

# Projected Changes in the Global Spatial Distribution of Major Tropical Cyclones and Associated Hazard

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S. Wang<sup>3</sup>, P.-C. Hsu<sup>4</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup>Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, NOAA, USA*

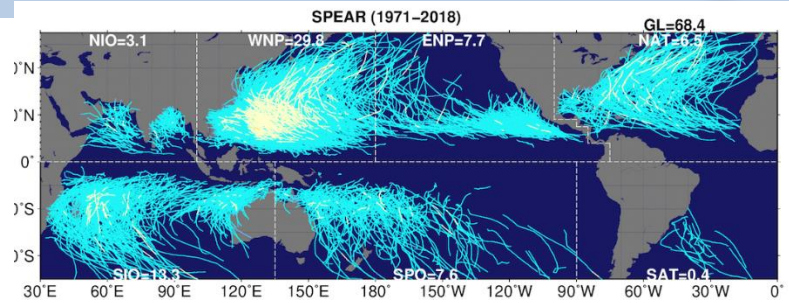
*<sup>2</sup>Meteorological Research Institute, Japan*

*<sup>3</sup>University of Delaware, USA*

*<sup>4</sup>Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, China*

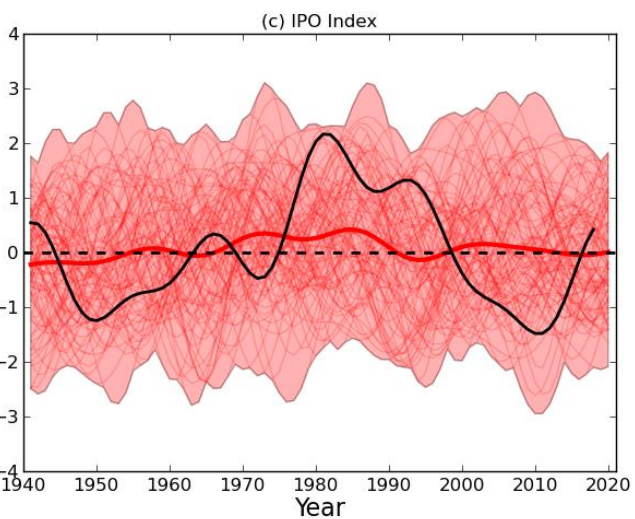
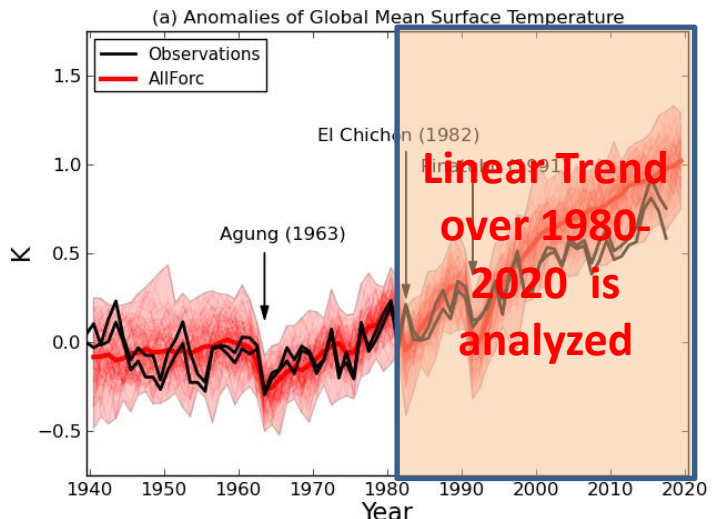


## GFDL-SPEAR Delworth et al. (2020)



A modified version of AM4 (atmosphere) & MOM6 (ocean) & SIS2 (ice) & LM4 (land)  
**50-km mesh** cubed-sphere atmosphere & land components coupled with  
**1°** ocean & sea ice components

**Large Ensemble:** 1921-2100: Historical + Future simulations by prescribing external forcing (greenhouse gases, aerosols, ozone, and volcanic forcing)  
30 ensemble members



# Detecting historical changes in TC activity (SPEAR\_MED)

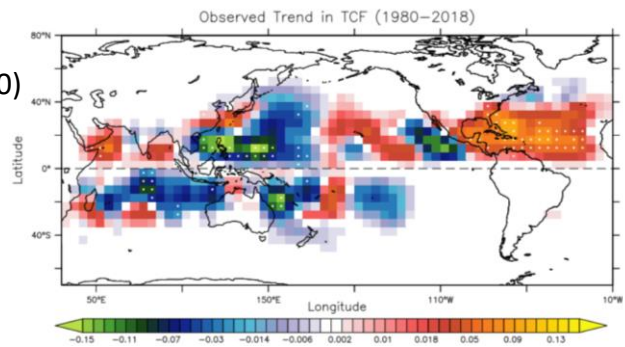


Q: Have global TCs already been affected by anthropogenic forcing over the past 40 years?

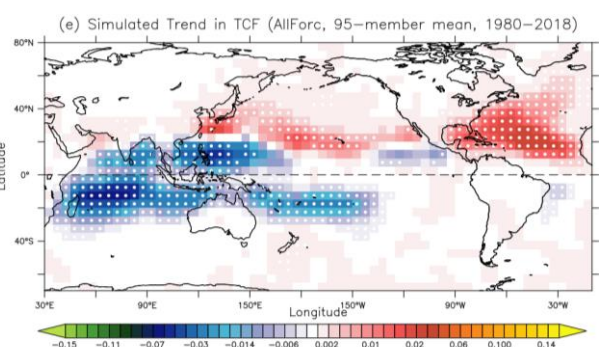
Experiments:

- All forcing (1850-2100, various scenarios)
- Fixed aerosol historical experiment (1921-2020)
- Pre-industrial experiment (~1000 years)
- Transient doubling CO<sub>2</sub>

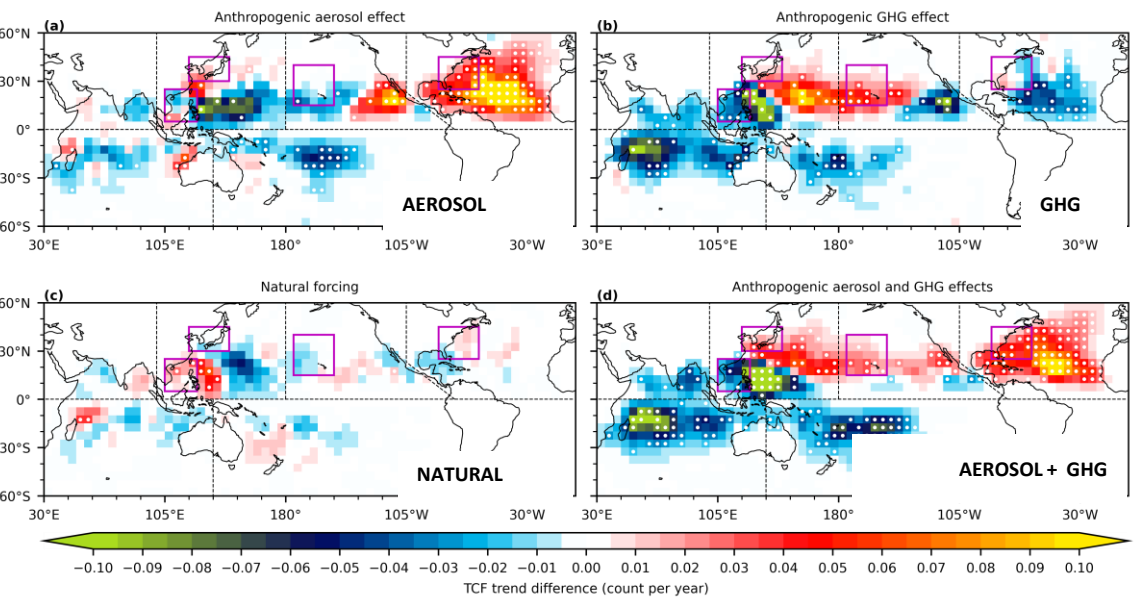
Observed Trend in TC density (1980-2018)



Large-ensemble simulations



Murakami et al. (2020, PNAS)



Combinations of various single or multiple external forcing experiments revealed:

US east coast	Aerosol TC Density ↑
Hawaii	GHG TC Density ↑
South China Sea	GHG TC Density ↓
Japan-Korea	GHG + Aerosol TC Density ↑

S. Wang et al. (2023, npj Climate)

Intense tropical cyclones (TCs), such as major TCs ( $\geq 50 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ), caused substantial societal impact all over the world.

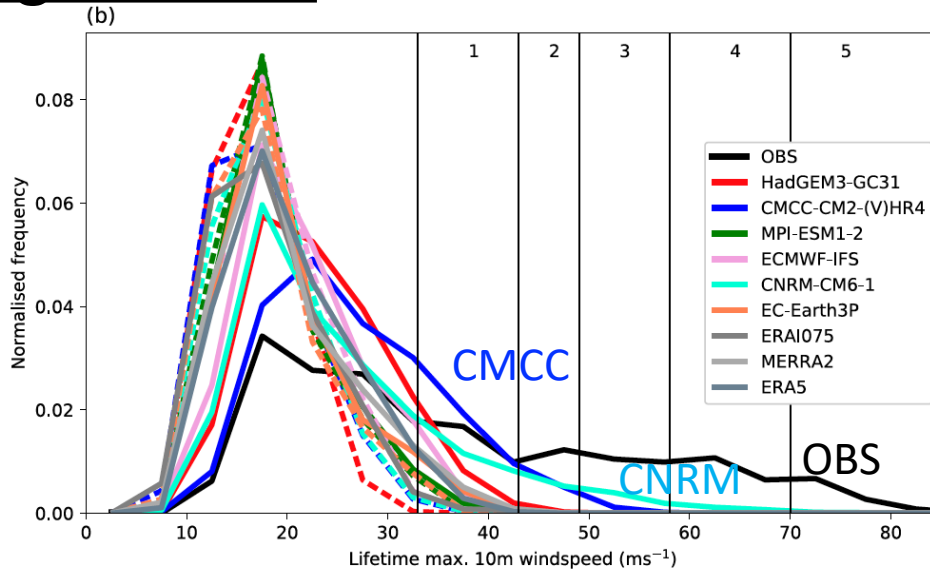
*About **85%** of the total TC damage has been caused by the major TCs in the United States*

It is vital to identify where the occurrence of major TCs will increase in the future.

## A Challenge

Low horizontal resolution is employed in most global dynamical climate models

## HighResMIP



Only two HighResMIP models simulates major TCs.

Roberts et al. (2020, *J. Climate*)

Major TC Density (Counted on 5° x 5° grid cells)

OBS (1981-2022)

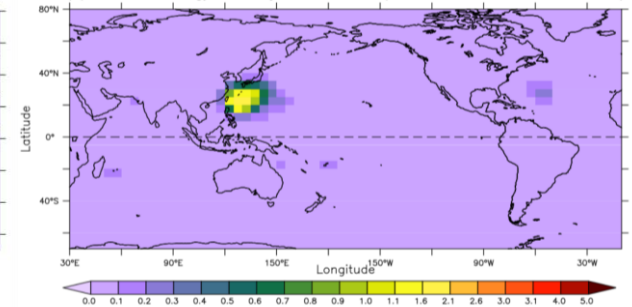
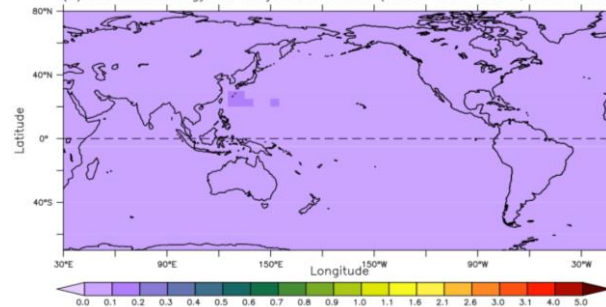
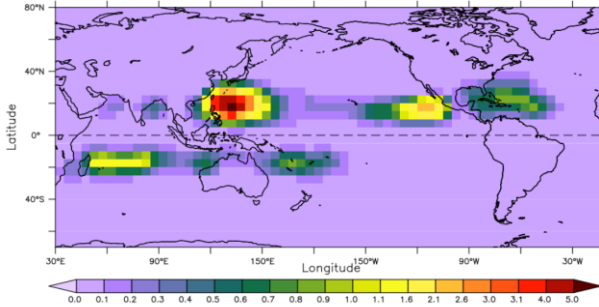
CMCC (1981-2014)

CNRM (1981-2014)

(a) TCF climatology for major hurricanes (IBTrACS, 1981-2022)

(d) TCF climatology for major hurricanes (CMCC-CM2-VHR4, 1981-2014)

(e) TCF climatology for major hurricanes (CNRM-CM6-1-HR, 1981-2014)



The two HighResMIP models critically underestimate major TC density

## **SPEAR\_HI** (High-resolution coupled model developed at GFDL)

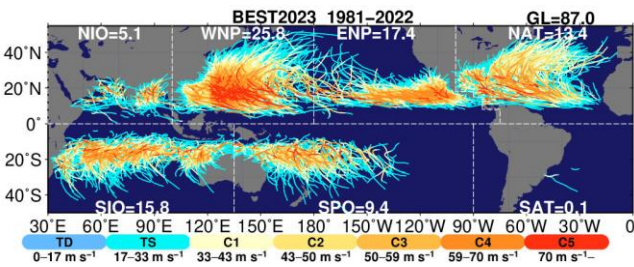
25-km atmosphere and land-surface coupled with 100-km ocean and ice components

## **MRI-AGCM3.2S** (20-km mesh Atmosphere model developed at MRI)

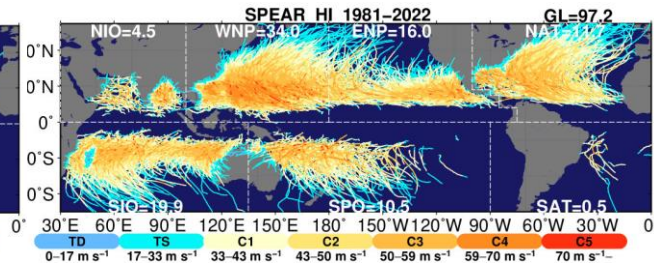
20-km atmosphere (Mizuta et al. 2012; Murakami et al. 2012)

TC Tracks with TC intensity

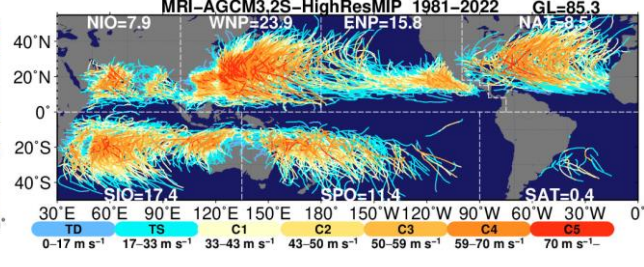
OBS (1981-2022)



**SPEAR\_HI** (1981-2022)

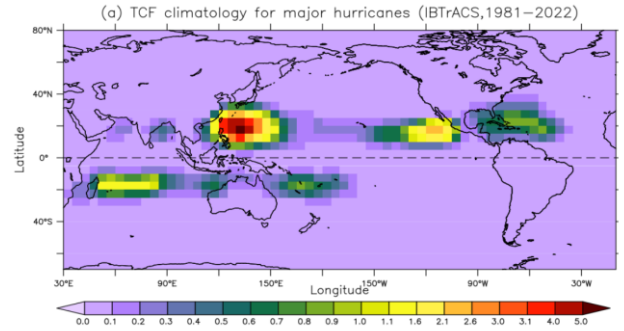


**MRI-AGCM3.2S** (1981-2021)

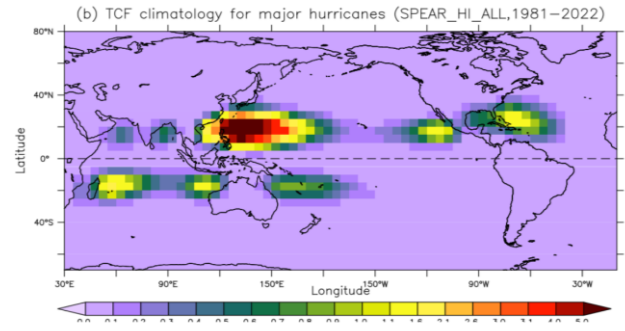


Major TC Density (Counted on 5° x 5° grid cells)

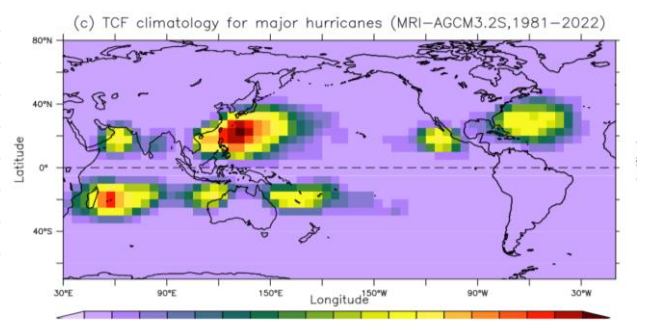
OBS (1981-2022)



**SPEAR\_HI** (1981-2022)



**MRI-AGCM3.2S** (1981-2021)



## 2. The Aim of This Study



The aim of this study:

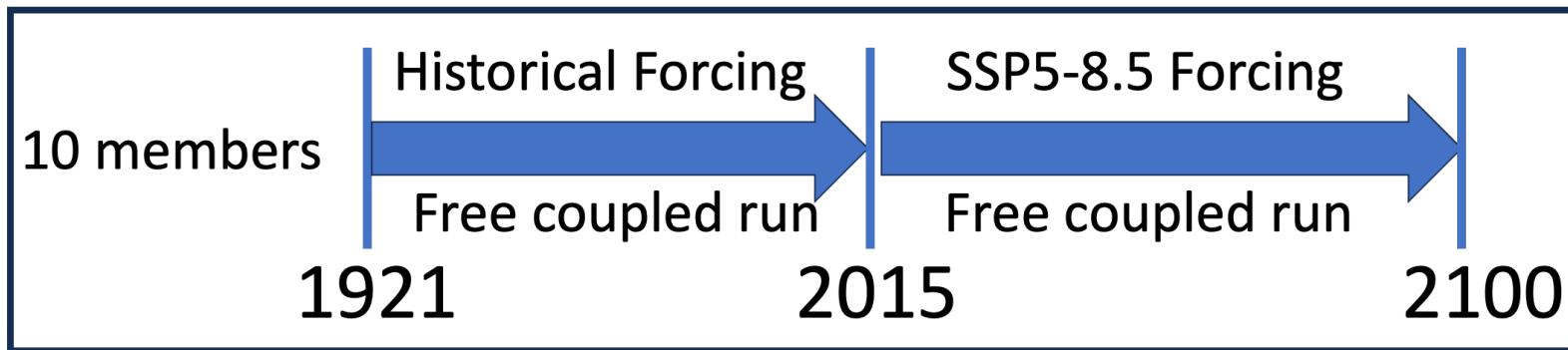
1. To identify if there are robust future changes in spatial pattern of frequency of occurrence of major TCs ( $\geq 50 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ), by the two independent high-resolution models.
2. To quantify associated storm hazards such as wildfires caused by the intense winds caused by major TCs.

The aim of this study:

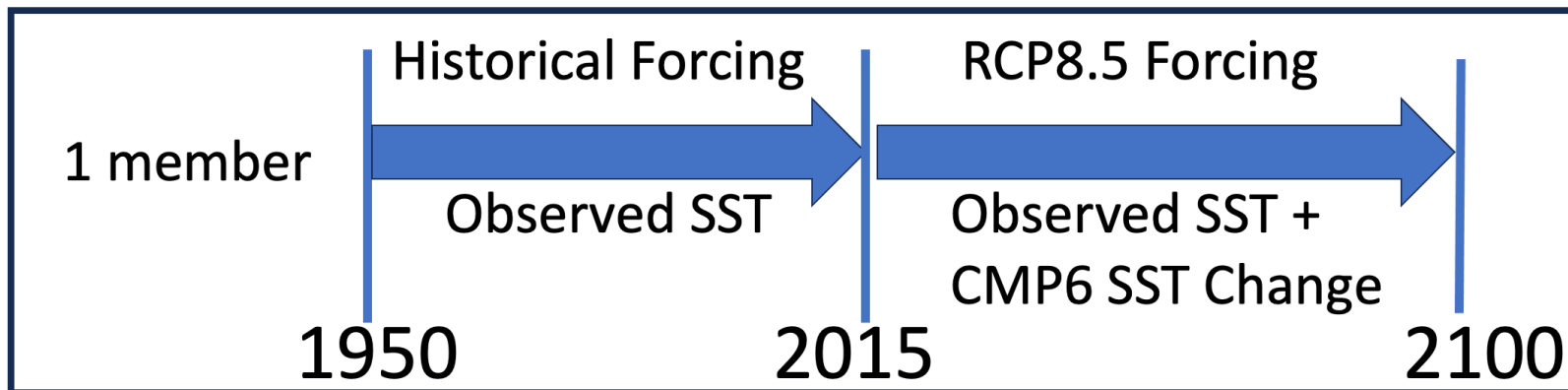
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## **SPEAR\_HI** (25-km mesh coupled model developed at GFDL)



## **MRI-AGCM3.2S** (20-km mesh Atmosphere model developed at MRI)



# Future Change = 2061-2099 minus 1981-2020 mean

# Projected Future Changes in Major TC Density

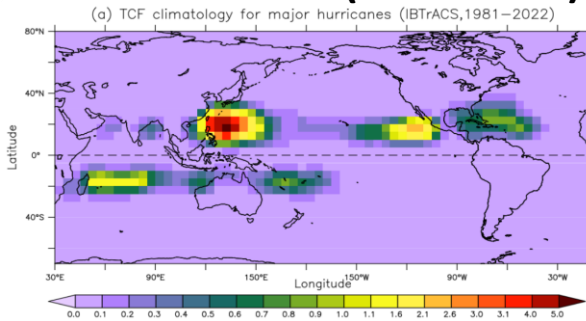


## Major TC density (Major TCF, $\geq 50\text{m s}^{-1}$ )

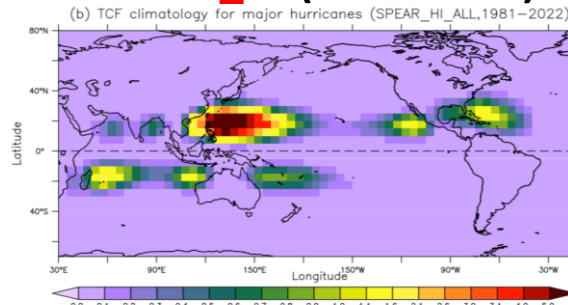
**SPEAR\_HI**: 25-km atmosphere and land-surface coupled with 100-km ocean and ice components

**MRI-AGCM3.2S**: 20-km mesh Atmosphere model developed at MRI

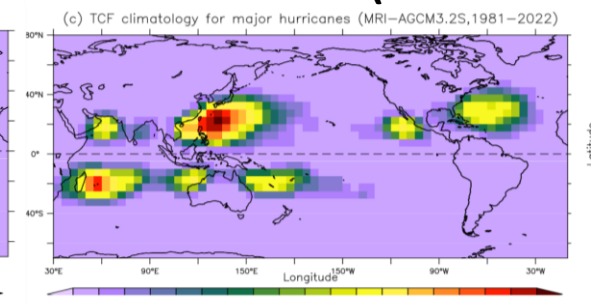
### Observations (1981-2022)



### SPEAR\_HI (1981-2022)



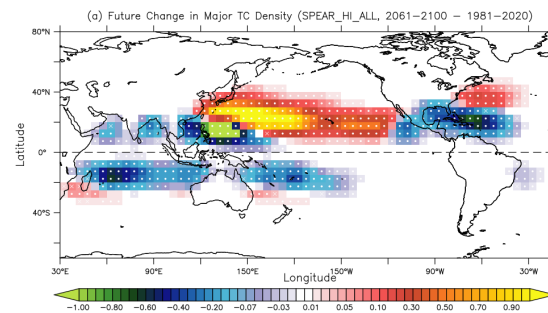
### MRI-AGCM3.2S (1981-2022)



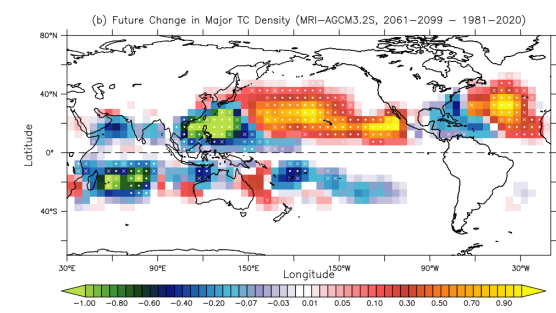
Major TC Density ( $\geq 50\text{m s}^{-1}$ )

# Future Change = 2061-2099  
minus 1981-2020 mean

### Future Change



### Future Change



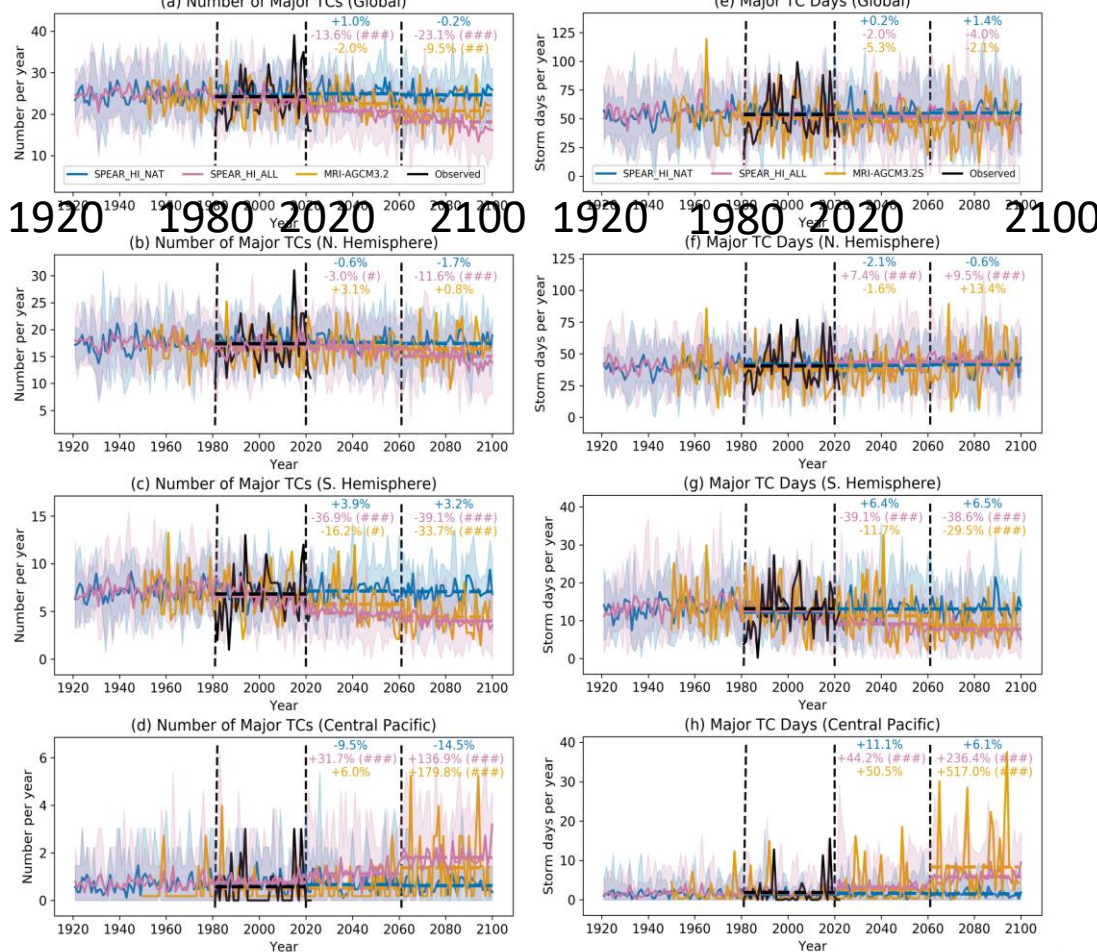
Both models project similar spatial patterns of changes in major TC density

# Time-series of Major TC Frequency and Storm Days



Global

## Major TC Frequency Major TC Days (Frequency & Lifetime)



NH

SH

Central Pacific

Observations

MRI-AGCM3.2S

SPEAR\_HI  
(All Forcing)

SPEAR\_HI  
(Natural Only)

###  
99% significant

##  
95% significant

#  
90% significant

- Both models project a significant decrease in the frequency of global major TCs
- The decrease is more in the Southern Hemisphere than in the Northern Hemisphere
- Both models project unchanged storm days of major TCs globally
- Major TCs increase substantially in the Central Pacific including Hawaii

## The aim of this study:

1. To identify if there are robust future changes in spatial pattern of frequency of occurrence of major TCs ( $\geq 50 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ), by the two independent high-resolution models.
2. To quantify associated storm hazards such as wildfires caused by the intense winds caused by major TCs.

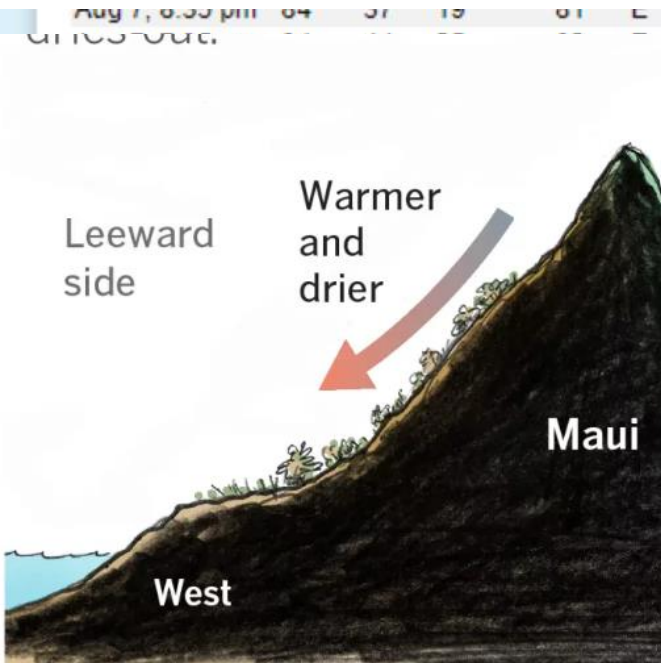
# Hurricane Dora and Wildfire in Maui (2023)



Aug. 8-9, 2023.  
At least 36 deaths in Lahaina

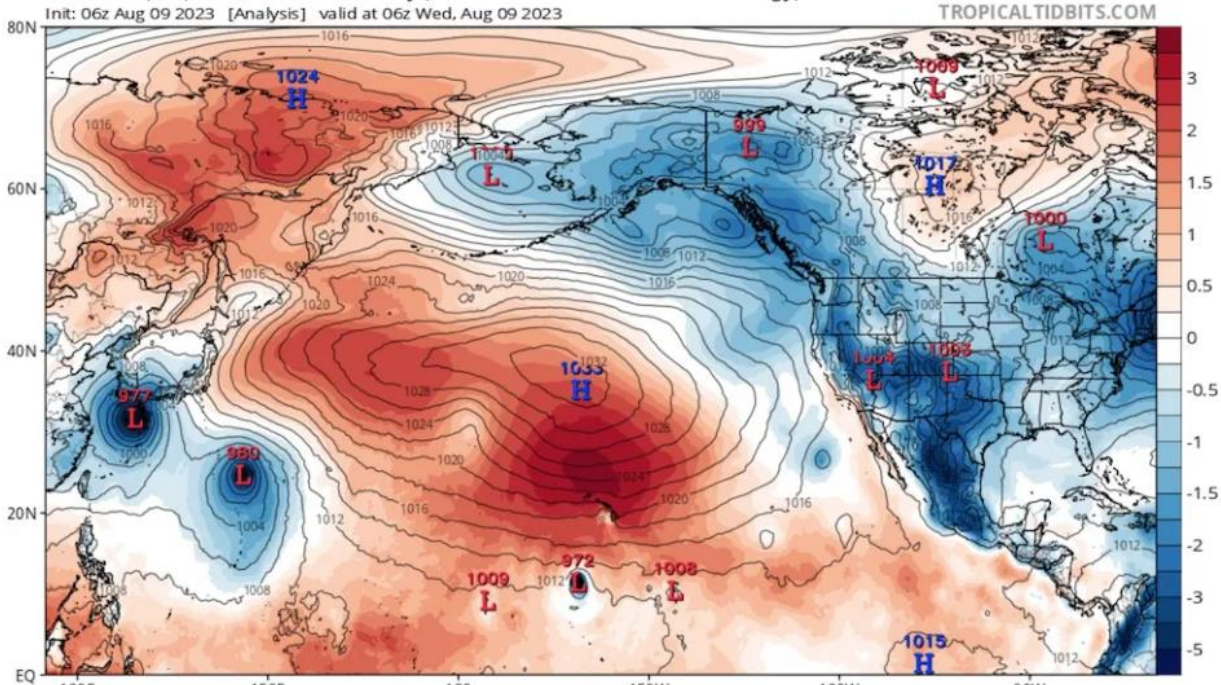


Aug 7, 6:55 pm 84 37 19 01 L  
at 103-046.



Aug 7 1:35 am 78 66 66 E

GFS MSLP (mb) & Normalized Anomaly (based on CFSR 1981-2010 Climatology)

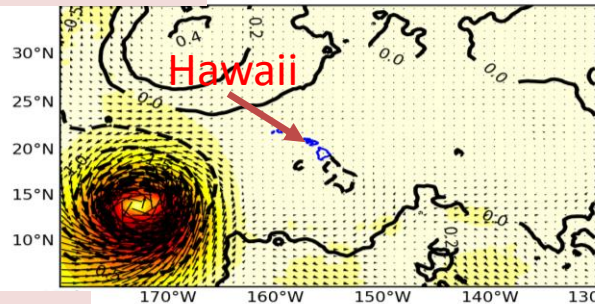


# Influence of Major TCs on Remote Sea Level Pressure

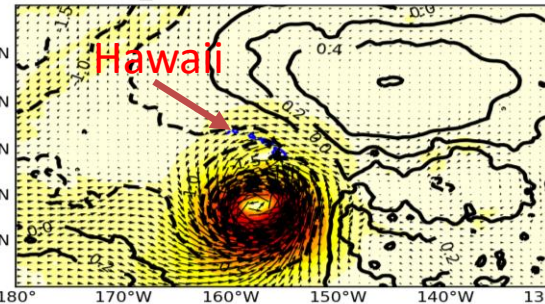
Contours: SLP Anomaly (2 hPa interval for negative and 0.2 hPa interval for positive values)  
 Shadings: Wind Speed Anomaly

## SPEAR\_HI

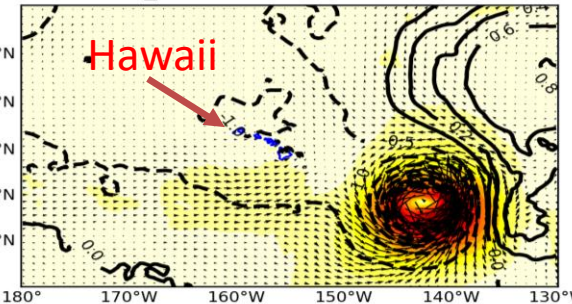
(a) SPEAR\_HI (1921-2100, 396 MTC cases)



(b) SPEAR\_HI (1921-2100, 255 MTC cases)

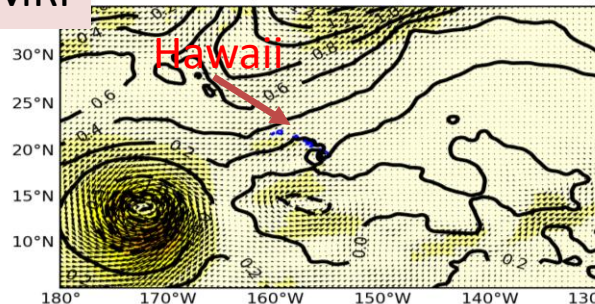


(c) SPEAR\_HI (1921-2100, 498 MTC cases)

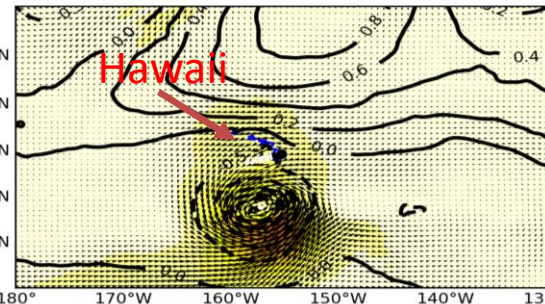


## MRI

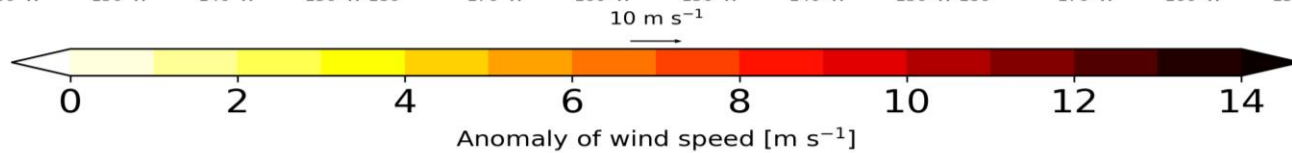
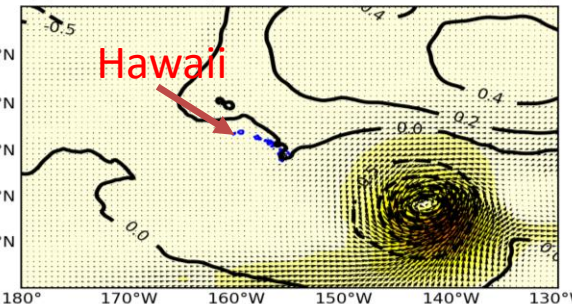
(d) MRI-AGCM (1950-2099, 166 TC cases)



(e) MRI-AGCM (1950-2099, 730 TC cases)



(f) MRI-AGCM (1950-2099, 795 TC cases)



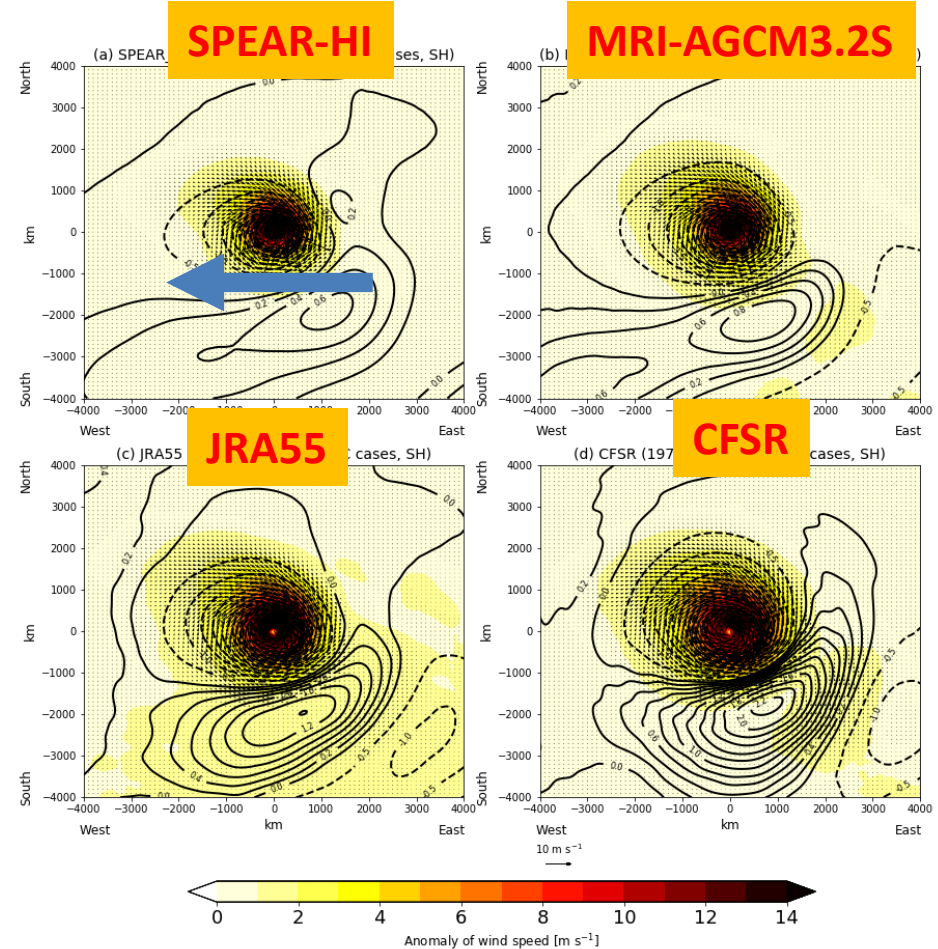
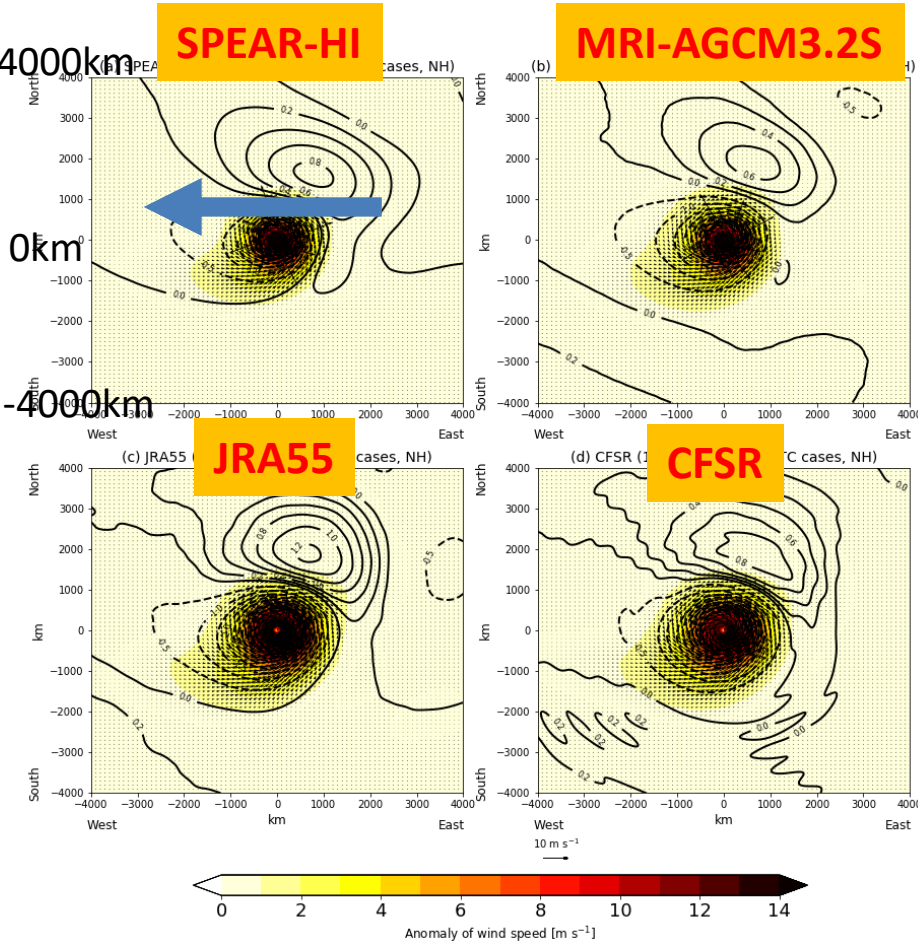
A Major TC transfers low PV at lower latitudes to higher latitudes, generating positive SLP anomaly to the Northeast, resulting in a strong meridional SLP gradient

# Influence of Major TCs on Remote Sea Level Pressure

Contours: SLP Anomaly (2 hPa interval for negative and 0.2 hPa interval for positive values)  
 Shadings: Wind Speed Anomaly

## N. Hemisphere

## S. Hemisphere



It can be seen in reanalysis data and occur everywhere

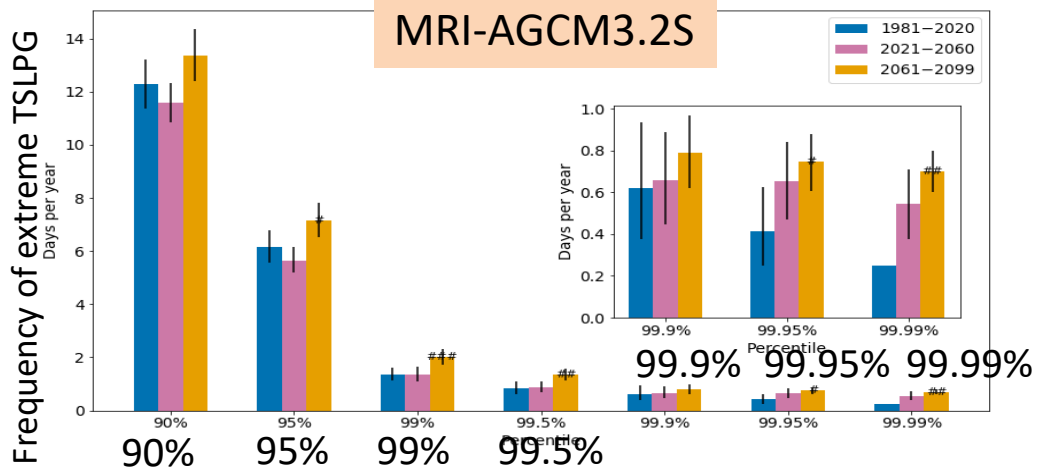
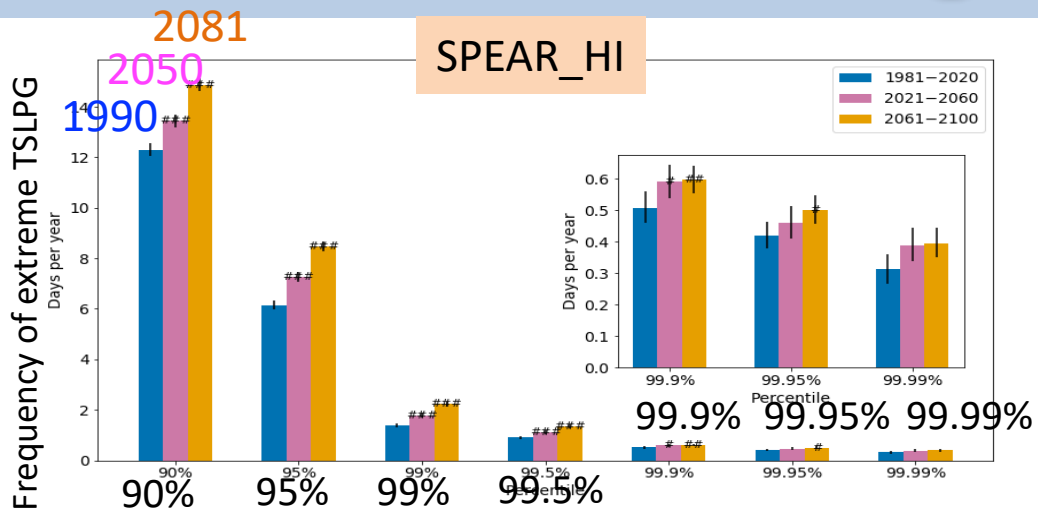
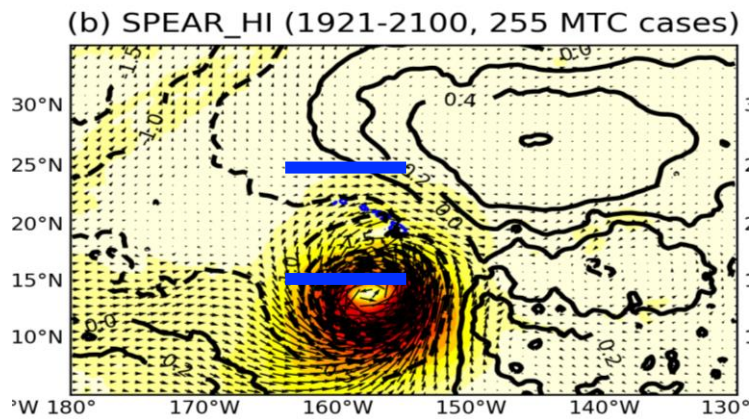
# 6. Simulated frequency of extreme events of abrupt increases in SLP gradient near Hawaii



$$SLPG = \overline{SLP}_{a_{160-155^{\circ}W}}^{25^{\circ}N} - \overline{SLP}_{a_{160-155^{\circ}W}}^{15^{\circ}N}$$

$$TSLPG = \frac{SLPG(t) - SLPG(t - dt)}{dt}$$

dt= 24 hours



- Robust projected increases in extreme TSLPG events near Hawaii
- The increases indicate a projected increase in the frequency of events of rapid intensification in wind speed within 24 hours and associated increase in the occurrence of wildlife associated with Hurricane Dora in 2023

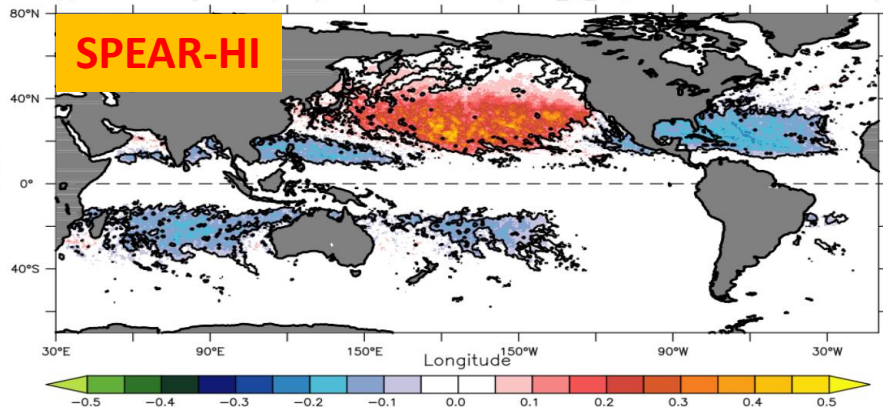


## Projected changes in the frequency of extreme TSLPG events on a global scale

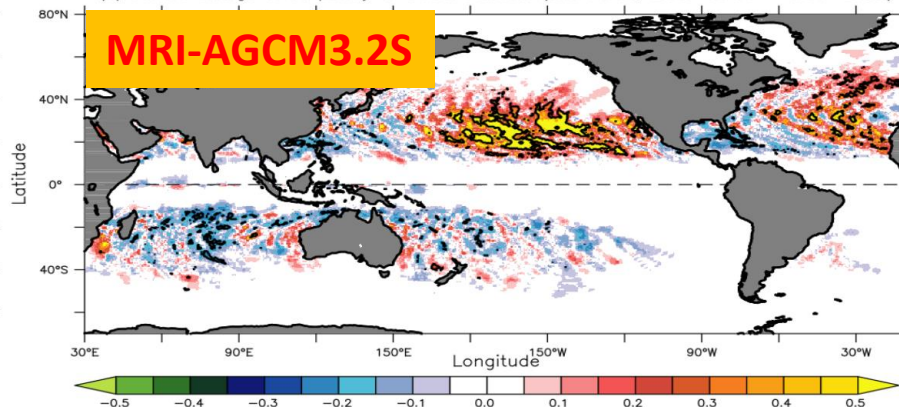
Future (2061–2100) minus present-day (1981–2020)

90 percentile threshold

(c) Future change in frequency of 99.95% events (SPEAR\_HI\_ALL, 2061–2100 – 1981–2020)



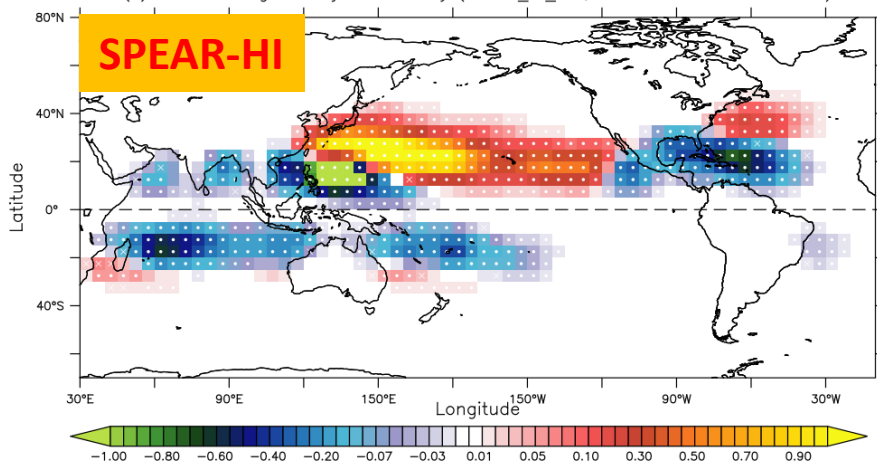
(d) Future change in frequency of 99.95% events (MRI-AGCM, 2061–2099 – 1981–2020)



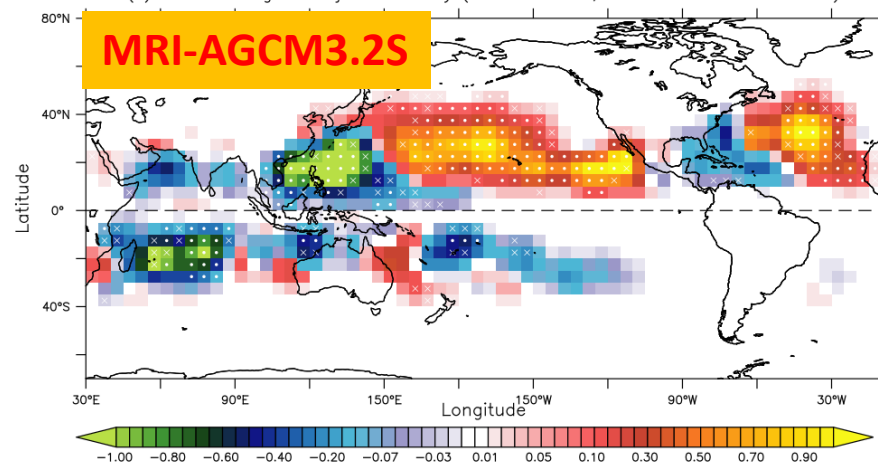
## Projected future changes in the frequency of occurrence of major TCs ( $50 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ )

Future (2061–2100) minus present-day (1981–2020)

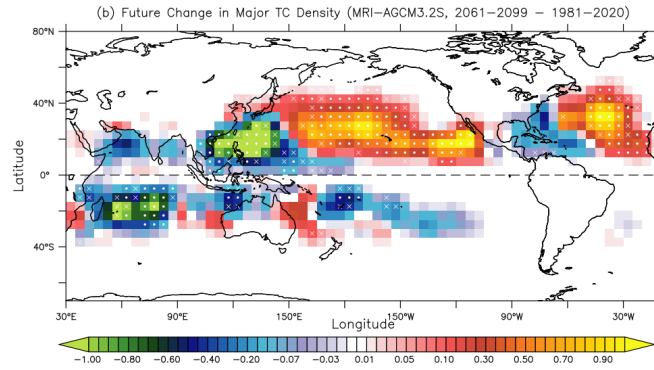
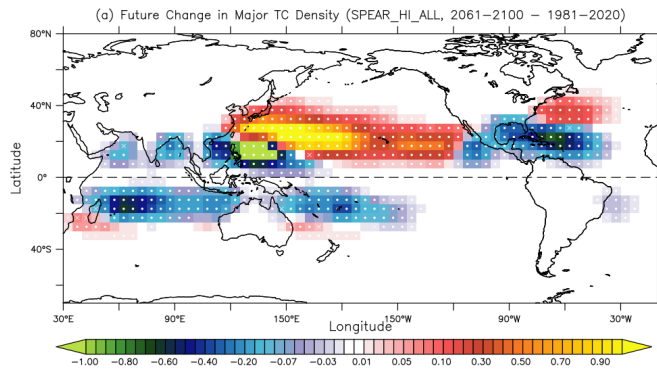
(a) Future Change in Major TC Density (SPEAR\_HI\_ALL, 2061–2100 – 1981–2020)



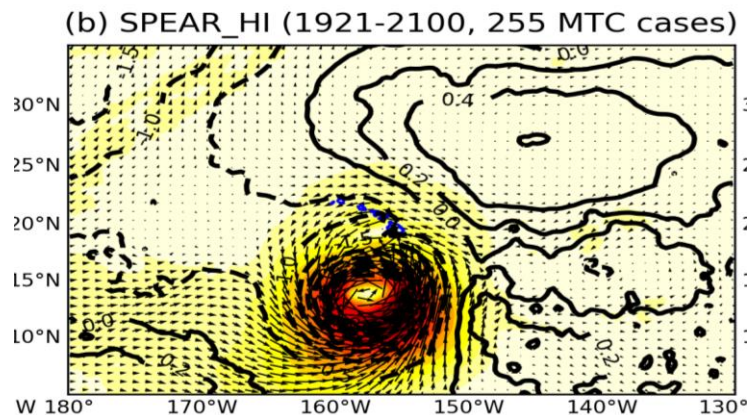
(b) Future Change in Major TC Density (MRI-AGCM3.2S, 2061–2099 – 1981–2020)



## 1. Robust future changes in the spatial pattern of major TC density



## 2. The hazard risk exists even when a major hurricane is positioned far away



Murakami et al. (2024, under review)

# Seeking for a New Postdoc (Just Posted This Morning!)



Princeton University and NOAA-GFDL will hire a postdoctoral researcher.

## Seasonal to decadal variability of extreme precipitation events associated with tropical cyclones

### Scope:

1. To identify the effects of **anthropogenic climate changes and natural variability** on the frequency and intensity of extreme precipitation events related to tropical cyclones
2. To determine the **predictability** of tropical cyclone-induced extreme precipitation events over seasonal to decadal timescales associated with anthropogenic forcing and natural variability.

Applications submitted by **July 15th** for priority consideration, but open until August 1<sup>st</sup>

Please apply through the Princeton AOS web page:  
Contact me ([Hiroyuki.Murakami@noaa.gov](mailto:Hiroyuki.Murakami@noaa.gov))

