

= Hurricane Donna =

Hurricane Donna brought severe damage to the Lesser Antilles , the Greater Antilles , and the East Coast of the United States , especially Florida in August ? September 1960 . The fifth tropical cyclone , third hurricane , and first major hurricane of the season , Donna developed south of Cape Verde on August 29 , spawned by a tropical wave to which 63 deaths from a plane crash in Senegal were attributed . The depression strengthened into Tropical Storm Donna by the following day . Donna moved west @-@ northwestward at roughly 20 mph ( 32 km / h ) and by September 1 , it reached hurricane status . Significant deepening occurred during the next 30 hours , with Donna being a moderate Category 4 hurricane by late on September 2 . Intensification continued and it briefly became a Category 5 hurricane early on September 4 . Thereafter , it weakened to a Category 4 and brushed the Lesser Antilles later that day . On Sint Maarten , the storm left a quarter of the island homeless and killed seven people . An additional five deaths were reported in Anguilla and there were seven other fatalities throughout the Virgin Islands . In Puerto Rico , severe flash flooding led to 107 fatalities , 85 of them in Humacao alone . Donna further weakened to a Category 3 hurricane late on September 5 , but eventually became a Category 4 hurricane again . While passing through The Bahamas , several small island communities in the central regions of the country were leveled , but no damage total or fatalities were reported .

Early on September 10 , Donna made landfall near Marathon , Florida with winds of 130 mph ( 215 km / h ) , hours before another landfall south of Naples at the same intensity . Florida bore the brunt of Hurricane Donna . In the Florida Keys , coastal flooding severely damaged 75 % of buildings , destroyed several subdivisions in Marathon . On the mainland , 5 @, @ 200 houses were impacted , which does not include the 75 % of homes damaged at Fort Myers Beach ; 50 % of buildings were also destroyed in the city of Everglades . Crop losses were also extensive . A total of 50 % of grapefruit crop was lost , 10 % of the orange and tangerine crop was lost , and the avocado crop was almost destroyed . In the state of Florida alone , there were 13 deaths and \$ 300 million in losses . Donna weakened over Florida and was a Category 2 hurricane when it re @-@ emerged into the Atlantic from North Florida . By early on September 12 , the storm made landfall near Topsail Beach , North Carolina as a strong Category 2 hurricane . Donna brought tornadoes and wind gusts up to 100 mph ( 155 km / h ) , damaging or destroying several buildings in Eastern North Carolina , while crops were impacted as far as 50 miles ( 80 km ) inland . Additionally , storm surge caused significant beach erosion and structural damage at Wilmington and Nags Head . Eight people were killed and there were over 100 injuries . Later on September 12 , Donna reemerged into the Atlantic Ocean and continued to move northeastward . The storm struck Long Island , New York late on September 12 and rapidly weakened inland . On the following day , Donna became extratropical over Maine .

= = Meteorological history = =

On August 29 , a tropical wave exited the west coast of Africa near Dakar . That day , it is estimated a tropical depression developed along the wave southeast of Cape Verde . There was a lack of data for several days , but it is estimated that the system gradually intensified . On September 2 , ships in the region suggested there was a tropical storm after reporting winds of over 50 mph ( 80 km / h ) . That day , the Hurricane Hunters flew into the system and observed a well @-@ defined eye , along with winds of 140 mph ( 230 km / h ) . Based on the data , the United States Weather Bureau office in San Juan , Puerto Rico initiated advisories on Hurricane Donna at 2200 UTC on September 2 , about 700 mi ( 1 @, @ 100 km ) east of the Lesser Antilles . It is estimated that the storm attained hurricane status a day prior . The Azores High to the north was unusually powerful , which caused Donna to move to the west @-@ northwest . When advisories began , Donna was a major hurricane , which is the equivalent of a Category 3 or higher on the Saffir @-@ Simpson hurricane wind scale ; it would ultimately maintain this status for nine days .

Continuing to the west @-@ northwest , Donna strengthened further , and on September 4 , the Hurricane Hunters estimated peak maximum sustained winds of 160 mph ( 260 km / h ) ; this made

Donna a Category 5 hurricane . After maintaining peak winds for about 12 hours , the hurricane weakened slightly as it approached the Lesser Antilles . Late on September 4 , the eye of Donna moved over Barbuda , Saint Barthélemy , Saint Martin , and Anguilla , and passed just south of Anegada . Despite having weakened , Donna remained well @-@ organized , described in the Monthly Weather Review as akin to " an intense , idealized hurricane . " A weakening trough to the north turned the hurricane more northwesterly , bringing it within 85 mi ( 137 km ) of the north coast of Puerto Rico . By September 7 , Donna had turned more to the west after the ridge built to the north . Over the next few days , the intense hurricane moved slowly through the southern Bahamas without defined steering currents , and the eye passed near or over Mayaguana , Acklins , Fortune Island , and Ragged Island .

While passing through the Straits of Florida , Donna brushed the northern coast of Cuba on September 9 with gale force winds . Subsequently , a cold front moved eastward through the United States and weakened the ridge , causing the hurricane to turn more to the northwest . It re @-@ intensified over warm sea surface temperatures , and the hurricane 's minimum barometric pressure dropped to 932 mbar ( 27 @.@ 5 inHg ) on September 10 . Between 0200 and 0300 UTC that day , the 21 mi ( 34 km ) wide eye of Donna crossed through the Florida Keys just northeast of Marathon , with sustained winds of 140 mph ( 230 km / h ) and gusts to 178 mph ( 286 km / h ) . The hurricane continued to the northwest along the southwest coast of Florida , passing over Naples and Fort Myers before turning inland to the northeast . At 0800 UTC on September 11 , Donna exited Daytona Beach into the western Atlantic with winds of about 105 mph ( 165 km / h ) , still as an organized hurricane . Accelerating to the northeast due to an approaching trough , the hurricane re @-@ intensified slightly before making landfall near Wilmington , North Carolina , early on September 12 . At 0900 UTC that day , Donna again emerged over open waters near Virginia , although it had weakened and the eye expanded to over 50 mi ( 80 km ) in diameter . Late on September 12 , the hurricane crossed Long Island and later moved through New England . On September 13 , Donna became extratropical over northern Maine before entering eastern Canada , having become associated with the approaching cold front . After moving across Quebec and Labrador , Donna reached the Labrador Sea and dissipated early on September 14 .

= = Preparations = =

At noon on September 3 , a hurricane watch was issued for the Leeward Islands , which at 6 p.m. was upgraded to a warning . Also at 6 p.m. , hurricane watches were raised for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands , which at 6 a.m. on September 4 , were upgraded to warnings . By 6 a.m. on September 5 , hurricane warnings were dropped for the Leeward Islands , and at 9 a.m. , southwest Puerto Rico and the Virgin Island 's hurricane warnings were downgraded to gale warnings . By noon , all remaining hurricane warnings for Puerto Rico were changed to gale warnings . In Puerto Rico , flood warnings were issued on September 5 , although some residents in the region did not heed the notice ; many returned to their homes after the hurricane passed to the north . On Vieques Island , about 1 @,@ 700 United States Marines evacuated to naval ships . Officials advised small boats to remain at port , and thousands of residents evacuated to schools set up as Red Cross shelters . Along the Cuban coast , about 3 @,@ 000 people evacuated inland or to churches and schools , while in the Bahamas , stores closed and boats were sent to port .

Beginning on September 7 , hurricane watches were put in place for the Florida coast from Key West to Melbourne . The next day , the watches were upgraded to hurricane warnings from Key West to Key Largo , with hurricane watches raised on the west coast northward to Fort Myers , and gale warnings issued from Key Largo to Vero Beach . By September 11 , hurricane warnings were in effect for southern Florida from Daytona Beach on the east coast to Cedar Key on the west coast , including Lake Okeechobee . Gale warnings were in place northward from Cedar Key to St. Marks , as well as from Daytona Beach northward to Savannah , Georgia . Evacuations in the Florida Keys disrupted traffic along the Overseas Highway . The Air Force evacuated 90 Boeing B @-@ 47 Stratojets from Homestead Air Reserve Base . At Kennedy Space Center , the threat of the storm caused the launching of two missiles to be postponed . Most flights out of Miami International Airport

were canceled during the storm's approach . Officials closed schools in Miami and the Florida Keys , and recommended residents in low-lying areas of the Florida Keys and southwestern Florida to evacuate . Ultimately , about 12 ,000 people in southern Florida sought refuge in storm shelters , two of which were damaged during the storm . In Miami-Dade County alone , there were 77 storm shelters housing 10 ,000 people .

At 5 p.m. on September 10 , gale warnings were extended northward to Myrtle Beach . At 11 p.m. , hurricane warnings were lowered in the Florida Keys but extended northward from Daytona Beach to Savannah , Georgia . At 11 a.m. on September 11 , all warnings were lowered south of Vero Beach and along the Florida west coast , while hurricane warnings were extended northward from Savannah to Myrtle Beach . At 5 p.m. , hurricane warnings were lowered south of Fernandina Beach , while they were extended northward to include the entire North Carolina coast . Gale warnings were issued northward to Cape May . At 9 p.m. , hurricane warnings were extended northward to Portsmouth , New Hampshire , while gale warnings and a hurricane watch were issued northward to Eastport , Maine . Ships at dock in Newport , Rhode Island were towed out into the bay to weather the storm . On September 12 at 5 a.m. , hurricane warnings were extended northward to Eastport , and dropped south of Cape Hatteras . At 7 a.m. , hurricane warnings were lowered south of Cape Charles . At 2 p.m. , hurricane warnings were dropped south of Cape May . At 5 p.m. , hurricane warnings were discontinued south of Manasquan , New Jersey . At 8 p.m. , hurricane warnings expired south of Block Island . By 11 p.m. on September 12 , all hurricane warnings had been lowered .

= = Impact = =

Hurricane Donna was a very destructive hurricane that caused extensive damage from the Lesser Antilles to New England . At least 364 people were killed by the hurricane and property damage was estimated at \$ 900 million ( 1960 USD ) .

= = = West Africa and Caribbean = = =

The precursor to Hurricane Donna brought severe weather to the Dakar area of Senegal . Air France Flight AF343 , which was flying from Paris , France to Abidjan , Ivory Coast , attempted to land at the Léopold Sédar Senghor International Airport as a layover . However , due to squally weather , the plane instead crashed into the Atlantic Ocean , killing all 63 people on board . Heavy rainfall was also reported in Cape Verde on August 30 .

A weather station in Sint Maarten reported sustained winds of 120 mph ( 195 km / h ) and a 952 mbar ( 28 .1 inHg ) pressure reading in the main airport . Donna killed two people on Antigua and five on Anguilla .

Hurricane Donna caused very extensive damage on the island , killed 7 and left at least a quarter of the island's population homeless . During the passing of hurricane Donna Anguilla recorded five deaths , including a woman who died when the roof of her house collapsed .

Despite passing only 35 mi ( 56 km ) north of the island , Donna caused only minor damage on St. Thomas in the United States Virgin Islands . A station there reported a wind gust of 60 mph ( 97 km / h ) . Some fences were toppled , while several houses were reported to have been damaged or destroyed . Electrical and telephone services were also disrupted . The highest daily rainfall total on the island was 8 .78 inches ( 223 mm ) , causing minor local flooding . On Saint John , several small boats capsized .

While passing to the north of Puerto Rico , Donna produced winds of 38 mph ( 61 km / h ) in San Juan . Along the north coast of the island , high tides of around 6 ft ( 1 .8 m ) and strong waves caused coastal flooding . The hurricane dropped torrential rainfall , peaking at 16 .23 in ( 412 mm ) at Naguabo in the central portion of the island . Large areas of eastern Puerto Rico received over 10 in ( 250 mm ) of precipitation . The hurricane left about 2 ,500 people homeless on the island . Despite advanced warning of the floods , the hurricane killed 107 people on the island , of which 84 were in Humacao .

In Haiti , the southern periphery of the hurricane killed three people in Port au Prince . Later , Donna brushed the north coast of Cuba with strong winds and heavy rainfall , causing damage along much of the coast . In Gibara , the storm wrecked 80 houses .

= = = Turks and Caicos and Bahamas = = =

On Grand Turk in what is now the Turks and Caicos , Donna produced winds of 58 mph ( 93 km / h ) , as the strongest winds remained north of the island . However , the storm dropped heavy rainfall of over 20 in ( 510 mm ) , much of which fell in a 12 ? hour period . Despite the rains , damage there was minor .

In the Bahamas , the anemometer at Ragged Island blew away after registering a 150 mph ( 240 km / h ) wind gust . At Mayaguana , where residents evacuated to a missile tracking base , hurricane @-@ force winds raged for 13 hours . The winds largely destroyed the village of Abraham 's Bay on the island . Andros experienced hurricane @-@ force winds for a few hours , and winds on Fortune Island were estimated at 173 mph ( 278 km / h ) before the anemometer blew away . The strongest winds remained south of the northwestern Bahamas , which limited damage there . Donna cut communications between several islands .

Several small island communities in the central Bahamas were leveled . North Caicos reported 20 inches ( 510 mm ) of rainfall in 24 hours .

= = = United States = = =

Fifty people were reported dead in the United States , with damages totaling to \$ 3 @. @ 35 billion . Donna crossed directly over Texas Tower 4 , causing severe damage to the structure and leading to its eventual loss in January 1961 .

Donna was the only hurricane to affect every state along the East Coast with hurricane @-@ force winds .

= = = = Florida = = = =

The U.S. state of Florida received the most damage from Hurricane Donna . Portions of southern and western Florida received over 10 in ( 250 mm ) of rainfall from the hurricane , peaking at 13 @. @ 24 in ( 336 mm ) . Strong winds were observed in the state , with a sustained wind speed of 120 mph ( 190 km / h ) in Tavernier and a gusts up to 150 mph ( 240 km / h ) at Sombrero Key Light . In Miami , winds reached 97 mph ( 156 km / h ) . Southeast of the city , high waves washed a 104 ft ( 32 m ) freighter onshore an island . The highest observed storm surge of 13 ft ( 4 @. @ 0 m ) was reported at Marathon . The hurricane also lashed Southwest Florida , where tides were 4 to 7 feet ( 1 @. @ 2 to 2 @. @ 1 m ) above normal .

In Miami @-@ Dade County , thousands of low @-@ lying homes in the Homestead area were flooded . Overall , 857 houses in the country were destroyed , while about 2 @, @ 317 others suffered damage . Significant agricultural losses were also reported . Donna was the first hurricane to affect Miami , Florida since Hurricane King in October 1950 .

In the Florida Keys , some areas experienced " almost complete destruction " . Further north between Marathon and Tavernier , an estimated 75 % of buildings were extensively damaged . In the former , tides inundated the city and destroyed several subdivisions . In Key West , one death was confirmed and 71 people were injured . About 564 homes were demolished and an additional 1 @, @ 382 were damaged , 583 of them severely . Storm surge inundated parts of the Overseas Highway and washed out several portions near bridges . Many boats and docks were severely damaged or destroyed . Additionally , the pipeline supplying water to the Florida Keys was wrecked in three places .

Large tracts of mangrove forest were lost in the western portion of Everglades National Park , while at least 35 % of the white heron population in the park were killed . In Everglades , about 50 % of buildings were destroyed due to strong winds and coastal flooding . Late on September 11 , 2 to 3

feet ( 0 @. @ 61 to 0 @. @ 91 m ) of water was reported throughout the area . The city briefly became inaccessible due to inundated roads . Many small building were destroyed , and roofs were blown off or damaged . Thousands of trees were toppled , blocking portions of the Tamiami Trail . Throughout Collier County , strong winds and coastal flooding combined destroyed 153 homes , inflicted major impact on an additional 409 , and 1 @, @ 049 others suffered minor damage . The turn into southern Florida lessened damage in the Tampa area .

Throughout the state , the storm destroyed 2 @, @ 156 homes and trailers , severely damaged 3 @, @ 903 , and inflicted minor impact on 30 @, @ 524 others . Approximately 391 farm buildings were destroyed , an additional 989 suffered extensive impact , and 2 @, @ 499 others received minor damage . Roughly 174 buildings were demolished , 1 @, @ 029 received major impact , and 4 @, @ 254 suffered minor damage . Additionally , 281 boats were destroyed or severely damaged . A total of 50 % of grapefruit crop was lost , 10 % of the orange and tangerine crops were ruined , and the avocado crop was almost destroyed . With at least \$ 350 million in damage in Florida alone , Donna was the costliest hurricane to impact the state , at the time . Additionally , there were 13 confirmed fatalities , six from drowning , four from heart attacks , two from automobile accidents , and two from electrocution . About 1 @, @ 188 others were injured .

= = = = Southeastern United States and Mid @- @ Atlantic = = = =

The storm brought minor impact to Georgia . Wind gusts of 50 mph ( 80 km / h ) along the coast felled trees and tree limbs , resulting in electrical and telephone service outages . In Brunswick , a power outage at the power plant caused a minor explosion . Heavy rainfall temporarily flooded some streets in the city . Further north in South Carolina , gale force winds were reported along the coast , but caused little damage . A tornado spawned in the Charleston area destroyed several houses and severely damaged a number of others , and injured a few people by flying glass . Damage from this tornado was over \$ 500 @, @ 000 . Another tornado touched down in Garden City and destroyed and extensively damaged six buildings . In Beaufort County , many trees were uprooted , power lines were downed , homes were unroofed , piers were destroyed , and there was significant damage to corn and soybean crops .

In North Carolina , Donna brought two tornadoes to the state . The first of which damaged several small buildings in Bladen County . The second tornado was spawned in Sampson County , where it destroyed a dwelling with eight occupants , all of whom were hospitalized . Along the coast , wind gusts as high as 100 mph ( 155 km / h ) damaged or destroyed several buildings . Additionally crops were impacted as far as 50 miles ( 80 km ) inland . Storm tides ranging from 4 to 8 feet ( 1 @. @ 2 to 2 @. @ 4 m ) above normal caused significant beach erosion and structural damage Wilmington and Nags Head . Additionally , Topsail Beach was reported to have been 50 % destroyed . In Southport , the town docks were almost completely demolished . There were eight deaths , including three from drowning , two from falling trees , two from weather @- @ related traffic accidents , and one from electrocution . At least 100 people were injured enough to require hospitalization . Damage in North Carolina exceeded \$ 5 million , with the worst impact occurring in New Hanover County .

In Virginia , the east coast of the state reported hurricane @- @ force winds , while gusts reached up to 89 mph ( 143 km / h ) in Virginia Beach . Strong winds toppled trees and electrical wires , which blocked streets . Additionally , buildings suffered roof damage and broken windows ; some structures were completely destroyed . Offshore , rough seas sunk or destroyed numerous small crafts , while a 12 @, @ 000 tonnes ( 26 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 lb ) vessel was driven aground . The storm killed three people in Virginia ; two of the deaths occurred when barge collided when a freighter and later sank , and another after a man attempted to safeguard his boat . Strong winds and heavy rains were observed in eastern Maryland . Ocean City suffered the worst impact , with over \$ 300 @, @ 000 in property damage . The storm also impacted crops in the area , especially corn and apples . Effects from the storm in Delaware were similar , with property damage and considerable losses to corn and apple crops . In Pennsylvania , wind gusts up to 59 mph ( 95 km / h ) in the southeastern portions of the state toppled many trees and utility wires . Heavy rains and poor drainage in some areas flooded basements , lawns , and streets . Low @- @ lying areas in

Bucks and Montgomery counties were inundated with up to 3 feet ( 0 @. @ 91 m ) of water after many streams and creeks nearby overflowed . One death in the state was reported after a boy was swept into a swollen creek behind his home in Sharon Hill .

Winds as strong as 100 mph ( 160 km / h ) were observed along the coast of New Jersey . Rainfall in the state was generally between 5 and 6 inches ( 130 and 150 mm ) , with a peak of 8 @. @ 99 inches ( 228 mm ) near Hammonton . Damage from the storm was most severe in Atlantic , Cape May , Monmouth , and Ocean counties , where numerous boats , docks , boardwalks , and cottages were damaged or destroyed . A resort area in Cliffwood Beach , New Jersey saw its boardwalk and tourist attractions destroyed by the hurricane , and the area has never recovered . Losses to agriculture were significant , with damage to apple and peach trees " considerable " , the former of which lost about one @- @ third of its crops . Wind damage to corn , Sudan grass , and sorgham resulted in a delay in their harvest . Nine deaths were reported in the state of New Jersey . In southeastern New York , heavy rains , hurricane @- @ force winds , and " unprecedented " high tides were observed . Severe small stream flooding caused significant damage , especially on Long Island , the waterfront of New York City , and further north in Greene County . The storm caused three fatalities in the state , two from drowning and another from a person crushed by a falling tree .

= = = Elsewhere in North America = = =

In Connecticut , strong winds left 15 @, @ 000 people without telephone service , while 88 @, @ 000 homes lost electricity . Along the coast , tides caused beach erosion , inundated streets , and weakened foundations . Four seaside cottages were destroyed . Crop damage was isolated and mainly limited to apples and corn . In Rhode Island , the storm brought a wind gust as strong as 130 mph ( 210 km / h ) to Block Island . Telephone and electrical services were severely disrupted . Along the coast , high tides significantly impacted or destroyed about 200 homes at Narragansett Bay and Warwick cove . Damage to these vessels collectively totaled to over \$ 2 million . Agriculture also suffered impact , particularly to fruit , timber , and poultry , especially in Newport and Portsmouth .

Strong winds were also observed in Massachusetts , with a wind gust of 145 mph ( 233 km / h ) at the Blue Hill Observatory . Extensive losses to apple orchards occurred , as the fruit was blown out of trees . Widespread telephone and power outages were reported . The strong southwest winds associated with Donna , in combination with very little rainfall , led to a significant deposit of salt spray , which whitewashed southwest @- @ facing windows . Many trees and shrubs saw their leaves brown due to the salt . However , in other areas , 4 to 6 in ( 100 to 150 mm ) of precipitation fell , causing some washouts and local flooding . Waves along the coast ripped off small boats and pleasure craft from their moorings and subsequently smashed them against rocks or seawalls .

In Vermont , winds damaged trees , tree branches , and power lines , causing telephone and electrical service outages in a few communities . Rainfall totals ranged from 2 to 5 in ( 51 to 127 mm ) , resulted in washouts in some areas . Damage to apple orchards totaled \$ 50 @, @ 000 . Along the coast of New Hampshire , many boats were smashed or damage in some way . Strong winds felled trees and power lines , causing residents in the southern portions of the state to lose telephone service and electricity . Additionally , apple orchard suffered \$ 200 @, @ 000 in damage . Rainfall in the state peaked at 7 @. @ 25 in ( 184 mm ) near Peterborough , resulting in local flooding and washouts .

Along the coast , large waves damaged 15 to 20 boats in Falmouth harbor . Total boat damage was estimated at \$ 250 @, @ 000 . Coastal residents in low @- @ lying beach areas of Cumberland and York counties were evacuated . Several counties lost power during the storm . In Southwest Harbor , lightning struck the Dirigo Hotel , causing a fire that resulted in \$ 100 @, @ 000 in damages . Winds caused a lost of telephone and electrical services in Auburn @- @ Lewiston area due to falling trees and tree branches . Television antennas were damaged , as were several signs including a Sears sign . In addition , 25 % to 40 % of the apple crop was destroyed .

After becoming extratropical , the remnants of Donna continued northeastward into New Brunswick , Quebec , and then Labrador . Wind gusts of 53 mph ( 85 km / h ) in Quebec snapped electrical

poles and trees . One death occurred when a man suffered a heart attack when his home was threatened by a fire . Additionally , weather @-@ related traffic accidents in the province resulted in two injuries .

= = Depictions in popular culture = =

Nobel Prize @-@ winner John Steinbeck wrote about Hurricane Donna in his 1962 non @-@ fiction memoir *Travels with Charley : In Search of America* . Steinbeck had had a truck fitted with a custom camper @-@ shell for a journey he intended to take across the United States , accompanied by his poodle Charley . He planned on leaving after Labor Day from his home in Sag Harbor , Long Island , New York . Steinbeck delayed his trip slightly due to Donna , which made a direct hit on Long Island . Steinbeck wrote of saving his boat during the middle of the hurricane , during which he jumped into the water and was blown to shore clinging to a fallen branch driven by the high winds . It was an exploit which foreshadowed his fearless , or even reckless , state of mind to dive into the unknown .

The winds of Donna can be seen in the feature film *Blast of Silence* ( 1961 ) ; a fist fight scene on Long Island had been previously scheduled , and the filmmakers decided to go ahead and shoot the exterior scene despite the hurricane .

= = Aftermath , records and retirement = =

Following the storm , President of the United States Dwight D. Eisenhower issued a disaster declaration for Florida and North Carolina , allowing residents of those states to be eligible for public assistance .

The United States military sent a plane carrying doctors and food from Patrick Air Force Base to Mayaguana in the Bahamas . Crews of doctors and workers with food and supplies left from Key West and Miami to traverse the Florida Keys , bringing aid to impacted residents . In Marathon , a large reconstruction program rehabilitated the key by Christmas .

Coral reefs were damaged in the Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary by the hurricane . Donna caused a significant negative impact on aquatic life in north Florida Bay . Marine life was either stranded by retreating salt water which had been driven inland or killed by muddied waters in its wake . Oxygen depletion due to animals perishing in the hurricane caused additional mortality . Although salinity levels returned to normal within six weeks , dissolved oxygen concentrations remained quite low for a longer time frame . Marine life was scarce for several months in areas of greatest oxygen depletion . Sports fishing in the area took a few months to recover . Juvenile pink shrimp moved from their estuarine nursery grounds into deeper water about 60 mi ( 97 km ) offshore , where they were subsequently captured by fishermen . A Caspian tern was swept up the North American coast well to the north of its traditional breeding grounds , to Nova Scotia , which was witnessed four hours after the storm went by Digby Neck .

Because of its devastating impacts and the high mortality associated with the hurricane , the name Donna was retired , and will never again be used for an Atlantic hurricane ; the name was replaced by Dora in 1964 .