



Weather Research Center



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### WRC's 2012 Hurricane Season Outlook Indicates the Gulf Coast from Louisiana to Key West, Florida and the Georgia to North Carolina Coast Have the Highest Risk of a Tropical Cyclone Landfall

Houston, TX – Weather Research Center (WRC) in Houston is forecasting a 60 percent chance of a tropical storm or hurricane making landfall along the Gulf Coast from Louisiana to Key West, Florida and along the Georgia to North Carolina coast during the 2012 hurricane season. The secondary predictors in the index call for at least 8 named storms with 5 of them intensifying into hurricanes. There is a 46 percent chance a Category 3 or stronger hurricane will form in the Atlantic as well as a high chance that 3 more tropical storms or hurricanes will make landfall somewhere along the U.S. Coast.

#### 2012 WRC OCSI FORECAST FOR THE ATLANTIC

COAST	WRC OCSI	CLIMATOLOGY
Texas	30%	51%
Mexico	20%	40%
Louisiana to Alabama	60%	59%
West Florida	60%	71%
East Florida	30%	41%
Georgia to N. Carolina	60%	56%
East Coast of U.S.	20%	36%

#### Other 2012 Predictors from WRC's OCSI

	OCSI Forecast
Number of Named Storms	8
Number Intensifying into Hurricanes	5
Number of Hurricane Days	20
Number of Tropical Storm Days	58
U.S. Landfalls	3
Category 3, 4 or 5 Storms in the Atlantic Basin	46%

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The index also calls for a long season with May having an 11 percent chance of a tropical cyclone forming and November having a 44 percent chance.

The years used to determine the 2012 Outlook include 1871, 1882, 1893, 1905, 1917, 1927, 1937, 1948, 1958, 1968, 1980, 1990 and 2000. During these years, there have been 5 years (1882, 1893, 1917, 1948 and 1980) when a Category 3 or stronger hurricane made landfall along the U.S. Coast. This includes Hurricane Allen in 1980 which made landfall along the South Texas Coast.

Last year the index called for a tropical cyclone along the Gulf coast from Louisiana to the tip of Florida with a 90% chance. This forecast verified with the landfall of Tropical Storm Lee. WRC meteorologists have been making these forecasts since 1985 and there have only been 3 years out of the 27 years when a tropical cyclone did not make landfall in the section of the U.S. coast with the highest risk. This is an 89 percent forecast accuracy rate.

### **About Weather Research Center and the Orbital Cyclone Strike Index**

Houston-based Weather Research Center is one of a handful of organizations that makes 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 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.

In addition to its ongoing research, WRC also provides storm and hurricane information via the Internet through Storm Navigator®. This service offers detailed storm updates and related information. WRC's current and past predictions can be found at [www.wxresearch.com/outlook](http://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 worldwide, severe weather advisories, marine forecasts, long-range outlooks, environmental studies and forensic meteorology services. WRC 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.

Jill F. Hasling, WRC President, 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 Weather Research Center and the John C. Freeman Weather Museum, please call (713) 529-3076 or visit [www.wxresearch.com](http://www.wxresearch.com).

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