

22 April 2026

Seasonal Forecast for the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season

The **April outlook remains a slightly below-normal Atlantic season** relative to both the official 1991-2020 climatology and the recent 2016-2025 baseline. The dominant suppressive signal is the now-clear shift toward El Niño development in the tropical Pacific, highlighted by NOAA, IRI, ECMWF and others. The main offset is that the tropical Atlantic remains warm enough to preserve meaningful genesis and intensification potential when local atmospheric windows open.

Therefore, we present our seasonal forecast for the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season. We estimate 13 named storms, 6 hurricanes, and 3 major hurricanes. This represents a climate-trend-adjusted forecast with a somewhat heavier upper tail for major hurricanes. The logic is that the large-scale dynamics still argue for somewhat suppressed counts, while the observed long-run shift toward greater storm intensity justifies a modest upward adjustment in the expected number of Category 3-5 hurricanes.

The Atlantic basin-wide probability call is 55% below normal, 30% near normal, and 15% above normal relative to the 1991-2020 reference period. Confidence is moderate at this time on the sign of the ENSO effect, moderate on the Atlantic remaining warm, and low to moderate on the final seasonal counts because the April ENSO forecast still sits near the spring predictability barrier and Atlantic counts remain highly volatile even in years with a strong large-scale signal.

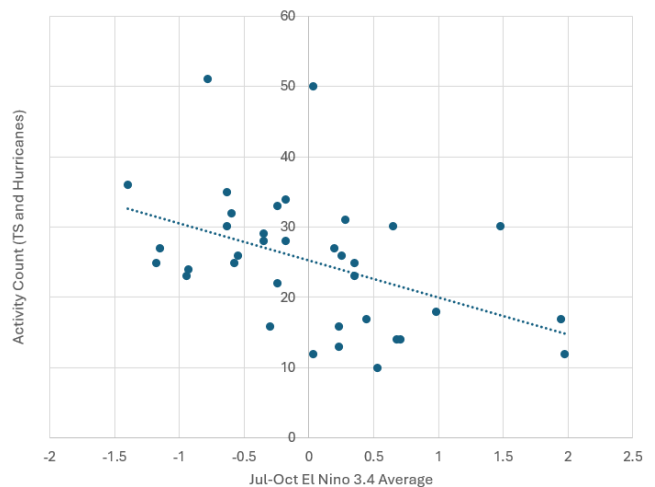
	Tropical Storms	Hurricanes	Intense Hurricanes
Climatology baseline 1991 to 2020	14.4	7.2	3.2
Current baseline 2016 to 2025	17.1	8.2	3.9
Euler ILS Partners Forecast	13	6	3

Source: NOAA, Euler. Data as of 22 April 2026

Forecast uncertainty remains elevated this year, particularly for tropical cyclone frequency, as the ENSO signal is transitioning toward El Niño conditions through mid to late summer. If this evolution materialises as currently projected, the early part of the season (June through early August) could still exhibit near- to above-normal activity, primarily driven by weaker systems rather than fully developed hurricanes. This transitional phase materially reduces predictability for total tropical storm counts.

From an ILS perspective, however, the aggregate number of tropical storms is of limited relevance, as associated insured losses are typically modest. The primary risk driver remains the frequency and landfall of hurricanes, and in particular intense (Category 3-5) hurricanes.

The below chart shows the relationship between El Niño signal (horizontal) and the Atlantic Hurricane activity with the counts of tropical cyclones per season since 1990.



Source: NOAA, IRI. Data as of 31 December 2025

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