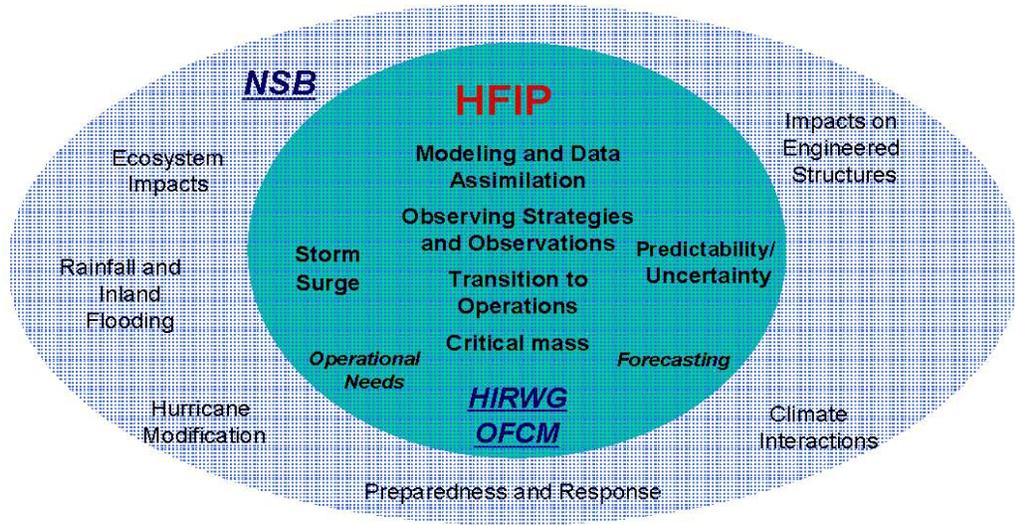
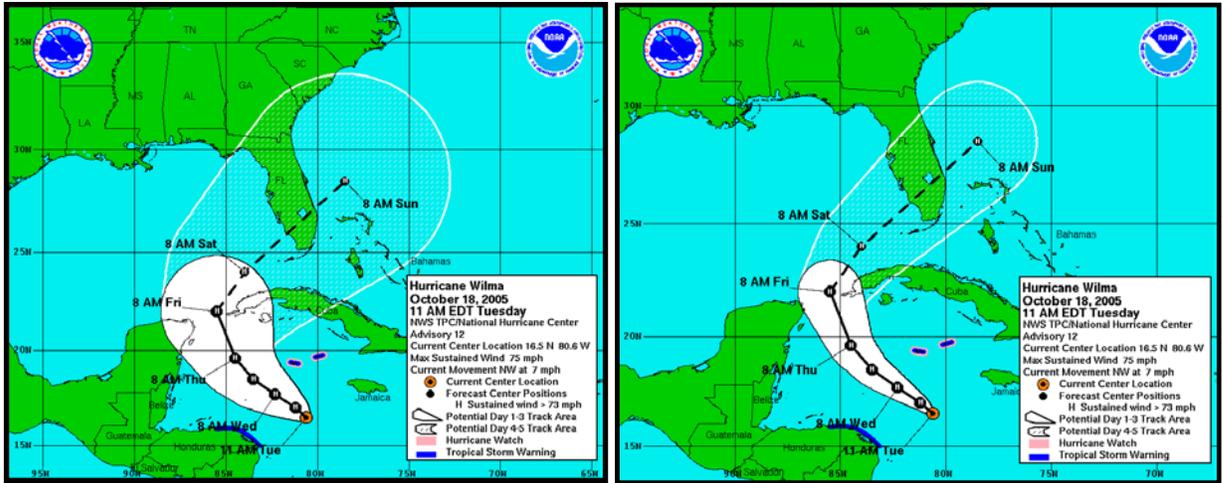


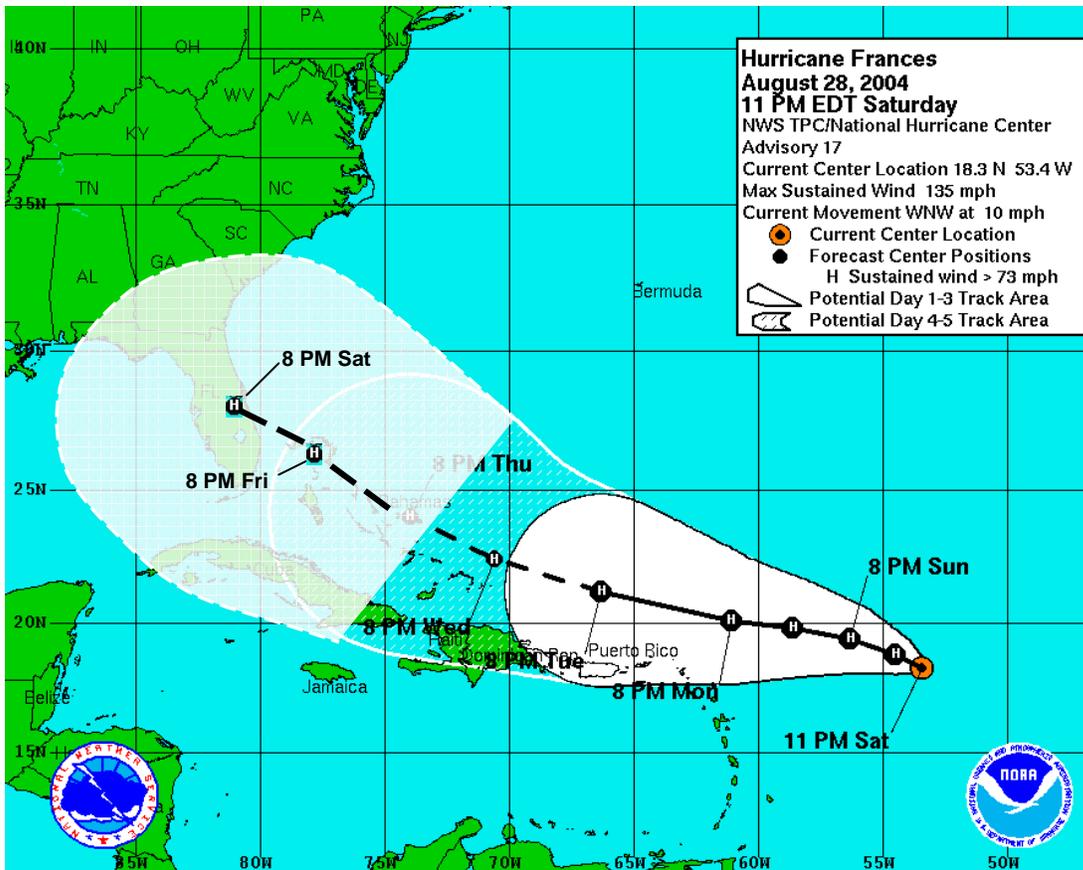
**Figure 1.** Coastal population by county. Source *Hurricanes: Their Nature and Impacts on Society*, by Roger Pielke, Jr. and Roger A. Pielke, Sr.



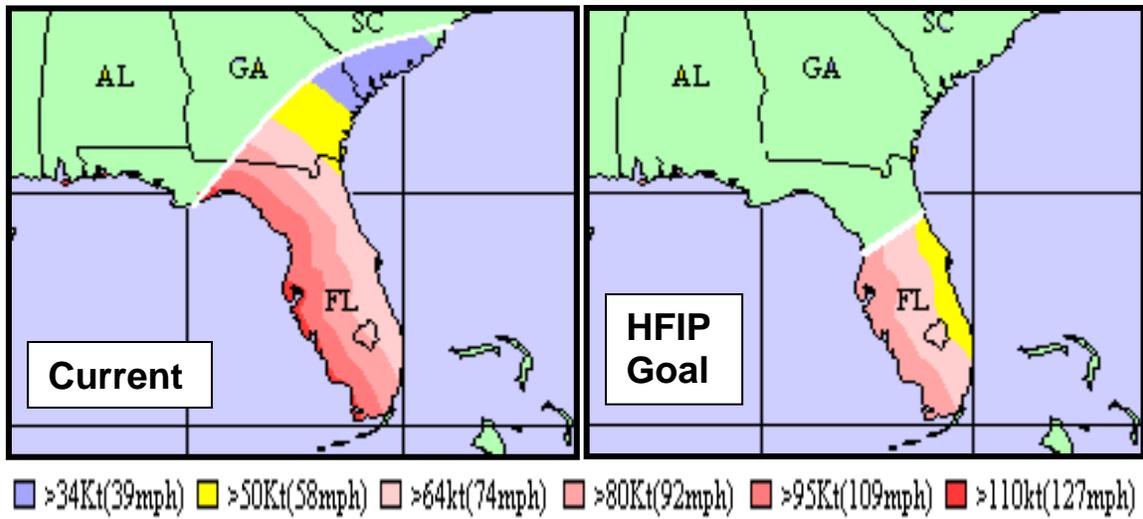
**Figure 2.** Scope of the NOAA Hurricane Forecast Improvement Project (HFIP).



**Figure 3.** The panels above are examples of the NHC track forecast (cone graphic). The black line denotes the NHC forecast track for the center of the storm over a 5 day period. The cone is calculated such that the center remains within it two-thirds of the time based on official forecast errors over the previous 5 years. The panel on the left shows what the NHC hurricane cone graphic would look like today. The panel of the right shows the same storm with a 50% reduction in track error, the first goal of the HFIP.



**Figure 4.** An example of a proposed 7-day NHC track forecast product.



**Figure 5:** A depiction of a 50% improvement in intensity and track for the Gulf Coast. The HFIP goal (on the right) will allow a more focused effort by the emergency managers for their preparedness and evacuation activities.