



**COMPOUND FLOOD TRANSITION ZONE PILOT STUDY FOR  
THE AMITE RIVER BASIN**

**TIFF BROWN BAG SEMINAR SERIES  
FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

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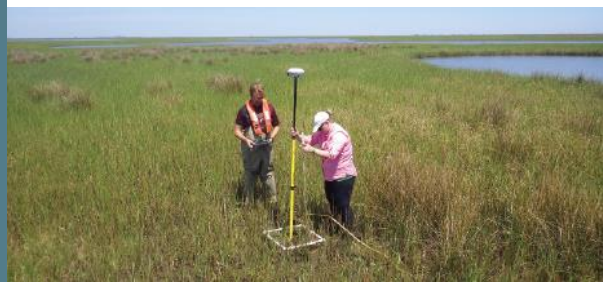
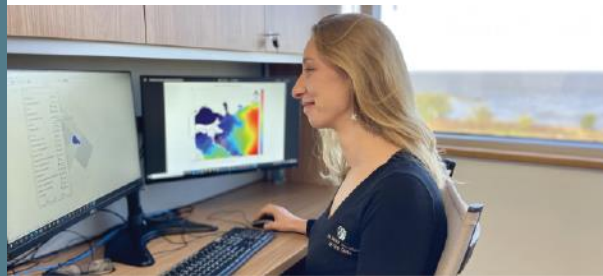
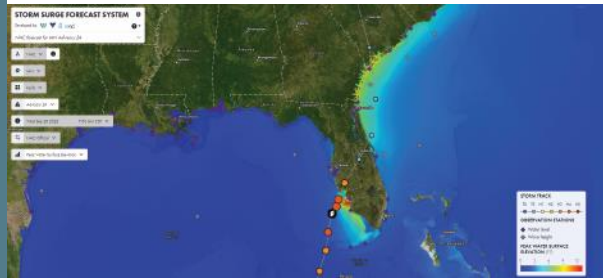
# ABOUT THE WATER INSTITUTE

## VISION

**Resilient and  
equitable** communities  
**Sustainable**  
environments  
**Thriving** economies

## MISSION

**Advancing science  
and developing  
integrated methods** to  
solve complex  
environmental and  
societal challenges



## MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

Coastal and Compound  
Flood Risk

Planning and Policy

Deltaic Systems

Applied Geosciences

Coastal Ecology

Products Strategy

Data Science & Engineering





# COMPOUND FLOODING – TX AND LA



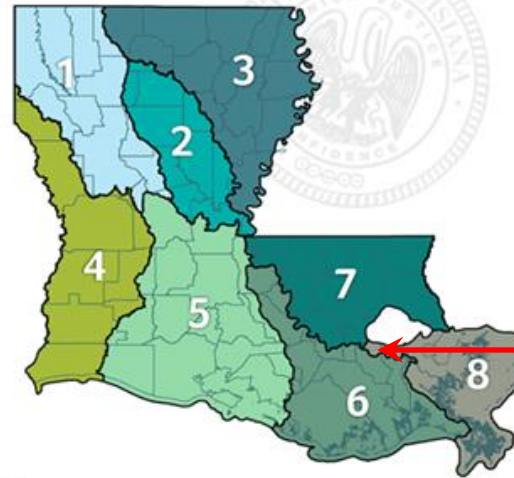
6



Texas GLO \$100MM+ Flood Study

\$ 1.2B Louisiana Watershed Initiative

**TWI Pilot**



## MANAGING FUTURE FLOOD RISK IN LOUISIANA THROUGH WATERSHED-BASED SOLUTIONS

Read the white paper outlining the Governor's vision for the Watershed Initiative >

Louisiana's eight watershed regions each coordinate efforts among parishes to reduce the risks of flood damage.

**TWI Pilot**

The Water Institute is collaborating with federal, state, and industry partners to advance compound flooding research including extending JPM-OS.

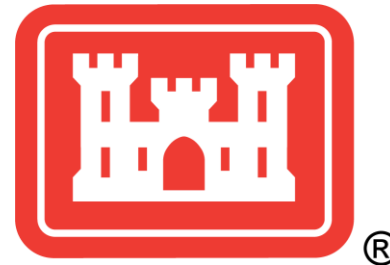


# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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FEMA



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- Maxwell Agnew (USACE New Orleans)
- Robert Winders (USACE Vicksburg)



# STUDY TEAM AND REPORT

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- Yushi Wang



→ DOWNLOAD REPORT



# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- An efficient probabilistic and modeling framework has been developed to quantify flood risk due to compounding impacts of surge and precipitation.
- Applicable in regions exposed to flood hazards driven by TCs and non-TCs **such as the Gulf of Mexico**.
- Joint Probability Method, developed by USCE-ERDC and FEMA, extended to incorporate precipitation and hydrology. Facilitates efficient quantification of compound flood risk due to TCs.
- HEC-RAS with winds and coupled ADCIRC+SWAN can efficiently simulate compounding flooding.
- Feedback provided by the Technical Advisory Group leveraged to develop the LA coastwide compound flood risk assessment framework that is currently ongoing.
- Enhancements to approach for TCs and non-TCs being implemented in the LA coastwide model.
- Institute leading collaborative efforts to quantify current and future compound flood risk in Jacksonville.

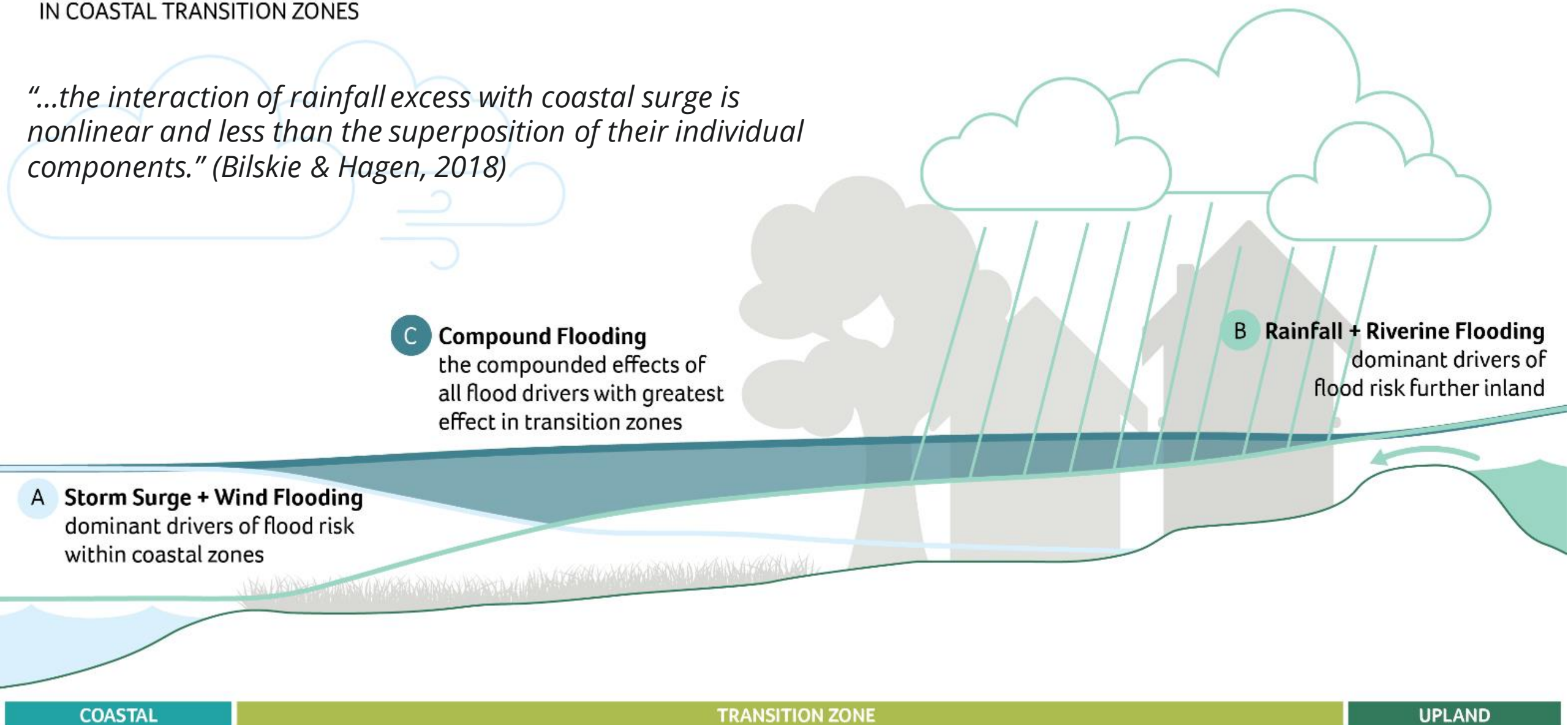




# COMPOUND FLOODING

IN COASTAL TRANSITION ZONES

*"...the interaction of rainfall excess with coastal surge is nonlinear and less than the superposition of their individual components." (Bilskie & Hagen, 2018)*





# WHY A LWI COASTWIDE TZ MODEL?

Storm Observations and Predictions, Water Levels, Antecedent Conditions

Probabilistic Framework for TCs and non-TCs

Coastwide Transition Zone Modeling Framework

Real Time Forecasting - LWI Future Value Added Objective

LWI Project Location Specific Design Storm Identification at Desired ARI

LWI Future Value Added Objectives  
- Development of FEMA Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Products

Project Specific LWI HUC-8 Model Execution

LWI Primary Objectives

- Flood Mitigation Feasibility Studies
- No Adverse Impact Assessments
- Consequence and Risk Assessments

- Location Specific Management of Future Developments and Community Growth

- Location Specific Project Evaluation, Watershed Management, and Policy

LWI Future Value Added Objectives

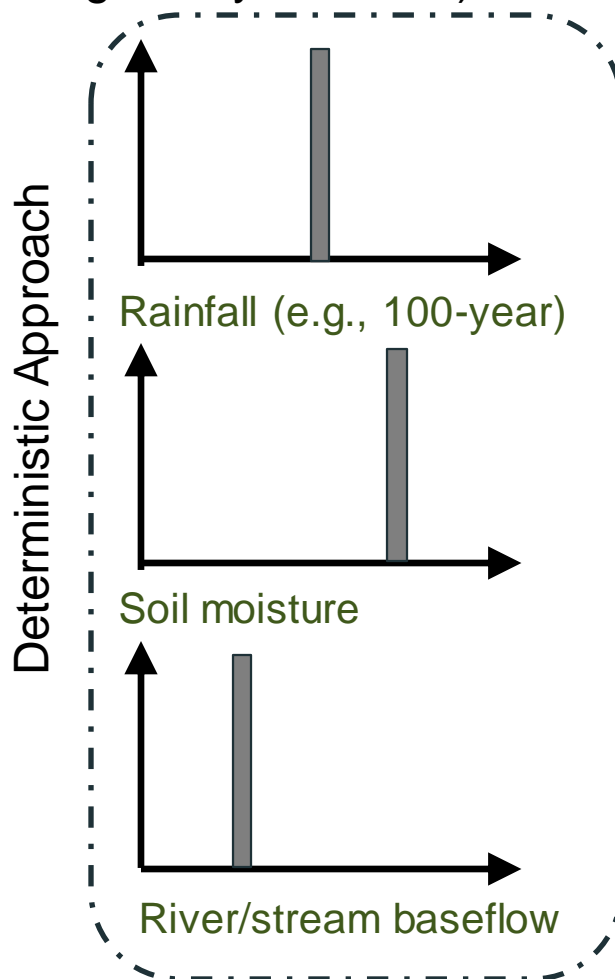
- Flood Mitigation Planning

- Consistent Water Quality Impact Assessments and assessment of Hydrological Consequences

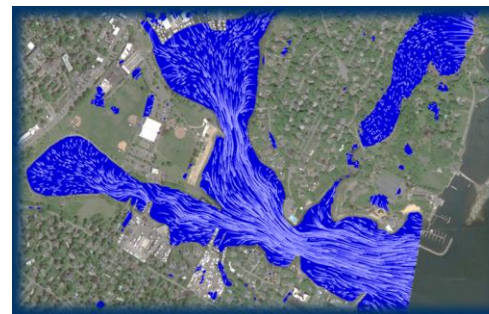


# TRADITIONAL APPROACH

(Select single values for a certain event of interest  
e.g. 100-year event)

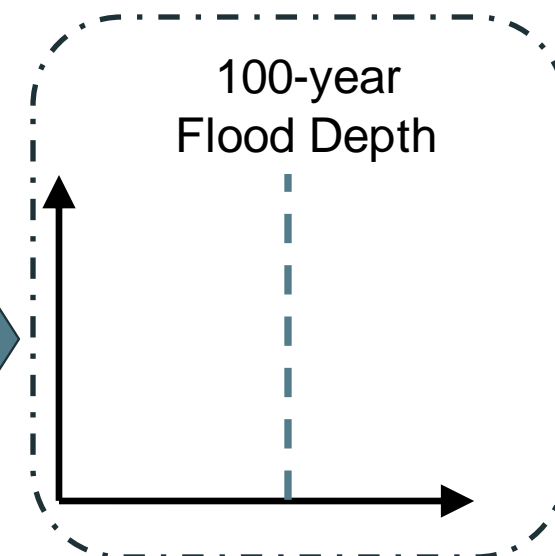


2. Models transform values to flood depth for only a single flood mechanism



HEC-RAS or  
ADCIRC Storm  
Surge Model

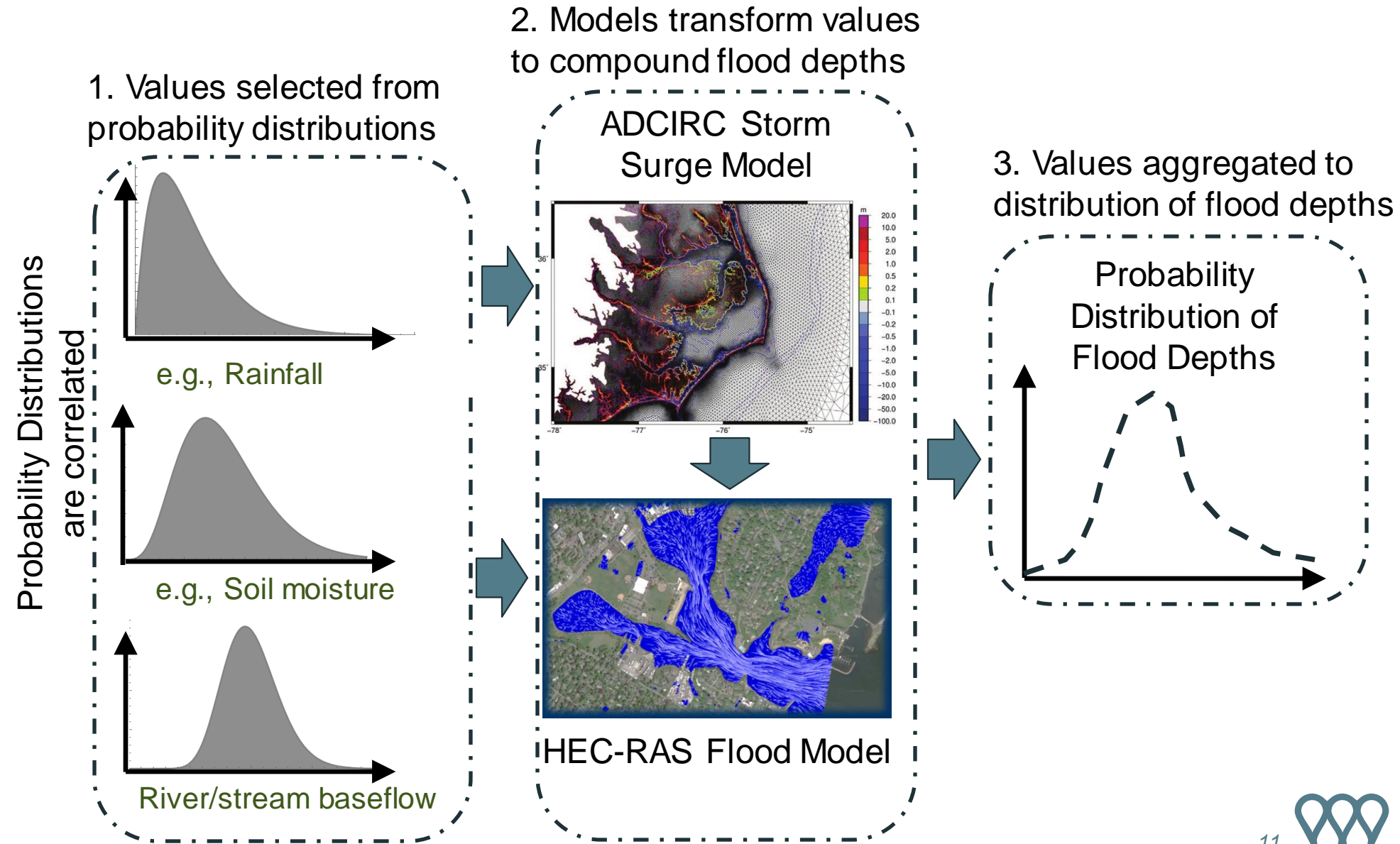
3. Single flood depth does not account for uncertainty.



PLUVIAL/FLUVIAL  
FLOODING

# PROBABILISTIC APPROACH

## PROBABILISTIC APPROACH



# EXTENDING THE JPM METHOD

- JPM extended to include both tropical and non-tropical storm events.*

Where:

$\lambda_{TC}$ . Frequency of tropical cyclones  
 $\lambda_{NT}$ . Frequency of nontropical cyclones  
 $\lambda = \lambda_{TC} + \lambda_{NT}$ . Overall frequency of storms  
 $\eta_{max}$  Maximum flood depth  
 $t$  Time

Flood depth probability distribution  
 $p(\eta_{max}) = \frac{\lambda_{TC}}{\lambda} p_{TC}(\eta_{max}) + \frac{\lambda_{NT}}{\lambda} p_{NT}(\eta_{max})$   
 Tropical cyclone (TC) flood depth probability distribution  
 Non-tropical storm flood depth probability distribution

$p_{TC}(\eta; t) = \int \dots \int \underbrace{p_{TC}(\eta | \mathbf{x}_{TC}; t)}_{\text{Flood depth response function}} \underbrace{p(\mathbf{x}_{TC}; t)}_{\text{Probability distribution of tropical cyclone storm and hydrologic conditions}} d^n \mathbf{x}_{TC}$   
 $p_{NT}(\eta; t) = \int \dots \int \underbrace{p_{NT}(\eta | \mathbf{x}_{NT}; t)}_{\text{Flood depth response function}} \underbrace{p(\mathbf{x}_{NT}; t)}_{\text{Probability distribution of Non-tropical storm and hydrologic conditions}} d^n \mathbf{x}_{NT}$





# EXTENDED JPM METHOD

- JPM extended to capture the compound flood response*

$$p_{TC}(\eta | \mathbf{x}_{TC}; t) = \int \int \underbrace{\delta(\eta - f(\mathbf{x}_S, \mathbf{r}, s, \mathbf{q}; t))}_{\text{Compound flood depth}} \underbrace{\delta(\mathbf{q} - f(\mathbf{r}, s, \mathbf{q}_b; t))}_{\text{River inflows}} \underbrace{\delta(\mathbf{x}_S - f(\mathbf{x}_{JPM}; t))}_{\text{Storm surge and winds}} d^n \mathbf{x}_S d^n \mathbf{q},$$

HEC-RAS
HEC-HMS
ADCIRC w/ PBL

$$p_{NT}(\eta | \mathbf{x}_{NT}; t) = \int \int \underbrace{\delta(\eta - f(\eta_s, \mathbf{r}, s, \mathbf{q}; t))}_{\text{Compound flood depth}} \underbrace{\delta(\mathbf{q} - f(\mathbf{r}, s, \mathbf{q}_b; t))}_{\text{River inflows}} \underbrace{\delta(\eta_s - f(\tau_l, \kappa; t))}_{\text{Non-tide residual}} d^n \eta_s d^n \mathbf{q},$$

HEC-RAS
HEC-HMS
General Stage Hydrograph

Where:

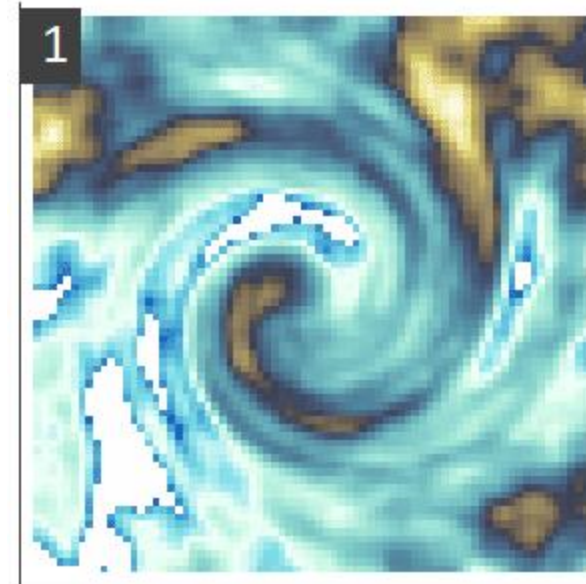
$\eta_s$	Storm surge depth
$\mathbf{r}$	Rainfall values (all points in the study)
$s$	Soil moisture (all points in the watershed)
$\mathbf{q}$	River/stream inflows
$\mathbf{q}_b$	Baseflow
$t$	Time



# EXTENDED JPM METHOD

- JPM extended to include the probability of rainfall and hydrology

$$p_{(.)}(\mathbf{x}_{(.)}; t) = \underbrace{p(\mathbf{x}_{Storm})}_{\text{Probability distribution of either tropical cyclone or non-tropical storm and hydrologic conditions}} \underbrace{p(\bar{\mathbf{r}}|\mathbf{x}_{Storm}; t)}_{\text{Distribution spatial avg. rainfall}} \underbrace{p(\mathbf{r}|\bar{\mathbf{r}}; t)}_{\text{Distribution spatial rainfall}} \underbrace{p(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{w}, \bar{\mathbf{s}}, \mathbf{q}_b)}_{\text{Hydrology}}$$

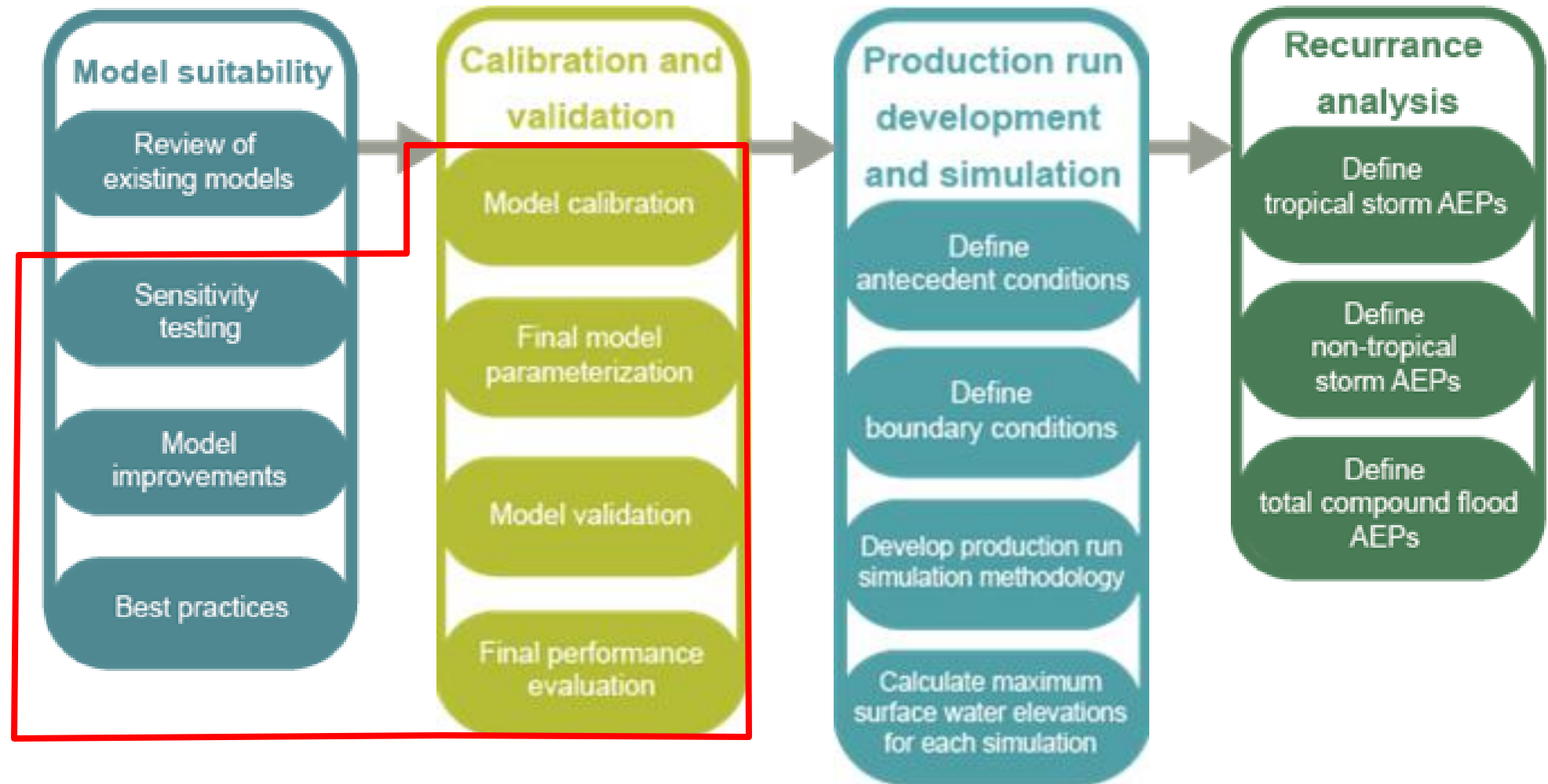


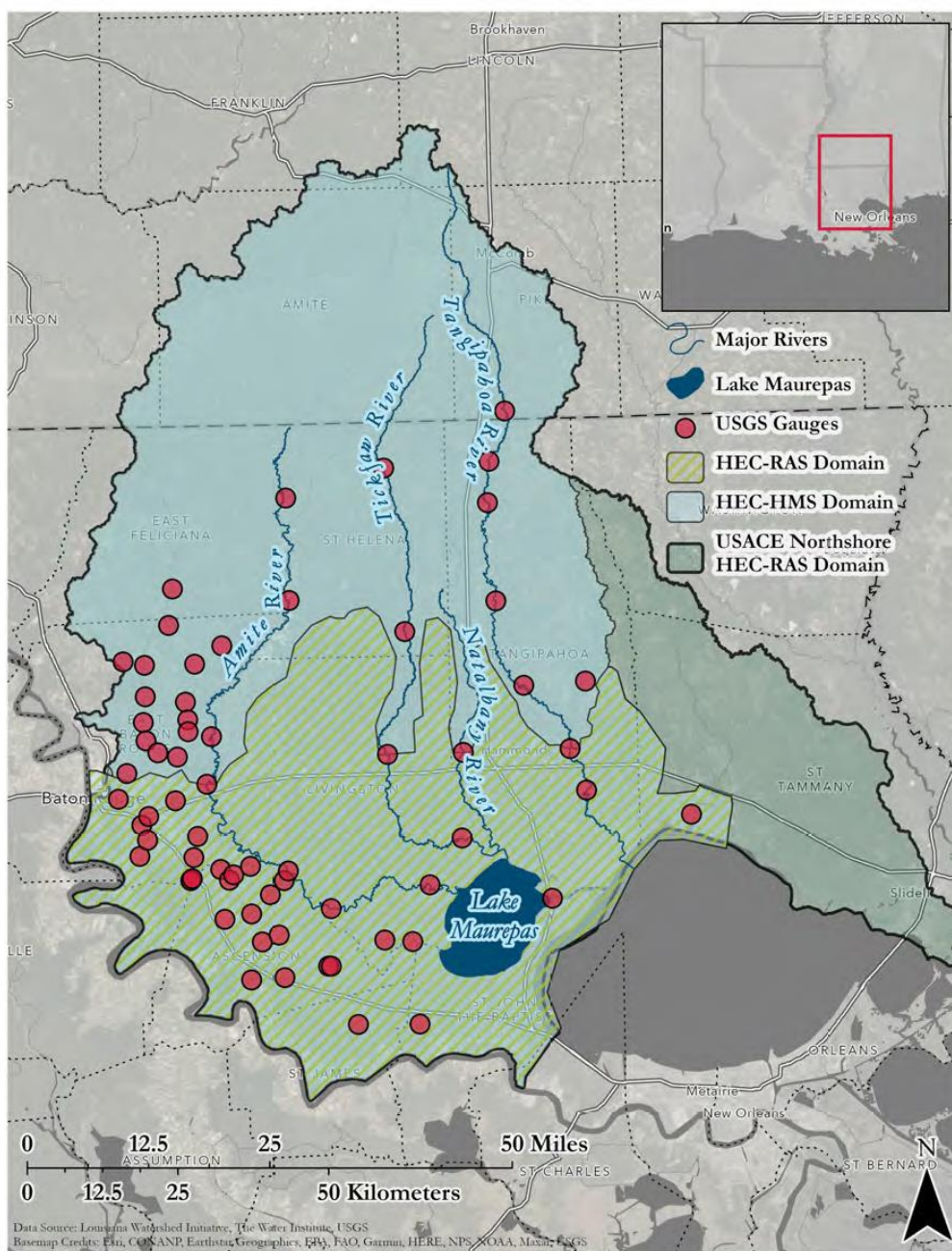
## Where:

$\mathbf{x}_{Storm}$	Storm parameters, e.g., the typical JPM parameters
$\bar{\mathbf{r}}$	Spatial average rainfall
$\mathbf{r}$	Rainfall values (all points in the study)
$\bar{\mathbf{s}}$	Watershed average soil moisture
$\mathbf{s}$	Soil moisture (all points in the watershed)
$\bar{\mathbf{w}}$	Watershed average storage depth
$\mathbf{w}$	Storage depths (all points in the watershed)
$\mathbf{q}_b$	Baseflow



# LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE – AMITE PILOT STUDY FRAMEWORK





- ✓ USACE MVN provided the original model
- ✓ Full 2D model
- ✓ Average cell spacing = 1000x1000ft
  - ✓ Refined spacing as low as 100x100ft
- ✓ Once it was determined 300,000 + runs were required, we knew that Optimization was needed



# PRODUCTION RUNS

Study captured uncertainty and flooding from:

1) tropical storms, 2) non-tropical storms 3) tidal flooding

Number of synthetic tropical cyclones:

- 5 Soil moisture conditions
- 1 Baseflow river/stream conditions
- 645 Combinations of storm attributes (track, velocity, etc.)
- 100 Rainfall patterns per storm

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322,500 Simulations in total for tropical cyclones

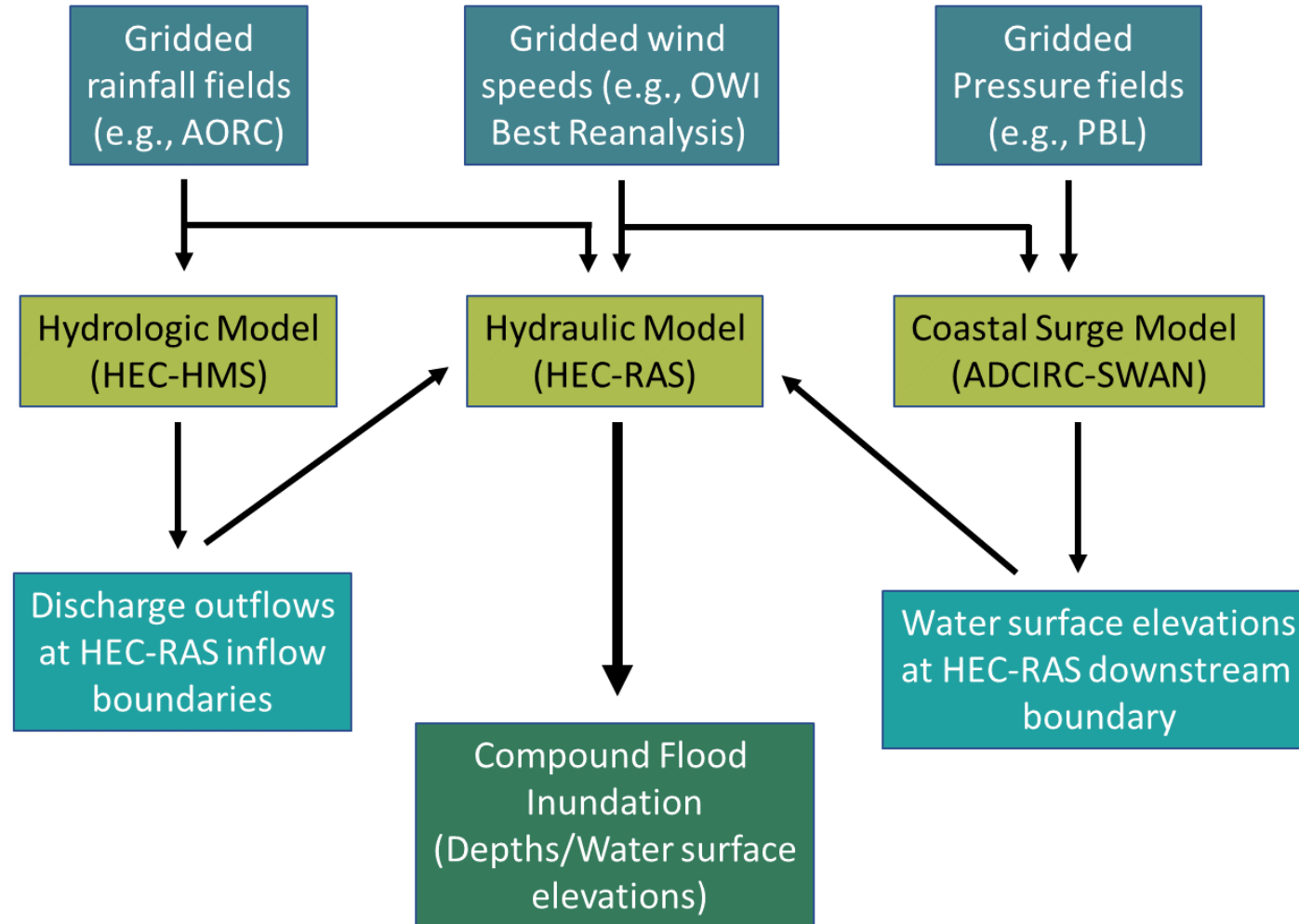
Number of synthetic non-tropical cyclones :

- 5 Lags b/t peak streamflow and non-tide residual
- 1 Baseflow river/stream conditions
- 5 Storm (ocean) stage hydrographs
- x 44 Rainfall patterns per storm

---

1,100 Simulations in total for non-tropical cyclones

# MODEL EXECUTION WORKFLOW



# RAS2D OPTIMIZATION

- ✓ There is 1 known USGS gage in the Amite watershed

## ISAAC

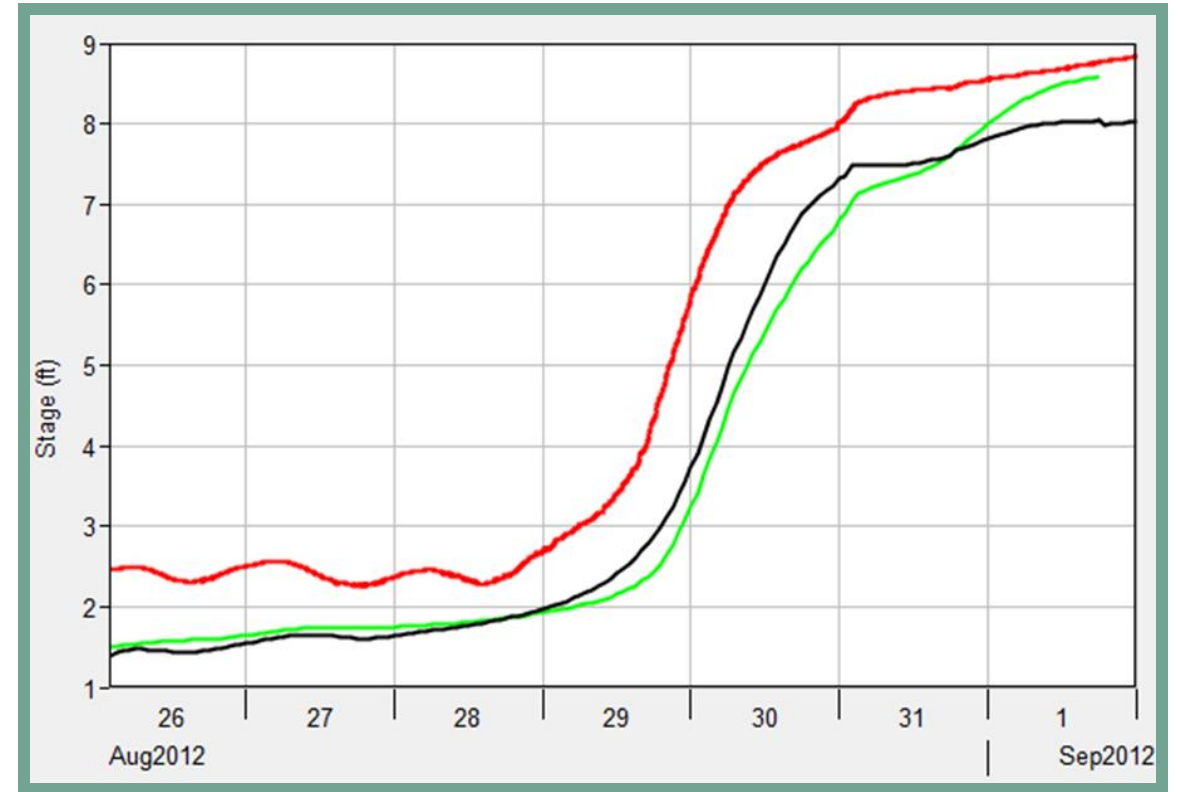
Original Run Time = 4 hours 15 minutes and 13 seconds

% Error = 0.1%

Optimized Run Time (SWE) = 20 minute and 40 seconds

% Error = 0.4%

% Increase in Efficiency = 1,134%



RED = USGS gage

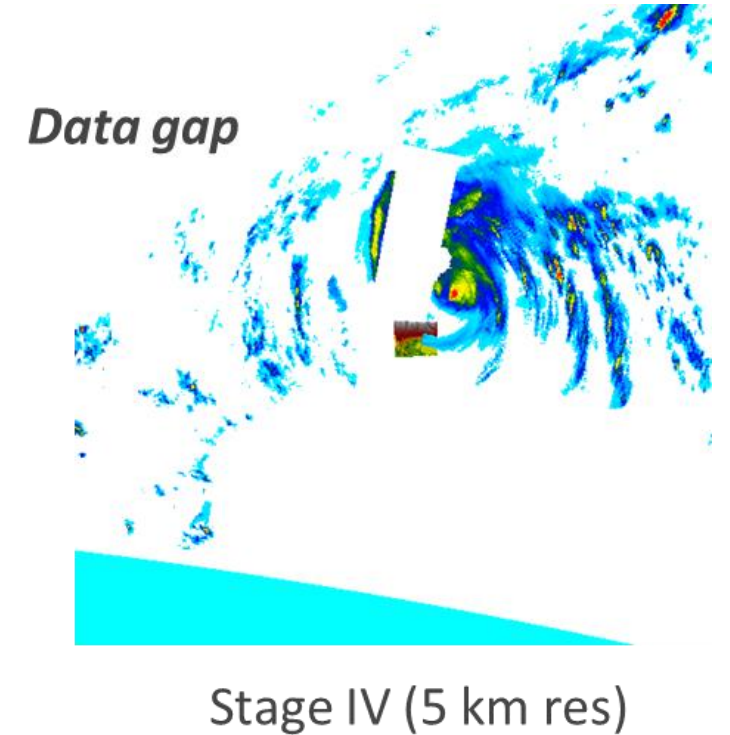
GREEN = Optimized (SWE)

BLACK = Original Model (SWE)



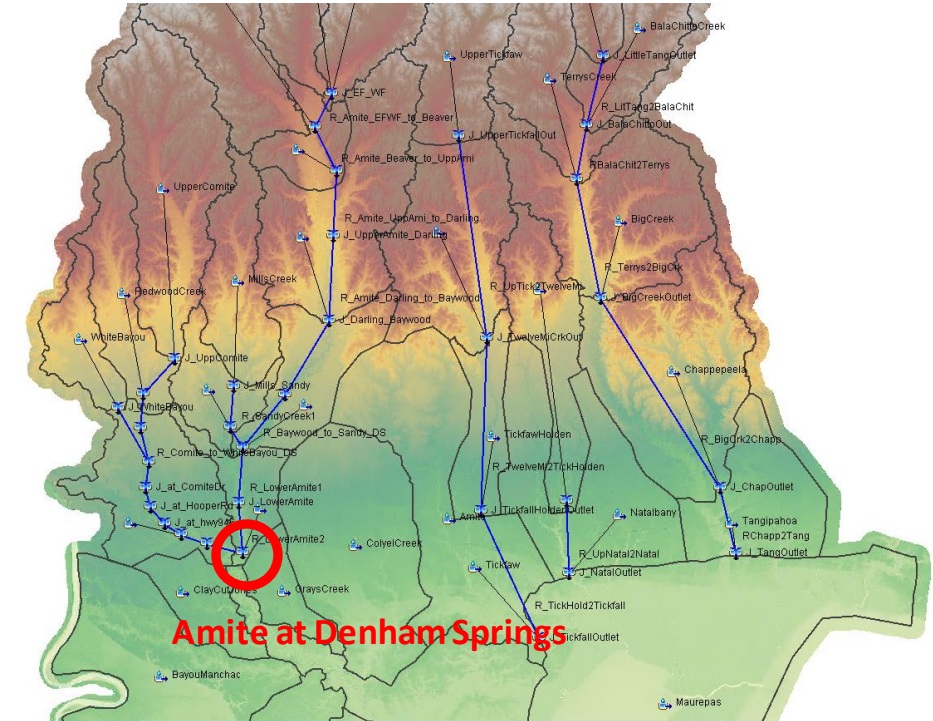
# STAGE IV DATA GAPS - AMITE

Event	Total Duration (hr)	Hours With Missing Data	% of Duration With Missing Data
Hurricane Katrina 2005	553	192	35
NTS Feb2004	673	105	16
NTS May 2004	745	40	5
Hurricane Ivan 2004	721	25	3
NTS Oct2002	553	14	3
Hurricane Gustav and Ike (8_25-9_15_2008)	793	8	1
NTS Apr2002	721	8	1
TS Bill 2003	521	4	1

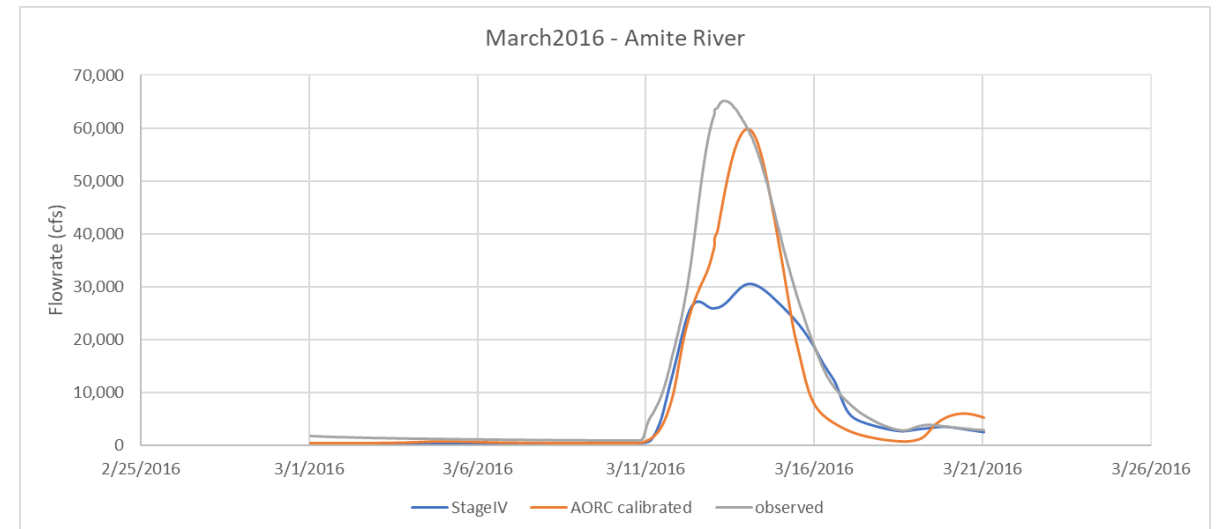
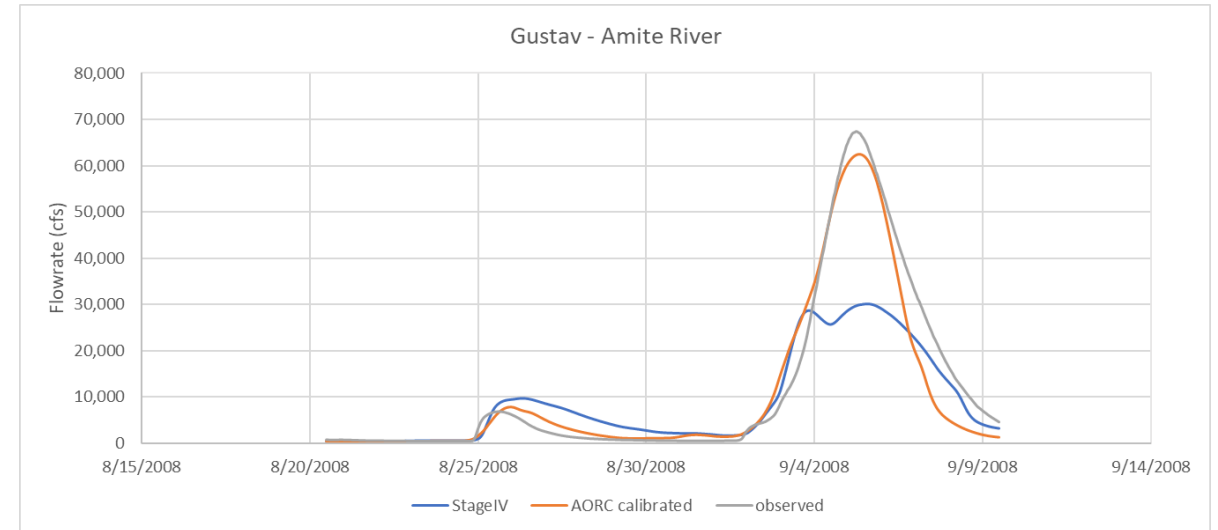




# HMS COMPARISONS – AORC AND STAGE IV

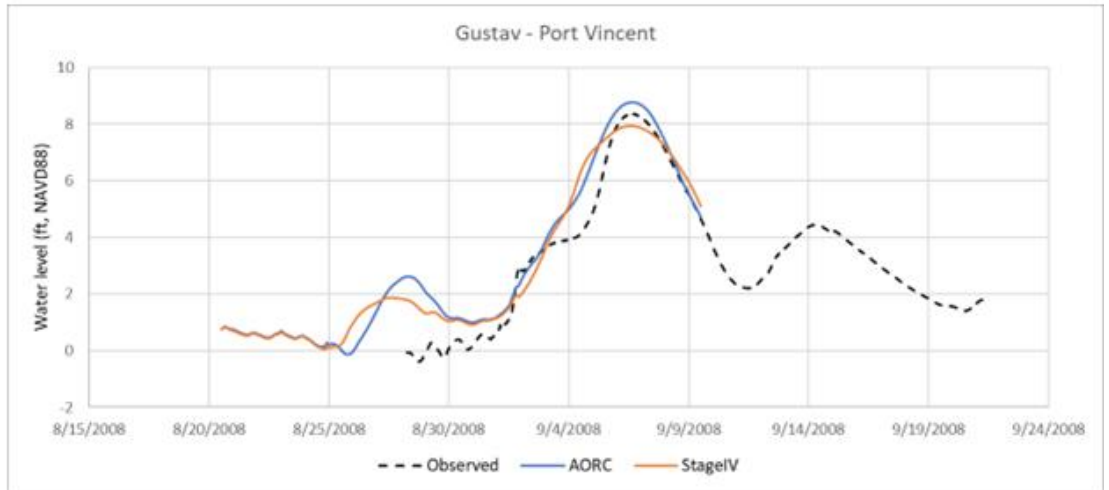
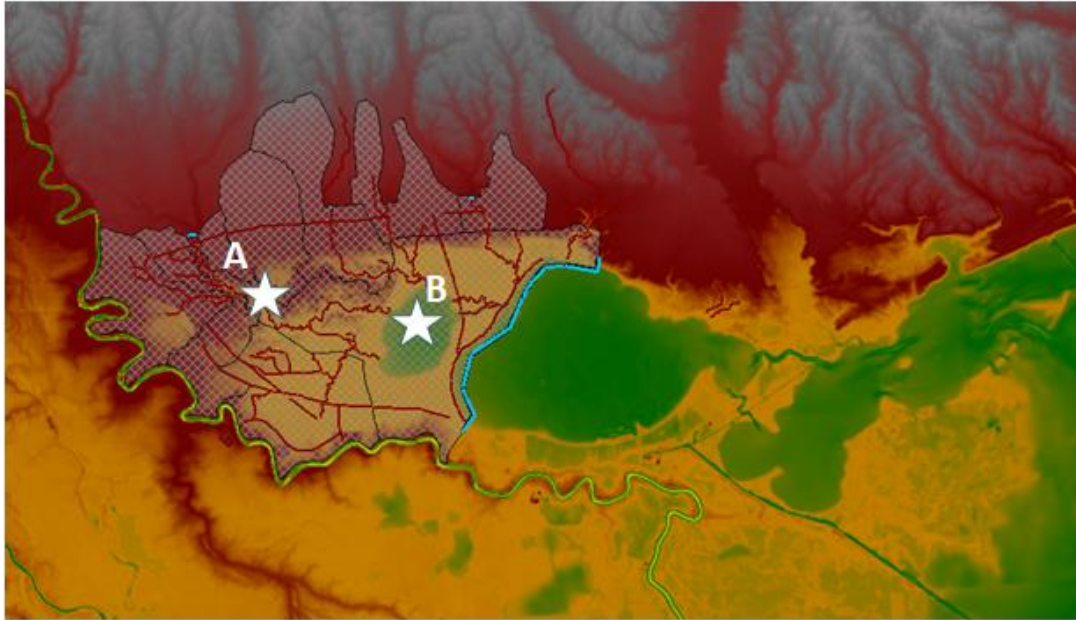


- Overall improvement with AORC compared to Stage IV



# RAS COMPARISONS – AORC AND STAGE IV

## Hurricane Gustav at (A) Port Vincent



Test properties	
Downstream BC	New ADCIRC simulated
Wind	New ADCIRC/OWI best reanalysis
Inflows	HMS with St4/AORC
Rain on mesh	Gridded St4/AORC

- Marginal improvement with AORC compared to Stage IV, with similar bias.

# RAS6.1 DOWNSTREAM BOUNDARY SEGMENTATION

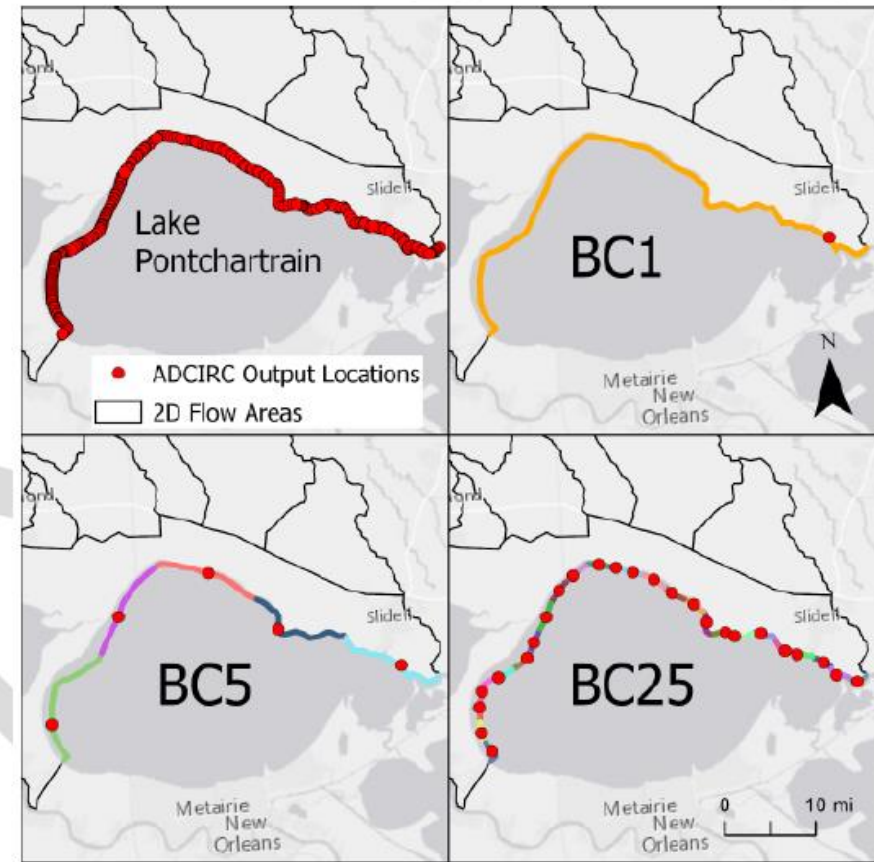


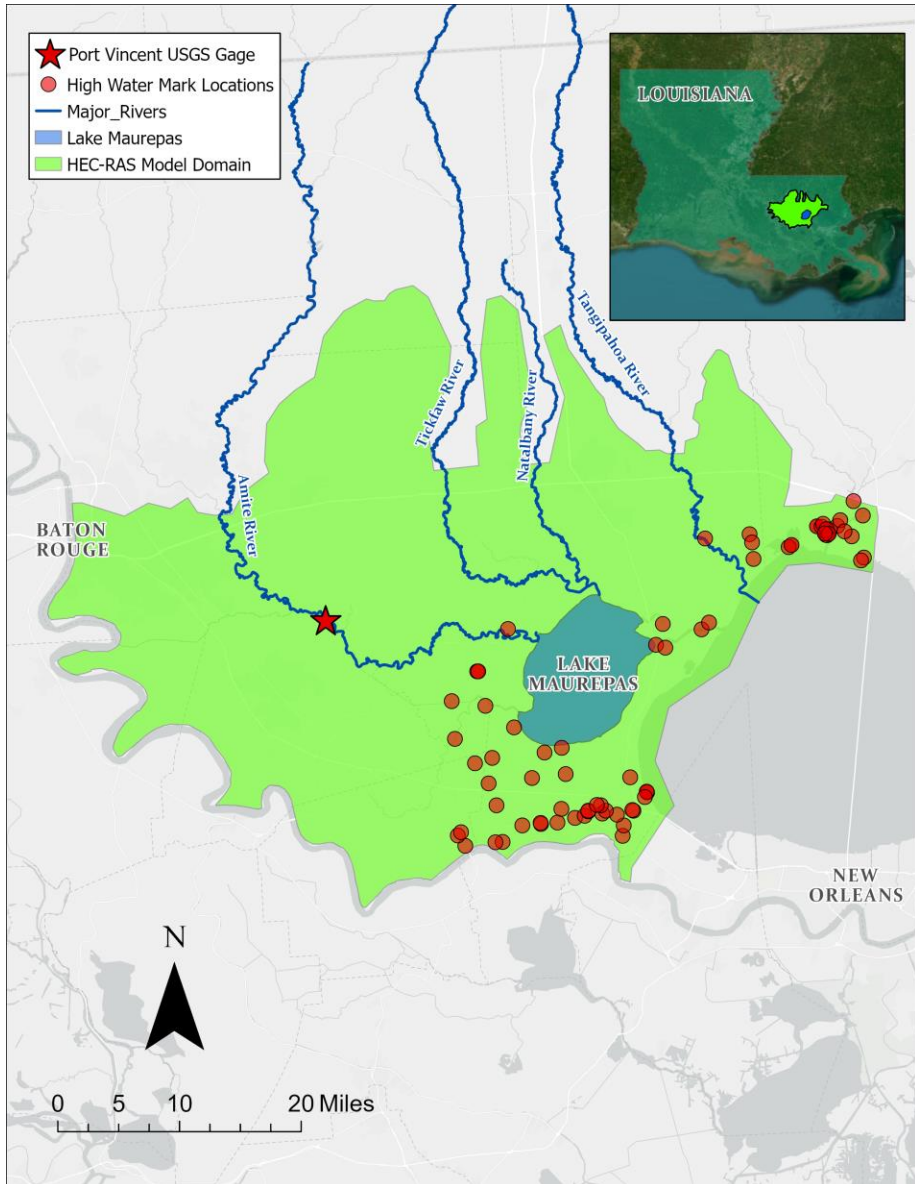
Figure 1. Coastal boundary connection between ADCIRC and the pilot study RAS 2D model domain. ADCIRC water levels are extracted along the boundary at nearly 800 locations (top left). The pilot study RAS 2D model boundary condition layouts and ADCIRC outputs (red dots) for each BC line (multi-colored lines) are shown for BC1 (top right), BC5 (bottom left), and BC25 (bottom right) (LWI, 2020).

Table 1. Average line length (in 1000 ft) for each boundary condition layout (BC1, BC5, BC25) and the peak water surface elevation (WSE) difference in NAVD88 ft.

Boundary Condition Layout	BC1	BC5	BC25
Number of Line Segments	1	5	25
Length of Line (1000 ft)	312	62.4	12.5
Peak WSE Difference in ADICRC output along the Line (ft)	3.9	0.1	<0.01



# EPISTEMIC (MODEL) UNCERTAINTY



- Best record of the historical meteorology.
- Model is run with this best record.
- Model depths are compared against observed depths to calculate the model bias and standard deviation (i.e., uncertainty).



# EPISTEMIC (MODEL) UNCERTAINTY

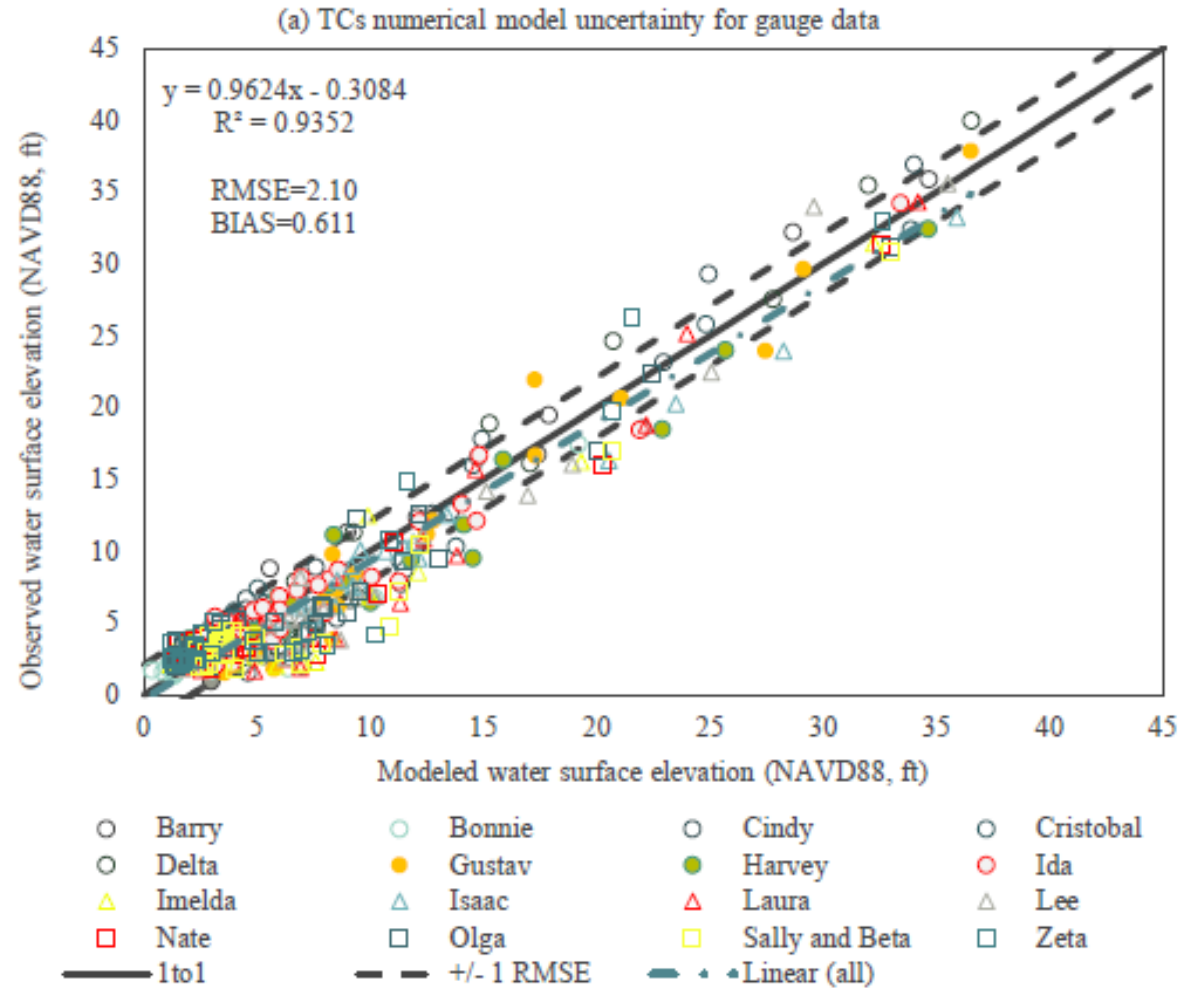


Figure 38. Comparison of modeled peak WSE with (a) USGS gauge data WSE peaks, and (b) HWMs within the HEC-RAS domain for TCs.



# SOIL MOISTURE, RUNOFF, AND RIVER/STREAM FLOWS

$$p_{(.)}(\mathbf{x}_{(.)}; t) = \overbrace{p(\mathbf{x}_{Storm})}^{\text{Storm Parameters}} \overbrace{p(\bar{\mathbf{r}}|\mathbf{x}_{Storm}; t)p(\mathbf{r}|\bar{\mathbf{r}}; t)}^{\text{Rainfall Random Field}} \overbrace{p(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{w}, \bar{\mathbf{s}}, \mathbf{q}_b)}^{\text{Hydrology}}$$

where  $(.)$  is a placeholder for TC and NT for respective tropical cyclone and non-tropical descriptions.



# THE JPM METHOD HYDROLOGY ENHANCEMENTS

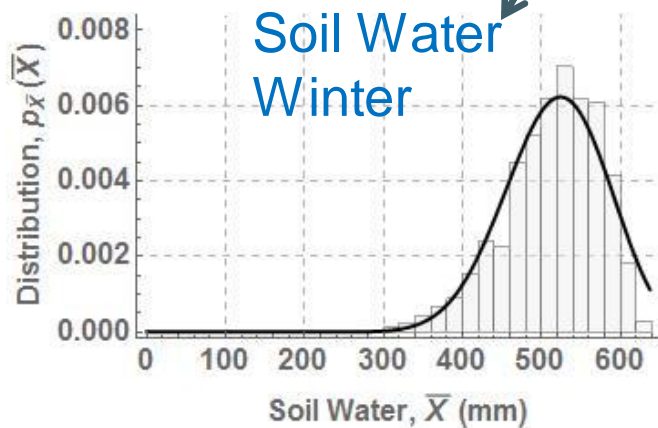
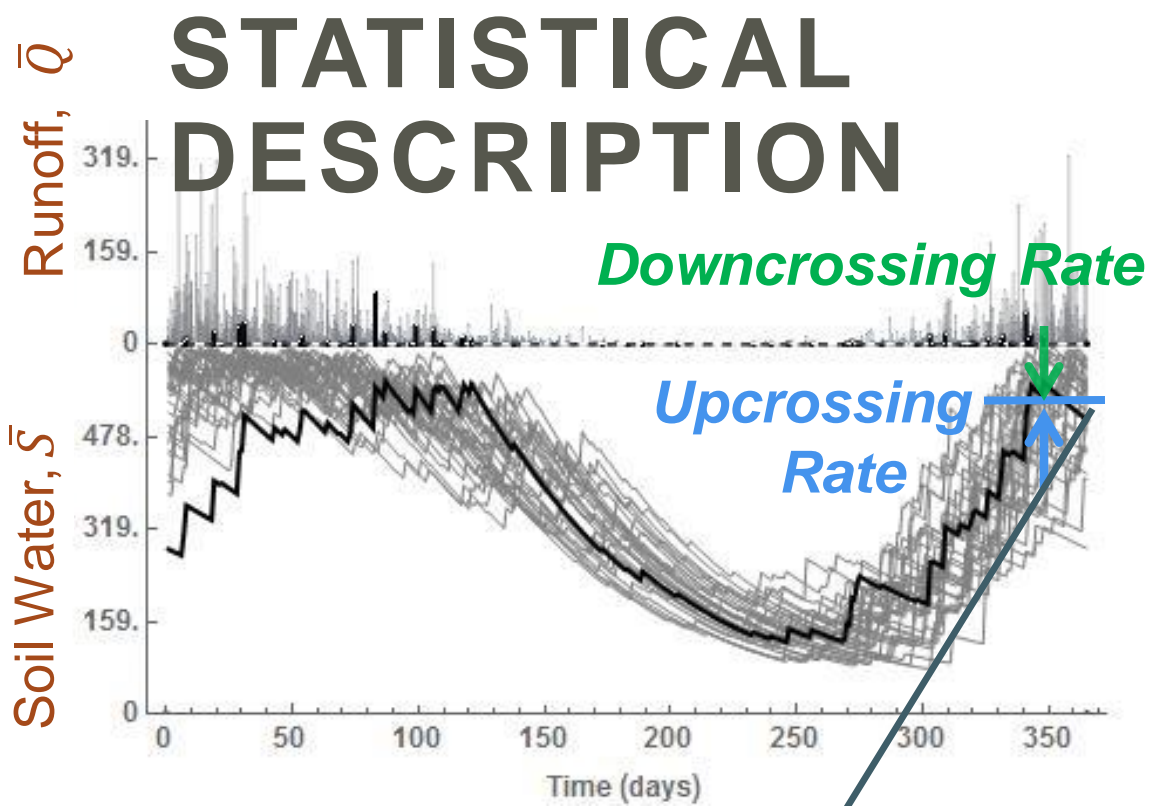
- *JPM extended to include hydrology*

$$p(s, w, \bar{s}, q_b) = \underbrace{p(s|\bar{s})}_{\text{Dist. soil moisture}} \underbrace{p(q_b|\bar{s})}_{\text{Dist. Watershed baseflow}} \underbrace{p(\bar{s})}_{\text{Dist. Watershed avg. soil moisture}} \underbrace{p(w|\bar{w})}_{\text{Dist. Storage Depths}}$$

## Where:

$\bar{s}$	Watershed average soil moisture
$s$	Soil moisture (all points in the watershed)
$\bar{w}$	Watershed average storage depth
$w$	Storage depths (all points in the watershed)
$q_b$	Baseflow





## Soil Water PDF (Distribution)

$$p_{\bar{S}}(\bar{S}; t) = \frac{C}{\bar{F}_t(\bar{S})} e^{-\langle \bar{R}, -\bar{Q}(\bar{R}, \bar{S}^-) \rangle + \lambda \cdot \int \frac{1}{\bar{F}_t(u)} du}$$

## Runoff PDF (Distribution)

$$p_{\bar{Q}}(\bar{Q}; t) = \int_0^\infty \int_0^w \delta(\bar{Q}(\bar{R}, \bar{S}^-) - \bar{Q}) p_{\bar{R}}(\bar{R}) p_{\bar{S}}(\bar{S}; t) d\bar{R} d\bar{S}^-$$

## Explicit Dependence on:

### Climate

$\lambda$  Rainfall frequency

$\bar{R}$  Rainfall amount

### Vegetation

$\bar{F}_t(\bar{S})$  Evapotranspiration

### Runoff description

$\bar{Q}(\bar{R}, \bar{S}^-)$  Runoff curve

### Spatial Heterogeneity

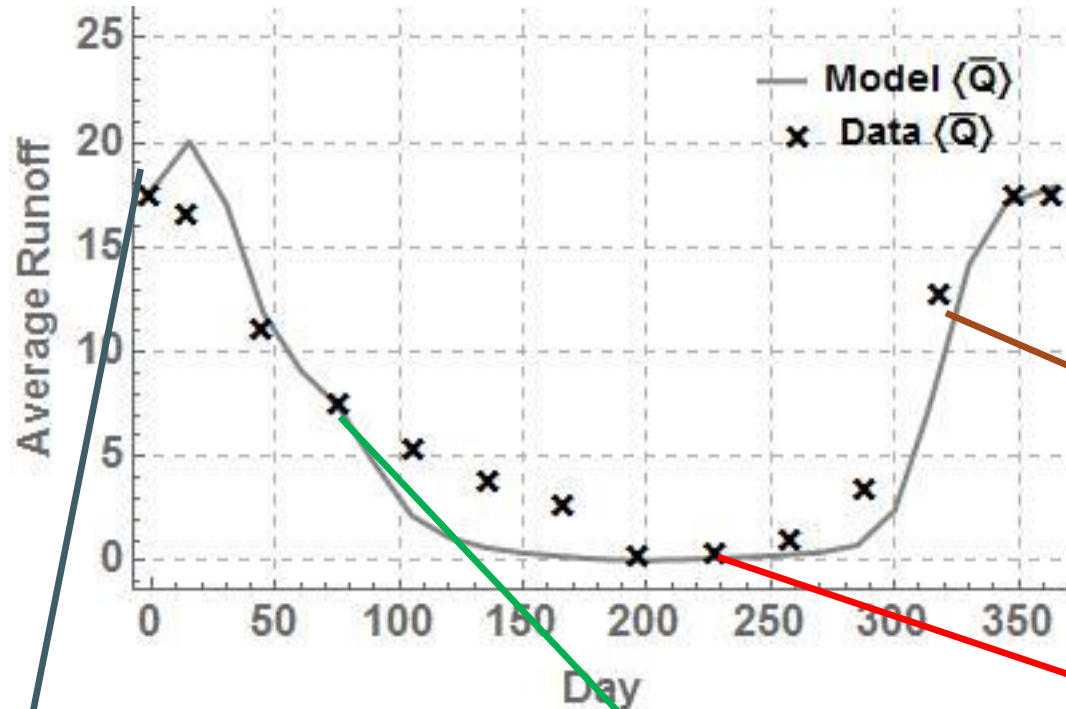
$p_{RSW}(r, X, w; \bar{S})$



# MODEL DISTRIBUTION AND DATA COMPARISON

Average Runoff for a point in time

$$\langle \bar{Q}; t \rangle = \int_0^{\infty} \bar{Q} p_{\bar{Q}}(\bar{Q}; t) d\bar{Q}$$

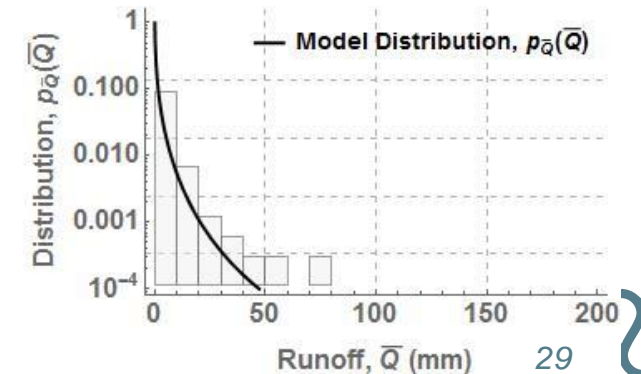
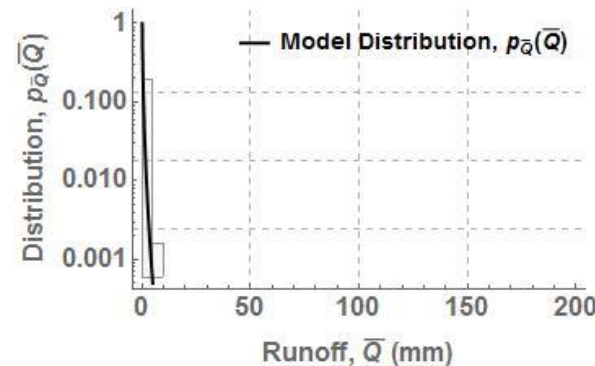
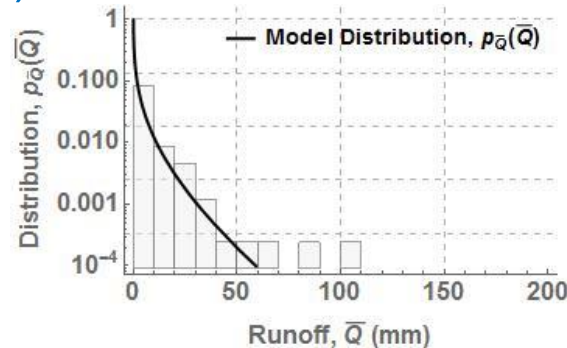
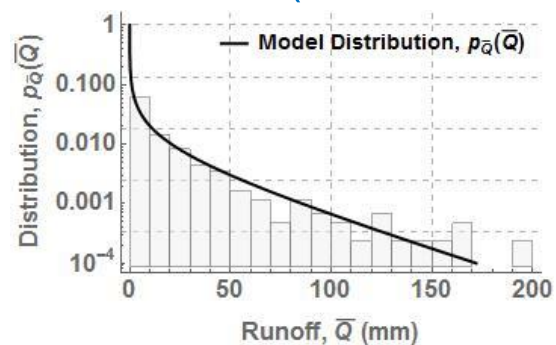


Winter (wet season)

Spring (dry-down)

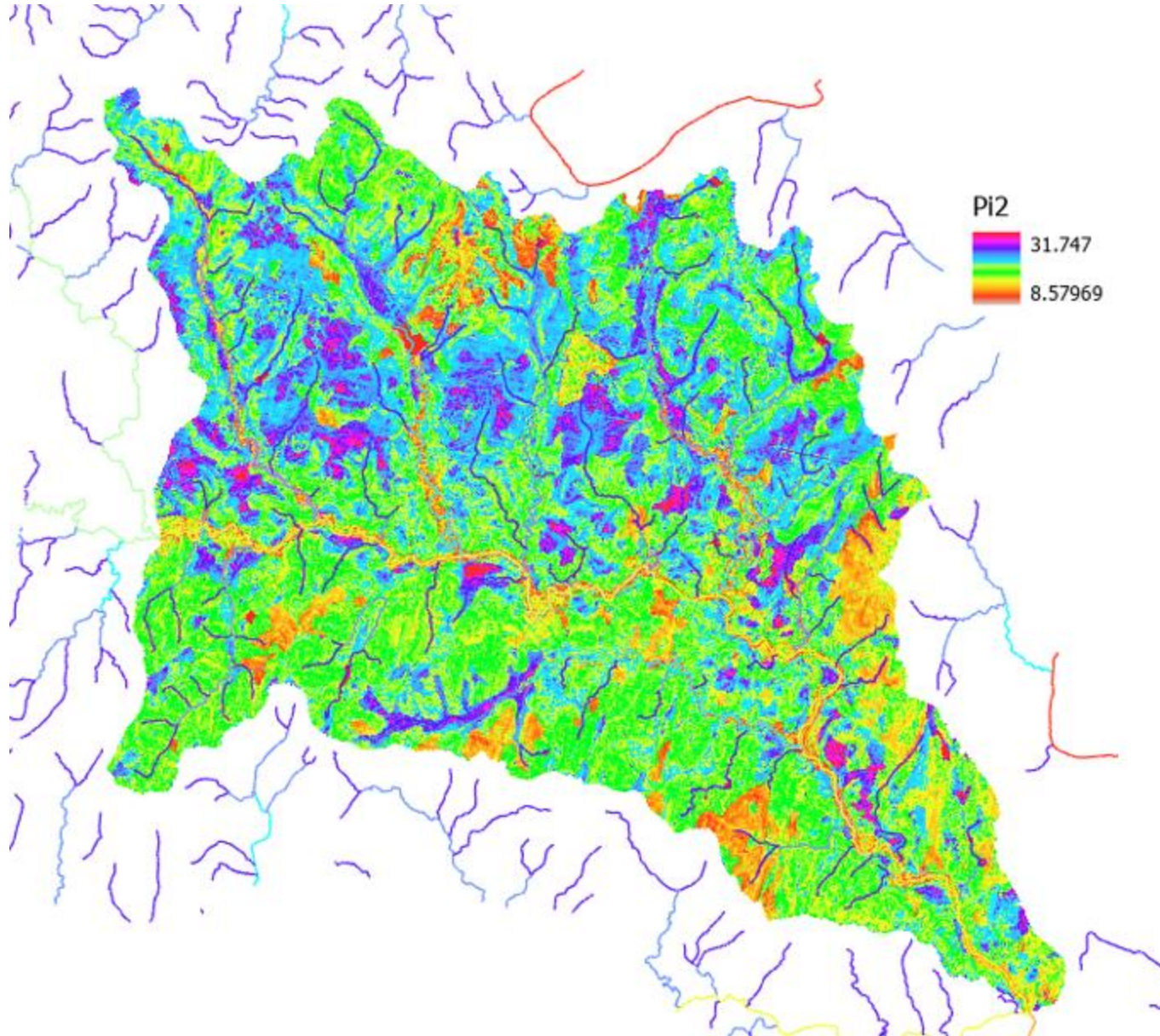
Summer (dry season)

Fall (wet-up)





# LOCAL SOIL MOISTURE VALUES



Mapped to cells in HEC-RAS  
based on a topographic wetness  
index derived from the DEM

# RAINFALL FIELDS

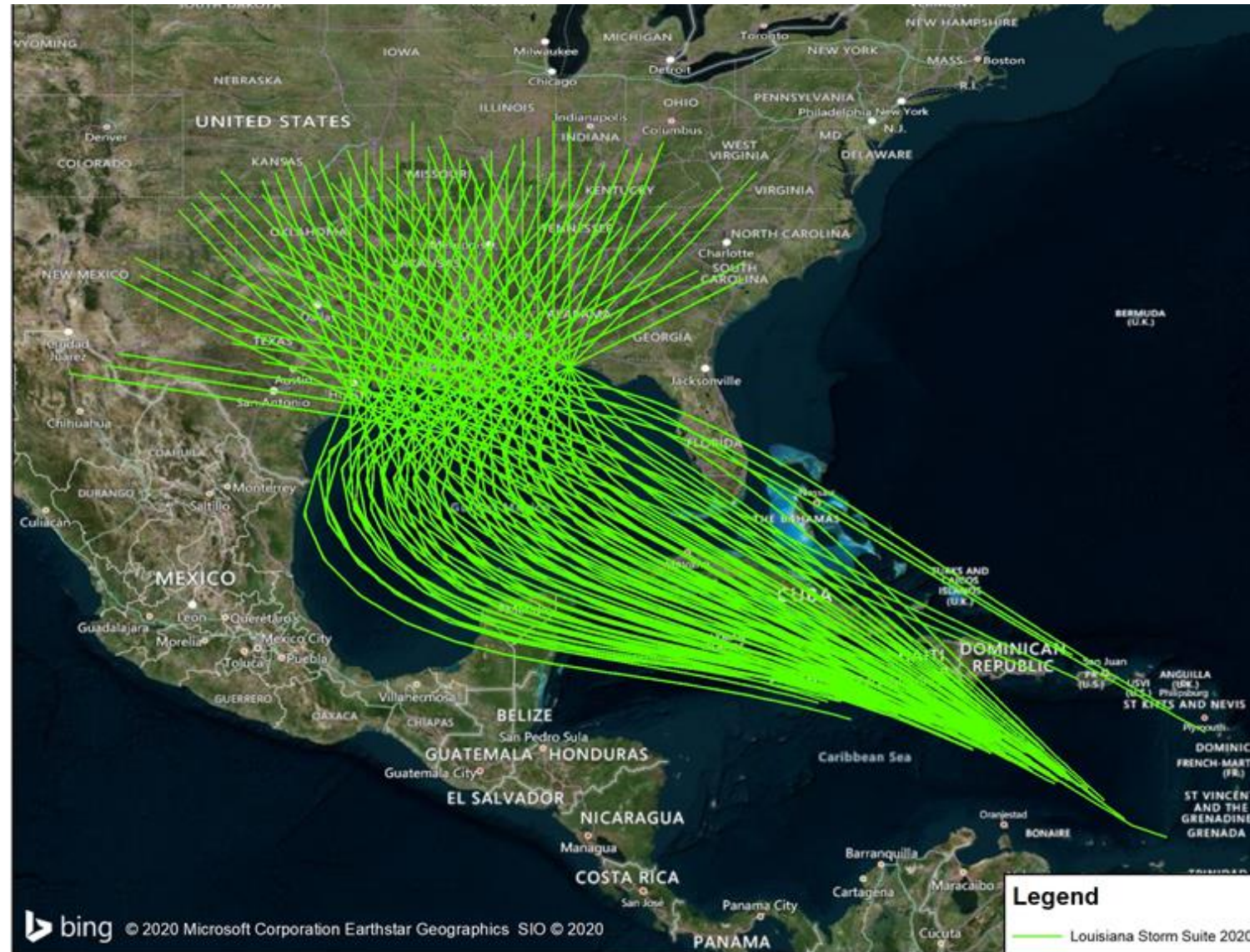
$$p_{(.)}(\mathbf{x}_{(.)}; t) = \underbrace{p(\mathbf{x}_{Storm})}_{\text{Storm Parameters}} \underbrace{p(\bar{\mathbf{r}}|\mathbf{x}_{Storm}; t)p(\mathbf{r}|\bar{\mathbf{r}}; t)}_{\text{Rainfall Random Field}} \underbrace{p(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{w}, \bar{\mathbf{s}}, \mathbf{q}_b)}_{\text{Hydrology}},$$

where  $(.)$  is a placeholder for TC and NT for respective tropical cyclone and non-tropical descriptions.





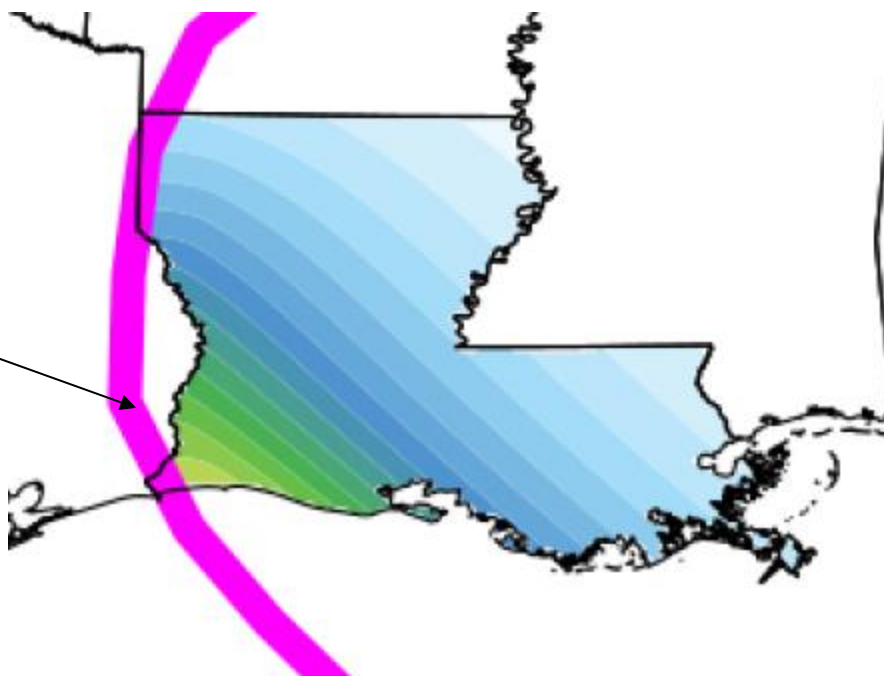
Given synthetic tropical cyclone (TC) tracks, how can we generate probabilistic rainfall associated with these storms?



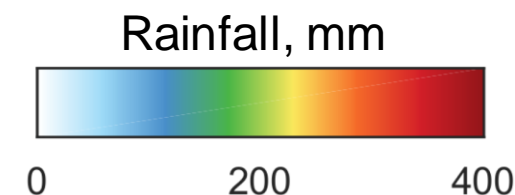
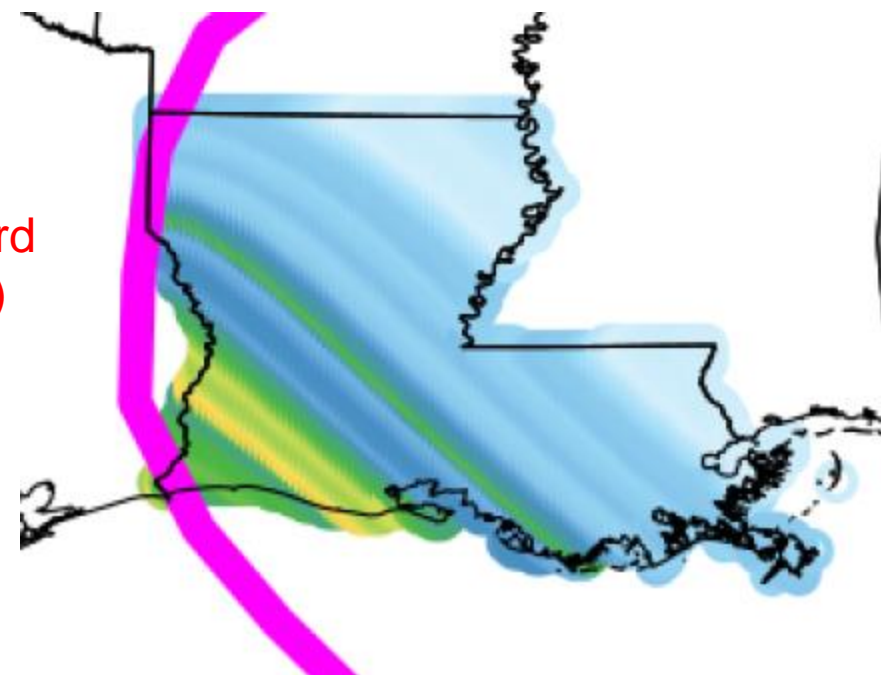
# RAINFALL UNCERTAINTY: BIAS CORRECTION

Start with a deterministic model of rainfall  
(e.g., Interagency Performance Evaluation  
Task Force Rainfall Analysis (IPET))

Hurricane  
Rita Track



Bias Correct  
(based on the  
historical record  
Stage IV data)

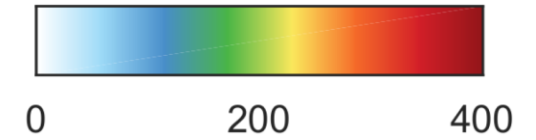


<sup>1)</sup> Stage IV Quantitative Precipitation Estimates (QPE) products over the continental United State (CONUS) (<http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/ylin/pcpanl/stage4/>) are released by the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP)

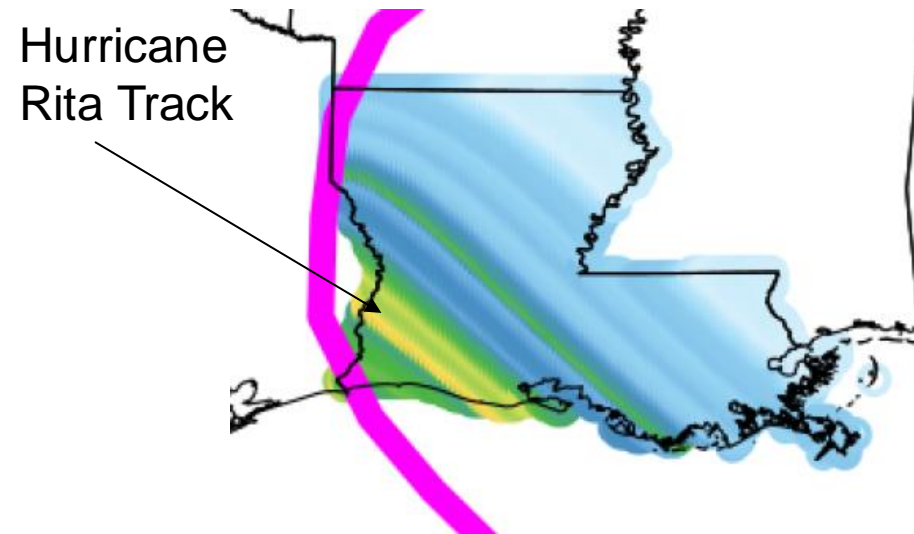


# RAINFALL UNCERTAINTY: NOISE CHARACTERIZATION

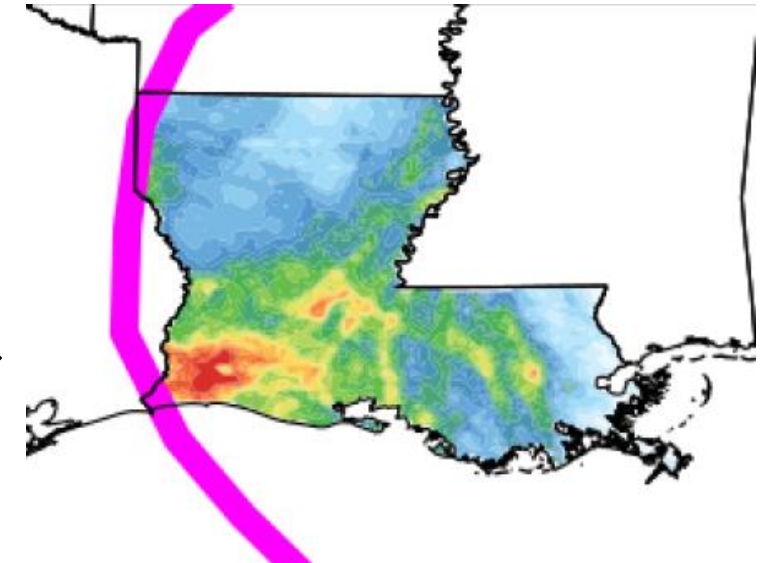
Rainfall, mm



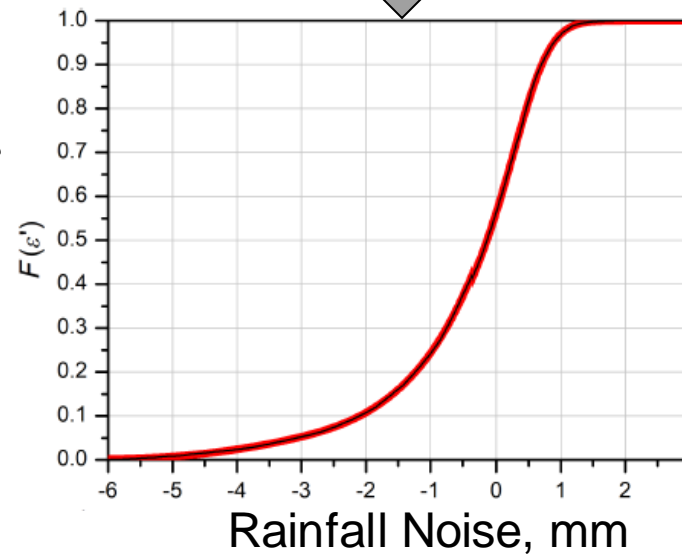
Bias Corrected Rainfall Model



Compare to the  
historical Record  
(Stage IV data)  
to describe the  
'Noise'



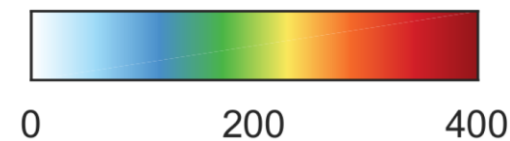
Non Exceedance  
Probability





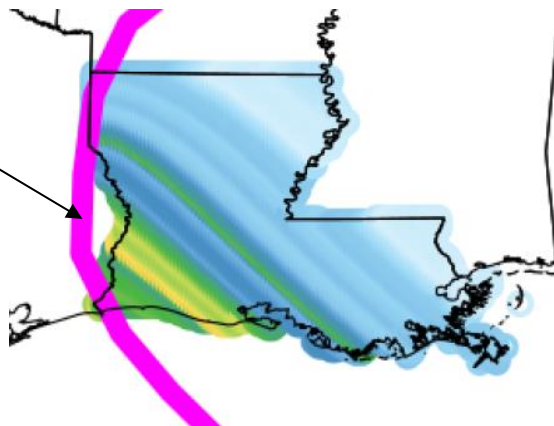
# GENERATE NEW (EQUIPROBABLE) 'REALIZATIONS' OF RAINFALL

Rainfall, mm

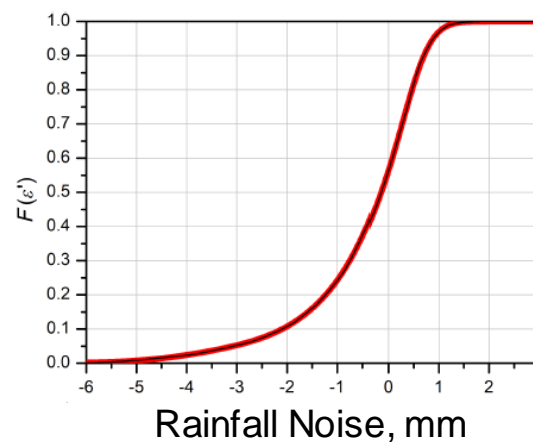


Hurricane  
Rita Track

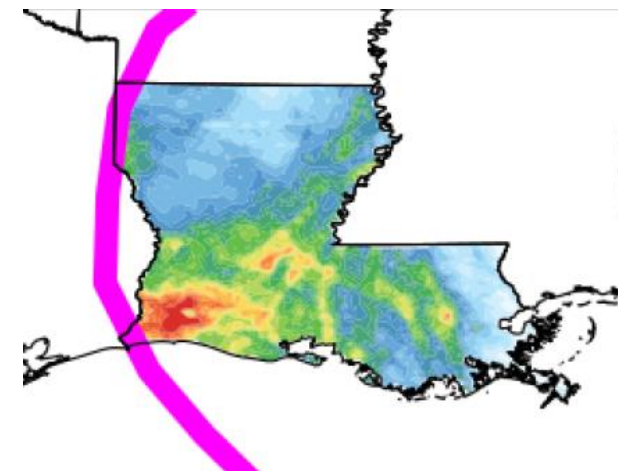
Bias Corrected Rainfall Model



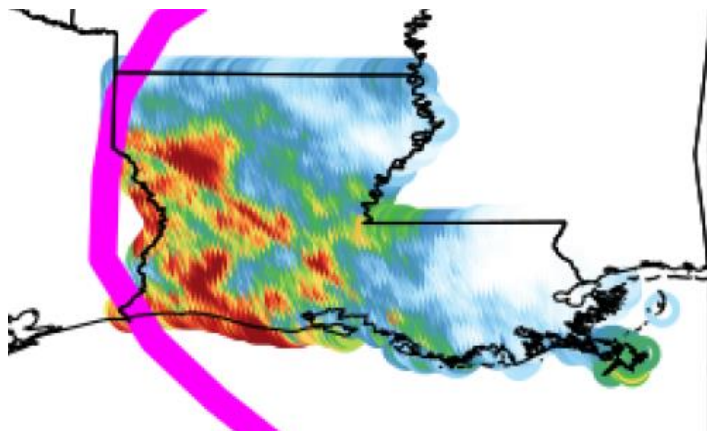
Noise



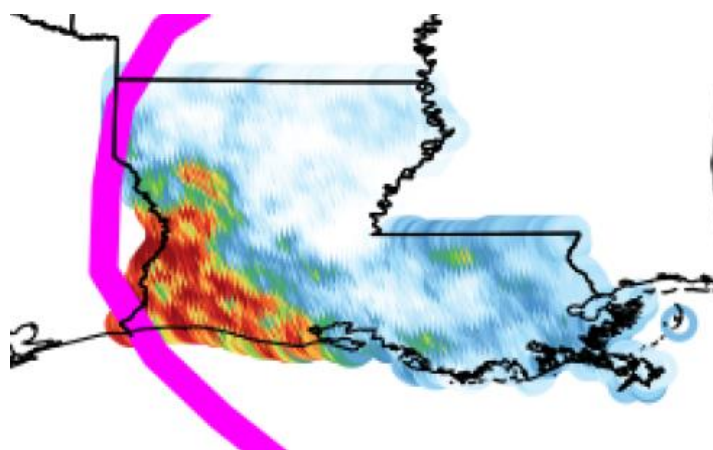
Historical Record



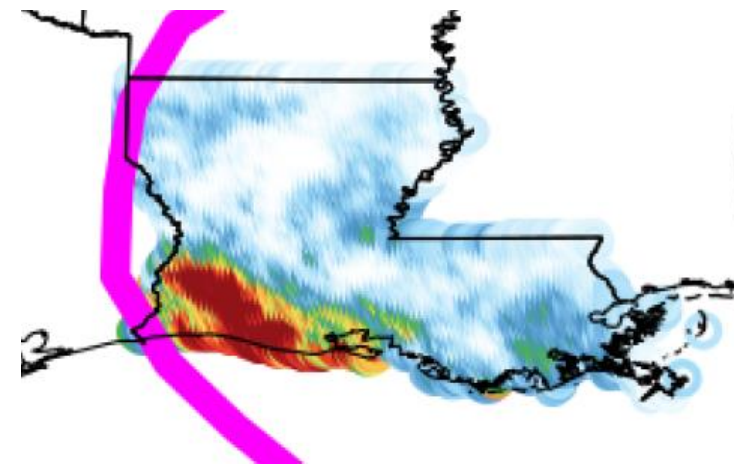
Realization 1



Realization 2



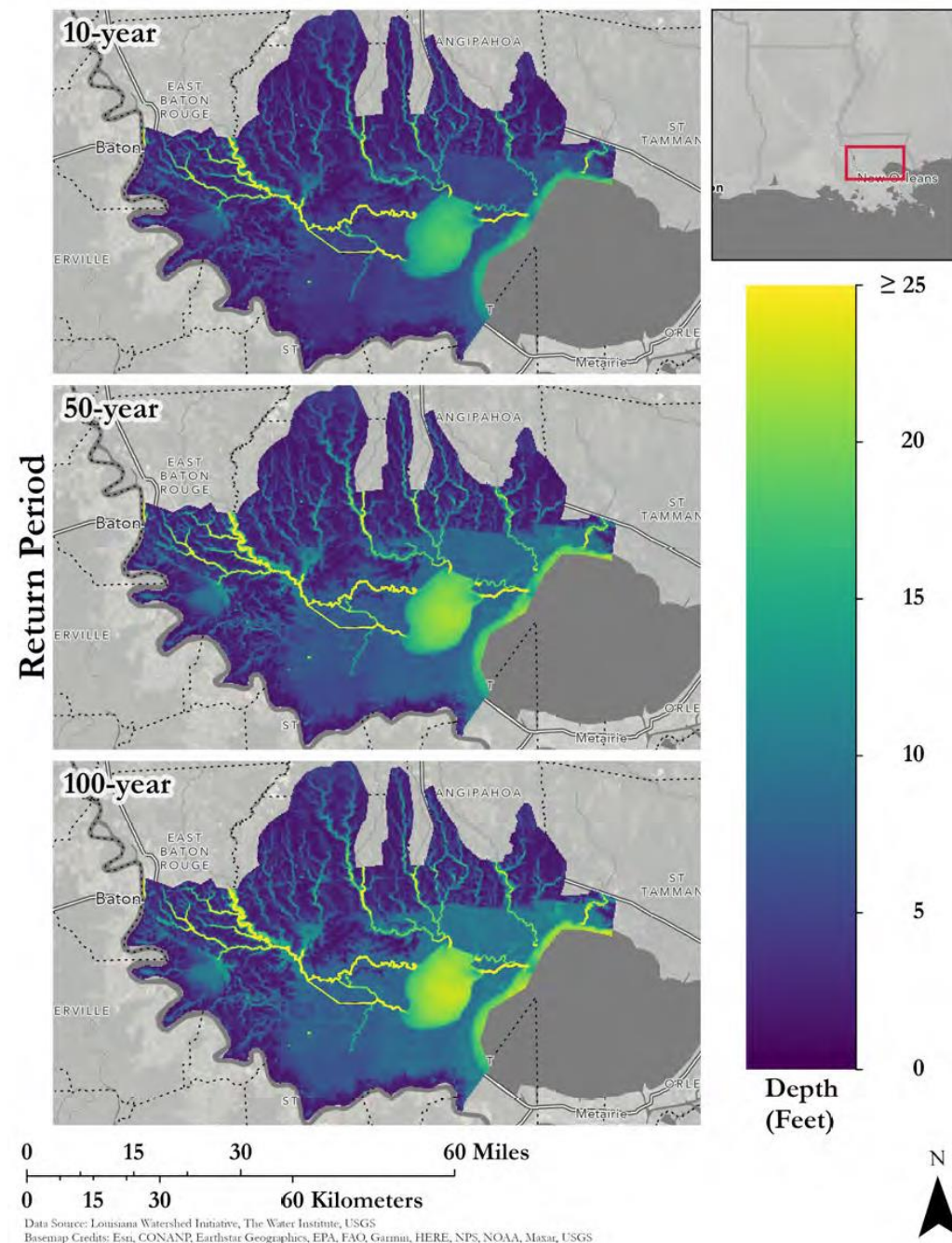
Realization 3



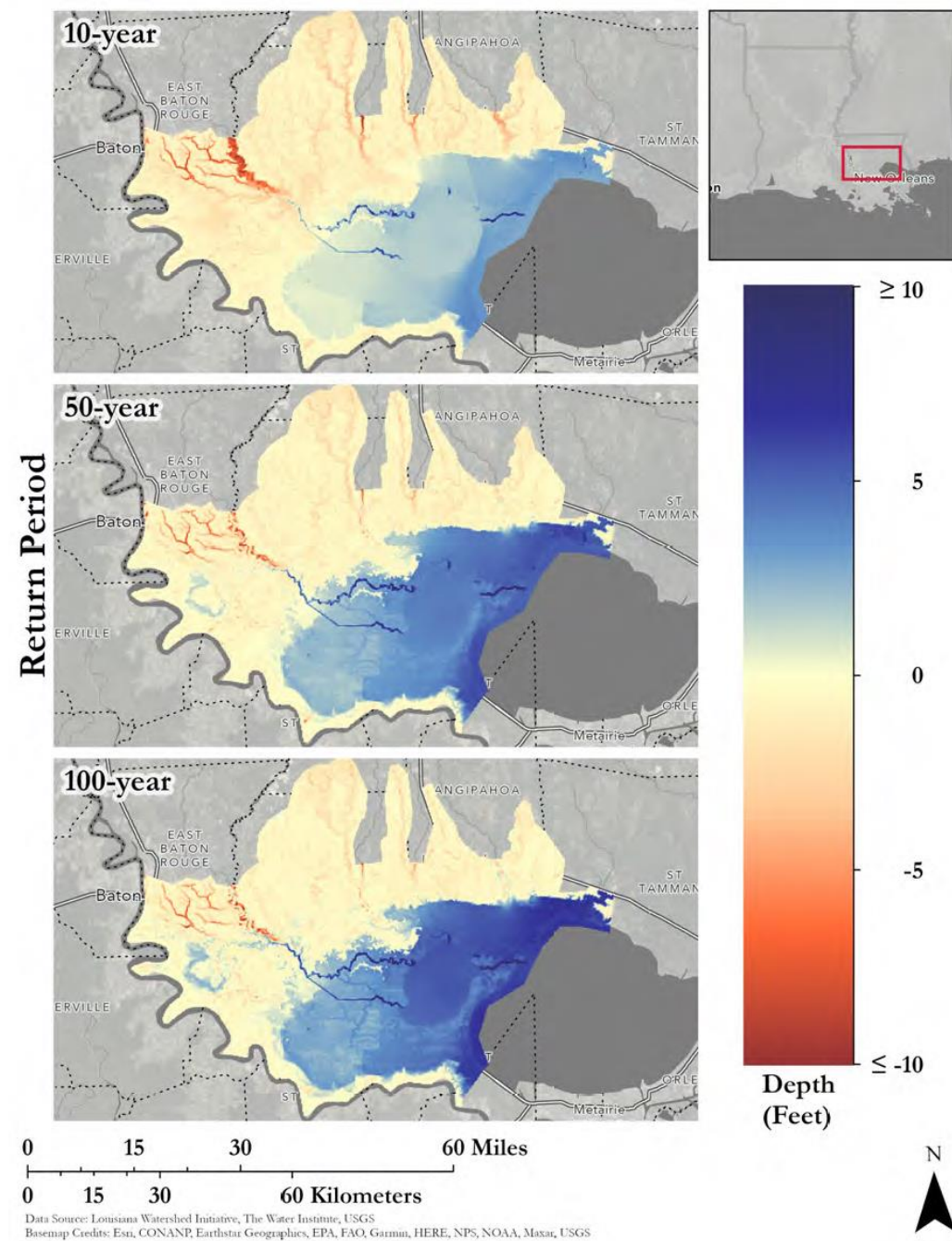
<sup>1)</sup> Villarini, G., Zhang, W., Miller, P., Johnson, D. R., Grimley, L. E., & Roberts, H. J. (2022). Probabilistic rainfall generator for tropical cyclones affecting Louisiana. International journal of climatology, 42(3), 1789-1802.



# COMPOUND FLOOD DEPTH RASTERS



# TROPICAL- NON TROPICAL DEPTHS



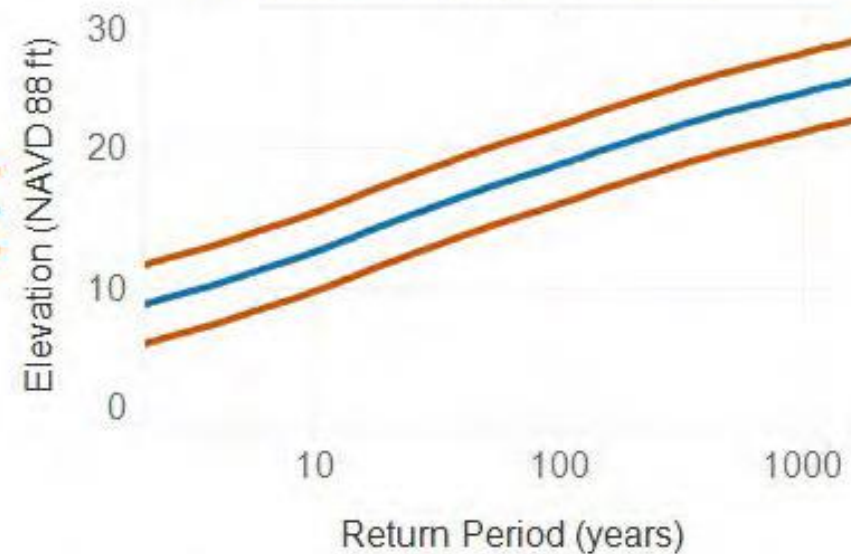


# JOINT EXCEEDANCE CURVES

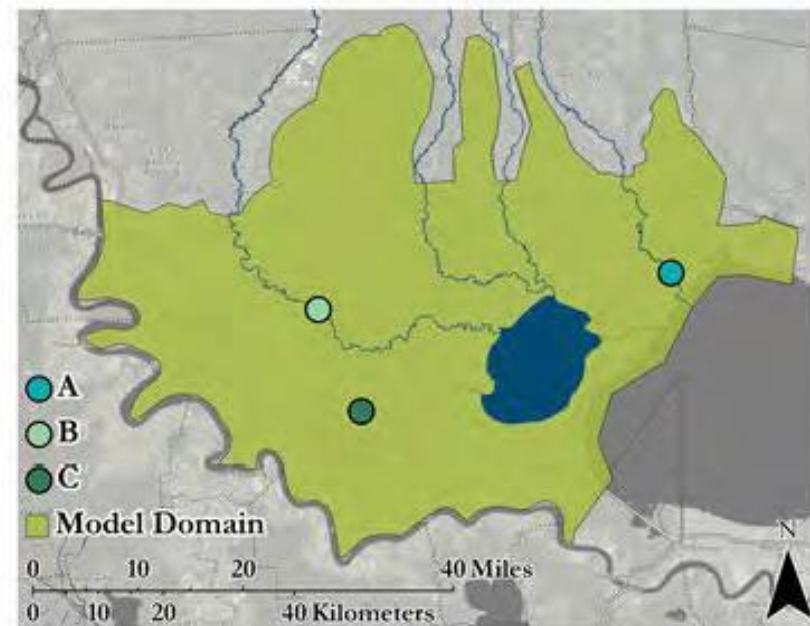
Joint Exceedance Curve: A



Joint Exceedance Curve: B



Joint Exceedance Curve: C



# FLOODED STRUCTURES ESTIMATES

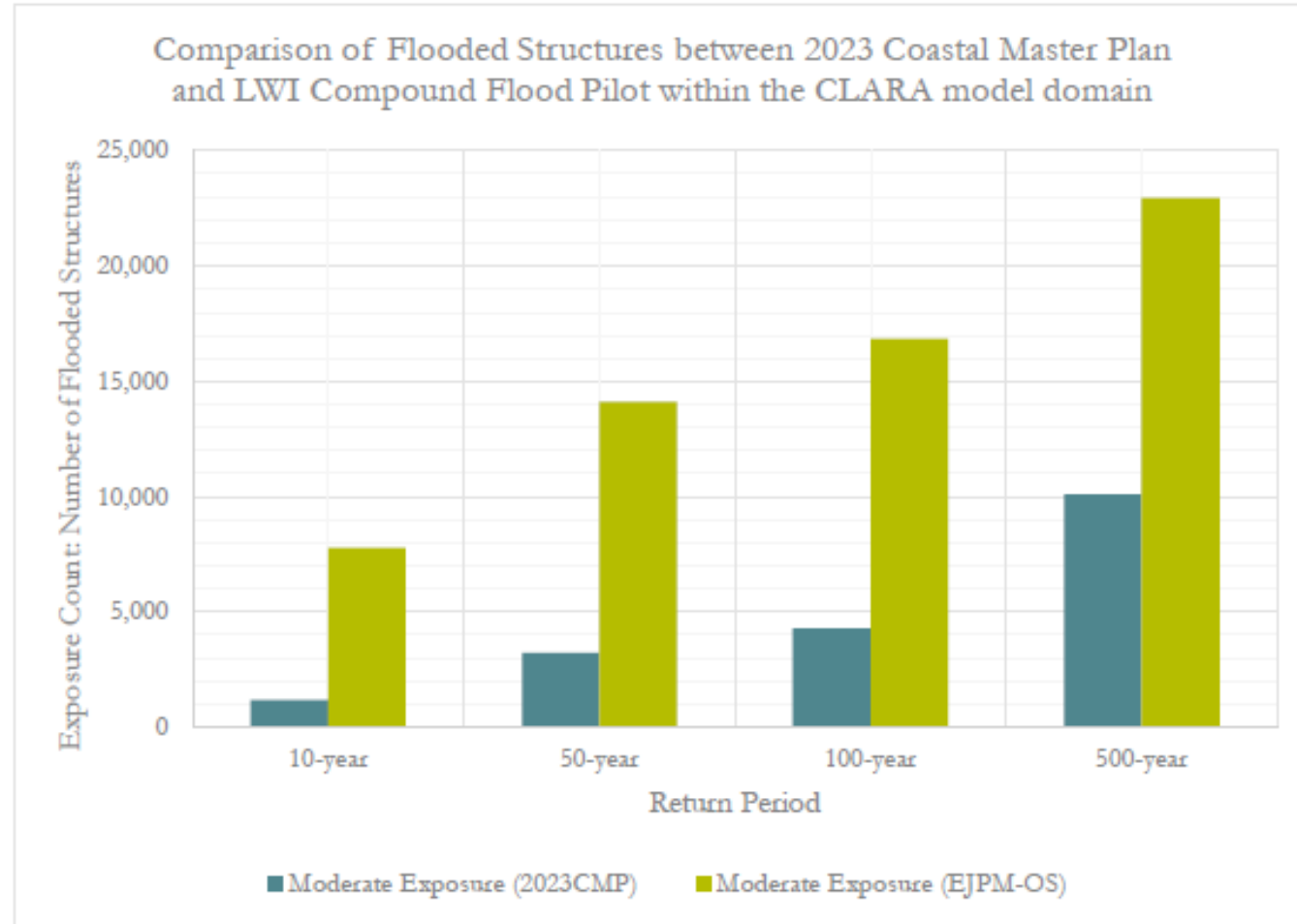
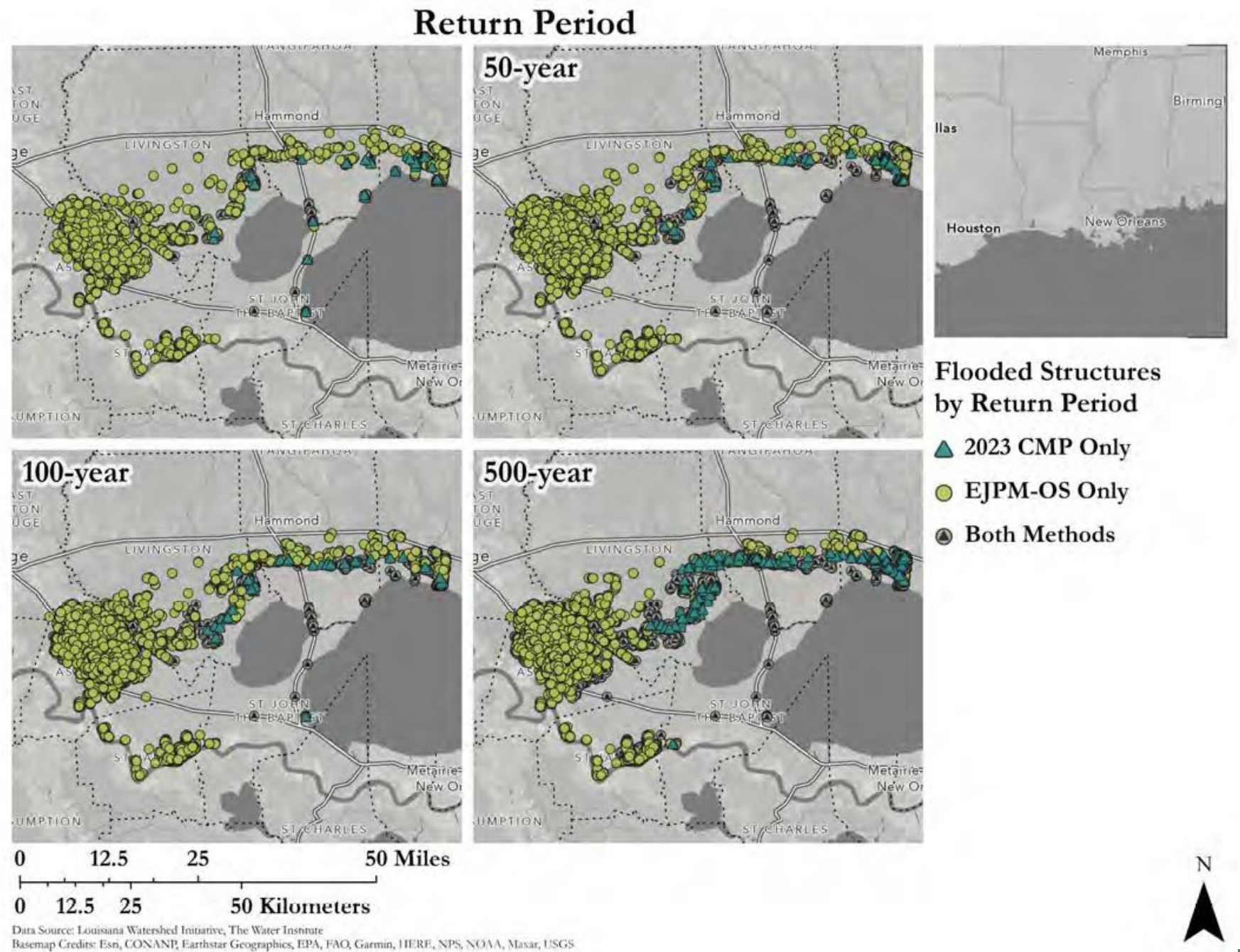


Figure 62. Moderate exposure by return period of number of flooded structures within the CLARA model domain.



# FLOODED STRUCTURES ESTIMATES



# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- An efficient probabilistic and modeling framework has been developed to quantify flood risk due to compounding impacts of surge and precipitation.
- Applicable in regions exposed to flood hazards driven by TCs and non-TCs **such as the Gulf of Mexico**.
- Joint Probability Method, developed by USCE-ERDC and FEMA, extended to incorporate precipitation and hydrology. Facilitates efficient quantification of compound flood risk due to TCs.
- HEC-RAS with winds and coupled ADCIRC+SWAN can efficiently simulate compounding flooding.
- Feedback provided by the Technical Advisory Group leveraged to develop the LA coastwide compound flood risk assessment framework that is currently ongoing.
- Enhancements to approach for TCs and non-TCs being implemented in the LA coastwide model.
- Institute leading collaborative efforts to quantify current and future compound flood risk in Jacksonville.





THANK YOU!  
QUESTIONS?



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