

Weekend Outlook

Belize, Central America

Valid for: Friday until Monday, May 25-28, 2012

RFrutos

Synopsis: Conditions this past week improved by Wednesday as a surface low and trough producing the showery weather drifted ENE away from Belize. A tropical disturbance SE of the Carolinas this afternoon is becoming a bit more organized and the NHC is giving this system an 80% chance of forming into a tropical cyclone this weekend. Elsewhere in the tropics, a tropical wave is moving into the eastern Caribbean at 10-15 mph. In the NW Caribbean, the persistent trough of low pressure south of central Cuba will drift westwards over the next two days and will reach Belize and Yucatan by Sunday and Monday. Meanwhile, in the upper atmosphere a trough over the Bahamas and Central Cuba will swing westwards this weekend, and will provide support to the low level trough in the area this weekend.

Hence, we can expect fair weather with only isolated showers today and on Saturday, but conditions will become increasingly favourable for showery outbreaks with thunderstorms on Sunday through Monday, especially over the sea and coast at first, then over most districts by late Sunday and Monday. Showers will decrease on Tuesday. *Kindly note that the 2012 rainy season at most localities in Belize began almost two week early this year.*

Rainfall Projections:

Daily rainfall accumulations will be in the range of 0.10 – 0.25 of-an-inch on Friday, increasing to 0.25 – 0.50 on Saturday, especially over the sea and coast. On Sunday and Monday daily rainfall totals will be 0.50-1.25 inch especially over the north and west.

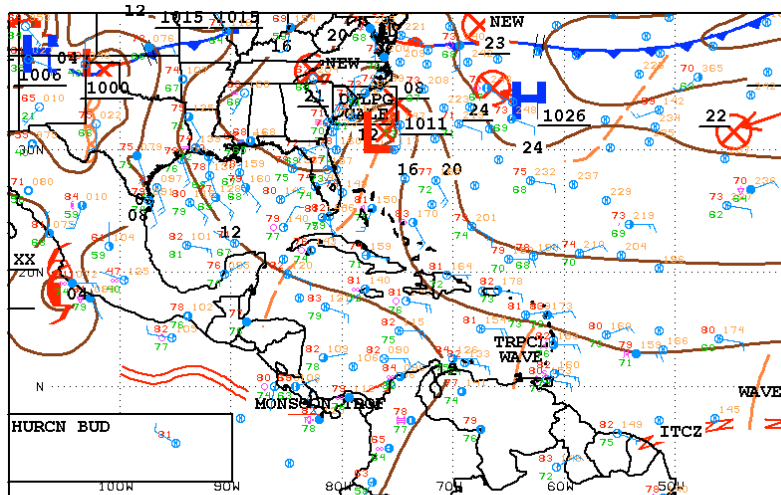


Figure 1 Surface map for 12:00 pm Friday, May 25, 2012, showing persistent surface trough over the NW Caribbean



127 SOUTHWEST NORTH ATLANTIC SFC ANALYSIS
ISSUED: Fri May 25 14:52:38 UTC 2012

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER
MIAMI, FLORIDA
BY TAFB ANALYST: CW
COLLABORATING CENTERS: NHC OPC HPC



Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida

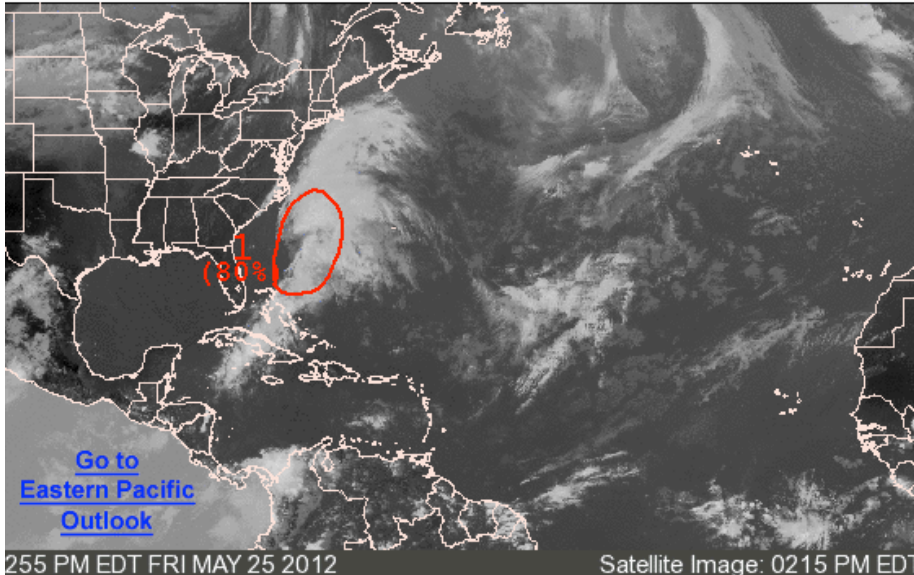


Figure 2 NHC Graphical tropical weather outlook showing disturbance SE of the Carolinas, with s 80% probability of developing into a tropical cyclone. The system is forecast to drift slowly SW.

Outlined areas denote current position of systems discussed in the Tropical Weather Outlook. Color indicates probability of tropical cyclone formation within 48 hours.

Low <30%
 Medium 30-50%
 High >50%

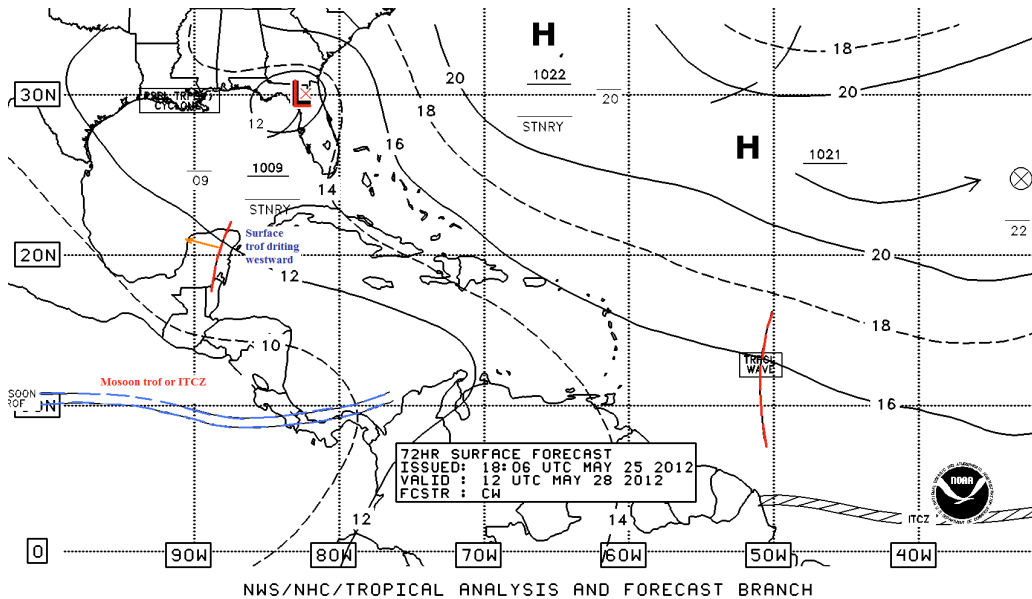


Figure 3 NHC 72-hour forecast Surface Map valid for 6:00 am, Monday, May 28, 2012.

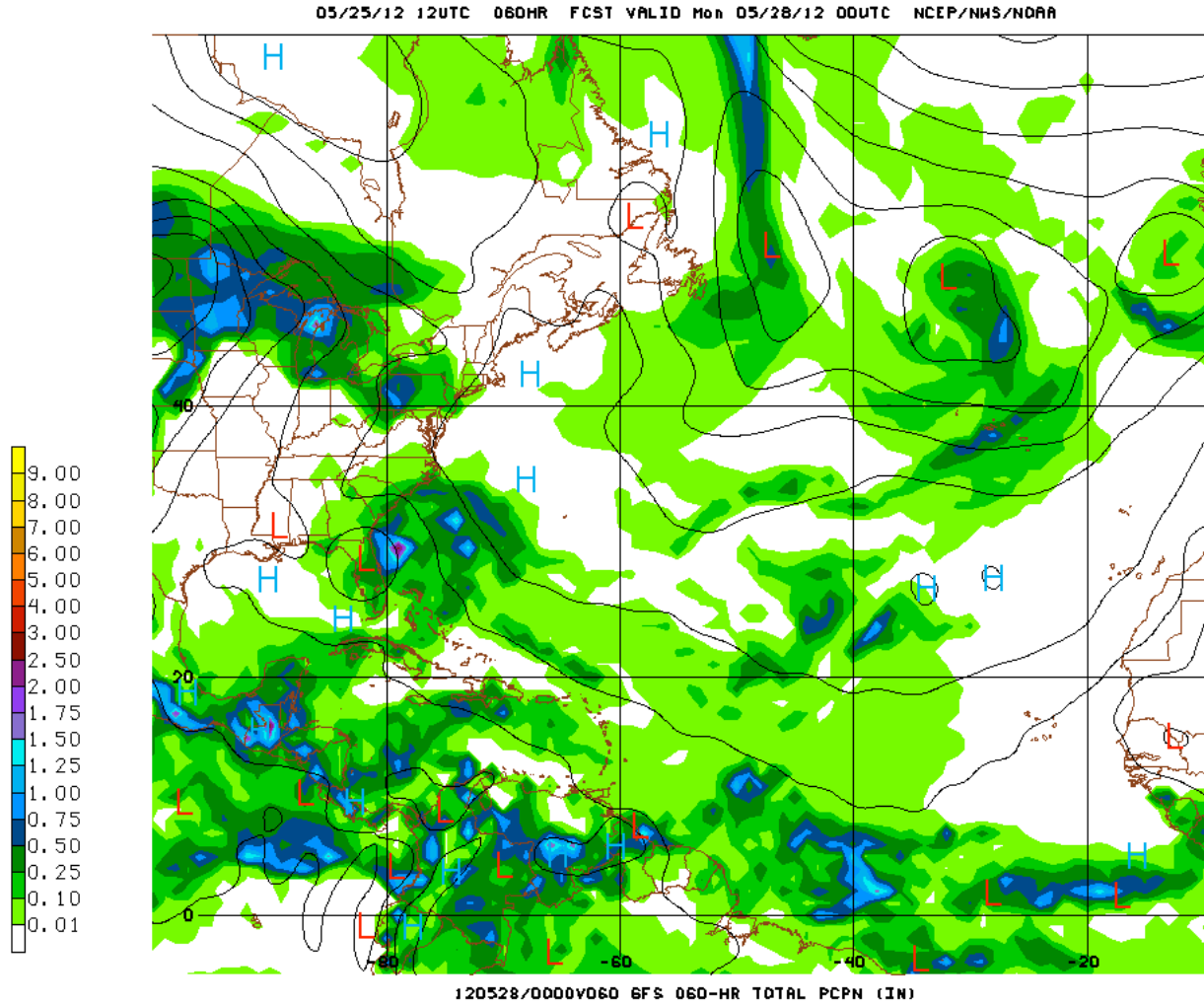


Figure 4 60-hr GFS Model rainfall projection valid for 6:00 pm, Sunday, May 27, 2012, showing 24 hour rainfall accumulations of 0.50-1.00 inch, concentrated over the sea and coast.

North Atlantic Basin Hurricane Season, 2012



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

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