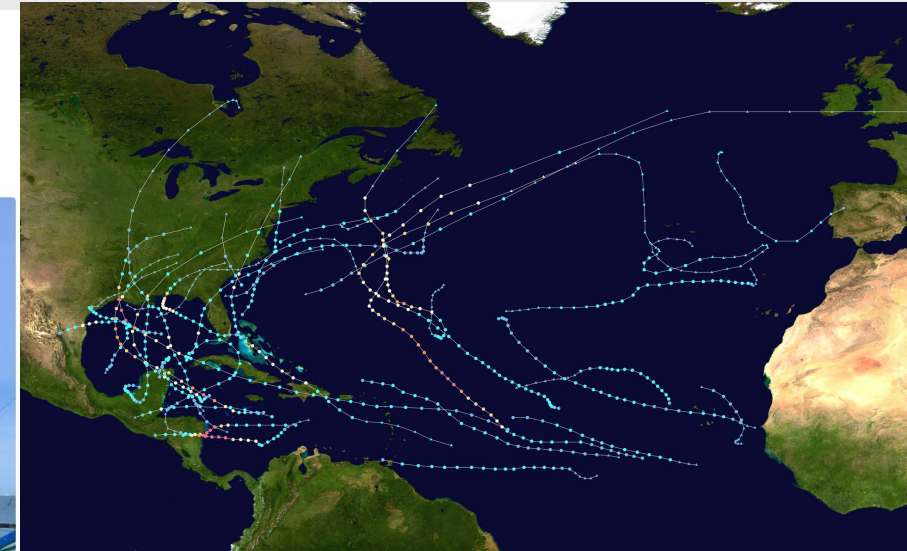
Logistics/Safety:  
Extra person  
ONLY DAILY OPS



# COVID and the Vesabar 10,000

Oh Yeah and about the Quietest Hurricane Season We Would have!

**COVID-19 among crew delays work to remove Golden Ray from St. Simons Sound**

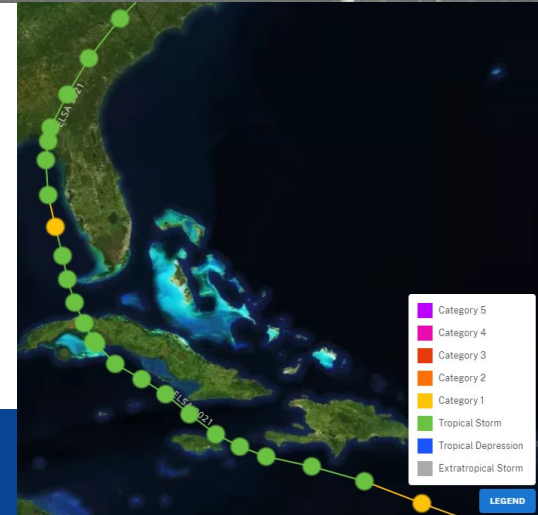
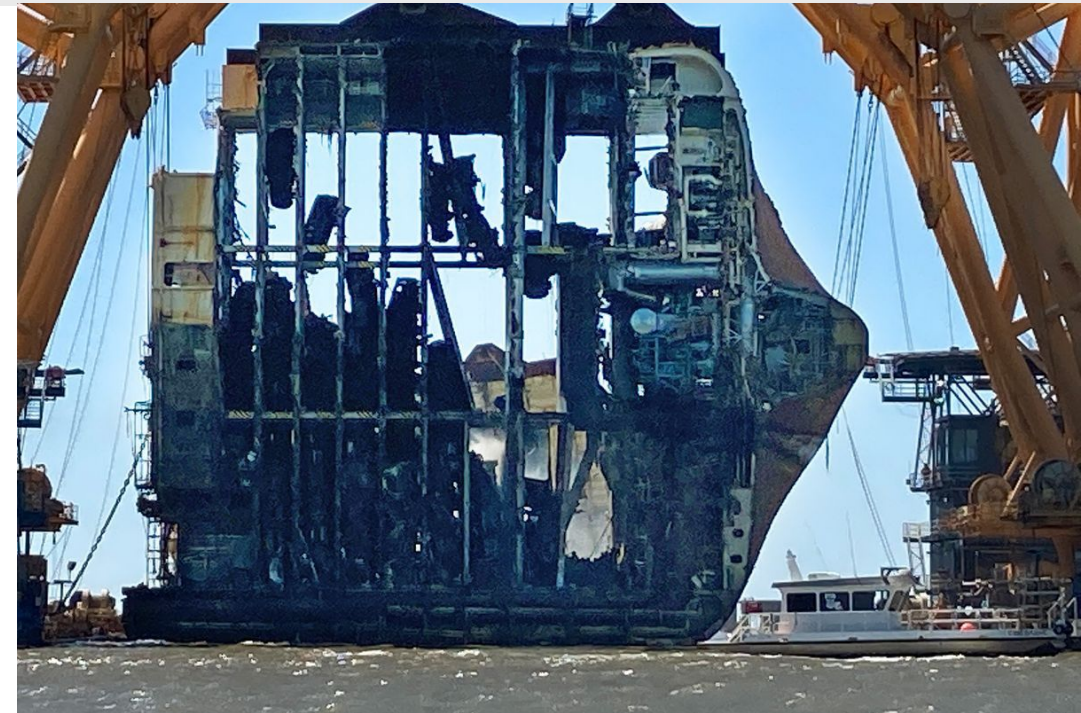
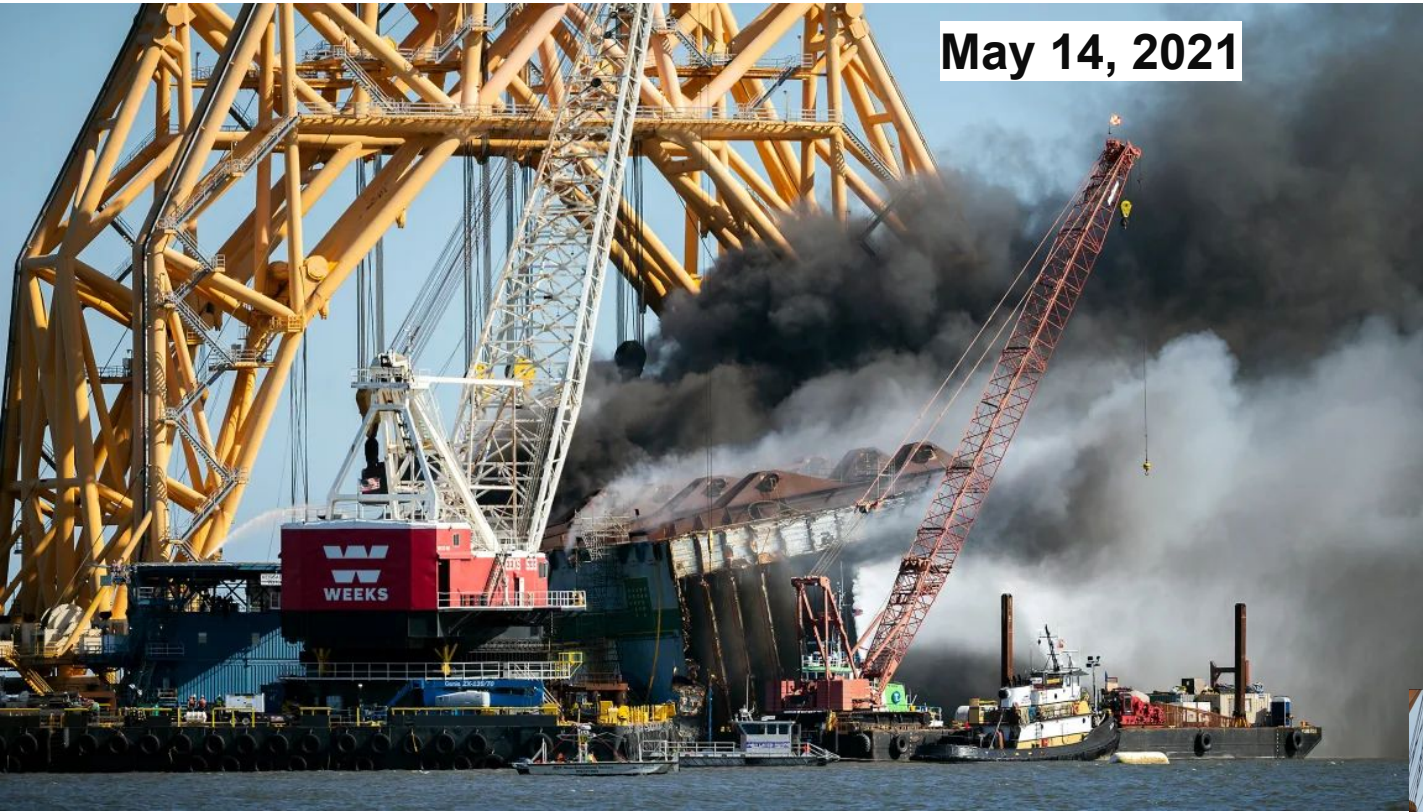


October 28th, 2020



# Slicing the Sections, More Fires and The Missing "Product!"

Oh Yeah and Yet Another WEAK Tropical Storm!







# Last Sections Being Removed, and the Sides Fall Out!

Around October 3rd, 2021 (Over Two Years!)



Sept 9th, 2019





# Last Section Removed!

October 21st, 2021



**DEVELOPING STORY**

**LAST PIECE OF GOLDEN RAY REMOVED**

**CBS 47 FOX 30**  
**ACTION NEWS JAX**



# Done...

## "...And there was much rejoicing!" And a bit of sadness!

On Thu, Nov 11, 2021 at 10:44 AM Jason Maddox <[jmaddox@chgms.com](mailto:jmaddox@chgms.com)> wrote:

Al,

It's been a long road, and we're winding down our response. It's time to discontinue the spot forecasting for the St Simons Sound Incident. That said, I want to thank you and your team for the support you have given these 795 days. I remember you and I talking back in September and October of 2019 at the Embassy Suites, while we were still under that year's Hurricane season, discussing storm development in the Bahamas. Seems like ages ago. I do think though you and your team should take pride in being a part of this historic event and the largest salvage operation in US history. Please note that Jackie is now off the response and is getting some rest. Thank you for all that you do.

Jason Maddox  
Senior Response Manager  
Technical Support Specialist  
Gallagher Marine Systems, LLC  
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Moorestown, New Jersey USA 08057

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.



# “Like It Never Even Happened”

Sorry Servpro!





# Questions?

Better Days!

