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WRC's 2016 ATLANTIC HURRICANE OUTLOOK VERIFIES EARLY WITH TROPICAL STORM COLIN IN EARLY JUNE

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HOUSTON, TEXAS USA – The 2016 Atlantic Hurricane Season officially ends November 30th. Weather Research Center President Jill F. Hasling, CCM using WRC's Cyclone Strike Index [CSI] predicted that the west coast of Florida had the highest risk of experiencing a tropical storm or hurricane this year. This prediction verified with the landfall of Tropical Storm Colin in June and Hurricane Hermine in September.

The secondary predictors of the index called for 7 to 10 named tropical cyclones forming in the Atlantic with 4 of these cyclones intensifying into hurricanes. In 2016, 15 named tropical cyclones formed with the first one forming in January and the second storm forming in May. Seven of these cyclones intensified into hurricanes.

Three of the tropical cyclones were expected to make landfall along the United States Coast. There were 5 cyclones which made landfall along the US Coast, Bonnie, Colin, Hermine, Julia and Matthew.

There was also a 60% chance that one of the hurricanes would intensify into a Category 3 or higher hurricane somewhere in the Atlantic. There were 3 Category 3 or higher hurricanes in the Atlantic basin in 2016, Gaston, Matthew, and Nicole. Matthew was the only one that threatened the United States Coast.

The season started early with Hurricane Alex forming in the Atlantic in January followed by Tropical Storm Bonnie in May. So the prediction of an early season with a 45% of tropical storms in June verified. The outlook also called for a long season and that verified with Hurricane Otto making landfall in late November. The table below shows what the 2016 Outlook was with the observed elements.

2016 CSI Outlook and Observation

<u>COAST</u>	<u>CSI</u>	<u>CLIMATOLOGY</u>	<u>OBSERVED</u>
Gulf of Mexico - Offshore Leases	90%	85%	Hermine
Texas	60%	51%	
Louisiana to Alabama	40%	59%	
West Florida	70%	71%	Collin, Hermine
East Florida	30%	41%	Matthew
Georgia to N. Carolina	40%	56%	Bonnie, Julia, Matthew
East Coast of US	20%	36%	
Mexico	50%	40%	Danielle, Earl

<u>OTHER PREDICTORS</u>	<u>CSI</u>	<u>OBSERVED</u>
Number of Named Storms	7-10	15
Number of Hurricanes	4	7
Number of Hurricane Days	16	33.75
Number of Tropical Storms Days	55	55
US Landfalls	3	3
Category 3, 4, 5 Hurricanes	60%	3

The Outlook for 2017 shows that Texas and the West Coast of Florida have the highest risk of a landfall of a named tropical cyclone. The Gulf of Mexico oil leases have a 100% chance of experiencing a tropical storm or hurricane next year. This is Phase 10 of the Cyclone Strike Index and includes years 1887, 1898, 1910, 1922, 1932, 1942, 1953, 1963, 1973, 1985, 1995, and 2005.

2017 WRC CSI ATLANTIC HURRICANE OUTLOOK

<u>COAST</u>	<u>CSI</u>	<u>CLIMATOLOGY</u>
Gulf of Mexico - Offshore Leases	100%	85%
Texas	70%	51%
Louisiana to Alabama	50%	59%
West Florida	70%	71%
East Florida	30%	41%
Georgia to N. Carolina	60%	56%
East Coast of US	20%	36%
Mexico	50%	40%

2017

<u>OTHER PREDICTORS</u>	<u>CSI</u>
Number of Named Storms	10-13
Number of Hurricanes	5
Number of Hurricane Days	21
Number of Tropical Storms Days	68
US Landfalls	4
Category 3, 4, 5 Hurricanes	50%

The Cyclone Strike Index [CSI] Outlooks have been issued each year since 1985. The seasonal index has verified 87% of the time in the regards to the section with the highest possibility of landfall. Taking into account the areas of coastline with the second highest chance of landfall, the index verifies at 97%. For more information on the outlook go to <http://www.wxresearch.com/outlook>

For further information or questions regarding the hurricane outlook, please do not hesitate to contact Jill Hasling, CCM at wrc@wxresearch.org or 713-529-3076

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