



# Hurricane-Force Wind Warning

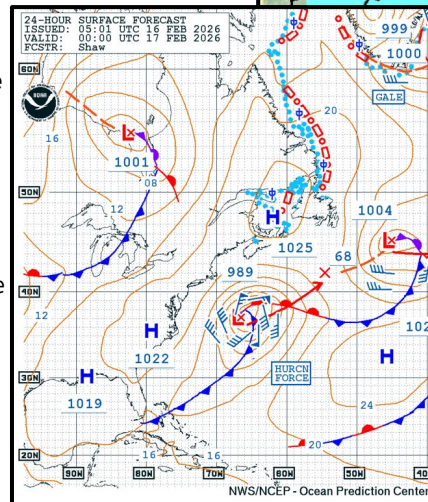
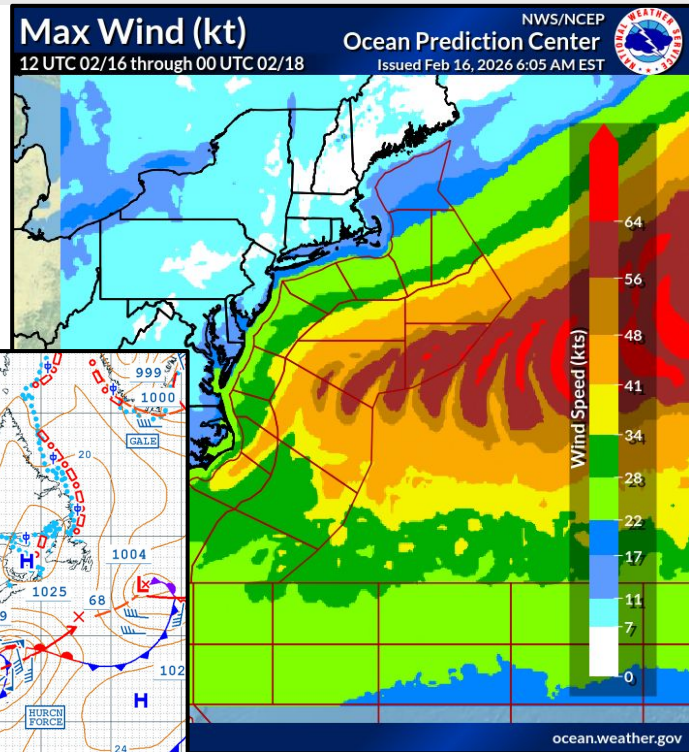
Today - Tue (02/16-02/17)

February 16, 2026  
1500 UTC

**CALL TO ACTION: Mariners should be executing avoidance plans now!**

## KEY MESSAGES:

- Low pressure off the mid-Atlantic this morning with a pressure of 1000 mb will intensify to 989 mb by this evening (see 24 hr sfc chart below).
- An expanding area of gale-force winds will spread N and E covering a large portion of the mid-Atlantic waters S of 40N by this afternoon with pockets of storm-force winds developing near and over the Gulf Stream E of the Delmarva.
- **Storm-force sustained winds expand well E of the mid-Atlantic coast by tonight with embedded area of hurricane-force sustained winds of 65-70 kt developing near and over the Gulf Stream through Tue morning. There is high confidence in hurricane-force winds occurring and will gradually expand in coverage into Tue morning E of 67W.**
- **Wind gusts could easily reach 80 - 85 knots in the areas of the strongest winds.** Winds may gust to storm-force or greater in any thunderstorm activity along and ahead of the cold front S of the Gulf Stream later today through Tue morning.
- ***This is a dangerous situation. Mariners should be executing avoidance plans now, bringing any voyages in the area to completion.***



**Outlook: East Coast N of 31N to 65W**



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## KEY MESSAGES:

- Seas will build to greater than 15 ft later today into tonight, then extend N and E as the wind field expands.
- Mariners can expect maximum seas from 20-34 feet in the strongest winds, especially along and S of the Gulf Stream. Winds and seas can be higher in and near thunderstorms especially to the south of the low.
- Winds will diminish from W to E on Tue with the western edge of the gale-force winds moving E of the area by late Tue.
- 12-foot and greater seas will only gradually shift east well out into the north Atlantic behind the low from Tue afternoon through Wed morning.
- Keep abreast of the latest in the tropics and high seas marine weather information at [hurricanes.gov](http://hurricanes.gov) and [ocean.weather.gov](http://ocean.weather.gov). The next briefing will be an update on Tuesday, February 17 by noon EST, or 1700 UTC.

