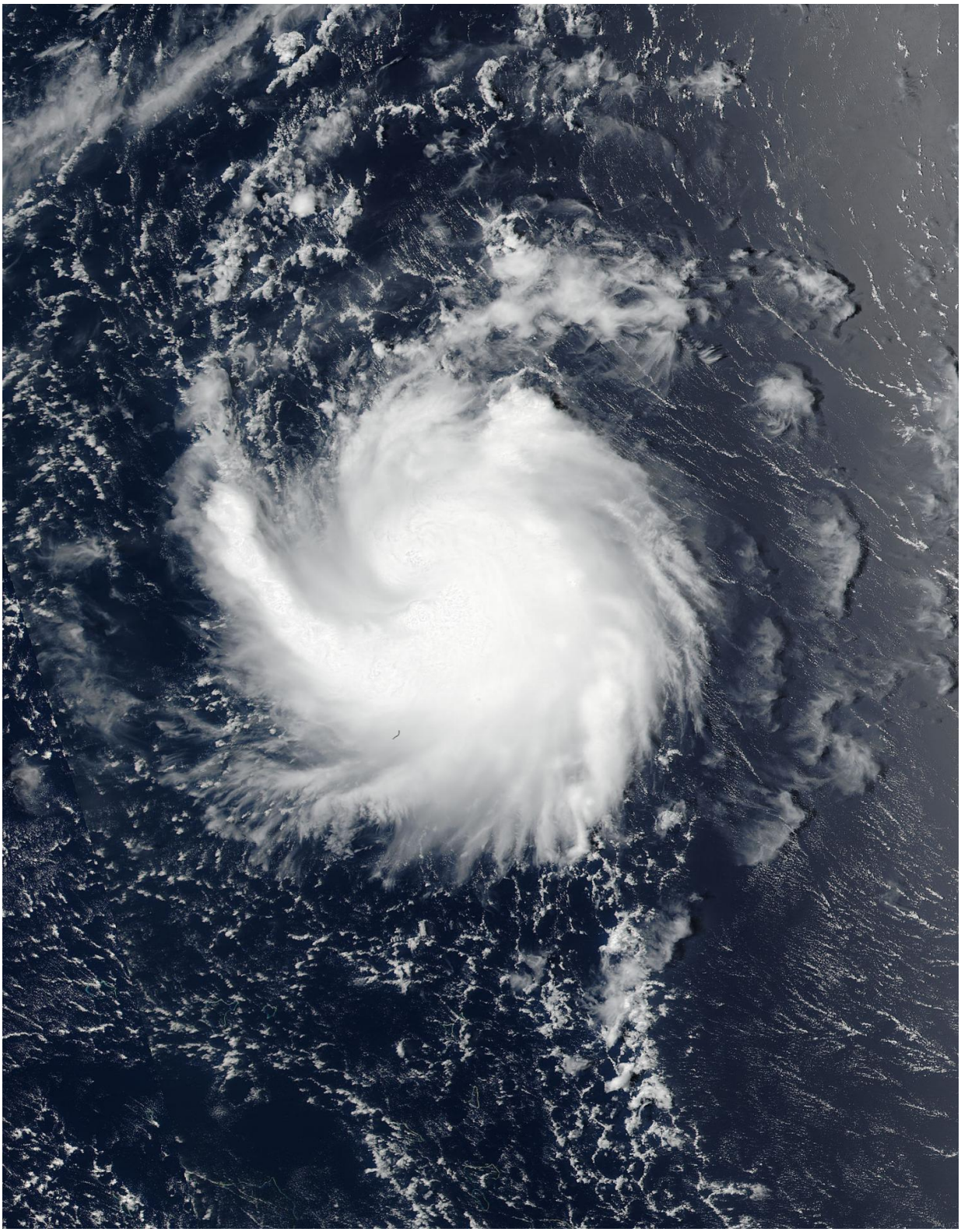
NASA sees formation of comma-shaped Tropical Storm 14W

August 11 2017



NASA-NOAA's Suomi NPP satellite passed over Tropical Storm 14W on Aug.

11 at 0118 UTC (Aug. 10 at 9:18 p.m. EDT) shortly after it formed. The storm appeared comma-shaped. Credit: NOAA/NASA Goddard Rapid Response Team

The fourteenth tropical cyclone of the Northwestern Pacific Ocean hurricane season formed about 200 miles away from Wake Island and a NASA-NOAA satellite saw it take on a comma-shape.

NASA-NOAA's Suomi NPP satellite passed over Tropical Storm 14W on August 11 at 0118 UTC (Aug. 10 at 9:18 p.m. EDT) shortly after it formed. The Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) instrument aboard took a visible light picture of the storm that showed thunderstorms around the low-level center and a thick band wrapping from the east to south to west, forming a comma-shape.

At 5 a.m. EDT (0900 UTC) on August 11, Tropical Storm 14W (14W) had maximum sustained winds near 35 knots (40 mph/62 kph). It was located at 17.5 degrees north latitude and 168.5 degrees east longitude. That's about 194 nautical miles southeast of Wake Island.

Wake Island is a coral atoll, located in the northeastern area of the Micronesia sub-region. It's located about 1,501 miles east of Guam.

14W was moving to the west-northwest and after moving over Wake Island is forecast to turn north. The storm is expected to intensify to 45 knots (51.7 mph/83.3 kph), before becoming extratropical.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

https://phys.org/news/2017-08-nasa-formation-comma-shaped-tropical-storm.html