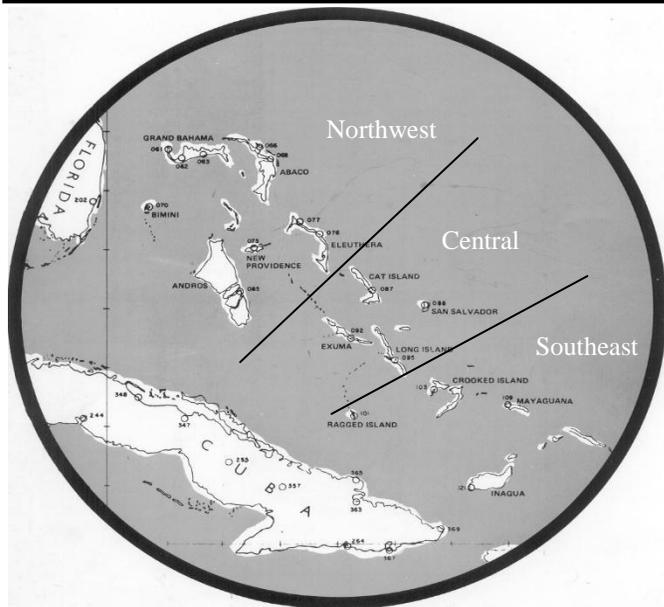




# Commonwealth of the Bahamas

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## WEATHER LOG NOVEMBER, 2020

### GENERAL WEATHER SITUATION OVER THE BAHAMAS

The **2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season** has been **record-setting**, as **30 storms** have surpassed the overall record of 28 storms set in 2005. At the end of the official Atlantic Hurricane 2020 season, there were **13 hurricanes** (second-highest on record), and **six major hurricanes** (tied for second-highest on record). It set the record for the quickest season to exhaust the 22 alphabet names and extend the farthest into the Greek alphabet names for tropical cyclones. It also gained the record for **rapid intensifying storms (10)**. This season broke the record for the number of US landfalls, as **12 storms affected the continental United States of America** (the previous record was 9 in 1916). It tied a record with 2005, 1999, 1961, and 1933 for **five category 4 or stronger forming through November 30<sup>th</sup>**. The earliest forming 'C' named storm occurred this year along with the earliest named storm formation from 'E' onwards to the Greek alphabet. **September 2020 set a new record for 10 named storms in the month** (the old record of eight occurred in 2002, 2007, and 2010). Another record to fall this season was **four major hurricanes formed in the Atlantic basin after October 01<sup>st</sup> (Delta, Epsilon, Eta, and Iota)**. The old record was two, set in many past seasons. In **Louisiana**, it set a record as **five storms affected the state** (the previous record was four in 2002). Hurricane Eta became the strongest storm (140 mph) to make **landfall in Nicaragua** on November 03<sup>rd</sup>, but it was relegated to second place just 13 days later as **hard-hitting Hurricane Iota reached 155 mph during landfall**. **Iota also established a record for the latest category 5 storm (160 mph) in the Atlantic basin on November 16<sup>th</sup>** (the previous record was November 08<sup>th</sup> by the Cuba hurricane of 1932). **Subtropical storm Alpha** was the **farthest eastern forming storm** in the Atlantic basin history and the first storm to make landfall in Portugal (one person died and several million dollars (USD) in damages occurred to both Portugal and Spain). **The National Oceanic Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) Hurricane Hunters** also surpass a previous record of flights set in 2005 with **86 successful missions**. Although the 2020 tropical cyclones broke or tied most of the established records, it fell short in the **Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) Index**, and the best it could accomplish was **sixth place**. Meteorologists use the ACE to estimate the intensity of a hurricane season because it is an aggregate of the strength and longevity of all storms. The record **ACE index was set in 2005 at 245**, which had four-category five storms compared to 2020 one (Iota) this year.

Tropical Storm Eta threatened the Bahamas in early November, but it shifted west of the initially projected track to allow our archipelago to avoid the worst expected flooding and inclement weather. In November there were also stronger cold fronts that migrated to the Bahamas from the United States that occasionally interacted with rich tropical moisture and low to upper-level atmospheric features in or near the area. Although the period has not as lively as

last month, it produced quite a bit of activity for this late in the season. Fishermen were particularly affected by the stormy November weather as warnings were issued throughout the month due to inclement conditions, gale force winds, dangerous rip currents, and large ocean swells. Coastal roads and beachfront properties mainly along northern and eastern shorelines were hampered by coastal flooding, sea spray, and overtopping waves. **Two Special Weather Statements were issued, the first on 01<sup>st</sup> November** was for a strong cold front with strong to gale force winds that produced hazardous marine and beaching conditions. Special caution was taken along The Fishing Hole Road, Grand Bahama and The Glass Window Bridge, Eleuthera because of sea spray, battering, and overtopping waves that could reduce visibility, and create dangerous driving conditions. The **second Special Weather Statement occurred on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November** as another cold front across the Northwest Bahamas along with tightened high-pressure gradients produced strong to gale force winds over the archipelago. Warnings were issued for beachgoers to refrain from swimming and Small Craft Operators urged to remain in port until conditions improved. Pedestrians and motorists were cautioned about traversing along northern and eastern coastal roads due to sea spray, battering, and overtopping waves in areas like The Glass Window Bridge, Eleuthera, and The Fishing Hole Road, Grand Bahama. As the cooler weather came down from the northern United States, three Severe Thunderstorm Warnings were issued during the month.

The first week of November (01<sup>st</sup> through 07<sup>th</sup>) was highlighted by a dissipating frontal boundary in the Southeast Bahamas, followed by a strong cold front with a prefrontal activity that shifted through the Northwest and Central Bahamas. **A Special Weather Statement was issued as a strong front fostered Gale conditions along with the possibility of severe weather conditions.** The front became stationary across the Central Bahamas and interacted with the streaming tropical moisture from Tropical Depression Eta. Small Craft Operators mainly in the Northwest and Central Bahamas were warned to remain in port due to hazardous beaching and boating conditions. Beachgoers were advised to refrain from entering waters due to rip currents, dangerous waves, and high surf across the Bahamas. Small Craft Operators were also reminded to be vigilant for possible waterspout activity mainly in the Northwest and Central Bahamas. Winds predominately blew from the northeast to east at 20 to 30 knots with gusts to gale force across the Northwest and Central Bahamas. Seas were 6 to 8 feet but built to 9 to 12 feet in large northerly and northeasterly swells. The Southeast Bahamas was under several advisories, from a Small Craft Caution to a Small Craft Advisory as winds varied between 15 to 20 knots to 15 to 25 knots. Seas were between 4 to 6 feet to 5 to 8 feet but built in large northeasterly to easterly swells to 8 to 12 feet over offshore waters. Pedestrians and motorists traversing northern and eastern coastal roads were advised to do so with extreme caution and care as sea spray, battering, and overtopping waves could reduce visibility and create hazardous driving conditions, especially along The Glass Window Bridge, Eleuthera, and The Fishing Hole Road, Grand Bahama. By the end of the week, Tropical Storm Eta Alerts were issued for the Bahamas. A Tropical Storm Watch was issued for the Northwest Bahamas, including the islands of Grand Bahama, Abaco, Bimini, The Berry Islands, Andros, New Providence, and Eleuthera. A Tropical Storm Alert was in effect for the Central Bahamas, including the islands of Exuma, Cat Island, San Salvador, and Long Island. Small Craft Operators across the entire Bahamas were warned to remain in port until the system passed.

During the second week of November (08<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>), a Tropical Storm Warning was issued for the Northwest Bahamas and a Tropical Storm Alert continued across the Central Bahamas as Tropical Storm Eta streamed rich tropical moisture across the archipelago. Residents were warned of the potential for widespread flooding, especially in low-lying and flood-prone areas. Small Craft Operators were advised to remain in port and Beachgoers to remain onshore due to dangerous rip currents, high surf, and large ocean swells. Unsettled weather affected the Bahamas as Tropical Storm Eta moved next to the western Bahamas. Winds started on the 08<sup>th</sup> November at 30 to 40 knots from the east to southeast in the Northwest and Central Bahamas

and southeasterly at 20 to 25 knots gusting to gale force in the Southeast Bahamas. Seas were 12 to 15 feet in large northerly to northeasterly swells in the Northwest and Central Bahamas and 8 to 10 feet in moderate to large northeasterly swells in the Southeast Bahamas. A Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued on the morning of the 09<sup>th</sup> November between 2 to 4 hours for Cat Island, Eleuthera, Mayaguana, Abaco, Exuma, north Long Island, and their adjacent waters. As Tropical Storm Eta shifted more west of its initial projected track on that same day, winds became southeast to south at 15 to 25 knots in higher gusts before shifting east to southeast later in the Northwest Bahamas. Seas were 5 to 8 feet, but up to 14 feet in large easterly swells in the Northwest Bahamas. In the Central and Southeast Bahamas winds were from the southeast to south at 15 to 25 knots, but higher in gusts. Seas were 5 to 8 feet, but higher in moderate easterly swells. Mariners were warned to be vigilant for the possibility of waterspout activity along with gusty winds and higher seas in or near heavy showers and thunderstorms. Later on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of November, the outer rain bands associated with Tropical Storm Eta continued to generate occasional heavy showers and thunderstorms across the island chain. An advisory for Small Craft Operators was in effect for the entire Bahamas. Winds were southeasterly at 15 to 25 knots, but gusty at times. Seas were 4 to 8 feet near shore, and built up to 11 feet in northeasterly to easterly swells mainly along the Atlantic exposed shorelines. At the end of the week between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November as Tropical Storm Eta moved away a trailing trough developed that moved through the Northwest Bahamas. A passing tropical wave at the same time briefly affected the Southeast Bahamas as a high-pressure ridge moved over the area for the weekend. Although winds marginally decreased across the Bahamas Small Craft Operators remained under a Caution or an Advisory due to winds and swells.

The third week of November between the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> there were several cold fronts, a weak low to mid-level trough, and a building high-pressure ridge that affected the Bahamas with deteriorating weather and marine conditions. Small Craft Operators and Beachgoers were advised to be vigilant because of the threat of waterspout activity and the high risk of rip currents mainly along northern and eastern shorelines of the Central and Southeast Bahamas. Small Craft Operators were either under a Small Craft Caution and/or an Advisory during the period. Motorists and pedestrians were warned to exercise caution along coastal roads because of sea spray, overtopping waves, and coastal flooding that can reduce visibility and create hazardous driving conditions, especially along the Glass Window Bridge, Eleuthera, and The Fishing Hole Road, Grand Bahama. **A Special Weather Statement was issued on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November as a strong cold front affected the Northwest and Central Bahamas with gusty to gale force winds.** Small Craft Operators were warned to remain in port, and Beachgoers advised to remain onshore due to dangerous rip currents, rough surf, and battering waves mainly along northern and eastern coast beaches. Winds were northeast at 25 to 30 knots with gusts to gale force especially across the Northwest and Central Islands. Seas were 8 to 13 feet in large northerly and northeasterly swells in the Northwest and Central Bahamas, but around 5 to 8 feet building to 12 feet in light to moderate northeasterly swells in the Southeast Bahamas. By the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, conditions did not change much, as a stationary front in the Southeast Bahamas interacted with an upper-level trough to produce pockets of unsettled weather in the area. Meanwhile, a strong high-pressure system over the area kept advisories in place for mariners.

A low-pressure system east of the archipelago with a broad trough across the Southeast Bahamas highlighted the last week of November from the 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>. A small Craft Caution or Advisory continued across the islands for Small Craft Operators because of winds or ocean swells in the area lasting through the 27<sup>th</sup> of November. Winds were between the north and east at 10 to 15 knots or less, but increased to 15 to 25 knots as the front moved through the islands. Seas were 2 to 4 feet or less, but built to 5 to 9 feet near and offshore in easterly swells along Atlantic exposed area as the front moved through the area. Mariners were warned of the

possibility of waterspout activity during heavy showers and thunderstorms mainly in the Northwest Bahamas. Beachgoers were warned of dangerous rip currents and rough surf mainly along northern and eastern shorelines. The official end of the Hurricane Season on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 was marked with the passage of a strong cold front, preceded by unsettled weather that moved through the Northwest Bahamas, while a weakening ridge of high-pressure shifted eastwards. Small Craft Operators were under a Caution across the Northwest Bahamas, but the Central and Southeast Bahamas did not require warnings.

### **Tropical Cyclone Summary for November 2020**

**Hurricane Eta** emerged on the 01<sup>st</sup> of November and it became the earliest forming 28 named storm on record. **Eta officially tied the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season with the 2005 season** for the most tropical cyclones occurring at 28 storms. Eta formed in the central Caribbean Sea and became a major (category 4) hurricane on November 02<sup>nd</sup>. **Eta made landfall in Nicaragua**, as it brought catastrophic winds, flash floods, storm surge, and landslides to the area. It weakened as it moved through Honduras and emerged back into the northwest Caribbean Sea, where it made a second landfall over Central Cuba as a tropical storm. As the storm moved into the Gulf of Mexico, it tracked through the Florida Keys, and southwest Florida exiting the Florida/Georgia border to dissipate in the Atlantic waters offshore of the Carolina's. **Several Tropical Storm Alerts were issued for the Central Bahamas and a Tropical Storm Watch for the Northwest Bahamas, but the storm never crossed the islands of the Bahamas.**

**Tropical Storm Theta** formed in the northeastern Atlantic Basin as a sub-tropical storm and it became the **29<sup>th</sup> record-breaking storm of the Atlantic Basin** as it transitions into a tropical storm. It reached a maximum wind speed of 70 mph. Theta was never a threat to land and remained a fish storm until it dissipated on November 15<sup>th</sup> as a remnant low-pressure system.

**Hurricane Iota** formed in the central Caribbean Sea on November 13<sup>th</sup> as **Tropical Depression 31** and it became **the record-breaking 30<sup>th</sup> storm of the 2020 Atlantic Basin** (the most ever recorded in history). The storm became a hurricane on November 15<sup>th</sup> and the next day Iota was a **major category 5 storm** (only the second time this happen since the Cuban Hurricane of 1932) at **160 mph**. Iota followed a similar track to Hurricane Eta and made landfall as a strong category 4 hurricane (155 mph) in Nicaragua. It produced record amounts of rainfall, catastrophic winds, landslides, and storm surge as it moved inland to Honduras. Iota dissipated over El Salvador and it posed no threat to the Bahamas.

### **General Weather Situation over New Providence for November 2020**

The mean maximum daytime temperature of 85.0°F rose 2.8°F above average for November and the mean minimum temperature of 72.4°F was 2.8°F warmer than normal. The mean relative humidity was 79 percent, slightly above normal by 1.0 percent for November. The total rainfall for the month was 7.59 inches, which was 4.48 inches above the statistical norm. The daily average sunshine hours met the expected average of 7.3 hours. The winds were predominantly from the northeast through southeast at an average speed of 10.0 knots, 2.0 knots above the average.



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