

Prediction for the Year 2008

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Forecast

Storminess levels will rise dramatically from 2006 levels. The year 2008 will produce an extreme weather year. I predict a minimum of 5 major Atlantic Hurricanes (Category 3 or greater) for the year 2008.

Rationale

Yearly storminess levels were computed for each year from 1950 to 2006. These were tabulated as the sum of the number of major Atlantic hurricanes (Category 3 or greater) for a given year combined with the sum of the number of major U.S. tornados (F4 or F5) divided by 7.47 (a weighting factor). Trend analysis of storminess levels uncovered the presence of a short term cycle. The level of storminess intensity vibrates between extremely intense years and minimally intense years. When the storminess level falls below a lower threshold, it will rise quickly until it exceeds an upper threshold resulting in an extreme weather year. Storminess levels fell below the lower threshold in 2006, producing a very mild weather year with only two Category 3 Atlantic hurricanes and a minimal number of F4 U.S. tornados.

Storminess will manifest as either an extreme in major U.S. tornados or an extreme in major Atlantic hurricanes, but not both. Currently we are in a hurricane phase which began in 1995. In the past, each phase has lasted approximately 20 years. Therefore it is believed that the storminess intensity near term will manifest as a high number of major Atlantic hurricanes.

Reviewing past cycles, there is an 80 percent probability that the year 2008 will produce an intense year in storminess.

Forecasting the year 2007 is hazy. Analysis of past cycles indicates:

- There is a 40% probability, 2007 will be very mild, like 2006, with storminess levels below the lower threshold.
- There is a 40% probability, 2007 will be mid-range, between the upper and lower threshold.
- There is a 20% probability, 2007 will produce an intense year with storminess above the upper threshold.

Due to the very large spread in prediction outcomes, I offer no forecast for year 2007 and rather focus solely on the year 2008.