

U.S. predicts active hurricane season

Forecasters are predicting the most active Atlantic hurricane season since 2005, when Hurricane Katrina devastated the same area of the Gulf Coast now struggling to cope with the largest oil spill in U.S. history

2010 PROJECTIONS (70% probability)

		<i>Average</i>	<i>2005</i>
Named storms	14-23	11	28
Hurricanes (top winds of 120km/h or more)	8-14	6	15
Major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of at least 180km/h)	3-7	2	7

PREDICTING ATLANTIC HURRICANES

Warmer than usual water in Caribbean provides heat, moisture to power storms

Warm Sea Surface Temperature (SST), low surface pressure, low wind shear

High pressure in upper atmosphere

Upper atmosphere:
Expanded area of easterly winds

Lower atmosphere:
Weak trade winds

"African easterly jet" generates tropical waves

