

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
NO HURRICANES?
**(At some point it's
no longer just "luck"!)**

By Stephen L. Bakke  June 7, 2015



Here's what provoked me:

A report from the Associated Press deals with "luck running out" when it comes to East coast and Gulf hurricane activities. I think these scientists are becoming a bit un-scientific!

Here's my response:

No Hurricanes? (At some point it's no longer just "luck"!)

Seth Borenstein's article on June 2, titled "Flip side of years with no hurricanes: Luck runs out," observes that the Gulf and East coast hurricane activity has been quiet for decades. Referencing specific cities, he reports data developed by an MIT professor. Borenstein writes that: "those places have now gone at least 70 years – sometimes more than a century – without getting smacked....." "It's just the law of statistics, luck will run out," he quotes an expert stating.

I learned in statistics class, if a relationship between variables can't be established, one can't introduce the "law of statistics" to meaningfully describe that relationship. Also, the "law of statistics" insists that if something occurs randomly, absence of its occurrence in one year does NOT increase its chances of occurring in the next year.

Borenstein's reference to the "law of statistics" implies hurricanes occur randomly. If he's right, then it IS likely a hurricane will again hit each of these locations – sometime. Nevertheless, I suggest these scientists put their science hats back on and acknowledge that at some point "luck" has nothing to do with the observed "lull" in hurricanes. Maybe hurricane activity is, for lack of a better description "calming down."