



# Hawai'i Ho'ohēkili

Skywarn Weather Spotter Newsletter  
National Weather Service, Honolulu, HI



Dry Season Edition, 2015

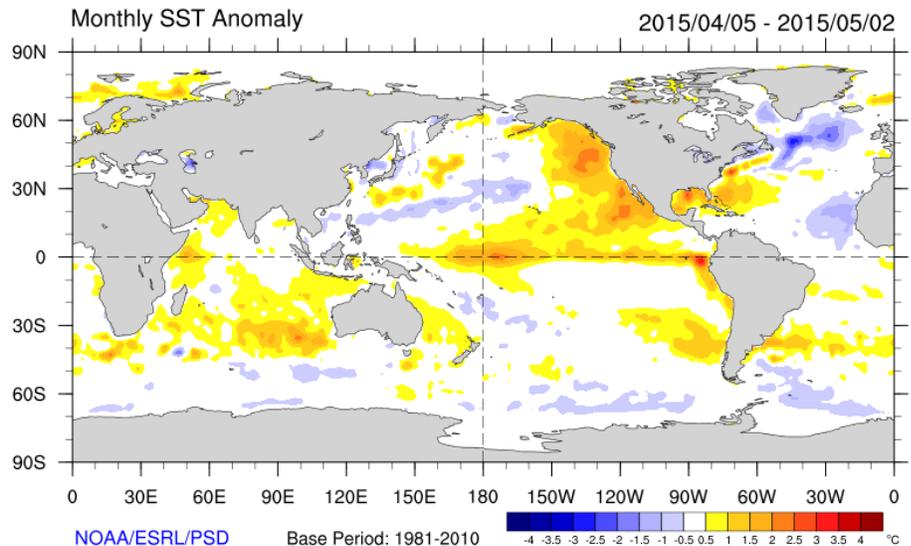
Issued — May 2015

Spotter Newsletter Volume 11

Inside this edition: El Niño Advisory! Dry Season begins! A look back at the 2014 Hurricane Season. And more!!!

## El Niño Advisory!

- El Niño conditions are present.
- Positive equatorial sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies across most of the Pacific.
- There is a 70% chance that El Niño conditions will continue through Northern Hemisphere summer 2015, and a greater than 60% chance it will last through autumn.



## Dry Season Outlook

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) seasonal forecast for Hawaii:

- Climate models predict above-normal temps for Hawaii through the summer due to warmer than normal ocean waters in surrounding waters.
- Climate models also show above normal rainfall is favored for the state this summer and fall.
- A weak El Niño usually allows some heavy rain events to impact the state.

## Quote from a Scientist

“On a global scale, the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is the dominant mode of seasonal and year-to-year climate variability. Originating in the tropical Pacific, it affects many regions of the globe via atmospheric or oceanic teleconnections. Hence, we climate scientists are frequently working to understand ENSO itself or having to take it into account as we study other aspects of climate (e.g., regional drought). It is the 800-lb gorilla in the room.”

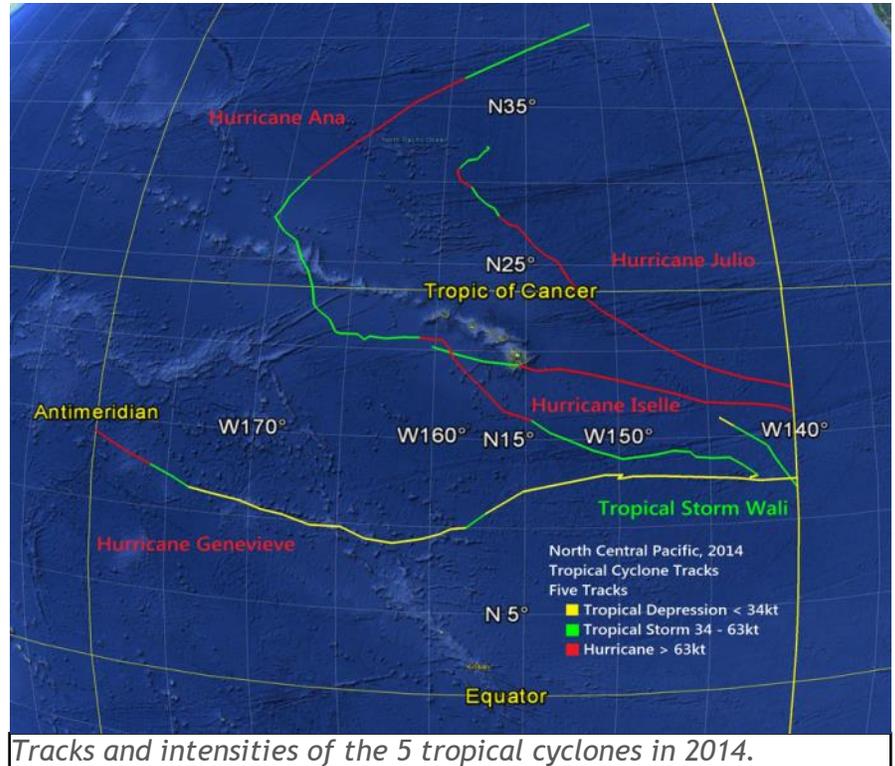
- [Eric Guilyardi](#), professor in the Dept of Meteorology University of Reading (NCAS Climate) in the UK
- For full article go to <http://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/enso/challenges-enso-today's-climate-models>

## 2014 Hurricane Season Overview

Tom Birchard, Hurricane Specialist

In May 2014, the outlook for the upcoming central Pacific hurricane season called for a 40 percent chance of a near-normal season, a 40 percent chance of an above-normal season, and a 20 percent chance of a below-normal season. The forecast called for 4 to 7 tropical cyclones to affect the central Pacific, while an average season has 4 to 5 tropical cyclones, which includes tropical depressions, tropical storms and hurricanes.

The outlook was based upon the expectation of El Niño developing during the 2014 hurricane season. El Niño decreases the vertical wind shear over the tropical central Pacific, favoring the development of more and stronger tropical cyclones. Since 1995, the central Pacific had been in an era of low activity for hurricanes, but this pattern was expected to be offset in 2014 by the impacts of El Niño. As it turned out, the 2014 central Pacific hurricane season featured 5 tropical cyclones (4 hurricanes and 1 tropical storm), although an El Niño warm event wasn't officially declared by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center until 5 March 2015. In the eastern Pacific, 22 named storms made it the 4th busiest season since reliable records began in 1949.



The 2014 season included the first land-falling tropical cyclone in the main Hawaiian Islands since Hurricane Iniki made landfall on Kauai in September 1992, as Tropical Storm Iselle struck the Big Island in the early morning hours on 8 August 2014. Additionally, Hurricane Ana developed far southeast of the Big Island in mid-October, and eventually approached Kauai before turning westward after getting within less than 100 miles of Kauai on 19 October 2014. Ana went on to be a record-setting system with respect to the amount of time that it spent within the central Pacific basin (13 days), and the number of advisories issued by the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (52).

## When will the outlook for the 2015 Hurricane Season come out?

On May 26, the seasonal Hurricane Forecast for the Central Pacific will be released. This forecast will combine pre-season indicators known to influence hurricane formation in the Central Pacific. On average, between four and five tropical cyclones are observed in the Central Pacific every year. This number has ranged from zero, most recently as 1979, to as many as 11 in 1992 and 1994.



# NWS Honolulu hosts course: Hurricane Preparedness for Decision Makers

The NWS Forecast Office hosted a 3 day course for Emergency Managers, Planners and Operations Officers providing training on:

- Tropical Cyclone Hazards
- Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) operational forecast challenges
- Tropical cyclone forecast uncertainties
- CPHC and WFO Honolulu products and services



Hydrologist Kevin Kodama explains the dynamics of flash floods in Hawaii.



Acting Meteorologist in Charge Tom Evans points to the situational awareness display on the Ops Floor

## Flash Floods—A Threat to Hawaii—Ian Morrison

Flash flooding is Hawaii's most common weather hazard. It is a flood caused by heavy or excessive rainfall in a short period of time characterized by raging torrents that rip through stream beds, streets, or mountain valleys...sweeping everything before them. They can occur within minutes or a few hours of excessive rainfall. They can also occur even if no rain has fallen, for instance after a levee or dam has failed, or after a sudden release of water by a debris jam. A flash flood is normally produced by slow moving thunderstorms, or thunderstorms which move quickly but redevelop over the same area. If you are storm spotting and encounter deep water running over a roadway, report it immediately. **DO NOT TRY AND DRIVE THROUGH THE WATER!** Roadways underneath may not always be intact.



Manoa Flash Flood - October 31, 2004

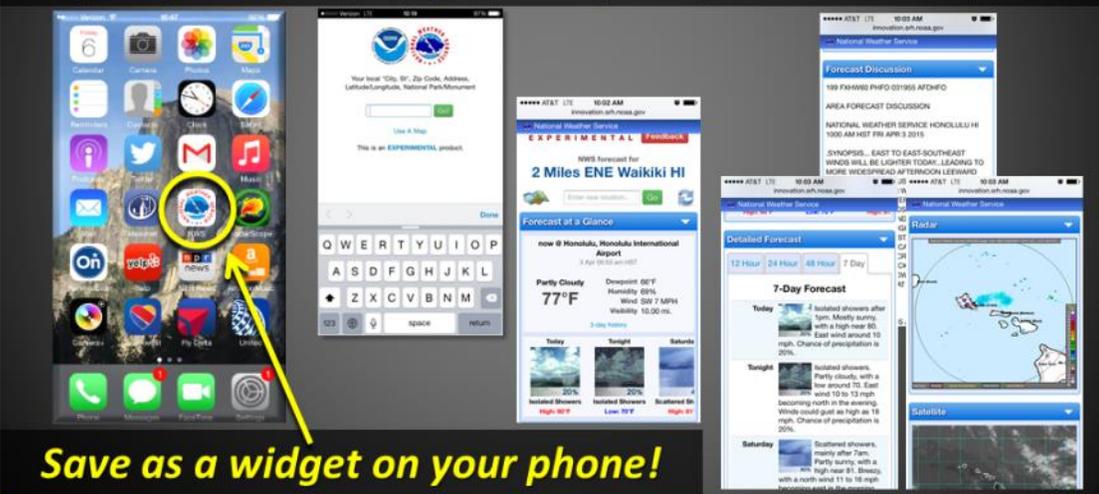


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Landspout spotted near Ewa Beach - 4/23/15. Photo—Glenn Poulain



J. Chevalier manning the NWS Booth at the 8th Annual Mauka to Makai Clean Water Expo at the Waikiki Aquarium.

Weather Ready Nation Ambassador Initiative - [www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/ambassadors.html](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/ambassadors.html)

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