Weather Briefing, 2025 Bermuda 1-2 Race
Outbound Leg
Prepared for Skipper's Meeting
June 5, 2025, 1800 UTC (1400 EDT)

Ken McKinley, Locus Weather
www.locusweather.com

Organization of briefing:

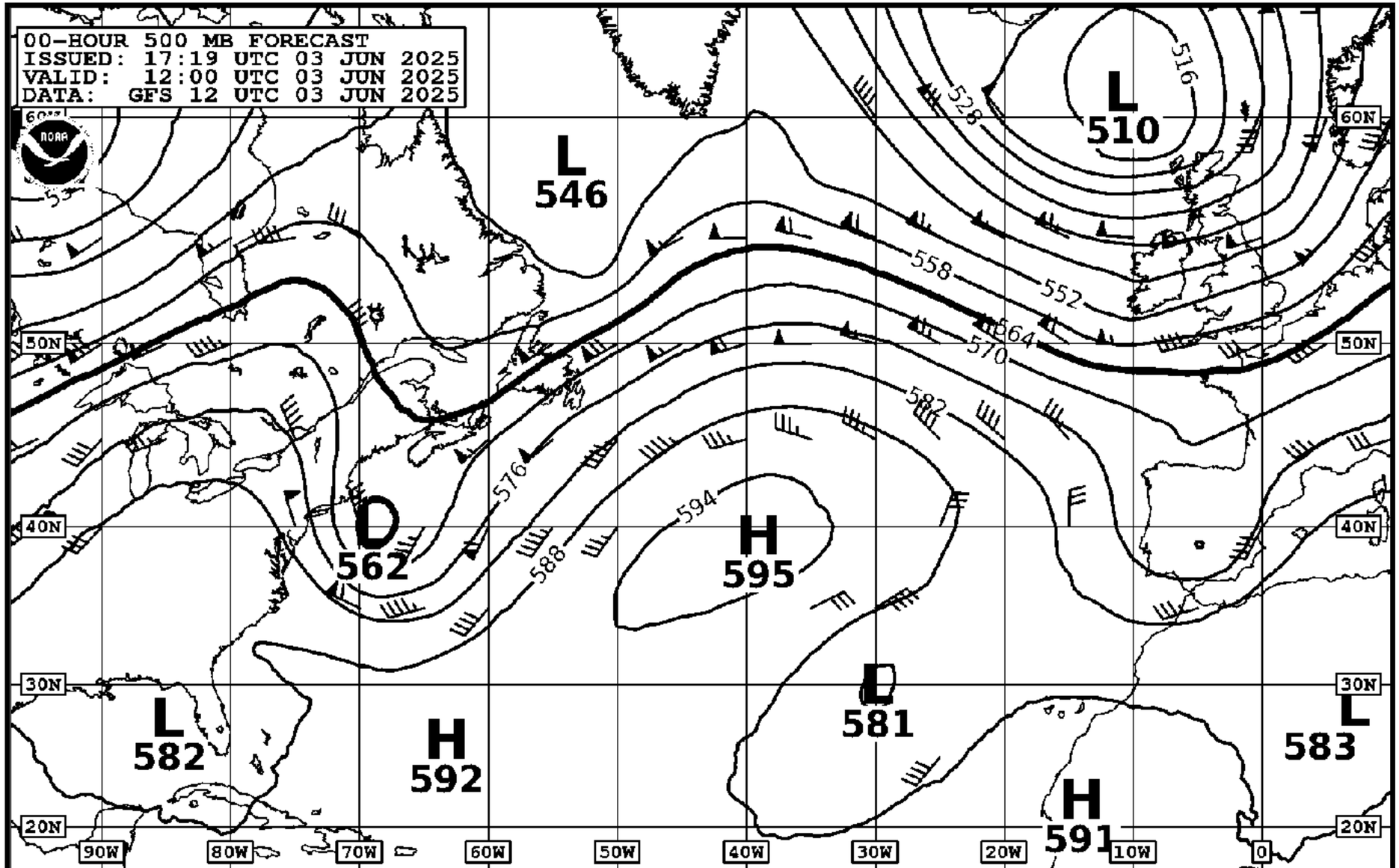
1. Recent weather history
2. Current weather situation
3. Weather forecast information for the next 6 days.
4. Possible different weather patterns which could develop.
5. Discussion of sources of publicly available information which will be useful during the race.

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

Recent Weather History

Tuesday morning 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)

500 millibar chart



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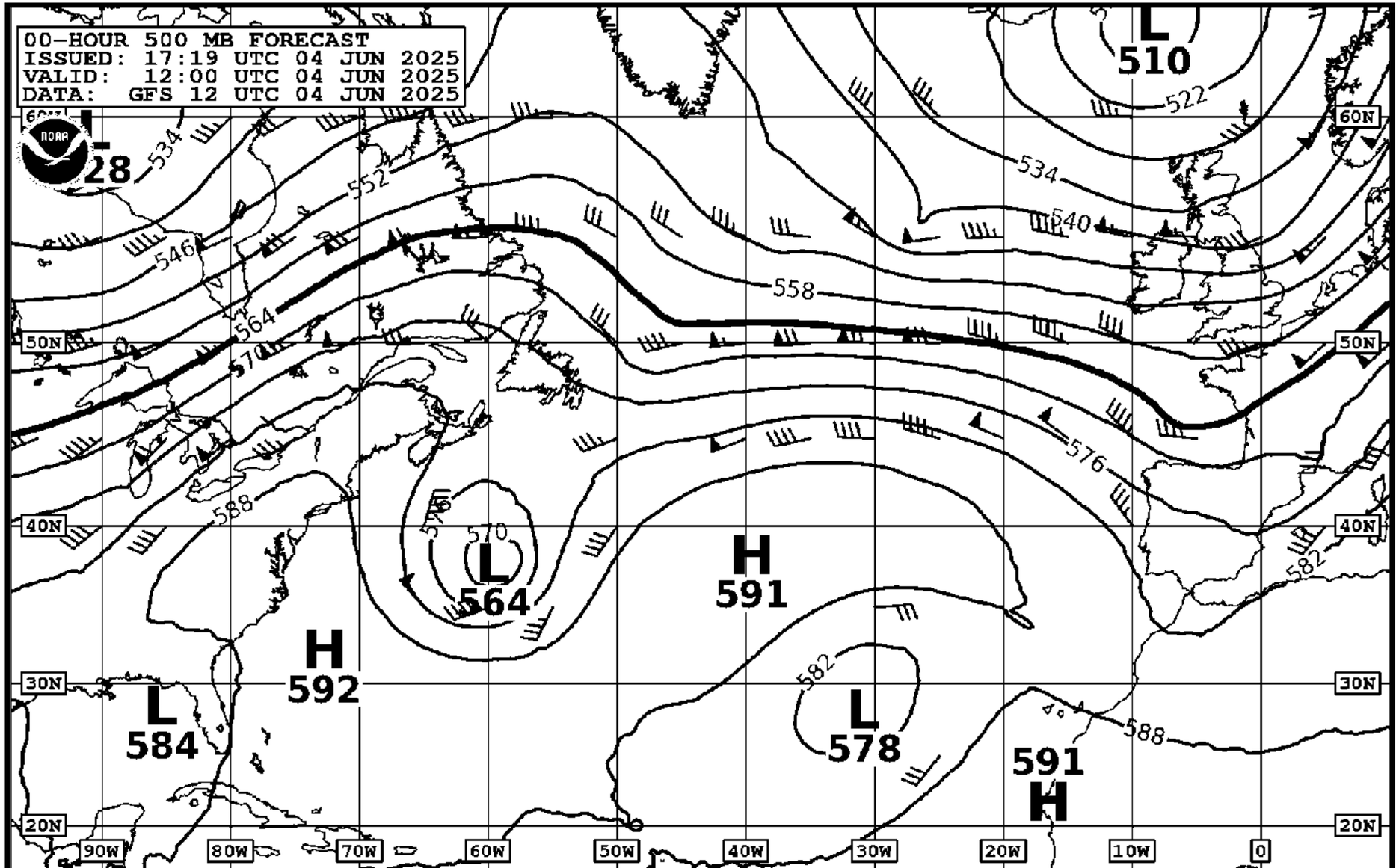
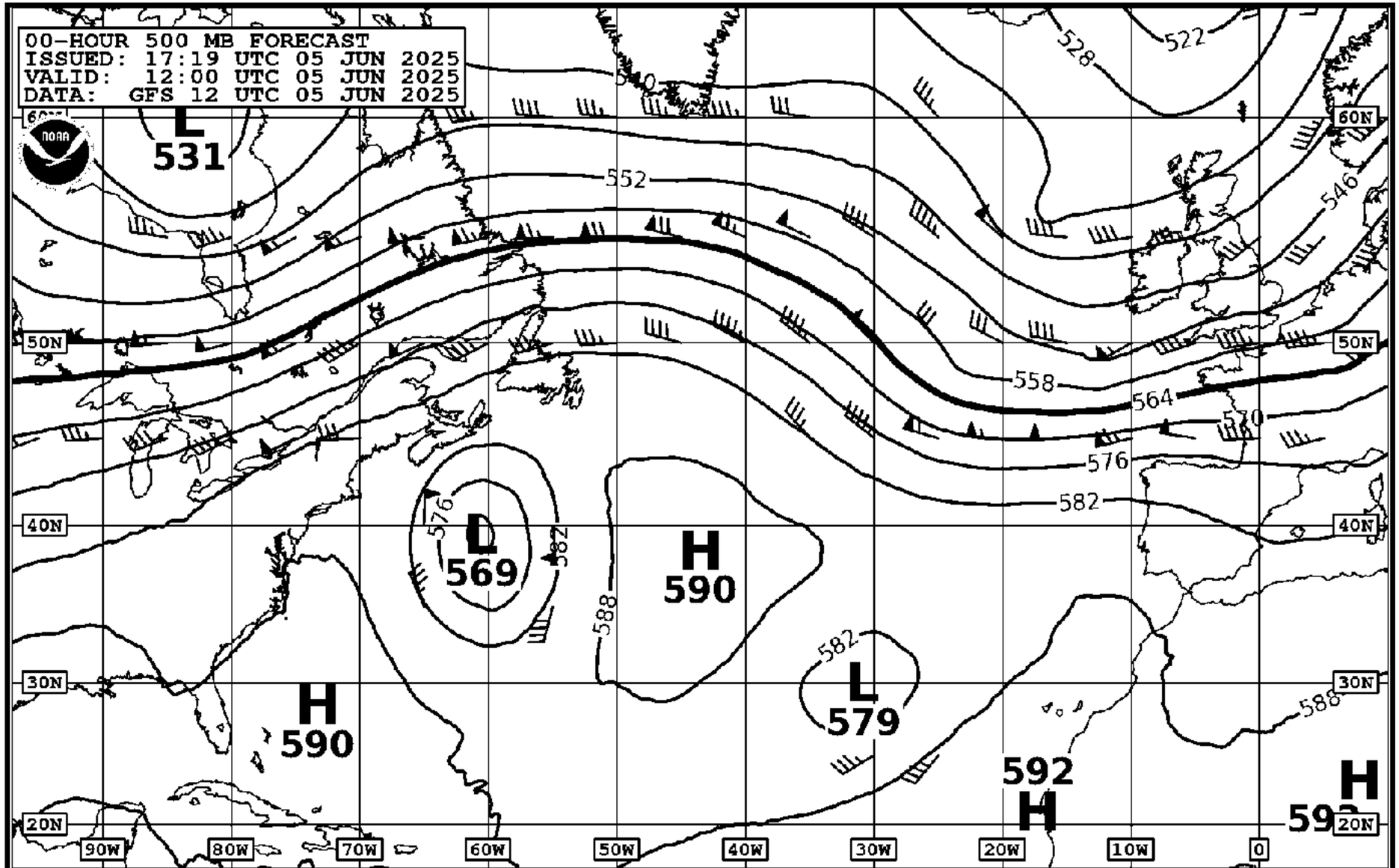


Recent Weather History

Thursday morning 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)

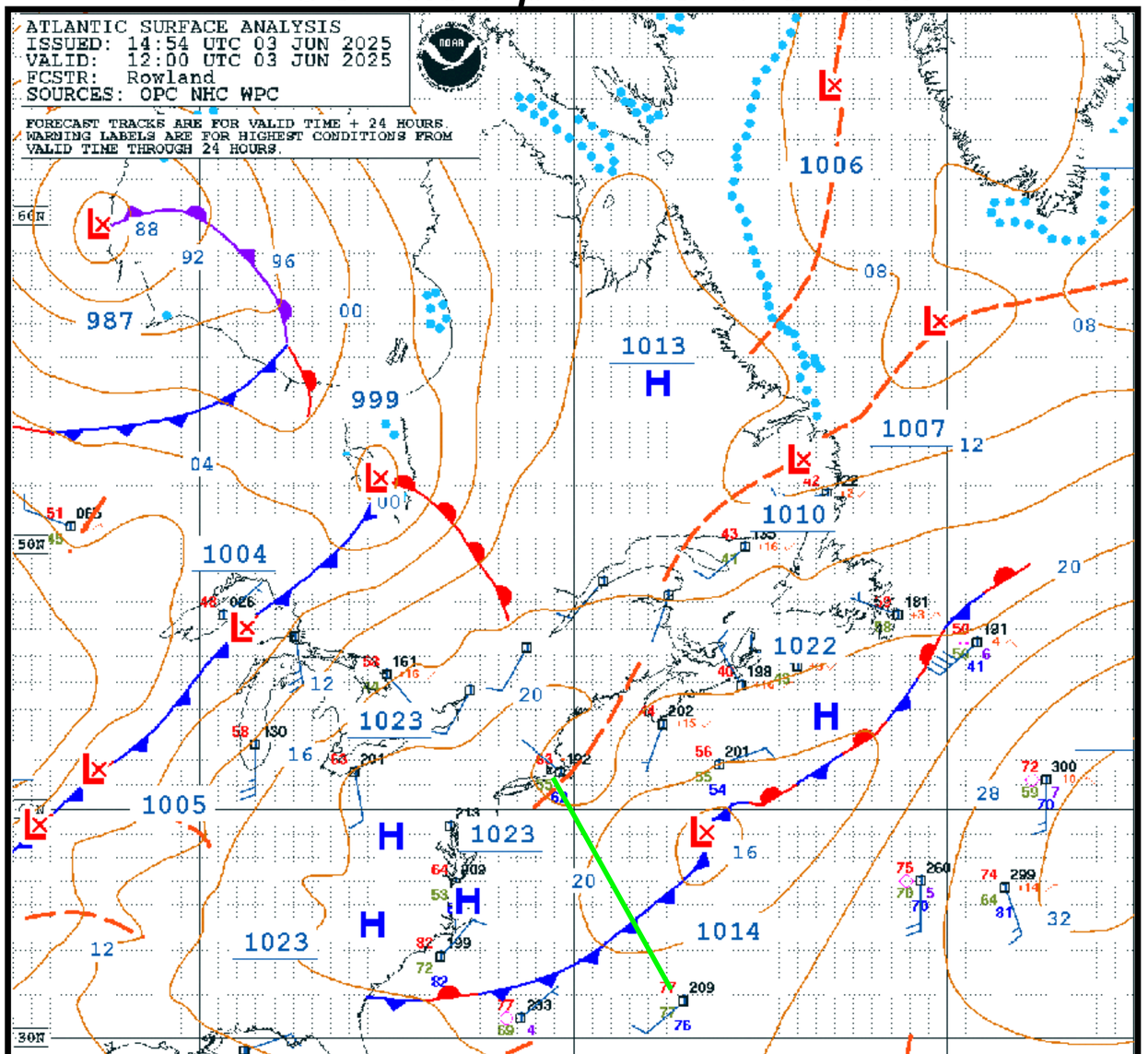
500 millibar chart



Recent Weather History

Tuesday 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)

Surface pressure chart



Recent Weather History

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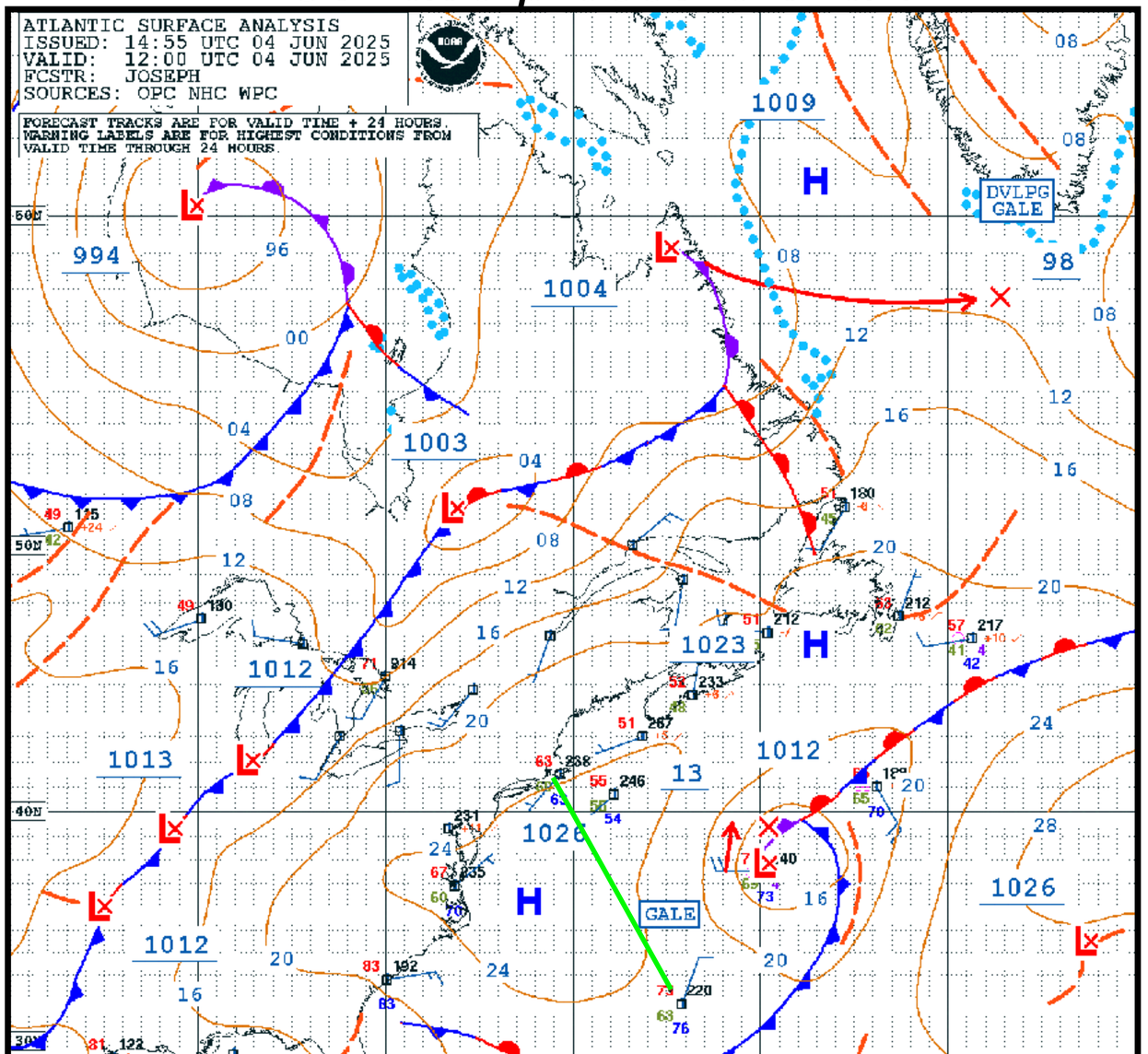
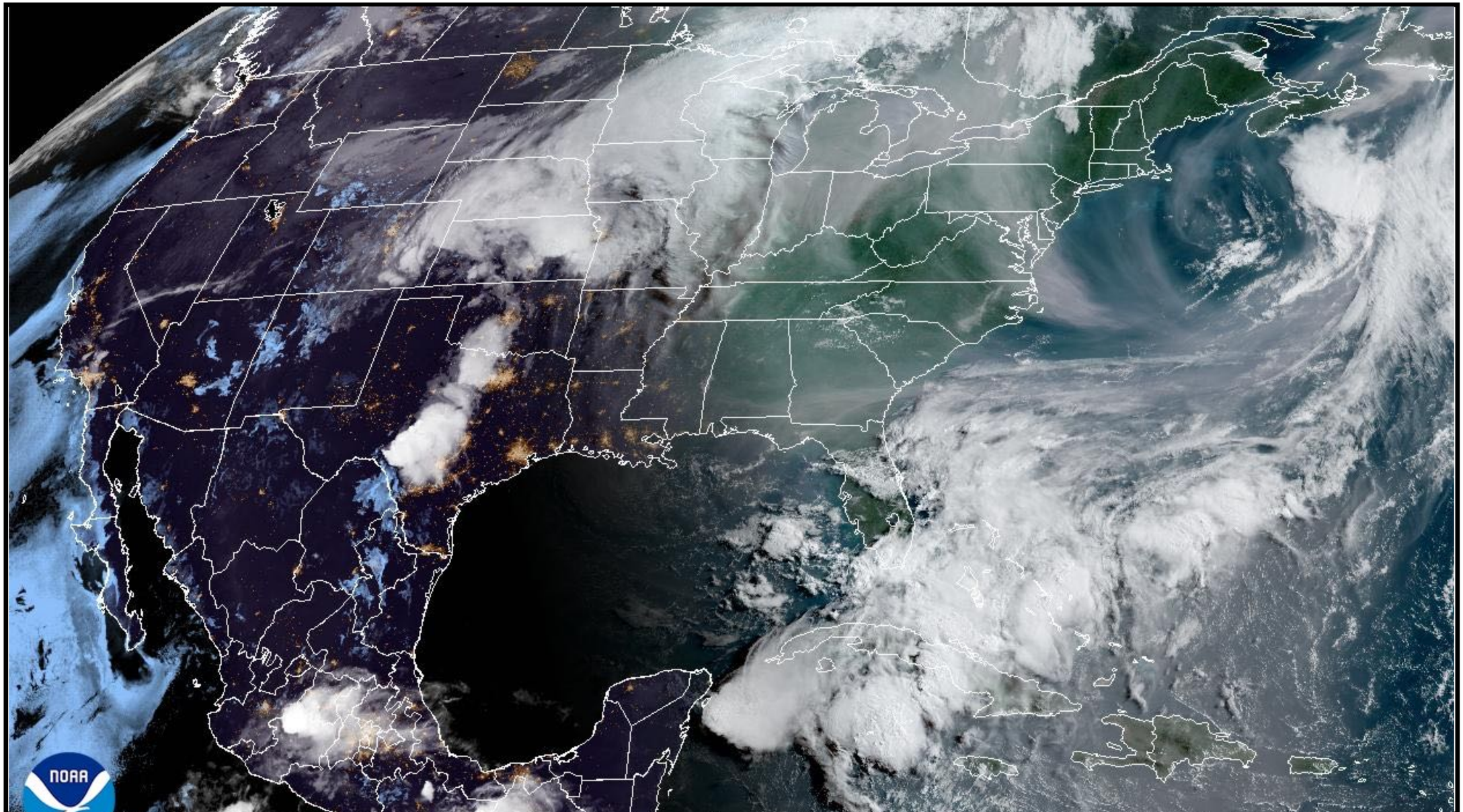


Recent Weather History

Satellite Image Tuesday morning 1156 UTC (0756 EDT)



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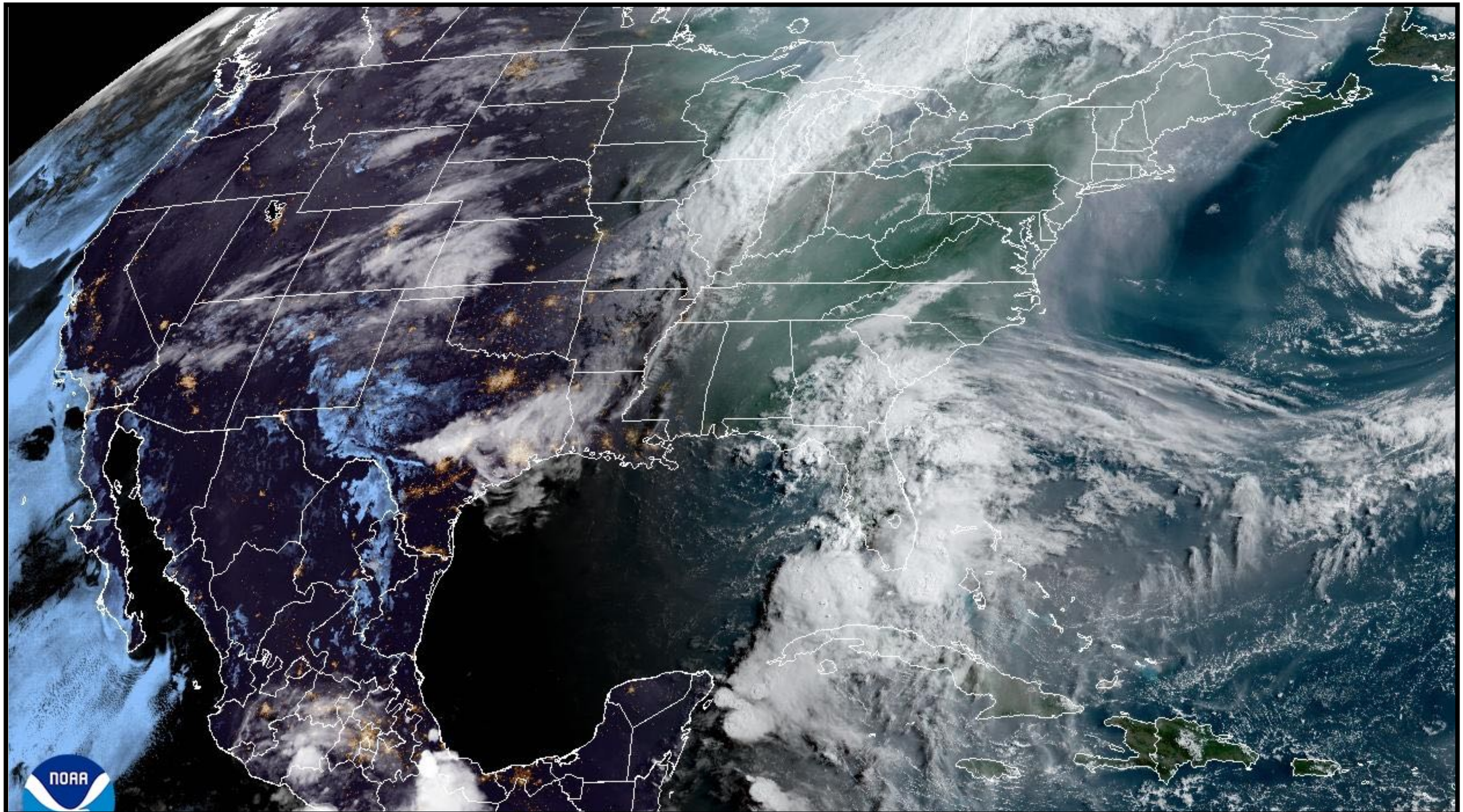

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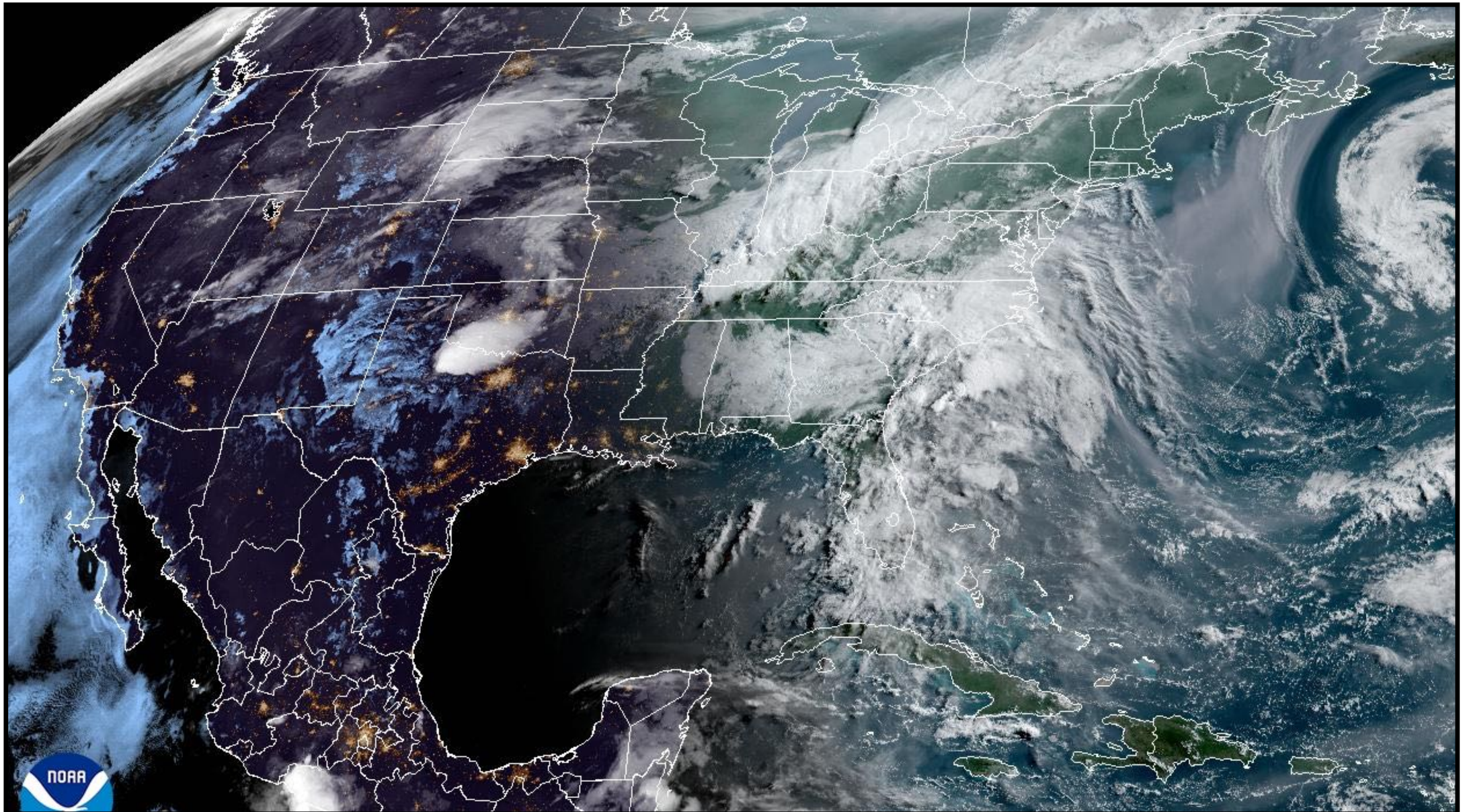
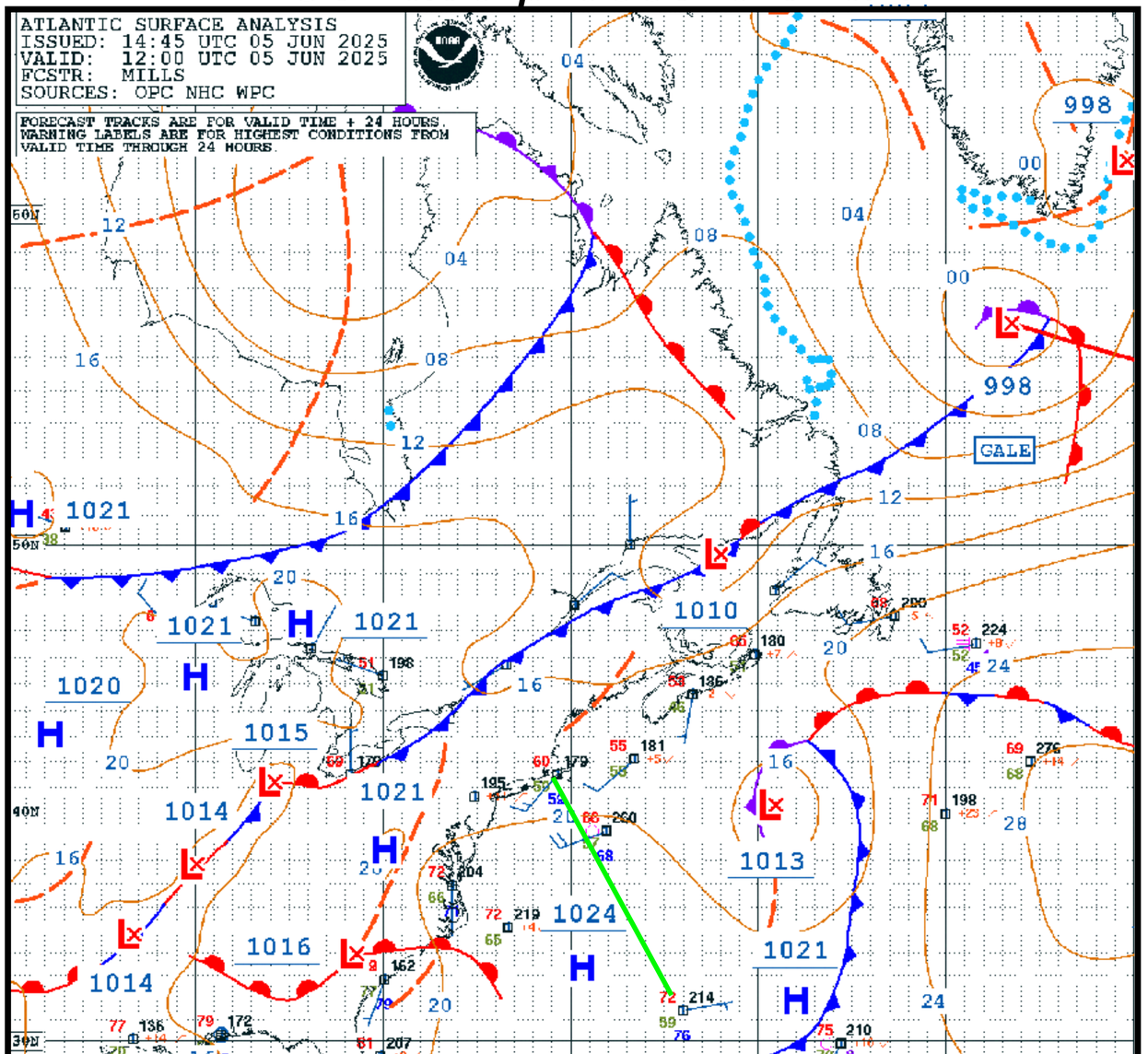


Current Weather Situation

Thursday 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)

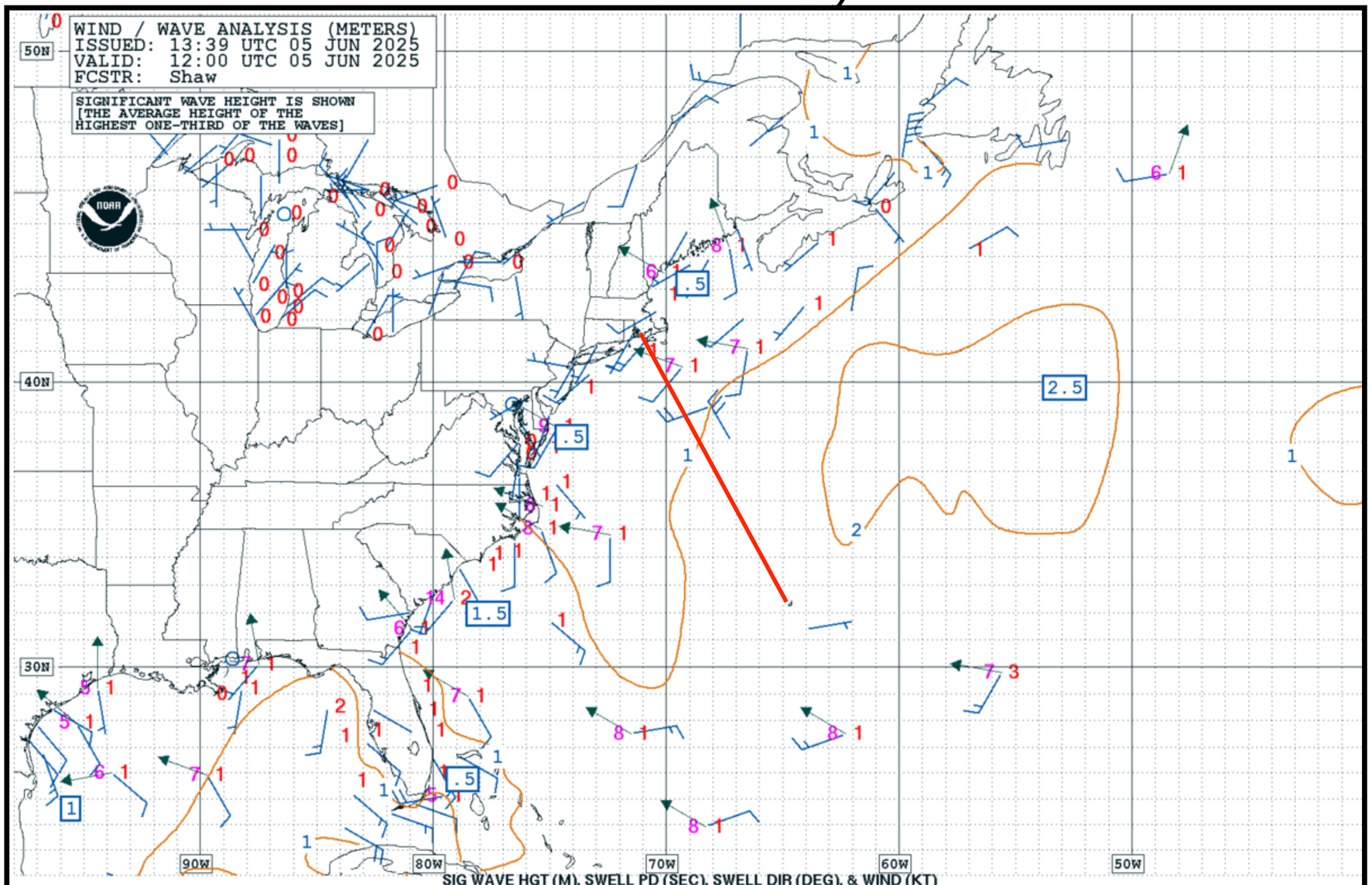
Surface pressure chart



Current Weather Situation

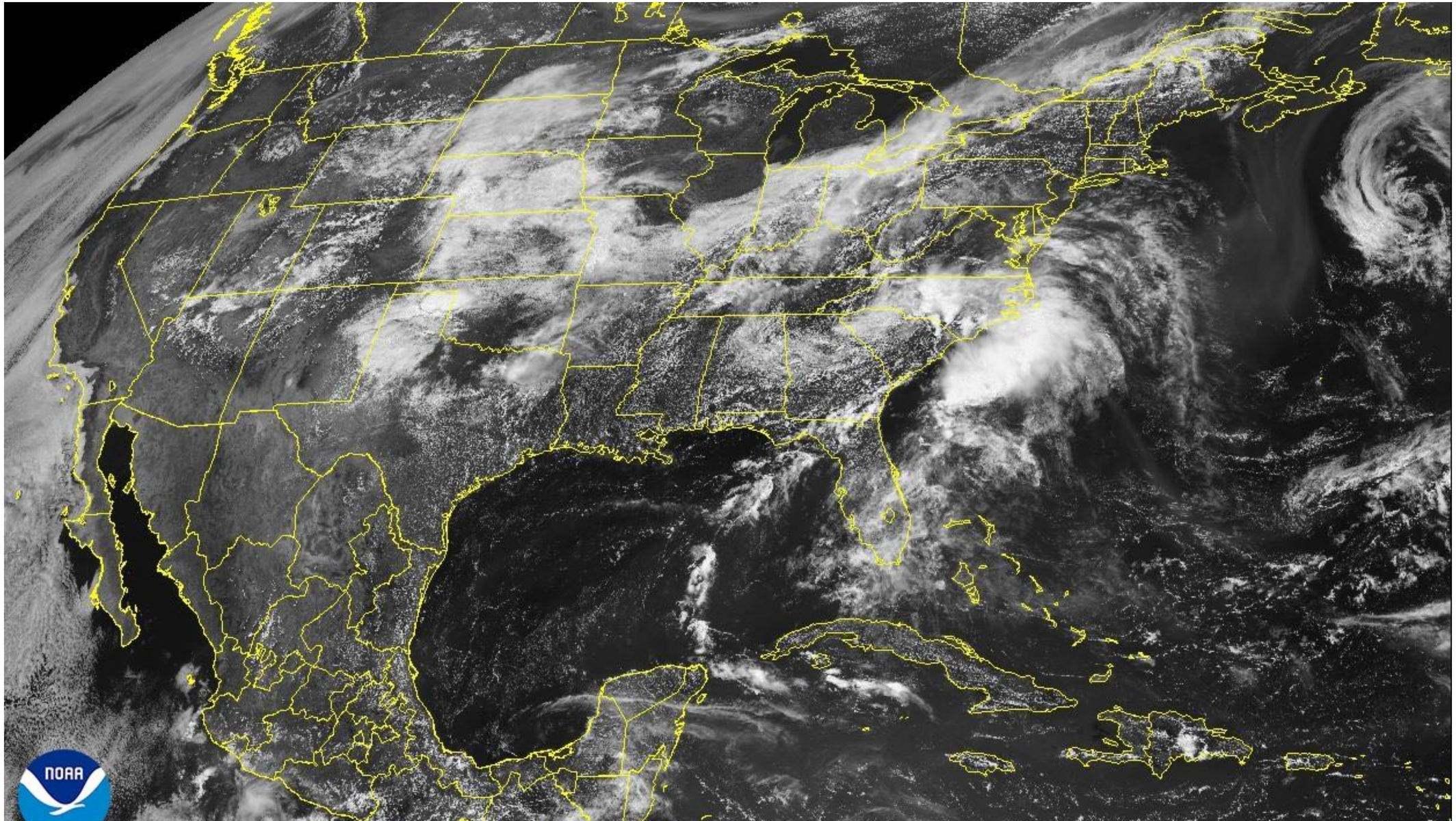
Thursday 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)

Wind/Wave Analysis



Current Weather Situation

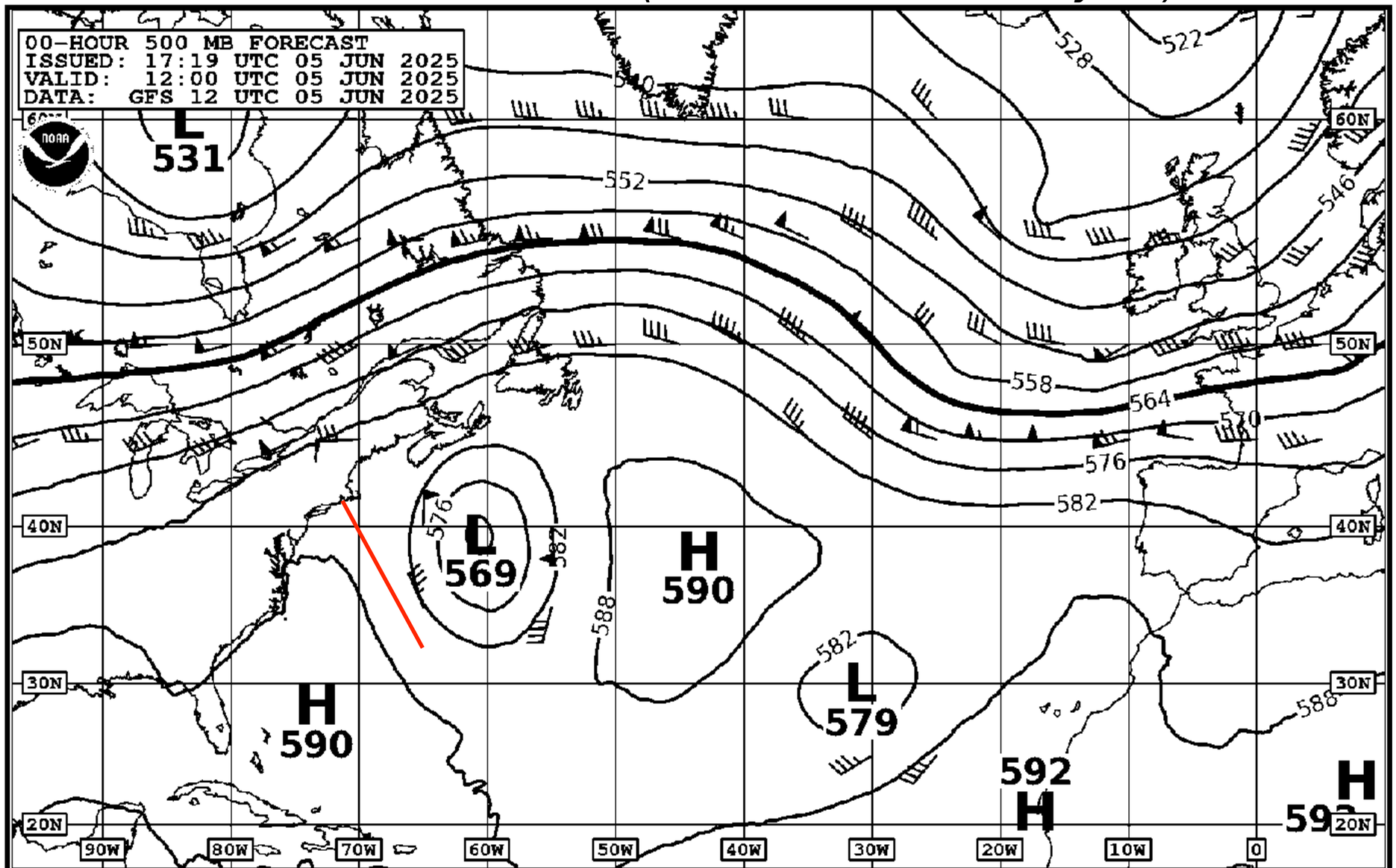
Thursday 1721 UTC (1321 EDT)Visible satellite image



Weather Forecast Information

Thursday morning 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)

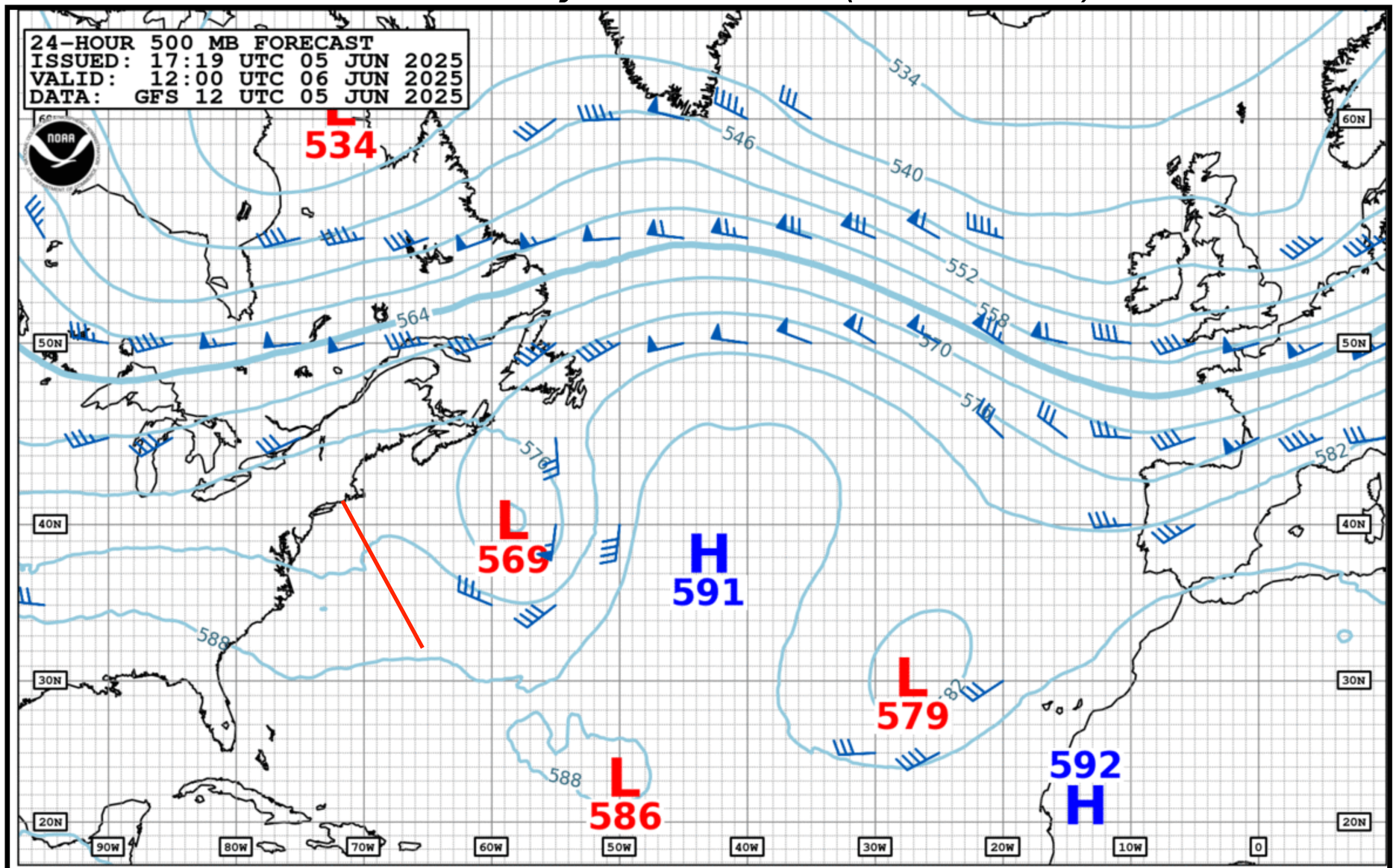
500 millibar chart (Start of Forecast Cycle)



Weather Forecast Information

24 hour forecast: 500 millibar chart

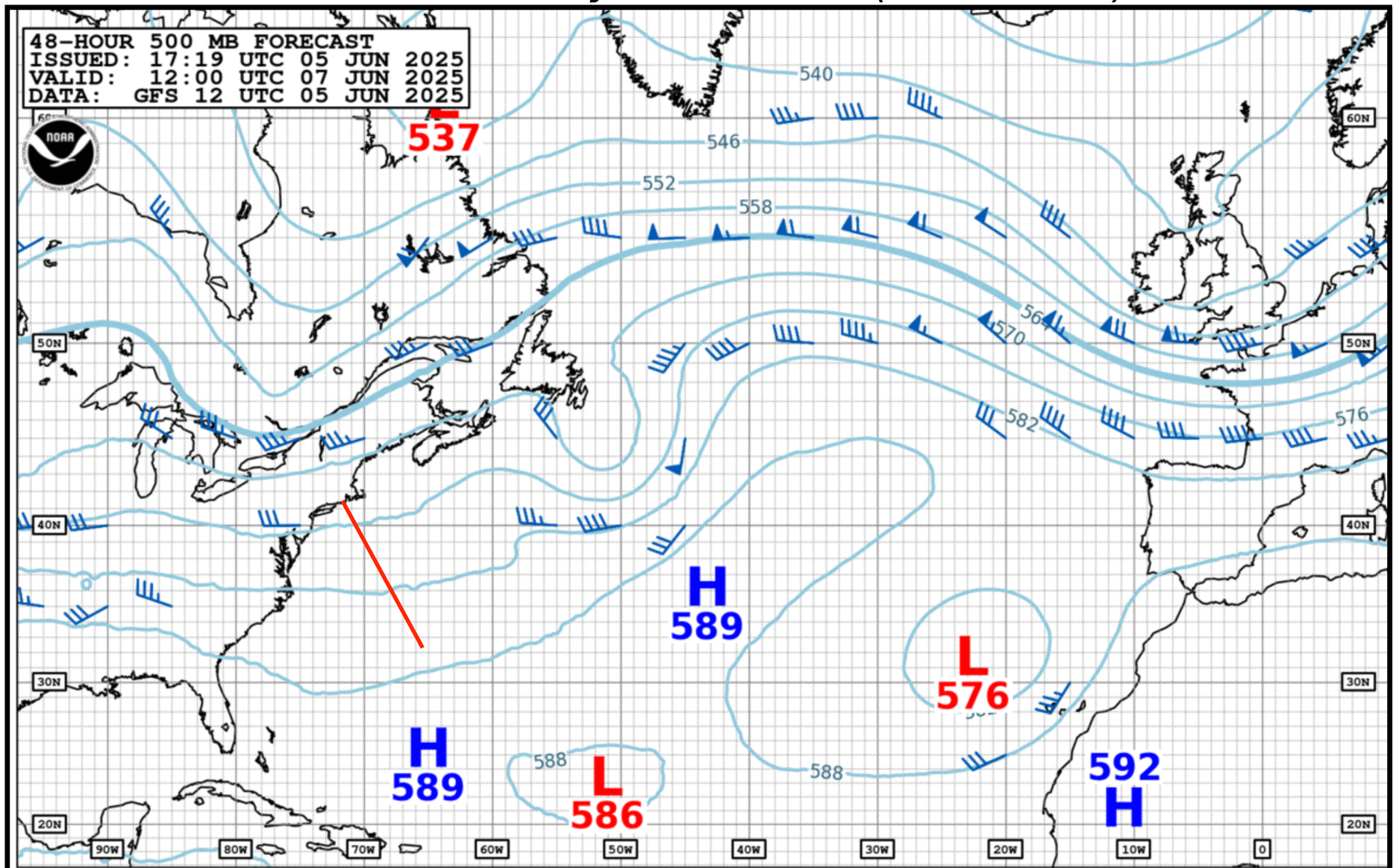
Valid Friday 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)



Weather Forecast Information

48 hour forecast: 500 millibar chart

Valid Saturday 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)



Weather Forecast Information

72 hour forecast: 500 millibar chart

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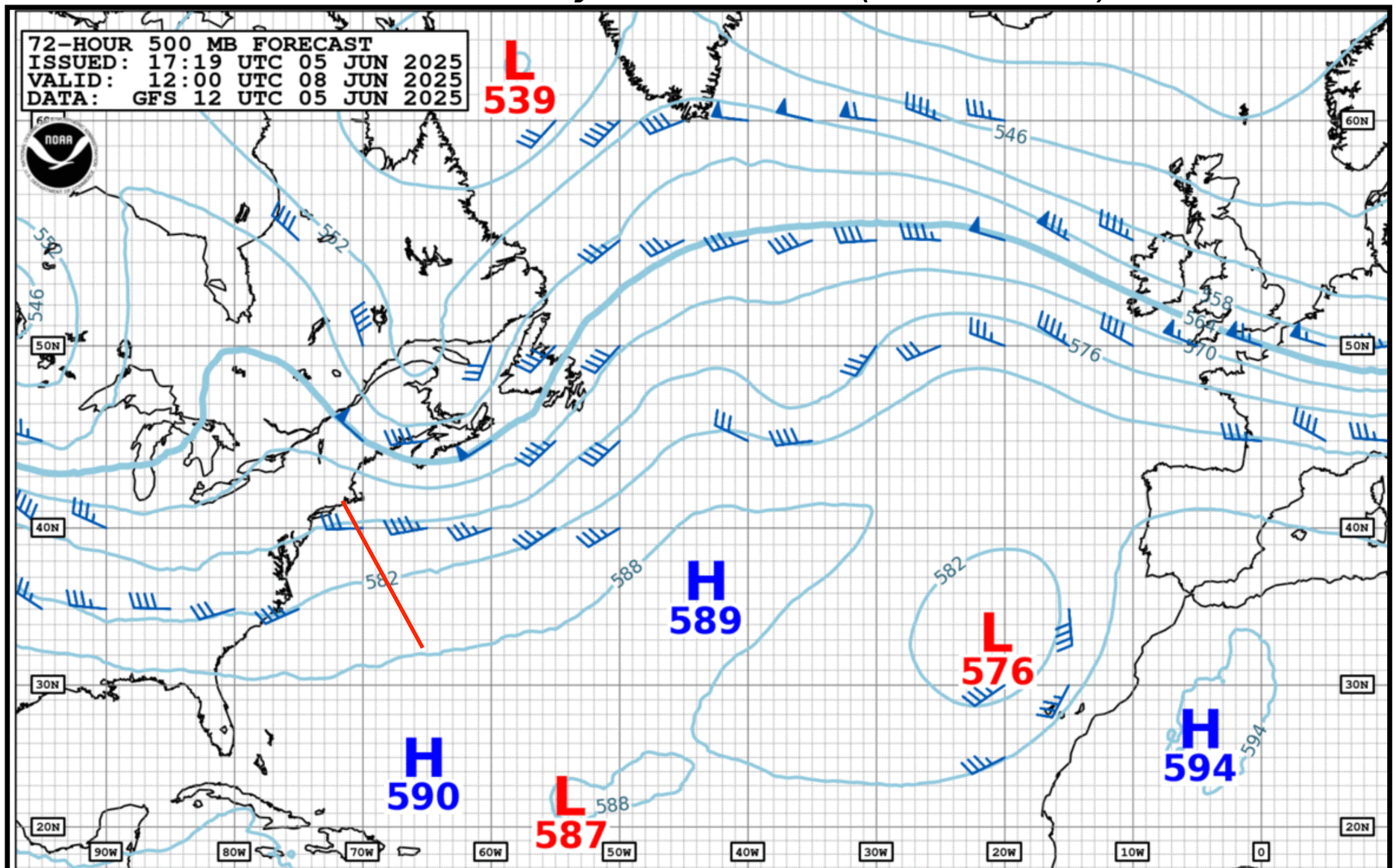

Weather Forecast Information

96 hour forecast: 500 millibar chart

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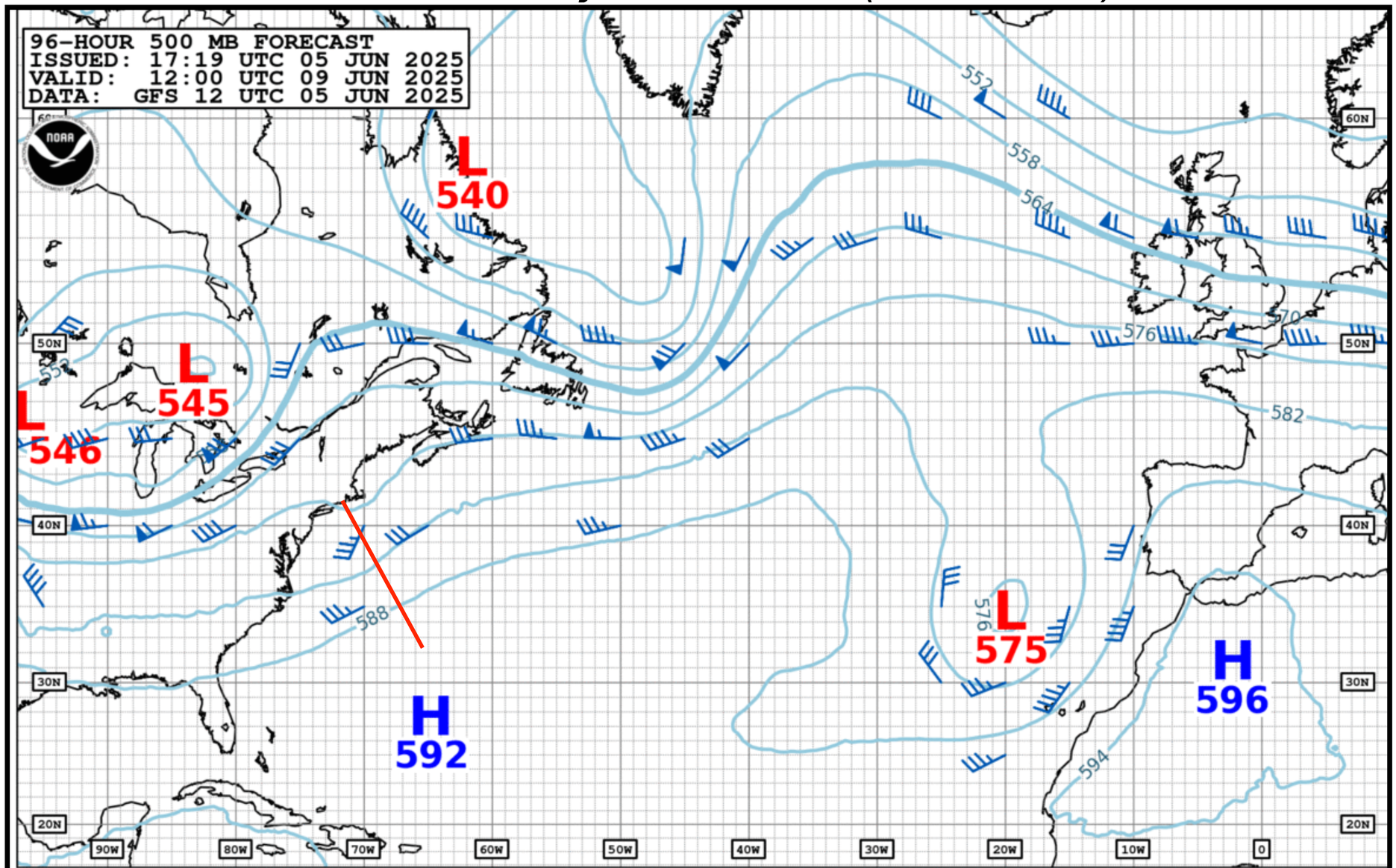
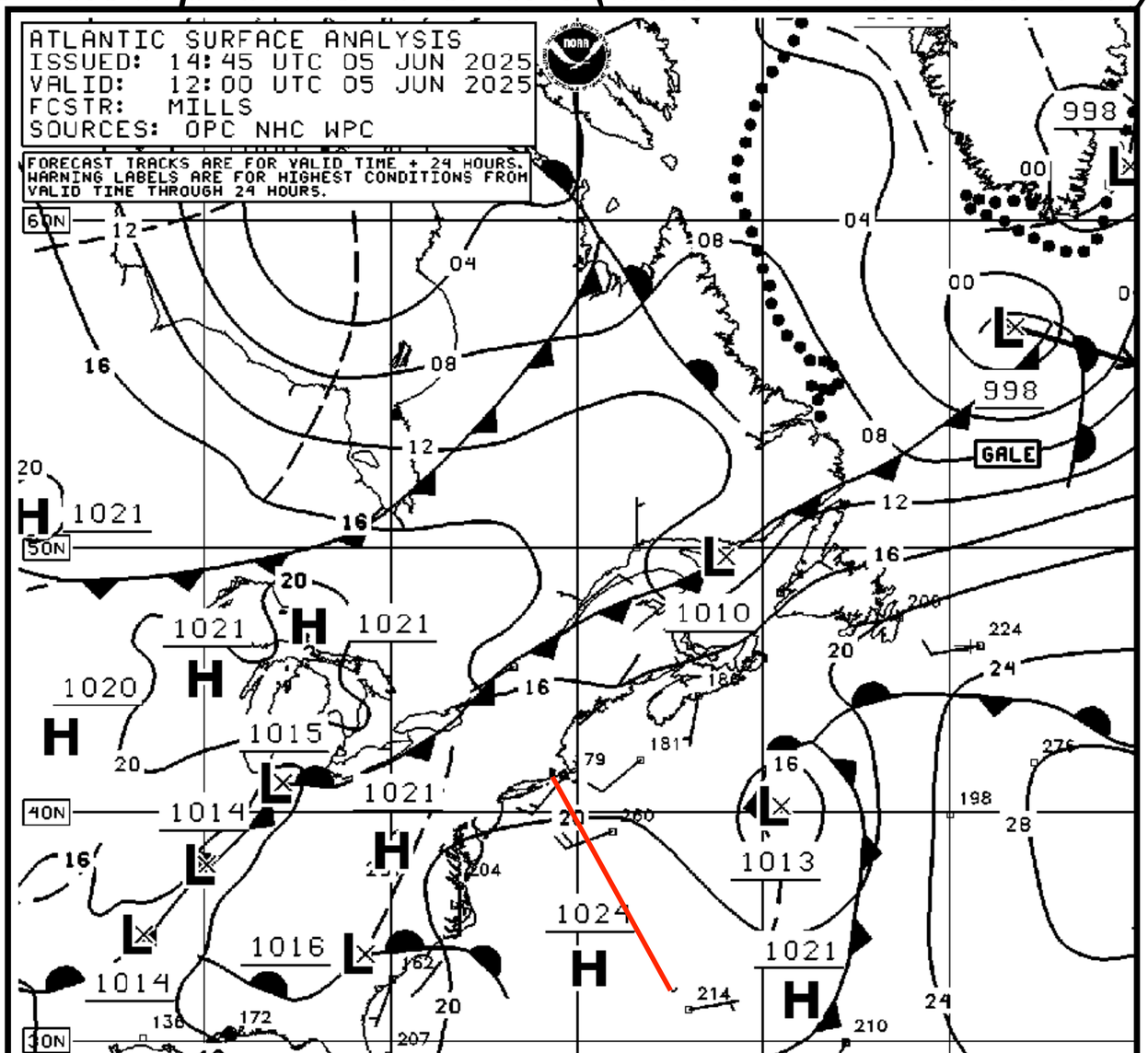


Weather Forecast Information

Thursday 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)

Surface pressure chart (Start of Forecast Cycle)



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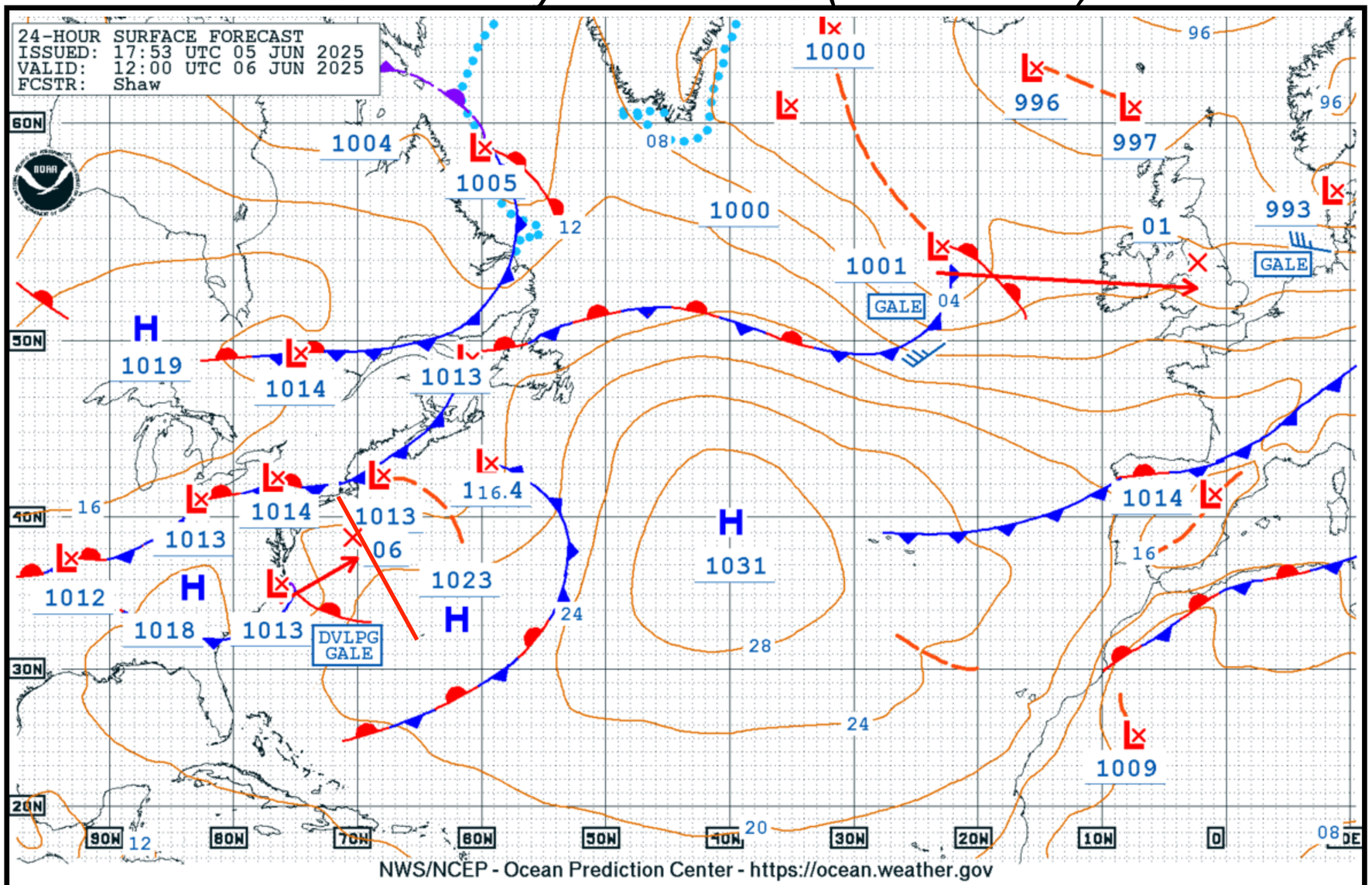

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48 hour forecast: Surface pressure chart

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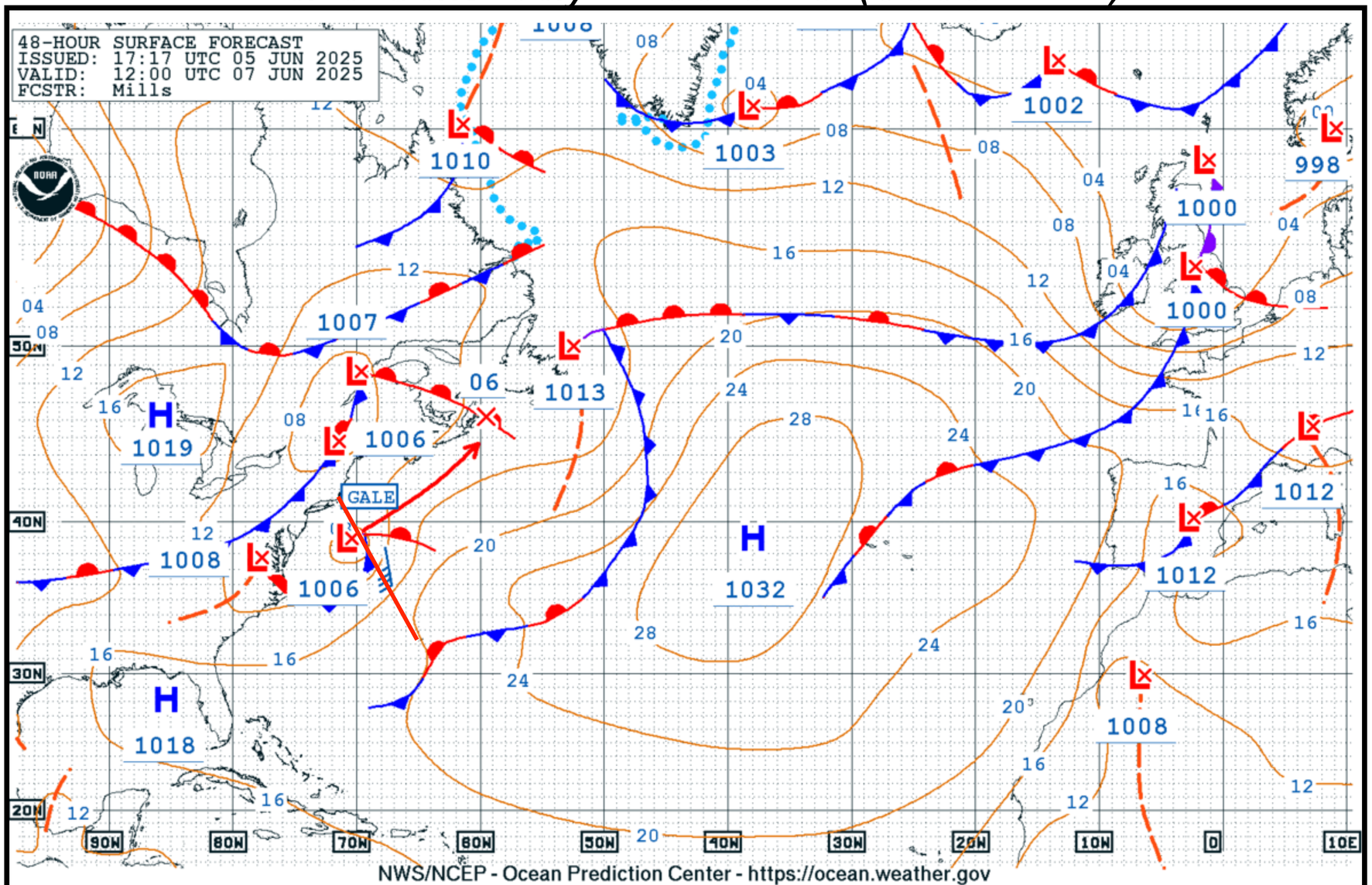

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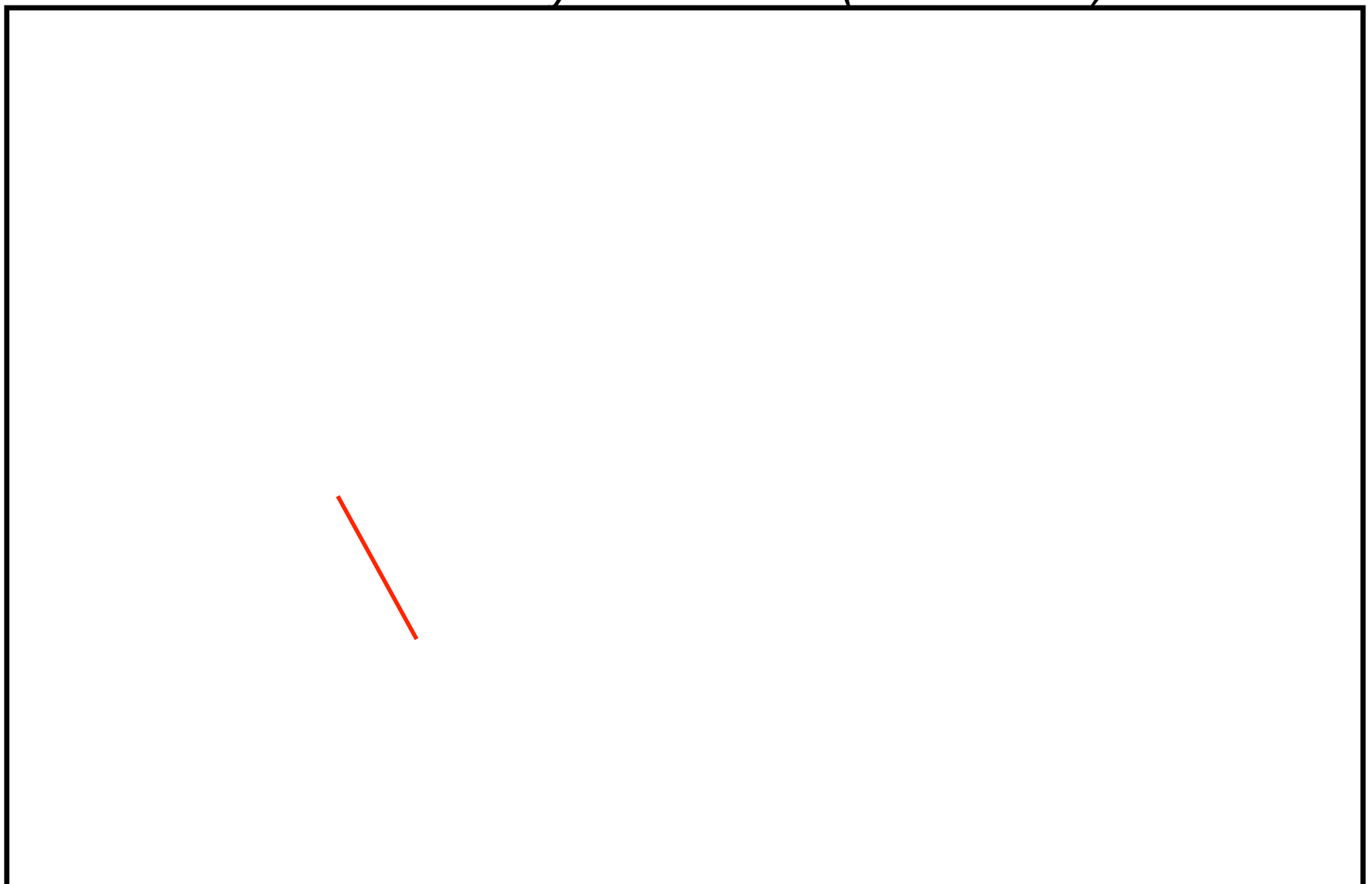

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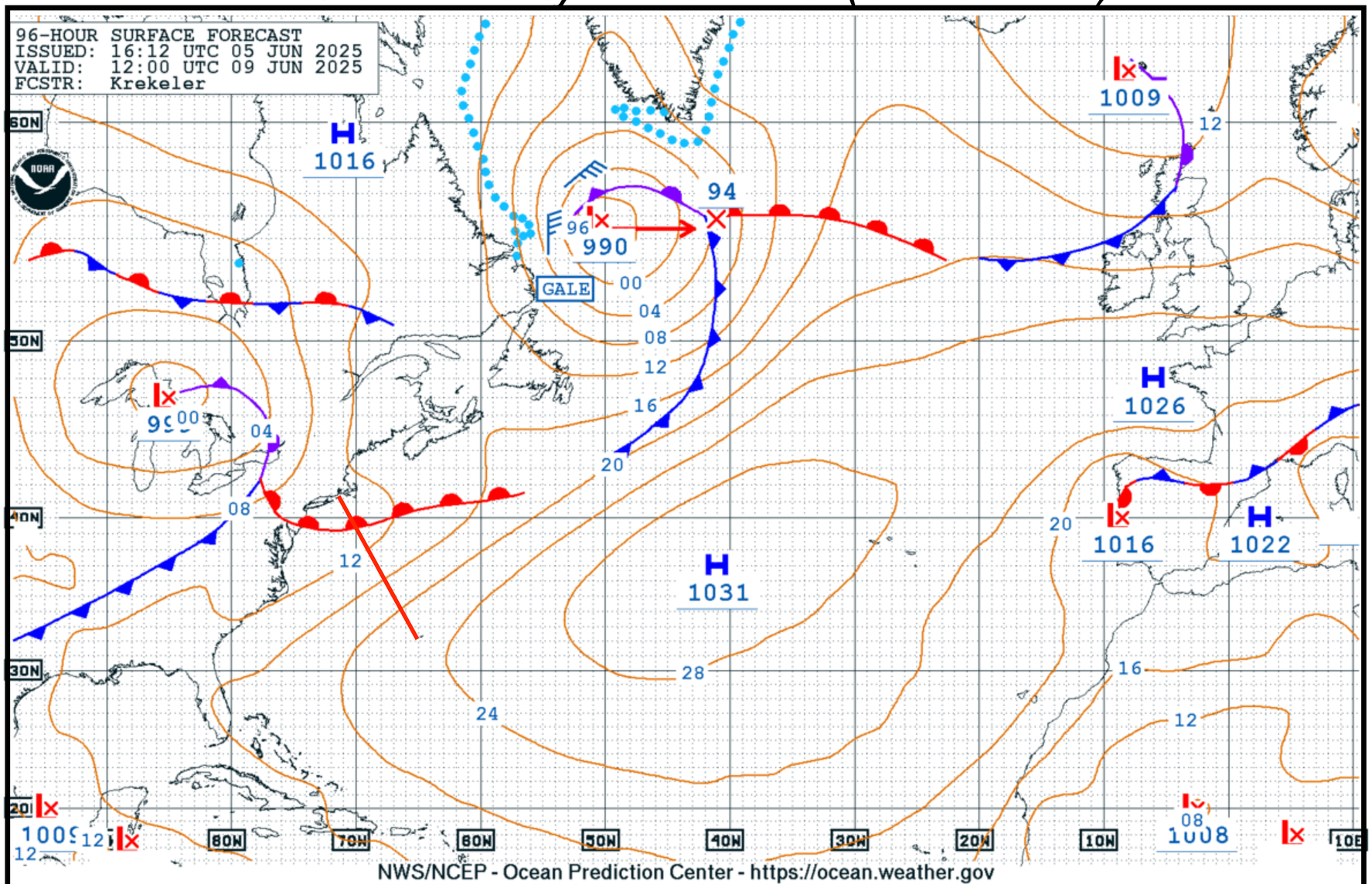
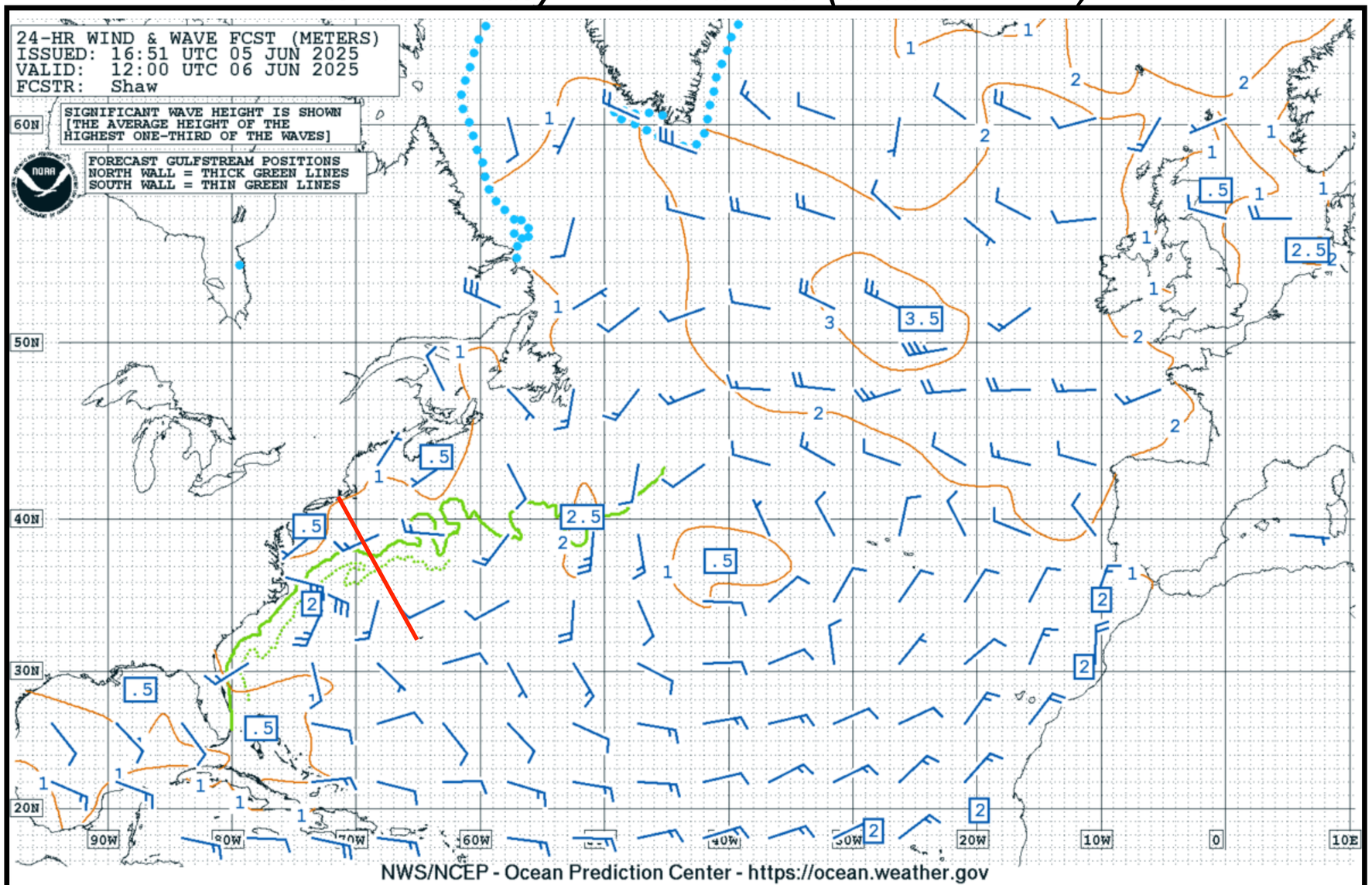


Weather Forecast Information

24 hour forecast: Wind/Wave chart

Valid Friday 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)



Weather Forecast Information

48 hour forecast: Wind/Wave chart

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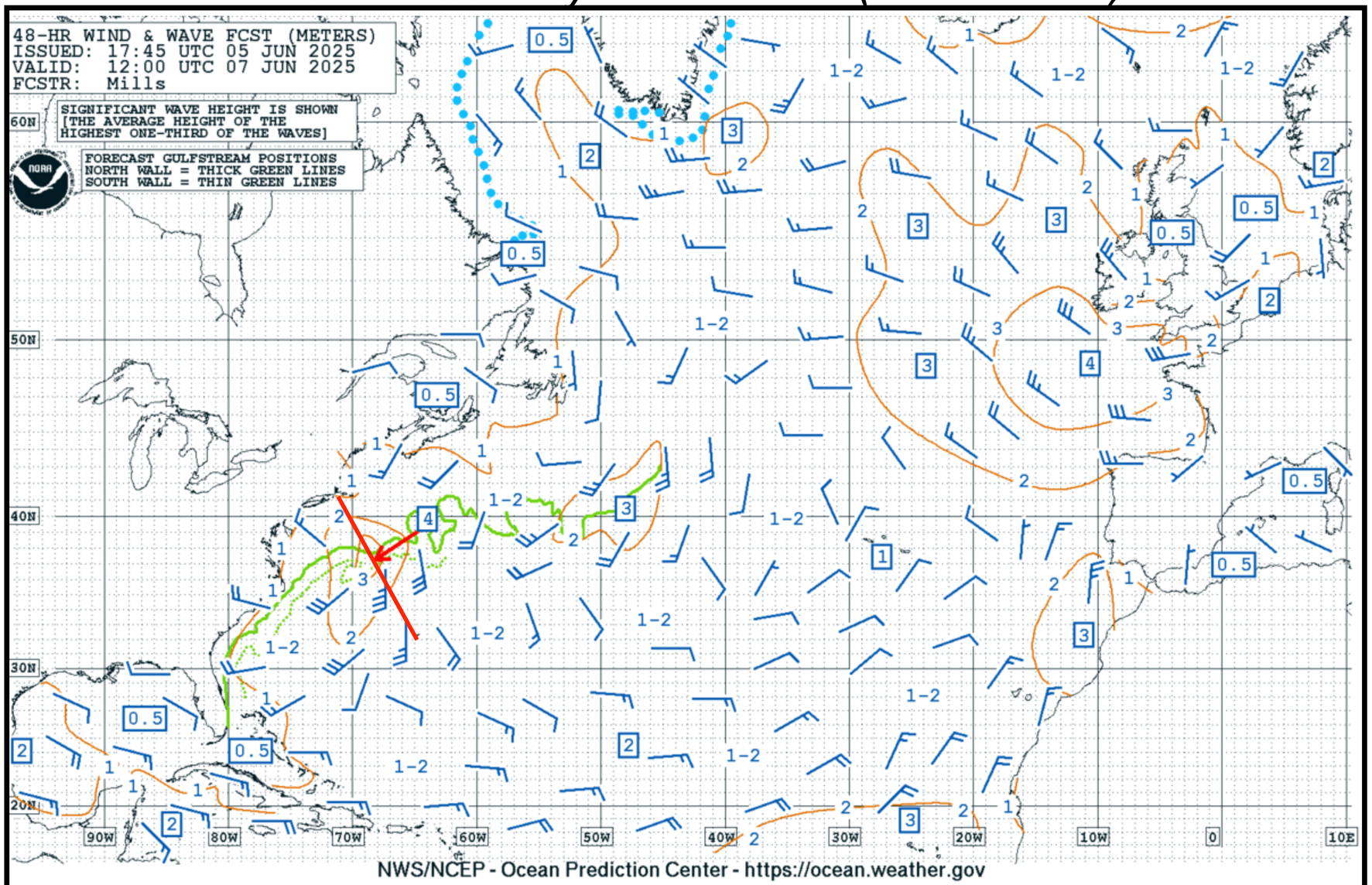

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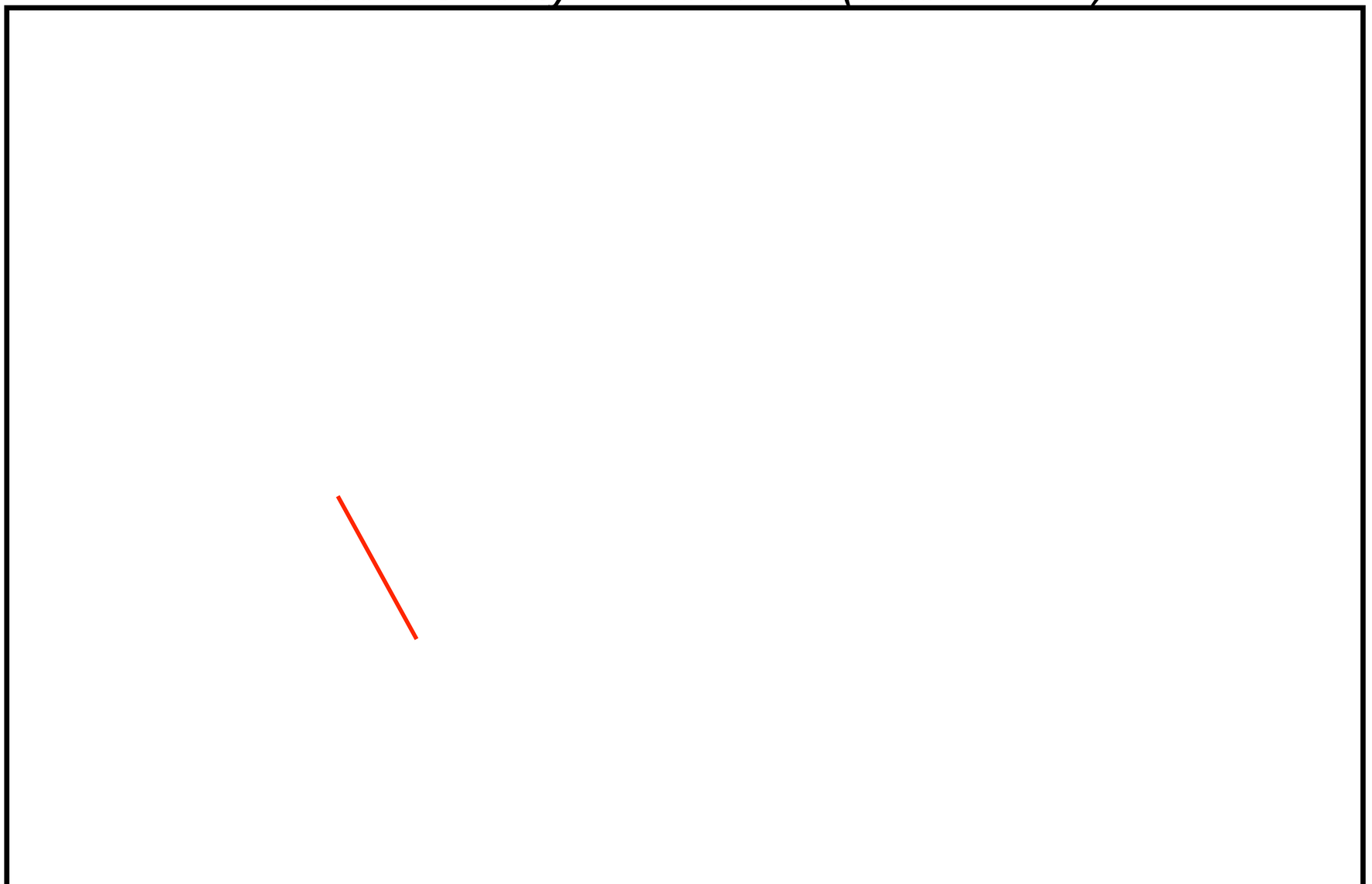

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96 hour forecast: Wind/Wave chart

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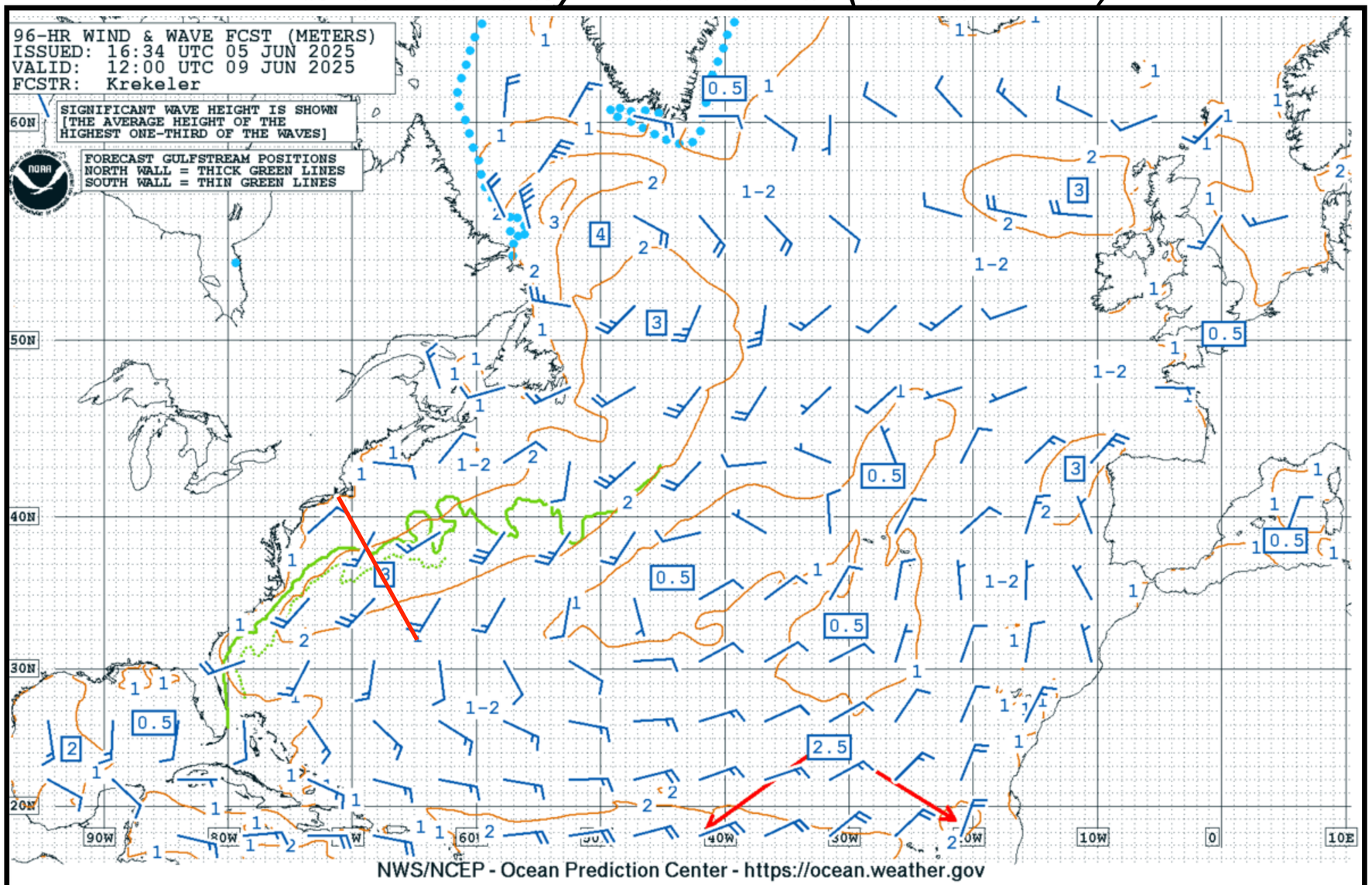
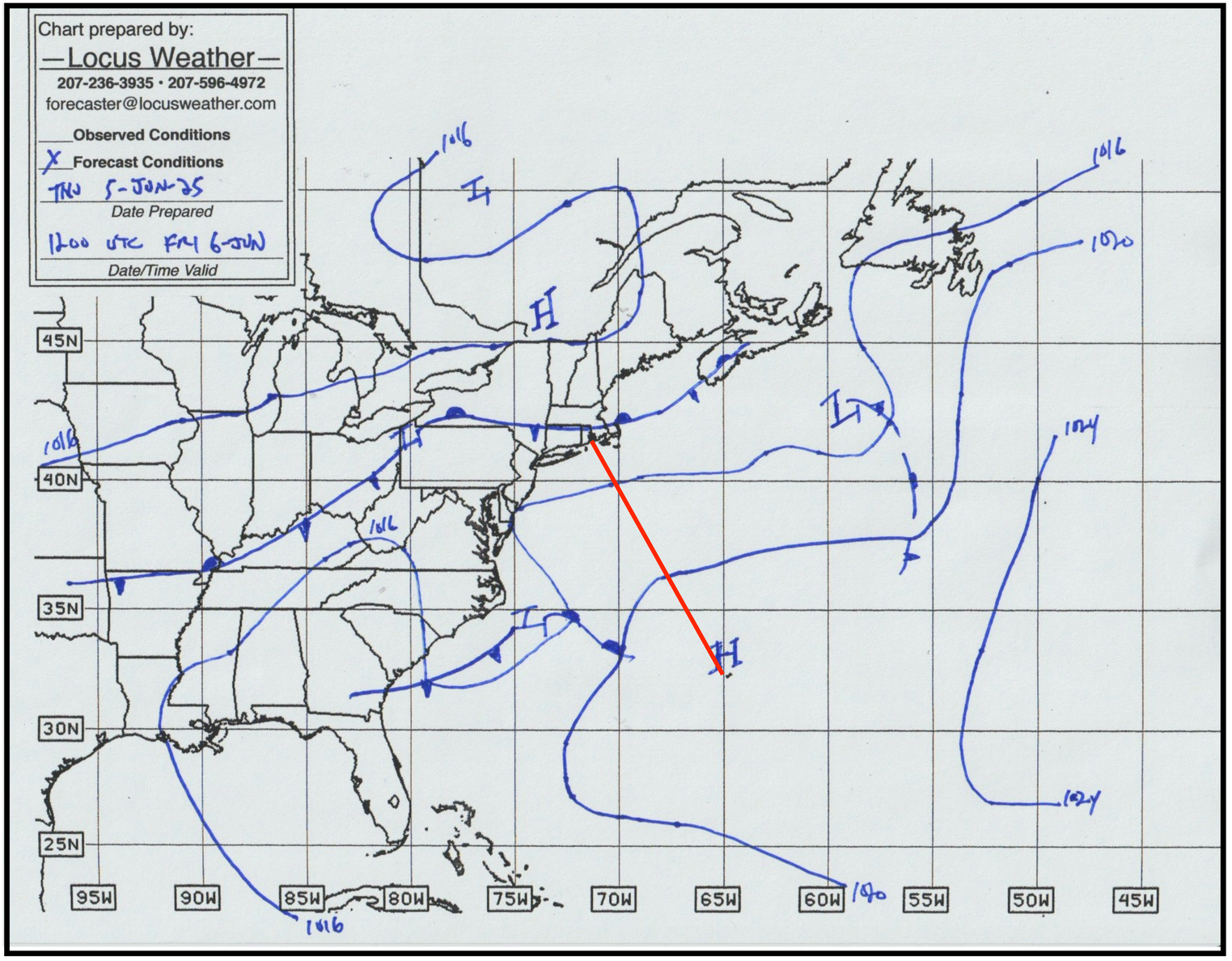


Weather Forecast Information

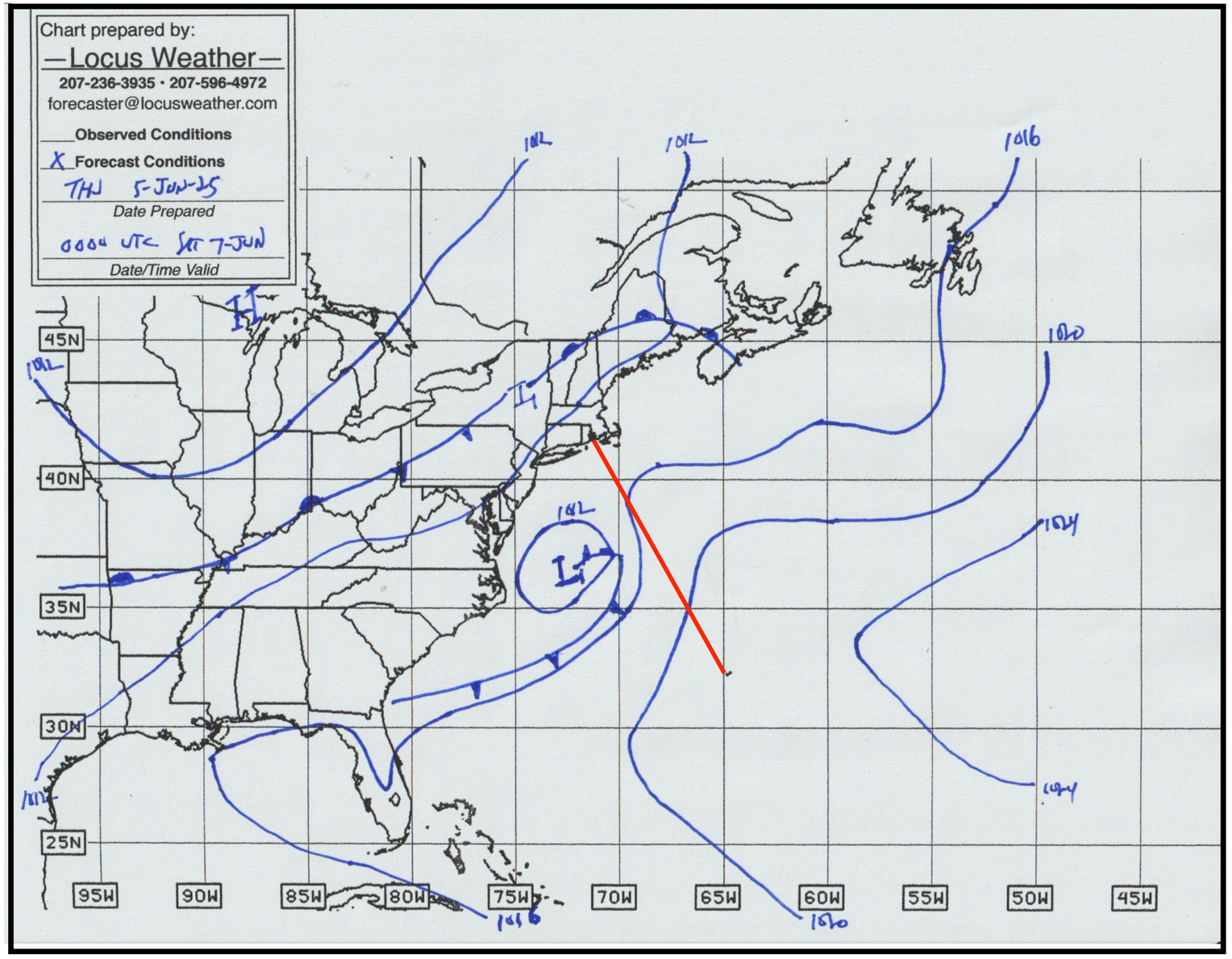
24 hour surface forecast:Valid Friday 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)



Winds generally SW 10-15 knots at the start, but perhaps variable for a time around midday if the frontal boundary sags far enough south. SW winds increasing through the afternoon.

Weather Forecast Information

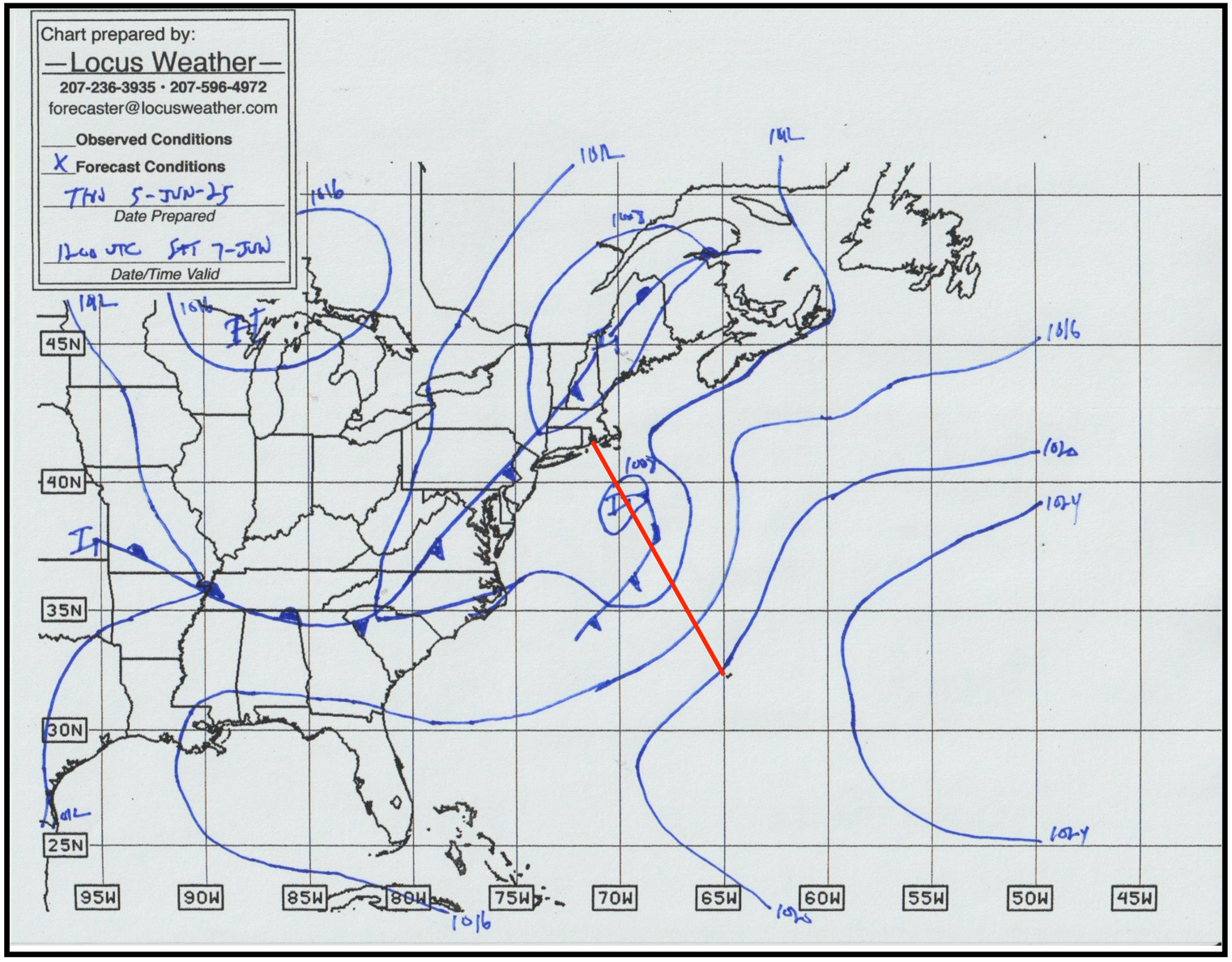
36 hour surface forecast:Valid Saturday 0000 UTC (2000 EDT Friday)



Winds backing to SE and becoming lighter through the evening, backing to E toward daybreak Saturday near 40N.

Weather Forecast Information

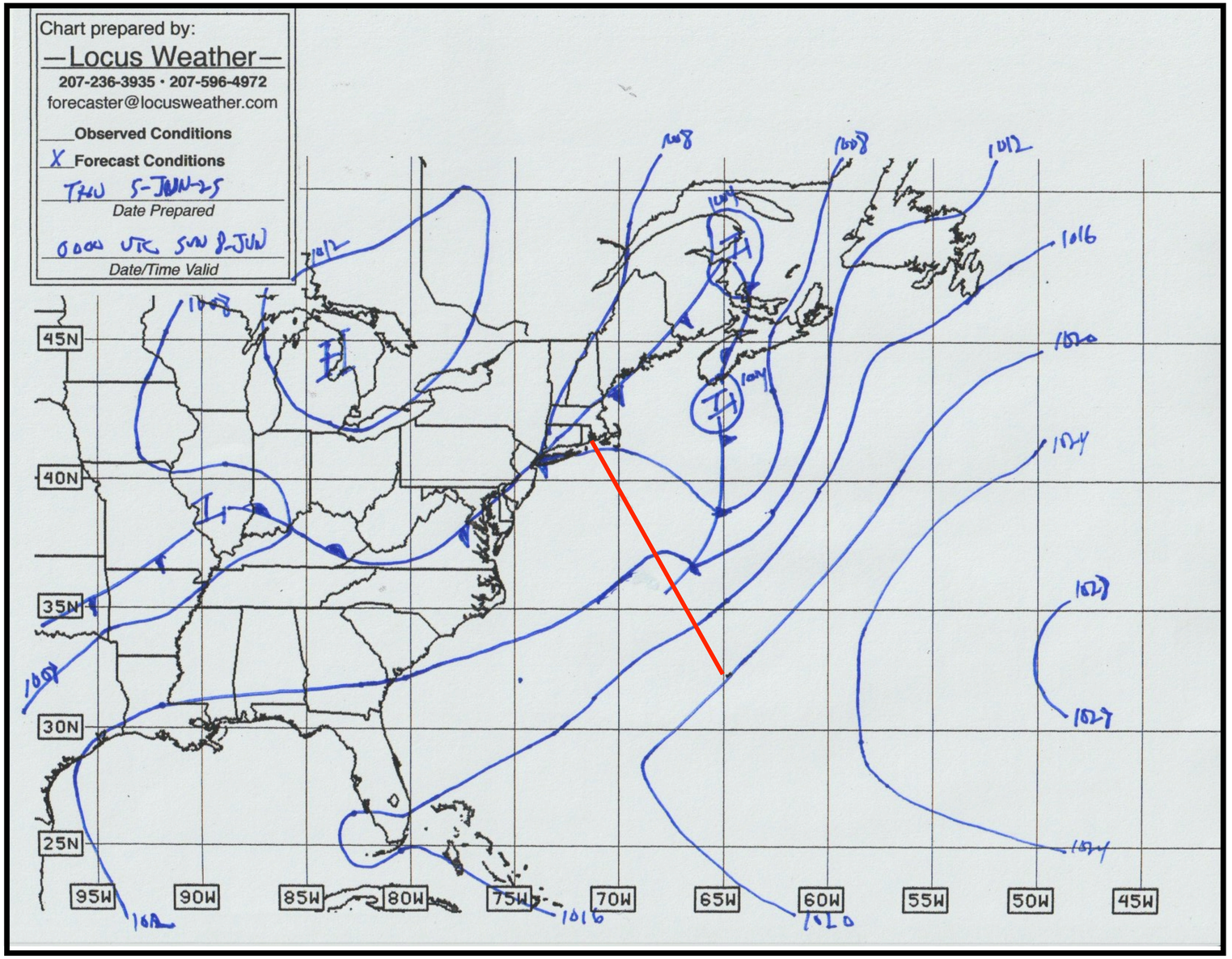
48 hour surface forecast:Valid Saturday 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)



E winds around 10 knots early, backing to N at and west of 70W through the morning, perhaps becoming SSW farther east. By afdteroon NW winds in all areas up to 15 knots, backing to WNW later in the day.

Weather Forecast Information

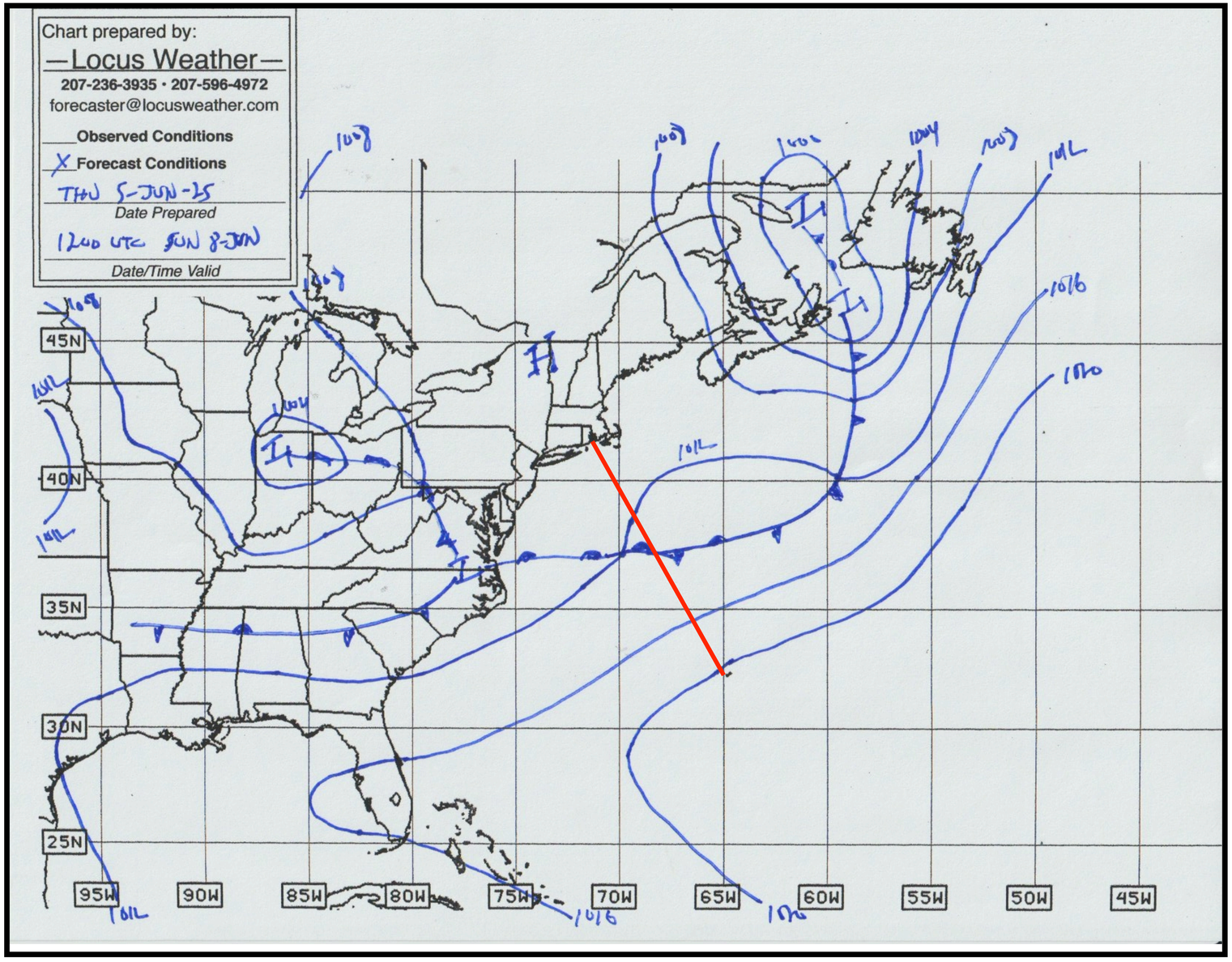
60 hour surface forecast:Valid Sunday 0000 UTC (2000 EDT Saturday)



Winds backing to WSW and becoming lighter through the evening , backing to SW or perhaps S later at night, speeds less than 8 knots.

Weather Forecast Information

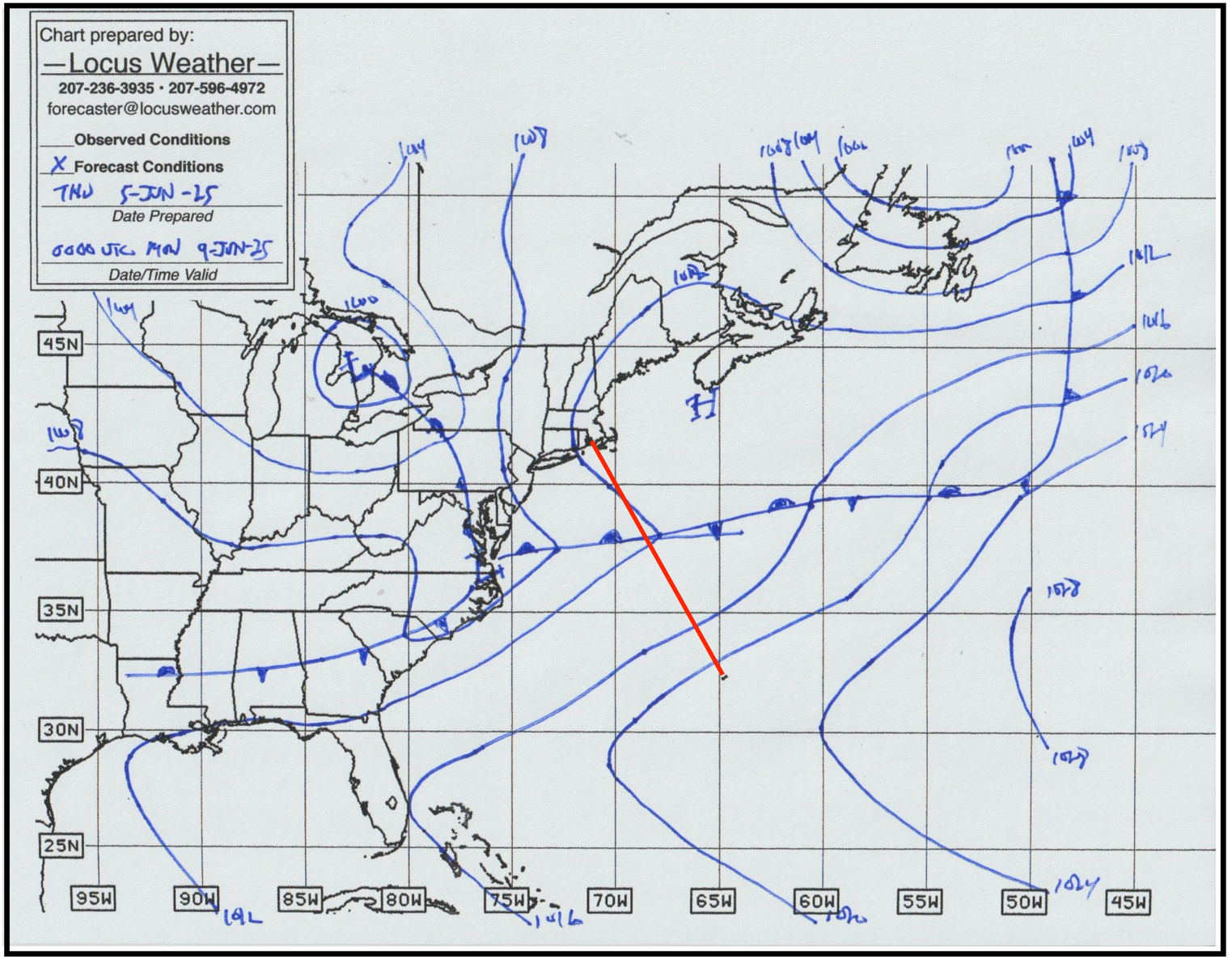
72 hour surface forecast:Valid Sunday 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)



North of the front, light SSE winds in the morning, south of the front SW winds at 15-20 knots. Winds backing to ESE north of the frontg in the afternoon, stronger from the SW in the afternoon.

Weather Forecast Information

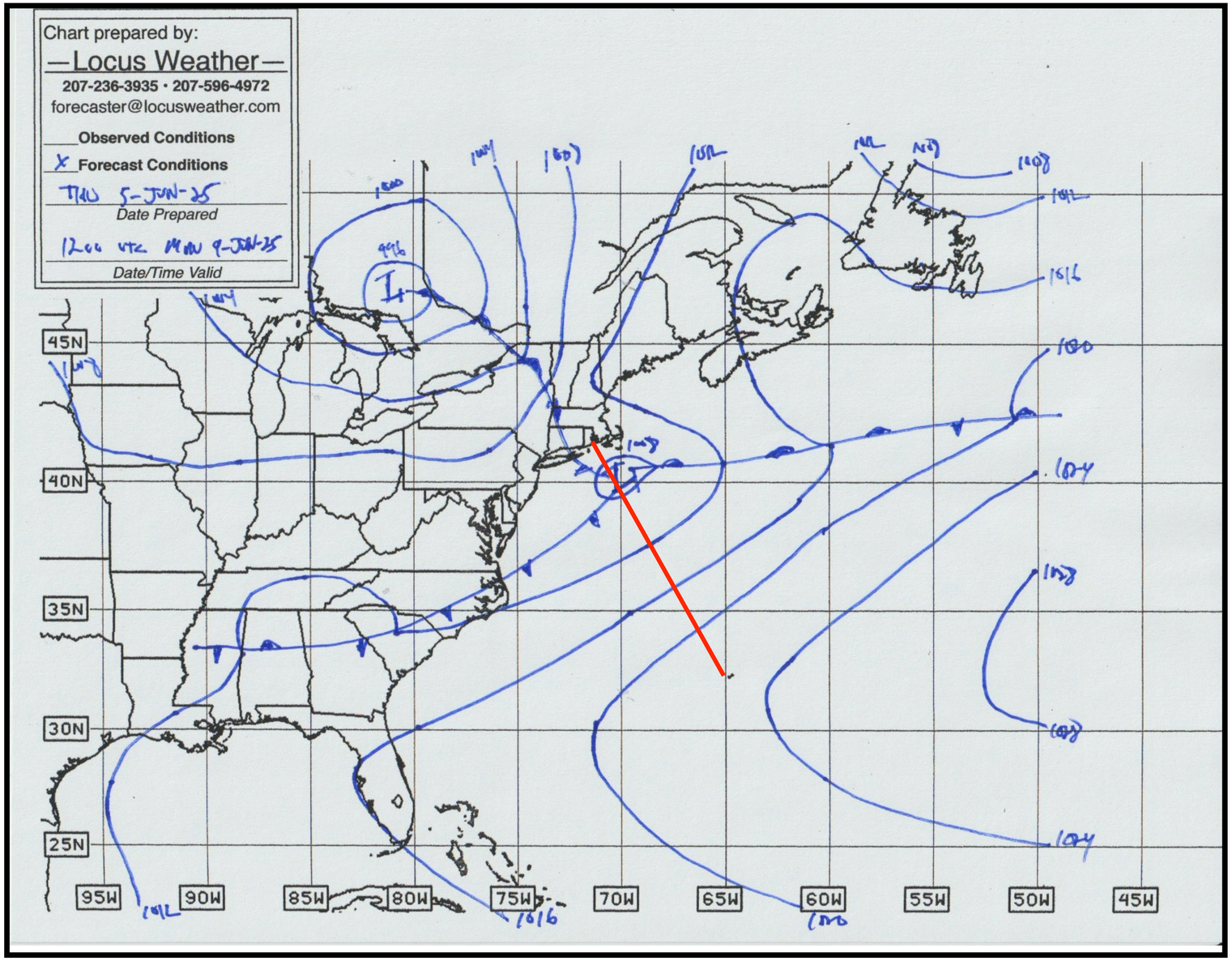
84 hour surface forecast:Valid Monday 0000 UTC (2000 EDT Sunday)



South of the front, SW winds increasing to 24-28 knots overnight, seas building to 7-10 feet.

Weather Forecast Information

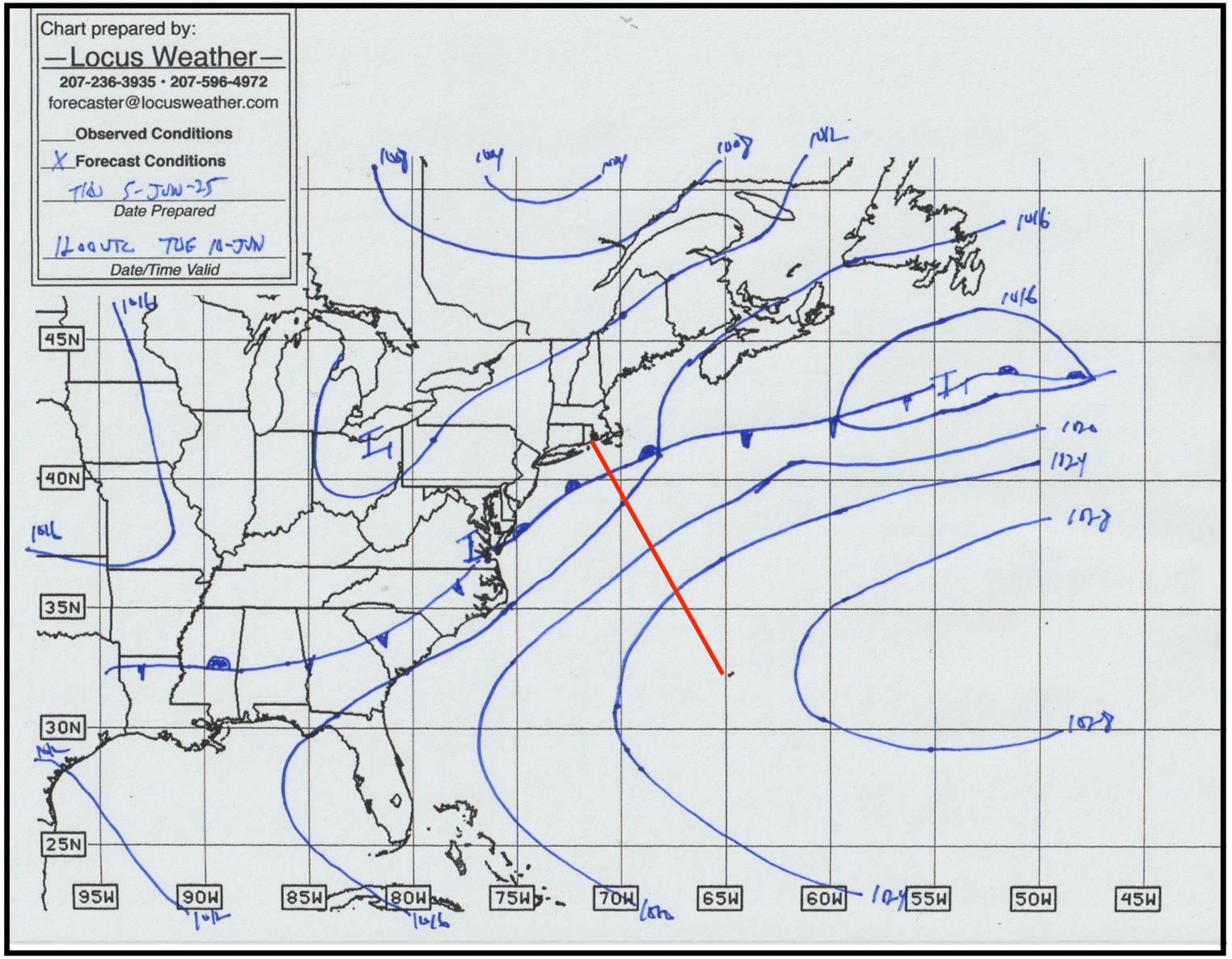
96 hour surface forecast:Valid Monday 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)



SW winds 24-28 knots north of 35N, a bit lighter farther south.

Weather Forecast Information

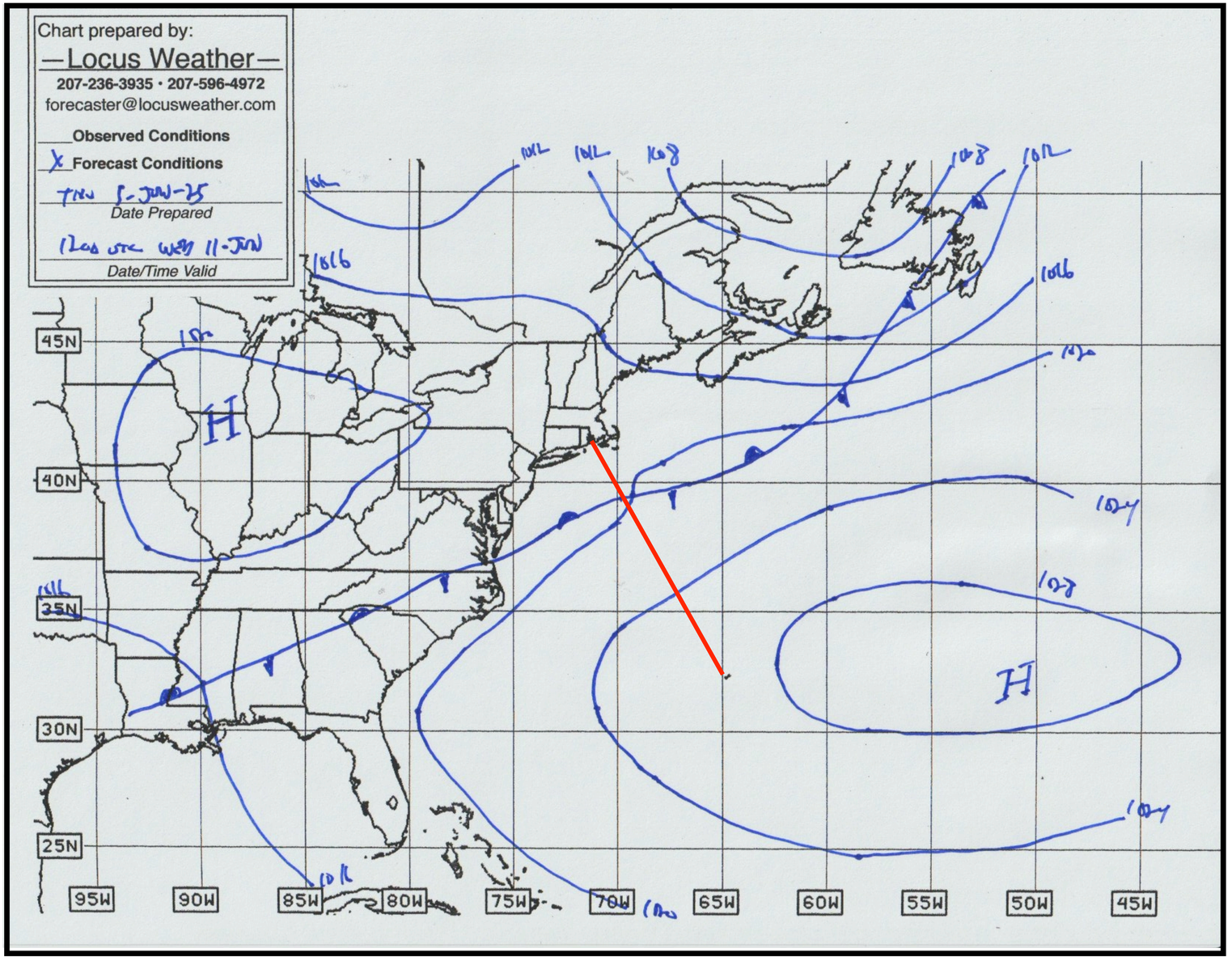
120 hour surface forecast:Valid Tuesday 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)



Winds lighter approaching Bermuda , backing to S.

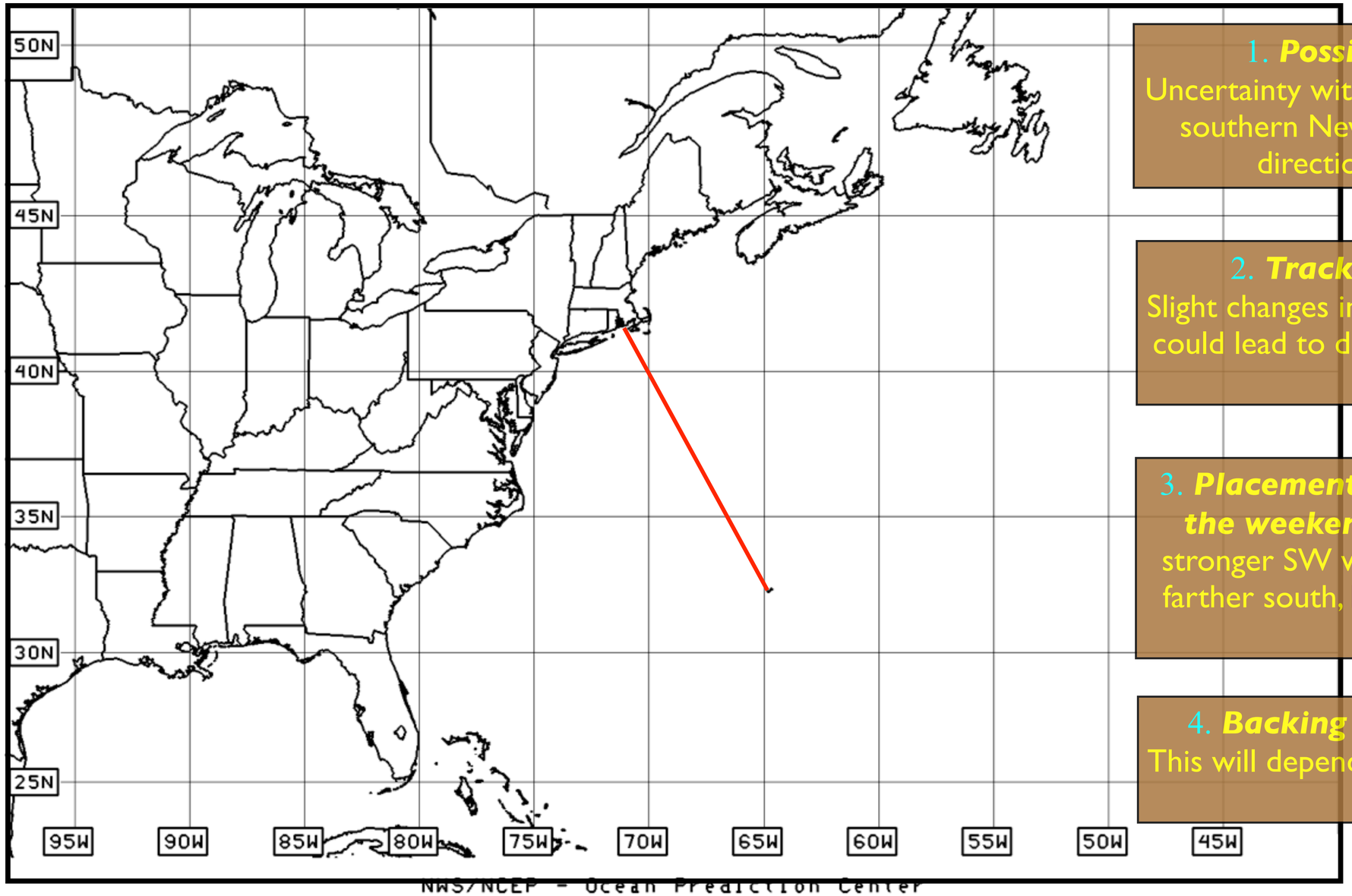
Weather Forecast Information

144 hour surface forecast:Valid Wednesday 1200 UTC (0800 EDT)



Winds near Bermuda SSE 8-12 knots.

Possible Different Weather Patterns



1. ***Possible fluky winds at the start.*** Uncertainty with the position of the frontal boundary in southern New England could lead to differing wind directions for the first couple of hours.

2. ***Track of the low early in the race.*** Slight changes in the track of this low across the course could lead to different wind directions than anticipated right now.

3. ***Placement of the frontal boundary later in the weekend.*** If the front ends up farther north, stronger SW winds will be encountered earlier. If it is farther south, lighter winds from the SE quadrant will last longer.

4. ***Backing of wind approaching Bermuda.*** This will depend on the placement of the ridge axis, and also the time of arrival.

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

If you have web access:

ASCAT wind data
(https://manati.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/datasets/ASCATBData.php)

This website provides detailed wind data based on satellite observation of ocean surface roughness. The satellite “sees” only a small slice of the earth on each pass, so you have to get lucky. Click on one of the Latitude/Longitude Squares to see detailed wind information for that sector. The time of the pass is shown at the bottom of the image.

Another link that may work better:
https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/products/atmosphere/ascat/winds.html

Need to select resolution (best to use 25 km) and satellite (either one is fine). Then click “Get Images”, and then select Latitude/Longitude Squares

Sources of Publicly Available Information

STAR Center for Satellite Application and Research

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)

Ocean Surface Winds Team.

NOAA | NESDIS | STAR | SOCD

OSWT Home | Product Description | Data Products | Research | Contact US

- OSWT Home
- Product Description
- Data Products
  - QuikSCAT/SeaWinds
  - OSCAT
  - RapidSCAT
  - ASCAT (METOP-A) >>
  - ASCAT (METOP-B)
  - WindSAT
  - Altimeter
  - ERS-2
  - SSM/I
- Research
- Contact Us

This is web site is not supported on a 24x7 basis and should not be considered operational.

Enter search term(s) Go

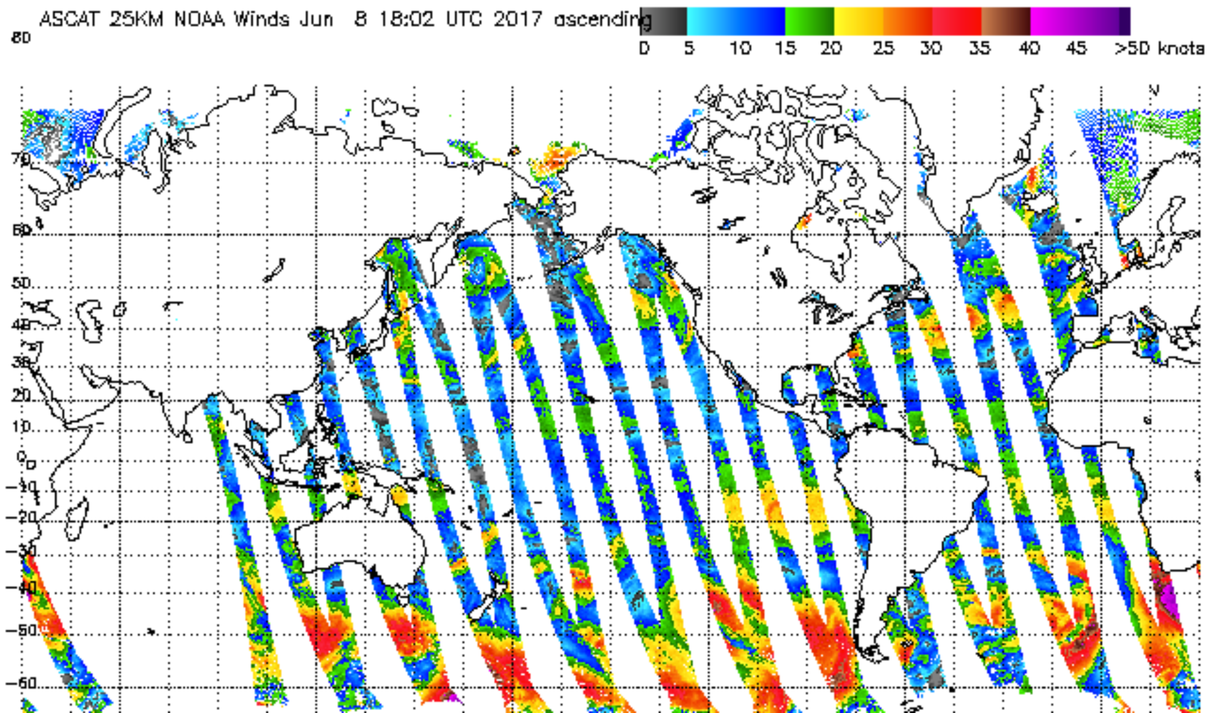
This site only All of NOAA

Advanced Search

Data from Satellite/Instruments: Advanced Scatterometer (ASCAT METOP-A)

Additional Products: NOAA wind vectors 10x15 (25KM) | Year: 2017 | Month: 6 | Day: 8 | Global(80N80S-180E180W) | Get Images

Ascending Pass



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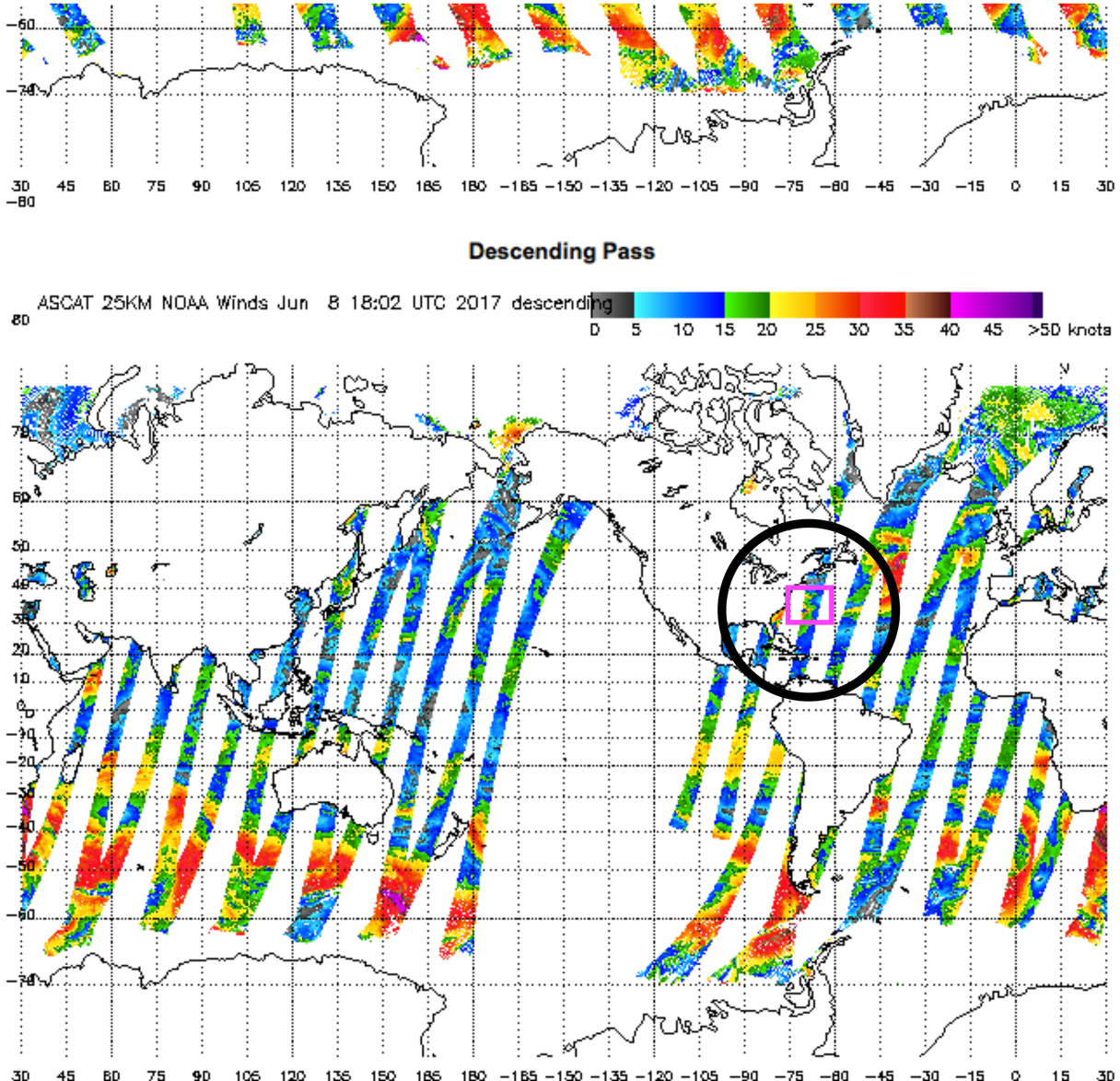

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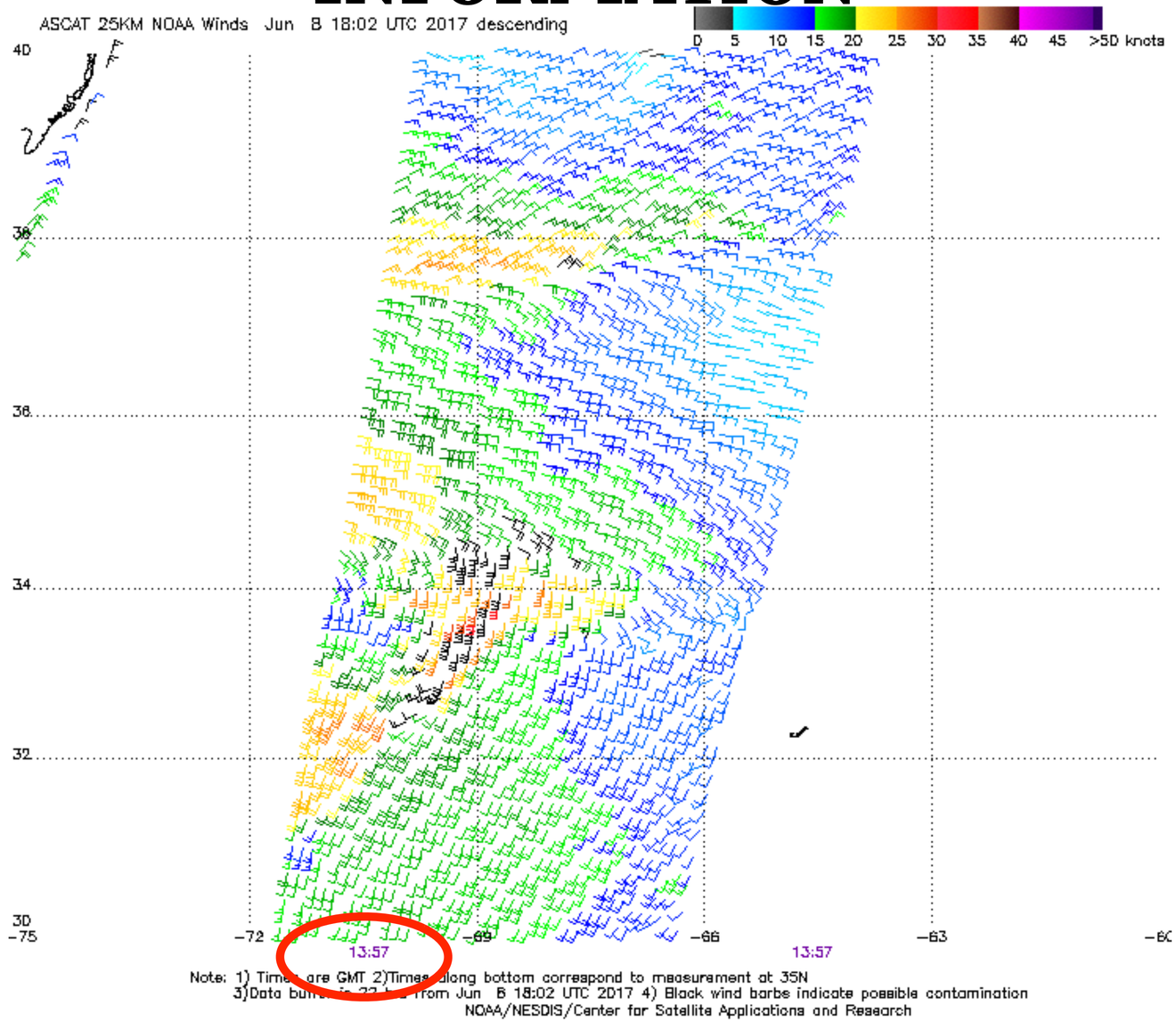


Sources of Publicly Available Information

Office of Satellite And Product Operations

Products | Hazard Analysis | Operational Satellites | Resources | About | Search

Products › Atmosphere › Winds › ASCAT - Advanced Scatterometer › ASCAT Winds

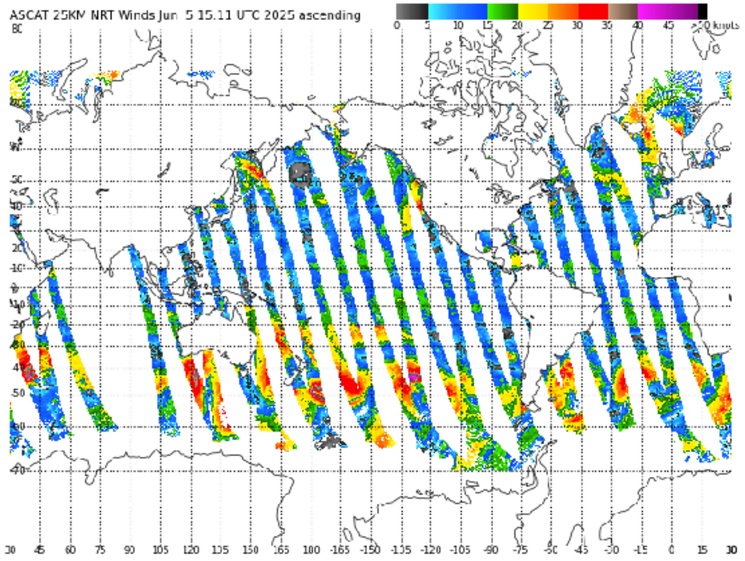
ASCAT Winds

Satellite: Metop C / Metop B

Resolution: 50 km / 25 km

Available Dates: Current — Get Images

25km Ascending Pass



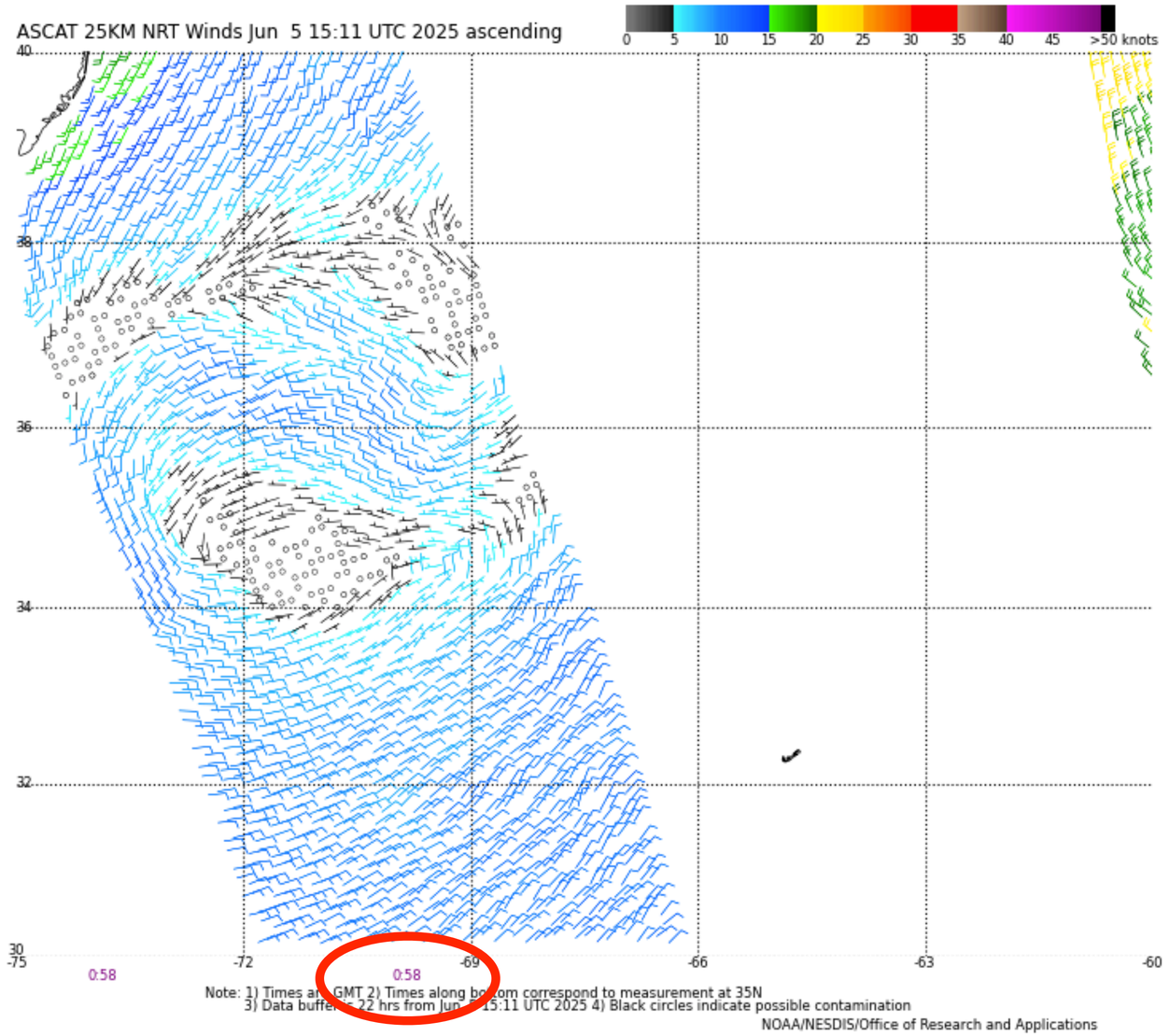
25km Descending Pass

ASCAT Products

- Surface Winds Images
- Daily Ice Images
- UHR Winds Images
- Satellite and Instruments

Help improve this site

Sources of Publicly Available Information



Sources of Publicly Available Information

If you have email, but no web access:

Use ftpmail to obtain Ocean Prediction Center Charts

Instructions available at the following web address:
https://ocean.weather.gov/ftpmail.php

If you are not familiar with this method of obtaining charts, you should practice ***tonight*** while you still have a broadband connection.

To use this method, you will need the Atlantic Radiofax schedule:
https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/atlsch.php

Print this schedule so you will have easy access to it while offshore.

If you are receiving charts through a radiofax receiver, or a computer program that utilizes the HF radiofax signal, you will want the above schedule also.

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.