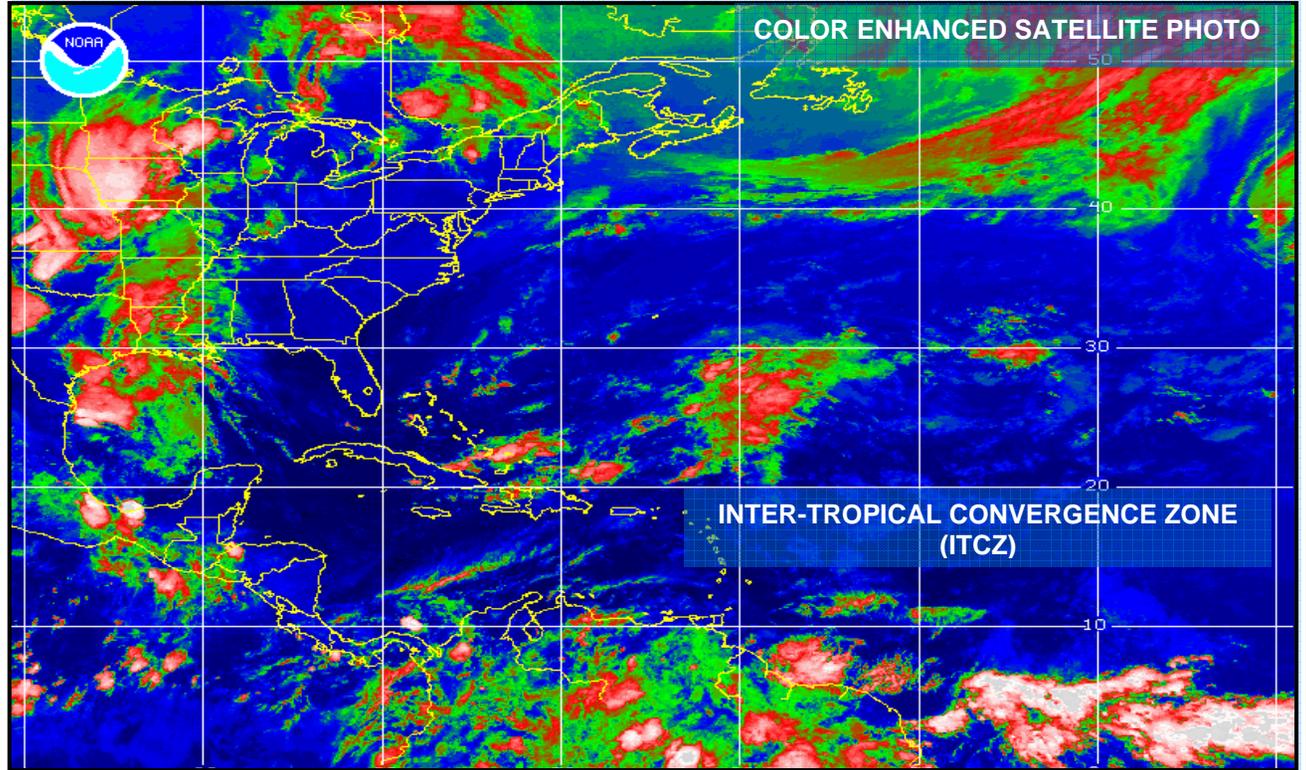




**THE 2006 HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS THIS WEEK IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY OCCURRING AT THIS TIME...**

This morning's satellite photo of the Atlantic Ocean shows a quiet picture with no significant tropical waves. The forecast for the upcoming hurricane season from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Hurricane Center (NHC) is for a very active season. NOAA is predicting a total of 13 – 16 named storms with 8 – 10 Hurricanes and 4 – 6 Major Hurricanes (Category III or above). This very active forecast is based on several factors including the fact that sea surface temperatures are forecast to be above normal in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico resulting in more hurricane activity and stronger hurricanes. As of May 27<sup>th</sup>, Sea Surface Temperatures were running 1 – 3 F above normal in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. Hurricane activity is normally slow during June and July and begins to increase significantly after August 1<sup>st</sup>. DEMHS will be issuing weekly tropical updates based on data from the NHC every Monday morning during the hurricane season. DEMHS will issue tropical storm and hurricane updates daily (Mon – Fri) when storms form. The next weekly tropical update will be issued on June 5<sup>th</sup>.



*This product is a public service of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and is intended for informational purposes only. DEMHS assumes no liability for the use or distribution of this product or any actions resulting from this product.*

**SAFFIR / SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE**

Category	Sustained Wind Speed	Storm Surge
Tropical Storm	39 – 73 MPH	< 4 Feet
I	74 – 95 MPH	4 – 5 Feet
II	96 – 110 MPH	6 – 8 Feet
III	111 – 130 MPH	9 – 12 Feet
IV	131 – 155 MPH	13 – 18 Feet
V	>155 MPH	> 18 Feet

For more information on the Saffir / Simpson Hurricane Scale please visit the National Hurricane Center website at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutshs.shtml>

