



® Weather Research Center



5104 Caroline St. Houston, Texas 77004 Phone: 713-529-3076 Fax: 713-528-3538 E-mail: wrc@wxresearch.org

## Press Release

For Immediate Release

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For Information Contact: Jill F. Hasling 713-529-3076

### Gulf of Mexico Oil Leases at Risk for Major Hurricanes until 2010

**Houston:** Jill F. Hasling, Certified Consulting Meteorologist with Houston's Weather Research Center, reviewed the decadal charts of Category 3 through 5 hurricanes since 1851 and found an interesting cycle. This cycle implies that the Gulf of Mexico oil leases have a higher risk of experiencing Category 3, 4 and 5 hurricanes over the next 5 years. This research used the graphs generated on the NOAA Coastal Service Center web site of Category 3 through 5 US hurricanes by decade north of 25 degrees north and west of 85 degrees west. These graphs were then arranged in 30 year periods starting with 1851, 1881, 1911, 1941 and 1971 giving three cycles. Then the number of Category 3 through 5 hurricanes that passed over the Gulf of Mexico oil leases were tallied for each decade and each cycle. As you can see from the graphs and chart below, it appears that there are more major hurricanes over the Gulf oil leases in Cycle 1 and Cycle 3 than in the decades in Cycle 2. In other words, there is a decade with a larger number of major hurricanes over the Gulf oil leases followed by a decade of very few. During Cycle 2, the major hurricanes seem to go up the east coast of the US.

Notice this decade, 2001 is in Cycle 1. Which indicates a period of increased major hurricane activity over the Gulf oil leases until 2010.

#### Number of Major Gulf of Mexico Oil Lease Hurricanes by Decade

CYCLE 1	CYCLE 2	CYCLE 3
1851 - 1860 - 6	1861 - 1870 - 0	1871 - 1880 - 4
1881 - 1890 - 3	1891 - 1900 - 3	1901 - 1910 - 3
1911 - 1920 - 7	1921 - 1930 - 1	1931 - 1940 - 2
1941 - 1950 - 5	1951 - 1960 - 3	1961 - 1970 - 6
1971 - 1980 - 4	1981 - 1990 - 3	1991 - 2000 - 3

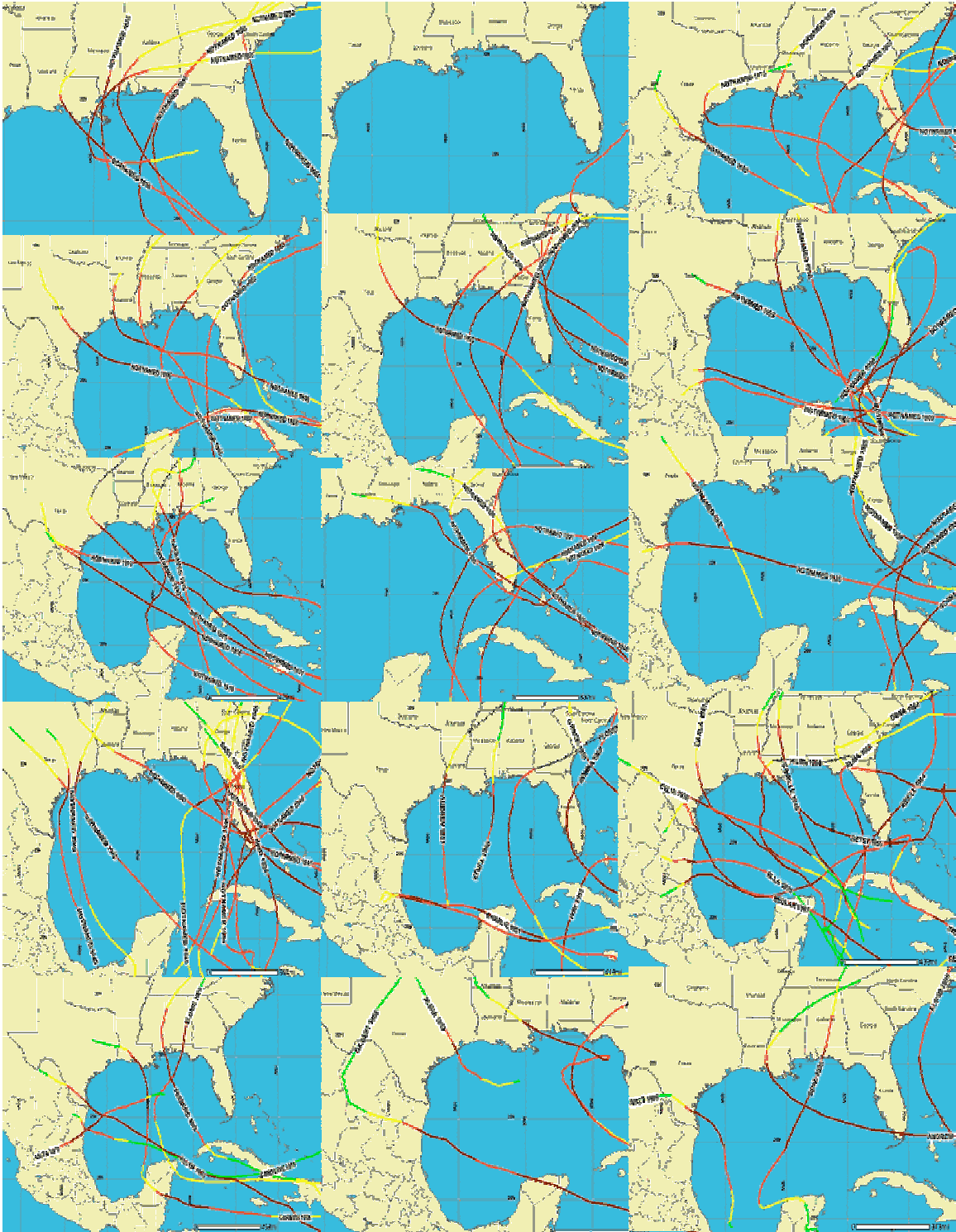
Average number major hurricanes expected over the Gulf of Mexico Oil Leases by decade:

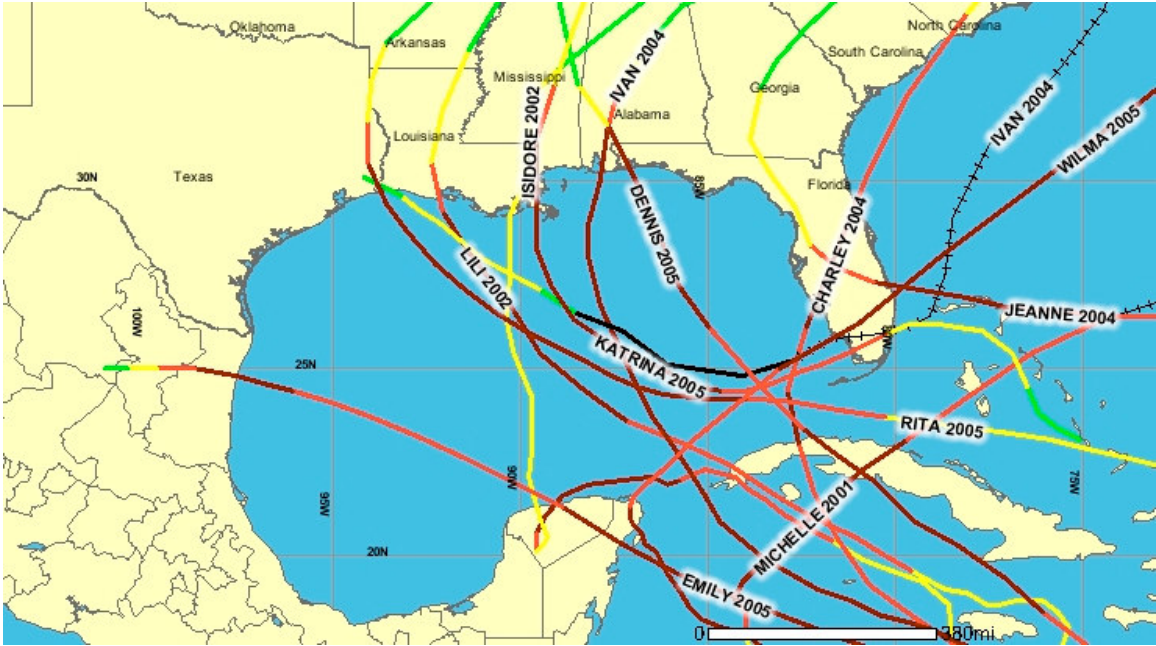
2001-2010 – 5	2011-2020 -- 2	2021- 2030 -- 3.6
2001-2005 -- 5 so far		

CYCLE 1

CYCLE 2

CYCLE 3





Counting the storms which include Lili in 2002, Ivan in 2004, Dennis, Katrina and Rita in 2005, there have been five Category 3 through 5 hurricanes in this decade. Therefore the Gulf of Mexico oil leases are in a period of higher risk of major hurricanes until 2010.

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