



BIG STORY • WEATHER

A Warm Pacific Is Quieting the Atlantic Hurricane Season

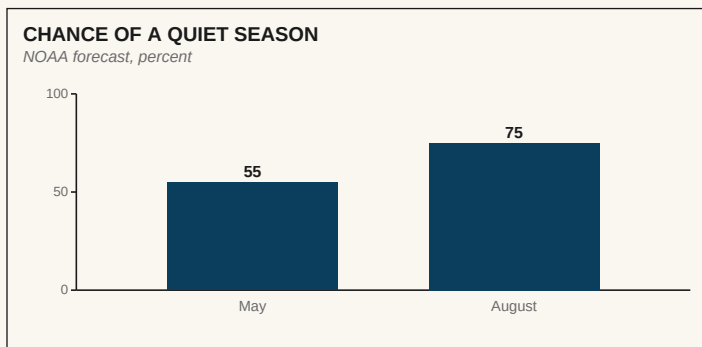
Forecasters say this year's Atlantic season is likely to be a quiet one.

Written and fact-checked by AI • News Pebbles

Hurricanes are giant storms that form over warm ocean water. This year, forecasters expect El Niño, a warm pattern in the Pacific Ocean. NOAA, the US weather agency, said there was a 90% chance of a strong or very strong El Niño during August, September and October.

El Niño changes the winds high in the sky over the Atlantic Ocean. Those winds can break up storms before they grow. NOAA said every strong El Niño since 1950 has come with a below-normal Atlantic hurricane season.

In August, NOAA said the chance of a below-normal season was 75%. In May, it had been 55%. It expects 7 to 13 named storms. Even so, NOAA's leader warned that "it only takes one" storm to cause trouble.



NOAA raised the chance of a below-normal season.

WHY IT MATTERS

Knowing a season may be quiet helps people plan, but one storm can still be dangerous, so families should keep their plans ready.

SCIENCE • TIME

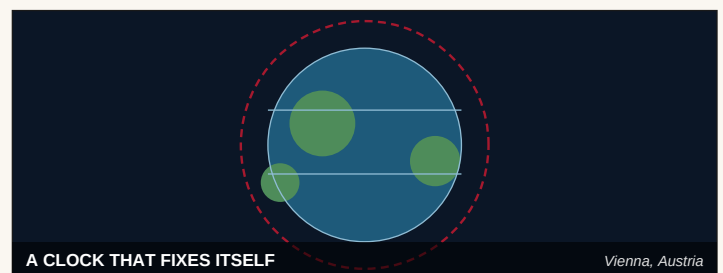
A New Kind of Clock Fixes Itself

Scientists in Vienna ran a nuclear clock for over a day without any help.

A clock needs something that ticks at a steady speed. This new clock uses the nucleus of an atom of thorium-229. The nucleus is the tiny centre of an atom. A laser shines on a crystal that holds the thorium.

The big news is that the clock corrects itself. The system notices when the laser drifts and fixes it. The prototype ran for over 24 hours with no one adjusting it. It was built at TU Wien in Austria with a lab in Germany called PTB.

It is very precise. Its error is about one second in 30 million years. A long life lasts about 100 years, so it would take 300,000 of those to drift by a second. The best clocks that use whole atoms are still more precise.



A laser and a crystal keep the time.

WHY IT MATTERS

Better clocks help scientists measure things very exactly, such as how fast time passes.

AROUND THE WORLD • FIJI AND TUVALU

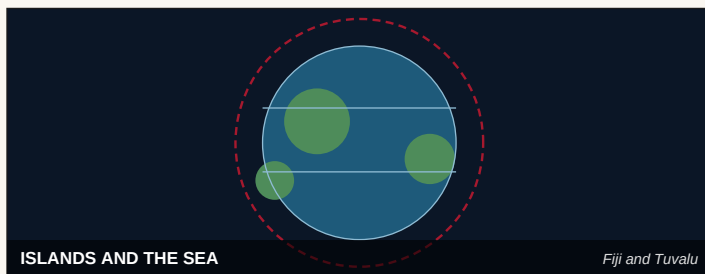
Island Nations Meet to Plan for a Big Climate Summit

Leaders from the Pacific talked about keeping the planet from warming too much.

Fiji and Tuvalu are island nations in the Pacific Ocean. From October 5 to 8, official meetings were held in Nadi, Fiji, to get ready for COP31. COP31 is a big United Nations climate meeting. It will be held in Antalya, Türkiye, from November 9 to 20.

Tuvalu's representative warned that the 1.5-degree goal, a limit on how much the planet warms, is in danger.

The next big step comes in Antalya, Türkiye, from November 9 to 20. That is when the COP31 summit itself takes place. Leaders from many countries will be there. Island nations like Fiji and Tuvalu want to be heard when they arrive.



Pacific nations helped set priorities for COP31.

CONNECT THE DOTS

Many island nations sit only a little above the sea, so changes to the ocean matter to them first.

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

- Albania: Students in the capital, Tirana, protested for a third day about university costs and jobs.
- Ukraine: Russia's missiles hit Kyiv's heat and power plants, and at least 600,000 people were without power.
- Saudi Arabia: The football league moved three games, including one for Cristiano Ronaldo's team.
- Kenya: Health officials confirmed the country's first Ebola case on October 6 and traced people who had been near the patient.
- Austria: Scientists in Vienna reported a clock that corrects itself.

GAME TIME

FOOTBALL

The Saudi Pro League moved three games. **Al Ahli v Al Nassr**, Cristiano Ronaldo's team, is now set for 6 March 2027. Two other games move to 19 December. The league said the reason was rest time between matches.

WORD WALL

New words this week

El Niño

A warm pattern in the Pacific Ocean that changes weather around the world. Today: A strong El Niño is quieting the Atlantic hurricane season.

Forecast

A careful guess about what will happen, based on facts. Today: NOAA's forecast says a quiet season is likely.

Nucleus

The tiny centre of an atom. Today: The Vienna clock uses the nucleus of thorium-229.

Summit

A big meeting of leaders. Today: COP31 is a climate summit in Türkiye in November.

EXPLORER CHALLENGE

Count a Minute

You need a timer or a clock with a second hand. Tap a pencil on the table at a steady speed for one minute. Ask a friend to count your taps.

Now do it again. Were both counts the same? A good clock ticks at the same speed every time. A clock that fixes itself, like the one in Vienna, keeps its ticks steady even when something tries to change them.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Atlantic hurricane season officially runs from June 1 to November 30, so it is still going on.

HOW IT WORKS

How does El Niño quiet hurricanes?

Hurricanes grow best when the winds high in the sky blow gently. Tall storm clouds can then stand straight up and spin.

During El Niño, the winds high above the Atlantic get stronger. NOAA says these stronger winds disrupt storm growth, like a gust that knocks over a tower of blocks.

COMING UP

- Whether NOAA says more about the rest of the hurricane season.
- What leaders say as COP31 gets closer in November.
- Whether more power returns in Ukraine.

“Wonder is where science begins.”

Keep exploring. See you next week!