

# National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Atlantic Hurricane Season Forecast

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has issued its forecast for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Forecasters within the U.S. governmental agency are forecasting **19-25 named storms, 7-11 hurricanes and 3-6 major hurricanes (Category 3+)** between the months of June and November for the Atlantic Basin. This includes the nine named storms and two hurricanes which have already developed in the basin as of August 6.

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

- Atmospheric and oceanic conditions in the Atlantic Ocean's Main Development Region (MDR) are now even more conducive for hurricane development than in May. These conditions include exceptionally warm Atlantic sea surface temperatures, a strong West African monsoon, weaker vertical wind shear, lower surface air pressure, weaker trade winds, and more conducive wind patterns coming off of Africa.
- There is an increased likelihood of La Niña during August, September, and October – now a 50 percent or greater chance (compared to 40 percent in May). Some La Niña-like atmospheric conditions are already showing signs of being in place. Such conditions typically mean a reduction of wind shear in the Atlantic; favorable to cyclogenesis.
- The long-range forecast model suite now predicts an even more active season than it did in May. In fact, the output now suggests difference from median Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) levels – 185 percent – that far surpasses the threshold (165 percent) required to be defined as a “hyperactive” season.

NOAA provides the following probabilities for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season: 85 percent of an above-normal season, a 10 percent chance of a near-normal season, and a 5 percent chance of a below-normal season.

If the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season ends above average, it would set a record of five consecutive above-normal seasons, surpassing the previous record of four set during 1998-2001. Since the current Atlantic high-activity era began in 1995, 17 of 25 (68 percent) of seasons have been above normal and only four (16 percent) have been below normal. Such a number would be a significant shift from the previous Atlantic low-activity era of 1971-1994 that featured only four above-normal seasons in 24 years.

*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 and the totality of impact to lives and livelihoods during a season.*

The table on the next page shows the NOAA forecast. The full reports are available at the Climate Prediction Center's website.

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 considers 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](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)	2020 (May 2020)	2020 (August 2020)
Named Storms	12	13-19	19-25
Hurricanes	6	6-10	7-11
Major Hurricanes	3	3-6	3-6
ACE % Range (Median)	71.4-120%	110-190%	140-230%
Chance for an Above-Normal Hurricane Season	33%	60%	85%
Chance for a Near-Normal Hurricane Season	33%	30%	10%
Chance for a Below-Normal Hurricane Season	33%	10%	5%

Source: NOAA

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