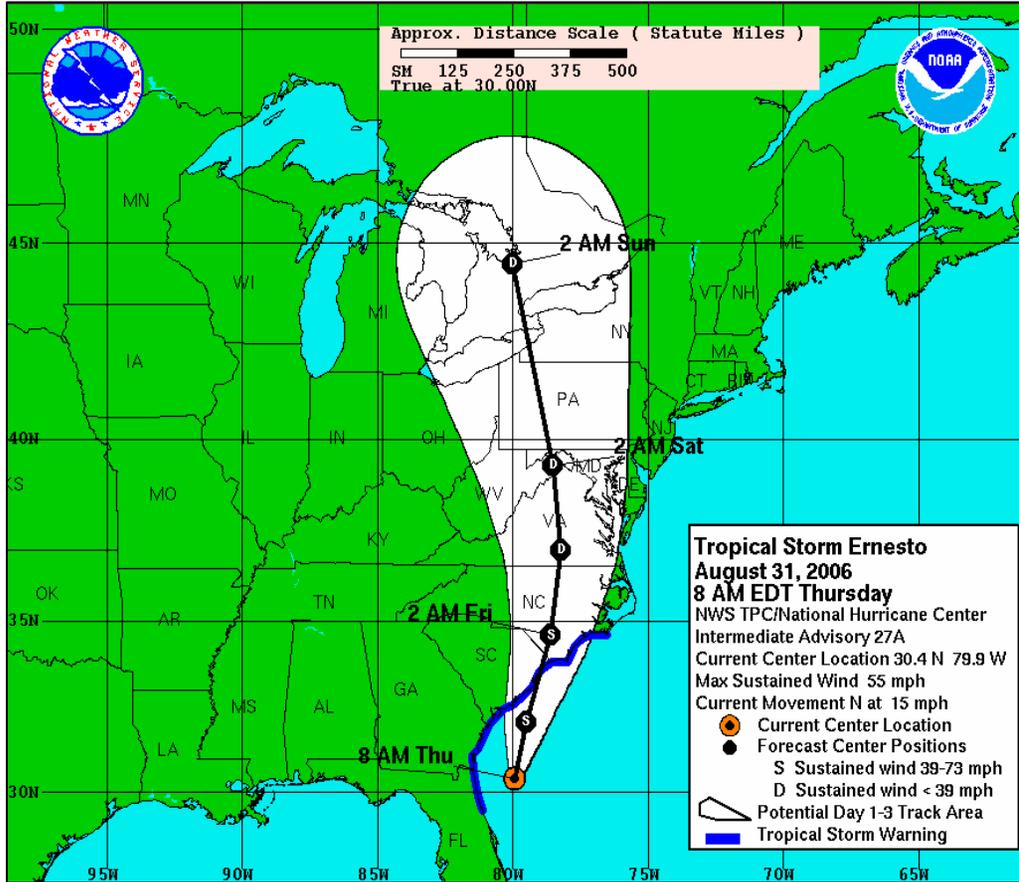
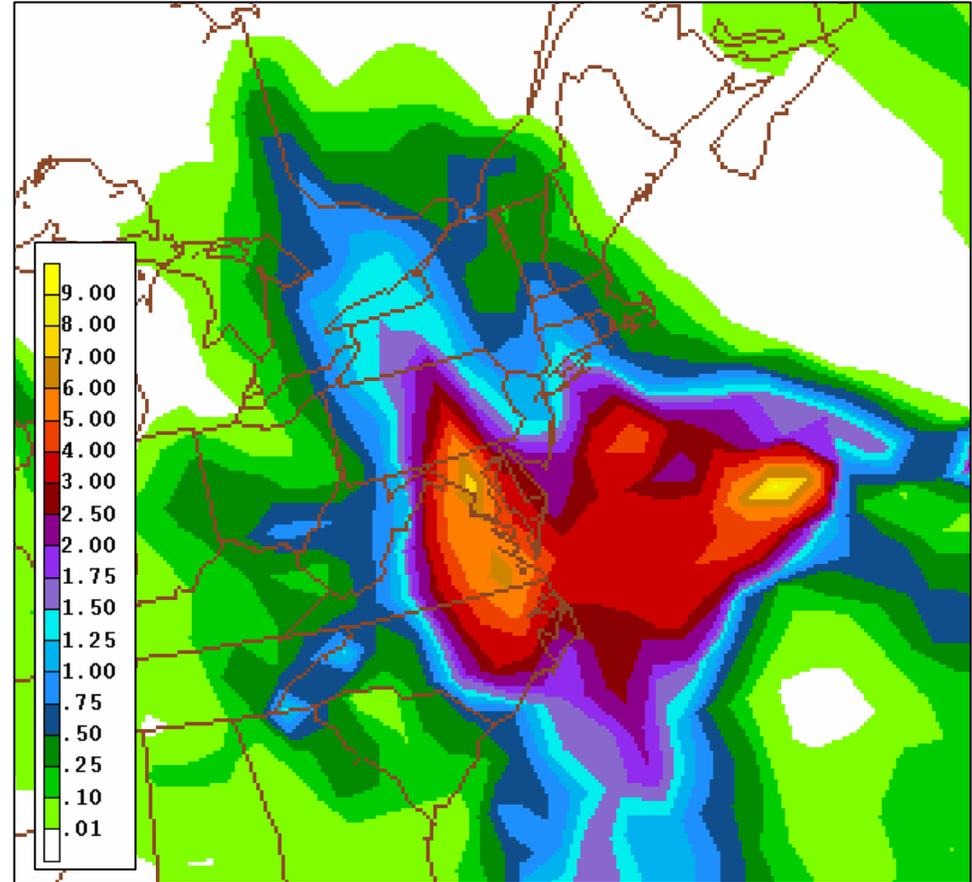




**STORM TRACK FORECAST FROM NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER**



**RAINFALL FORECAST FROM NCEP – GFS MODEL**



At 8:00 AM this morning Tropical Storm Ernesto was located near Latitude 30.4 North, Longitude 79.9 West or about 95 miles East of Jacksonville, Florida. Ernesto has maximum sustained winds of 55 MPH and is moving to the North at 15 MPH. Ernesto is forecast to move North and then North Northeast later today and gain some strength over the warm waters of the Gulf Stream before making its final landfall in South Carolina late this evening. Ernesto is expected to move North up the Appalachian Mountains on Friday and Saturday and into the Eastern Great Lakes by Sunday morning. As the remnants of Ernesto move well to the West of Connecticut on Saturday and Sunday, rain is expected to enter the State Friday night and may become heavy at times Saturday afternoon through Sunday afternoon. The rainfall is not expected to be a continuous heavy rain, and some breaks may occur during the weekend. Rainfall amounts of 1 – 2 inches with isolated amounts of up to 4 inches are possible. Minor inland flooding is possible, however, major flooding is not expected if Ernesto follows the forecast track. Gusty Easterly winds from Friday night to Sunday morning are expected to range from 20 – 30 MPH along the coast with gusts to 40 MPH. These long duration winds are expected to cause minor to moderate flooding along the Connecticut Coast from East Haven to Greenwich at the times of high tide Saturday at 6:00 AM and 6:30 PM, and again Sunday morning around 7:00 AM. Inland, winds are forecast to range from 15 – 25 MPH with gusts to 35 MPH. Another update will be issued by DEMHS Friday morning at 9:00 AM or sooner if the forecast track changes significantly.