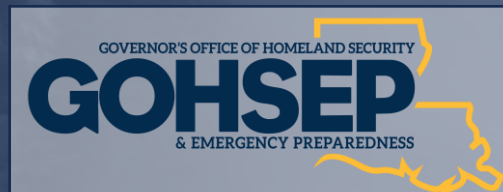














Pre-Season Look at the 2026 Hurricane Forecast

20 May 2026
CPRA Board Mtg
LSU Center for River Studies

Jay Grymes
State Climatologist



Selected Pre-Season Forecasts: *thru May 18*

Forecast Group	Forecast Date	'Named' Storms	Category 1-2 Hurricanes	Category 3-5 Hurricanes
 Colorado State University	Apr 9	13	6	2
 WEATHERBELL ANALYTICS LLC	Apr 6	9 - 13	3 - 5	1 - 2
 COLLEGE OF SCIENCE Hydrology & Atmospheric Sciences	Apr 7	20	9	4
 AccuWeather	Apr 9	11 - 16		2 - 4
 Tropical Storm Risk	Apr 9	12	5	1
 The Weather Company	Apr 16	12	6	2
 Penn UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	Apr 21	7 - 13	---	---
 SMN SERVICIO METEOROLOGICO NACIONAL	Apr 22	11 - 15	4 - 7	1 - 2
 NC STATE UNIVERSITY	Apr 22	12 - 15	6 - 9	2 - 3
 ECMWF	May 1	12	5	2
 Met Office	May 22	---	---	---
 NWS Climate Prediction Center	May 21	---	---	---
	2026 Median	12	5	2
	1991-2020 Normals	14	7	3

{ *70% Confidence in their Outlook



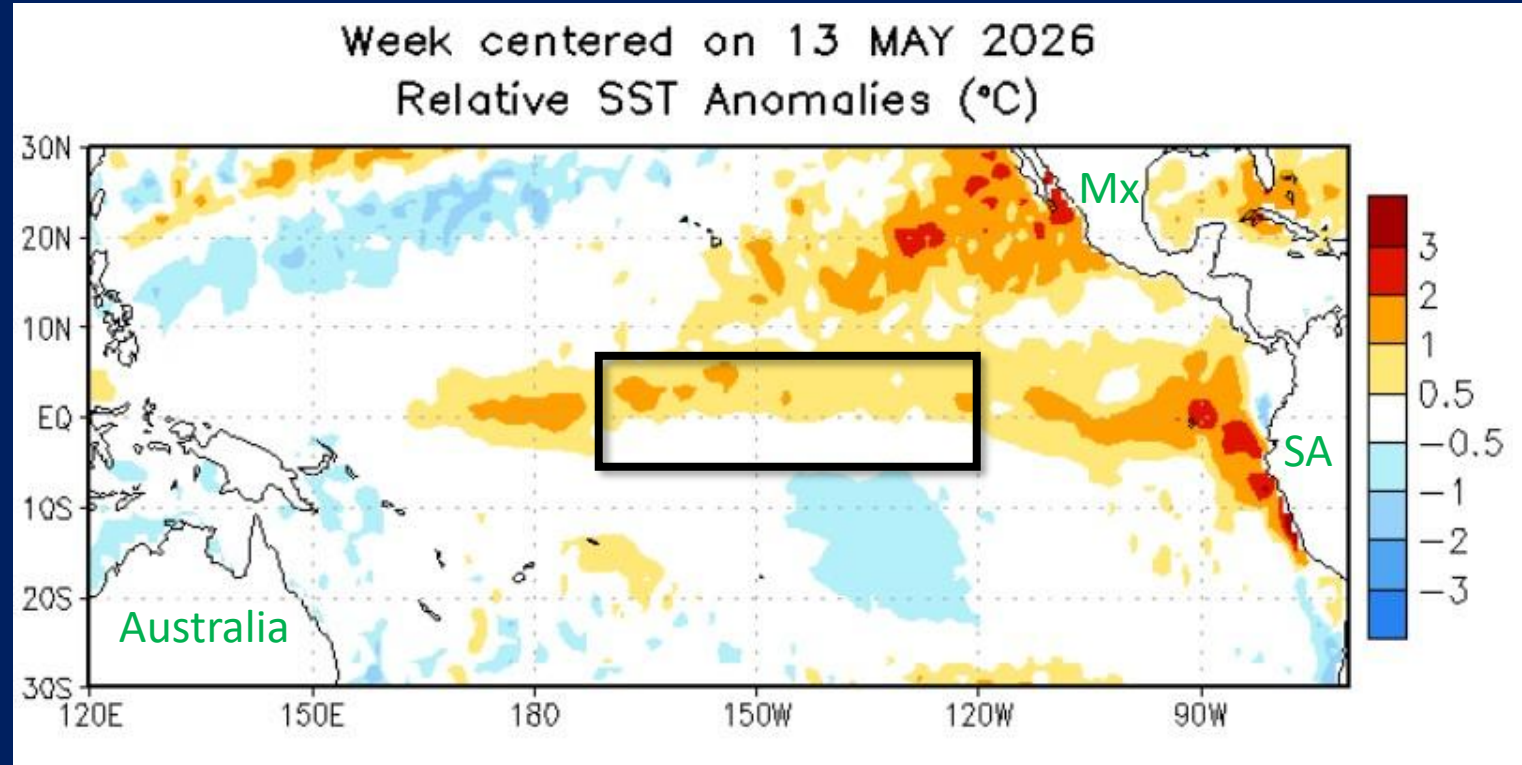
Pre-season Hurricane Forecasts calling for Near-Normal to Below-Normal Atlantic Basin Storm Count for 2026

- ‘Strong’ to ‘Very Strong’ (‘Super’) *El Niño* likely for the peak of the season (Aug-Sep) . . . associated with enhanced vertical wind shear over the tropical and sub-tropical Atlantic (ATL)
- a significant reduction in the threat of U.S. ‘major’ hurricane landfalls during *El Niños*
- SSTs are above-normal in the western ATL but below-normal in the eastern ATL . . . creates mixed signals in terms of ATL SSTs and ATL tropical activity
- storm counts for 8 ‘analog years’ average around 8-9 over the Atlantic Basin with only 1-2 named storms in the Gulf . . . only 3 LA landfalls in those 8 seasons

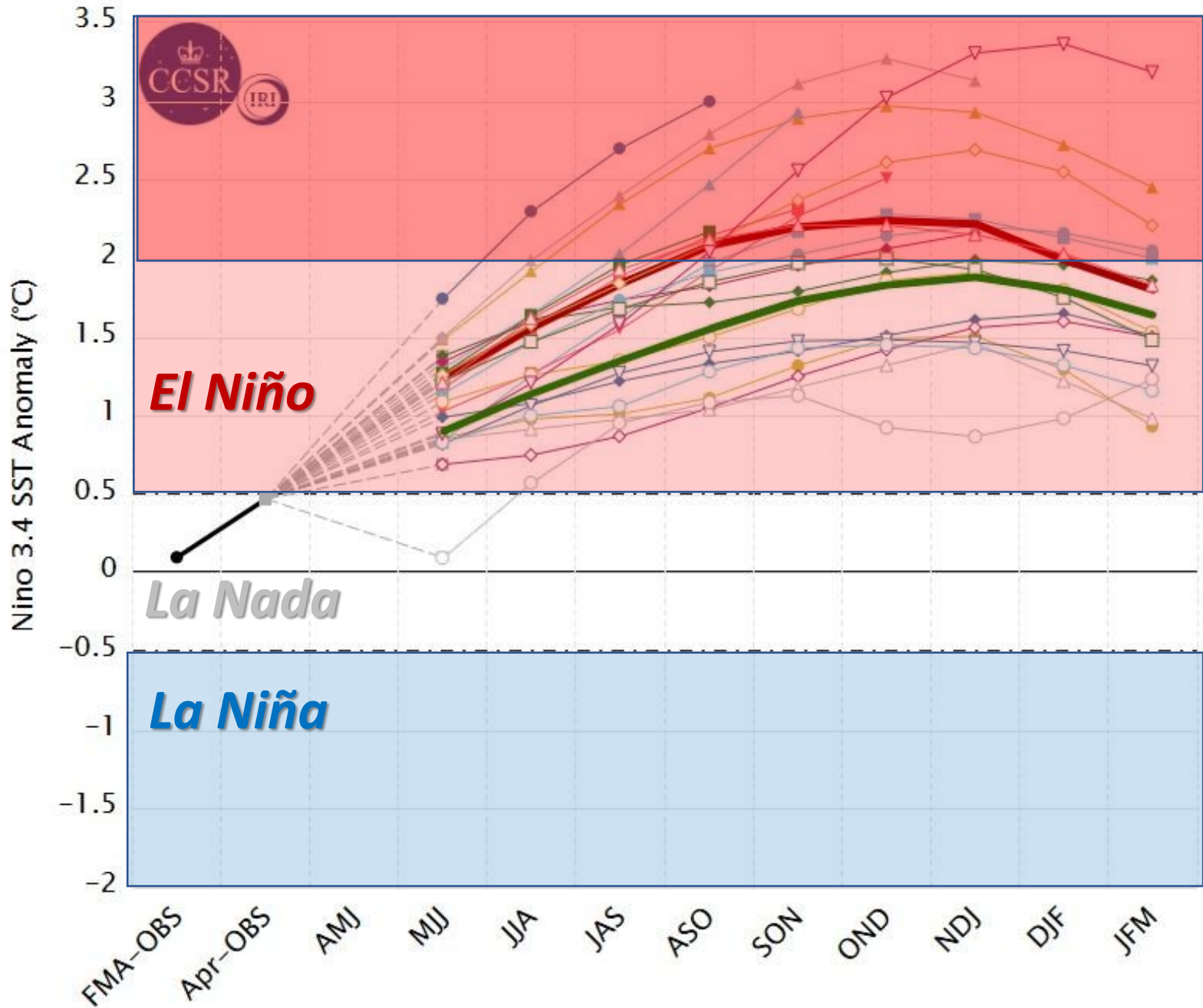
ENSO: El Niño / Southern Oscillation

'warming' trend underway
across east-central
equatorial Pacific

CPC **El Niño Watch** in effect
... **El Niño** likely to become
established in the next few
weeks



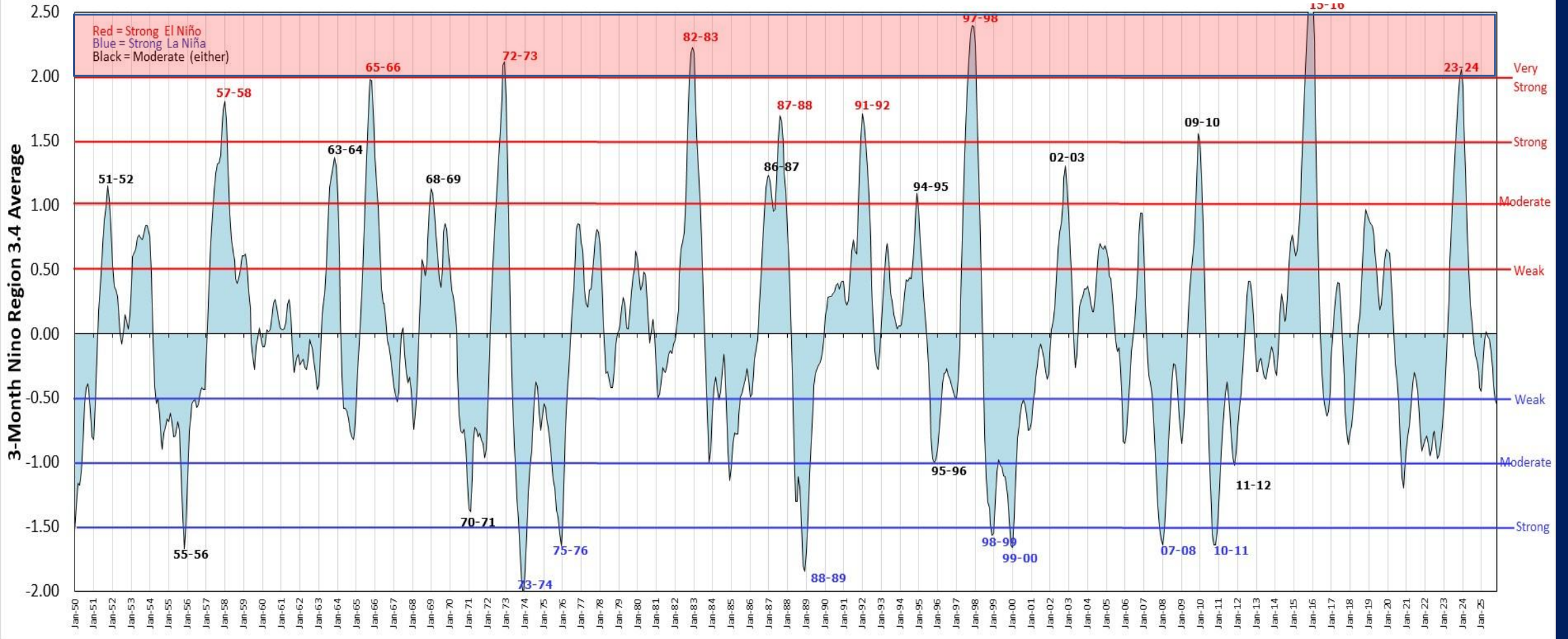
Model Predictions of ENSO from May 2026



- DYN MODELS:**
- AUS-ACCESS
 - BCC DIAP
 - ◆ CMC CANSIP
 - ▲ COLA CCSM4
 - ▼ CS-IRI-MM
 - ◆ IOCAS ICM
 - ▲ JMA
 - LDEO
 - MetFRANCE
 - ◆ NASA GMAOv3
 - ▲ NCEP CFSv2
 - SINTEX-F
 - UKMO
 - DYN AVG
- STAT MODELS:**
- BCC_RZDM
 - ◇ CPC MRKOV
 - △ CSU CLIPR
 - ▽ IAP-NN
 - NTU CODA
 - TONGJI-ML
 - UCLA-TCD
 - ◇ UW PSL-CSLIM
 - △ UW PSL-LIM
 - ▽ XRO
 - STAT AVG



Relative Oceanic Niño Index (RONI): *Highlighting 'Super' El Niños*



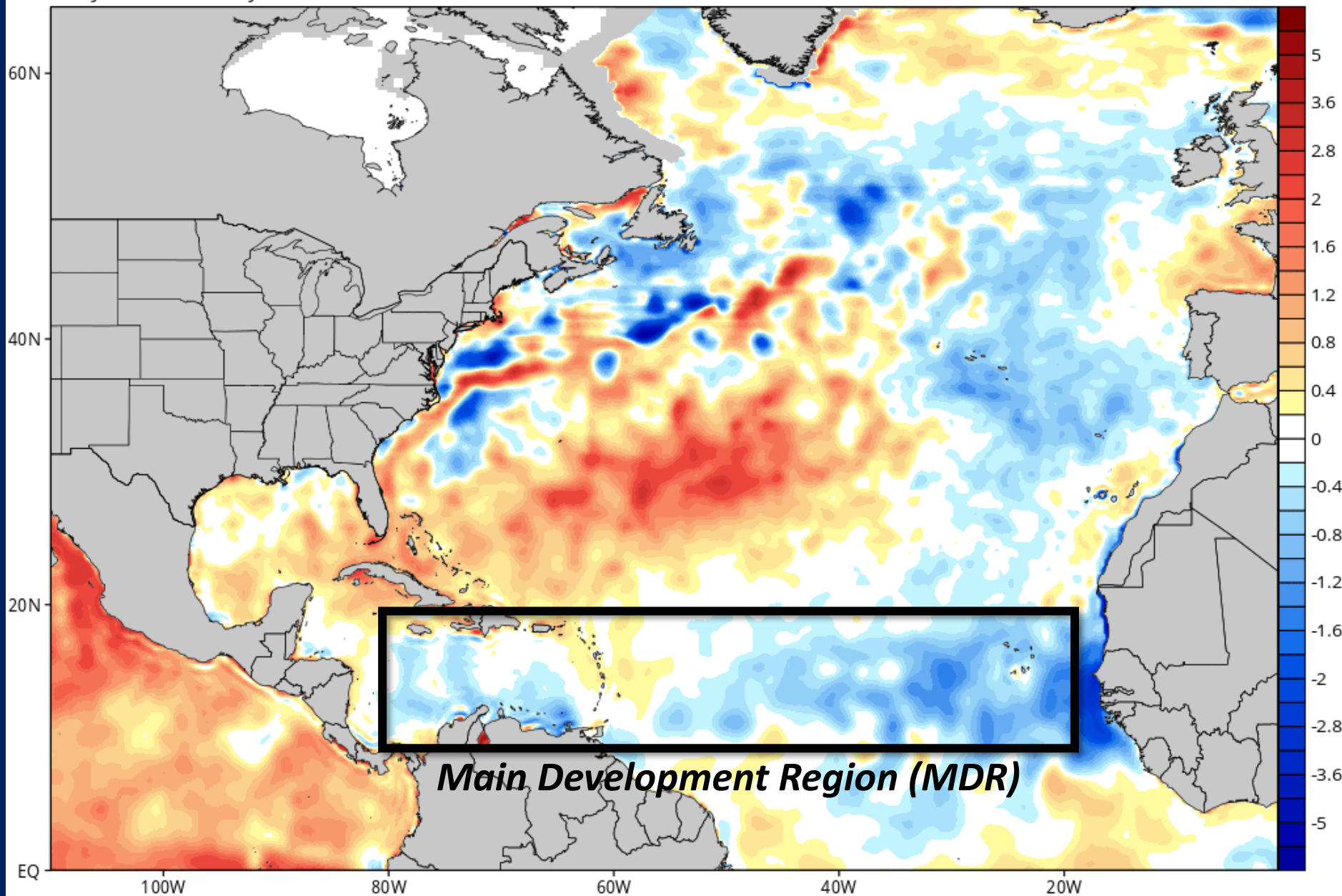
Graphics Credit: *Jan Null*
Golden Gate Weather

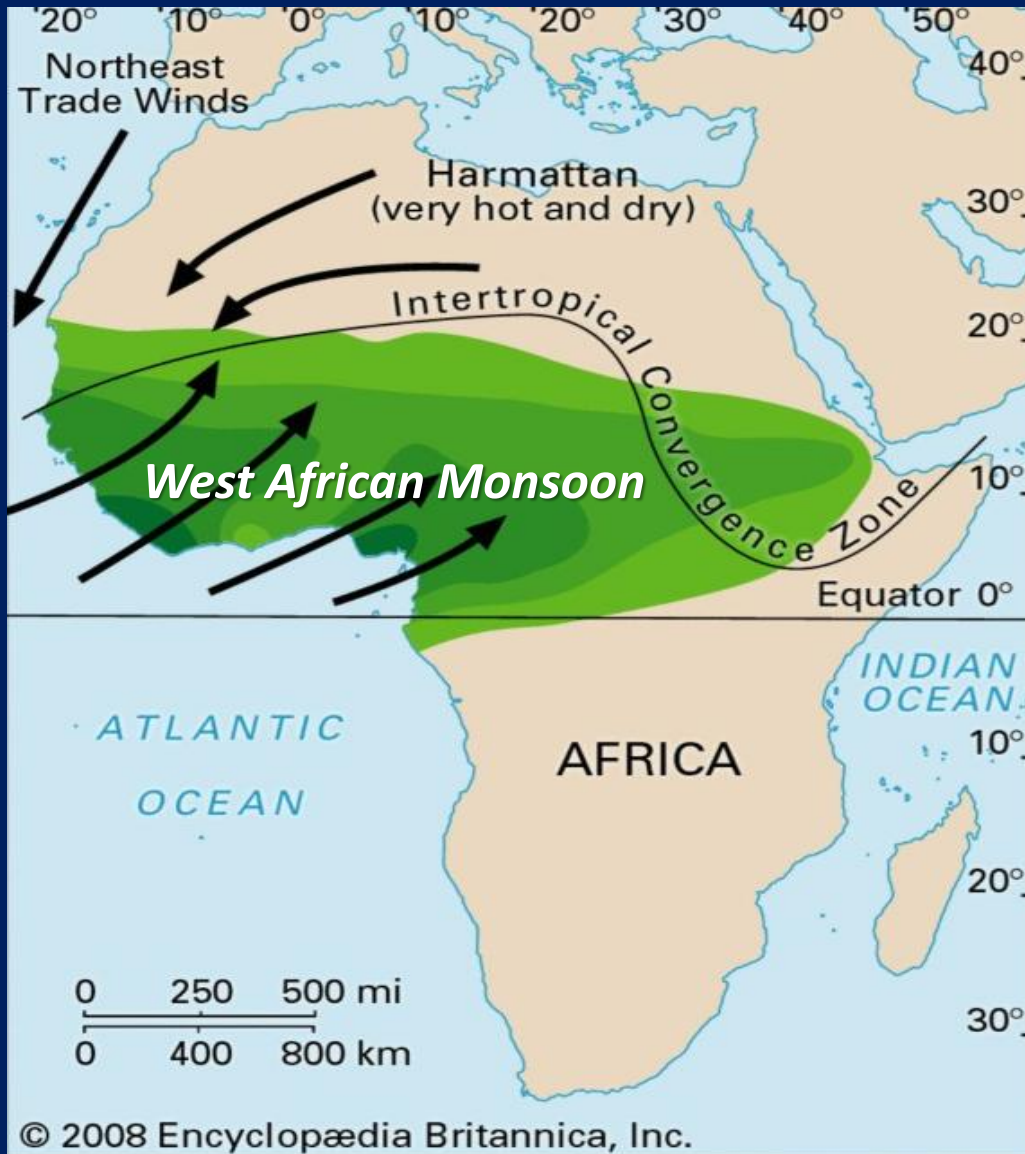


CDAS Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (°C) (based on CFSR 1981-2010 Climatology)

Analysis Time: 12z May 19 2026

TROPICALTIDBITS.COM



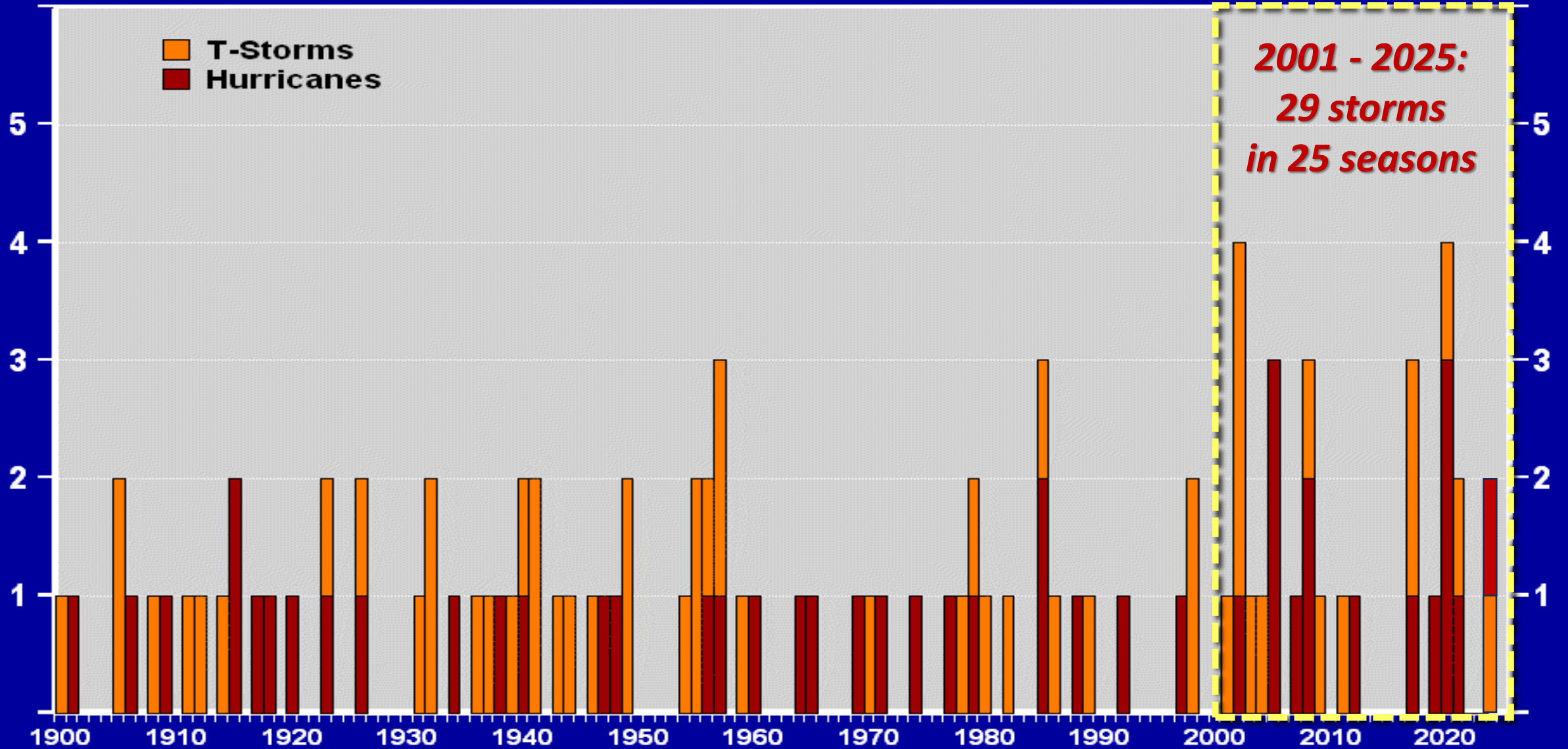


Summer / Fall

An active West African Monsoon (WAM) early in the hurricane season can increase the number of well-developed tropical waves coming off the continent . . . as well as signal a reduction in Saharan Dust released over the basin.

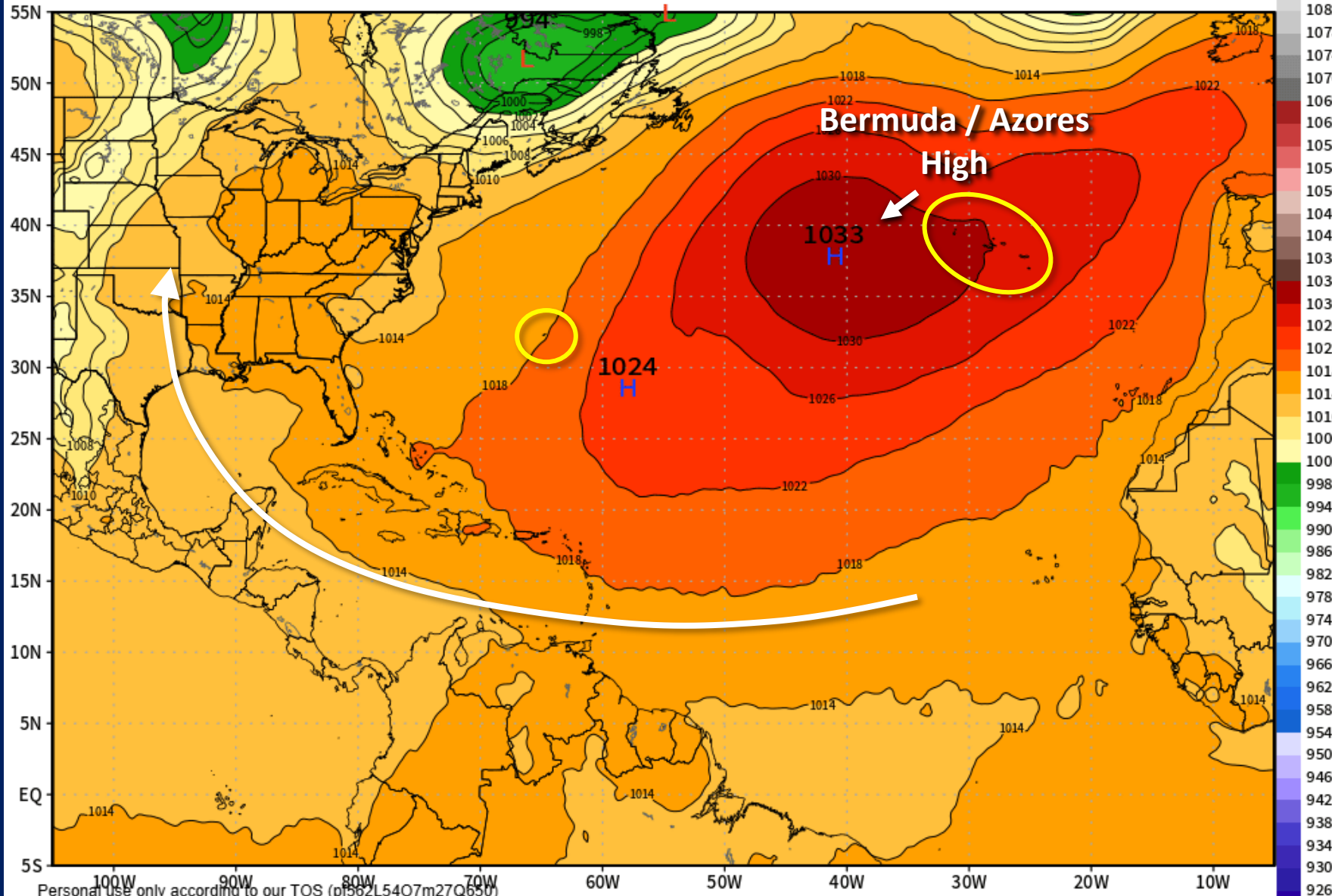
Unfortunately, extended-range WAM forecasting skill is generally rather poor.

Louisiana Tropical Impacts: 1900 - 2025



NOAA GFSv16 | MSLP [hPa]
Init: 06Z02JUN2025 -- [0] hr --> Valid Mon 06Z02JUN2025

MIN|MAX: 994.1 | 1033.4 hPa
AREA AVG: 1016.0 hPa



The Role of the Bermuda High

Personal use only according to our TOS (p1562L5407m27Q650)

GFSv16.3 T1534L127 | atlantic | mslp

weathermodels.com



'Rapid Intensification' over the Gulf is a Critical Concern

2024 Francine: Cat-1 to Cat-2 hours before landfall

2024 Beryl: TS to Cat-1 ~5 hours before landfall
25 LA Tornadoes

2021 Ida: Cat-1 to Cat-4 in ~18 hours
remained Cat-4 for 10+ hrs (landfall)

2020 Laura: Cat-1 to Cat-4 in ~30 hours
remained at Cat-4 for ~12 hrs (landfall)

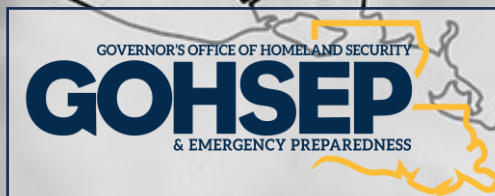
2020 Delta: Cat-1 to Cat-3 in ~24 hours
fortunately weakened before landfall

2020 Zeta: Cat-1 to Cat-3 in ~15 hours before landfall



**GET A
GAME PLAN**

getagameplan.org



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