



NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE OF BELIZE
Climatology & Climate Services

REVIEW OF 2017 HURRICANE SEASON AND SEASONAL PROJECTIONS FOR 2018

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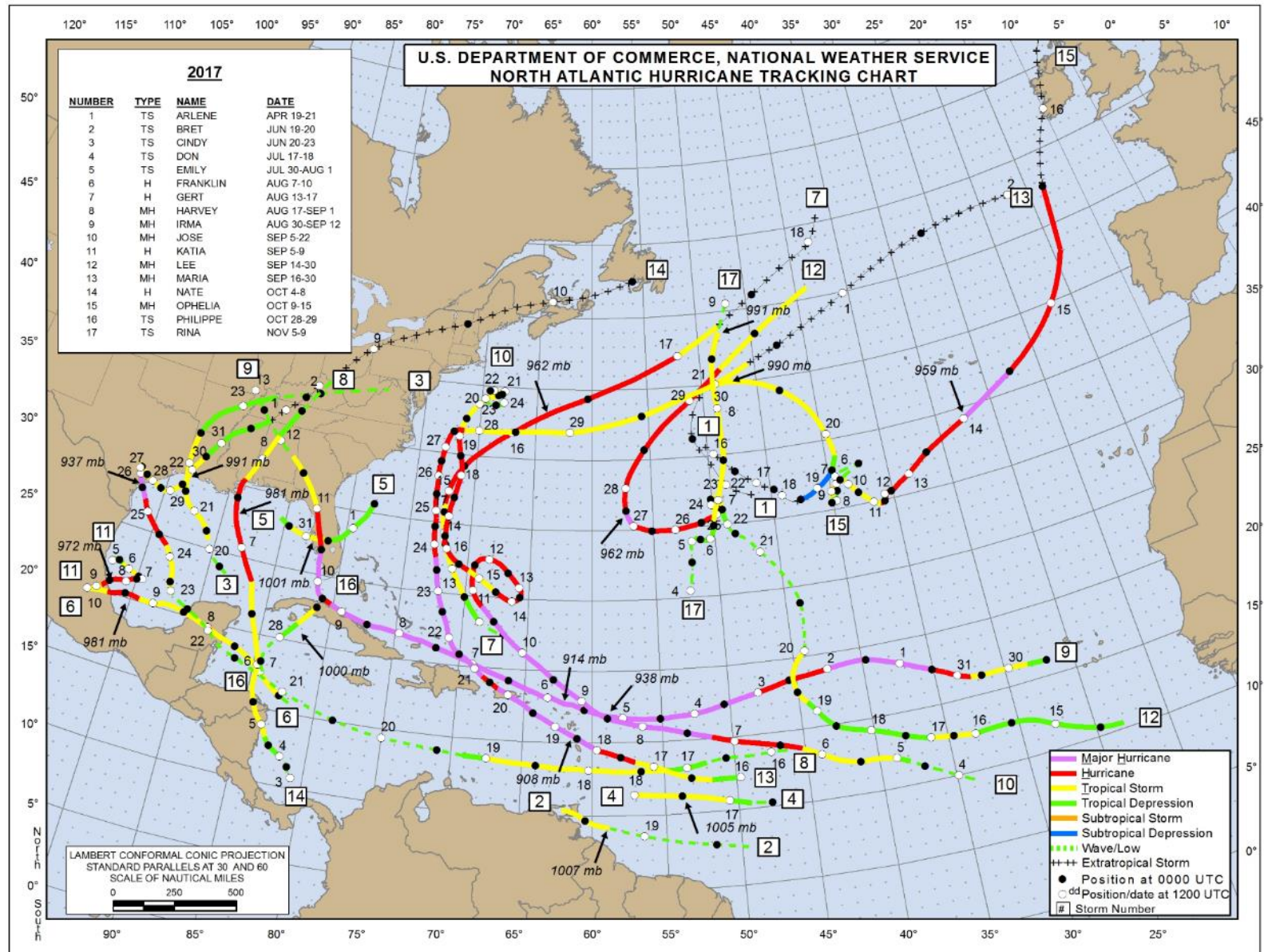
Agenda

- Brief Review of 2017 Season
- 2018 Forecasts
- Probabilities of the Forecast on Belize and Adjacent Coastal Waters
- What does this mean for Belize?

2017 Atlantic Basin Hurricane Season: Forecasts versus Observed

Agency	Total Named	Hurricanes	Major Hurricanes
Tropical Storm Risk	14	6	3
Colorado State University	14	6	2
NOAA	14	7	3
The Weather Channel	14	7	3
<i>30-year Average</i>	12	6	2
Observed	17	10	6

2017 STORM TRACKS



Major factors behind unusually active 2017 Season

- Rapid shift to weak La Niña conditions in early summer
- Warmer than normal Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) in the Tropical Atlantic (3rd warmest in September 2017)
- Low wind shear

2018 Atlantic Basin Hurricane Season: April Forecasts

Agency	Total Named	Hurricanes	Major Hurricanes
Tropical Storm Risk	12	6	2
Colorado State University	14	7	3
North Carolina State University	14-18	7-11	3-5
The Weather Channel	13	6	2
NOAA	10-16	5-9	1-4
UKMET	7-15	4-8	
30-year Average	12	6	2

Reasons for Normal to Slightly Above Normal Activity

- ENSO-neutral conditions (no El Niño or La Niña) or weak El Niño
- Near-average Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) in the Tropical Atlantic
- Near-average or weaker wind shear

Probabilities of the Forecast on Belize and adjacent Coastal Waters

Country	Named Storms w/in 50mls	Named Hurricanes w/in 50mls	Major Hurricanes w/in 50mls	Named Storms w/in 100mls	Named Hurricanes w/in 100mls	Major Hurricanes w/in 100mls
Belize	44%	22%	9%	50%	24%	9%
Total in past 100 years	43	19	7	52	21	7

What Does This Mean for Belize?

- No strong correlation between the number of storms or hurricanes and Belize landfalls in any given season.
- One or more of the named storms forecast to develop this season could hit the country, or none at all.
- Therefore residents, especially those along the coast should prepare every hurricane season regardless of this, or any other seasonal outlook.

TROPICAL STORM AND HURRICANE NAMES FOR 2018

ALBERTO

HELENE

OSCAR

BERYL

ISAAC

PATTY

CHRIS

JOYCE

RAFAEL

DEBBY

KIRK

SARA

ERNESTO

LESLIE

TONY

FLORENCE

MICHAEL

VALERIE

GORDON

NADINE

WILLIAM