



NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



MEDIA ADVISORY

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2020 Hurricane Season Summary for the Central Pacific Basin

The 2020 hurricane season featured two tropical cyclones in the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) area of responsibility, which is below the seasonal average. Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. The Central Pacific basin extends from 140°W to the International Date Line north of the equator. Four to five tropical cyclones occur during an average year.

Tropical Depression Boris was the first tropical cyclone of the season in the Central Pacific, moving into the basin from the east on June 27 and weakening to a remnant low on June 28. Boris was only the second tropical cyclone to occur during June in the Central Pacific since 1950, and the first since Tropical Storm Barbara in 2001. Hurricane Douglas entered the basin on July 24 as a category 4 major hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. Douglas quickly and steadily tracked to the west-northwest toward Hawaii and gradually weakened, eventually passing within 30 miles north of the state on July 26 as a category 1 hurricane. Douglas weakened to a remnant low on July 29, shortly before crossing the International Date Line into the western Pacific basin. (Note: the dates provided are Universal Coordinated Time [UTC], which is 10 hours ahead of Hawaii Standard Time.)

Hurricane Douglas prompted hurricane warnings for Maui County, Oahu, and Kauai County; and a tropical storm warning for Hawaii County. Across the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, Douglas warranted a hurricane warning from Nihoa to French Frigate Shoals, a tropical storm warning from French Frigate Shoals to Maro Reef to Lisianski, and a tropical storm watch from Lisianski to Pearl and Hermes Atoll.

Impacts to the State of Hawaii: Hurricane Douglas passed just north of the state, keeping the most damaging wind and rain impacts away from land. Swells from Douglas brought high surf across east-facing shores beginning July 25. Debris from high surf closed Kamehameha Highway near Kaaawa in windward Oahu for a time on the afternoon of July 26. Heavy rain occurred over portions of the state on July 26, south of Douglas's track, with no significant property damage or injuries reported.

Additional information about wind gust and rainfall totals from Hurricane Douglas is available here:

<https://www.weather.gov/hfo/hurricanedougllassummary>

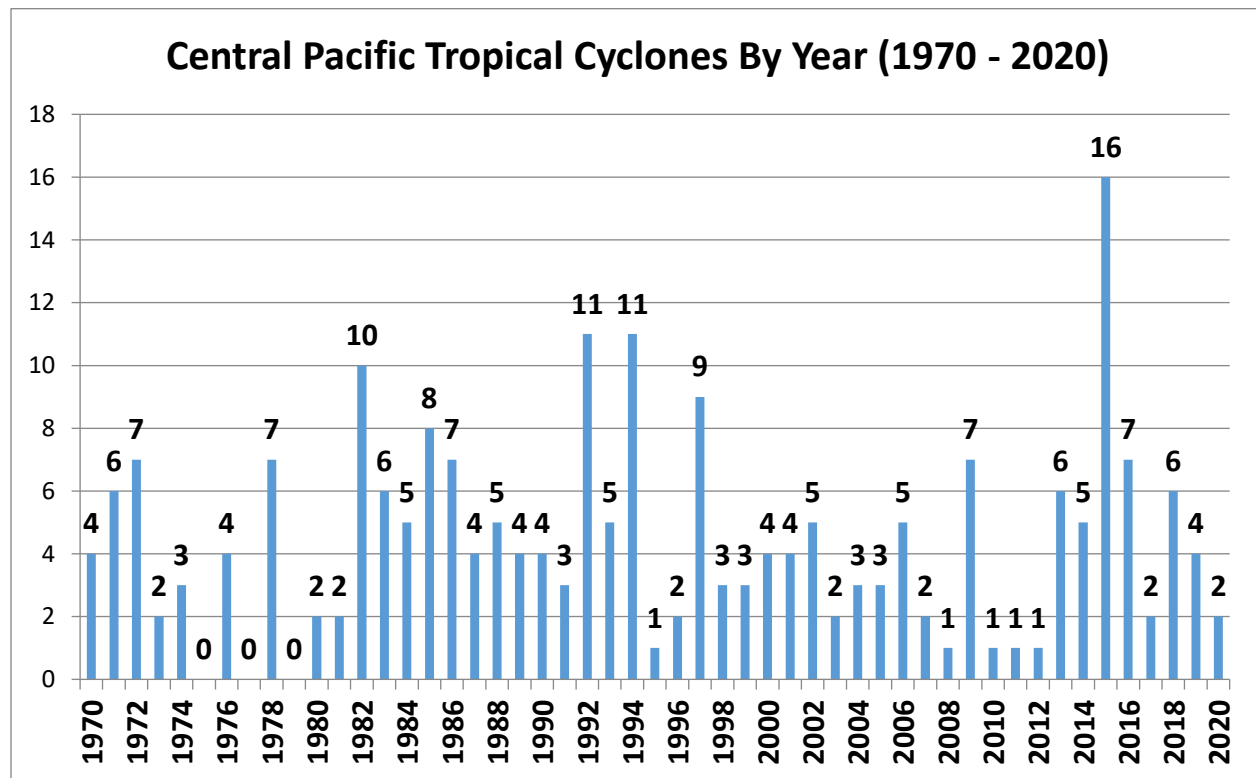
Hurricane Season Outlook: NOAA's 2020 hurricane season outlook issued on May 20, 2020, called for two to six tropical cyclones in the Central Pacific basin, with a 75% chance of near-to-below-normal tropical cyclone activity and a 25% chance of above-normal activity. The 2020 season started with ENSO-neutral conditions in the equatorial Pacific that were expected to continue through the summer,

with a potential transition to La Niña. Equatorial ocean temperatures steadily cooled during the summer, leading the Climate Prediction Center to declare that La Niña conditions were present in August.

The following table outlines tropical cyclone names and highest classification, life cycle dates, and maximum wind speeds while in the central Pacific basin.

Name	Dates (UTC)	Max Wind (mph)
Tropical Depression Boris	June 27-28	35
Major Hurricane Douglas	July 24-29	130

Annual Comparisons (including out of season tropical cyclones):

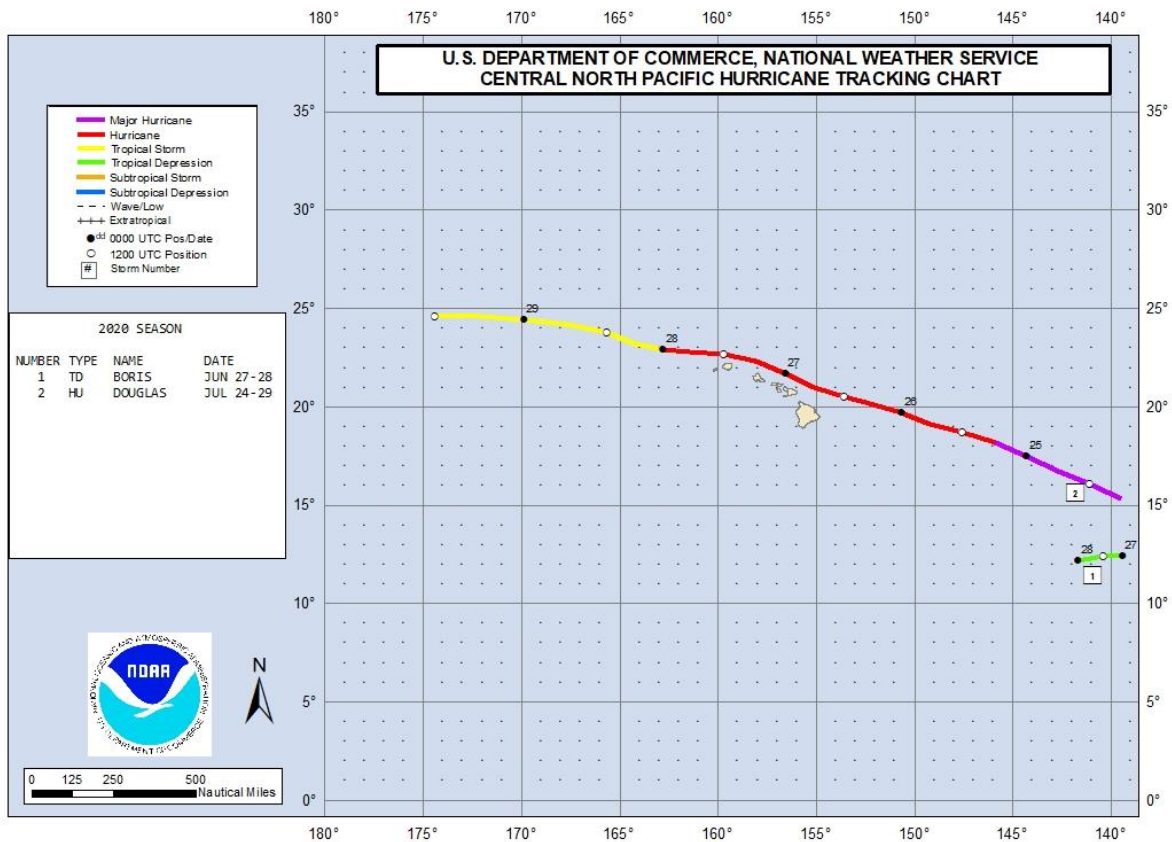


The 2 tropical cyclones in the Central Pacific in 2020 were below the average of 4 to 5 tropical cyclones that develop or move across the central Pacific basin each year.

Hurricane Hunter missions:

The United States Air Force Reserve's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron flew 5 missions into Hurricane Douglas between July 25 and July 27. The flight crews made 21 passes through Douglas's eye, providing measurements of the position and intensity of the hurricane, as well as measuring the size of the wind field around the hurricane. These extremely valuable weather observations were used by hurricane specialists at CPHC to refine the forecast as Douglas approached the State of Hawaii.

2020 Hurricane Season Tropical Cyclone Track Map (Preliminary):



Additional graphics from our social media links:

NWS Honolulu Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/NWSHonolulu>

NWS Honolulu Twitter - <https://twitter.com/NWSHonolulu>

NWS Honolulu Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/NWSHonolulu> - New!

Other useful web links:

NOAA Central Pacific Hurricane Center - <https://www.hurricanes.gov/cphc>

NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office Honolulu - <https://www.weather.gov/hawaii>

CPHC Tropical Cyclone Product Archive - <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/archive/2020/>

CPHC Annual Summaries - <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/tcr/?basin=cpac>

NOAA Atlantic Hurricane Season Summary for 2020 -

<https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/record-breaking-atlantic-hurricane-season-draws-to-end>