Weather Briefing, 2023 Bermuda 1-2 Race
Return Leg
Prepared for Skipper's Meeting
June 14, 2023, 1700 UTC (1400 ADT)

Ken McKinley, Locus Weather
www.locusweather.com

Organization of briefing:

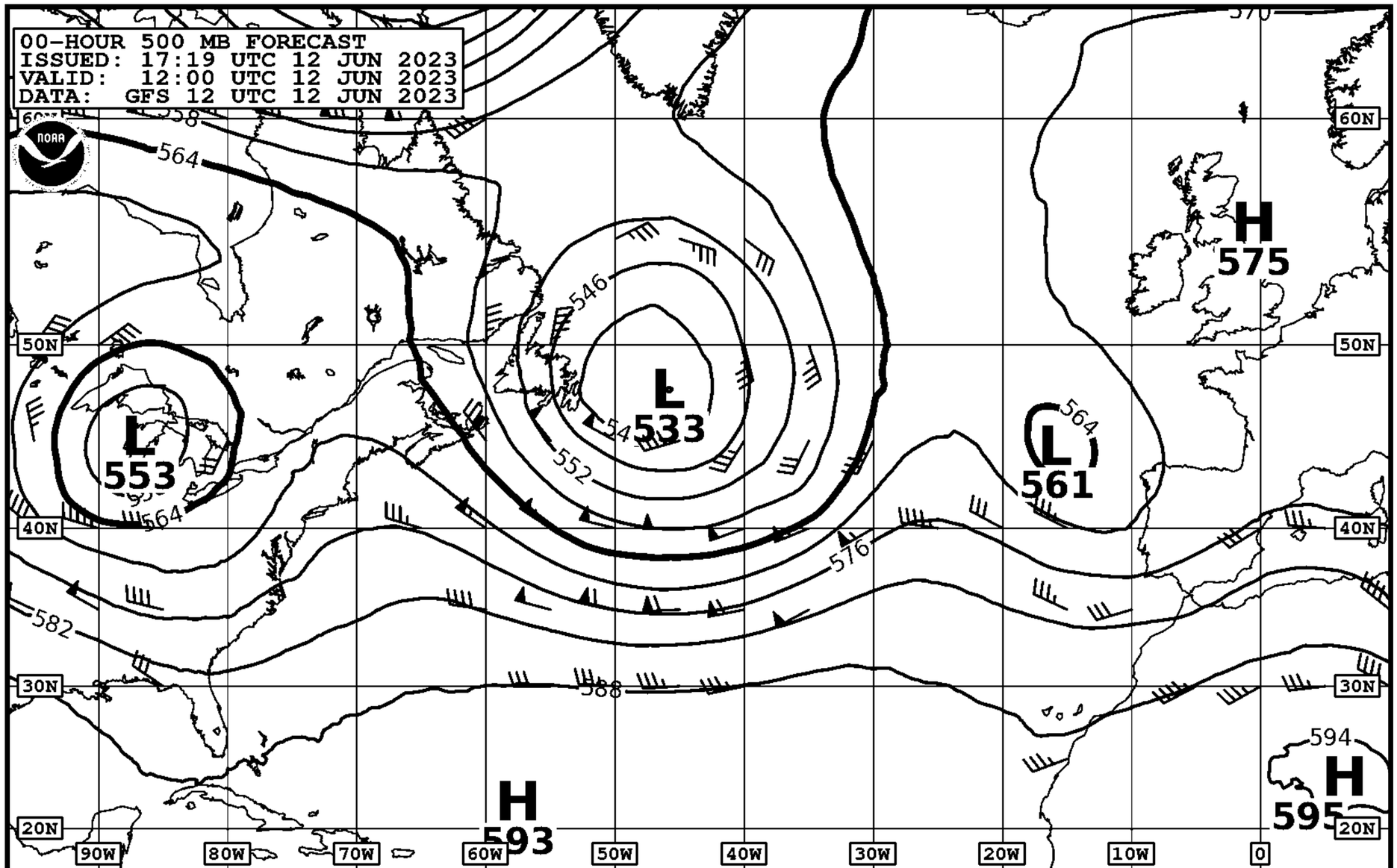
1. Recent weather history
2. Current weather situation
3. Weather forecast information for the next 6 days.
4. Possible different weather patterns which could develop.
5. Discussion of sources of publicly available information which will be useful during the race.

I will present information about conditions at upper levels and at the surface for numbers 1 through 3 above.

Recent Weather History

Monday morning 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)

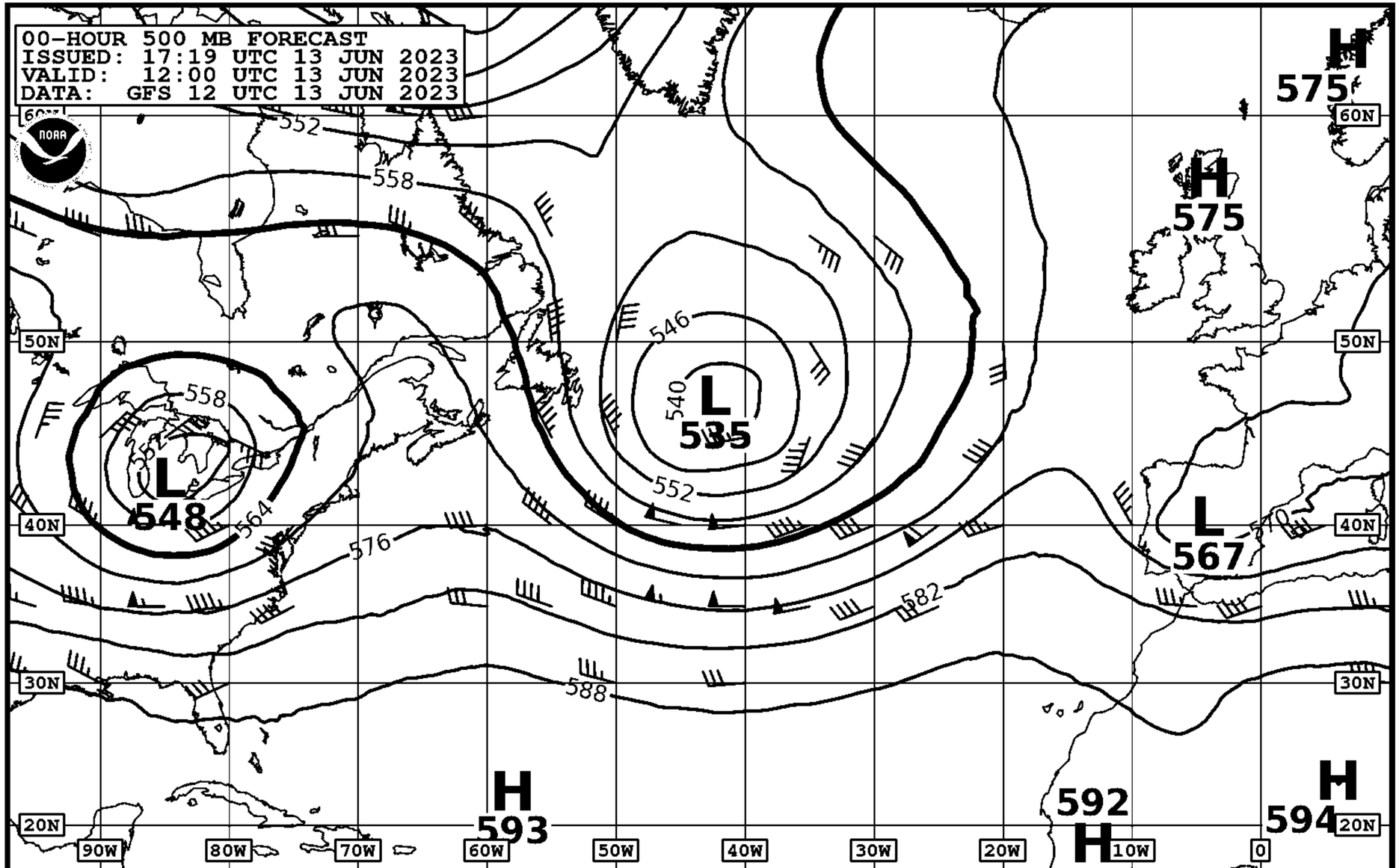
500 millibar chart



Recent Weather History

Tuesday morning 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)

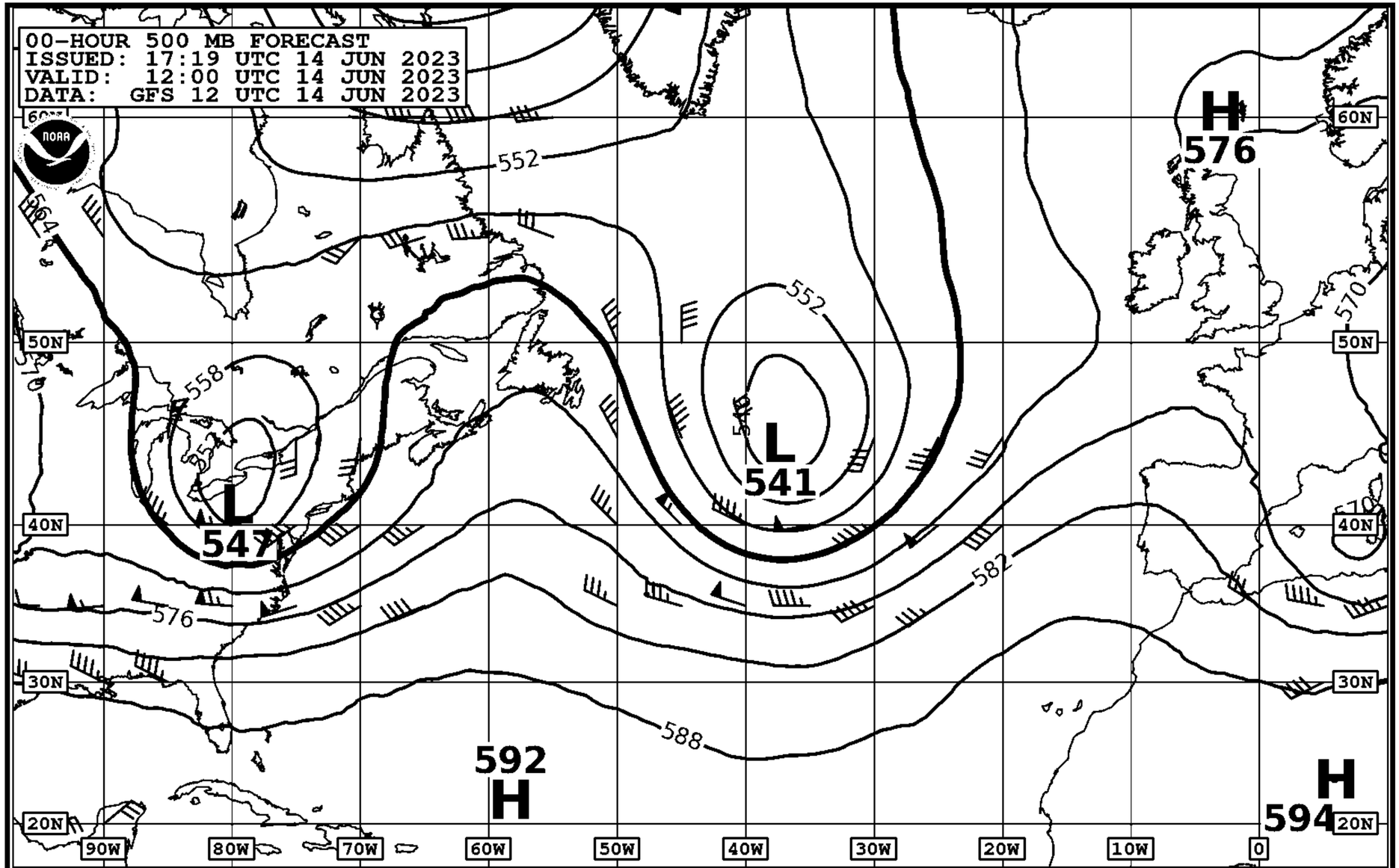
500 millibar chart



Recent Weather History

Wednesday morning 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)

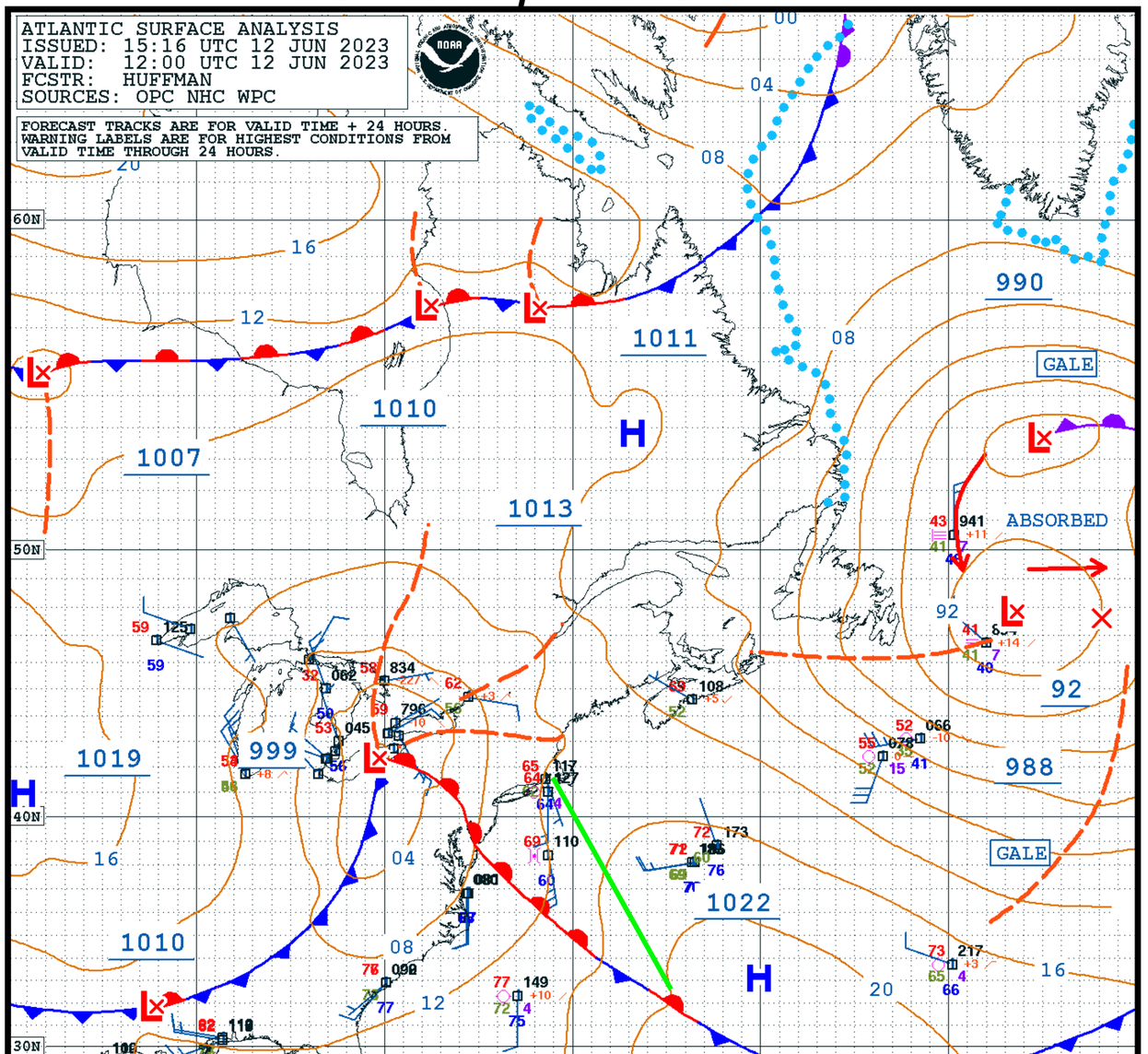
500 millibar chart



Recent Weather History

Monday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)

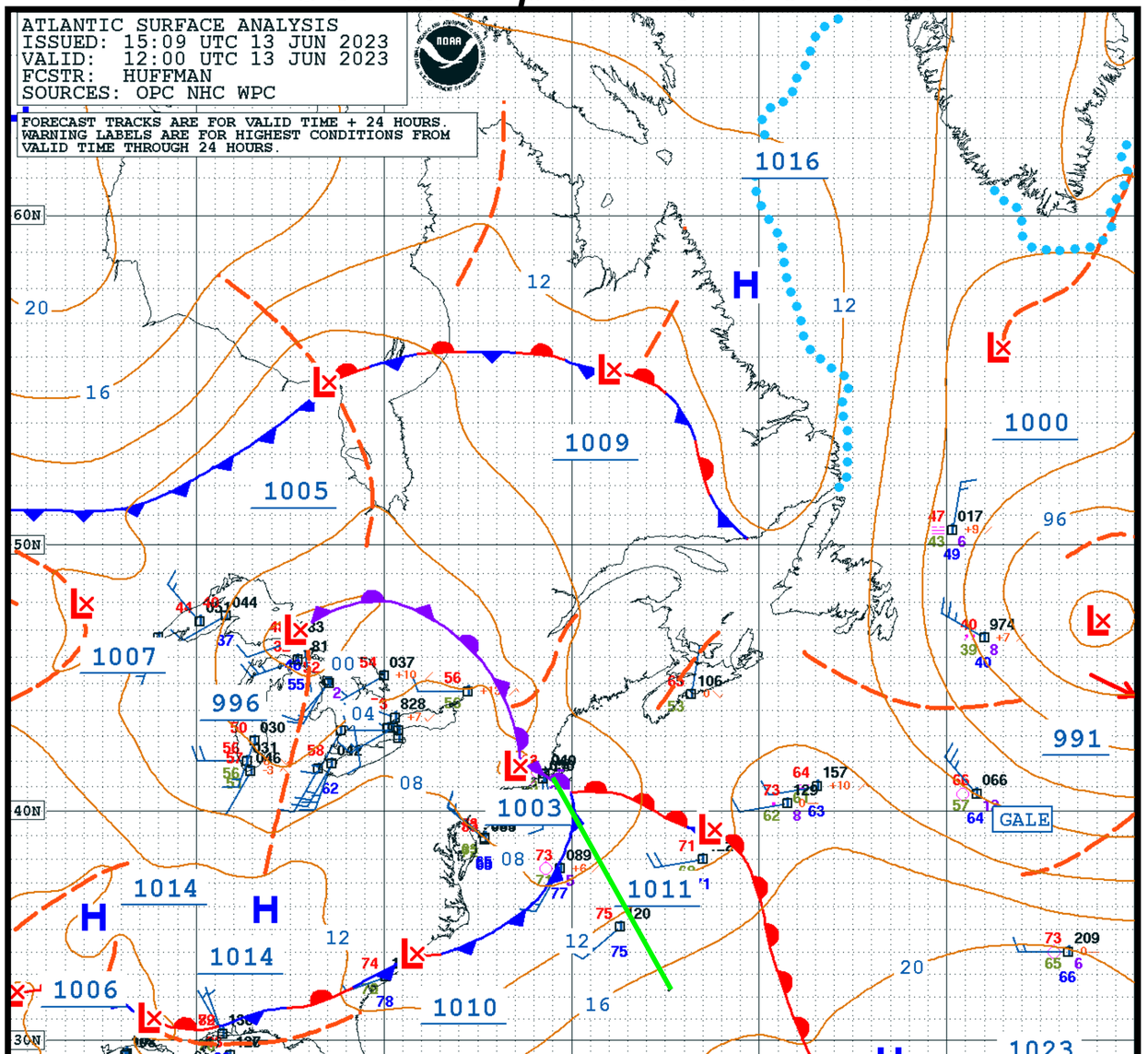
Surface pressure chart



Recent Weather History

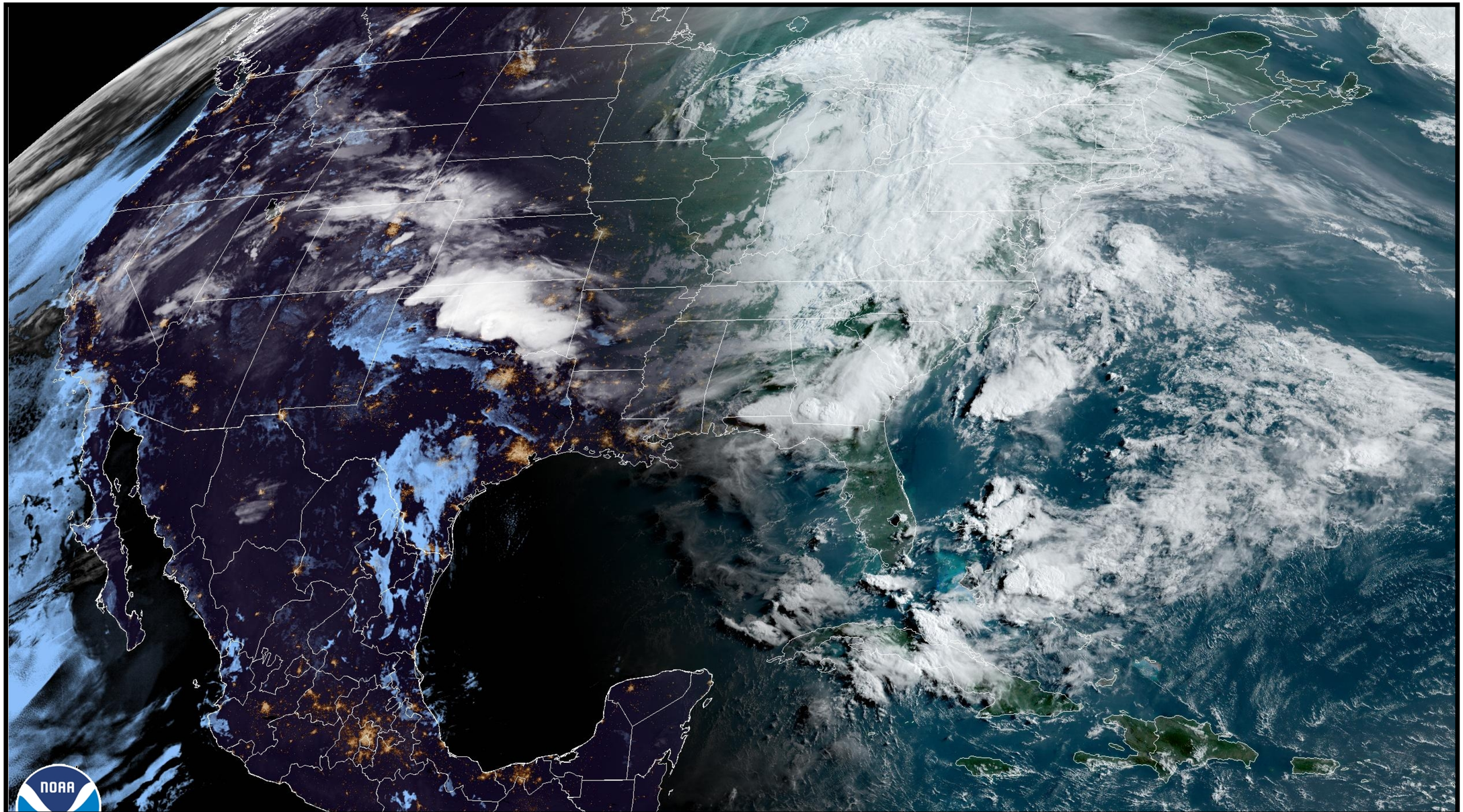
Tuesday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)

Surface pressure chart



Recent Weather History

Satellite Image Monday morning 1156 UTC (0856 ADT)



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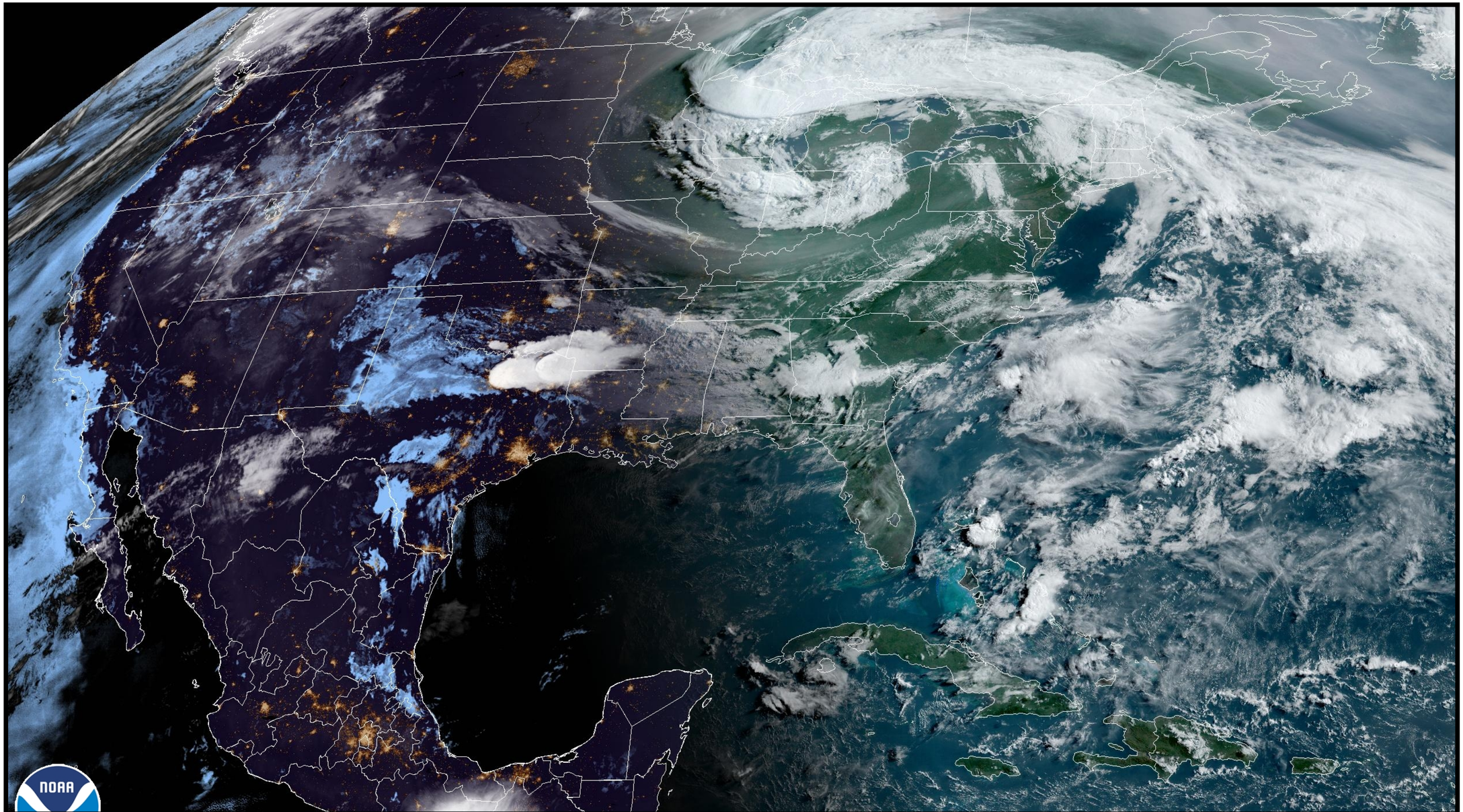
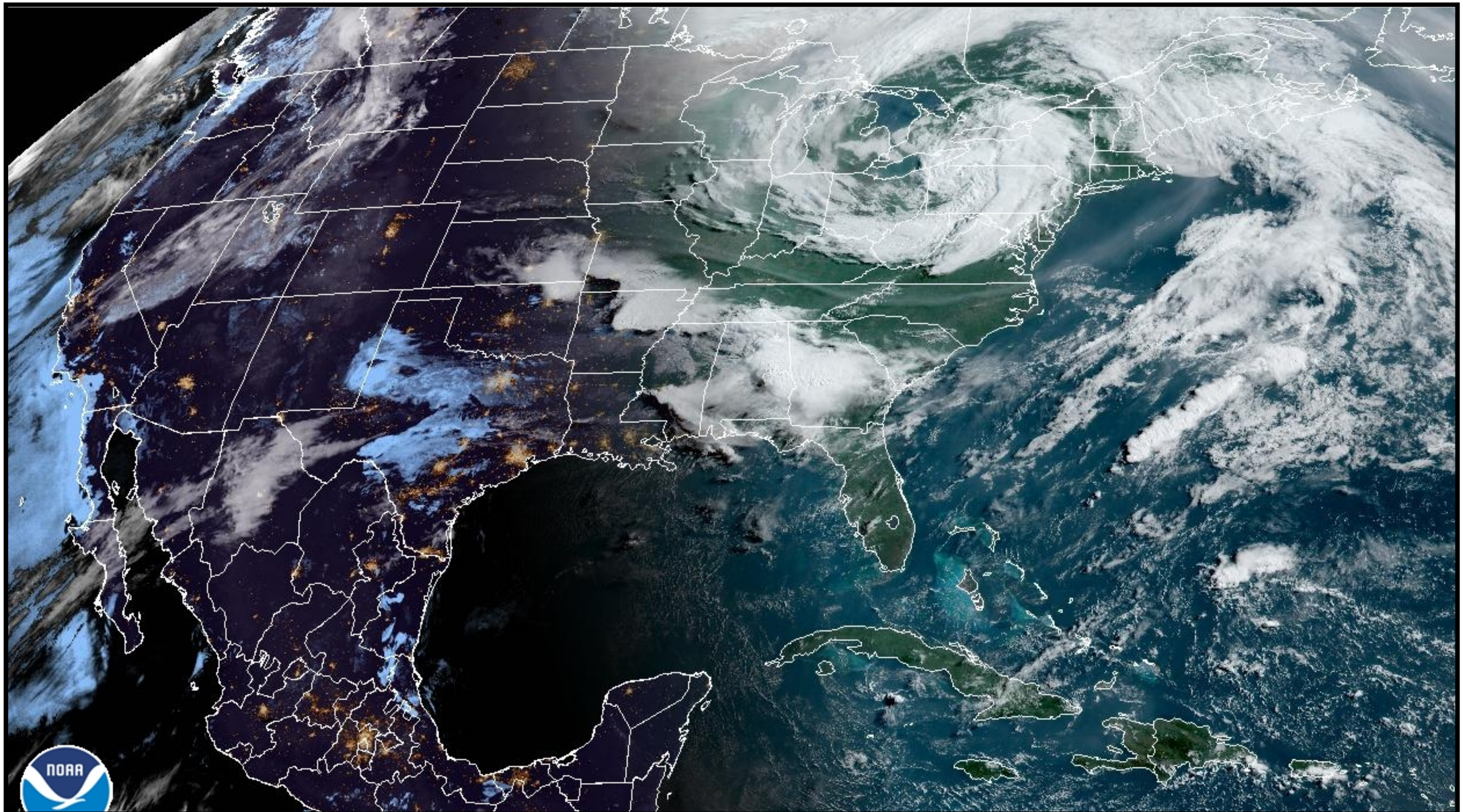


Recent Weather History

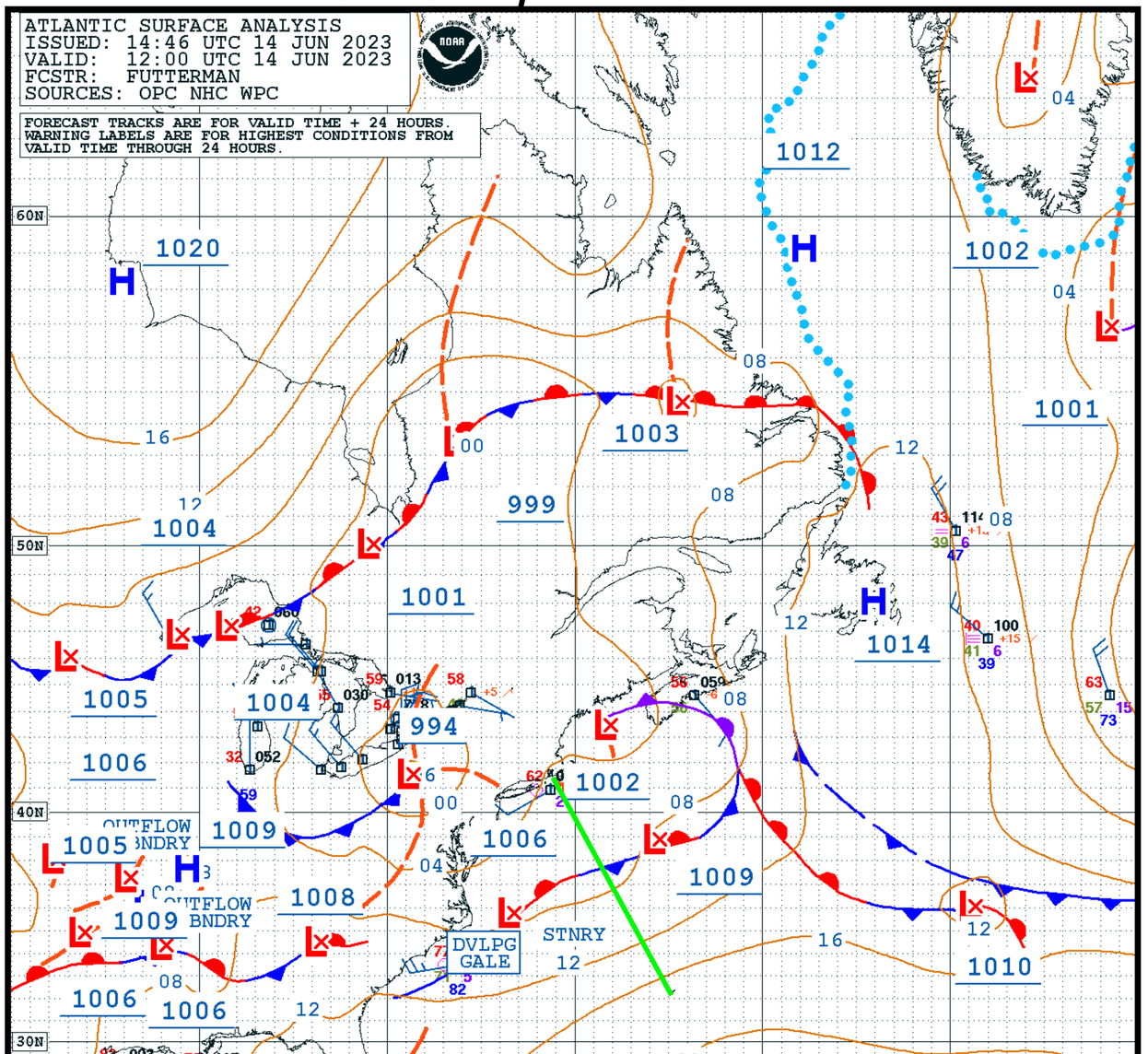
Satellite Image Wednesday morning 1156 UTC (0856 ADT)



Current Weather Situation

Wednesday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)

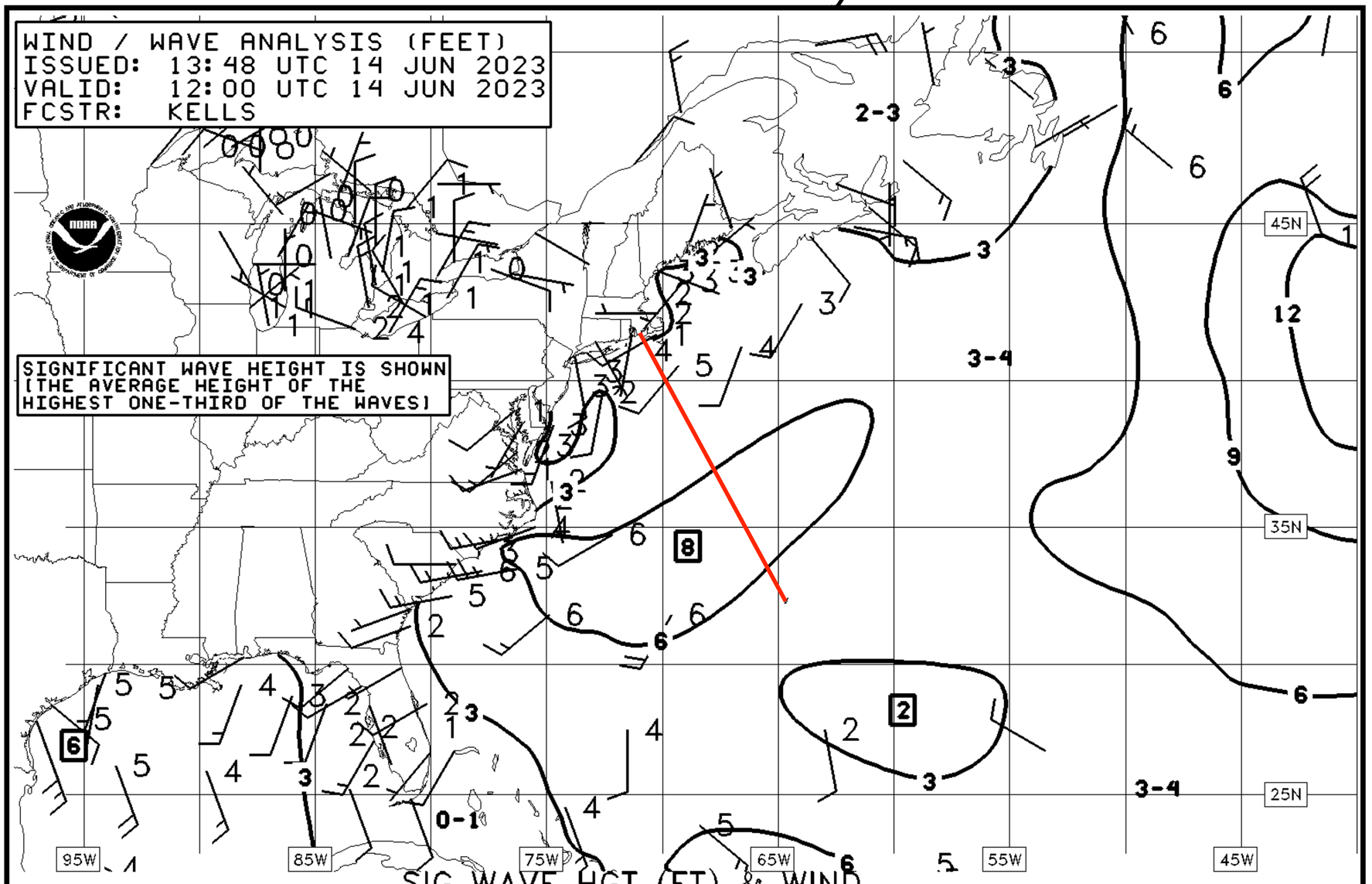
Surface pressure chart



Current Weather Situation

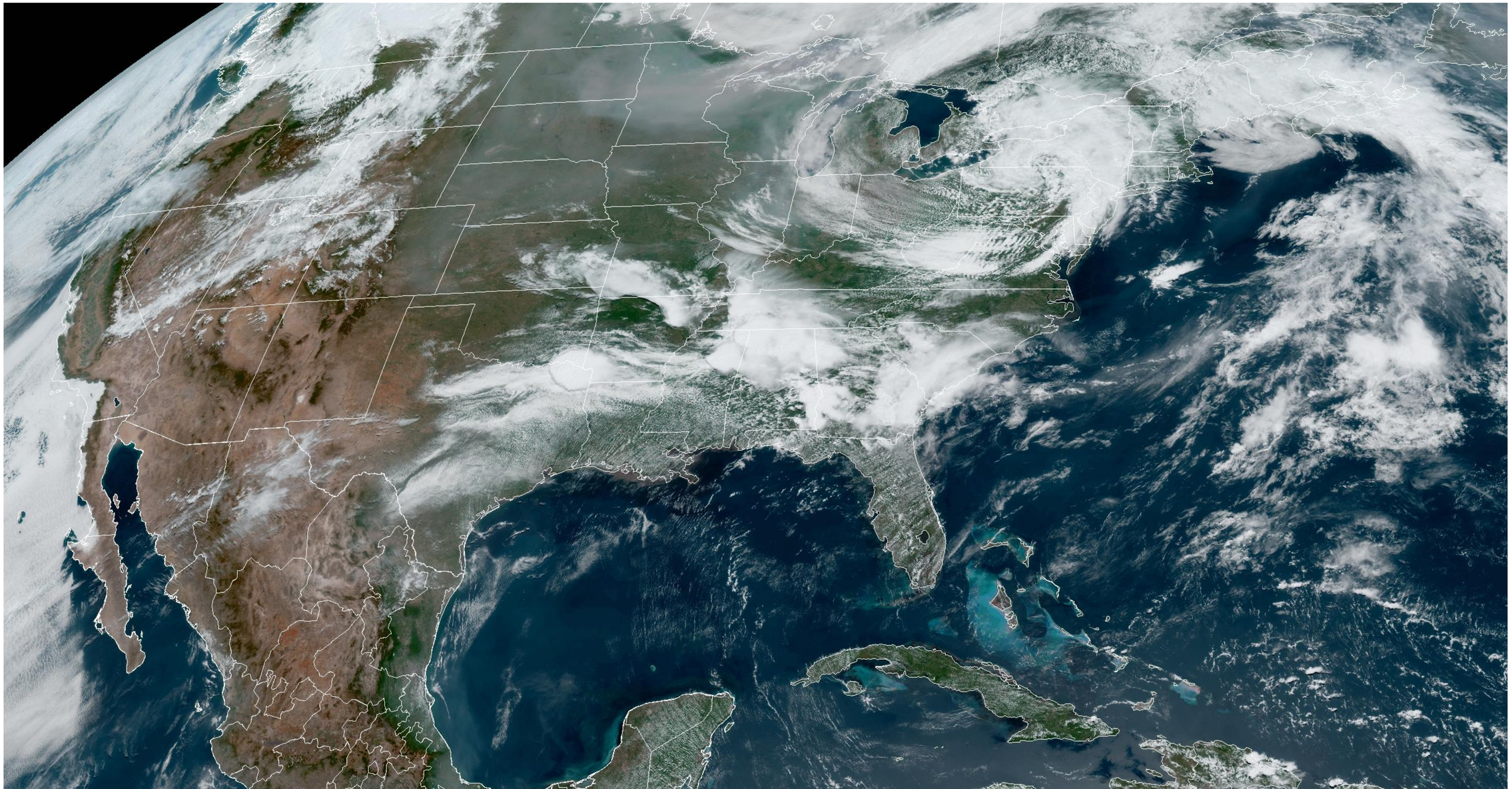
Wednesday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)

Wind/Wave Analysis



Current Weather Situation

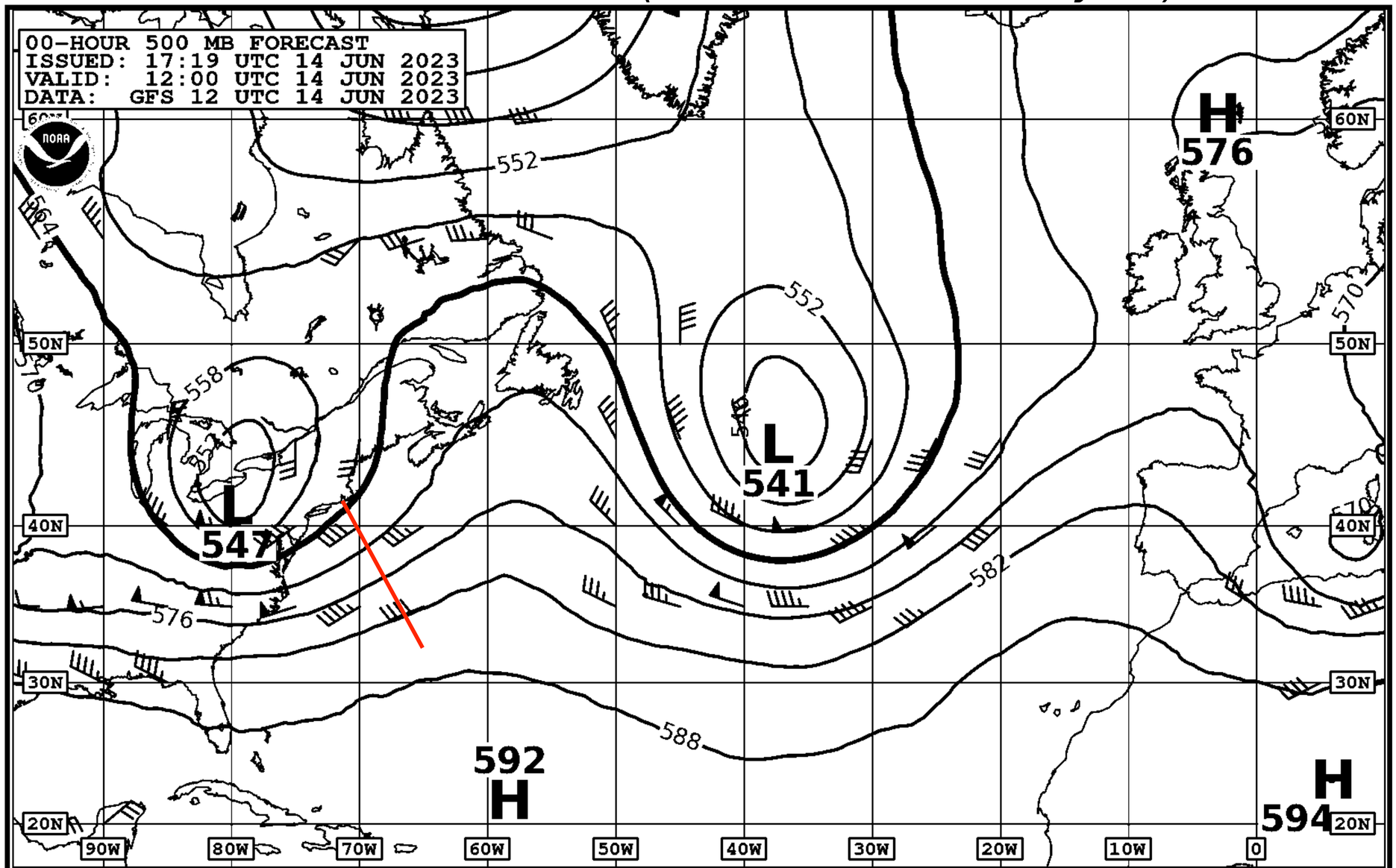
Wednesday 1641 UTC (1326 ADT)Visible satellite image



Weather Forecast Information

Wednesday morning 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)

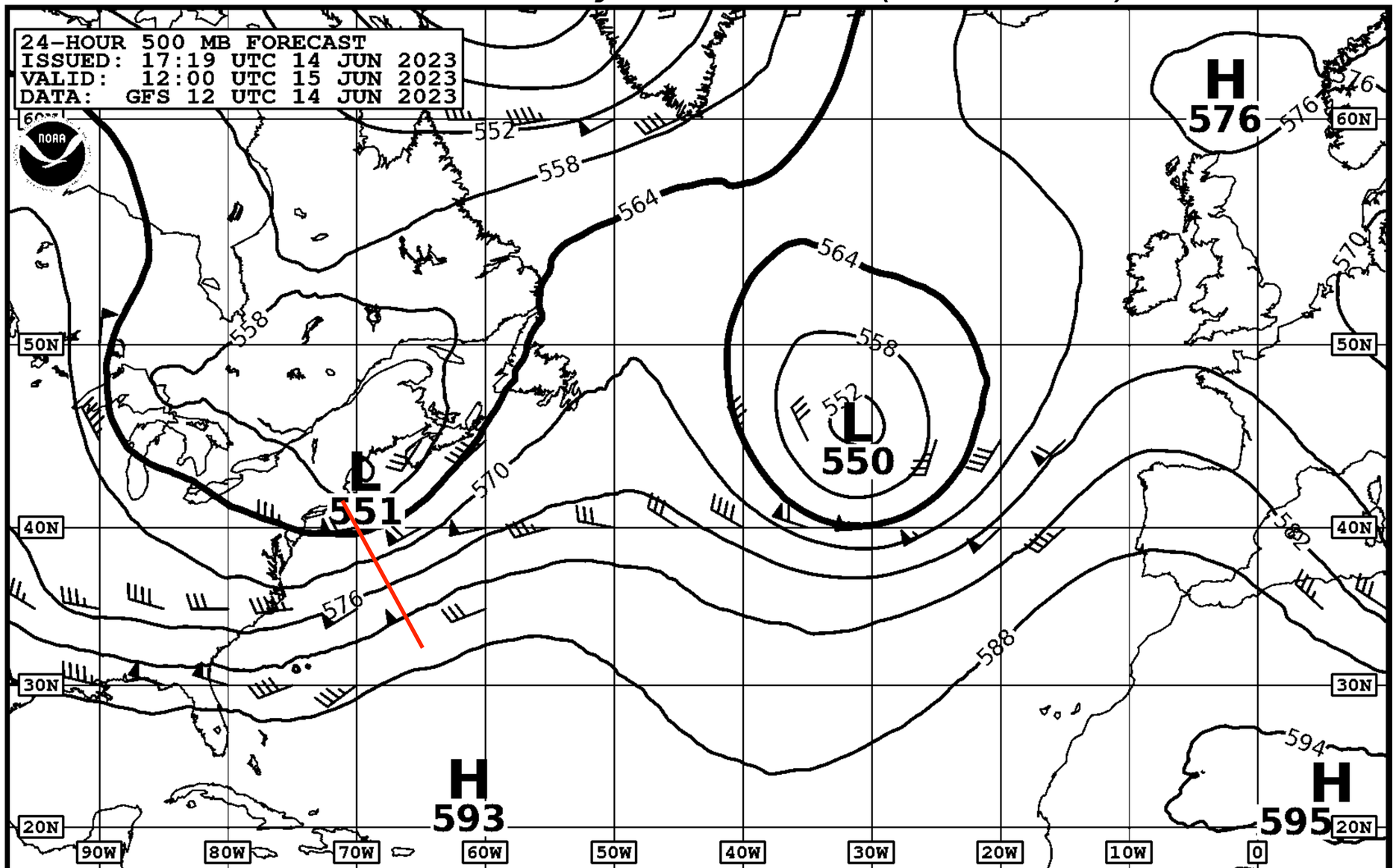
500 millibar chart (Start of Forecast Cycle)



Weather Forecast Information

24 hour forecast: 500 millibar chart

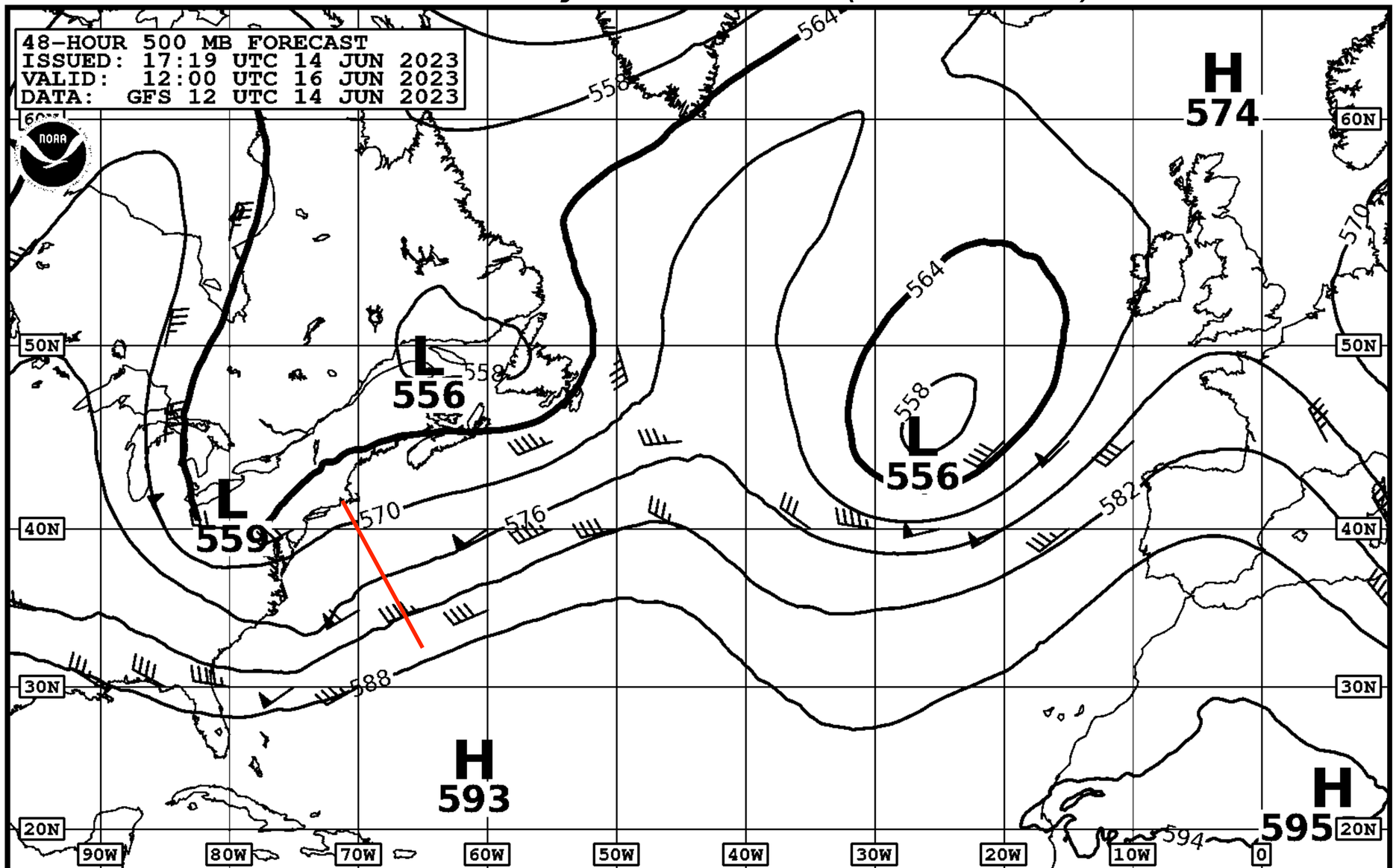
Valid Thursday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)



Weather Forecast Information

48 hour forecast: 500 millibar chart

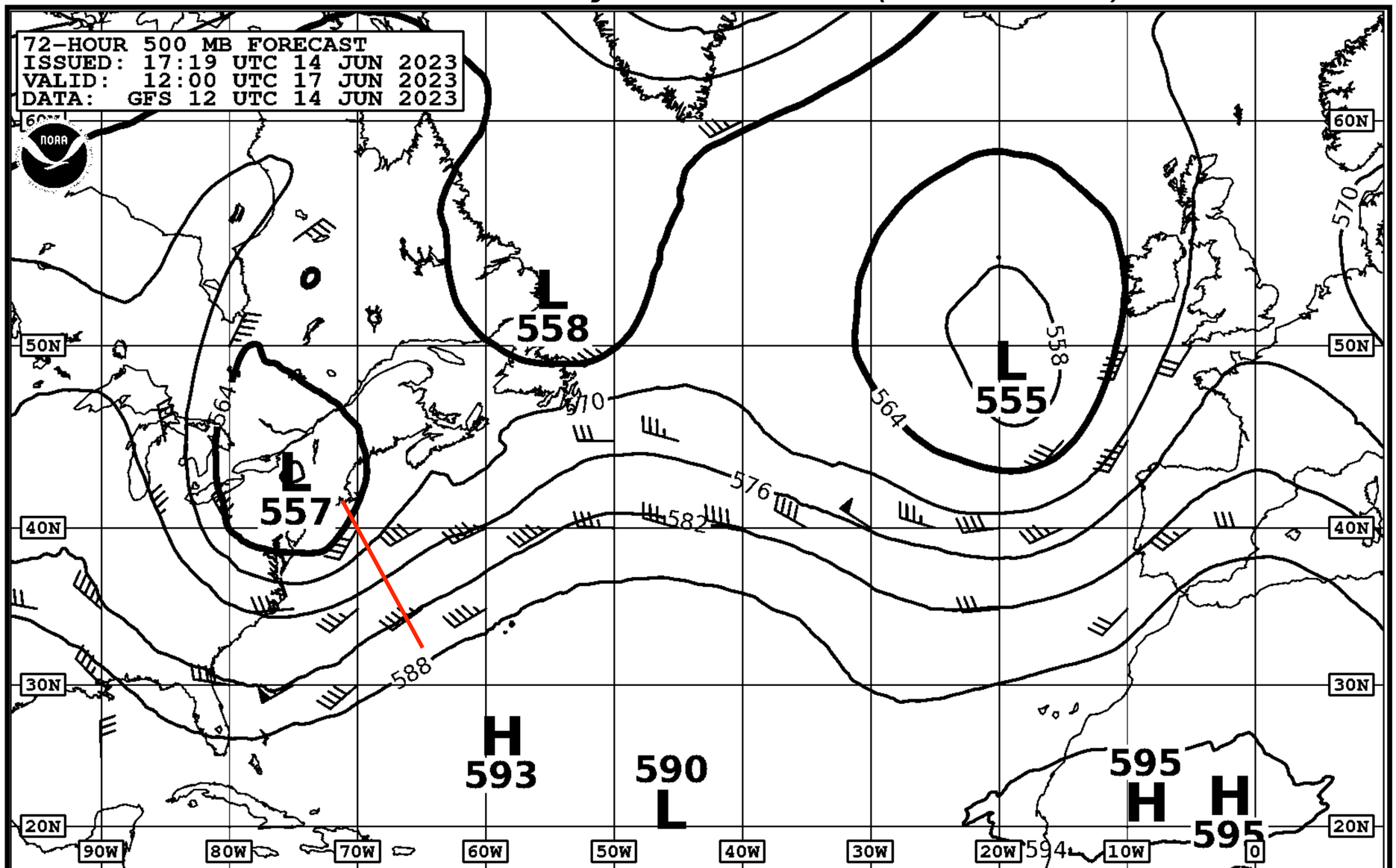
Valid Friday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)



Weather Forecast Information

72 hour forecast: 500 millibar chart

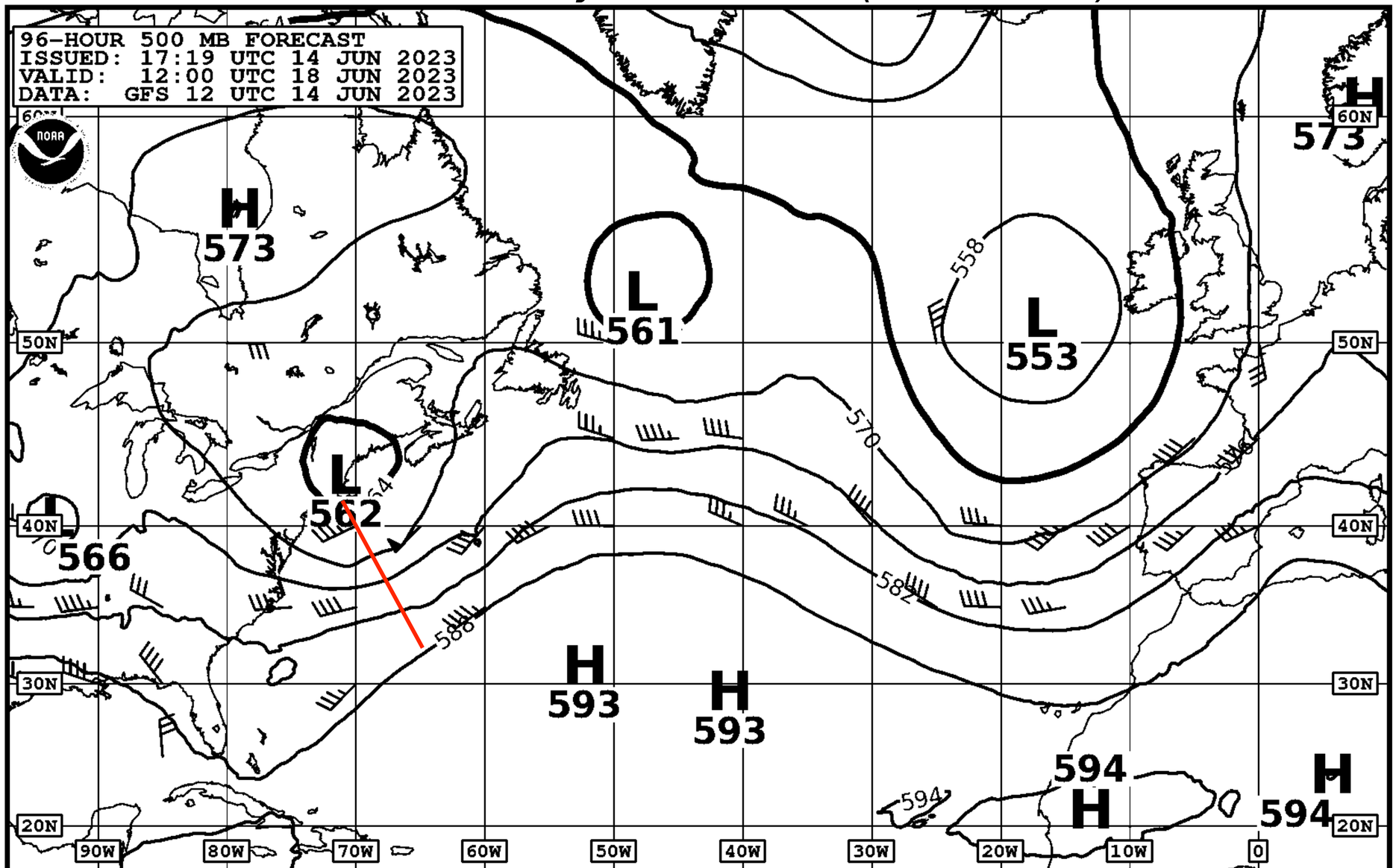
Valid Saturday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)



Weather Forecast Information

96 hour forecast: 500 millibar chart

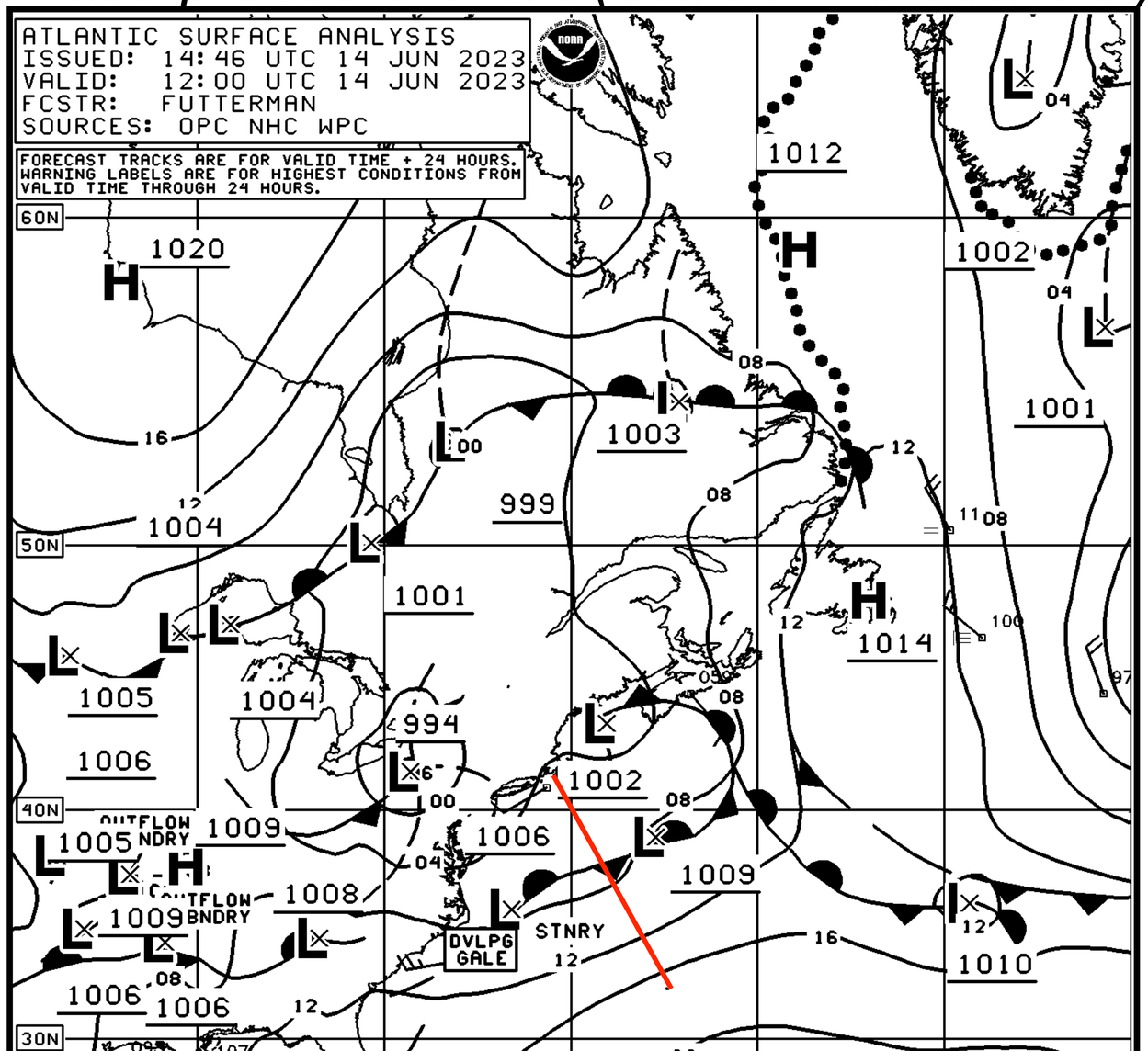
Valid Sunday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)



Weather Forecast Information

Wednesday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)

Surface pressure chart (Start of Forecast Cycle)



Weather Forecast Information

24 hour forecast: Surface pressure chart

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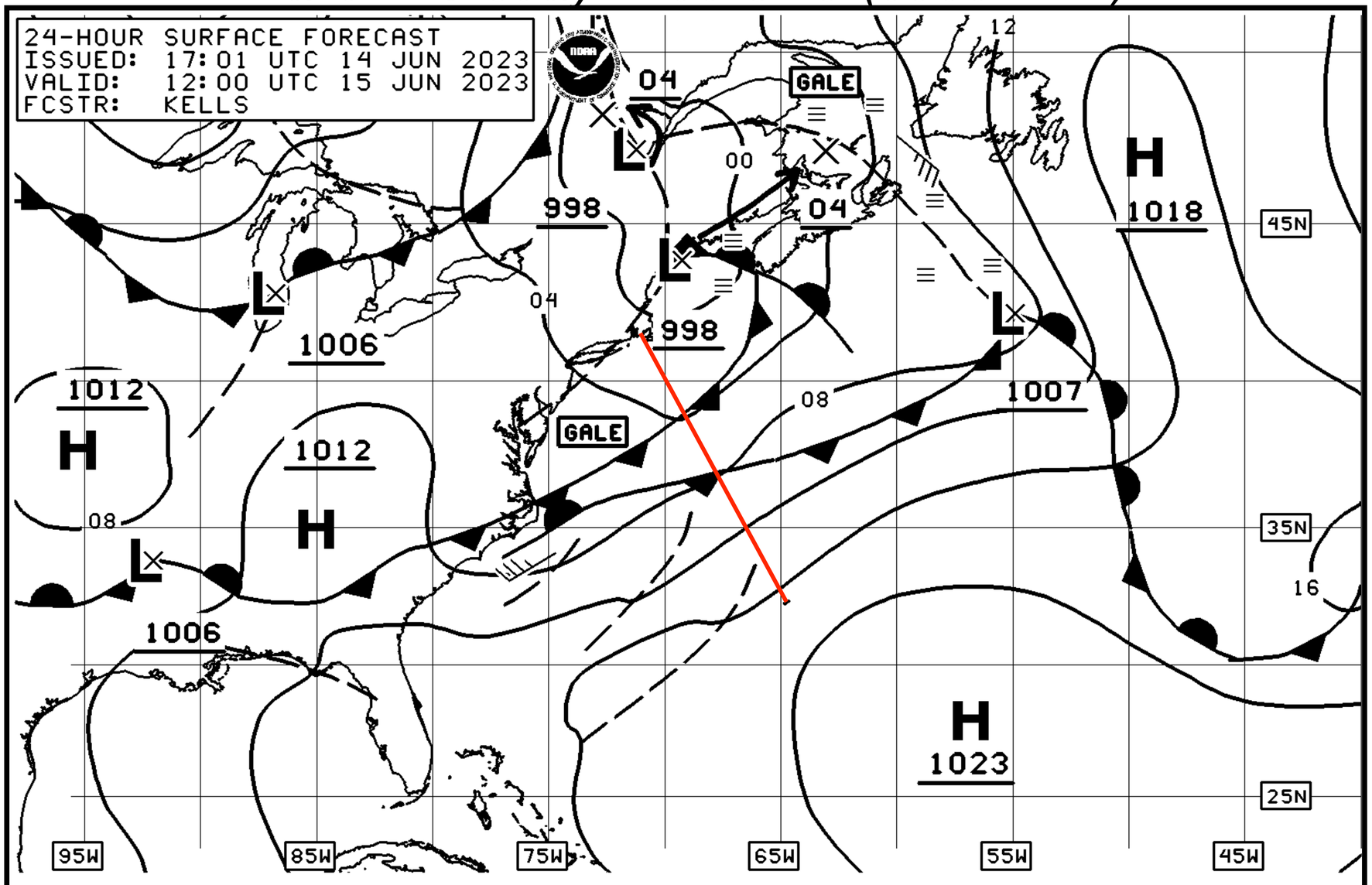

Weather Forecast Information

48 hour forecast: Surface pressure chart

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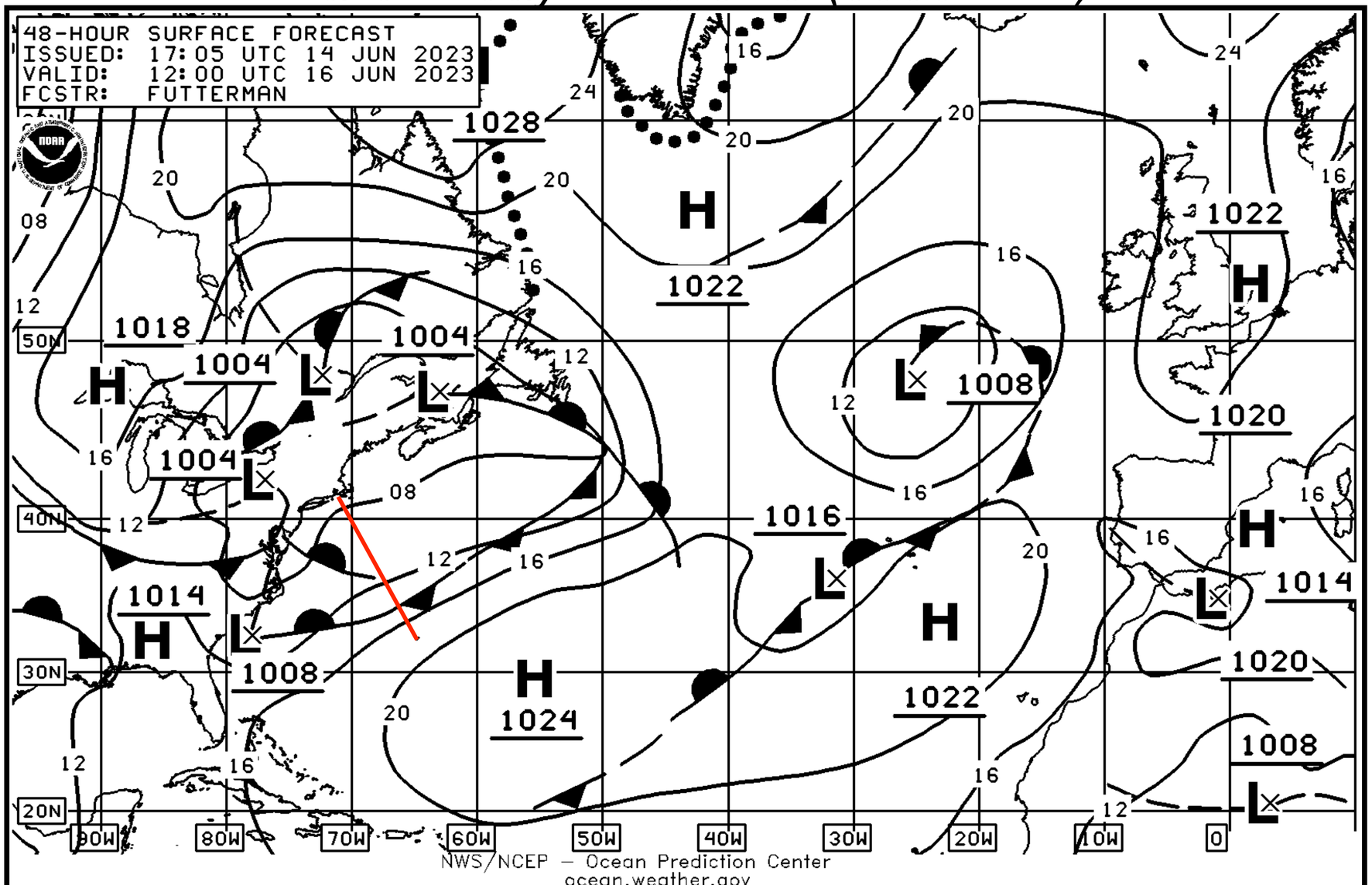

Weather Forecast Information

72 hour forecast: Surface pressure chart

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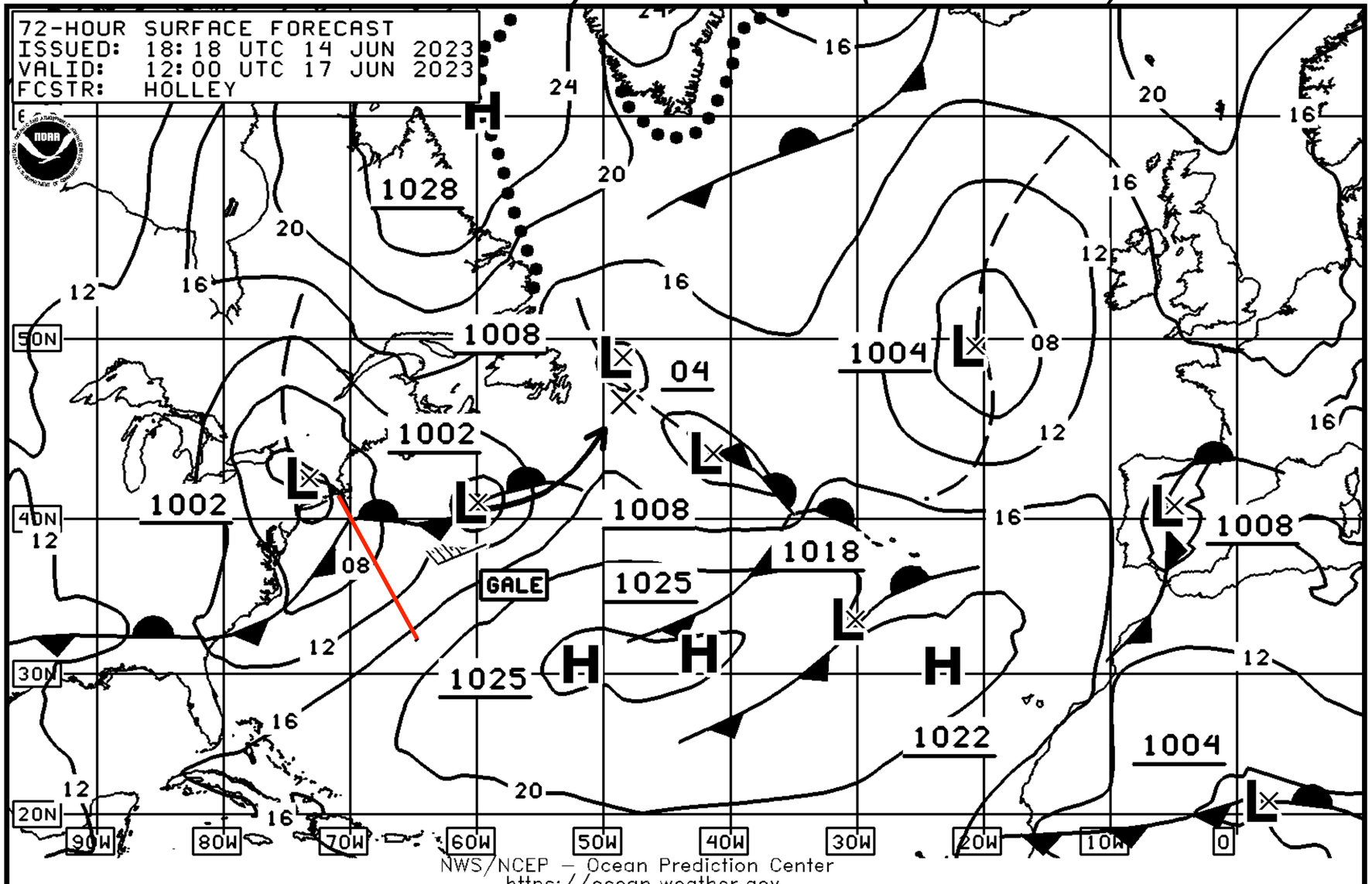
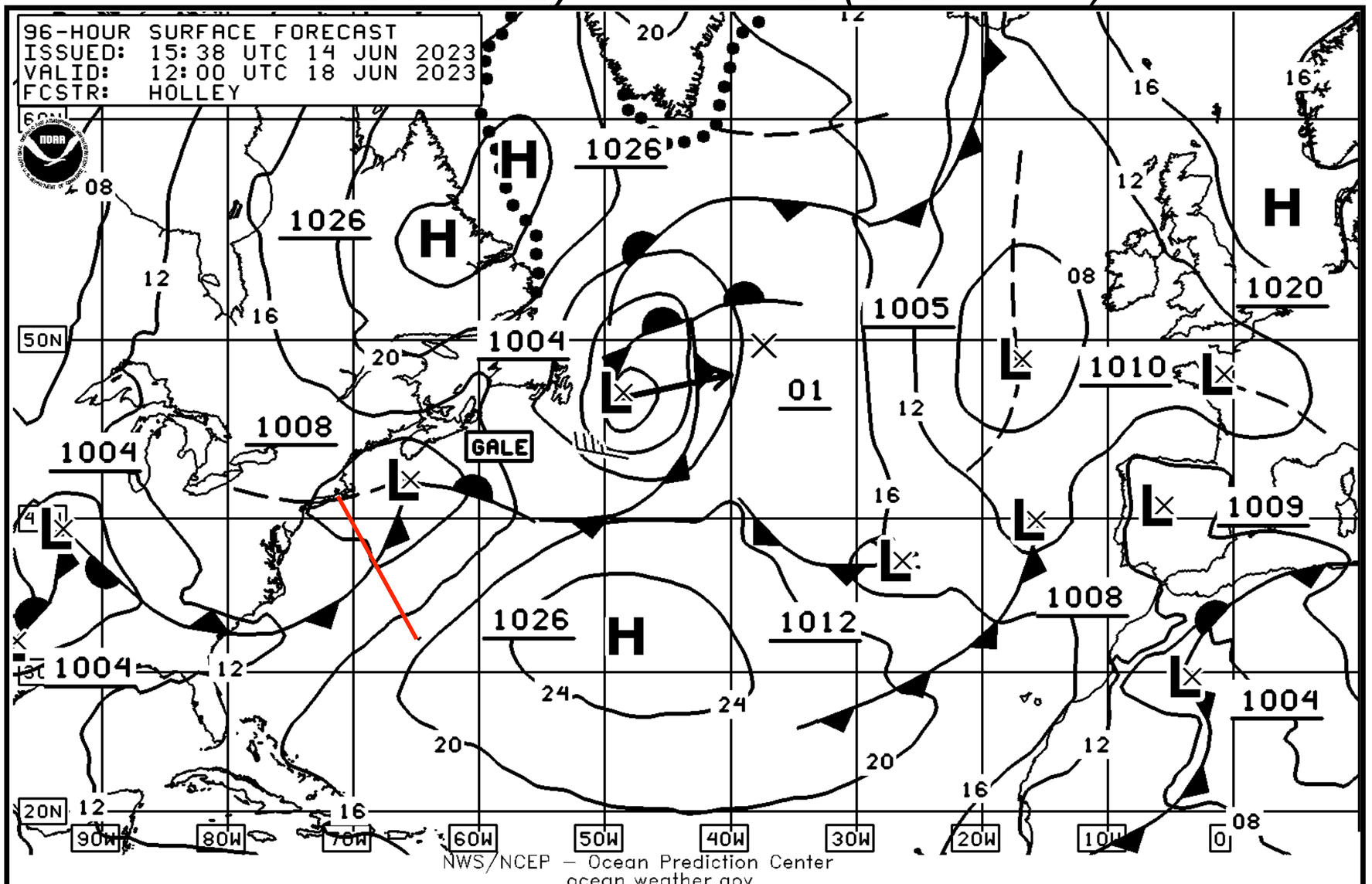


Weather Forecast Information

96 hour forecast: Surface pressure chart

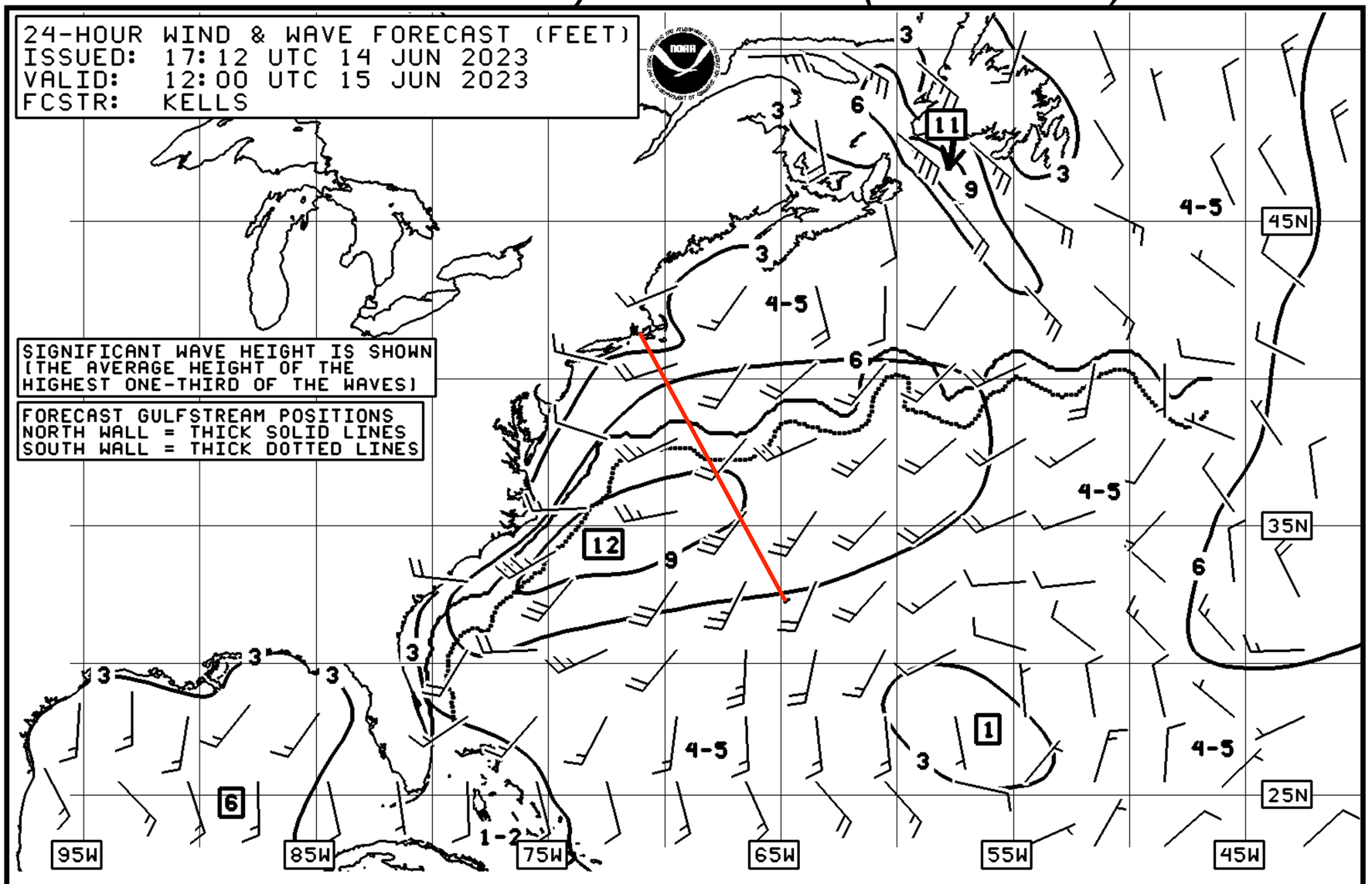
Valid Sunday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)



Weather Forecast Information

24 hour forecast: Wind/Wave chart

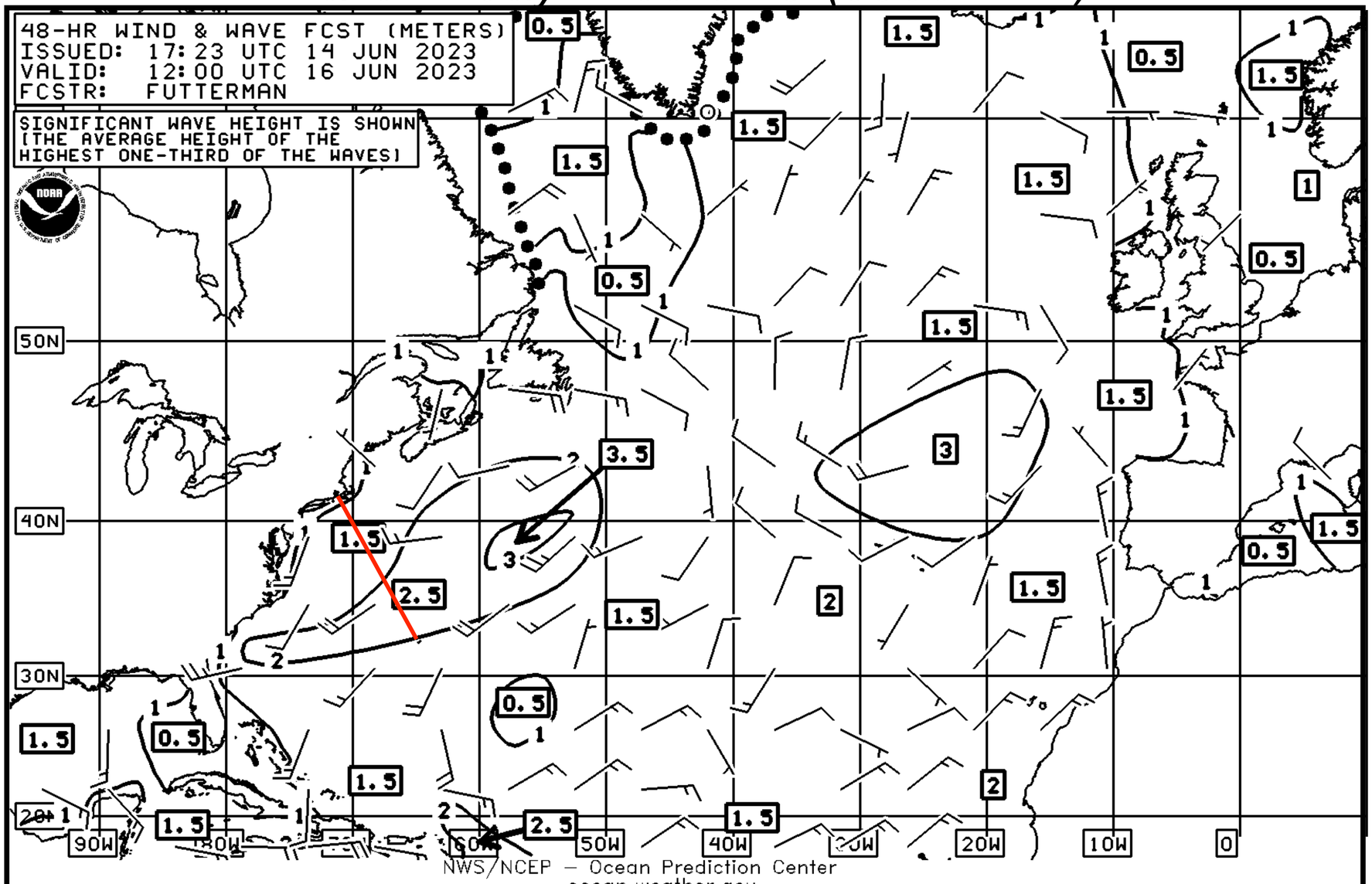
Valid Thursday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)



Weather Forecast Information

48 hour forecast: Wind/Wave chart

Valid Friday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)



Weather Forecast Information

72 hour forecast: Wind/Wave chart

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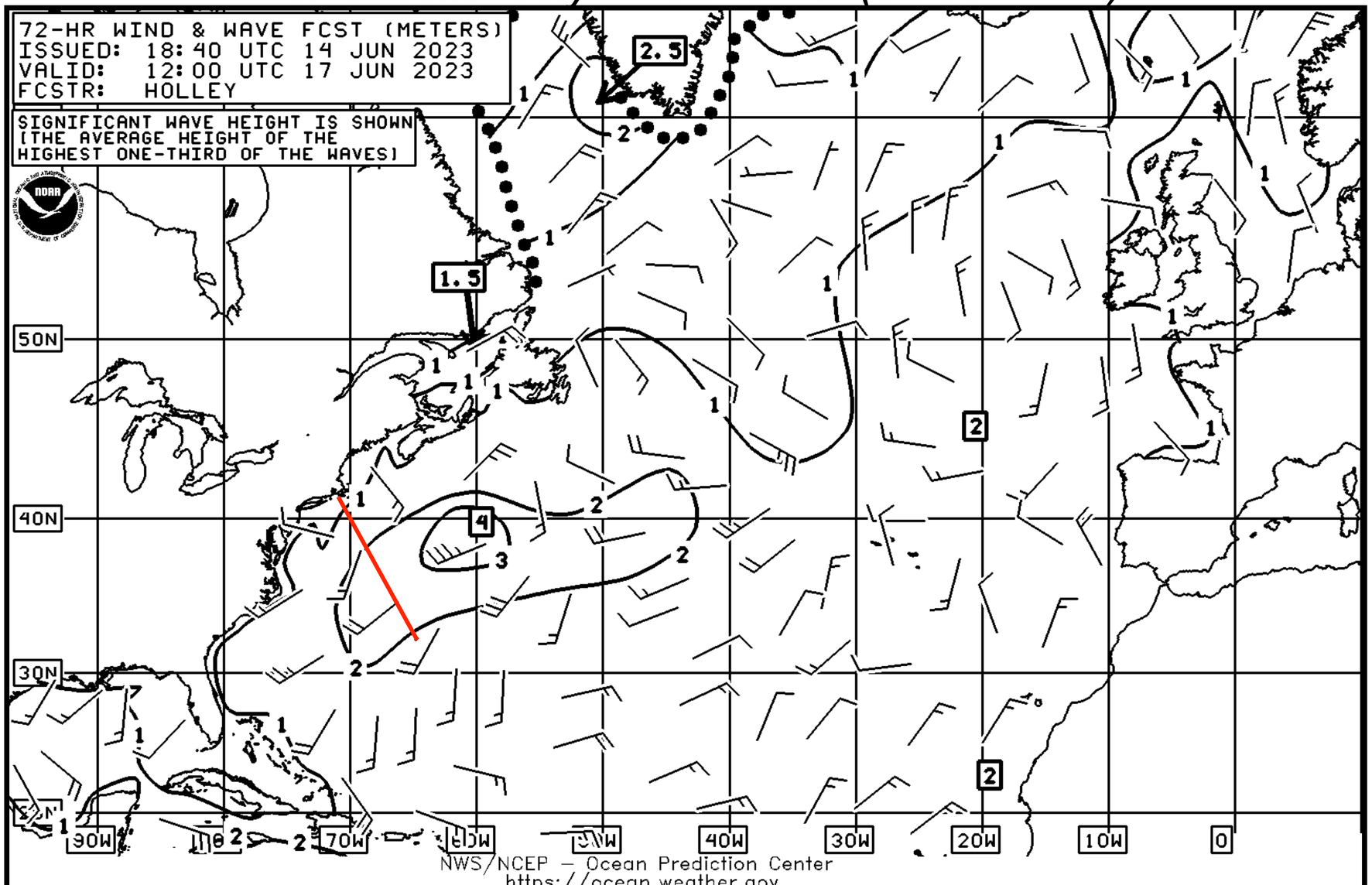
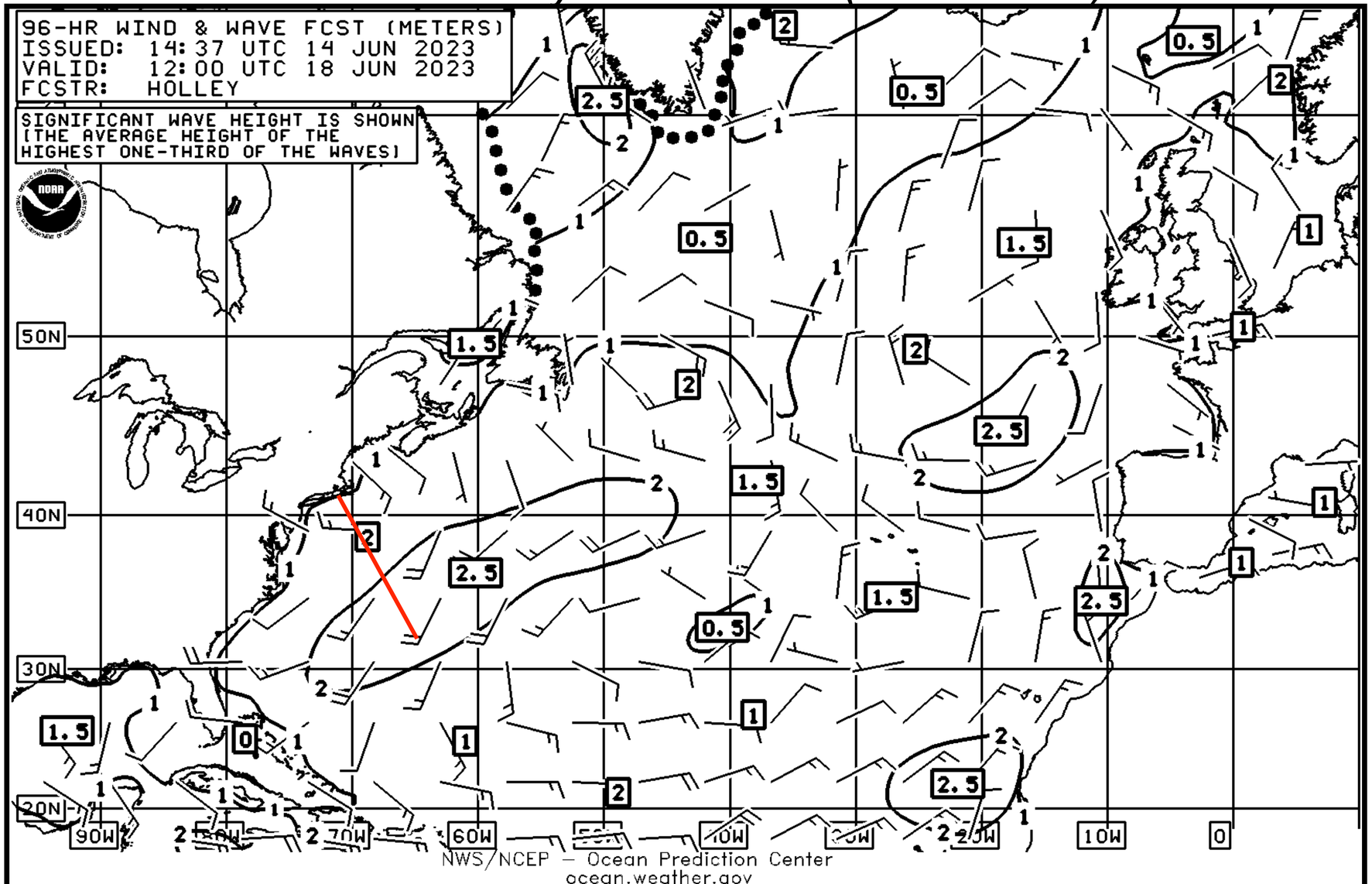


Weather Forecast Information

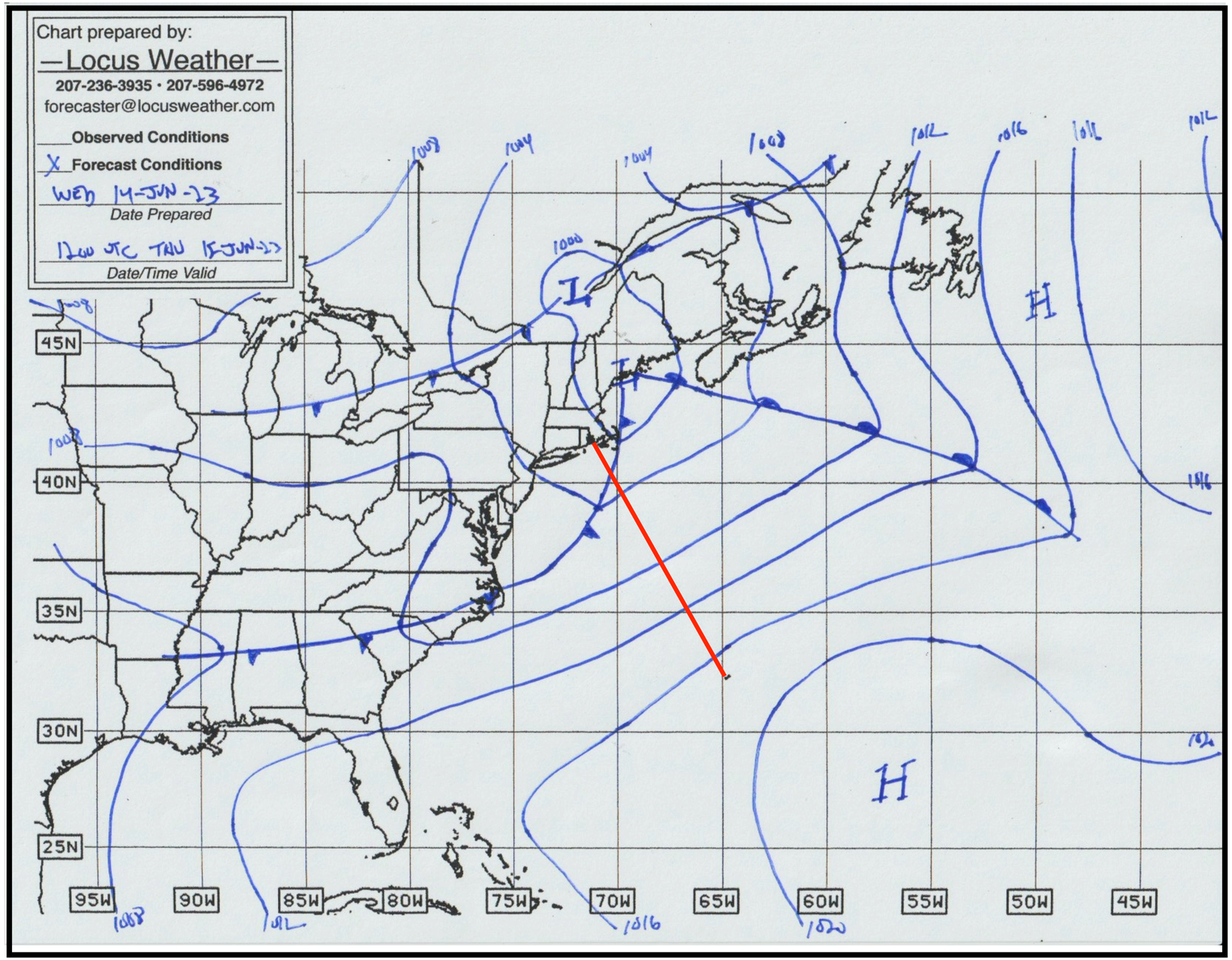
96 hour forecast: Wind/Wave chart

Valid Sunday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)



Weather Forecast Information

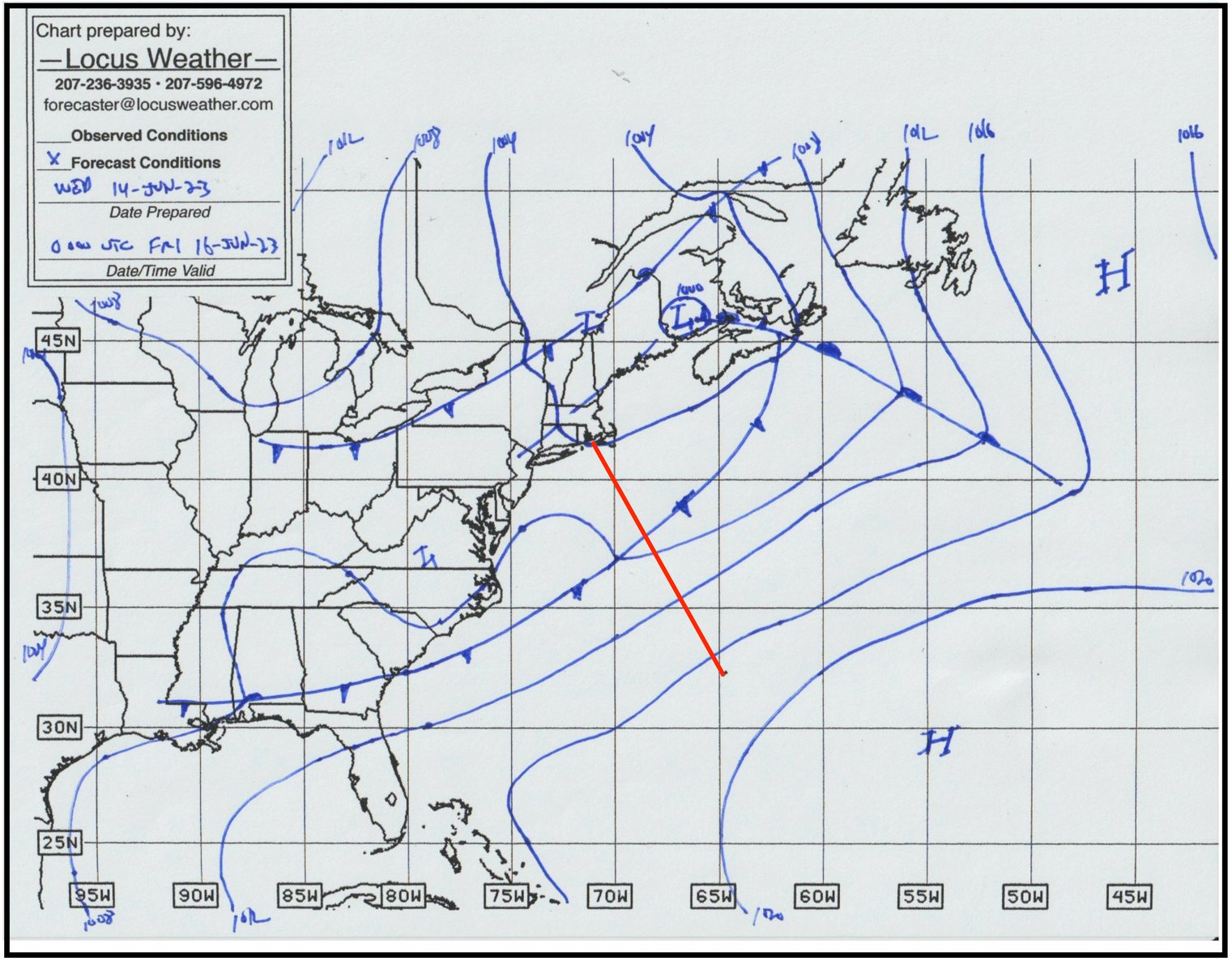
24 hour surface forecast:Valid Thursday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)



Wind SSW at the start at or above 20 knots, likely backing to SW through the afternoon. Seas 5-7 feet. Showers and squalls becoming possible farther north.

Weather Forecast Information

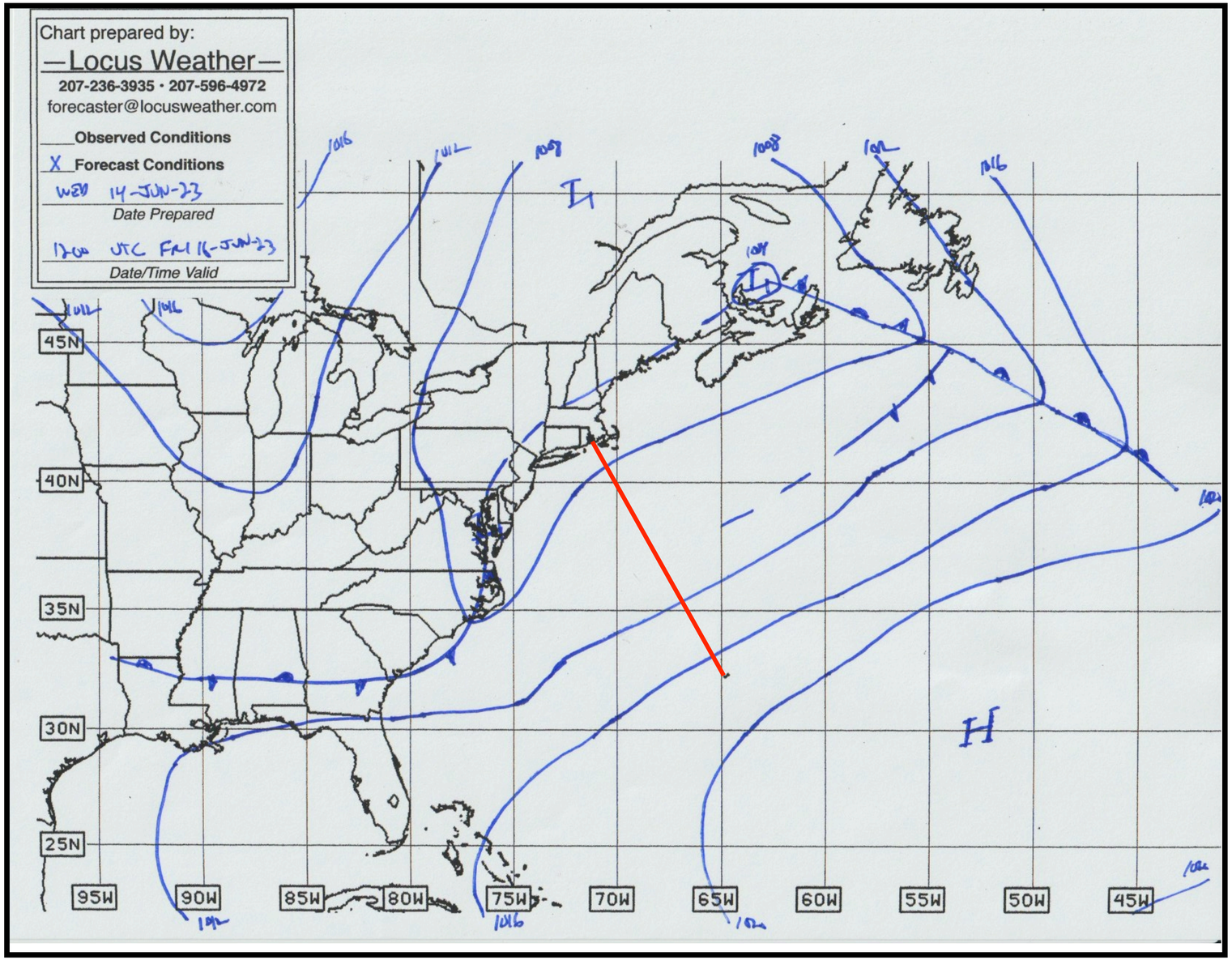
36 hour surface forecast:Valid Friday 0000 UTC (2100 ADT Thursday)



SW winds still near 20 knots through the evening, becoming a bit lighter later at night farther north. Seas 6-8 ft. Showers and squalls in the area.

Weather Forecast Information

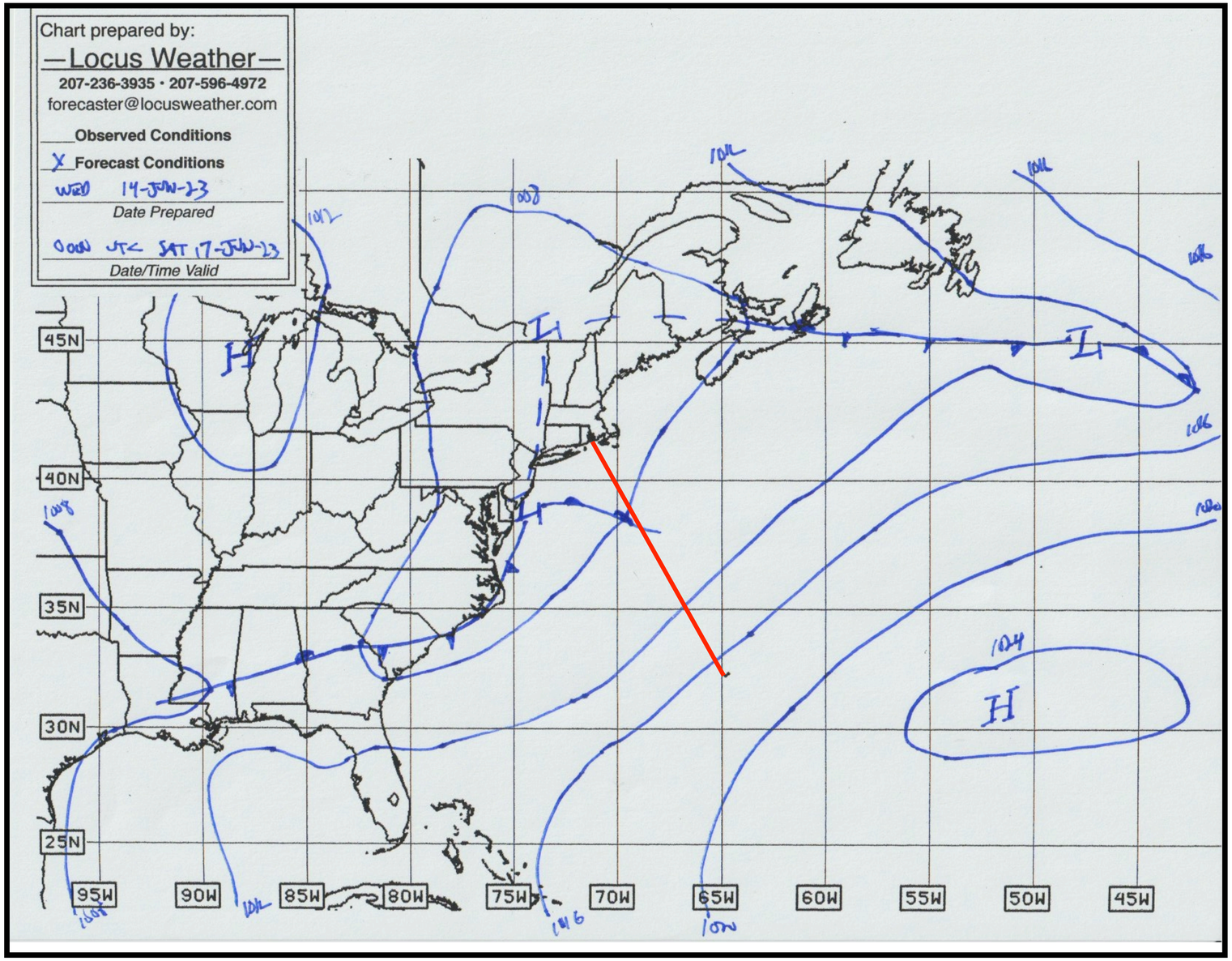
48 hour surface forecast:Valid Friday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)



SW winds around 15 knots north of 35N, closer to 20 knots farther south. Seas still 6-8 ft. Winds and seas incerasing through the day, more frequent showers and squalls farther north.

Weather Forecast Information

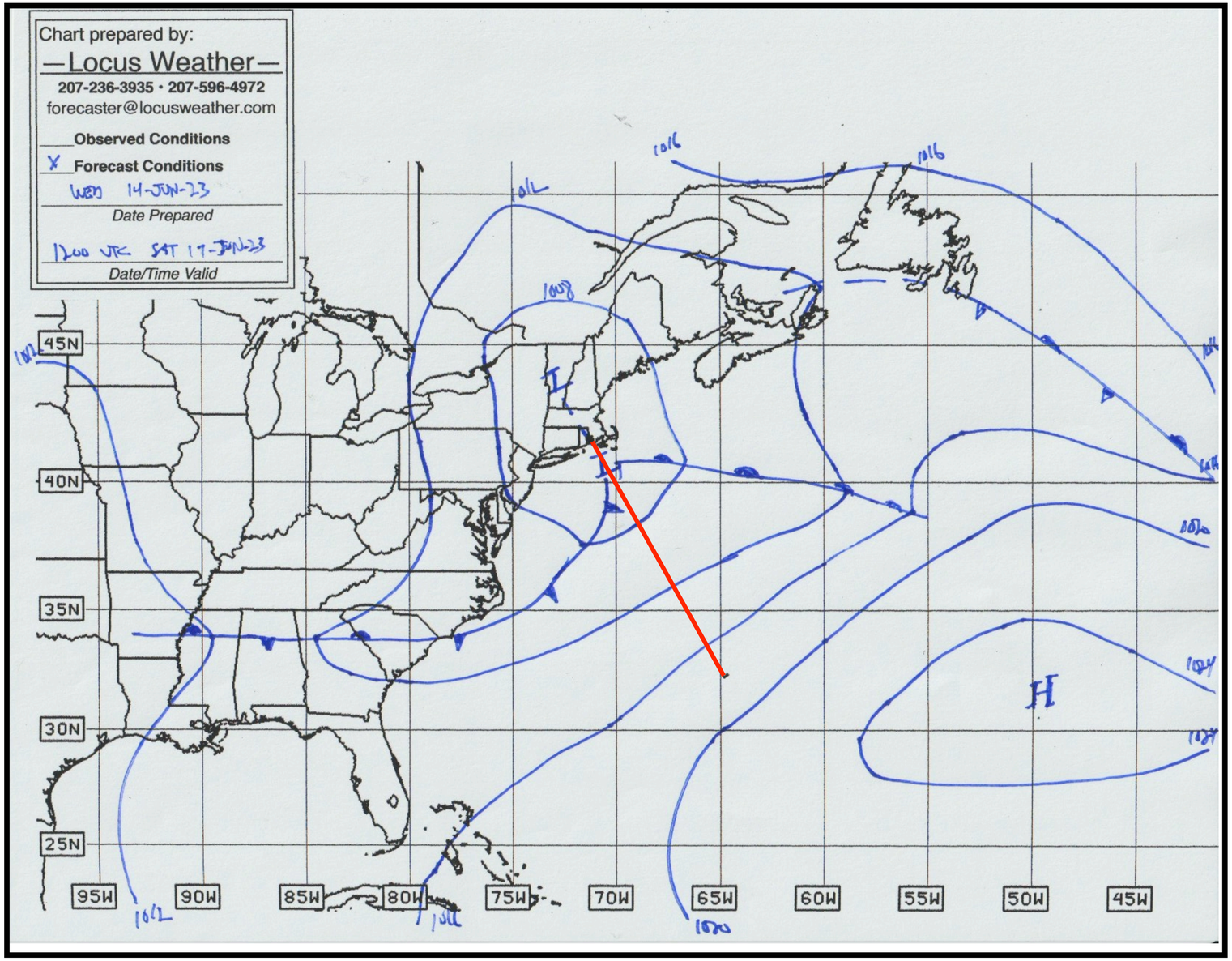
60 hour surface forecast:Valid Saturday 0000 UTC (2100 ADT Friday)



SSW winds around 20 knots. Seas 7-10 feet.

Weather Forecast Information

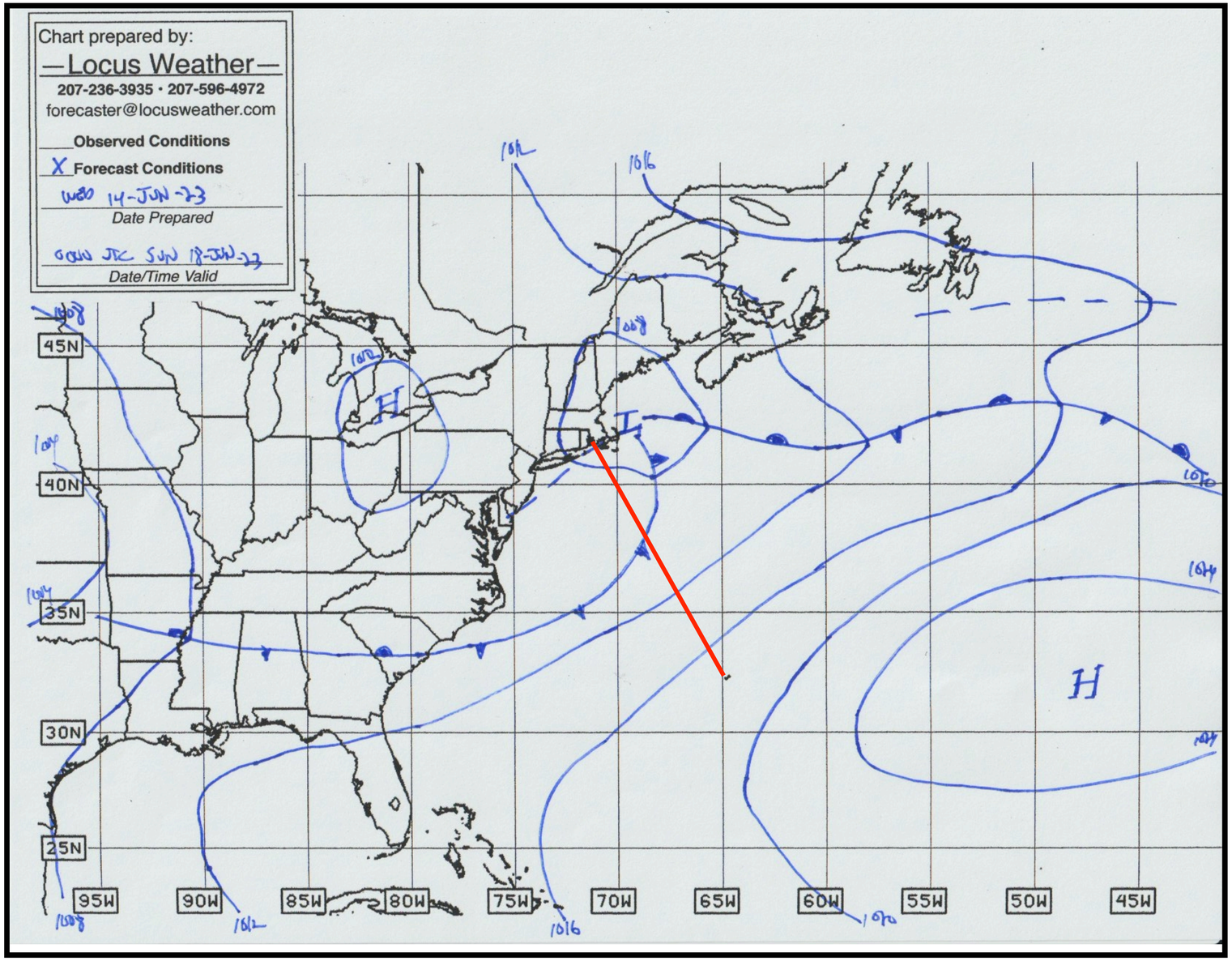
72 hour surface forecast:Valid Saturday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)



SW winds in the 15-20 knot range, a bit lighter north of 37N, stronger to the south. Showers and squalls more likely closer to the cold front. Winds shifitng to W with cold frontal passage, becoming lighter.

Weather Forecast Information

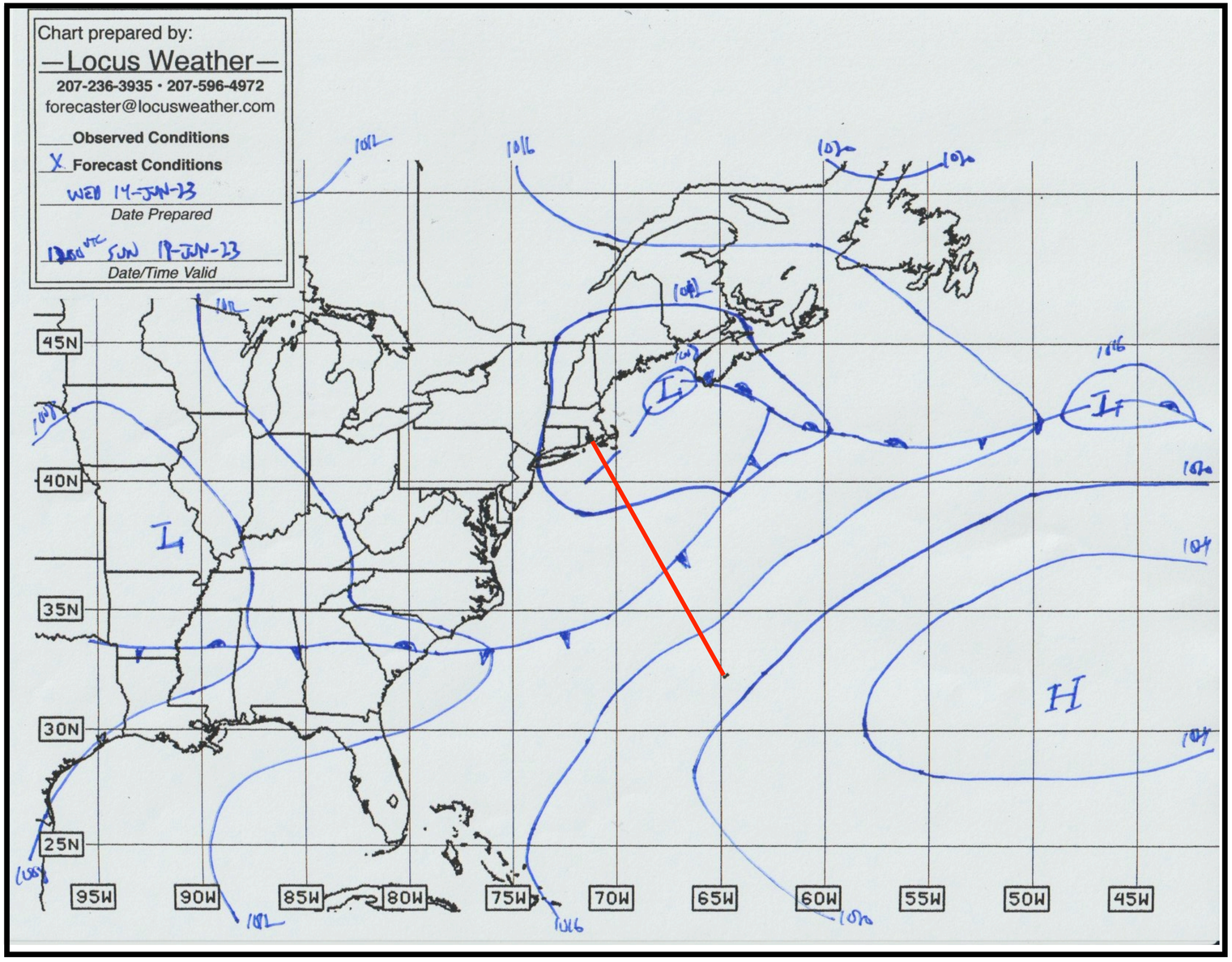
84 hour surface forecast:Valid Sunday 0000 UTC (2100 ADT Saturday)



W winds around 15 knots, a bit stronger north of 40N, a bit lither to the south. Seas not as high, particularly north of the Gulf Stream

Weather Forecast Information

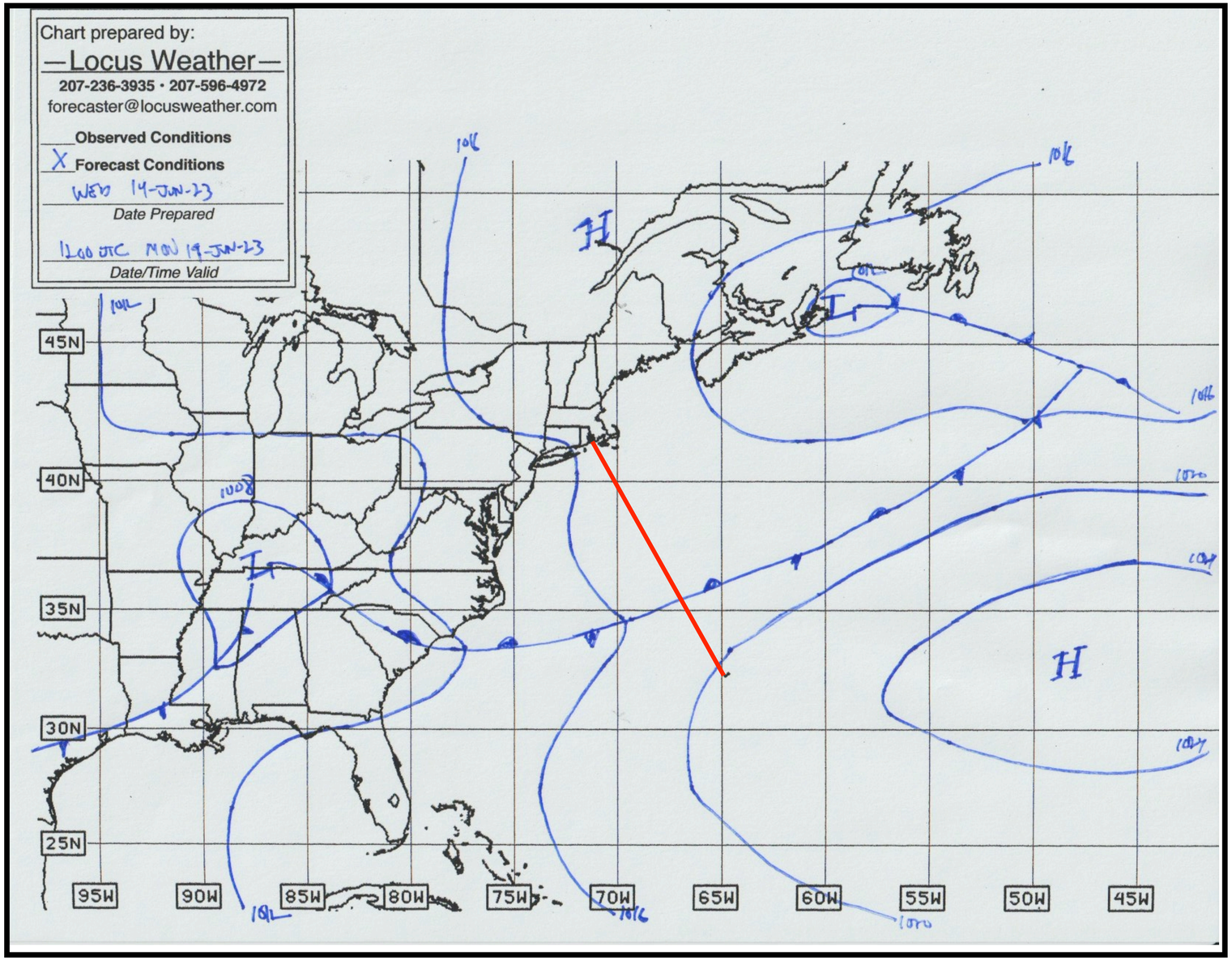
96 hour surface forecast:Valid Sunday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)



WSW winds 10-15 knots south of the trough axis, WNW winds to its north closer to southern New England. Winds becoming lighter at night, backing to SSW.

Weather Forecast Information

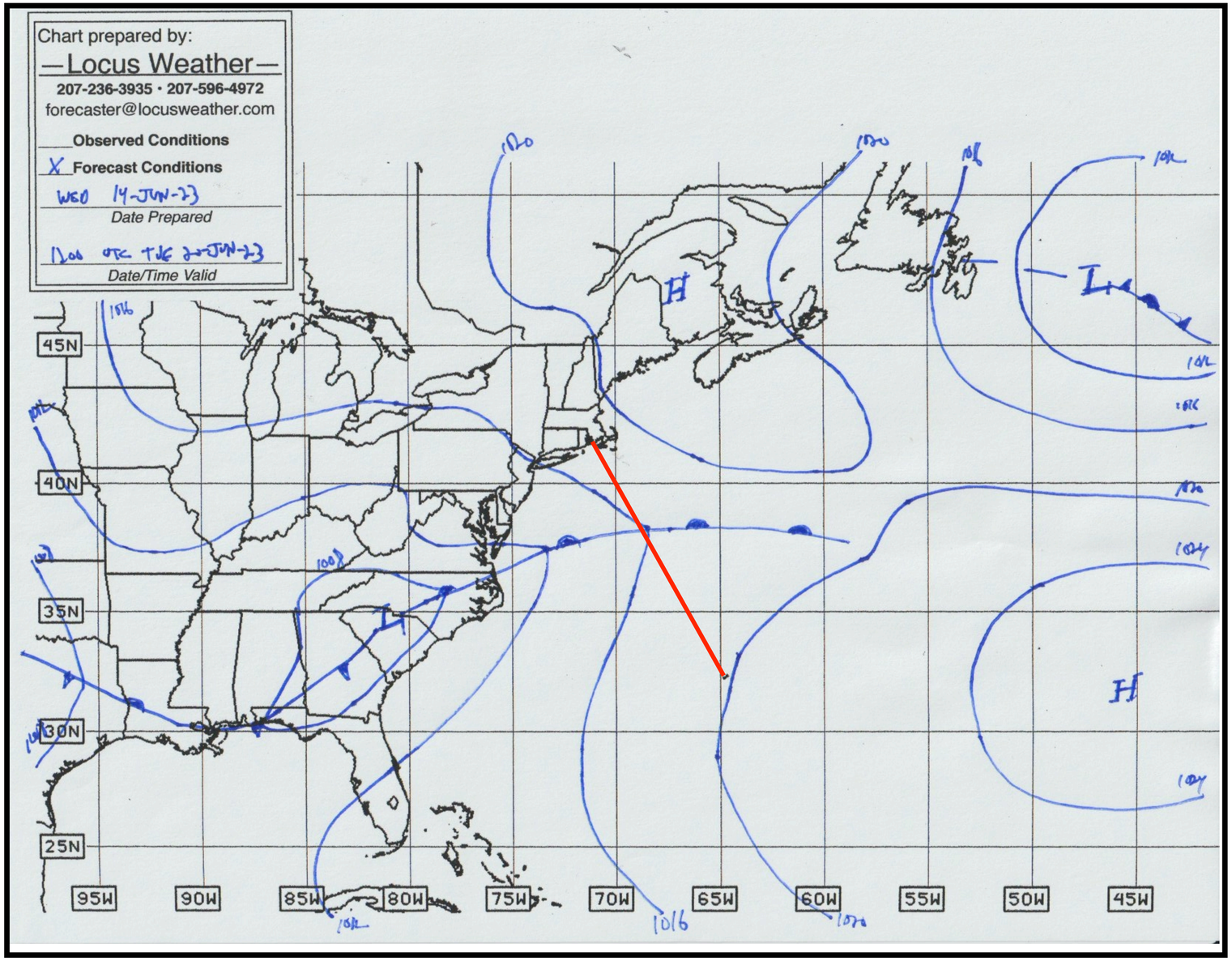
120 hour surface forecast:Valid Monday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)



S winds at 10 knots or less south of New England.

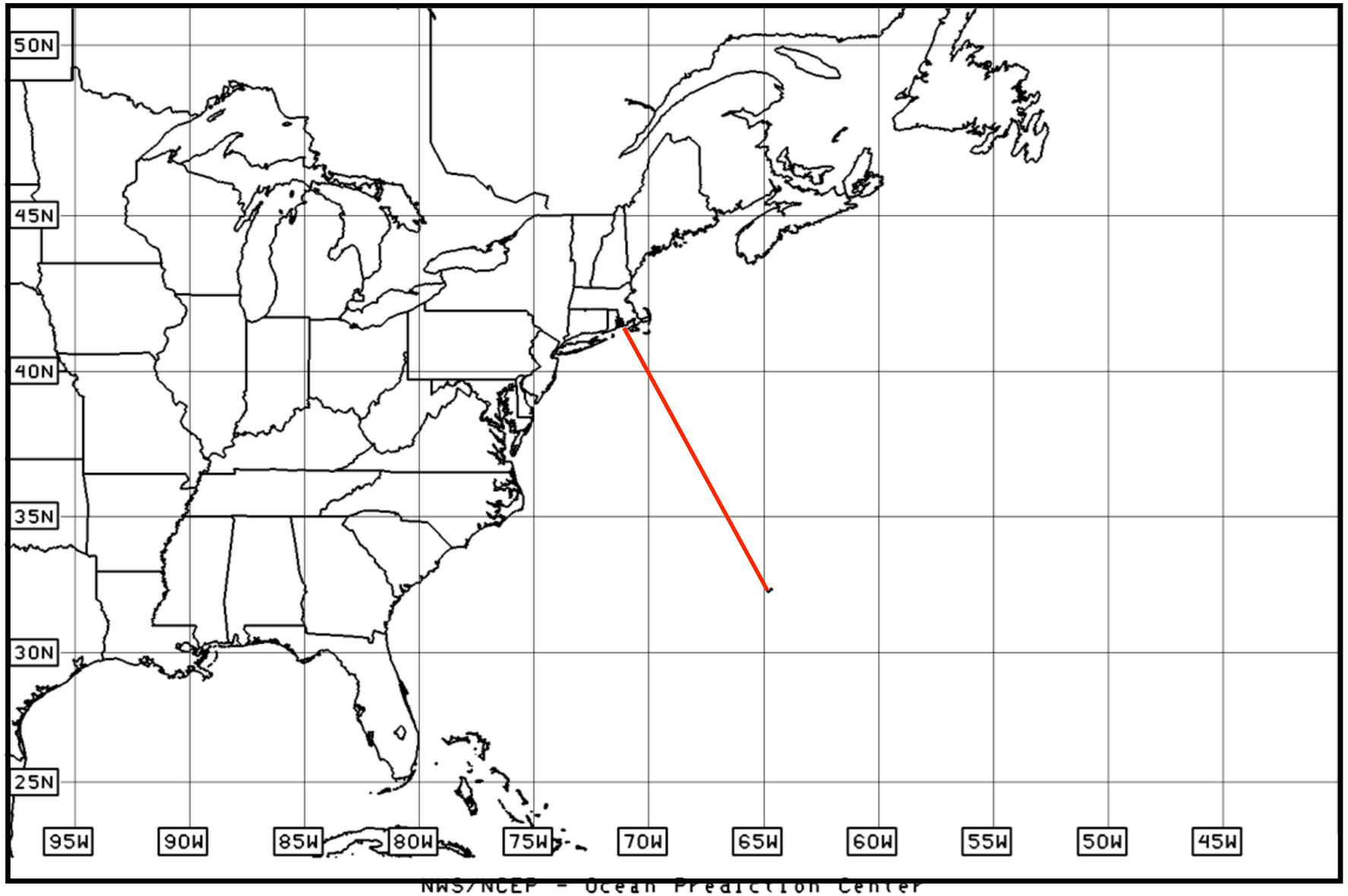
Weather Forecast Information

144 hour surface forecast:Valid Tuesday 1200 UTC (0900 ADT)



ESE winds near 15 knots south of New England.

Possible Different Weather Patterns



1. Some variability in the winds through the first couple of days depending on whether disturbances develop along the frontal boundary and if so how strong they are. Generally expect robust winds in the southwest quadrant, but could very from WSW to SSW, speeds a bit variable as well.

2. Details of low(s) around southern New England later in the weekend and early next week a bit uncertain. This could lead to some variability in the wind direction. Generally winds will be lighter toward the end of the race, and will have a westerly component at least through Sunday evening.

Sources of Publicly Available Information

If you have web access:

Ocean Prediction Center (www.ocean.weather.gov)

This is the best source for products produced **by meteorologists** for the region of interest.

Charts you should definitely obtain:

Western Atlantic Surface Analysis. Issued every 6 hours (0000,0600,1200,1800 UTC). Charts typically available around 3 hours after the valid time. By downloading this chart each time it is issued you can track the actual motion of the weather features.

24 hour Surface Forecast. Issued twice per day based on data gathered at 0000 and 1200 UTC. Typically available around 6 hours after forecast initialization.

Sources of Publicly Available Information

If you have web access:

Ocean Prediction Center (www.ocean.weather.gov)

Charts you should obtain if you can:

48 hour Surface Forecast. Issued twice per day based on data gathered at 0000 and 1200 UTC. Typically available around 7 hours after forecast initialization. This is a full ocean chart.

Offshore Wind/Wave Analysis Chart. Issued every 3 hours. Getting this chart once or twice per day will keep you advised of significant wave heights. If conditions are changing quickly, you may want to obtain the chart more frequently.

72 and 96 hour Surface Forecasts. Issued once per day based on data gathered at 1200 UTC. Typically available around 8 hours after forecast initialization. This is a full ocean chart.

500 millibar charts, Wind/Wave Forecast Charts, Wave Period/Direction forecast charts

Sources of Publicly Available Information

WARNING!!

BEWARE OF GRIB FILE DATA!!!!

This includes data from systems like OCENS, MaxSea, Buoyweather.com, PredictWind, Windy, and others.

Grib files are pure model output from one computer model.

Grib data has not been analyzed or modified by a professional meteorologist.

If you rely too heavily on this one tool, you may be misled.

If you use grib products, it is strongly suggested that you also obtain products that have been produced by a professional meteorologist. Keep in mind that the meteorologist has much more information at his/her disposal and also has knowledge about the computer models and how they will perform in certain situations.