

Scientists give long-term perspective for unsettled British summers

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Scientists studying the regional climate have discovered the reason why British summers are getting wetter.

The study, published in the *International Journal of Climatology*, and led by Liverpool John Moores University's (LJMU's) Dr Tom Matthews has provided context for the region's recent wash-out summers. The experts have assessed 142-year record of storms for the British-Irish Isles.

Compared to earlier decades (around the 1960s-1980s), the researchers found that summers in the UK and Ireland have become much wetter as a result of more frequent storms (cyclones). Indeed, the stormiest summer in the 142-year cyclone reconstruction was in 2012.

However, the researchers also found that this increase in storminess actually represents a re-establishment of conditions typical of the earlier half of the 20th Century, rather than being unusual in the long term context.

The long-term record of British-Irish Isles cyclones provided by the study will help researchers to better understand year-to-year variability in storminess.

Dr Tom Matthews, who is a Geography Lecturer at LJMU and led the study, said, "Given concern over increased British-Irish Isles storminess as the climate warms, there is a need to understand the extent to which

these changes may already be underway. By providing a 142-year regional cyclone climatology across the British-Irish Isles, this study allows recent extreme seasonal storminess such as the summer of 2012 to be placed in context. Such a long term perspective is needed to explore low-frequency variability in the regional storm climate, and to diagnose and understand emerging changes.^[?]"

More information: "A cyclone climatology of the British-Irish Isles 1871–2012." *Int. J. Climatol.*. doi: 10.1002/joc.4425

Provided by Liverpool John Moores University

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