



University of Missouri – Atlantic Ocean Basin Tropical Forecast 2020*

	Predicted (Revised 7 August)				
	Predicted		Observed	Difference	
<i>Number of Named Storms:</i>	19	23	31	-12 (-39%)	-8 (-26%)
<i>Tropical Storms:</i>	9	12	18	-9 (-50%)	-6 (-33%)
<i>Category 1-2:</i>	6	7	7	-1 (-14%)	Score!
<i>Category 3-5:</i>	4	4	6	-2 (-33%)	-3 (-33%)
<i>Regional (where they will form):</i>					
<i>West Atlantic (to 45° W):</i>	4	10	10	-6 (-60%)	Score!
<i>East Atlantic (to 45° W):</i>	3	3	8	-5 (-63%)	-5 (-63%)
<i>Gulf of Mexico:</i>	4	4	4	Score!	Score!
<i>Caribbean:</i>	8	6	9	-1 (-11%)	-3 (-33%)

*Post Mortem: Counts all the named storms. Hybrid or subtropical storms are not part of the forecast, nonetheless we count them which makes the numbers look a little worse. There was one of these in 2020, Alpha in the East Atlantic. The number of total hurricanes was underforecast: 13 occurred 10 were forecast. There were more tropical storms than forecast and this led to an under forecast, especially in the East Atlantic. The East Atlantic was the worst regional forecast. However, the general regional pattern was correct, more storms in the West Atlantic and Caribbean. The revised forecast in early August was a big improvement over the April 2020 forecast.

In 2019 – 2020, we were heading into a cooler ENSO-neutral period. During this season, the majority of forecast models are projecting the Eastern Tropical Pacific to remain in warm-neutral to near neutral with respect to sea-surface temperatures (SSTs). The current warm Neutral-ENSO period has been semi-persistent for the last few months. Previous research has suggested a reasonable correlation towards an average to above-average number of Atlantic-based storms during this projected ENSO state. This is predominantly due to a combination of eastern/central Atlantic-based subtropical shear, and this year may feature the development of increased shear to develop over these regions. In addition, based on 30 to 45-day evolution of the Intraseasonal Oscillation (ISO) (aka MJO), the MJO is weakening a bit current and is projected to weaken a bit more over the next couple of weeks. Based on the current 30 to 45-day cycle, this projection would land more conducive MJO impacts towards Africa and the North Atlantic during several peak times during between June and late September. However, depending upon the ongoing intensity

of these projected MJO convective event rates of propagation, it may be less of a factor even during peak-season times. We referenced climatological research from a few different analog platforms. Most of these tropical analogs suggested that the most tropical development will likely occur across the central Atlantic to Gulf of Mexico region. Lastly, one additional concern is the recent trend towards a positive AMO which may affect storm track and consequently maximum potential intensity considerations as well. Forecast issued by: Jordan Rabinowitz, Joe Renken, Brendan Heaven, and Anthony R. Lupo