



® Weather Research Center



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Delayed beginning of the next Solar Cycle results in an update for Weather Research Center's 2007 OCSI Atlantic Hurricane Season Prediction

Houston (2007) – Recent research indicates that the sun spot minimum [lowest number of observed sun spots on the sun] did not occur in 2006 and will possibly be delayed until 2008. This means that Weather Research Center's 2006 OCSI forecast would have been different and the forecast for 2007 needs to be updated. Both of the earlier forecasts for these periods were based on the premise that the sun spot minimum would have occurred in 2006. The following updated forecast is based on the assumption that the next sun spot minimum will not be until 2008.

“Unfortunately, the Louisiana to Alabama coast remains in the region with the highest risk of experiencing the landfall of a tropical storm or hurricane this year”, according to Jill Hasling, Certified Consulting Meteorologist at Houston's Weather Research Center (WRC). But the area of the highest risk is expanded to both Texas and the west coast of Florida. All of these regions have a 66% chance of experiencing landfall of a tropical storm or hurricane this year.

The good news is that the secondary predictors of the OCSI model still only calls for a total of 7 named storms with 4 of these named storms intensifying into hurricanes. This is only good news if a hurricane does not make landfall in your area. The number of expected cyclones is not as important as where the cyclones will make landfall. Below are the chances of a tropical storm or hurricane making landfall along the section of the coast indicated.

2007 WRC OCSI FORECAST FOR THE ATLANTIC

COAST	WRC OCSI	CLIMATOLOGY
Mexico	33%	40%
Texas	66%	51%
Louisiana to Alabama	66%	59%
West Florida	66%	71%
East Florida	10%	41%
Georgia to N. Carolina	33%	56%
East Coast of US	10%	36%
Gulf Oil Blocks	90%	88%

Secondary 2007 Predictors from WRC's OCSI:

	Forecast
Number of Named Storms :	7
Number of Storm Days:	22
Number intensifying into Hurricanes:	4
Number of Hurricane Days:	19
US Landfalls:	3
Cat 3 or Higher Storms in the Atlantic:	67%

The OCSI indicates that 2007 could be a long season with a chance of a June cyclone as well as a cyclone as late as November. The break probabilities by month for a cyclone in any month are as follows:

Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
33%	66%	100%	100%	100%	33%	16%

Below is the forecast for 2008 based on the assumption that the sun spot minimum will occur in 2008 marking the beginning of the next solar cycle.

2008 WRC OCSI FORECAST FOR THE ATLANTIC

COAST	WRC OCSI	CLIMATOLOGY
Mexico	40%	40%
Texas	40%	51%
Louisiana to Alabama	60%	59%
West Florida	70%	71%
East Florida	40%	41%
Georgia to N. Carolina	90%	56%
East Coast of US	60%	36%
Gulf Oil Blocks	90%	88%

Secondary 2008 Predictors from WRC's OCSI:

	Forecast
Number of Named Storms :	11
Number of Storm Days:	83
Number intensifying into Hurricanes:	5
Number of Hurricane Days:	24
US Landfalls:	4
Cat 3 or Higher Storms in the Atlantic:	50%

The Houston-based Weather Research Center is one of a handful of organizations that make seasonal hurricane predictions. WRC uses a model called Orbital Cyclone Strike Index (OCSI) which uses the solar cycle [an indication of the solar systems orbit] to predict the risk for coastal residents each hurricane season. The OCSI model is based on the premise that there are orbital influences that are reflected in the global circulation pattern on the sun and as well as the global circulation pattern of the earth. These orbital influences are reflected in the 11.1 year sun spot cycle.

The 2007 Atlantic hurricane season is the 12th phase of the new sun spot cycle which is expected to start in 2008 making this Phase 12 of the Orbital Cyclone Strike Index [OCSI]. The OCSI is used by the Center's meteorologists to predict the Atlantic hurricane activity through at least 2015. Other years in Phase 12 in the OCSI are 1900, 1912, and 1975. The tropical cyclone landfalls that occurred in these years are then used to calculate the probabilities of landfall on certain sections of the United States coast in percent.

Significant hurricanes during other years in this phase of the OCSI were:

1900 Category 4 hurricane – Upper Texas Coast
1912 October 16 hurricane – Lower Texas Coast
1975 Category 3 hurricane – Northwest Florida Coast

During the 23-year period from 1984 to 2006, there have only been four years (1987, 1992, 1999, and 2006) when a storm or hurricane did not make landfall in the section of the United States coastline that had the highest risk. In all four of these years cyclones made landfall in the section of the coast with the second highest risk. This gives the OCSI an 83% accuracy rate.

The OCSI was developed by Houston meteorologists, Dr. John C. Freeman and Jill F. Hasling. This index has been used since 1984 to make annual hurricane season forecasts of which section of the North American coast has the highest risk of experiencing a tropical storm or hurricane.

In addition to its ongoing research, WRC also provides storm and hurricane information via the Internet through Storm Navigator®. This service helps provide detailed storm updates and related information. WRC's current and past predictions can be found at www.wxresearch.com/outlook.

Founded in 1987, the non-profit Weather Research Center manages a worldwide forecasting operation and provides groundbreaking research to scientists around the world. Meteorologists provide tropical cyclone advisories world wide, severe weather advisories, marine forecasts, long-range outlooks, environmental studies and forensic meteorology services. Weather Research Center provides research into tropical cyclones as well as real-time weather forecasts. WRC can also provide you with an assessment of your severe weather and tropical weather plans.

President Jill F. Hasling is a Fellow and Certified Consulting Meteorologist from the American Meteorological Society as well as a member of the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists.

For more information about The John C. Freeman Weather Museum at Weather Research Center, please call (713) 529-3076 or logon to www.wxresearch.org.

Here are the results of
2006 WRC OCSI FORECAST FOR THE ATLANTIC

COAST	WRC OCSI	CLIMATOLOGY	OBSERVED
Mexico	20%	40%	
Texas	40%	51%	
Louisiana to Alabama	80%	59%	
West Florida	40%	71%	Alberto, Ernesto
East Florida	40%	41%	
Georgia to N. Carolina	60%	56%	Ernesto
East Coast of US	40%	36%	Beryl, Ernesto
Gulf Oil Blocks	66%	88%	

Secondary 2006 Predictors from the OCSI:

	Forecast	Observed [10/3/06]
Number of Named Storms :	9	10
Number intensifying into Hurricanes:	4	5
Number of Storm Days	25	50
Number of Hurricane Days:	16	20
US Landfalls:	3	3
Cat 3 or Higher Storms:	67%	Gordon Helene

For a comparison of WRC's versus Professor Bill Gray's Seasonal Forecast since 1984
Go to <http://www.wxresearch.com/outlook/graycomp2007.pdf>