National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Atlantic and Eastern Pacific Hurricane Season Forecasts

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has issued its forecast for the 2019 Atlantic and Pacific Hurricane Seasons. Forecasters within the U.S. governmental agency are forecasting **9-15 named storms, 4-8 hurricanes and 2-4 major (Category 3+) hurricanes** between the months of June and November for the Atlantic Basin. The agency expects **15-22 named storms, 8-13 hurricanes and 4-8 major (Category 3+) hurricanes** between mid-May and November for the Eastern Pacific Basin.

ATLANTIC BASIN FORECAST REASONING

NOAA's report indicates that there are three main factors for the Atlantic hurricane season forecast, which suggests near-normal activity:

- The likely continuation of El Niño during the peak development months (August, September, October)
- A possible competing influence on El Niño in the form of above-average sea surface temperatures in the main development region (MDR) of the Atlantic Ocean
- A second possible competing influence on El Niño that weaker trade winds in the eastern MDR and an enhanced West African monsoon may favor more cyclogenesis

NOAA provides the following probabilities for the 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season: 30 percent of an above-normal season, a 40 percent chance of a near-normal season, and a 30 percent chance of a below-normal season.

As always, it is critical to be aware of the inherent risks with any developing tropical cyclone and its potential threat to land. It only takes one storm to completely alter the perception of a season.

EASTERN PACIFIC BASIN FORECAST REASONING

NOAA indicates that the 2019 season will again be above average for the Eastern Pacific Basin, and lists two main factors during the peak development months between July and September:

- The likely continuation of El Niño during the peak months of the season. While having a suppressing effect on cyclogenesis in the Atlantic Ocean, the opposite is true in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, where warmer waters and decreased wind shear allows more storms to form.
- The expectation of further above-normal sea surface temperatures across much of the hurricane formation region. Sea surface temperatures in the subtropical eastern Pacific Ocean have been generally above average since 2014.

NOAA provides the following probabilities for the 2019 Eastern Pacific Hurricane Season: 70 percent of an above-normal season, 20 percent chance of a near-normal season, and a 10 percent chance of a below-normal season.

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The tables below show the NOAA forecasts. The full reports are available at the Climate Prediction Center's website, and the next Atlantic forecast update is expected in early August.

The Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) Index is a measure used by NOAA to express the activity of individual tropical cyclones and entire tropical cyclone seasons. The index uses an approximation of the energy used by a tropical system over its lifetime and is calculated every six-hour period. A season's ACE is the sum of each storm's accumulated energy and takes into account the number, strength and duration of all tropical storms in a season.

Atlantic: http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/outlooks/hurricane.shtml
Eastern Pacific: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Epac_hurr/Epac_hurricane.html

NOAA Atlantic Basin Hurricane Season Forecast (June 1 – November 30)

Forecast Parameter	Average Year (1981-2010)	2019 (May 2019)
Named Storms	12	9-15
Hurricanes	6	4-8
Major Hurricanes	3	2-4
ACE Range (Median)	71.4-120%	65-140%
Chance for an Above-Normal Hurricane Season	33%	30%
Chance for a Near-Normal Hurricane Season	33%	40%
Chance for a Below-Normal Hurricane Season	33%	30%

Source: NOAA

NOAA Eastern Pacific Basin Hurricane Season Forecast (May 15 – November 30)

Forecast Parameter	Average Year (1981-2010)	2019 (May 2019)
Named Storms	15	15-22
Hurricanes	8	8-13
Major Hurricanes	4	4-8
ACE Range (Median)	80-115%	100-180%
Chance for an Above-Normal Hurricane Season	33%	70%
Chance for a Near-Normal Hurricane Season	33%	20%
Chance for a Below-Normal Hurricane Season	33%	10%

Source: NOAA

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