

## HURRICANE WATCH *2010's season proves to be an active one...*



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA) expects an active or extremely active hurricane season for the Atlantic Basin this year according to the seasonal outlook issued by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center—a division of the

National Weather Service. As with every hurricane season, this current outlook for 2010 underlines the importance of having a hurricane preparedness plan in place.

Across the entire Atlantic Basin the six-month season which begins June 1 and runs through November 30, the NOAA is projecting a 70% probability of the following:

- 14 to 23 Named Storms (top winds of 39 mph or higher), including:
- 8 to 14 Hurricanes (top winds of 74 mph or higher), of which:
- 3 to 7 could be Major Hurricanes (Category 3, 4, or 5; winds of at least 111 mph)

Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D., secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator stated, "If this outlook holds true, this season could be one of the more active on record." In short, they're urging everyone to be prepared.

*Sure there's always a doubtful tone in any weather report or prediction, but as of now there are three main factors supporting this outlook...*

1. Upper atmospheric winds prove conducive for storms. Wind shear, which can tear apart storms, will be weaker since El Nino in the eastern Pacific has dissipated. Strong wind shear helped suppress storm development during the 2009 hurricane season.
2. Warm Atlantic Ocean water. Sea surface temperatures are expected to remain above average, especially where named storms often develop and move across the Atlantic. Currently there are record warm temperatures in this area – up to four degrees Fahrenheit above average.
3. High activity era continues. Since 1995, the tropical multi-decadal signal has brought favorable ocean and atmospheric conditions in sync, leading to more active hurricane seasons. Eight of the last 15 seasons rank in the top ten for the most named storms with 2005 in first place with 28 named storms.

On a more positive note, FEMA is working with state and local partners to ensure we are prepared for hurricane season. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate stated "We can only be as prepared as the public, so it is important that families and businesses in coastal communities take steps now to be ready. These include developing a communications plan, putting together a kit, and staying informed of the latest forecasts and local emergency notifications. You can't control when a hurricane or other emergency may happen, but you can make sure you're ready."

NOAA scientists will continue to monitor evolving conditions in the tropics and will issue an updated hurricane outlook in early August, just prior to what is historically "the peak period for hurricane activity." In the meantime, more information on individual and family preparedness can be found at [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) and [www.hurricanes.gov/prepare](http://www.hurricanes.gov/prepare).

# SAFE BOATING SMARTS

National Safe Boating week was May 22 - 28 and in honor of this important event, we thought a refresher boating safety course would be fitting. Courtesy of Discover Boating, answer these fun and factual questions to test your boating smarts!

Every personal flotation device must be:

- a. The same color as your boat
- b. Of the approved type
- c. Carried only in rough weather

1

If underway and a fire starts:

- a. Jump overboard
- b. Call the fire department
- c. Stop the boat in a position that puts the fire downwind

2

What kind of boat always has right of way over another type of boat?

- a. Sail Boat
- b. Jet Ski
- c. Paddle Boat

3

If someone falls overboard, you should:

- a. Call the Coast Guard
- b. Jump overboard to help them
- c. Throw them an inflatable

4

If a boat capsizes, you should:

- a. Abandon it
- b. Use the boat for flotation
- c. Throw your life jacket on the boat so it does not sink

5

What kinds of visual distress signals are required for boats?

- a. They are not required
- b. Night signals
- c. Either a night signal or both a day and night signal, depending on the boat's size

6

What does a red flag with a white diagonal line going from the top left to the bottom right indicate?

- a. Lobster traps
- b. Divers
- c. Treasure

7

A flashing blue light indicates what?

- a. Law enforcement watercraft
- b. A bridge
- c. A no wake zone

8

Boats 16 feet and longer must carry one USCG-approved throwable life jacket.

- a. True
- b. False

9

## FISHING BOUNDARIES TAKE ANOTHER CUT

NOAA has extended the boundaries of the closed fishing area in the Gulf of Mexico into the northern portion of the loop current as a precautionary measure, the agency announced recently.

The closed area now represents 45,728 square miles, which is about 19 percent of Gulf of Mexico federal waters. This leaves more than 81 percent of Gulf federal waters – or nearly 195,000 square miles – still available for fishing.

The loop current is also known as the Florida current. It flows through the Florida Strait and then into the Gulf Stream as it heads north to the East Coast of the U.S.

Dr. Margaret Hamburg, FDA commissioner stated, “Due to the unprecedented and ongoing discharge of oil, FDA agrees that NOAA’s closure of these federal waters is one appropriate public health measure to prevent potentially unsafe seafood from being harvested and reach consumers.”

NOAA will continue to evaluate the need for fisheries closures based on the evolving nature of the spill.

## NBOA PAIRS UP WITH DISCOVER BOATING

NBOA was picked to be one of four industry sponsors for Discover Boating’s new and exciting campaign. Focused on increasing participation and creating interest in boating, the NMMA’s Discover Boating program is a well-known and trusted source for generating new boaters. Their new campaign looks to bring out the boater in all Facebook fans, friends and participants by launching a new, interactive game called “Making Waves.”

The game is designed to help users picture their life with a boat. Its challenges incorporate various styles of boating so users can experience different ways of enjoying the water and ultimately find the lifestyle that fits them best. Since NBOA’s number one priority is to educate boat owners and accommodate the boating lifestyle, we feel our partnership with Discover Boating is a perfect match. Log on to Facebook and search Discover Boating to try the game yourself!

Boating Smarts Answer Key:

9. A 8. A 7. B 6. C 5. B 4. C 3. C 2. C 1. B