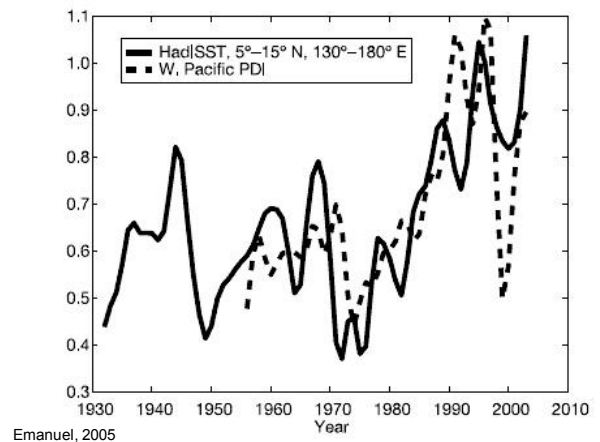
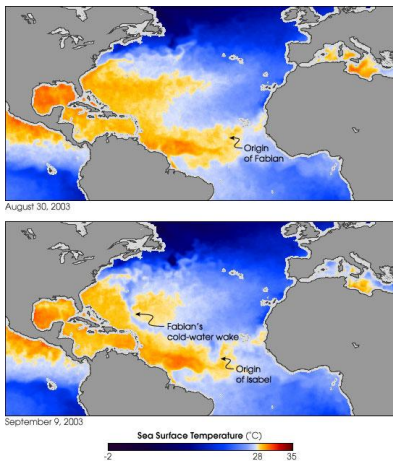
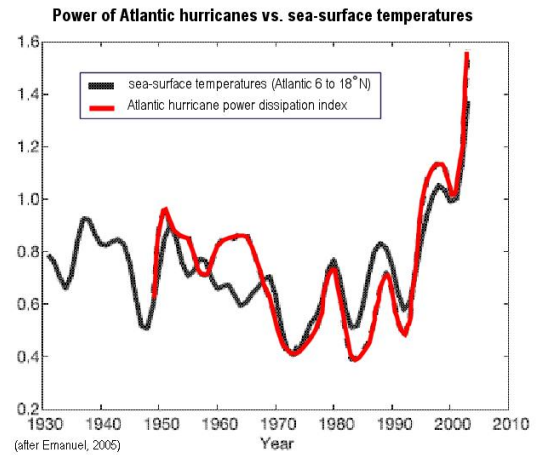
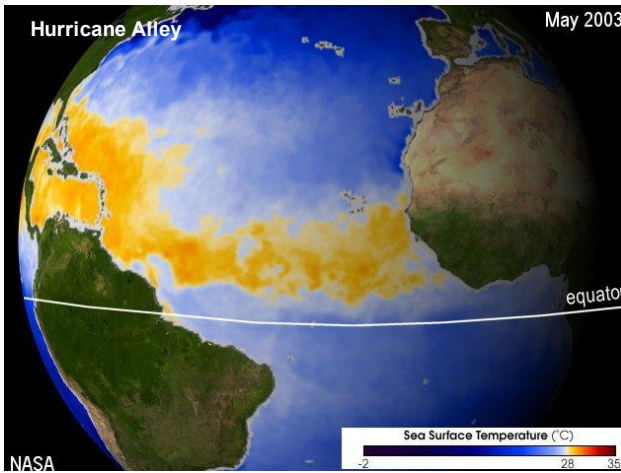
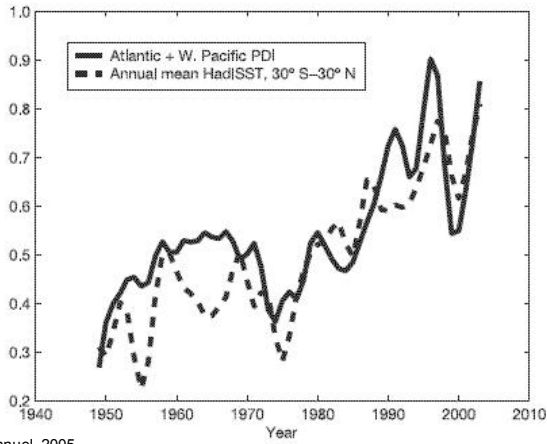


Kerry Emanuel, MIT

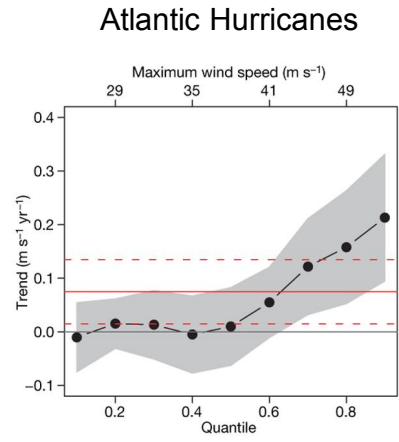
**Power Dissipation Index (PDI) for a tropical cyclone is defined as, "the sum of the maximum one-minute sustained wind speed cubed, at six-hourly intervals, for all periods when the cyclone is at least tropical storm strength".**

Emanuel, 2005

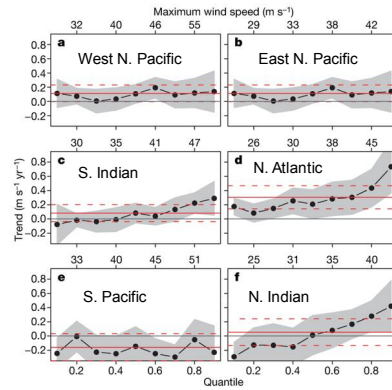




Emanuel, 2005

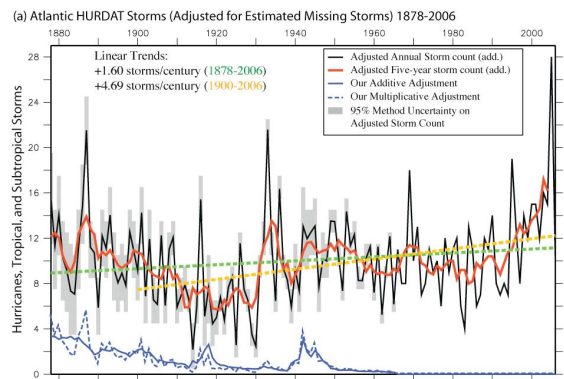
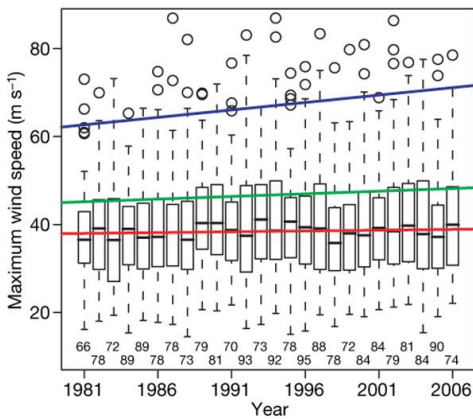


Trends in other parts of the Pacific and Indian Oceans



James Elsner (Florida State U.)  
James Kossin and Thomas Jagger (U. of Wisconsin)

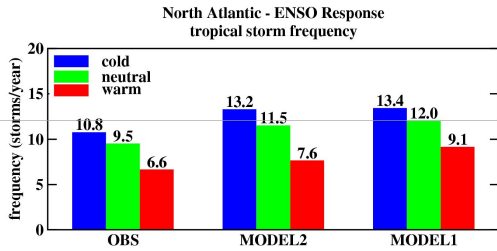
Used archived satellite data to determine maximum wind speeds of cyclones in both the Atlantic and Pacific basins



Source: Vecchi and Knutson, J. Climate, in press.

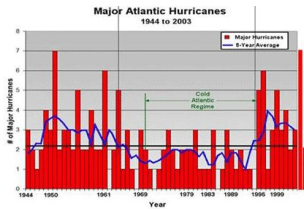
Knutson et al. (NOAA)

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration

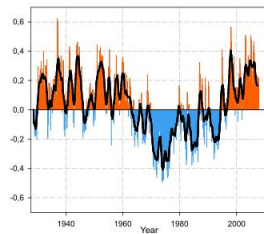


Source: Knutson et al. (2007) Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.

Rapidly escalating hurricane damage in recent decades owes much to government policies that serve to subsidize risk. State regulation of insurance is captive to political pressures that hold down premiums in risky coastal areas at the expense of higher premiums in less risky places. Federal flood insurance programs likewise undercharge property owners in vulnerable areas. Federal disaster policies, while providing obvious humanitarian benefits, also serve to promote risky behavior in the long run.



Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation



We are optimistic that continued research will eventually resolve much of the current controversy over the effect of climate change on hurricanes. But the more urgent problem of our lemming-like march to the sea requires immediate and sustained attention. We call upon leaders of government and industry to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of building practices, and insurance, land use, and disaster relief policies that currently serve to promote an ever-increasing vulnerability to hurricanes.

Kerry Emanuel  
 Richard Anthes  
 Judith Curry  
 James Elsner  
 Greg Holland  
 Phil Klotzbach  
 Tom Knutson  
 Chris Landsea  
 Max Mayfield  
 Peter Webster

**Statement on the U.S. Hurricane Problem  
 July 25th 2006**

As the Atlantic hurricane season gets underway, the possible influence of climate change on hurricane activity is receiving renewed attention. While the debate on this issue is of considerable scientific and societal interest and concern, it should in no event detract from the main hurricane problem facing the United States: the ever-growing concentration of population and wealth in vulnerable coastal regions. These demographic trends are setting us up for rapidly increasing human and economic losses from hurricane disasters, especially in this era of heightened activity. Scores of scientists and engineers had warned of the threat to New Orleans long before climate change was seriously considered, and a Katrina-like storm or worse was (and is) inevitable even in a stable climate.