

Researchers predict active hurricane season

April 20 2022, by Tracey Peake



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The 2022 Atlantic hurricane season will see 17 to 21 named storms forming in the Atlantic basin, according to researchers at North Carolina State University. The Atlantic basin includes the entire Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.

The number of named storms predicted is above the long-term average, according to Lian Xie, professor of marine, earth and atmospheric sciences at NC State. The long-term (1951 to 2021) average of named storms is 11.

Of the predicted 17 to 21 named storms, seven to nine may grow strong enough to become hurricanes (the historical average is six), with the possibility of three to five storms becoming [major hurricanes](#).

The Gulf of Mexico will see an active hurricane season, though one more in line with historical averages, as Xie's data indicate the likelihood of three to six named storms forming in the region, with two to five of them becoming hurricanes, and one to two becoming a major hurricane. Historic averages for the Gulf are three named storms and one hurricane.

Xie's methodology evaluates more than 100 years of historical data on Atlantic Ocean hurricane positions and intensity, as well as other variables, including weather patterns and [sea-surface temperatures](#), to predict how many storms will form in each ocean basin.

NC State postdoctoral researcher Xia Sun and graduate student Luke Friedman also contributed to the research.

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30.

Provided by North Carolina State University

Citation: Researchers predict active hurricane season (2022, April 20) retrieved 25 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2022-04-hurricane-season.html>

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