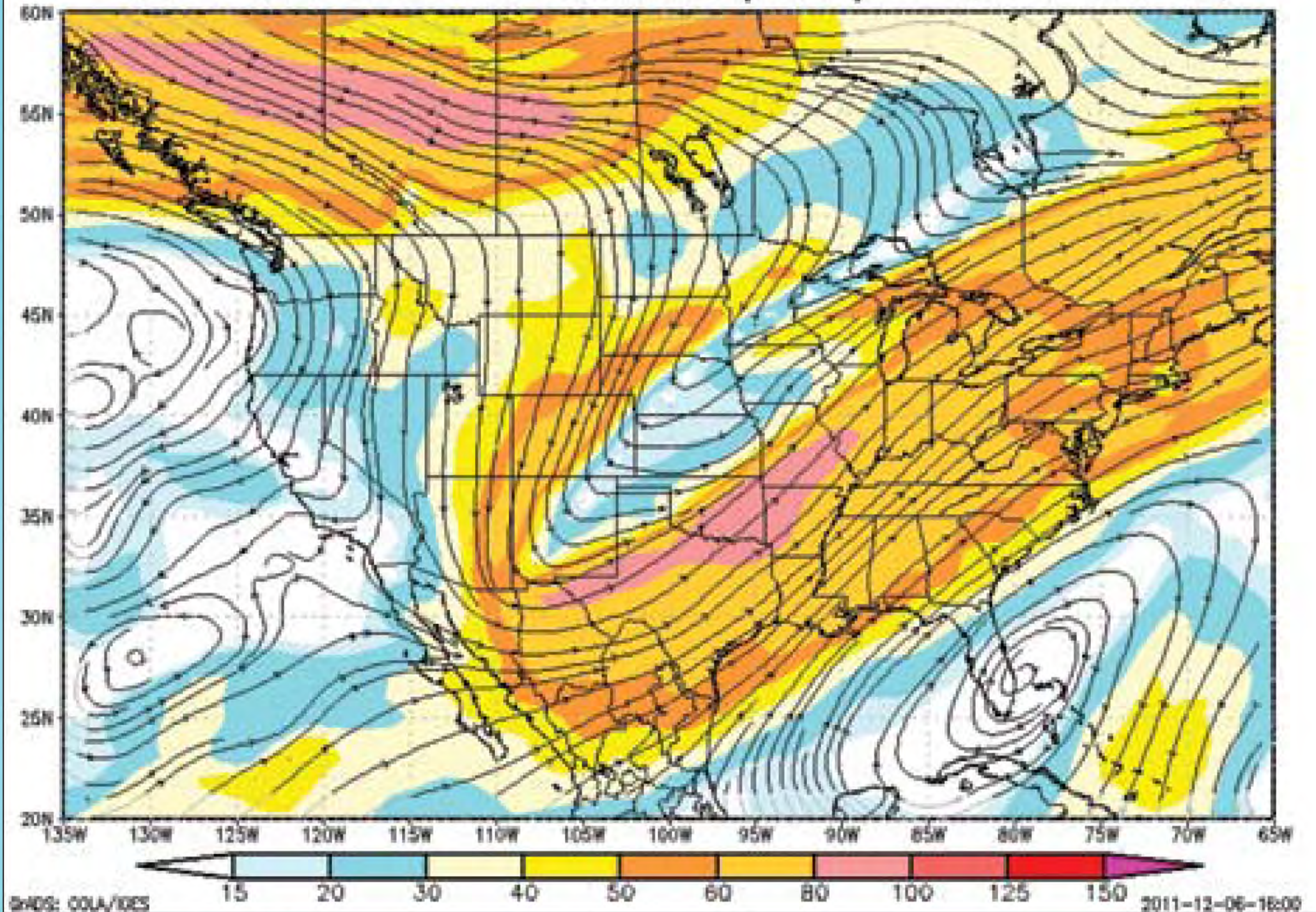


## 000 Hr GFS 500mb Winds Aloft (knots) – Tue 6 Dec 12Z



Regardless of whether you're planning a local hop or a continent-spanning flight, one great tool is the winds aloft chart, an example of which is reproduced above.

When considering this chart, the color-coding is as important as the isobar (the black lines) spacing. When grouped tightly together—like over western Canada, the U.S./Mexico border and New England, for example—you can count on stiffer winds and possible turbulence.

Use this chart for various purposes, including picking an altitude: This is the 500mb winds aloft chart, corresponding to FL180. Other charts depict forecast winds at different levels. Pick the one that's best for you and go fly.