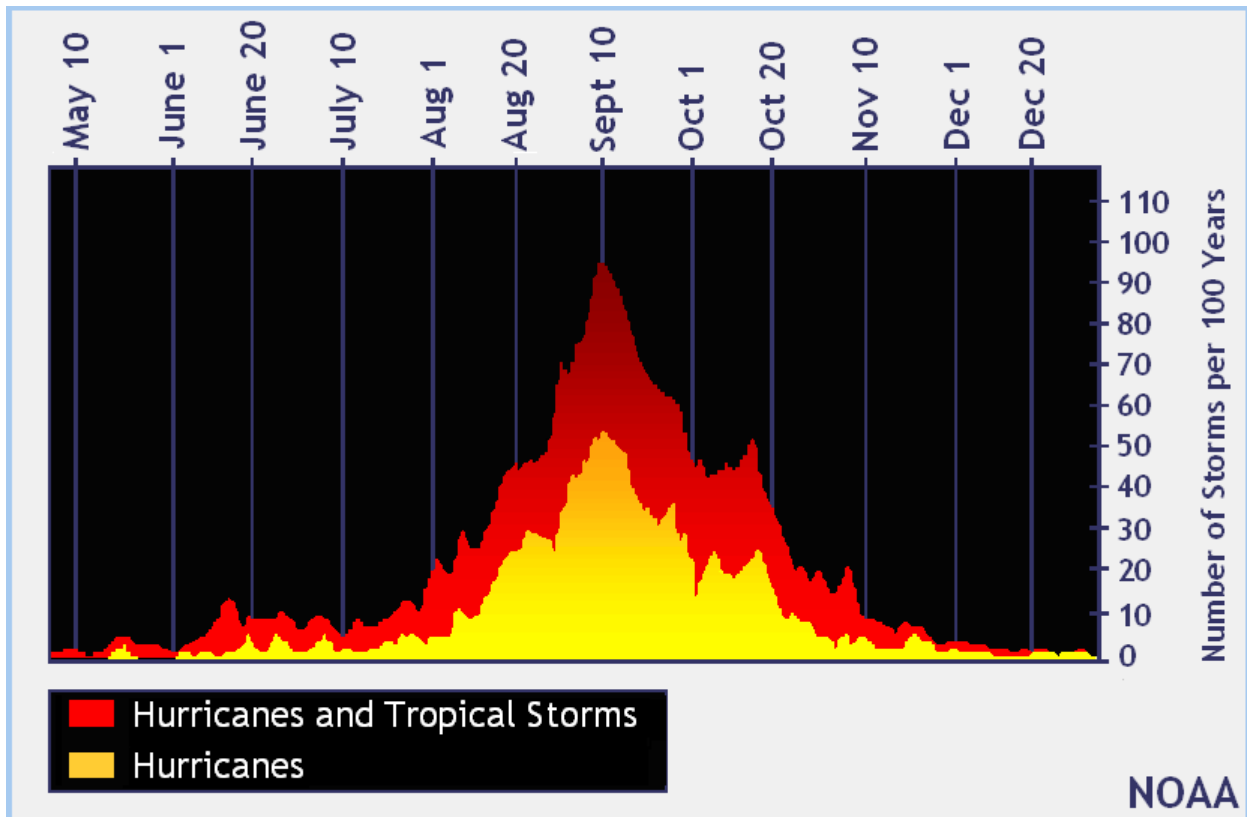
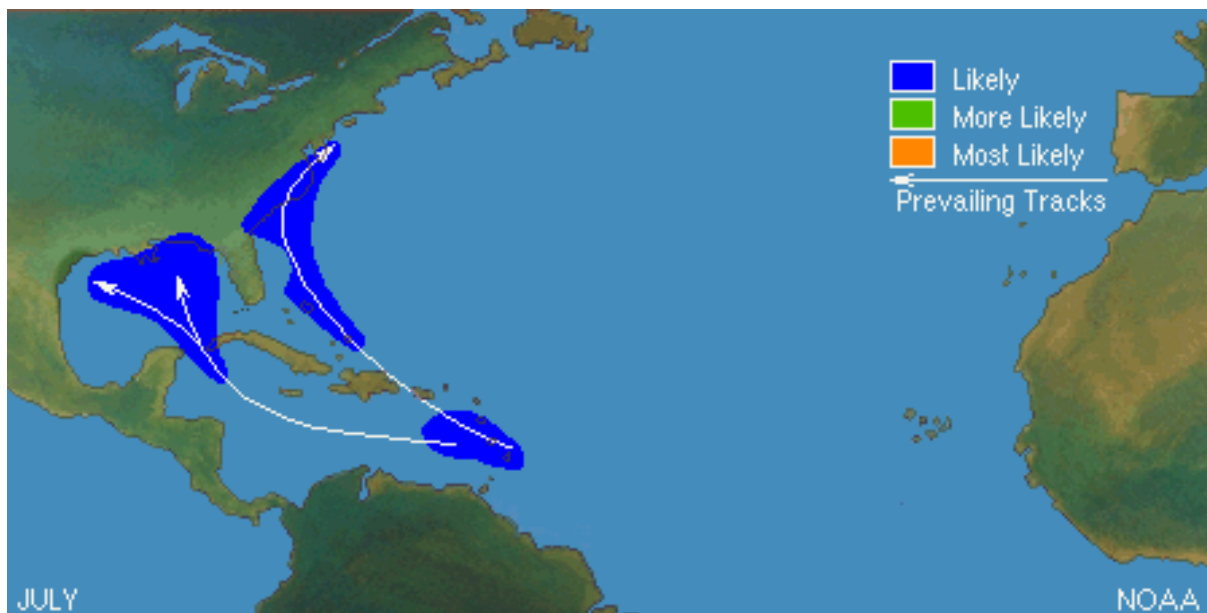
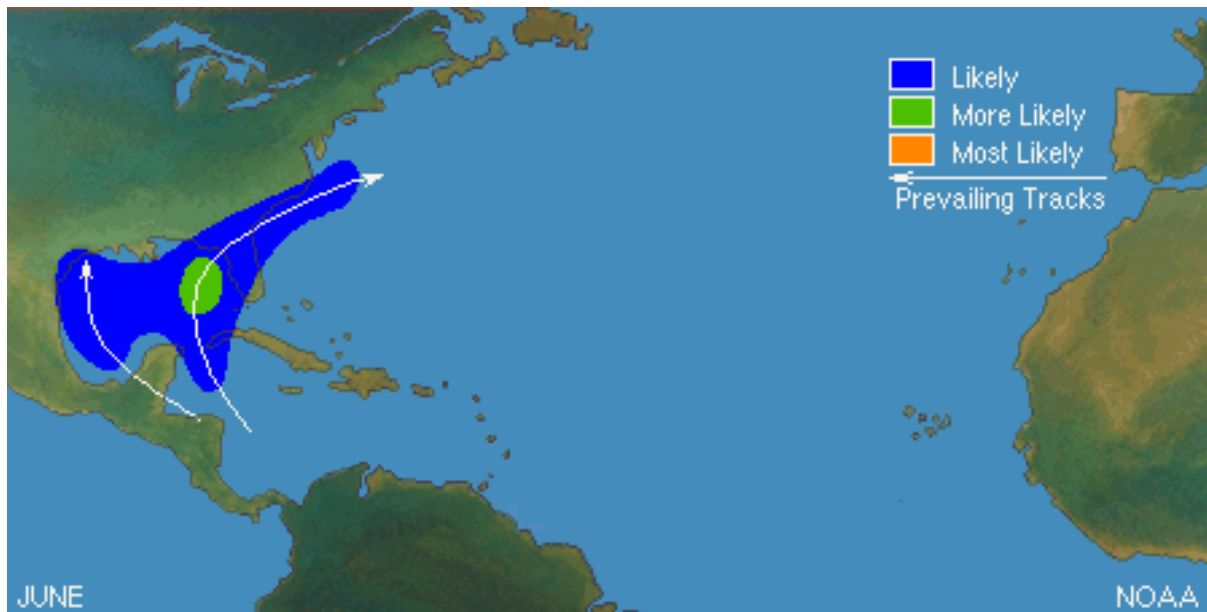


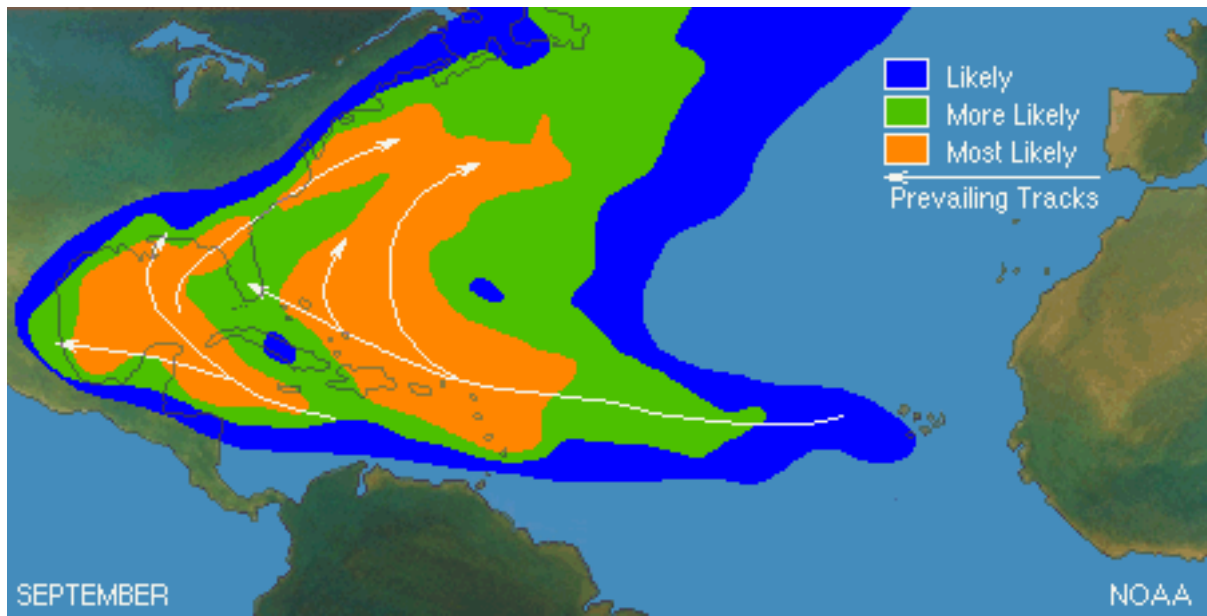
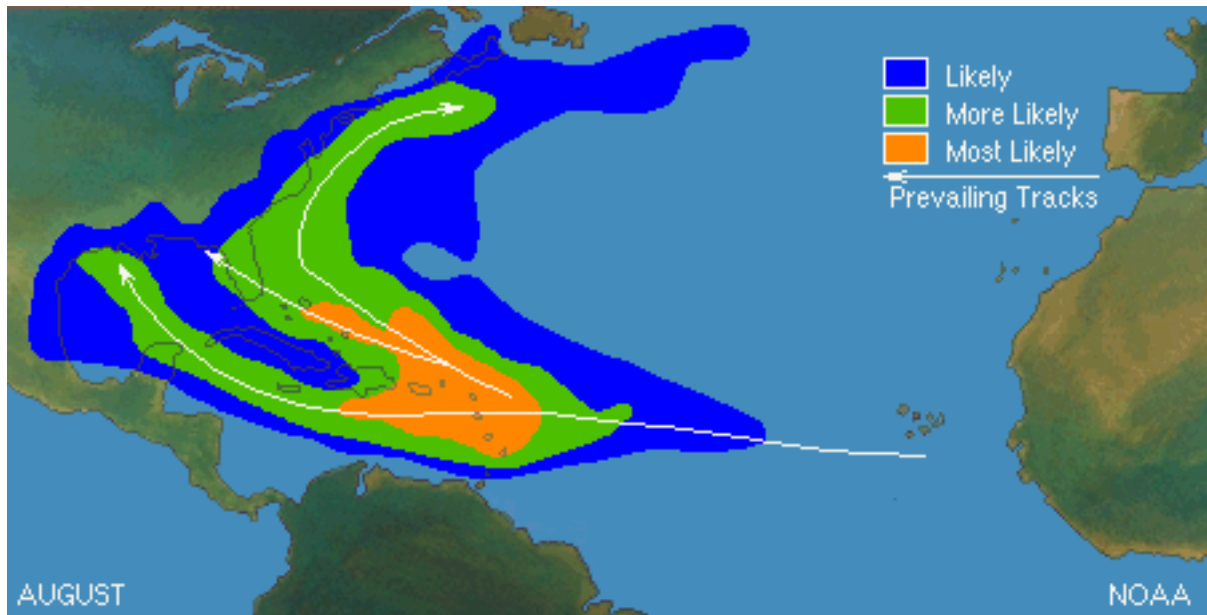
Hurricane Climatology

Hurricane season for the Atlantic Basin, which includes the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico, runs officially from June 1st through November 30th. The climatological peak of the season occurs around September 10th, as seen in the graph below. There is a secondary peak around the middle of October that is mainly for the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico region. After this second peak, the number of storms drops off quickly through the end of the season.

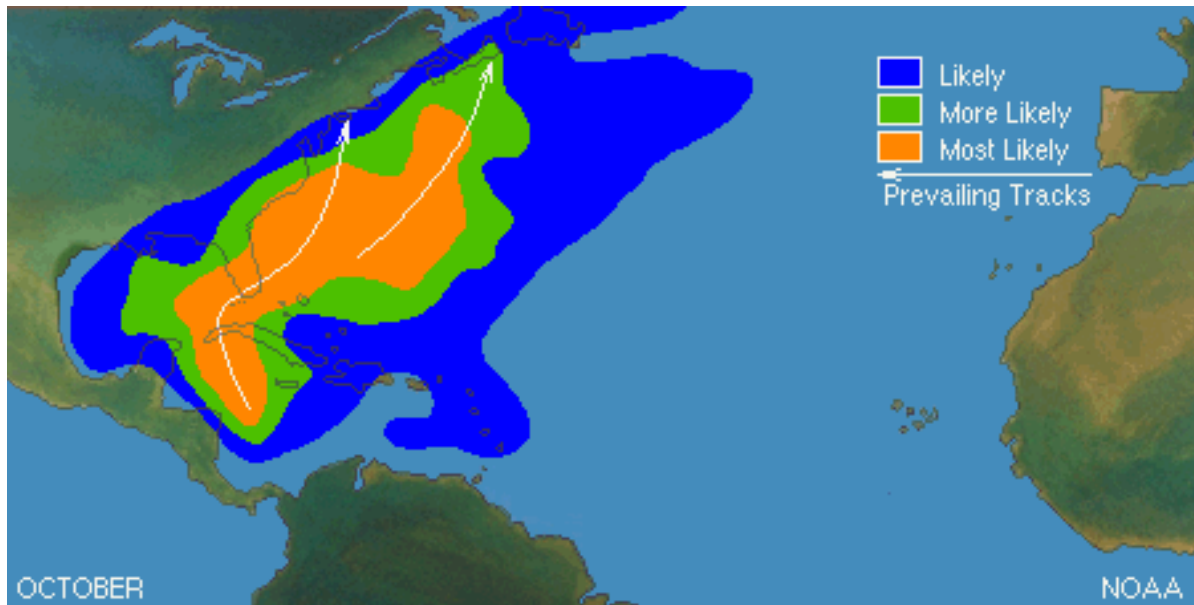


The next several figures show the areas of origin and prevailing tracks for each month of the hurricane season. From June through August, the areas of origin shift from the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico into the Atlantic Ocean as water temperatures become warmer and disturbances coming off the African coast can form more readily.

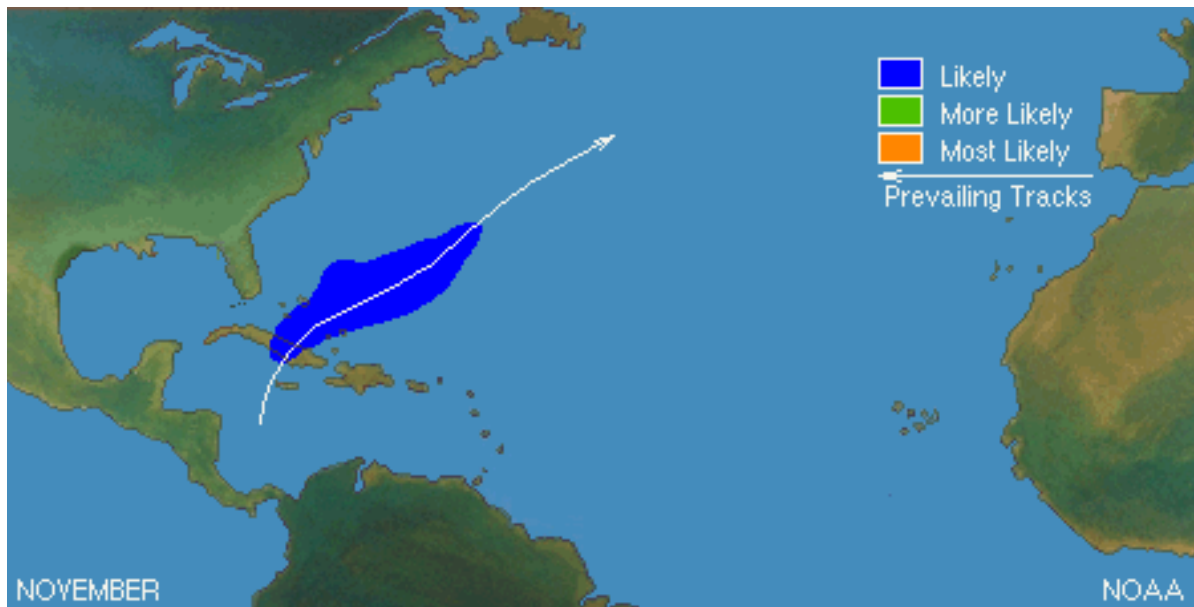




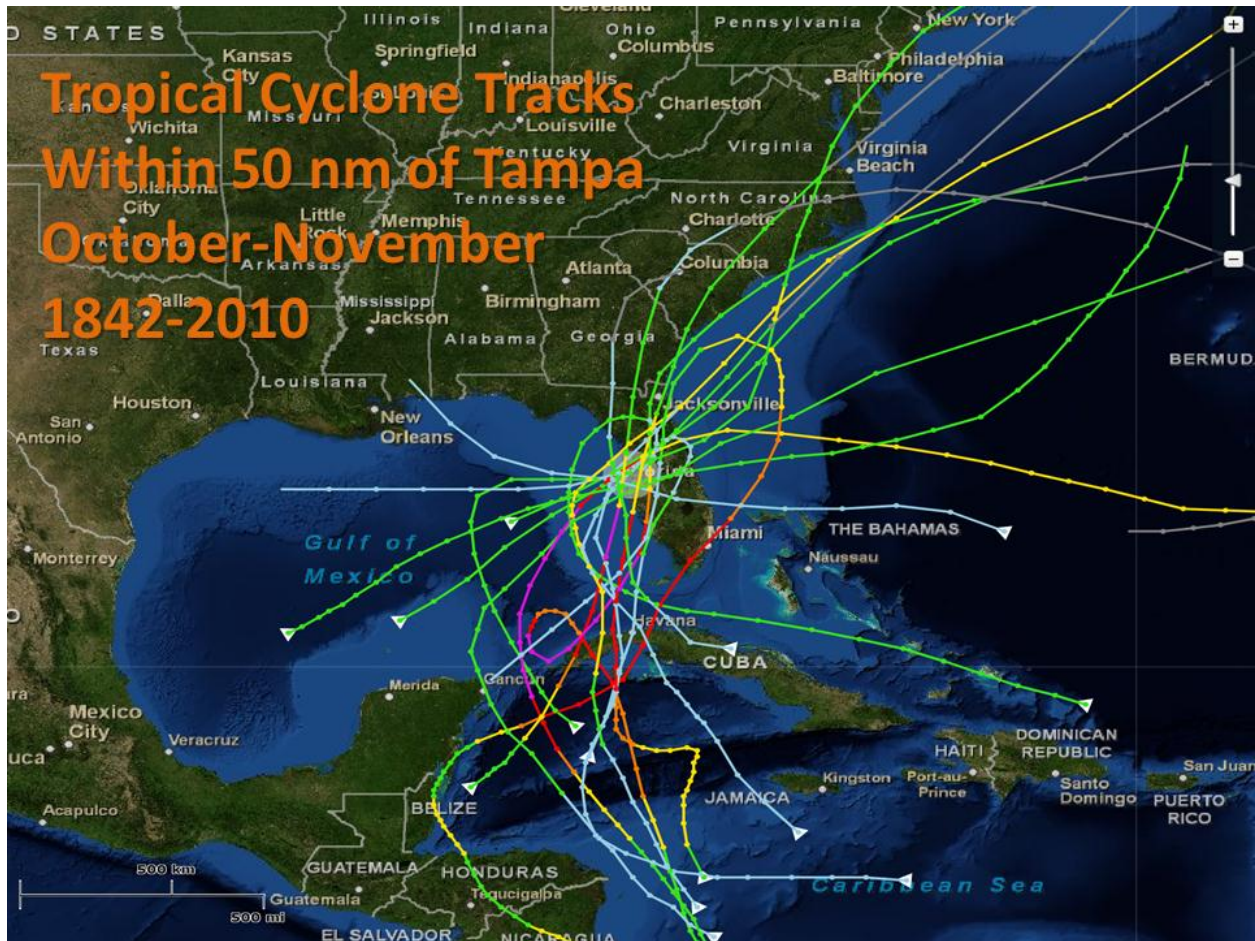
As the season progresses into October, the water temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean start to cool and wind shear increases, so the majority of the tropical activity shifts back into the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico, where water temperatures are usually still very warm. The map below shows the prevailing tracks that these storms take for the month of October. Most form in the Caribbean Sea or Gulf of Mexico and move north and then northeastward as the storm usually gets carried away by an eastward-moving trough. Depending on the exact circumstances, this setup can often bring storms close to the Florida peninsula.



A similar situation occurs for any storms that form during the last month of the season, although the number of storms is significantly less.



The following map shows the tracks of all of the tropical cyclones that made landfall within 50 nautical miles of Tampa through 2010 for the months of October and November. There are a total of 17 storms and all but a few originated in the Caribbean Sea or Gulf of Mexico.



The 1921 hurricane was the second major hurricane and the last storm of the 1921 season and it was one such storm that took a typical path for October, originating in the Caribbean Sea and making landfall over Florida. This storm formed on October 20th in the western Caribbean Sea and made its way straight through the Yucatan Channel, becoming a category 4 hurricane as it did so. The maximum sustained winds were 140 miles per hour as it crossed into the Gulf of Mexico toward Florida and it made landfall near Tarpon Springs, FL on October 25th, with winds of about 115 miles per hour. The hurricane then crossed over the peninsula as a category 1 storm before moving out into the Atlantic Ocean.

