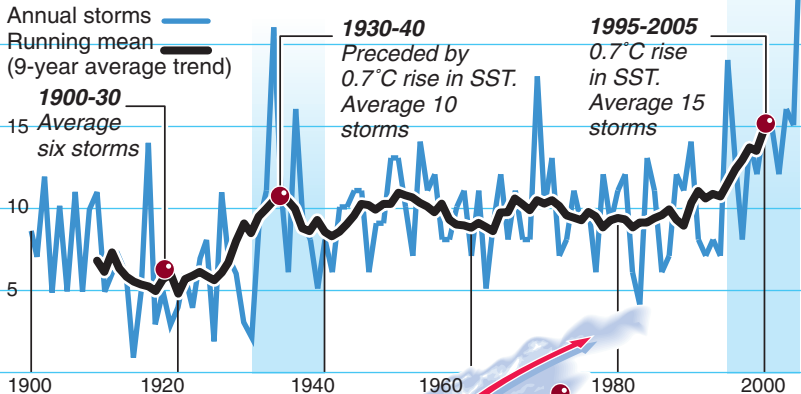


Global warming linked to storm formation

A new study shows that rising sea surface temperatures (SST) in the Atlantic over the last century appear to have caused a dramatic increase in the number of tropical cyclones – with much of the rise attributable to global climate change

ATLANTIC STORM FREQUENCY



POWERING THE CYCLONE

Wind shear: Greater wind speeds at high altitude inhibit vertical storm development.

Average wind shear has decreased in recent years



Ocean temperature:

Rising water vapour fuels series of thunderstorms centred on low-pressure "eye" to create cyclone

Tropical cyclone formation requires sea surface temperature above 26°C

