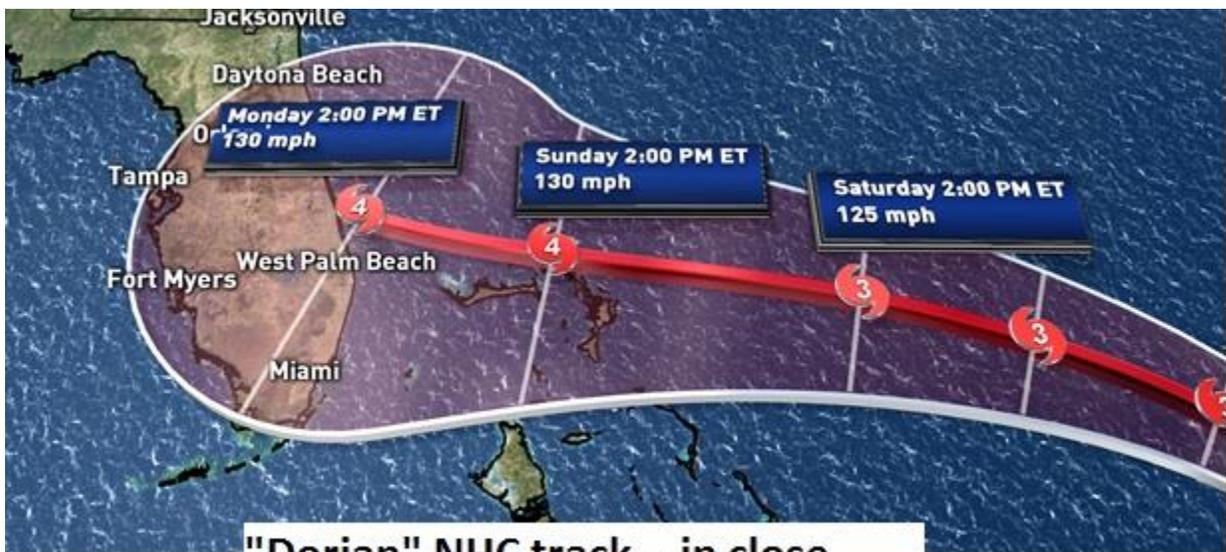
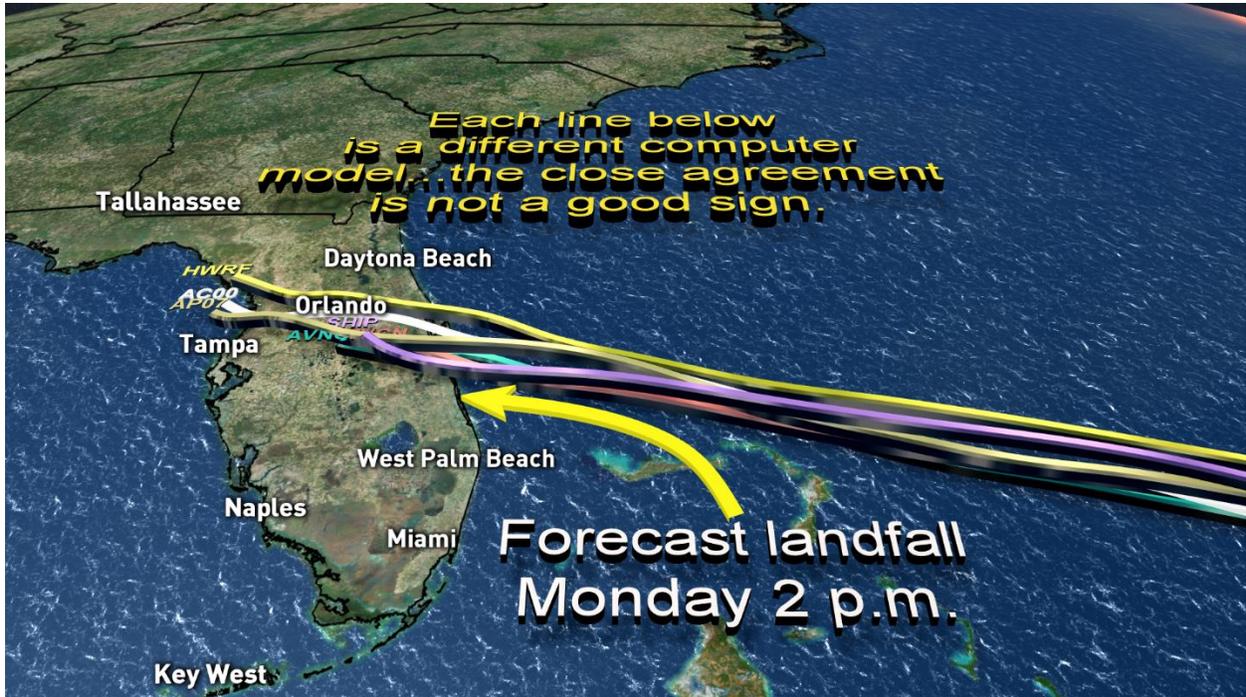


The overall thinking on "Dorian" has changed little. A consistent steering pattern is causing many of the models (first map below) to show very similar tracks; the second graphic shows the National Hurricane Center (NHC) expected track. Notice that they are in very close agreement. Such scenarios often bear out as we saw with Hurricane Michael last year.



"Dorian" NHC track....in close agreement with many models.

About three and a half million people face the full onslaught of Hurricane “Dorian” based on the expected track; a landfall just north of West Palm Beach would put a population the size of Houston in the most dangerous part of the hurricane (north side) with onshore winds making for the **greatest storm surge, as high as 15 feet, and catastrophic structural damage at the hands of EF3 tornado-strength winds that may reach 150 mph.**

According to Florida housing authorities, the state has over 800,000 mobile homes and about 2/3 of them are not built to withstand hurricane winds. Tens of “trailers” are in the storm’s path. At least a half million housing units are in the zone of forecast sustained hurricane-force winds.

The hurricane is also expected to move rather slowly – perhaps 10 mph – by the time it hits land. This presents a **serious inland flooding threat.**

Confidence in the forecast is high as many different computer simulations are showing near-identical tracks. Very warm sea water, about 84 degrees along with weak winds through the atmosphere set a favorable stage for strengthening. It’s very difficult to precisely pinpoint the maximum winds Dorian will achieve, but Cat 4 (130 mph) seems of moderate to high chance; even a Cat 5 (156 mph or higher sustained wind) is not out of the question, with a low to moderate potential of that.

Frequently, hurricane strength fluctuates once the storm winds get above 130 mph as a complex eyewall replacement cycle kicks in, so forecasting the exact intensity at landfall is very tough. So a range makes the most sense, and I’m going for maximum sustained winds at landfall between 125 and 150 mph.

In many ways, the size, path and intensity of this hurricane look similar to 1992’s Andrew, but tracking about 75 miles farther north. A true catastrophe is brewing.