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NOAA Still Expecting Above-Normal Hurricane Season, Though Likelihood Sees 5 Percent Drop

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The updated 2022 Atlantic hurricane season probability and number of named storms.
By. NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Thursday that atmospheric and oceanic conditions still favor an above-normal 2022 Atlantic hurricane season, though the likelihood has decreased slightly from 65 percent to 60 percent.

That's according to NOAA's annual mid-season update issued by the [Climate Prediction Center](#), a division of the National Weather Service.

"I urge everyone to remain vigilant as we enter the peak months of hurricane season," said Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. "The experts at NOAA will continue to provide the

science, data and services needed to help communities become hurricane resilient and climate-ready for the remainder of hurricane season and beyond.”

NOAA forecasters have slightly decreased the likelihood of an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season to 60 percent (lowered from the outlook [issued in May](#), which predicted a 65 percent chance). The likelihood of near-normal activity has risen to 30 percent and the chances remain at 10 percent for a below-normal season.

“We’re just getting into the peak months of August through October for hurricane development, and we anticipate that more storms are on the way,” said NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad. “NOAA stands ready to deliver timely and accurate forecasts and warnings to help communities prepare in advance of approaching storms.”

NOAA’s update to the 2022 outlook — which covers the entire six-month hurricane season that ends on Nov. 30 — calls for 14-20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or greater), of which 6-10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or greater). Of those, 3-5 could become major hurricanes (winds of 111 mph or greater). NOAA said it provides these ranges with a 70 percent confidence.

So far, the season has seen three named storms and no hurricanes in the Atlantic Basin. An average hurricane season produces 14 named storms, of which seven become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

This outlook is for overall seasonal activity, and is not a landfall forecast. Landfalls are largely governed by short-term weather patterns that are currently only predictable within about one week of a storm potentially reaching a coastline, NOAA said.

There are several atmospheric and oceanic conditions that still favor an active hurricane season. This includes La Niña conditions, which are [favored](#) to remain in place for the rest of 2022 and could allow the ongoing [high-activity era](#) conditions to dominate, or slightly enhance hurricane activity. In addition to a continued La Niña, weaker tropical Atlantic trade winds, an active west African Monsoon and likely above-normal Atlantic sea-surface temperatures set the stage for an active hurricane season and are reflective of the ongoing high-activity era for Atlantic hurricanes.