All:

The northeast Atlantic is not the place to be.

I have included three images from my NAWIPS workstation.

1. Scatterometer winds from the two ASCATs and RapidScat from 2130 to 0105 UTC. Winds vectors color coded with yellow minimal GALE. Dark Brown - STORM. Reddish brown - VIOLENT STORM, Red - HURRICANE FORCE.

2. Altimeter significant wave heights for approximately same time period color coded in feet with pink being 45 to 70 ft.

3. 3 hour forecast of Significant Wave Height from the NOAA WAVEWATCH III model with altimeter wave heights as an overlay. Color scheme is the same for model output and altimeter observations. In essence where you see values there is a difference between observed and predicted (even in the short term).

In the past we have seen impressive transects by altimeters across areas of extreme seas. In this case with the three scatterometers and three altimeters we get a pretty good idea as to the width and length of the wind and wave fields. The fetch length for STORM winds was nearly 1000 n mi. The width of seas in excess of 40 feet was as wide as 550 n mi. The length of this area was easily 800 n mi.

For well over a week we have been anticipating this event with ensembles giving very high probabilities of excessive winds and waves.

For what it is worth... we see only one ship observation in this part of the ocean and is eastbound along 60N following the area of extreme seas.

Joe

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