



MEDIA ADVISORY

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NOAA predicts a near-normal Tropical Cyclone (TC) Outlook for the remainder of 2021 for the Republic of Palau (ROP), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the Territory of Guam.

The [National Weather Service \(NWS\) Weather Forecast Office Guam](#), predicts that the US-Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI), which include the ROP, the FSM, the RMI, the CNMI and Guam, will likely see near-normal tropical cyclone (TC) activity for the remainder of 2021. Near-normal activity would be consistent with El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral conditions. Because of the large extent of the Micronesian region, the TC activity will vary considerably east to west and north to south. Later-season activity will depend on the late season status of ENSO. At this time, we are anticipating a continuation of ENSO-neutral conditions through the end of 2021.

Table 1 shows the tropical storm and typhoon activity outlooks for various regions of Micronesia. Figure 1 indicates the various regions of Micronesia as shown in Table 1.

REGION	TROPICAL STORMS	TYPHOONS
Marshall Islands (north of 6N)	1 to 2	0 to 1
Marshall Islands (south of 6N)	0 to 1	0 to 1
Pohnpei State (north of 6N)	1 to 2	0 to 1
Chuuk State (north of 6N)	2 to 3	1 to 2 (1 major)
Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk States (south of 6N)	1 to 2	0 to 1
Yap State and Palau	2 to 3	1 to 2 (1 major)
Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan	2 to 3	2 to 3 (1 to 2 major)
Northern CNMI	1 to 2	1 to 2 (1 to 2 major)

Table 1. Tropical storm and typhoon activity outlook for various regions of Micronesia. The Tropical Storms column includes only those systems that do not reach typhoon strength.

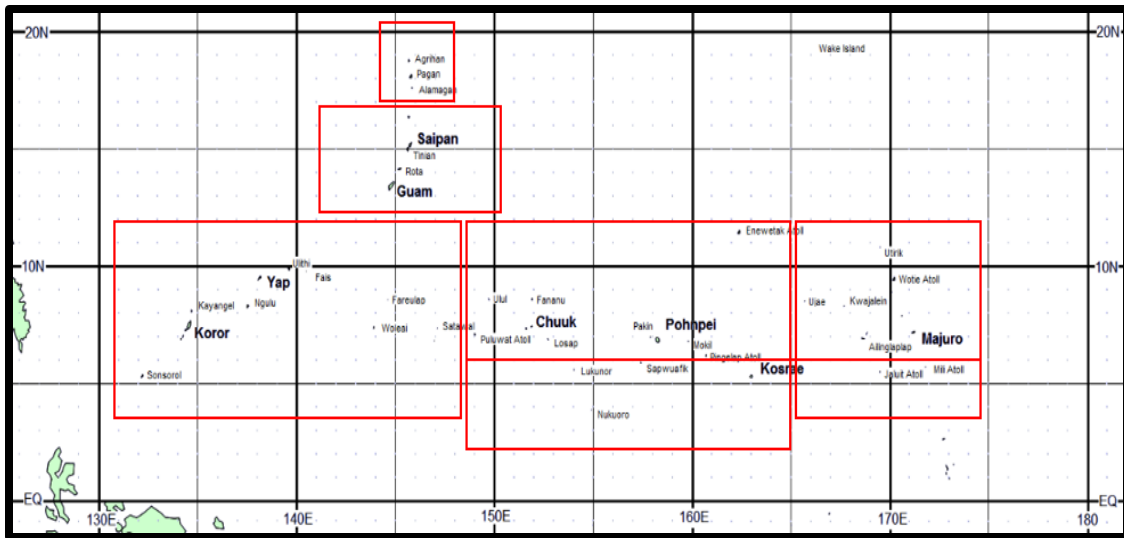


Figure 1. Depiction of the various Micronesia regions as shown in Table 1, above.

This outlook is a general guide to the predicted, overall TC activity across Micronesia and does not predict how many of these systems will actually make landfall. However, the outlook does provide a general idea of how many tropical storms and/or typhoons could directly impact a specific island in the case of Guam, a small cluster of islands in the case of the CNMI, entire states in the case of the FSM, and an entire country in the case of Palau and the Marshall Islands. Although TC activity peaks around September-November for many regional locations, tropical cyclones can and do occur throughout the year across the western North Pacific. Therefore, there is no clearly-defined ‘typhoon season’. While TC activity can fluctuate greatly from year to year, we always urge residents and mariners to maintain preparedness for tropical cyclones year-round. Please visit the [Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense](#), the [CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management](#), and FEMA’s [Ready.gov](#) for more information on preparedness plans, tips and how to build emergency kits for home and at work.

The western North Pacific Ocean climate, and the factors that impact tropical cyclone formation typically change over a period of months. While we don’t anticipate a significant change this year, we will provide an update in August to incorporate the latest information into the outlook.

The International Research Institute for Climate and Society at Columbia University, Palisades, New York (IRI) and the National Weather Service (NWS) [Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\)](#) are predicting an ENSO-neutral climate state through the end of 2021. Figure 2 below illustrates the TC distribution during ENSO-neutral years. TC activity stretches eastward into the Marshall Islands with the orange contour extending east of Guam. This ENSO-neutral state suggests that 2021 will be a considerably busier TC year than was the 2020 La Niña year. Figure 3 illustrates the westward shift of TC development during La Niña conditions, when trade winds intensify, shifting TC development away from eastern Micronesia toward the western half of Micronesia. Activity for central Micronesia during a La Niña year is also shifted westward, especially the typhoon activity. In Figure 3, the orange contour shifts to the west of Guam. Any transition back to a La Niña state late in the year would have much less effect on TC behavior than seen in 2020.

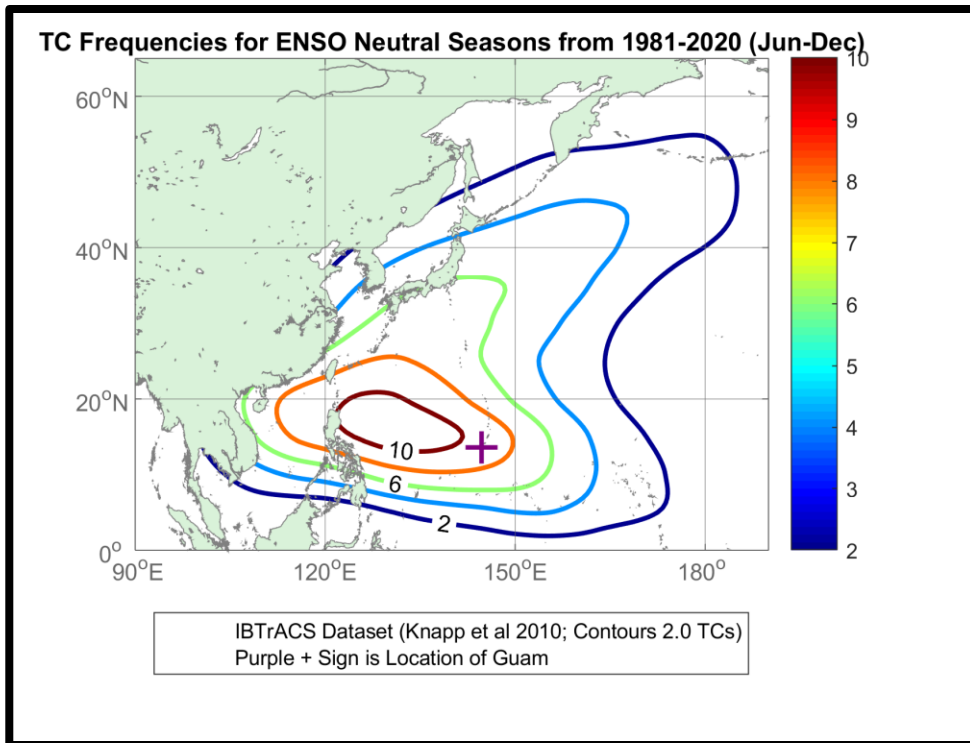


Figure 2: Tropical Cyclone frequencies for El Niño-Southern Oscillation-Neutral Seasons from 1981-2020, months June to December. The + symbol represents the location of Guam.

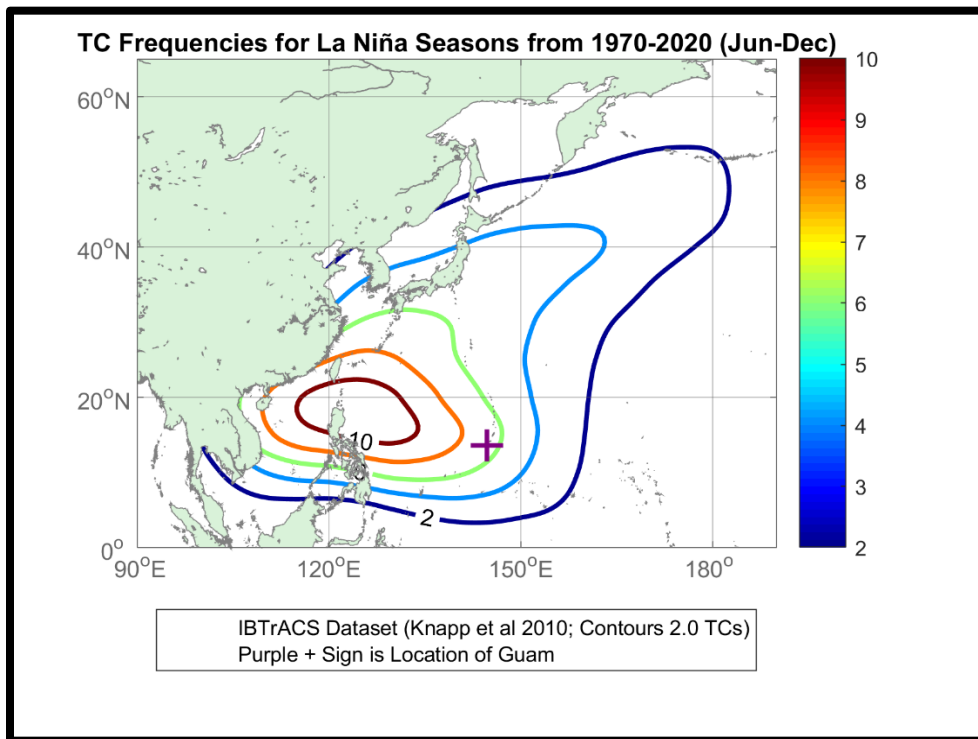


Figure 3: Tropical Cyclone frequencies for La Niña Seasons from 1970-2020, months June to December. The + symbol represents the location of Guam.

NWS Weather Forecast Office Guam, in collaboration with the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) and the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center (RSMC) Tokyo, Japan continuously monitors weather conditions near the territory by using an array of observations, satellite data and output from complex weather computer models that serve as the basis for tropical cyclone tracks and forecasts.

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This outlook is a coordinated effort by the National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Office Guam; the Climate Prediction Center; NWS Pacific Region Headquarters in Honolulu, HI; Mr. Chip Guard of Tropical Weather Sciences; and Dr. Mark Lander, Water and Environmental Research Institute (WERI), University of Guam.

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