

Weekend Outlook

Belize, Central America

Valid for: Friday until Monday, May 11-14, 2012

RFrutos

Synopsis: A stable easterly to south-easterly airflow will persist across the NW Caribbean region and Belize this weekend. Surface heating and some influx of moisture could set-off some outbreaks of showers and thunderstorms mostly inland later on Sunday and Monday.

Rainfall Projections:

Daily rainfall accumulations will be in the range of 0.01-0.10 of-an-inch over most areas on Friday and this weekend. However, daytime heating and the influx of some moisture will provide the energy for localized showers and thunderstorms, but mostly in the interior on Sunday and Monday. Daily rainfall rates will be in the range of 0.25-0.50 of-an-inch on Sunday through Monday in some localities of the Cayo, Stann Creek and Orange Walk Districts.

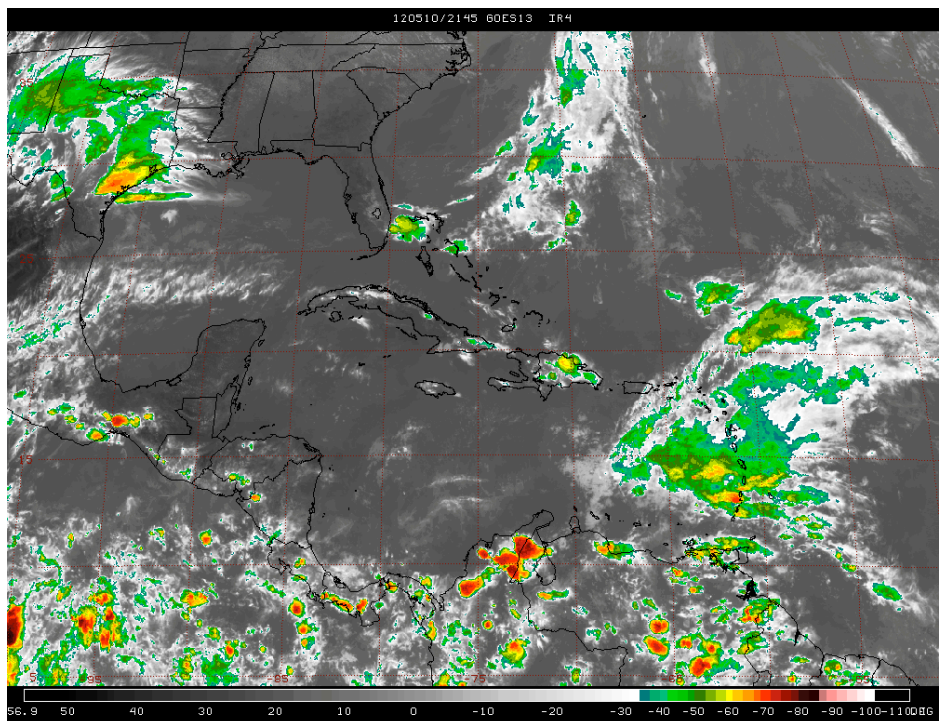


Figure 1 GOES IR Satellite picture valid for 3:00 pm, May 10, 2012, showing large mass of convection in the eastern Caribbean but no significant rainclouds in the NW Caribbean and Belize

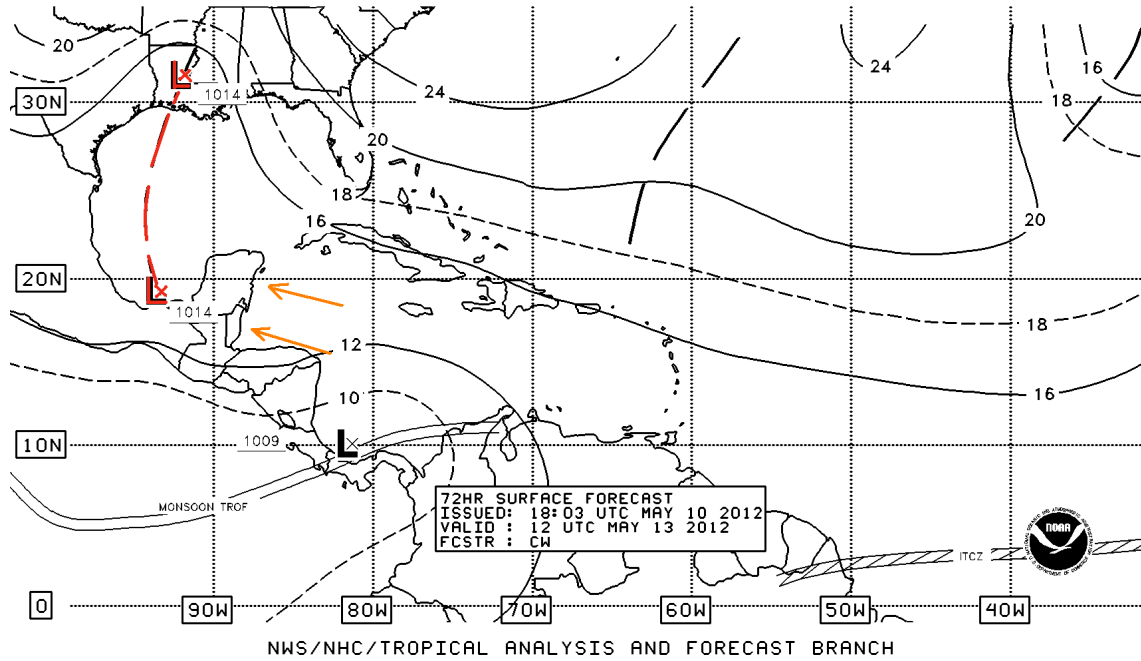


Figure 2 NHC 72-hour forecast Surface Map valid for 6:00 am, Sunday, May 13, 2012.

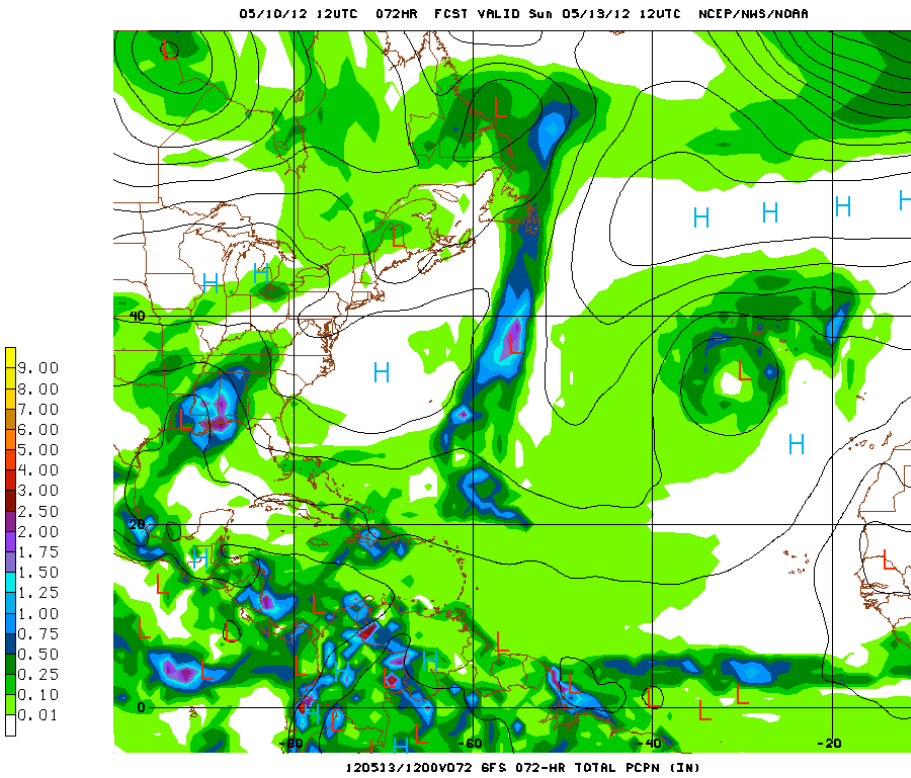


Figure 3. 72-hr GF S Model rainfall projection valid for 6:00 am, Sunday, May 13, 2012, showing 24 hour rainfall accumulations of 0.25-0.50 of-an-inch



FORECAST OF ATLANTIC SEASONAL TROPICAL CYCLONE ACTIVITY FOR 2012

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(May 4th, 2012)

This forecast is based on a Statistical Prediction Model developed by Ballester, González and Pérez (2010). The model forecasts several indices of seasonal Atlantic basin tropical cyclone activity. The output model and the climatological analysis of TC interannual variability are used to issue this prediction. The subtropical cyclones aren't included in this forecast.

The following table lists the May prediction for the 2012 hurricane season:

	Forecast	Average
Named Storms (NS)	10	10.6
Hurricanes (H)	5	6.1
Atlantic NS	8	7.1
Caribbean NS	1	1.5
Gulf of Mexico NS	1	2.0
Probability of at least one moving through the Caribbean Sea from Atlantic	55%	50%
Probability of at least one forming and reaching hurricane intensity within the Caribbean Sea	15%	43%

The seasonal prediction calls for slightly below-normal tropical cyclone activity in the Atlantic basin. The forecast is based mainly on the probability of development of an El Niño event in the second half of this year. Moreover, it is expected that the sea surface temperature in the tropical Atlantic region should keep their values close to normal, contributing to the development of a moderate cyclonic activity.

This prediction will be updated on August 1st.

References:

Ballester M., C. González and R. Pérez (2010): Variabilidad de la actividad ciclónica en la región del Atlántico Norte y su pronóstico. Proyecto 0803. Editorial Academia. La Habana. 170 pp.

Colorado State University Hurricane Forecast

April 4, 2012

On 4 April 2012, Drs Philip J. Klotzbach and William M. Gray, of the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University, issued the expected forecast for the Atlantic Hurricane activity.

According to the release, Information obtained through March 2012 indicates that the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season will have less activity than the median 1981-2010 season. It is estimated that 2012 will have about 4 hurricanes (median is 6.5), 10 named storms (median is 12.0), 40 named storm days (median is 60.1), 16 hurricane days (median is 21.3), 2 major (Category 3-4-5) hurricanes (median is 2.0) and 3 major hurricane days (median is 3.9). The probability of U.S. major hurricane landfall is estimated to be about 80 percent of the long-period average. The Atlantic basin Net Tropical Cyclone (NTC) activity in 2012 is expected to be approximately 75 percent of the long-term average.

This forecast is based on a new extended-range early April statistical prediction scheme that utilizes 29 years of past data. Analog predictors are also utilized. A somewhat below-average Atlantic basin hurricane season is expected due to a combination of an anomalously cool tropical Atlantic and the potential development of El Niño.

Coastal residents are reminded that it only takes one hurricane making landfall to make it an active season for them, and they need to prepare the same for every season, regardless of how much activity is predicted.

Tropical Cyclone	Forecast 2012 Hurricane Season	Median
Named Storms	10	12
Hurricanes	4	6.5
Major Hurricanes (Cat III or stronger)	2	2