



# Oyster Aquaculture Gear Management & Storm Preparation

WILLIAM C. WALTON

AUBURN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF FISHERIES,  
AQUACULTURE & AQUATIC SCIENCES

ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

DAUPHIN ISLAND SEA LAB

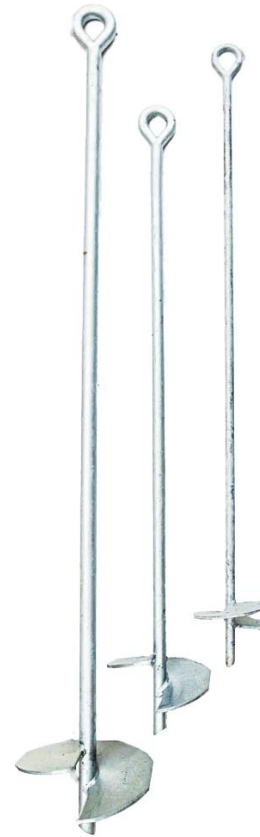
# Types of Gear

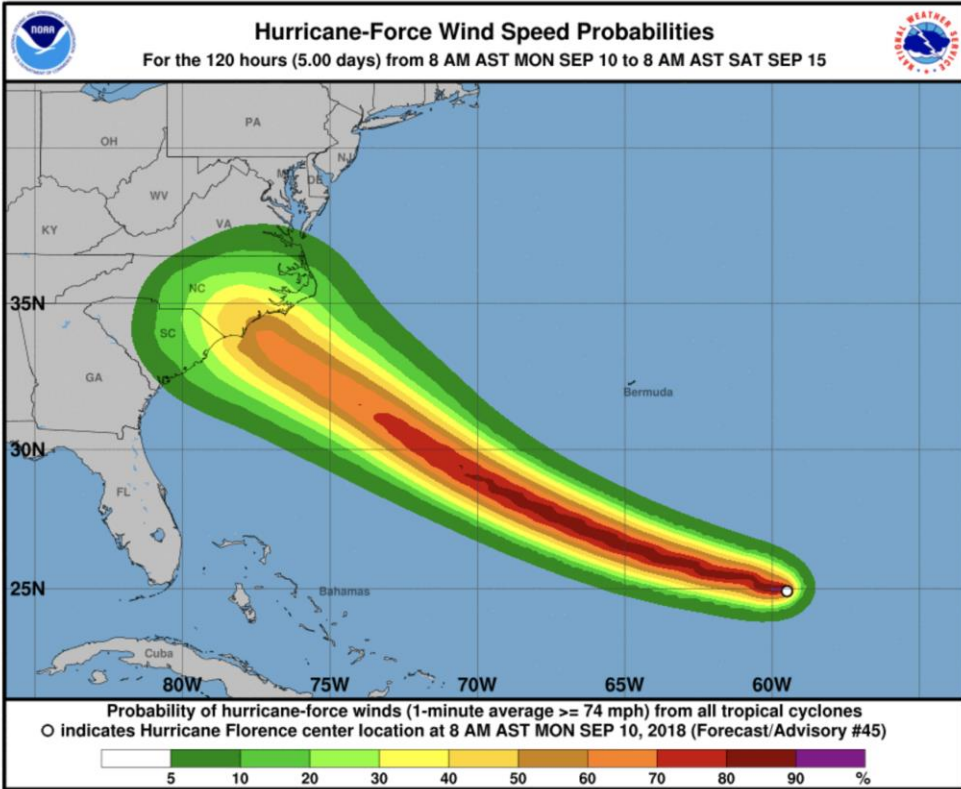
- ▶ Suspended
- ▶ Floating
- ▶ Bottom cages



# Gear Management Best Practices

- ▶ Appropriate anchoring/mooring
- ▶ Reducing and managing chafing
- ▶ Tagged gear
- ▶ No overloading the gear
- ▶ Periodic beach/shoreline clean ups
- ▶ Proper disposal of gear at end of useful life





# Storm Preparation

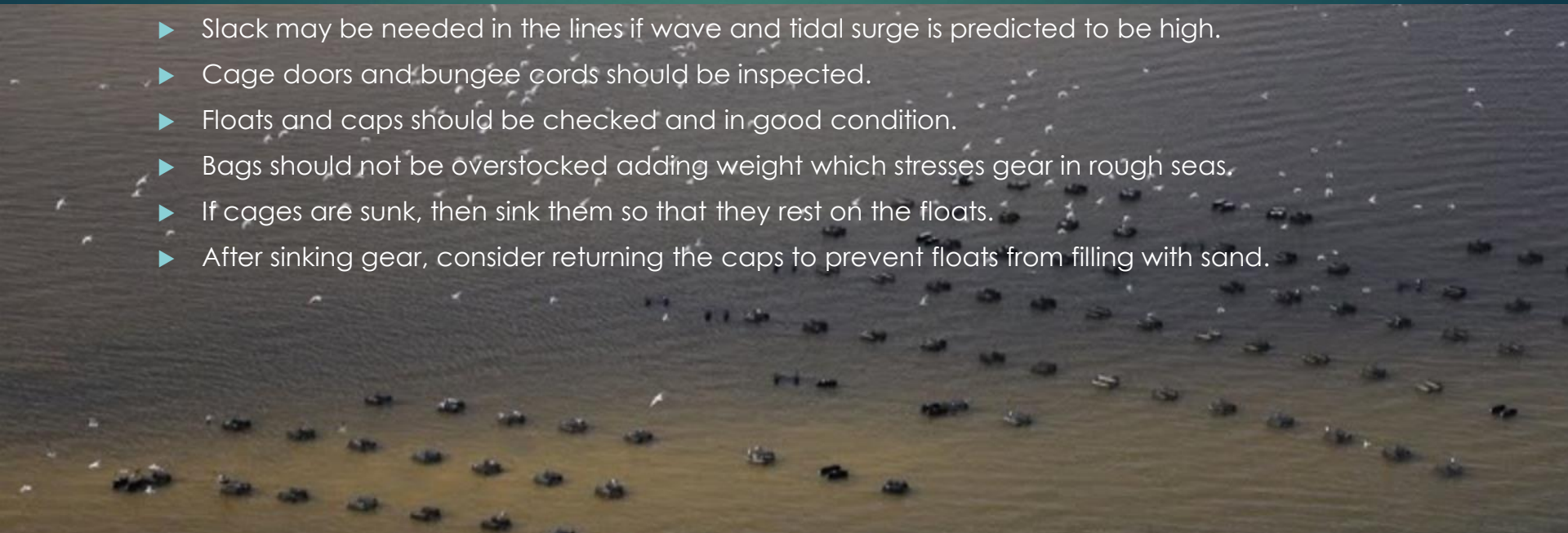
# Storm Plan

- ▶ Have a (written) plan
  - ▶ Comprehensive – not covered here
  - ▶ Consider a plan with tiers
- ▶ Practice the plan keeping in mind that weather could be rough
- ▶ Evaluate the risk
  - ▶ Wind speed, wind direction, storm surge
- ▶ Prepare land-based operations as well as water-based operations
- ▶ Time yourself! Know what you can realistically do



# Floating Gear

- ▶ Lines should be inspected for wear on cages and anchors.
- ▶ Knots should be checked to be sure that they are secure.
- ▶ Slack may be needed in the lines if wave and tidal surge is predicted to be high.
- ▶ Cage doors and bungee cords should be inspected.
- ▶ Floats and caps should be checked and in good condition.
- ▶ Bags should not be overstocked adding weight which stresses gear in rough seas.
- ▶ If cages are sunk, then sink them so that they rest on the floats.
- ▶ After sinking gear, consider returning the caps to prevent floats from filling with sand.



# Suspended Gear

- ▶ Lines should be checked at the pilings for wear and make sure they are secure.
- ▶ Basket doors should be checked to be certain they are firmly closed.
- ▶ Be sure that the baskets are correctly clipped to the line.
- ▶ Baskets should not be over stocked thus adding additional weight to the line.
- ▶ Check posts and line clips.
- ▶ Lines should be lowered to the lowest position on the posts.



# Tips

- ▶ Have a plan for recovery of gear after the storm
- ▶ Be ready to do clean up
- ▶ May have other priorities immediately after the storm







# Questions