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For Immediate Release
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Busy Atlantic Hurricane Season Predicted for 2006

Houston (May 23, 2006)– Meteorologists at the Weather Research Center (WRC) forecasts indicate that there is a 50% chance that there will be more than 11 named storms in the Atlantic this year. The years in this phase of the OCSI had as few as four storms for the season to as many as 21 for the season The distribution by month indicates 2006 will be a very long season with the chance of cyclones as early as May and as late as December.

WRC meteorologists go on to say at least 5 hurricanes will form during the upcoming 2006 Atlantic hurricane season and that at least 4 tropical storms or hurricanes will make landfall somewhere along the U.S. Coast. The Houston-based Weather Research Center is one of a handful of organizations that make predictions for the upcoming hurricane season. WRC meteorologist Jill F. Hasling also says the highest risk for landfall of these cyclones will be located on the Southeast Coast, but that everyone living along the Atlantic Coast and Gulf of Mexico should be prepared. "We're in a very active time for Atlantic hurricane activity right now," says Hasling. "As we've seen from Hurricane Katrina, it only take one hurricane to cause major damage." Hasling adds that everyone needs to have a family hurricane plan in place by June 1st in case a strong hurricane strikes. "One thing we learned from last year's storms is that you need to take responsibility for yourself and your family. Be sure you have a plan and know if you are at risk for flooding from the storm surge and have to evacuate."

WRC uses a model called Orbital Cyclone Strike Index (OSCI) which uses the solar cycle to predict the 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 subsequently the global circulation pattern of the earth. The sun's orbit influences the sun spot cycle. The 2006 Atlantic hurricane season is more difficult to forecast for the WRC since the sun spot minimum is expected to occur some time in 2006 or early 2007. The sunspot minimum marks the time to begin a new cycle starting with phase in the OCSI. If 2006 is the year of the sun spot minimum, then the OCSI is reset to Phase 1 which includes the years: 1878, 1889, 1901, 1913, 1923, 1933, 1944, 1954, 1964, 1976, 1986, and 1996. The tropical cyclone landfalls that occurred in these years are then used to calculate the probabilities of landfall in percent. Below is the probability of a tropical storm or hurricane making landfall on the section of the North American coast indicated. The percentages shown under Climatology are the risk of experiencing a

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tropical storm or hurricane on that particular coast in any year. This percentage is calculated by taking the number of years since 1871 that particular section of the coast has experienced a landfall of a tropical storm or hurricane, divide it by the total number of years since 1871 and multiply by 100. For example 40% of the years from 1871 to 1985 had a tropical storm or hurricane make land fall.

2006 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 2006 Predictors from the OCSI:

Number of Named Storms :	**11**
Number intensifying into Hurricanes:	**5**
Number of Hurricane Days:	**28**
US Landfalls:	**4**
Cat 3 or Higher Storms:	**50%**

During the 20-year period from 1985 to 2004, there have only been three years (1987, 1992, and 1999) when a storm or hurricane did not make landfall in the section of the United States coastline that had the highest risk. In all three of these years cyclones made landfall in the section of the coast with the second highest risk. This gives the OCSI an 85% accuracy rate.

The OCSI was developed by meteorologists, Dr. John C. Freeman and Jill F. Hasling. This index has been used since 1985 to make annual hurricane season forecasts of which section of North America 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 work on 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. 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.

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