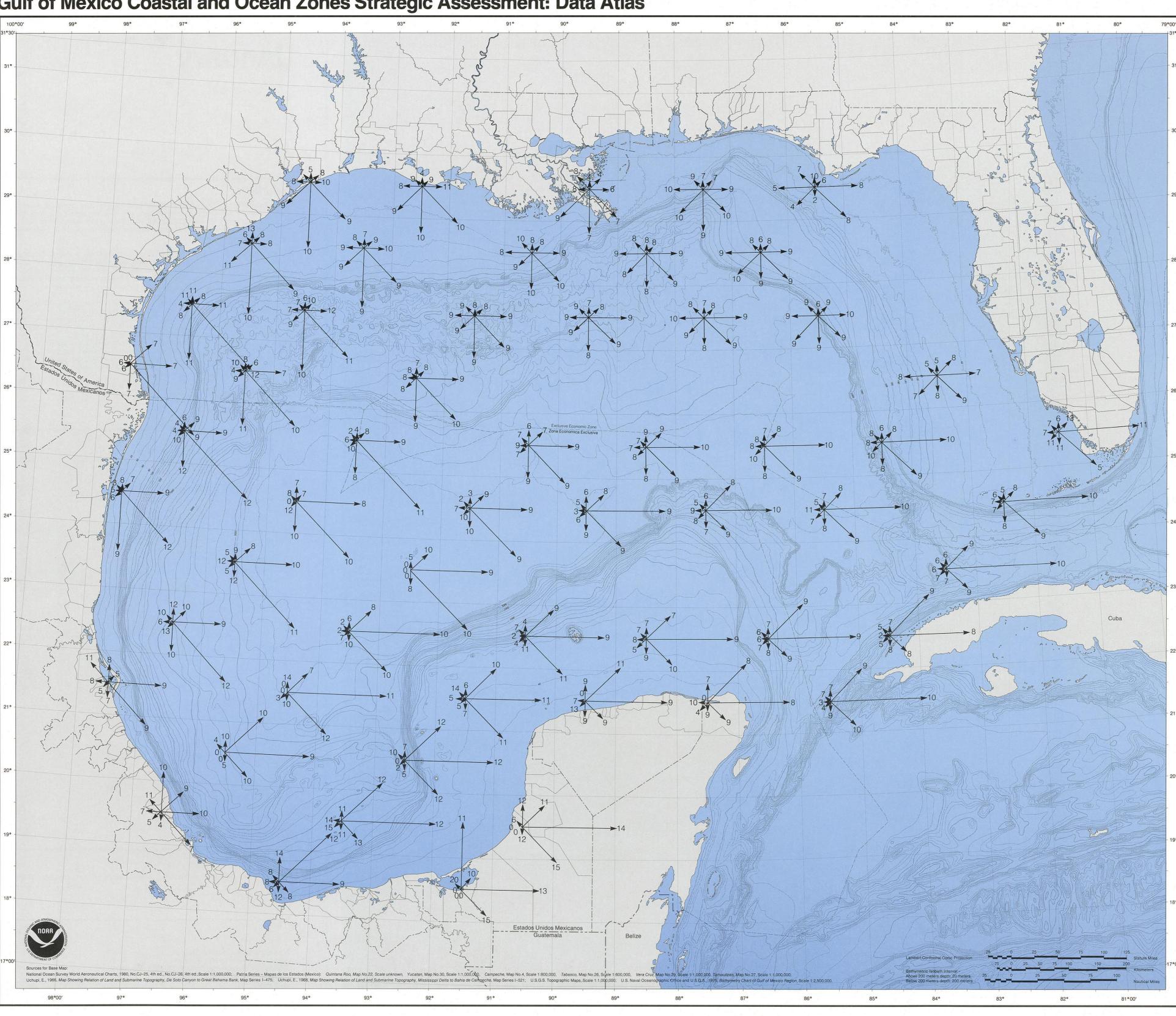
Gulf of Mexico Coastal and Ocean Zones Strategic Assessment: Data Atlas



Prevailing Winds: July

Description

This map is the second of the 2-map set that depicts prevailing winds with wind roses. The description on Map 1.11 provides additional information.

Wind circulation in the summer is primarily anticyclonic (clockwise around high-pressure areas). The Bermuda High strongly influences the northern Gulf, while trade winds prevail in the central and southern regions. Average wind speeds are typically lower in summer than in winter. Sea breeze systems (onshore winds during day and offshore during night) occur frequently along the northern coast. The occasional hurricanes in the region primarily enter the Gulf of Mexico after formation in the tropical Atlantic. However, a few hurricanes have actually formed within the Gulf. Storm surges often accompany these severe storms when they make landfall.

Percent Occurrence

Mean Wind Speed in Knots

The length of the arrow corresponds to percent occurrence from a given direction, measured using the scale below:

Wind directions are in meteorological convention; arrow points to direction wind is blowing from.

References

US DOC, NOAA, National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, 1983.

Strategic Assessment Branch Ocean Assessments Division Office of Oceanography and Marine Assessment National Ocean Service/NOAA Southeast Fisheries Center National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA