2008 Hurricane Season Update

The Met Office have presented their 2008 North Atlantic storm season forecast. They are predicting 15 names storms with a 70% chance that the number will be in the range of 10 to 20. This compares to the long-term average of 12.4 and the current predictions from Colorado State University (CSU) of 15 and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of 12 to 16. All three forecasts predict above average activity in the 2008 season.

Over the last couple of years the activity has been average or below average with 9 storms in 2006 and 12 in 2007. It is not since the exceptionally active season of 2005, with 25 named storms, that we have seen above average activity.

The reasons behind more activity this year are the higher sea temperature in the Atlantic combined with the current La Niña, a cooling in the tropical east and central Pacific. The wide 70% range in the 2008 forecast from the Met Office is explained by the small potential of an El Niño developing, leading to warming in the tropical Pacific and counteracting with the Atlantic warming.

See recent feature on 2008 hurricane season [1] and article explaining Hurricanes, Tyoons and Tropical Storms. [2]

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[1] https://www.rmets.org/detail.php%3FID%3D453