



Florida Keys Marine Weather Update

12:50 p.m. EDT, Thursday, September 26, 2024

Hi everyone,

- * A **Coastal Flood Warning** remains in effect for all of the Florida Keys
- * A **Tropical Storm Warning** remains effect for all of the Florida Keys and adjacent coastal waters of Florida Bay, Hawk Channel, the Straits of Florida, and the extreme southeastern Gulf of Mexico

Hurricane Helene is intensifying and accelerating over the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Helene is forecast to intensity further into a major hurricane as it moves north-northeastward toward a landfall around the northern Florida coast of Apalachee Bay tonight. Helene is a very large system, and impacts are occurring far from the center and well outside the forecast track error cone. **Significant marine weather impacts are expected to persist across Florida Keys coastal waters through tonight**, including:

- Peak sustained S winds ranging from near 30 knots across the eastern areas to 40-45 knots over the extreme southeastern Gulf of Mexico.
- Localized wind gusts approaching 45-55 knots in the most potent squalls.
- Rough and dangerous seas, including significant wave heights peaking around 15-20 feet in portions of the lower Straits of Florida and extreme southeastern Gulf of Mexico. In fact, the Satan Shoal buoy just off the Florida Reef tract southwest of Key West is currently measuring a **significant wave height of 16 feet!**

Small Craft Should Remain In Port this afternoon and tonight.





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* A Coastal Flood Warning remains in effect (**1 to 3 feet above mean higher high water**). The highest values will be across the Lower Keys and Key West.

Winds should decrease below tropical storm intensity in most areas around the Keys by this evening. However, Small Craft Advisories will then be issued, and likely remain in effect at least through Friday morning. Coastal flooding in low-lying areas will persist though high tide Friday morning.

The next marine weather update will be sent by midday Friday.

Consult the following links for the latest marine weather and forecast information.

National Hurricane Center: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Florida Keys Coastal Waters Forecasts:

<https://forecast.weather.gov/product.php?site=NWS&issuedby=KEY&product=CWF&format=CI&version=1&glossary=0>

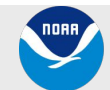
Gulf Portal--Point and Click Forecasts: <https://www.weather.gov/greatlakes/?portal=gulf>

Wave Graphics from our Nearshore Wave Prediction System: <https://polar.ncep.noaa.gov/nwps/nwpsloop.php?site=KEY&cg=1>

Social Media: Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NWSKeyWest>) and X (formerly Twitter; <https://www.x.com/NWSKeyWest>)

Best Regards,

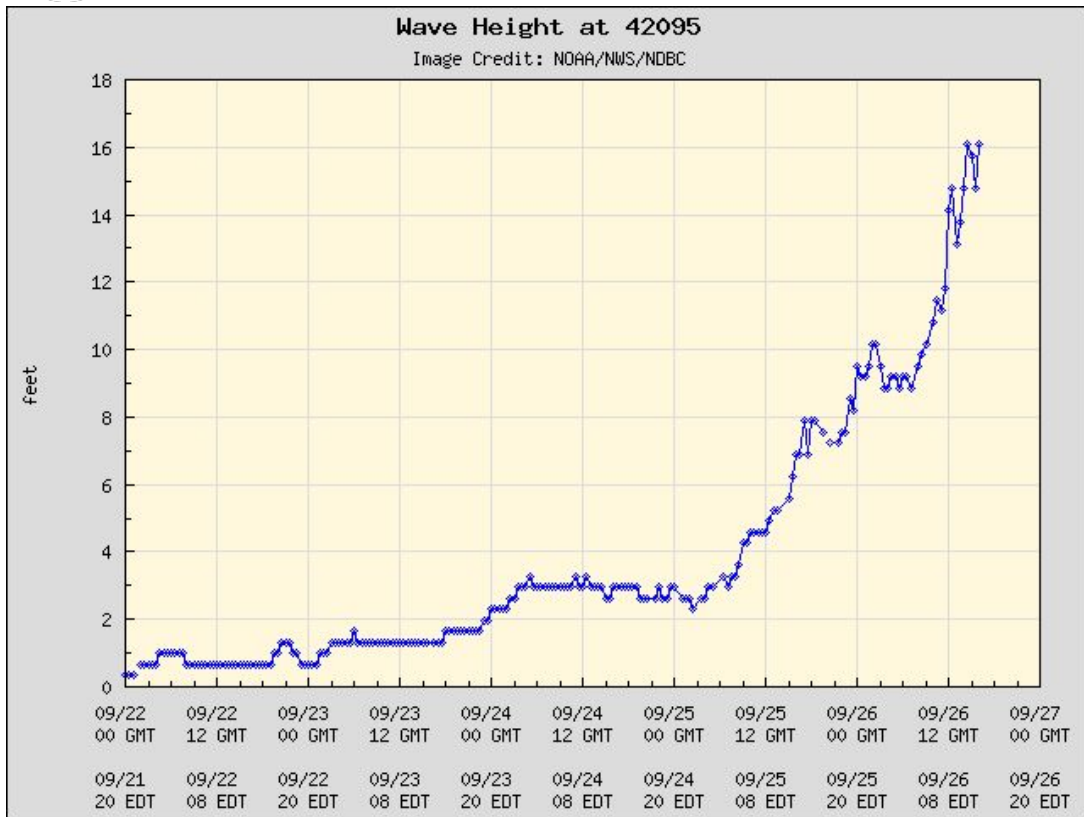
NWS Florida Keys Operations Team





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“Significant Wave Height” = the average height of the highest $\frac{1}{3}$ of the waves. Individual waves may be more than twice the significant wave height.

