



NOAA predicts active 2013 Atlantic hurricane season

Era of high activity for Atlantic hurricanes continues

May 23, 2013

In its 2013 Atlantic hurricane season outlook issued today, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an **active or extremely active season** this year. Hurricane Season runs from June 1st thru November 30th.

For the six-month hurricane season NOAA's Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook says there is a 70 percent likelihood of 13 to 20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which:

- ❖ **7 to 11** could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher)
- ❖ Including **3 to 6 major** hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher)

These ranges are **well above the seasonal average** of 12 named storms, 6 hurricanes and 3 major hurricanes.

Three climate factors that strongly control Atlantic hurricane activity are expected to come together to produce an active or extremely active 2013 hurricane season. These are:

- ❖ A continuation of the atmospheric climate pattern, which includes a strong west African monsoon, that is responsible for the ongoing era of high activity for Atlantic hurricanes that began in 1995;
- ❖ Warmer-than-average water temperatures in the tropical Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea; and;
- ❖ El Niño is not expected to develop and suppress hurricane formation.

"This year, oceanic and **atmospheric conditions in the Atlantic basin are expected to produce more and stronger hurricanes**," said Gerry Bell, Ph.D., lead seasonal hurricane forecaster with NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. "These conditions include weaker wind shear, warmer Atlantic waters and conducive winds patterns coming from Africa."

