

= 1866 Atlantic hurricane season =

The 1866 Atlantic hurricane season was originally one of only four Atlantic hurricane seasons in which every known tropical cyclone attained hurricane status , along with 1852 , 1858 , and 1884 . Initially , there were three known storms during the season , but a re @-@ analysis confirmed the increased activity . There were also two other systems that were included as tropical cyclones at one time , although both were considered to have been other storms already in the database . All tropical activity occurred between the middle of July and the end of October . There may have been additional unconfirmed tropical cyclones during the season . Meteorologist Christopher Landsea estimates that up to six storms were missed from the official database , due to small tropical cyclone size , sparse ship reports , and relatively unpopulated coastlines .

Every storm but the fourth hurricane affected land during the season . The first hurricane hit Matagorda , Texas in July , the only one of the season to hit the United States as a hurricane . A month later a hurricane made two landfalls in Mexico . The third hurricane of the season formed near Bermuda and was last observed along the southern coast of Newfoundland . A few weeks later another storm executed a similar track , although it struck Newfoundland as a hurricane and caused damage . The most notable storm of the season was the Great Nassau Hurricane , which killed at least 383 people in the Turks and Caicos , Bahamas , and the western Atlantic Ocean . It attained winds of 140 mph (220 km / h) , which is a Category 4 on the modern @-@ day Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale . The final hurricane developed over the Bahamas and later struck New Jersey , producing strong winds and high tides across New England .

= = Timeline = =

= = Storms = =

= = = Hurricane One = = =

The first hurricane of the season was observed on July 11 , when a schooner encountered heavy seas to the south of the Florida Panhandle . As the hurricane moved westward , it remained a short distance off the Gulf Coast of the United States , bringing strong winds to New Orleans on July 12 . High tides surrounded the lighthouse at Timbalier Bay for about 24 hours , prompting the lighthouse keeper to resign from loneliness and from fear of the weather .

On July 15 , the hurricane moved ashore near Matagorda Bay in Texas , with winds estimated around 105 mph (165 km / h) , or a Category 2 on the Saffir @-@ Simpson scale . At landfall , the minimum barometric pressure was estimated at 969 mbar (28 @.@ 61 inHg) . The hurricane 's strong winds broke all of the boats from their moorings in the Matagorda harbor . Four ships were either lost or wrecked , and one schooner was washed ashore . The storm dissipated early on July 16 after progressing further inland .

= = = Hurricane Two = = =

On August 13 , a ship encountered a severe hurricane in the eastern Caribbean Sea . Based on observations , it is estimated the hurricane attained winds of 105 mph (165 km / h) . There were no reports for several days , although based on continuity it is estimated the storm passed south of Jamaica on August 15 . The following day , the hurricane struck the eastern Yucatán Peninsula , washing seven boats ashore . It is estimated to have weakened to a tropical storm while moving over land , although the system re @-@ intensified into a hurricane in the Bay of Campeche . It made its second and final landfall near Veracruz before dissipating on August 18 .

= = = Hurricane Three = = =

The third hurricane of the season was first encountered on September 4 by a ship 200 mi (320 km) north of Bermuda ; the vessel sustained damage to its foretopmast . The storm affected another ship later that day , leaving similar heavy damage . Tracking generally northeastward , the hurricane was last observed on September 7 near Newfoundland .

== Hurricane Four ==

On September 18 and for two days subsequently , a barque sailed through a hurricane near the Cape Verde islands . The vessel was en route from New York to Shanghai , but due to a leak from the storm it had to return to New York for repairs . Aside from a single reported location , the track of the hurricane is unknown . Winds were estimated around 80 mph (130 km / h) .

== Hurricane Five ==

A ship named " Honduras " observed the fifth hurricane of the season on September 22 to the south @-@ southeast of Nova Scotia . The ship lost its masts and sails from the storm , and based on the observations the winds were estimated around 105 mph (165 km / h) . Additional ship reports indicated the hurricane maintained a northeast track toward Newfoundland . Late on September 23 , the hurricane made landfall in south @-@ central Newfoundland , although it quickly weakened to tropical storm intensity . The winds spread across much of the island , severing the telegraphs in and around St. John 's . Late on September 24 , the storm was last observed to the north of the island .

== Hurricane Six ==

Known as the Great Nassau Hurricane of 1866 , the sixth hurricane of the season was also the longest @-@ lasting . The brig Jarien encountered the hurricane on September 24 to the west @-@ southwest of the Cape Verde islands . The track is unknown for the following five days , until another ship reported a hurricane about 20 miles (32 km) north of Anegada in the British Virgin Islands . The hurricane affected the Leeward Islands , washing several ships ashore and destroying a pier in St. Thomas . On September 30 through the following day , the cyclone moved through the Turks and Caicos Islands , becoming what was considered " one of the most terrific hurricanes ever known " . About 75 % of the population was left homeless and moneyless .

After affecting the Turks and Caicos Islands , the hurricane passed through the Bahamas . The eye crossed over Nassau , where a barometric pressure of 938 mbar (27 @. 70 inHg) was reported . Based on this observation , the hurricane is estimated to have had sustained winds of 140 mph (220 km / h) . The hurricane struck without warning in the Bahamas , either washing ashore or sinking every ship but one in Nassau . In addition , strong winds downed trees and destroyed roofs . Every building in Nassau was damaged or destroyed . After moving through the islands , the hurricane curved northeastward , affecting dozens of other ships and wrecking four . On October 4 , it passed north of Bermuda , where it produced Force 11 winds on the Beaufort scale . The hurricane was last observed on October 5 to the southeast of Atlantic Canada . Along its path through the Turks and Caicos , the Bahamas , and the western Atlantic , the hurricane killed at least 383 people , making it among the 100 deadliest Atlantic hurricanes as of 1997 .

== Tropical Storm Seven ==

The final storm of the season was first observed on October 28 over the Bahamas , and may have been a hybrid or subtropical cyclone . It moved north @-@ northwestward through the island chain , followed by a turn to the north @-@ northeast over the western Atlantic . Several ships encountered the tropical storm , and one lost their supply of molasses . On October 30 , the cyclone , at the time transitioning to extratropical , struck on the southern end of Long Beach Island with winds of 70 mph

(110 km / h) . As it moved through the northeastern United States , the storm dropped heavy rainfall , causing flooding near Jersey City and Hoboken , New Jersey . In Brooklyn , the storm moved the rail cars off their tracks , while in Providence , Rhode Island the winds destroyed three buildings and wrecked the roofs of two others . Further northeast , the storm disrupted shipping and cut telegraph lines , although no fatalities were reported . The post @-@ tropical storm was last observed over Vermont late on October 30 .