Colorado State University (CSU)
Atlantic Hurricane Season Forecast

Colorado State University (CSU) has issued its June forecast for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season. The forecast calls for ***19 named storms, 9 hurricanes, and 4 major hurricanes (Category 3+)*** between the months of June and November; an increase of three named storms and one hurricane compared to the April forecast. This includes the three storms which have already developed this season (Arthur, Bertha, and Cristobal).

With the release of their forecast, CSU is predicting above-normal tropical cyclone activity in the Atlantic Basin during the upcoming 2020 season. The report cites several factors as to how and why this activity was forecast. The biggest reason surrounds the expectation of neutral ENSO or weak La Niña conditions by later this summer into the fall. Sea surface temperatures in the eastern and central Pacific Ocean have anomalously cooled in the past two months, which only reinforces the expectation of this occurring. The most recent statistical and dynamical ENSO model output does show spread in possible scenarios during the peak months from August to October, though most do indicate varying levels of anomalous cooling during this time. NOAA currently highlights a 38 percent likelihood of a La Niña event during the August-October timeframe and a 52 percent chance of ENSO-neutral and a 10 percent chance of El Niño. Atmospheric and oceanic conditions in the Atlantic Ocean typically become more favorable for cyclogenesis during La Niña phases.

A second factor revolves around current sea surface temperatures across the North Atlantic Ocean. The Tropical Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, and waters along the U.S. East Coast are much warmer than normal at present, though water temperatures are much cooler than normal in the far North Atlantic. CSO notes that while such cool conditions in the far North Atlantic are characteristic of a negative phase of the Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation (AMO), given the highly anomalous warmth elsewhere in the Atlantic does not equally suggest it.

CSU further highlights that forecast skill in June is modestly improved from its initial April prognostication when evaluated in hindcast mode. Forecast skill improves as the peak of hurricane season approaches.

As always, a reminder that it only takes one significant landfalling storm to make a hurricane season notable from a humanitarian and financial perspective.

The tables on the next page show the CSU forecast, including probabilities of landfall on the United States mainland. The full report is available at CSU's Tropical Meteorology webpage (http://tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/). The next forecast update is expected on August 6.

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

Forecast Parameter	Average Year (1981-2010)	2020 (April 2020)	2020 (June 2020)
Named Storms	12.1	16	19
Named Storm Days	59.4	80	85
Hurricanes	6.4	8	9
Hurricane Days	24.2	35	40
Major Hurricanes	2.7	4	4
Major Hurricane Days	6.2	9	9
Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE)	106	150	160
Net Tropical Cyclone Activity	116%	160%	170%

Source: Colorado State University

CSU Major Hurricane Landfall Probabilities (June 1 – November 30)

Forecast Parameter	Average Year	2020 (April 2020)	2020 (June 2020)
Entire U.S. Coastline	52%	69%	70%
U.S. East Coast (including FL Peninsula)	31%	45%	46%
U.S. Gulf Coast (FL Panhandle to Brownsville, TX)	30%	44%	45%

***Expected 59% risk of major hurricane tracking into the Caribbean (average is 42%)

Source: Colorado State University

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