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GC ForeCat™ Continues to Predict Above-Average Hurricane Landfall Rates in Northeast and Florida Regions for 2010 Season

GC ForeCat is a product developed by Guy Carpenter in collaboration with WSI Corporation, the world's leading provider of weather-driven business solutions, that provides pre-season hurricane landfall forecast rates for different regions in the United States. GC ForeCat revolutionises hurricane forecasting by estimating the rate of landfall for regions along the US coastline. Four different regions (Gulf, Florida, Southeast and Northeast – see Figure 1 on page 2) are derived with associated likelihood of tropical cyclones making landfall in each area. Monthly updates are anticipated up to and including May.

The fourth 2010 GC ForeCat update was released on 19 April and the results are shown in Table 1 below (along with average landfall rates between 1951 and 2007). According to the April update, the Northeast region is most vulnerable to tropical cyclones coming shore in the United States in 2010. The rate of 0.62 for the Northeast represents the mean number of landfalling tropical cyclones in that region for the forthcoming hurricane season, significantly higher than the 1951-2007 average landfall rate of 0.29. Notably, the forecast landfall rate for the Southeast region fell from 0.74 in March to 0.22 in April, almost half the average of 0.41. Meanwhile, the forecasts for Florida and the Gulf regions were unchanged and continue to show landfall rates of 0.60 (above average) and 0.59 (below average), respectively.

Table 1: GC ForeCat Landfall Rates

Region	April 2010 Forecast Landfall Rate	1951-2007 Average Landfall Rate
Gulf (coastline from Texas to Alabama-Florida border)	0.59	0.66
Florida (entire Florida coastline)	0.60	0.49
Southeast (coastline from Atlantic Florida-Georgia border to Cape Hatteras)	0.22	0.41
Northeast (coastline from Cape Hatteras to Maine)	0.62	0.29

GC ForeCat was first developed for the 2008 hurricane season, utilising hurricane landfall data from 1951 to 2007 together with corresponding climate/ocean data, representative of North Atlantic oscillation, tropical Atlantic water temperatures and El Niño/La Niña. The skill of this forecast has been established using historical storm seasons and “hold-one-out” analyses.

GC ForeCat will be updated using the latest climatological data on a monthly basis until the beginning of the hurricane season. Using [i-aXs®](#), Guy Carpenter's web-based risk management platform, analysts will calculate exceedance probability (EP) curves, based on vendor cat models, for client and industry exposures falling within each region. With this deeper detailed information, Guy Carpenter clients who subscribe to i-aXs now benefit from improved risk management capabilities, enabling them to manage their reinsurance purchases more effectively.

Figure 1: Boundaries of Four GC ForeCat Regions in United States



For More Information

For more information on GC ForeCat, please contact Priyantha Perera at Guy Carpenter at priyantha.perera@guycarp.com.

Marsh Risk Consulting resources regarding emergency planning and risk quantification can be found at http://www.marshriskconsulting.com/st/PSEV_C_228051_SC_228059_NR_303.htm or contact your local Marsh office.

If you no longer wish to receive these advisories or would like additional information about our property risk consulting and natural hazards advisory services, please send an e-mail to: Marsh.PropertyRiskConsulting@marsh.com.

Information sources for this report include: Guy Carpenter, WSI Corporation

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