

Figure 19.14 Warm Waters Contribute to the Formation of Hurricane Irma

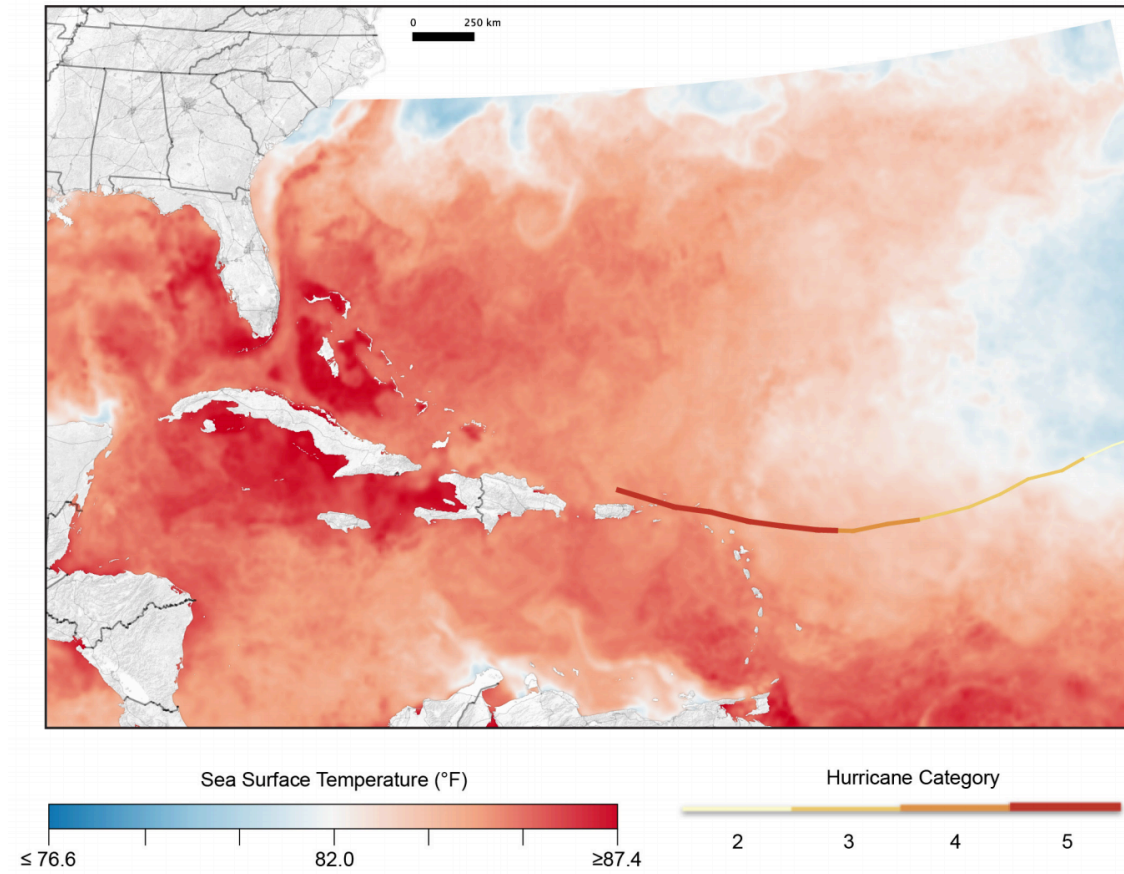


Figure 19.14: Two factors supported Hurricane Irma's strength as it reached the Southeast region: the very warm waters it passed over, depicted in this figure, and the light winds Irma encountered in the upper atmosphere.¹⁰¹ High-intensity hurricanes such as Irma are expected to become more common in the future due to climate change.¹⁰³ Source: NASA 2017.¹⁰²