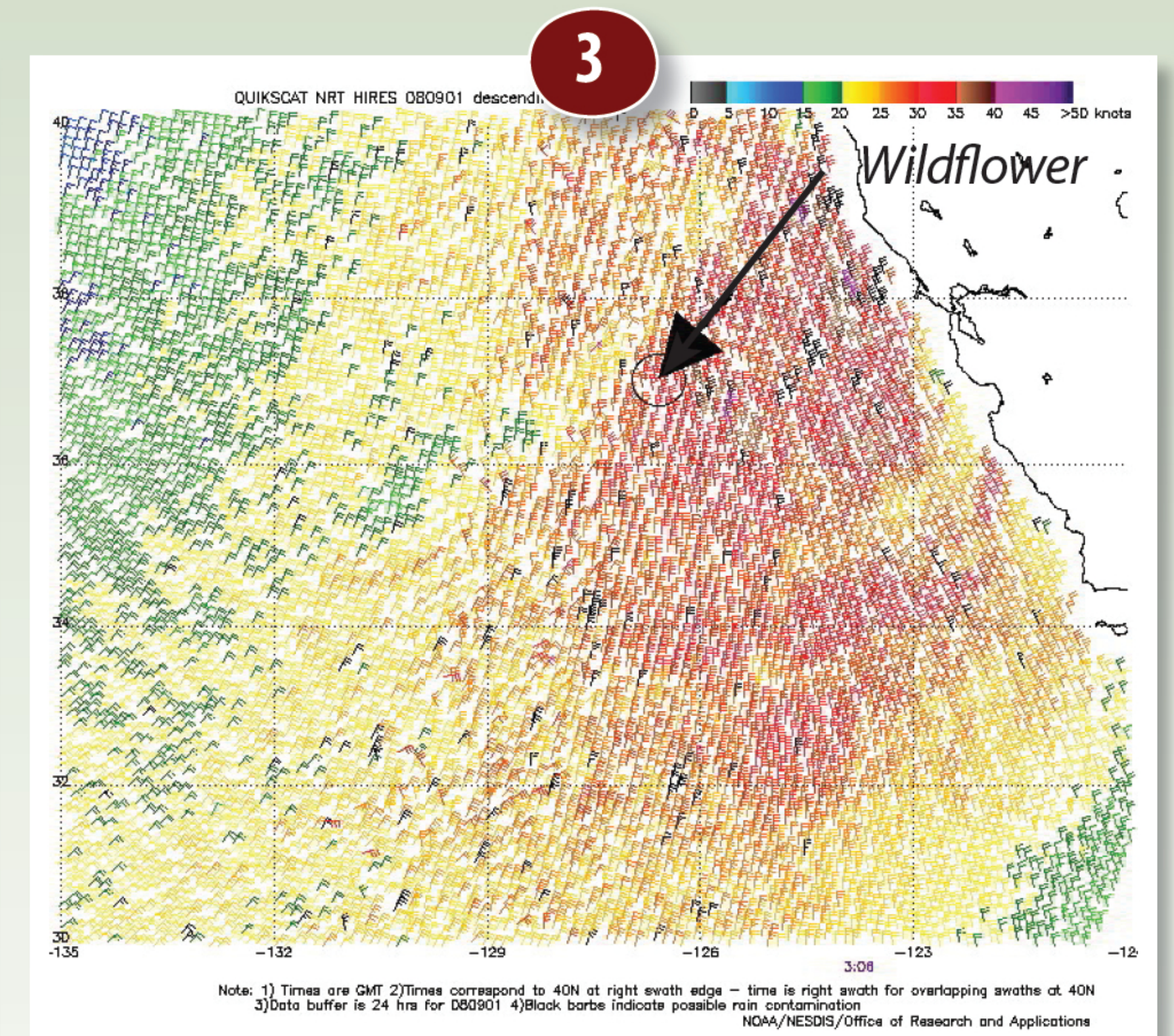
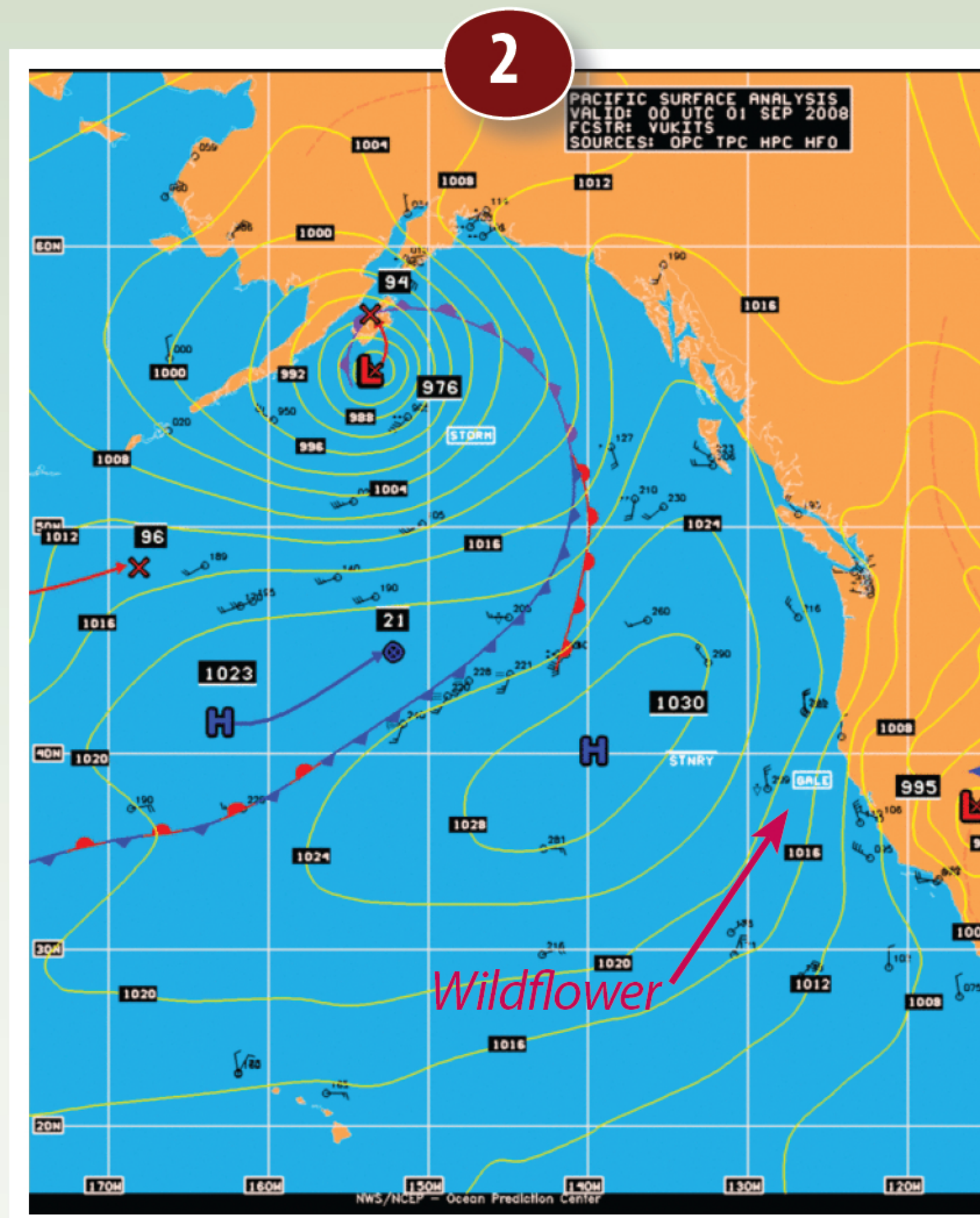
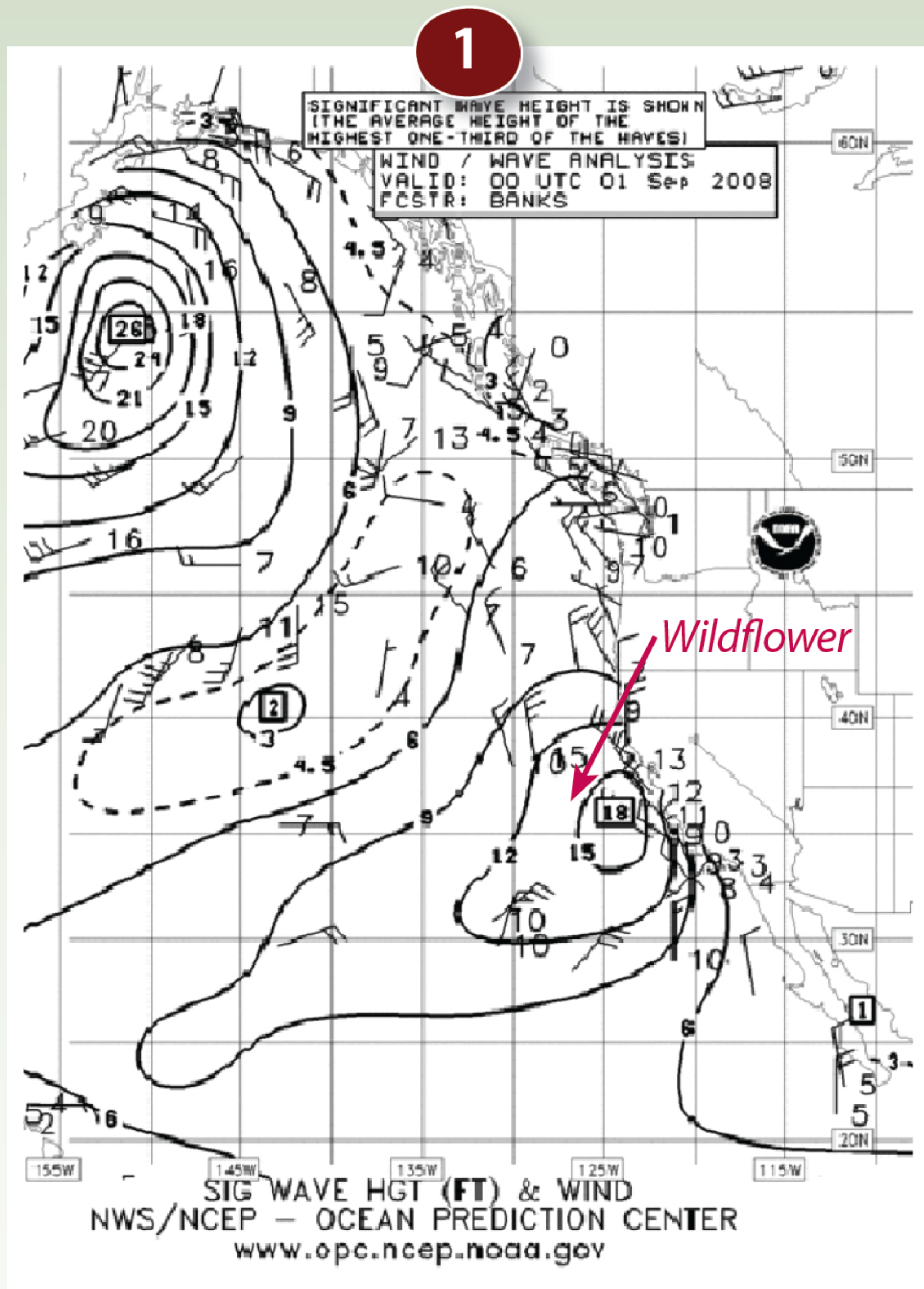


WEATHER DATA



4

**STATION 46059 – SEARCH AND RESCUE DATA
CALIFORNIA – 357 NM WEST OF SAN FRANCISCO
37° 59' N, 129° 59' 49" W**

DATE	TIME UTC	WIND DIRECTION	AVERAGE WIND SPEED	AVERAGE SEAS
9-01	1200Z	360°	19 kts.	8 ft.
9-01	0000Z	343°	21 kts.	10 ft.
8-31	1200Z	347°	21 kts.	10 ft.
8-31	0000Z	347°	22 kts.	11 ft.
8-30	1200Z	345°	22 kts.	9 ft.
8-30	0000Z	340°	20 kts.	9 ft.
8-29	1200Z	342°	21 kts.	10 ft.
8-29	0000Z	350°	24 kts.	11 ft.

Snapshots of 'Gale Alley'

In making his decision to transfer from *Wildflower* to the *MSC Toronto*, Skip Allan used weather reports and observations, including those relayed to him from a close friend and experienced sailor in California, who was monitoring the weather via a variety of sources. The accompanying images and data from NOAA websites are just a sampling of the information available regarding the gale that caught *Wildflower*. Reference times are Universal Time Code (UTC), eight hours ahead of Pacific Daylight time.

1. Wind and Wave Analysis for 0000 UTC Sept. 1 shows an average significant wave height of 12 to 15 feet and 25- to 30- knot north winds (represented by barbed arrows) near *Wildflower's* position. Wave heights are the average of the highest one third. Actual heights can be significantly higher.
2. The 0000 UTC Sept. 1 Surface Analysis shows the steep pressure gradient (indicated by closely spaced isobars) between the Pacific High and a low to the southeast that generate gale-force winds in Gale Alley.
3. QuikSCAT imagery collected by satellite shows 30-knot surface winds at 0000 UTC Sept. 1.
4. Data from a NOAA sea buoy that *Wildflower* passed well east of (110 miles away on Aug. 29 to 270 miles away on Sept. 1) reflects wind and sea conditions for three days prior to Sept. 1, when Skip transferred from *Wildflower* to *MSC Toronto*.
5. The Sea State Analysis for 0000 UTC Aug. 31 shows the confused wave train (directions indicated by red arrows) that made steering difficult and greatly increased the risk of a broach.

