



Weather Research Center



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The Southeast Coast of the US has the Highest Risk of Experiencing a Tropical Storm or Hurricane this Year.

Houston – According to meteorologists at the Houston based Weather Research Center, the US coast from Georgia to North Carolina has a 90% chance of experiencing a landfall of a tropical storm or hurricane this year. “The news is not good for the Gulf of Mexico oil patch; the Gulf oil leases have a 90% chance of experiencing a tropical storm or hurricane this summer” according to Jill F. Hasling, CCM, President of Weather Research Center.

The Center’s outlook is forecasting that the 2008 Hurricane Season will have at least 11 named storms with 6 of these tropical storms intensifying into hurricanes. Also, it should be a long season since there is a 30% chance of tropical cyclone formation in May and a 10% chance in December.

2008 WRC OCSI FORECAST FOR THE ATLANTIC

COAST	WRC OCSI	CLIMATOLOGY
Gulf Oil Blocks	90%	88%
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%

Other 2008 Predictors from WRC’s OCSI:

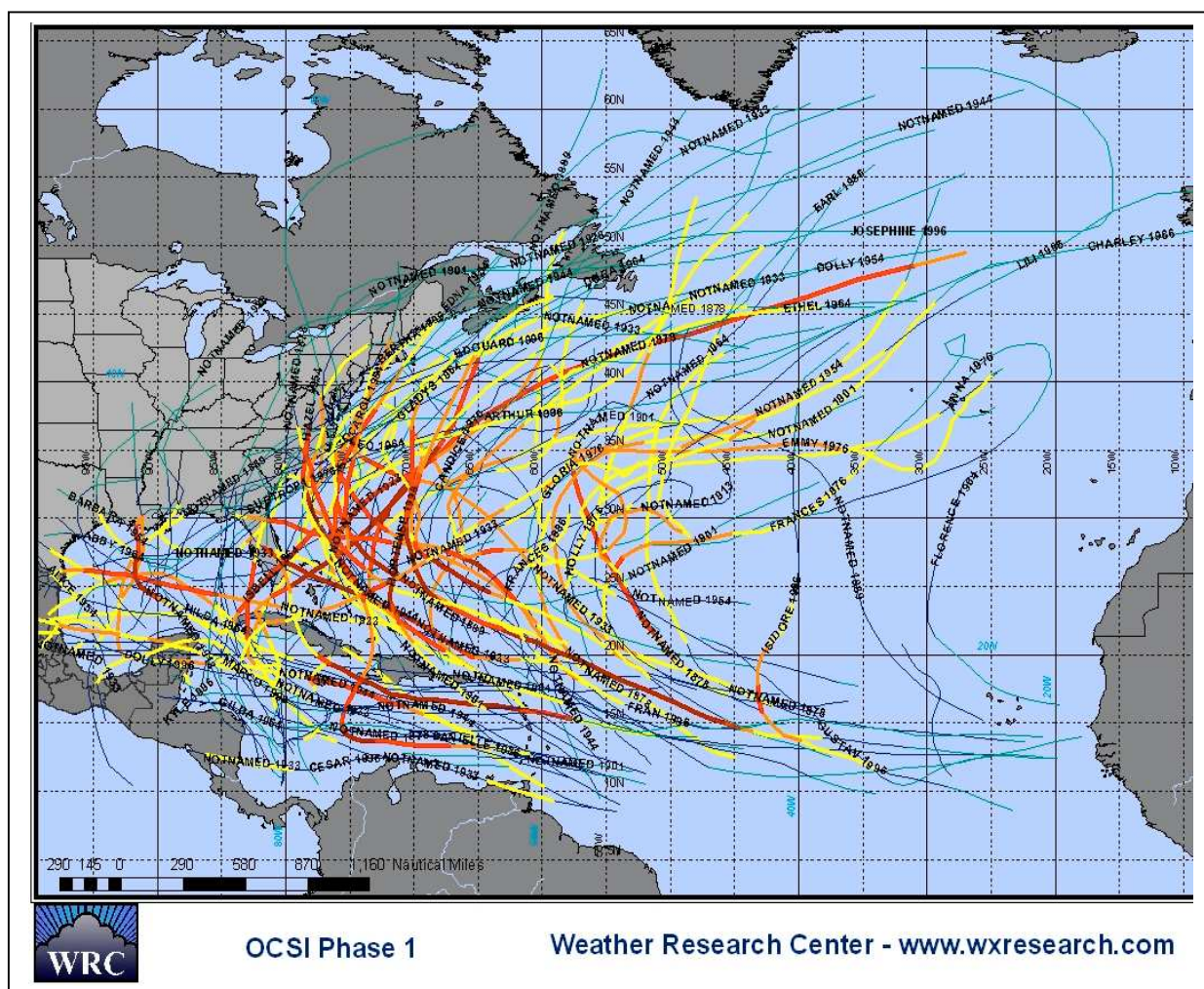
	OCSI Forecasts
Number of Named Storms:	11
Number of Storm Days:	83
Number intensifying into Hurricanes:	6
Number of Hurricane Days:	24
Number of Tropical Storm Days:	83
US Landfalls:	4
Cat 3 or Higher Storms in the Atlantic:	50%

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The risk of tropical cyclones occurring in the Atlantic by month is:

May 30% - June 60% - July 70% - August 100% - September 100% -
October 100% - November 50% - December 10% - January 10%

WRC's forecast for 2007 and 2008 was complicated by determining when the sun spot minimum would occur. Sun spot activity remains very inactive with a few sun spots starting to appear. This forecast is based on the assumption that the sun spot minimum will occur sometime in 2008. Using this assumption, 2008 is in the first Phase of the Orbital Cyclone Strike Index [OCSI]. Phase 1 of the OCSI uses cyclone landfalls during the following years to make the 2008 outlook: 1878, 1889, 1901, 1913, 1923, 1933, 1944, 1954, 1964, and 1976. Other years in Phase 1 are 1986 and 1996. The figure below shows the tracks of the tropical cyclones in these years. Hurricanes moved over the oil leases in eight out of the 10 base years for Phase 1.



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Significant cyclones and events during these years [Phase 1 of the OCSI]:

1933 Twenty one tropical cyclones were named during the season with 11 becoming hurricanes, three of which moved over the Gulf oil leases. The September 1933 hurricane was a Category 3 hurricane as it moved over the oil leases.

1954 Three strong hurricanes moved up along the east coast during this season.

1964 Hurricane Hilda was a Category 4 hurricane as it through the oil leases before making landfall along the Louisiana coast.

Four out of the twelve years in Phase 1 had more than one Category 3 or higher hurricane make landfall some where along the US coast [1933, 1944, 1954, and 1996].

Weather Research Center's (WRC) Orbital Cyclone Strike Index [OCSI] was developed in 1984 to indicate which section of the US coast line has the highest risk of experiencing a tropical storm or hurricane.

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 system's 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 as well as the global circulation pattern of the earth. These orbital influences are reflected in the 11.1 year sun spot cycle.

During the 24-year period from 1984 to 2007, 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 87.5% accuracy rate.

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.

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