

DREADFUL ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON PREDICTED

Hurricane Dennis, which ploughed into the Florida panhandle on July 10th was the fifth hurricane to strike the state in the last eleven months, and the latest predictions from Tropical Storm Risk suggest that far worse is to come. In its July update, the BHRC-led consortium forecasts an exceptionally above-average season, following on from last year's unusually stormy episode. Based on current and projected climate signals, Atlantic basin and US landfalling tropical cyclone activity are forecast to be about 200 percent of average in 2005. This is the highest July forecast for activity in any year since 1950. Fifteen tropical storms are forecast for the Atlantic Basin as a whole, with nine of these being hurricanes, and four of these achieving intense (category 3 and above) hurricane status. An 82 percent probability of above-normal US landfalling hurricane activity translates into five tropical storm strikes on the US, two of which will be hurricanes. The Caribbean Lesser Antilles is predicted to be hit by two tropical storms, one of hurricane strength. The complete forecast can be accessed at:

<http://forecast.mssl.ucl.ac.uk/docs/TSRATLForecastJul2005.pdf>

[Image: Hurricane Dennis over the Florida panhandle, imaged by the GOES-12 satellite on July 10th 2005. Courtesy: NOAA]

