

## National Weather Service Office in Jacksonville, Florida Announces Forecast Zone Changes for St. Johns and Flagler Counties

**WHY:** Climatologically, the weather across eastern and western portions of St. Johns and Flagler counties can be drastically different, especially during the cool season and tropical cyclone events. By splitting the zones, opportunities for improvements associated with weather hazards and the communication of those weather hazards becomes possible. For example, a local nor'easter is occurring and creating wind speeds above wind advisory criteria but only along coast. Currently, the whole county would receive a wind advisory, but with the reconfiguration, only the coastal zone would receive the wind advisory. As a result, the communication of the threat is more appropriate. During the cool season, a frost advisory or freeze warning may only be needed for the inland part of the county. The reconfiguration would once again allow for the advisory or warning to only be issued for the inland portion of the county.

**WHERE:** After coordinating with local officials, it was decided that Interstate 95 would be used as the divider between the inland and coastal zones for both St. Johns and Flagler counties.

**WHEN:** The zone implementation will occur during the day on May 1st, 2018.

**IS THIS NORMAL? YES!** The local NWS office has reconfigured coastal counties in southeast Georgia, and even more recently, reconfigured Nassau and Duval counties back in 2015. Additionally, other offices throughout the country have also completed zone reconfigurations to fit their local weather differences. These reconfigurations have shown to provide increased forecast detail, especially when dealing with fire weather and tropical conditions.

**More Details:** Below are two maps that will help in visualizing the changes described above.

# St.Johns and Flagler County Zone Reconfiguration



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