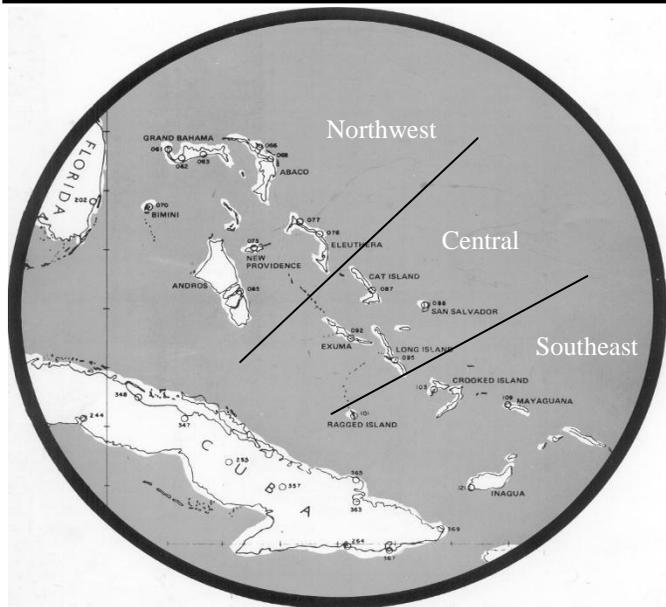




Commonwealth of the Bahamas

DEPARTMENT OF METEOROLOGY



East Street
P.O. Box N-8330
Nassau, Bahamas

Fax: (242)-356-3739
Telegram: Meteo Bahamas
Telephone: (242)-356- 734/6/8
Web Site: www.bahamasweather.org

WEATHER LOG

AUGUST, 2020

GENERAL WEATHER SITUATION OVER THE BAHAMAS

The month of August continued on its record-breaking pace for the earliest named storms that were set in 2005. Of the thirteen named storms that occurred up to the end of August 2020, ten set earliest-in-season records. Marco was the 13th earliest named storm formed in the Atlantic Basin. It formed 12 days earlier than the previous record set on September 02nd in both 2005 and 2011. The Bahamas has not been immune to this high tropical cyclone activity, as Hurricane Isaias (pronounced ees-ah-EE-ahs) and Tropical Storm Laura both affected the Bahamas, although the former not directly. Hurricane Isaias developed quickly and moved through the Bahamas as a category one hurricane then went on to affect the eastern United States. During the passage of Isaias, the Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA) recorded 4.97 inches of rainfall that accounted for nearly half of the total monthly value. As more tropical systems formed during the month, Hurricane Laura came closest. She brought more rainfall to the Bahamas, especially to the Southeast and Central Islands. Furthermore, the broad stationary surface high pressure ridge across the Bahamas provided hot and humid conditions that were adversely interrupted by upper level systems shifting through the area.

The first week of August during the 01st through the 08th, Hurricane Isaias and multi-layered troughs produced unsettled weather across the archipelago. Isaias was initially a tropical storm but developed quickly to a hurricane as it emerged off the coast of the Dominican Republic, Hispaniola. By evening Tropical Storm Warning and Watches already in effect for the Southeast and Central Bahamas and a Tropical Storm Alert for the Northwest Bahamas were upgraded to Hurricane Warnings and Watches along with a Hurricane Alert respectively as Isaias became a category one hurricane as it moved near Inagua. Small Craft Operators in the Southeast and Central Bahamas were issued a Caution, then an Advisory, and later advised to remain in port ahead of the passage of Isaias. Warnings for swells and minor surge were also issued for the Southeast and parts of the Central Bahamas. In the Northwest Bahamas, the warnings also progressed from a Caution to an Advisory and eventually to stay in port warning as the system came closer. Isaias rain bands and thunderstorms produced variably cloudy to overcast skies with heavy downpours, prolonged rainfall, and occasionally strong to severe thunderstorms. Localized flooding occurred mainly in low lying and flood prone areas with some fallen trees and power lines noted. Minor damages to homes were reported in most instances.

The week of the 09th through the 15th of August produced the combination of a surface trough in the Northwest Bahamas with upper level troughs across the Central and Southeast Bahamas. These systems enhanced convective activity across the island chain. Later, multi-layered troughs in addition to tropical waves produced unsettled weather across the island chain.

Mariners and Beach Goers were warned of possible waterspout development and the moderate risk of rip currents along east coast beaches mainly in the Central and Southeast Bahamas. Residents were also advised to limit outdoor activity and remain hydrated due to high heat indices in the triple digits. Small Craft Caution was issued for the Southeast Bahamas for Small Craft Operators.

In the week of the 16th through the 22nd of August, high pressure ridge remained the dominant surface feature; however, persistent multi-layered troughs with a moist unstable air mass maintained unstable weather across the archipelago. Several Severe Thunderstorm Warnings were issued during the week but peaked between the 18th through the 22nd of August. By the 19th of August, Tropical Depression Thirteen developed and its potential tracked area became a concern for the Bahamas as it moved west-northwestward at near 20 mph. Tropical Depression Thirteen cone tracked as a tropical storm toward the archipelago, and required the issuance of a Tropical Storm Alert for the Northwest Bahamas, a Tropical Storm Watch for the Central Bahamas, and a Tropical Storm Warning for the Southeast Bahamas. Tropical Storm Laura later developed, and tracked across the Northern Leeward Islands, between Antigua and Montserrat, then continued westward, just south of Puerto Rico and across Hispaniola, and through east and west Cuba. Laura spared the Bahamas from a direct hit, but she still produced tropical storm force winds in the Southeast Bahamas and fresh to strong breezes with gusts to storm force winds in the Northwest and Central Bahamas. Large swells affected the Bahamas mainly from the northeast and southeast as the storm traveled south and west of the islands.

By the 23rd of August, the “All Clear” was given, although all was not calm across the Bahamas. Rain bands associated with Tropical Storm Laura supported pockets of unsettled weather as it moved along Cuba. Small Craft Operators were warned to remain in port due to high seas, large swells, and rip currents, but, on the 25th of August, conditions improved to a Caution for the entire Bahamas. Later that evening winds and seas decreased below a Caution but Small Craft Operators were reminded to be alert for possible waterspout formation and gusty winds and higher seas in or near heavy showers or thunderstorms through the following day. Late in the week, Small Craft Operators in the Southeast Bahamas and occasionally in the Central Bahamas were warned to exercise Caution through the 28th of August. For the 29th of August through to the 31st of August, a stationary high pressure ridge continued over the islands with weak low to upper level troughs supporting convective activity through the period. Small Craft Operators exercised Caution in the Southeast Bahamas for short periods with the warnings for possible waterspout development and the risk of rip currents mainly across the Southeast Bahamas.

Tropical Cyclone Summary for August

Tropical Storm Josephine formed on the 11th of August and lasted through the 16th of August. Josephine’s maximum winds were 45 mph. Josephine formed as Tropical Depression Eleven in the Atlantic waters, some 1450 miles east of the Lesser Antilles and it degenerated into a trough of low pressure, some 175 miles north of Puerto Rico. Josephine was never a threat to the Bahamas.

Tropical Storm Kyle formed on the 14th of August and dissipated on the 16th of August. Kyle’s maximum winds were 50 mph. Kyle formed off the eastern United States coastline, offshore of Virginia and Delaware. Kyle became an extraordinary low on the 16th of August, some 545 miles southwest of Cape Race, New Foundland. Kyle was never a threat to the Bahamas.

Hurricane Laura formed on the 20th of August and lasted until the 28th of August. Laura was a major hurricane with maximum winds of 150 mph. Laura formed as Tropical Depression Thirteen in the Central Atlantic Ocean, about 1035 miles east-southeast of the Northern

Leeward Islands. Laura moved through Antigua and Montserrat and affected most of the Greater Antilles islands of Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, Jamaica, and Cuba. Laura passed directly south of Inagua and the Turks and Caicos Islands and indirectly affected the remainder of the Bahamas. Laura after entering the Gulf of Mexico moved across eastern Texas and west Louisiana and finally became a remnant low as it crossed Arkansas into Kentucky.

Hurricane Marco formed on the 20th of August and dissipated on the 25th of August. Marco produced maximum winds of 75 mph. Marco formed as Tropical Depression Fourteen, over the western Caribbean Sea, about 235 miles east of the Cabo Gracias a Dios on the Nicaragua and Honduras border. The depression moved near the Honduras and Nicaragua coast before it became a tropical storm in the western Caribbean Sea. Tropical Storm Marco moved across the Gulf of Mexico and became a hurricane 460 miles southeast of Lafayette, Louisiana. Marco made landfall over the Mouth of the Mississippi River and quickly became a remnant low south of Louisiana. Marco was never a threat to the Bahamas.

Tropical Storm Omar formed on the 31st of August and lasted until September 05th. Omar formed as Tropical Depression Fifteen, offshore of North Carolina, and quickly developed into a storm as it moved away from the eastern United States. Omar encountered a hostile environment and degenerated into a remnant low in the Northern Atlantic. Omar was never a threat to the Bahamas.

General Weather Situation over New Providence for August 2020

The mean maximum daytime temperature of 91.2°F rose 0.8°F above the average for August and the mean minimum temperature of 79.4°F was 3.4°F warmer than normal. The mean relative humidity was 78 percent, just slightly above normal by two percent for August. The total rainfall for the month was 10.04 inches, which was 1.50 inches above the statistical norm. The daily average sunshine hour was above the expected average of 8.4 hours by 0.9 hours. The winds were predominantly from the south-southeast through south at an average speed of 8.3 knots, 2.1knots above the average.



Geoffrey Greene
For (Director)