

**Questions for Discussion about Hurricanes and Global Warming**  
**GEOL/METR/OCN 405, "Planetary Climate Change"**  
**4/23/09**

(1) What is the theoretical basis for hypothesizing that global warming, regardless of whether it is natural or anthropogenic, should lead to changes in at least some hurricane behaviors, such as frequency (number per year), size (spatial extent), duration (life span), location and/or trajectory, and intensity (expressed in terms of maximum wind speed and/or rainfall production)?

(2) What evidence (observational, modeling, or both) have some scientists presented not only to support the hypothesis but to suggest that some changes due to global warming might already have occurred?

(3) What concerns or objections have other scientists expressed about the available evidence? Is the hypothesis considered well supported and hence largely accepted in the scientific community (at least at the time of the 2007 IPCC report on climate change)?