



August Forecast Update for Atlantic Hurricane Activity in 2002

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Forecast Summary

TSR predicts a below average activity Atlantic hurricane season

The TSR (Tropical Storm Risk) early August forecast update for Atlantic hurricane activity in 2002 anticipates levels about 1 standard deviation below the 1992-2001 average. These levels would approach those last seen in 1997. The forecast relates to the Atlantic season from 1st June 2002 to 30th November 2002 and is based on data available through the end of July. A slight upward revision of forecast activity has occurred this month breaking a sequence of five consecutive months of downward revision. This is due to our projected values for August-September Niño 3, 3.4 and 4 sea surface temperatures (SSTs) cooling slightly. We continue to anticipate that Atlantic/Caribbean trade winds during the hurricane season will be stronger than normal and tropical north Atlantic SSTs will be cooler than average. Both these factors suppress hurricane activity. Appendices show our predictions from previous months. This is TSR's final monthly forecast update for the 2002 Atlantic hurricane season.

Atlantic Total Numbers in 2002

		Intense Hurricanes	Hurricanes	Tropical Storms
TSR Forecast (\pm FE)	2002	1.3 (\pm 1.4)	3.9 (\pm 1.3)	8.1 (\pm 2.2)
10yr Climate Norm (\pm SD)	1992-2001	2.9 (\pm 2.0)	6.9 (\pm 2.9)	11.5 (\pm 4.1)
30yr Climate Norm (\pm SD)	1972-2001	2.1 (\pm 1.5)	5.7 (\pm 2.4)	9.5 (\pm 3.6)
Forecast Skill at this Lead	1987-2001	31%	43%	45%

Key: Intense Hurricane = 1 Minute Sustained Wind > 95Kts = Hurricane Category 3 to 5
Hurricane = 1 Minute Sustained Wind > 63Kts = Hurricane Category 1 to 5
Tropical Storm = 1 Minute Sustained Wind > 33Kts
SD = Standard Deviation
FE (Forecast Error) = Standard Deviation of Errors in Simulated Real Time Forecasts 1992-2001
Forecast Skill = Percentage Improvement over Running 10-year Prior Climate Norm from Simulated Real Time Forecasts 1987-2001

Total Numbers Forming in the MDR, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico in 2002

		Intense Hurricanes	Hurricanes	Tropical Storms
TSR Forecast (\pm FE)	2002	1.3 (\pm 1.3)	2.1 (\pm 1.6)	4.9 (\pm 2.3)
10yr Climate Norm (\pm SD)	1992-2001	2.9 (\pm 2.0)	5.1 (\pm 3.0)	8.3 (\pm 4.3)
30yr Climate Norm (\pm SD)	1972-2001	1.8 (\pm 1.6)	3.8 (\pm 2.5)	6.4 (\pm 3.7)
Forecast Skill at this Lead	1987-2001	32%	39%	39%

The Atlantic hurricane Main Development Region (MDR) is the region 10°N - 20°N, 20°W - 60°W between the Cape Verde Islands and the Caribbean. A storm is defined as having formed within this region if it reached at least tropical depression status while in the area.

USA Landfalling Numbers in 2002

		Hurricanes	Tropical Storms
TSR Forecast (\pm FE)	2002	0.9 (\pm 0.9)	2.0 (\pm 1.3)
10yr Climate Norm (\pm SD)	1992-2001	1.2 (\pm 1.2)	3.3 (\pm 1.8)
30yr Climate Norm (\pm SD)	1972-2001	1.2 (\pm 1.3)	2.6 (\pm 1.8)
Forecast Skill at this Lead	1987-2001	14%	27%

Key: Landfall Strike Category = Maximum 1 Minute Sustained Wind of Storm Coming Within 30km of Land
 USA Mainland = Brownsville (Texas) to Maine

USA landfalling intense hurricanes are not forecast since we have no skill at any lead.

Caribbean Lesser Antilles Landfalling Numbers in 2002

		Intense Hurricanes	Hurricanes	Tropical Storms
TSR Forecast (\pm FE)	2002	0.2 (\pm 0.3)	0.4 (\pm 0.6)	0.9 (\pm 0.7)
10yr Climate Norm (\pm SD)	1992-2001	0.3 (\pm 0.5)	0.7 (\pm 0.8)	1.5 (\pm 0.9)
30yr Climate Norm (\pm SD)	1972-2001	0.2 (\pm 0.4)	0.4 (\pm 0.6)	1.1 (\pm 1.0)
Forecast Skill at this Lead	1987-2001	18%	25%	26%

Key: Landfall Strike Category = Maximum 1 Minute Sustained Wind of Storm Coming Within 30km of Land
 Lesser Antilles = Island Arc from Anguilla to Trinidad Inclusive

Key Predictors for 2002

The key factors behind our forecast for a significantly below average hurricane season in 2002 are the anticipated stronger than normal July-September forecast 925mb U(east/west)-winds over the Caribbean Sea and tropical north Atlantic region (7.5°N-17.5°N, 30°W-100°W), and the cooler than average August-September forecast SST anomalies for the Atlantic MDR. Against a 1972-2001 climatology, the current forecast anomalies for these two predictors are $-0.51 \pm 0.40 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ (up from $-0.86 \pm 0.50 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ last month) and $-0.22 \pm 0.11 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ (compared to $-0.21 \pm 0.14 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ last month).

Further Information

Further information on the TSR forecast methodology, the TSR simulated real-time forecast skill 1987-2001 as a function of lead time, and on TSR in general, may be obtained from the 'Extended Range Forecast for Atlantic Hurricane Activity in 2002' document issued on the 3rd December 2001. A summary of the 2002 Atlantic hurricane season and a verification of our seasonal forecasts will be issued in December 2002.



Appendix - Predictions from Previous Months

1. Atlantic Total Numbers

Atlantic Total Numbers 2002				
		Named Tropical Storms	Hurricanes	Intense Hurricanes
Average Number (\pm SD) (1992-2001)		11.5 (\pm 4.1)	6.9 (\pm 2.9)	2.9 (\pm 2.0)
Average Number (\pm SD) (1972-2001)		9.5 (\pm 3.6)	5.7 (\pm 2.4)	2.1 (\pm 1.5)
TSR Forecasts (\pm FE)	7 Aug 2002	8.1 (\pm 2.2)	3.9 (\pm 1.3)	1.3 (\pm 1.4)
	8 July 2002	6.8 (\pm 2.3)	3.1 (\pm 1.5)	0.9 (\pm 1.6)
	7 June 2002	7.5 (\pm 2.1)	3.6 (\pm 1.6)	1.1 (\pm 1.4)
	7 May 2002	8.9 (\pm 2.7)	4.6 (\pm 1.9)	1.6 (\pm 1.5)
	5 Apr 2002	11.2 (\pm 3.1)	6.3 (\pm 2.3)	2.4 (\pm 1.9)
	6 Mar 2002	12.5 (\pm 3.6)	7.2 (\pm 2.5)	2.8 (\pm 1.9)
	6 Feb 2002	13.6 (\pm 3.5)	8.0 (\pm 2.5)	3.2 (\pm 1.8)
	10 Jan 2002	13.1 (\pm 3.6)	7.7 (\pm 2.6)	3.0 (\pm 1.8)
Gray Forecasts	3 Dec 2001	13.0 (\pm 3.6)	7.5 (\pm 2.5)	3.0 (\pm 1.6)
	31 May 2002	11	6	2
	5 Apr 2002	12	7	3
	7 Dec 2001	13	8	4

2. MDR, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico Total Numbers

MDR, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico Total Numbers 2002				
		Named Tropical Storms	Hurricanes	Intense Hurricanes
Average Number (\pm SD) (1992-2001)		8.3 (\pm 4.3)	5.1 (\pm 3.0)	2.9 (\pm 2.0)
Average Number (\pm SD) (1972-2001)		6.4 (\pm 3.7)	3.8 (\pm 2.5)	1.8 (\pm 1.6)
TSR Forecasts (\pm FE)	7 Aug 2002	4.9 (\pm 2.3)	2.1 (\pm 1.6)	1.3 (\pm 1.3)
	8 July 2002	3.6 (\pm 2.4)	1.3 (\pm 1.7)	0.9 (\pm 1.5)
	7 June 2002	4.3 (\pm 2.3)	1.8 (\pm 1.5)	1.1 (\pm 1.4)
	7 May 2002	5.7 (\pm 2.6)	2.8 (\pm 1.8)	1.6 (\pm 1.5)
	5 Apr 2002	8.0 (\pm 3.2)	4.5 (\pm 2.3)	2.4 (\pm 1.8)
	6 Mar 2002	9.3 (\pm 3.7)	5.4 (\pm 2.5)	2.8 (\pm 1.8)
	6 Feb 2002	10.4 (\pm 3.6)	6.2 (\pm 2.4)	3.2 (\pm 1.7)
	10 Jan 2002	9.9 (\pm 3.8)	5.9 (\pm 2.6)	3.0 (\pm 1.8)
	3 Dec 2001	9.8 (\pm 4.1)	5.8 (\pm 2.7)	3.0 (\pm 1.7)

3. US Landfalling Numbers

US Landfalling Numbers 2002			
		Named Tropical Storms	Hurricanes
Average Number (\pm SD) (1992-2001)		3.3 (\pm 1.8)	1.2 (\pm 1.2)
Average Number (\pm SD) (1972-2001)		2.6 (\pm 1.8)	1.2 (\pm 1.3)
TSR Forecasts (\pm FE)	7 Aug 2002	2.0 (\pm 1.3)	0.9 (\pm 0.9)
	8 July 2002	1.6 (\pm 1.2)	0.7 (\pm 0.9)
	7 June 2002	1.8 (\pm 1.3)	0.8 (\pm 0.9)
	7 May 2002	2.3 (\pm 1.4)	1.1 (\pm 1.0)
	5 Apr 2002	3.0 (\pm 1.6)	1.4 (\pm 1.1)
	6 Mar 2002	3.5 (\pm 1.7)	1.7 (\pm 1.1)
	6 Feb 2002	3.8 (\pm 1.7)	1.9 (\pm 1.1)
	10 Jan 2002	3.7 (\pm 1.8)	1.8 (\pm 1.1)
	3 Dec 2001	3.7 (\pm 1.3)	1.8 (\pm 1.1)

4. Lesser Antilles Landfalling Numbers

Lesser Antilles Landfalling Numbers 2002				
		Named Tropical Storms	Hurricanes	Intense Hurricanes
Average Number (\pm SD) (1992-2001)		1.5 (\pm 0.9)	0.7 (\pm 0.8)	0.3 (\pm 0.5)
Average Number (\pm SD) (1972-2001)		1.1 (\pm 1.0)	0.4 (\pm 0.6)	0.2 (\pm 0.4)
TSR Forecasts (\pm FE)	7 Aug 2002	0.9 (\pm 0.7)	0.4 (\pm 0.6)	0.2 (\pm 0.3)
	8 July 2002	0.7 (\pm 0.8)	0.3 (\pm 0.6)	0.2 (\pm 0.4)
	7 June 2002	0.8 (\pm 0.8)	0.4 (\pm 0.6)	0.2 (\pm 0.4)
	7 May 2002	1.1 (\pm 0.8)	0.5 (\pm 0.6)	0.2 (\pm 0.4)
	5 Apr 2002	1.5 (\pm 0.9)	0.6 (\pm 0.7)	0.3 (\pm 0.4)
	6 Mar 2002	1.7 (\pm 0.9)	0.7 (\pm 0.7)	0.4 (\pm 0.4)
	6 Feb 2002	2.0 (\pm 0.9)	0.8 (\pm 0.7)	0.4 (\pm 0.4)
	10 Jan 2002	1.9 (\pm 0.9)	0.8 (\pm 0.7)	0.4 (\pm 0.4)
	3 Dec 2001	1.9 (\pm 1.0)	0.8 (\pm 0.7)	0.4 (\pm 0.4)