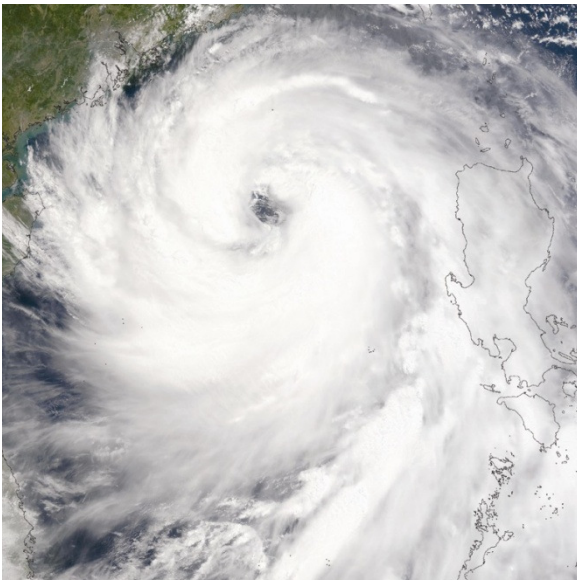


香港城市大學  
City University  
of Hong Kong



# Global Warming and Typhoon Activity

**Johnny Chan**

***Guy Carpenter Asia-Pacific Climate Impact Centre  
School of Energy and Environment  
City University of Hong Kong***

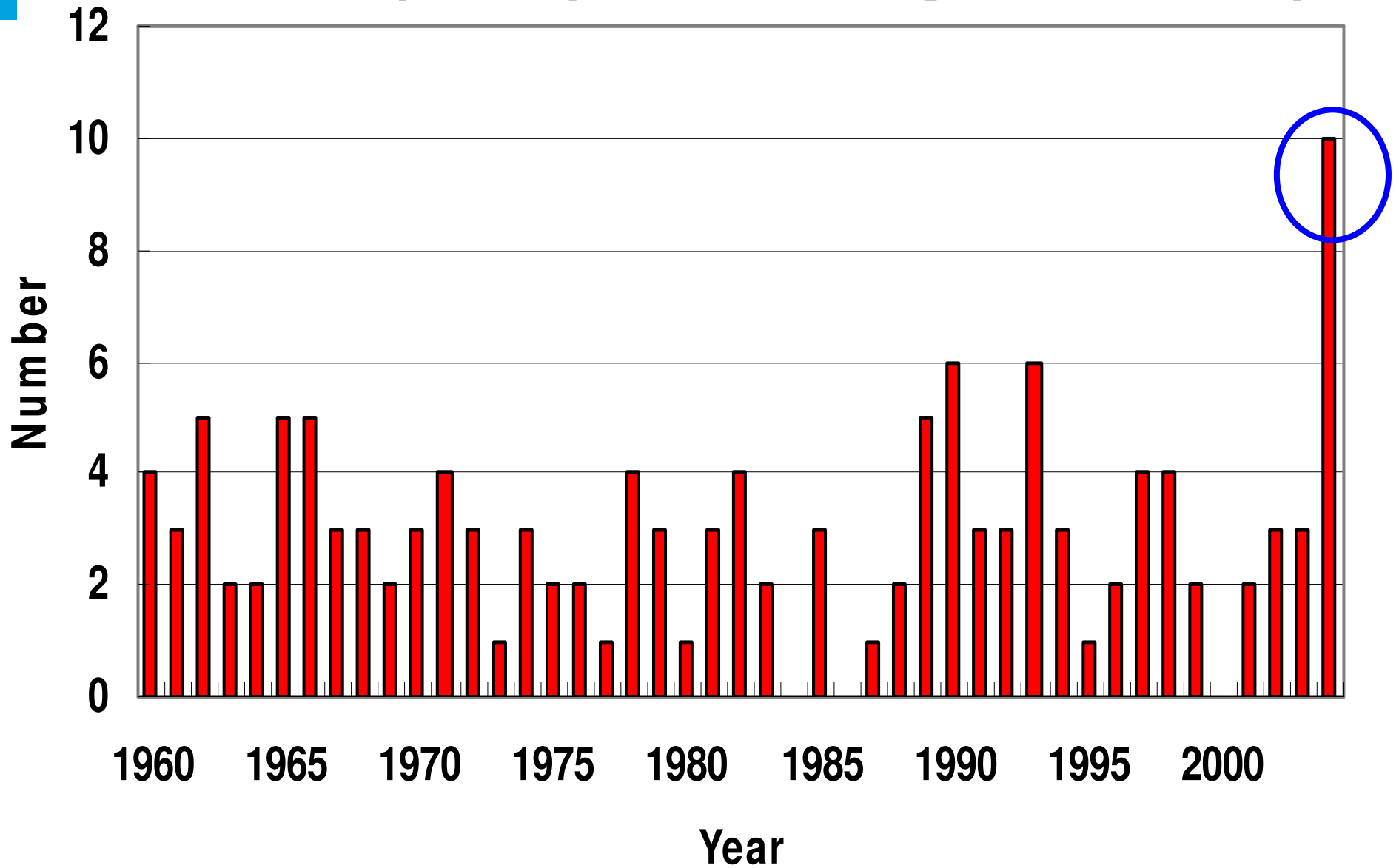
# ■ Outline

- **The “common” perception and conclusion**
- **Problems with such a perception and conclusion**
- **The common myth**
- **What actually causes variations in typhoon activity?**
- **What can we expect for the future?**

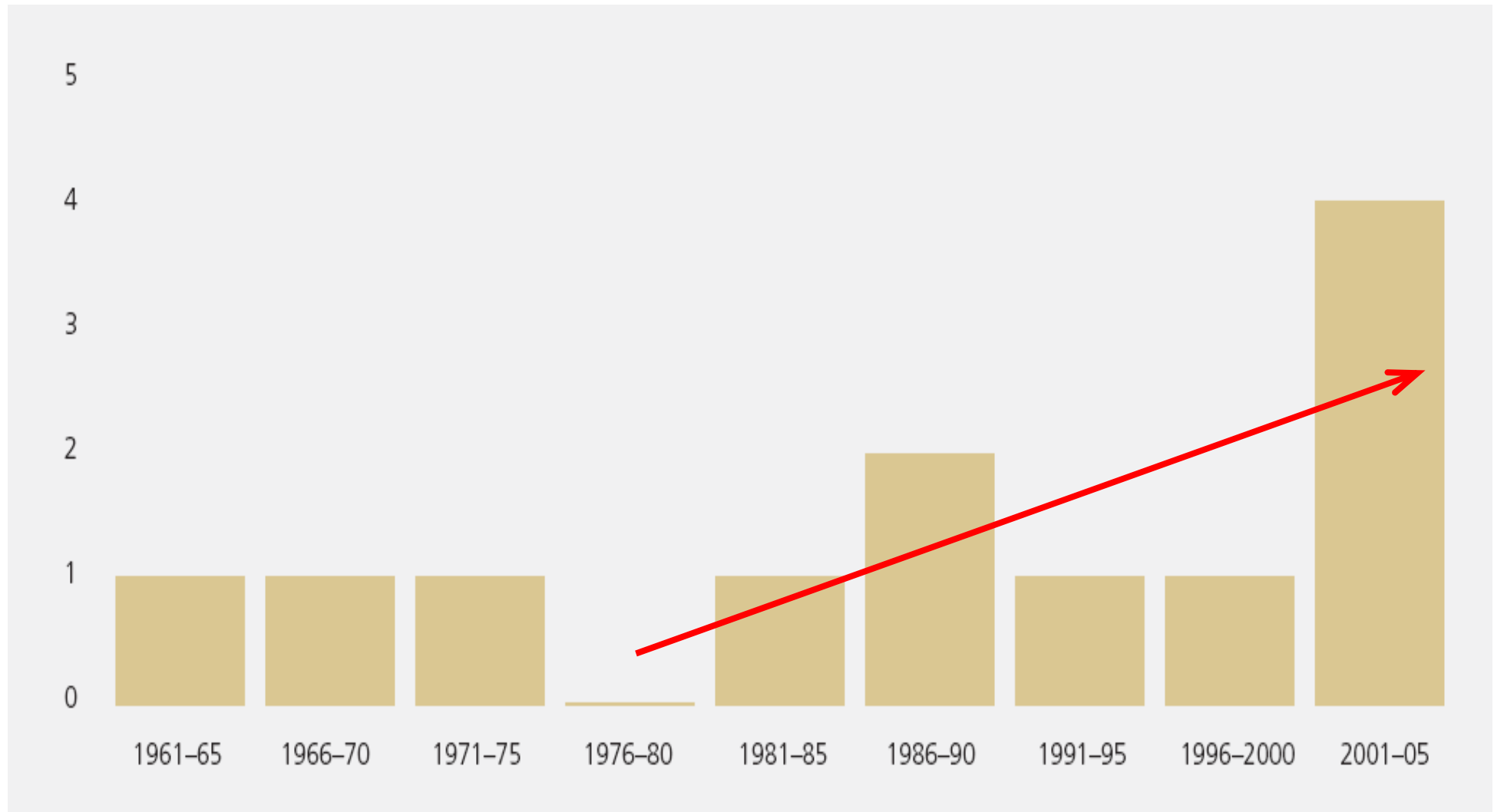


# *The “Common” Perception*

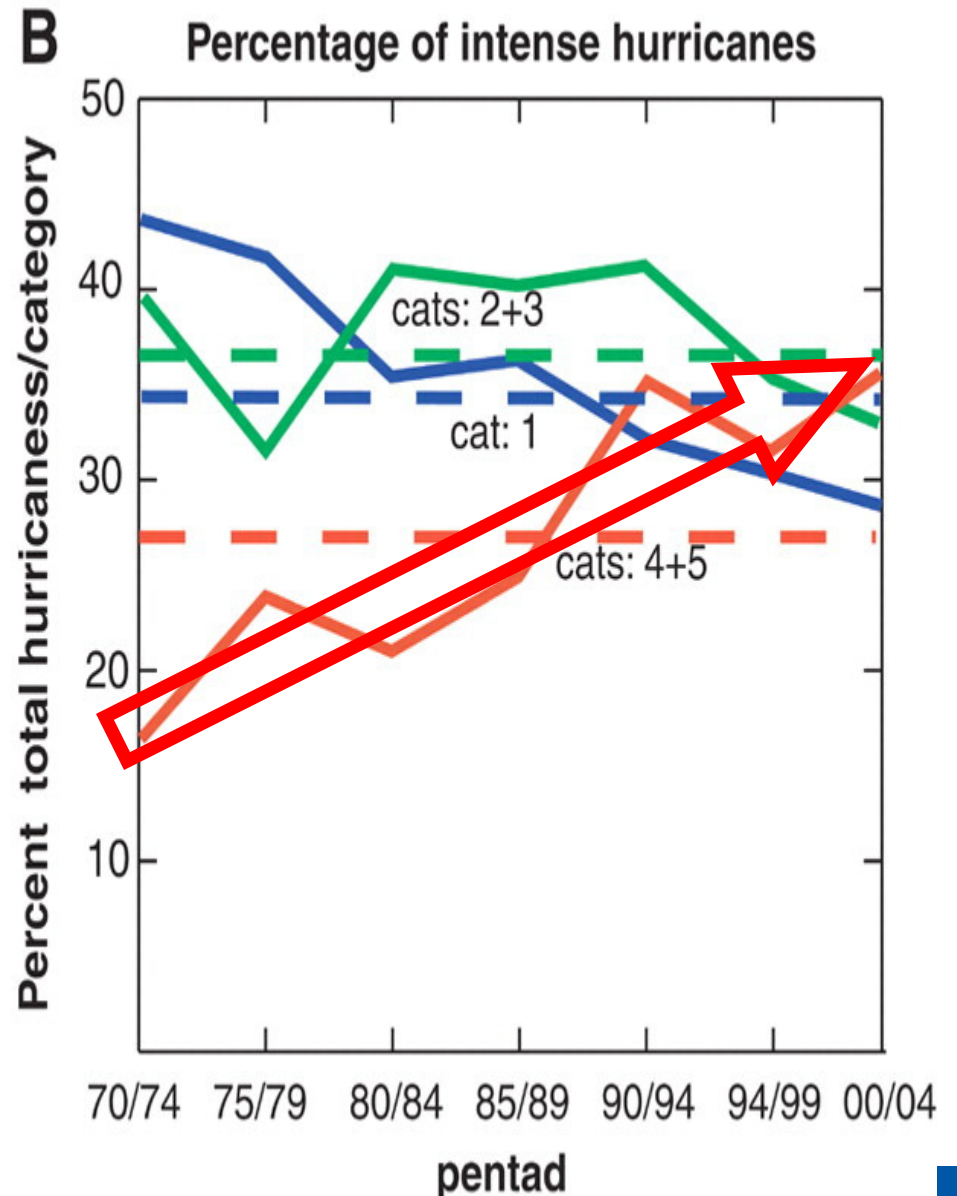
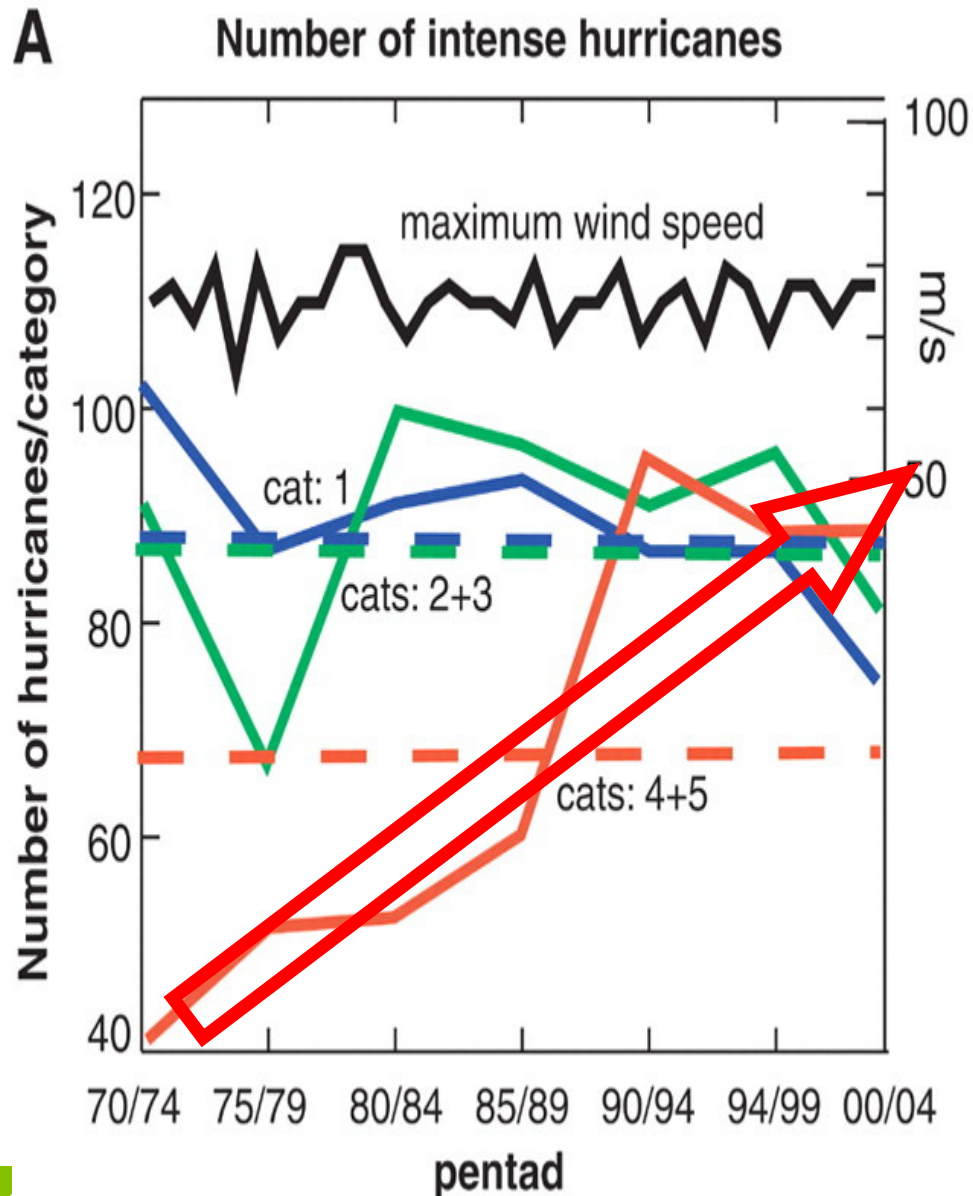
# Number of Tropical Cyclones Making Landfall in Japan



## Number of Typhoons Making Landfall in Zhejiang Province, China During each 5-year period (1960-2005)



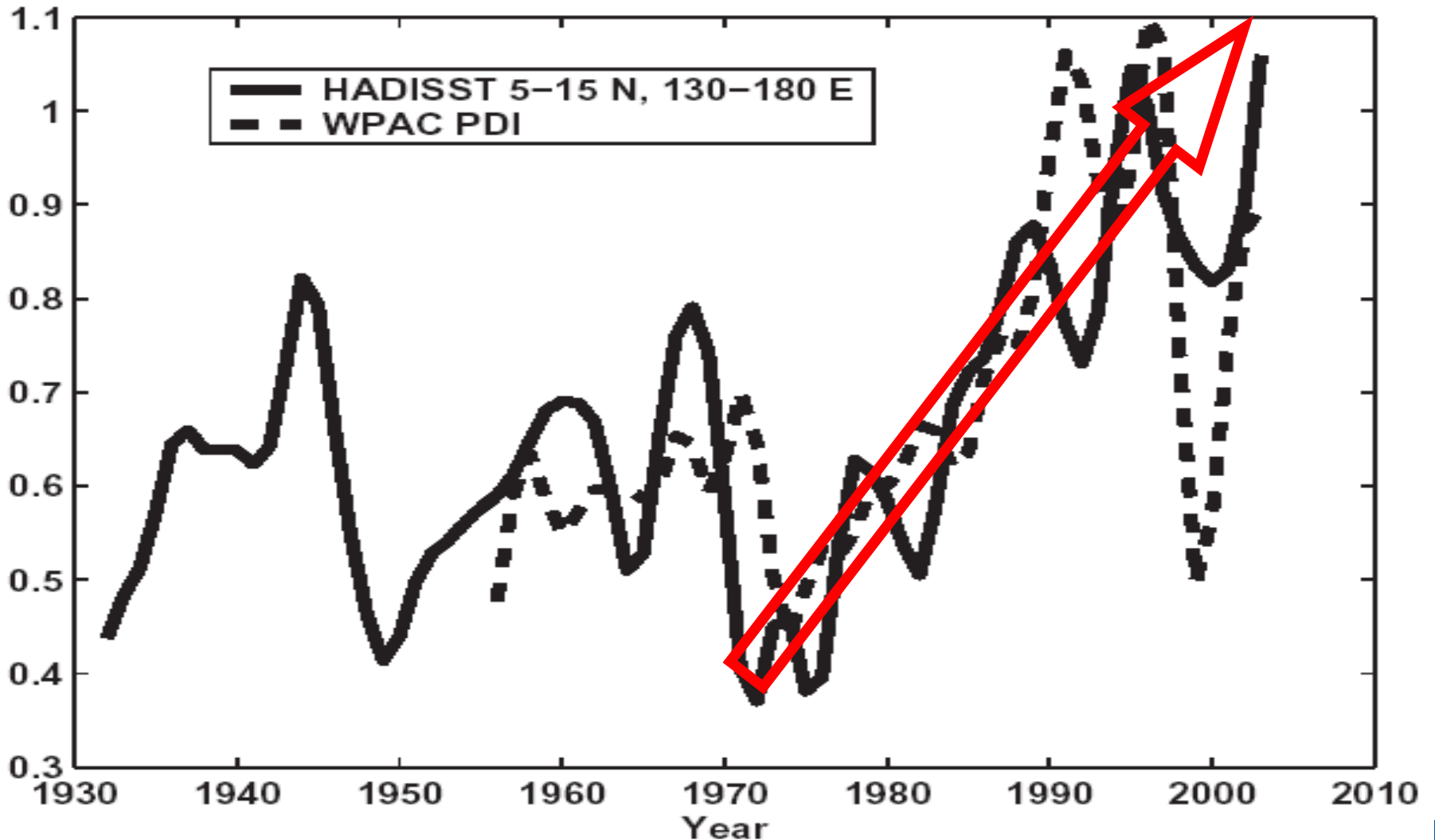
# Webster et al.'s (2005) *Science* paper



# Emanuel's (2005) *Nature* paper

W. North Pacific

PDI: (max wind)<sup>3</sup>



## ■ The “Common” Conclusion

**Tropical cyclone activity and that of intense typhoons in the western North Pacific, as well as the number of tropical cyclones making landfall along the Asian coast have been on the increase as a result of global warming.**

# ■ Questions

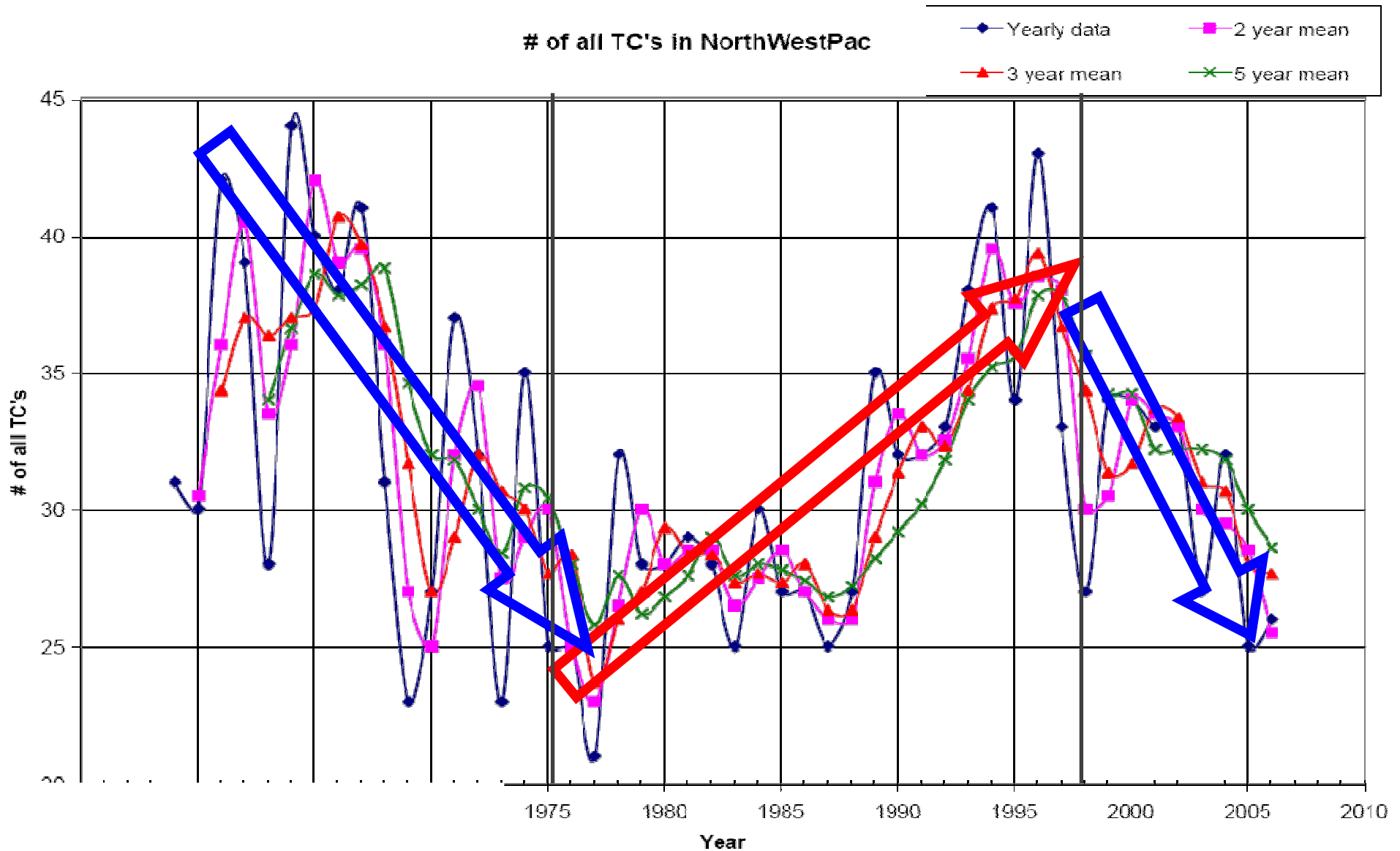
- 1. Is tropical cyclone activity in the western North Pacific increasing?**
- 2. Is intense typhoon activity in the western North Pacific increasing?**
- 3. Is the number of landfalling tropical cyclones along the Asian coast increasing?**
- 4. Can changes in such activities be explained by those caused by global warming? If not, can we still explain such changes?**



## *Question 1:*

**Is tropical cyclone activity in the western North Pacific increasing?**

# Number of TCs in WNP (from JTWC)





## *Question 1:*

**Is tropical cyclone activity in the western North Pacific increasing?**

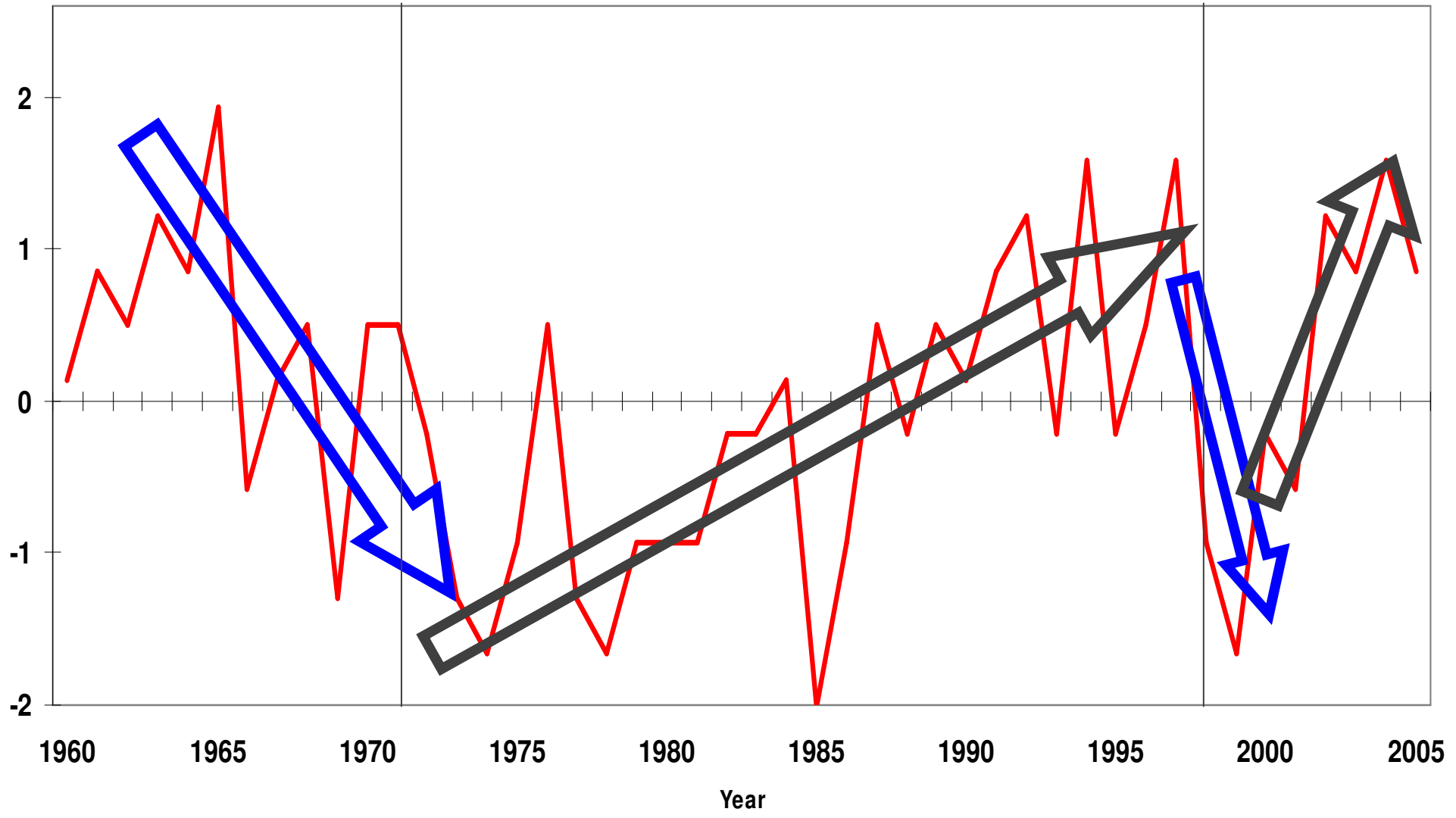
*Answer:* **No**



## *Question 2:*

**Is intense typhoon activity in the western North Pacific increasing?**

# Standardized Number of Cat 4 & 5 Typhoons



## ■ No. of Category 4 and 5 Typhoons

	1975-89	1990-2004
<b>Number</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>42</b>

## ■ No. of Category 4 and 5 Typhoons

	1960-74	1975-89	1990-2004
Number	105	75	115
Percentage	37	32	42



## *Question 2:*

**Is intense typhoon activity in the western North Pacific increasing?**

*Answer:* **No**

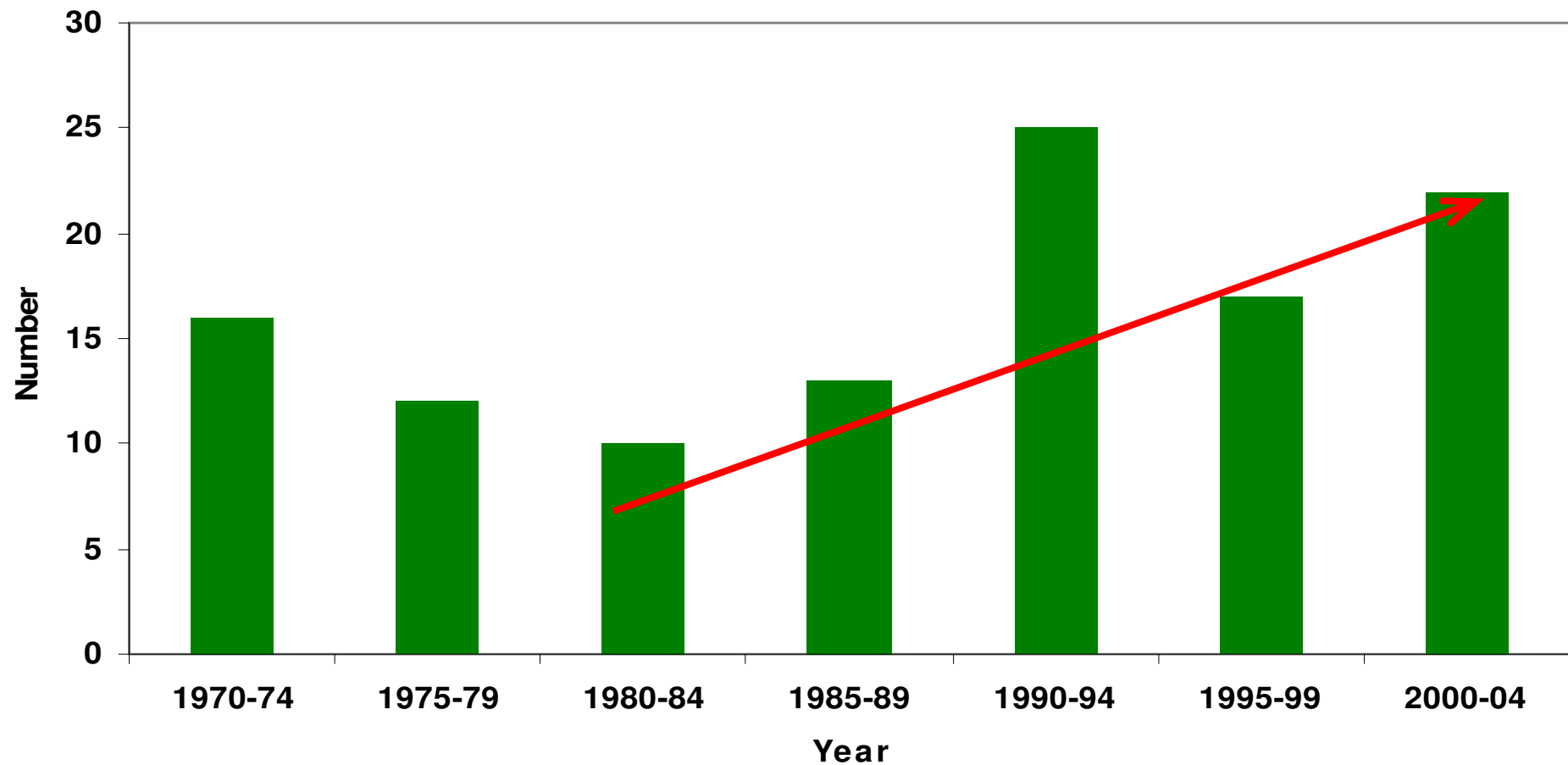


## **Question 3:**

**Is the number of landfalling tropical cyclones along the Asian coast increasing?**

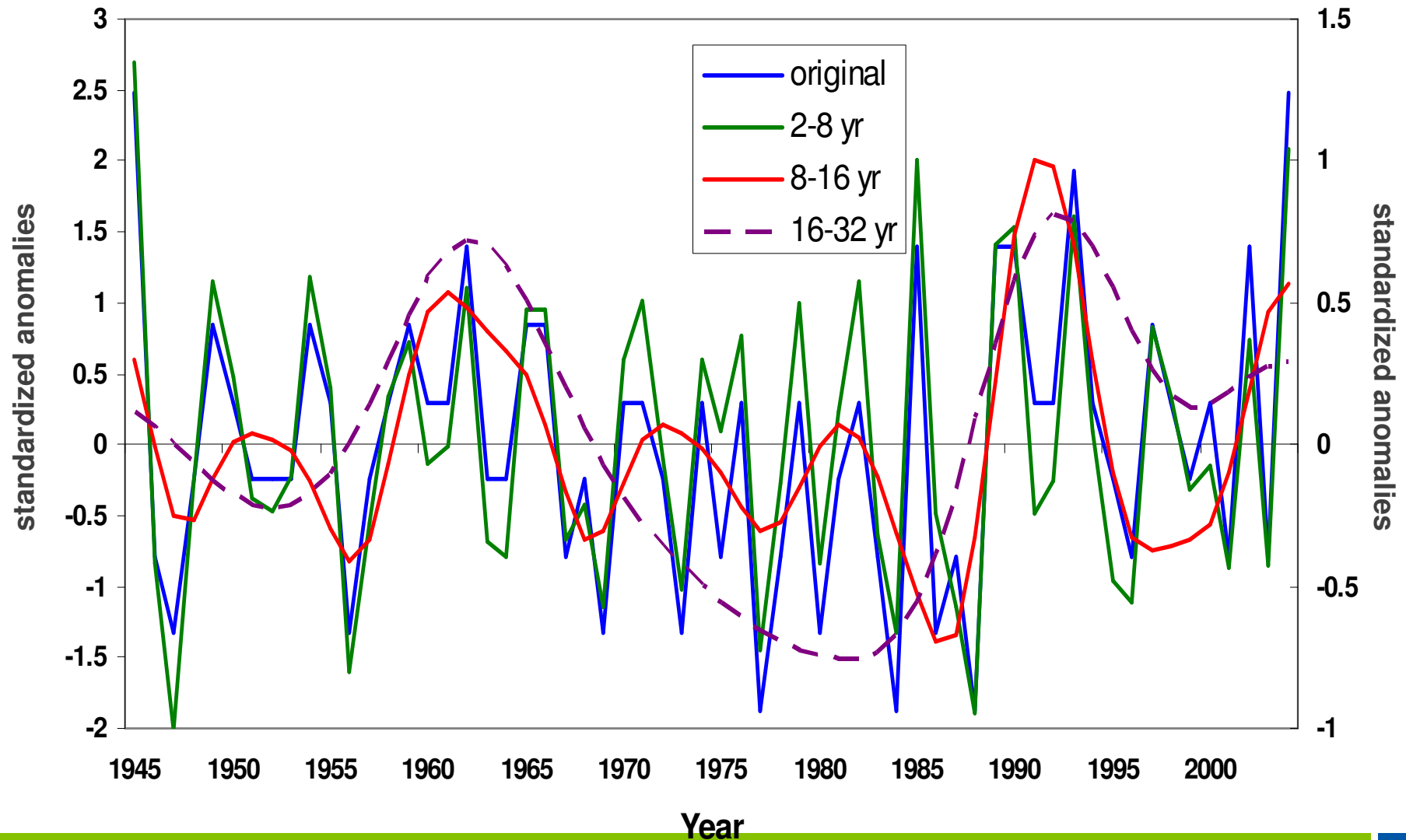
# Number of Tropical Cyclones Making Landfall in Japan and Korea Every 5-year period (1970-2004)

No. of Tropical Cyclones Making Landfall in Japan and Korea

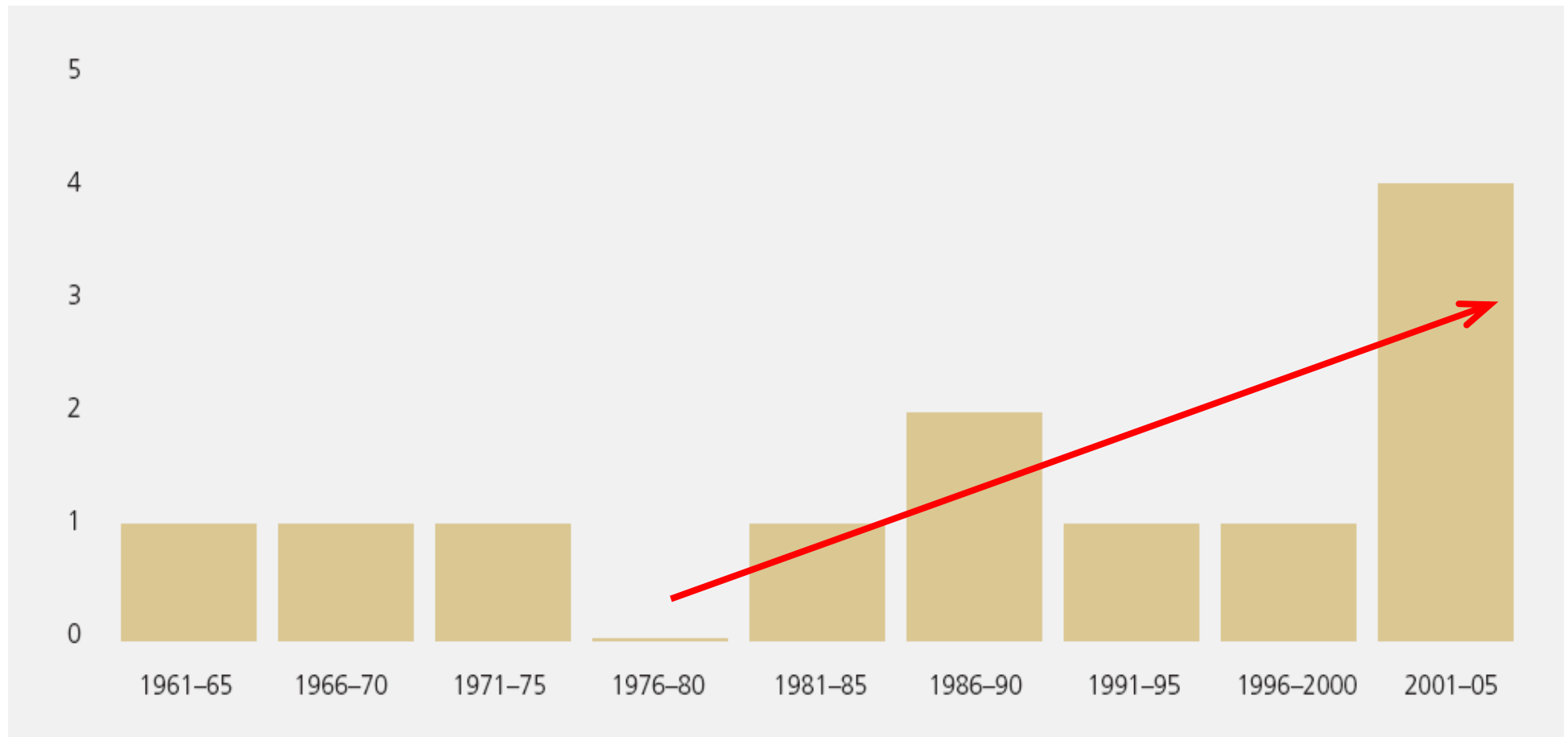


# Standardized number of TCs making landfall in Korea and Japan

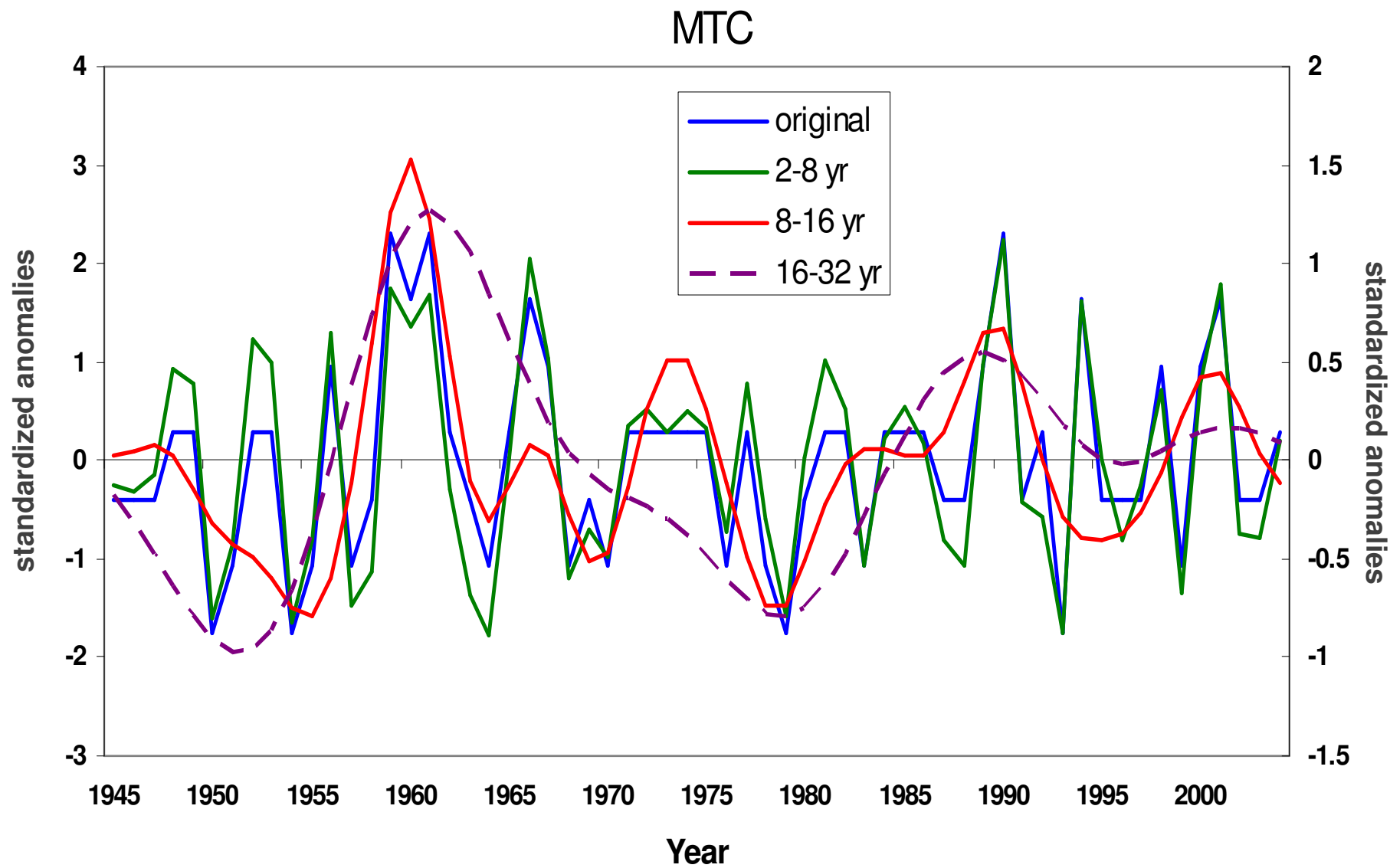
NTC



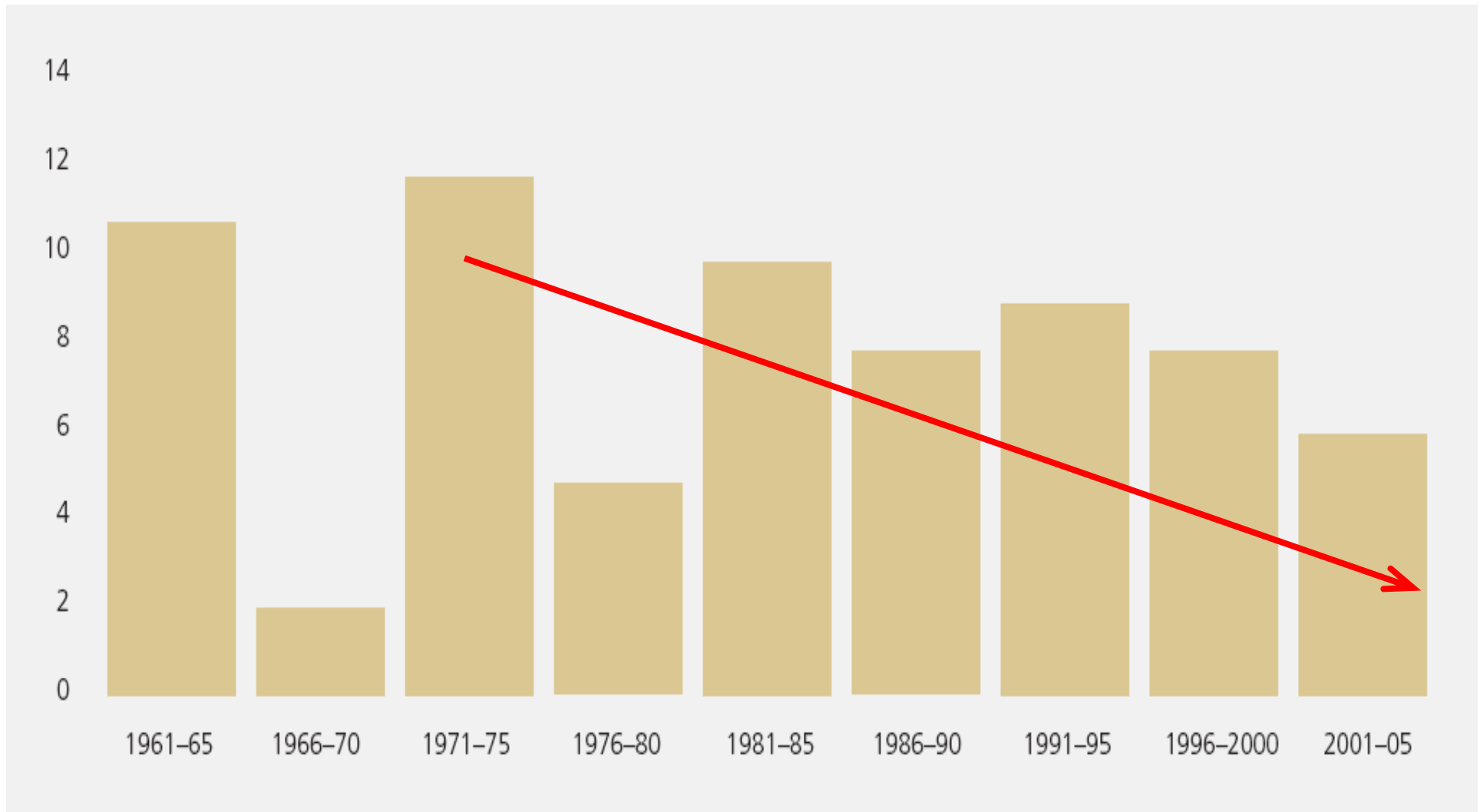
# Number of Typhoons Making Landfall in Zhejiang During each 5-year period (1960-2005)



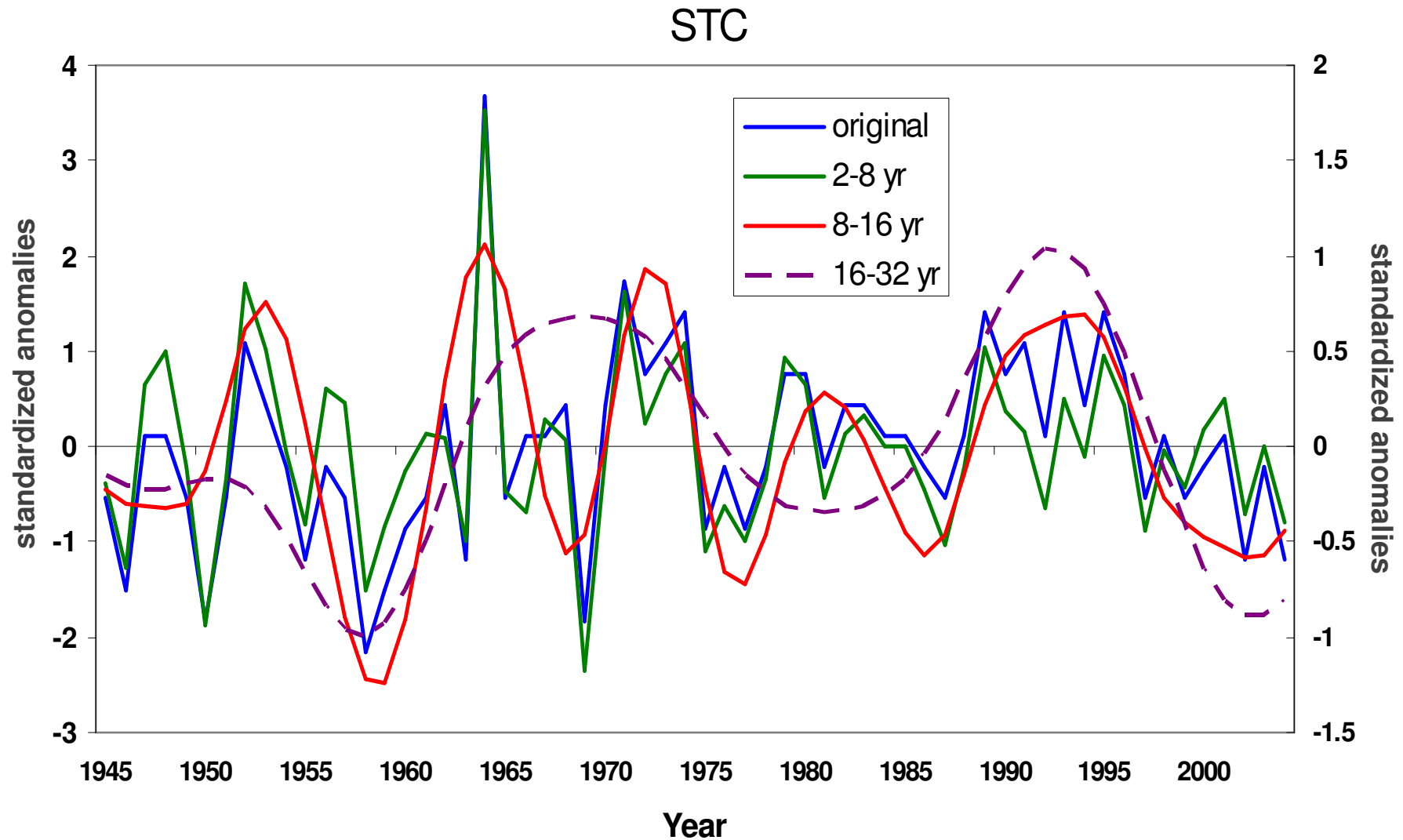
# Standardized number of TCs making landfall in East China



# Number of Typhoons Making Landfall in South China (Guangdong/Hainan) Every 5-year period (1960-2005)



# Standardized number of TCs making landfall in South China, Vietnam and Philippines





## **Question 3:**

**Is the number of landfalling tropical cyclones along the Asian coast increasing?**

**Answer:** **No**



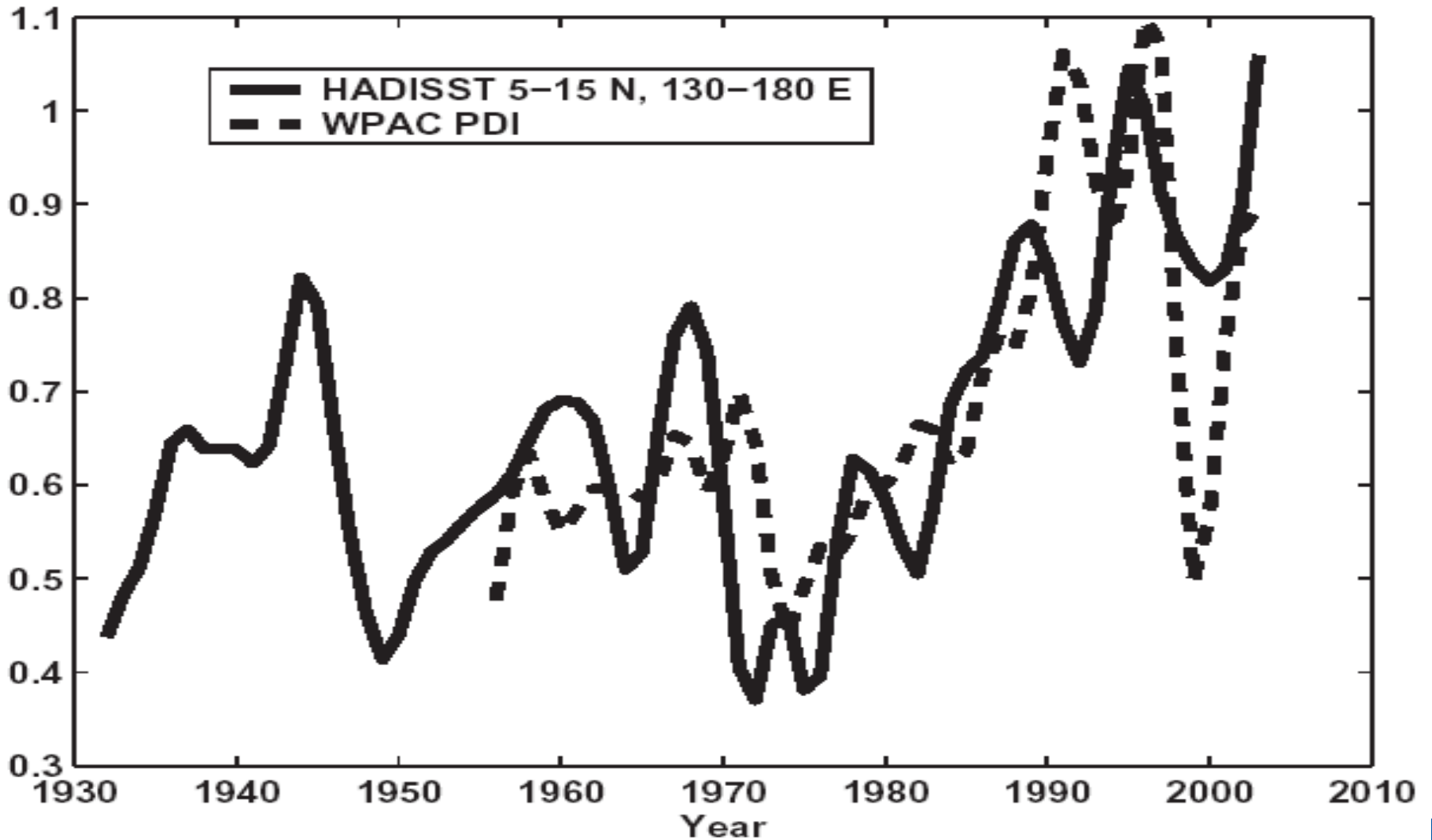
## *Question 4:*

**Can changes in such activities be explained by those caused by global warming? If not, can we still explain such changes?**

# Emanuel's (2005) *Nature* paper

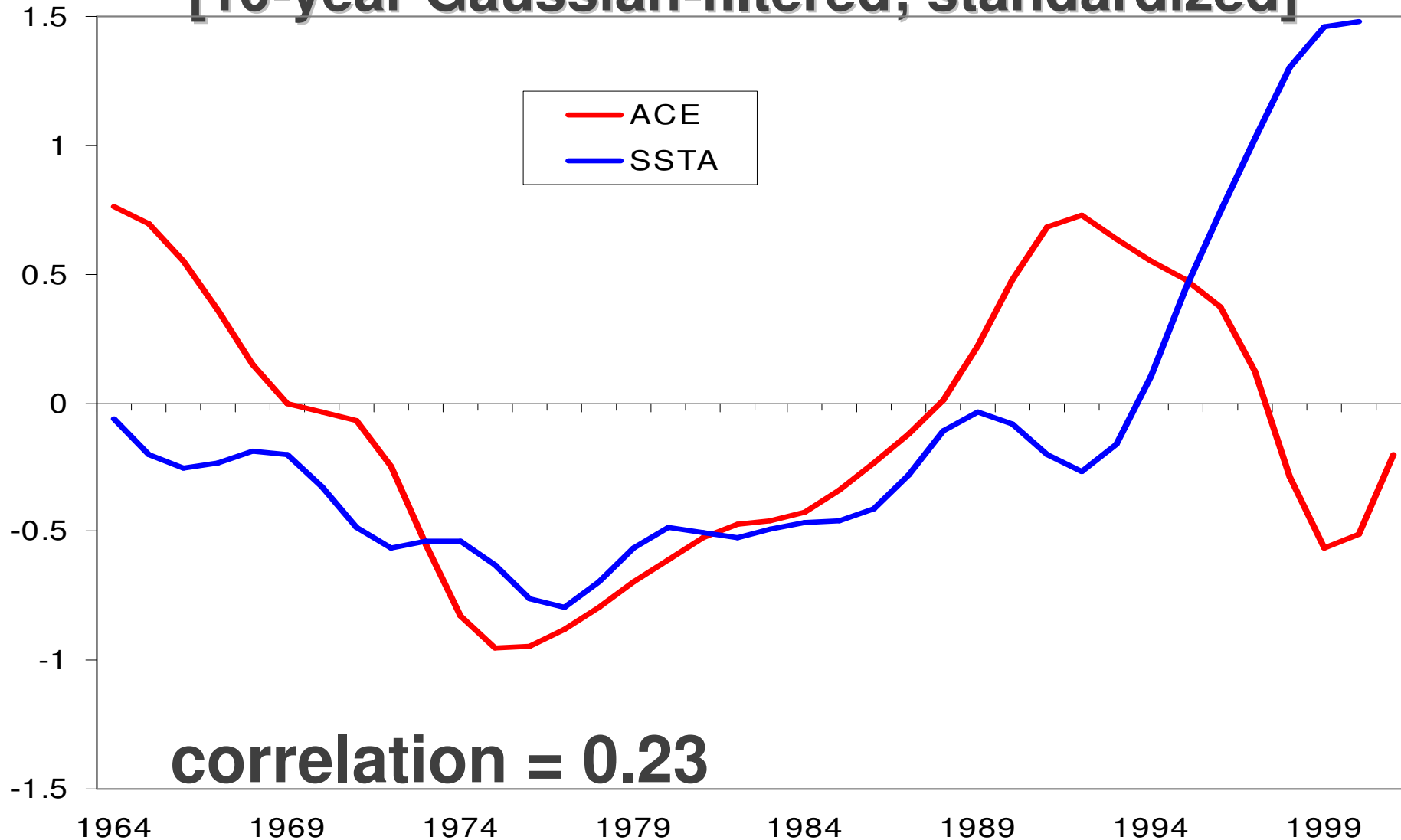
W. North Pacific

PDI: (max wind)<sup>3</sup>



# Total Cyclone Energy vs. May-Nov SSTA (5-30°N, 120-180°E)

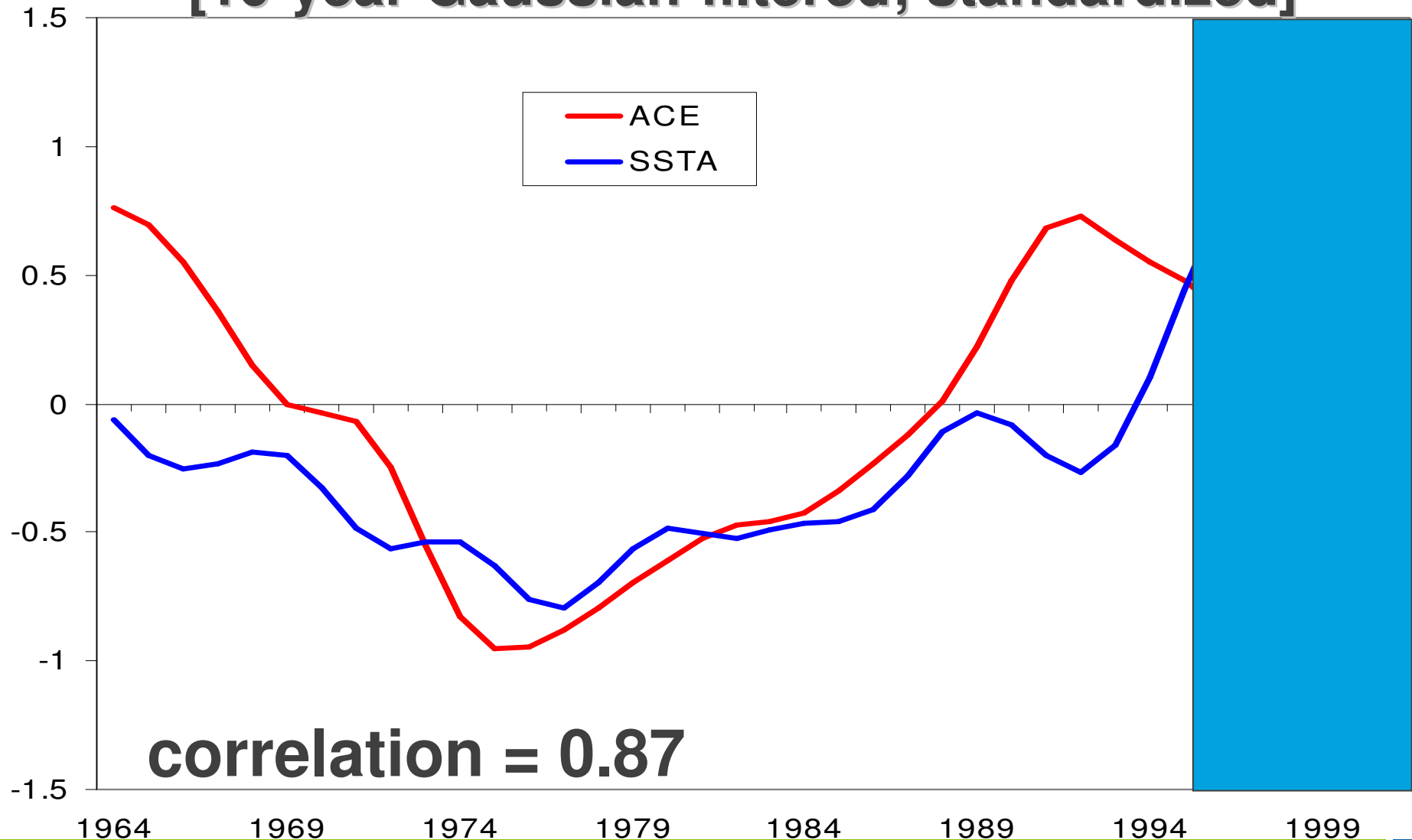
[10-year Gaussian-filtered; standardized]



correlation = 0.23

# Total Cyclone Energy vs. May-Nov SSTA (5-30°N, 120-180°E)

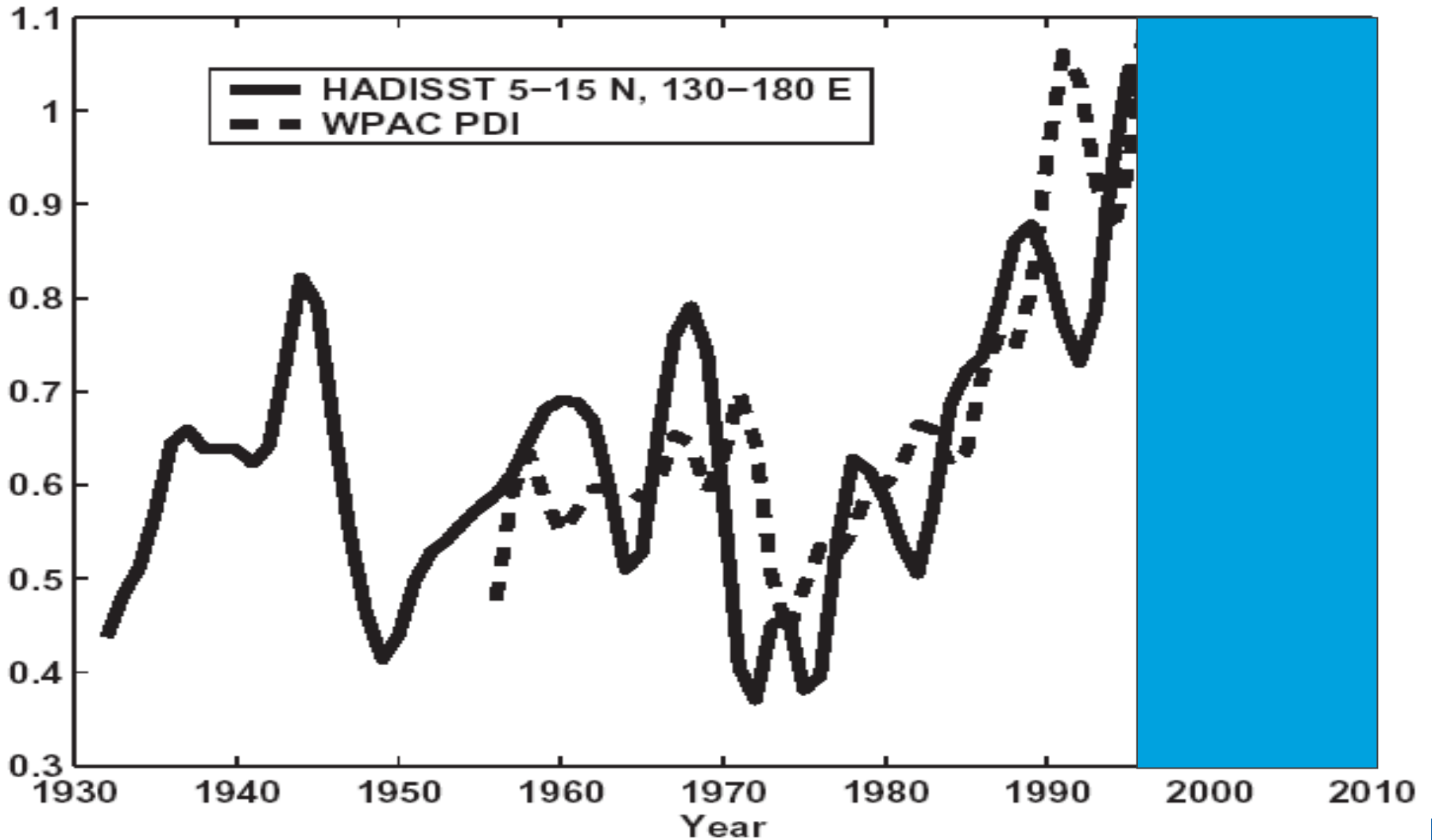
[10-year Gaussian-filtered; standardized]



# Emanuel's (2005) *Nature* paper

W. North Pacific

PDI: (max wind)<sup>3</sup>



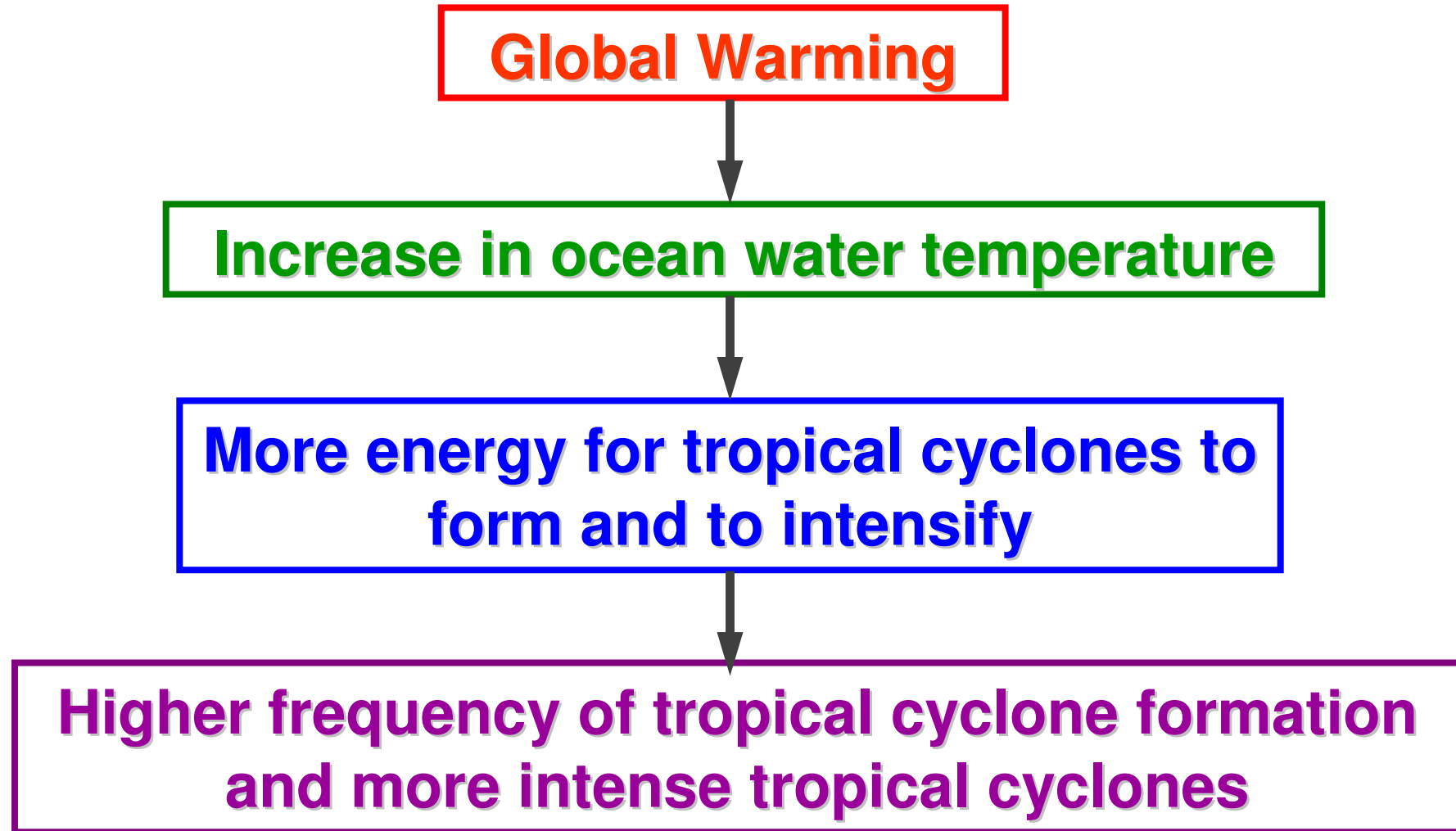



## **Question 4:**

**Can changes in such activities be explained by those caused by global warming? If not, can we still explain such changes?**

**Answer:** **No**

# ■ The “Common” Myth





***So, if it is not global warming, what causes such changes in tropical cyclone activity?***

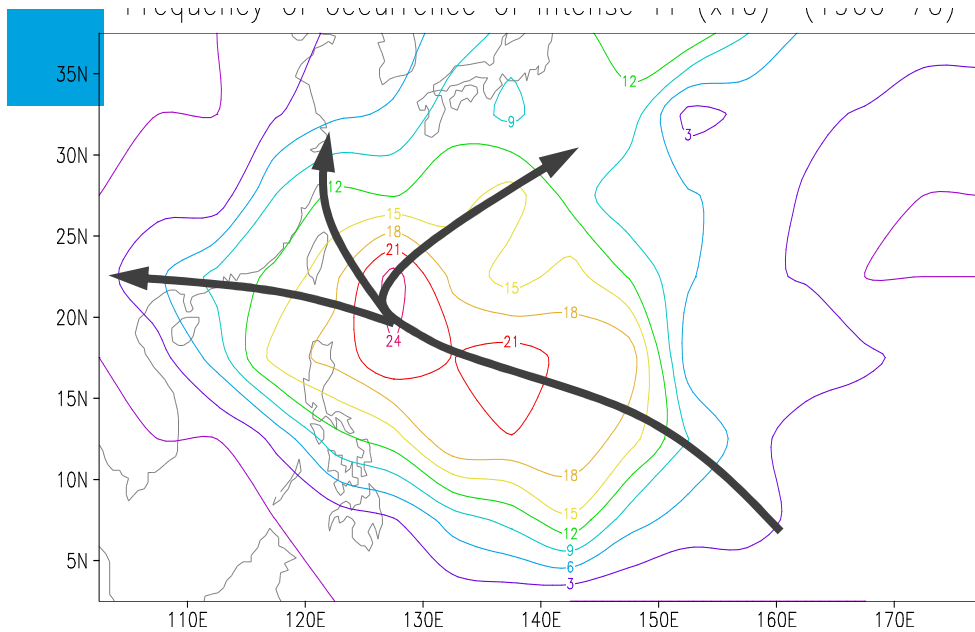


# ***On Intense Typhoons***

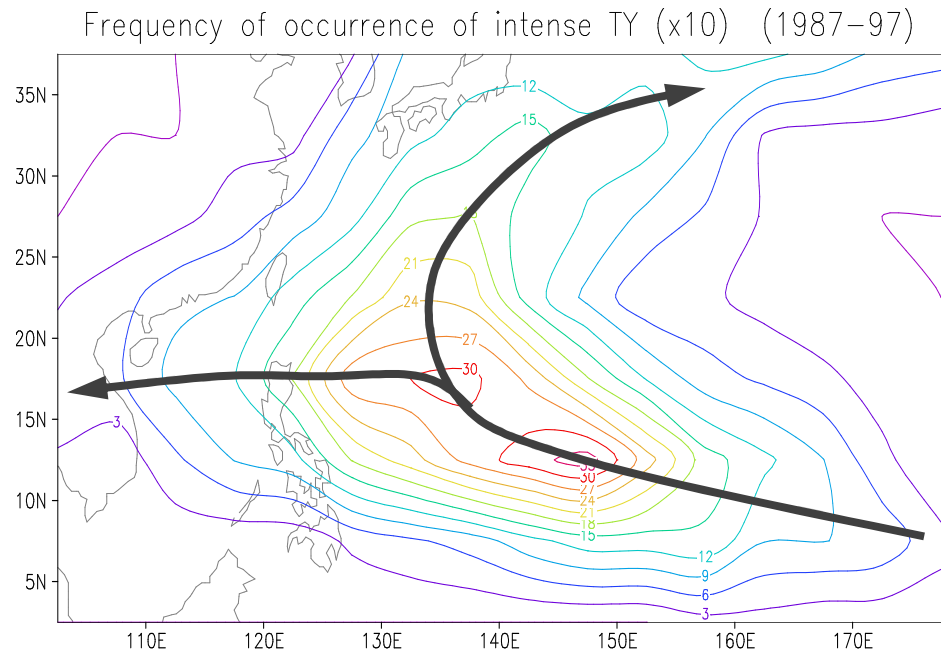
## ■ No. of Category 4 and 5 Typhoons

	1960-74	1975-89	1990-2004
Number	105	75	115
Percentage	37	32	42

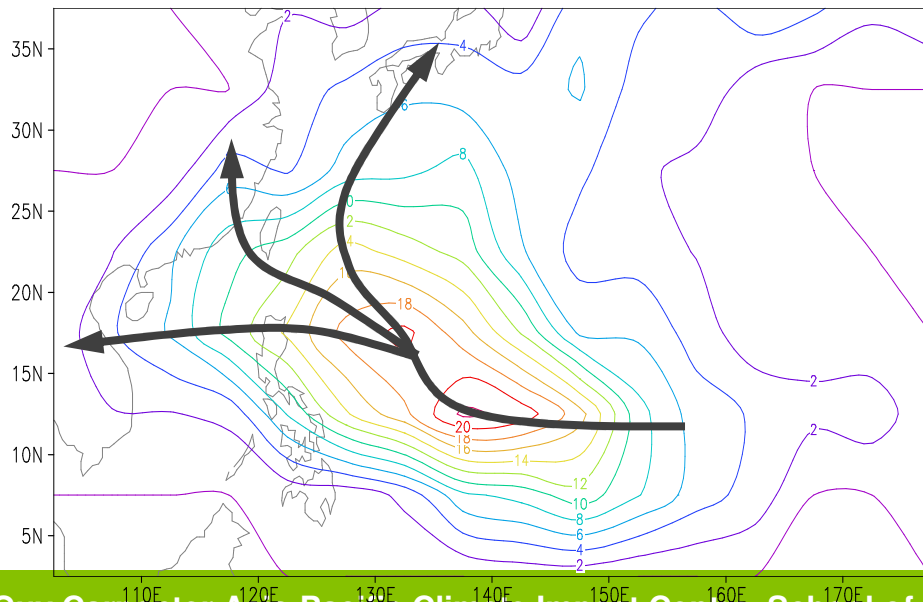
1960-74



1990-2004



1975-89



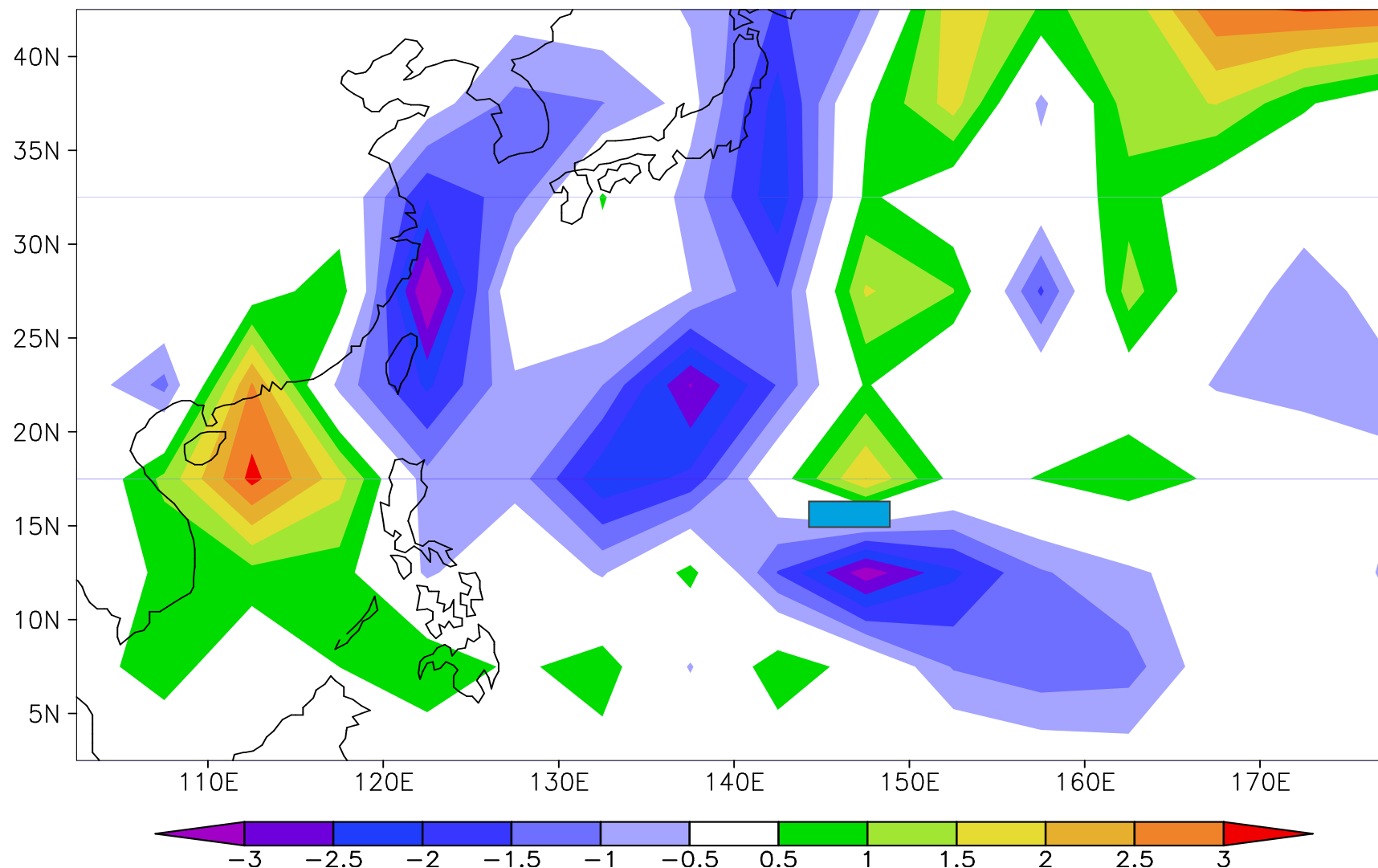
# Frequency of Occurrence of Intense Typhoons



# ***On Landfall Variations***

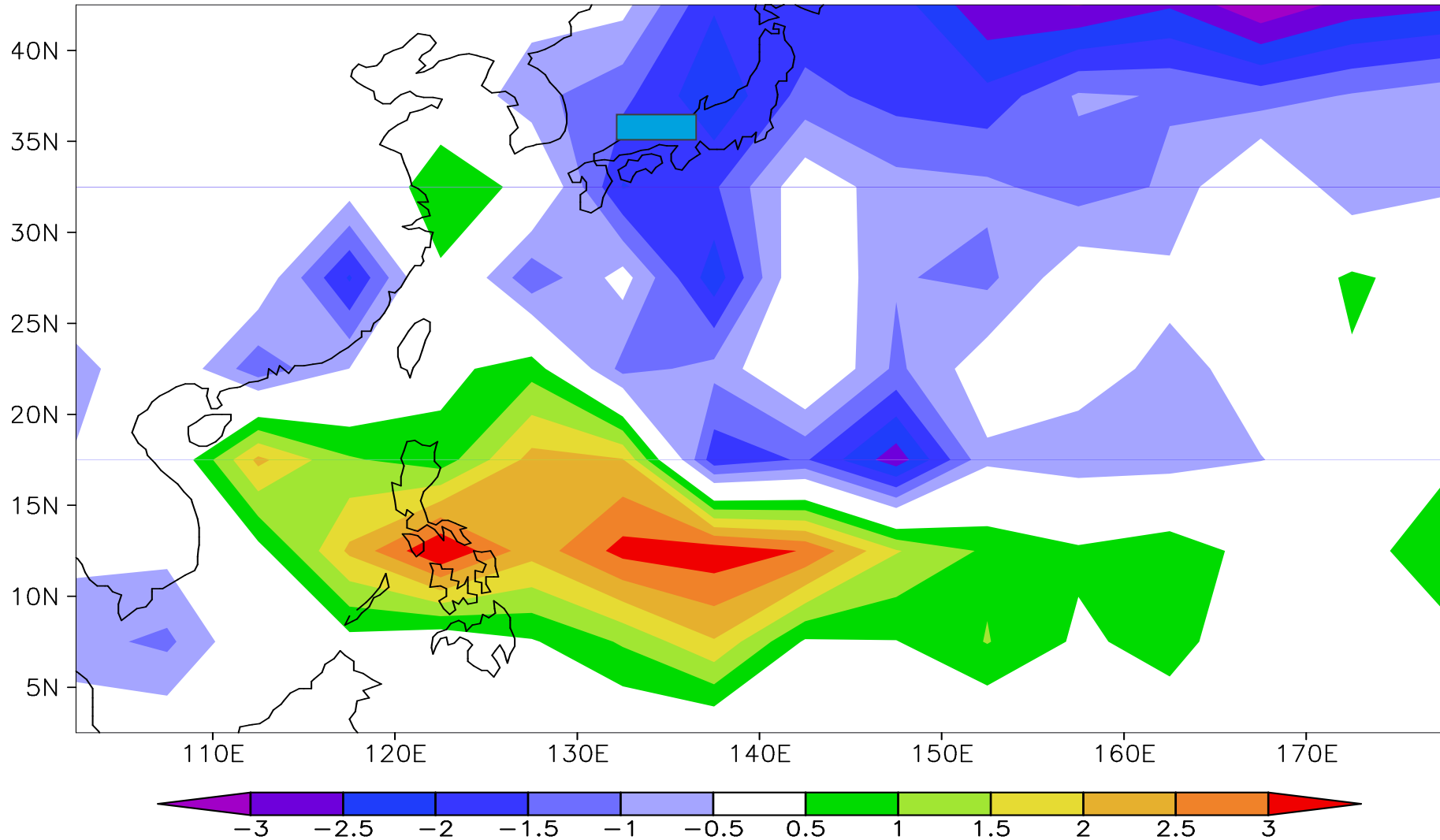
# Anomalies of Tropical Cyclone Occurrence 1964-76

Anomalous TS occurrence (1964-76)



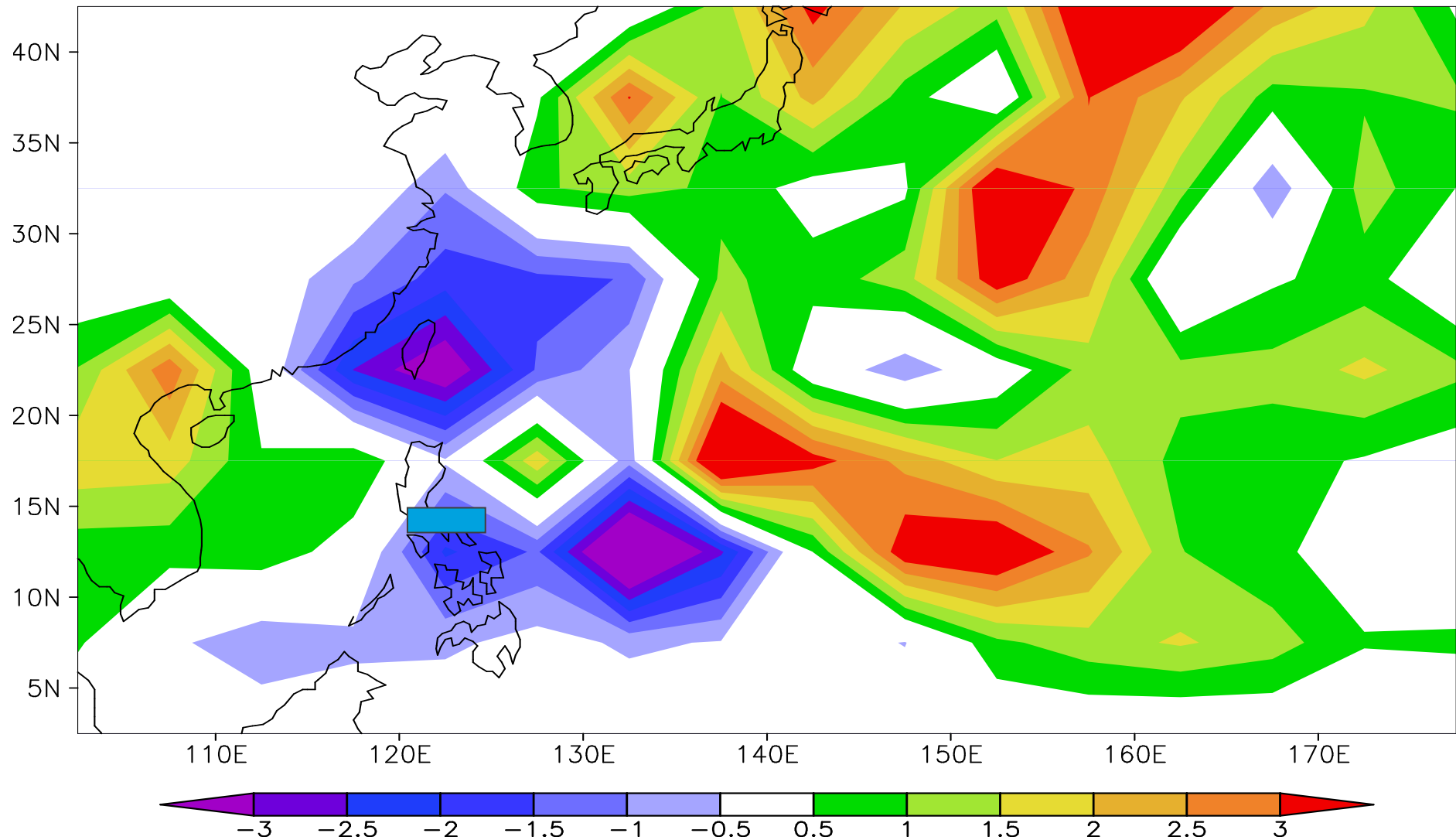
# Anomalies of Tropical Cyclone Occurrence 1977-88

Anomalous TS occurrence (1977-88)



# Anomalies of Tropical Cyclone Occurrence 1989-97

Anomalous TS occurrence (1989-97)




# ■ Summary

- **Tropical cyclone activities (frequency, intensity and track) in the western North Pacific Ocean do not follow the trend of global warming.**
- **Instead, such activities oscillate with periods of one or more decades**
- **Such variations or oscillations are caused by similar variations in the atmosphere and/or the ocean**

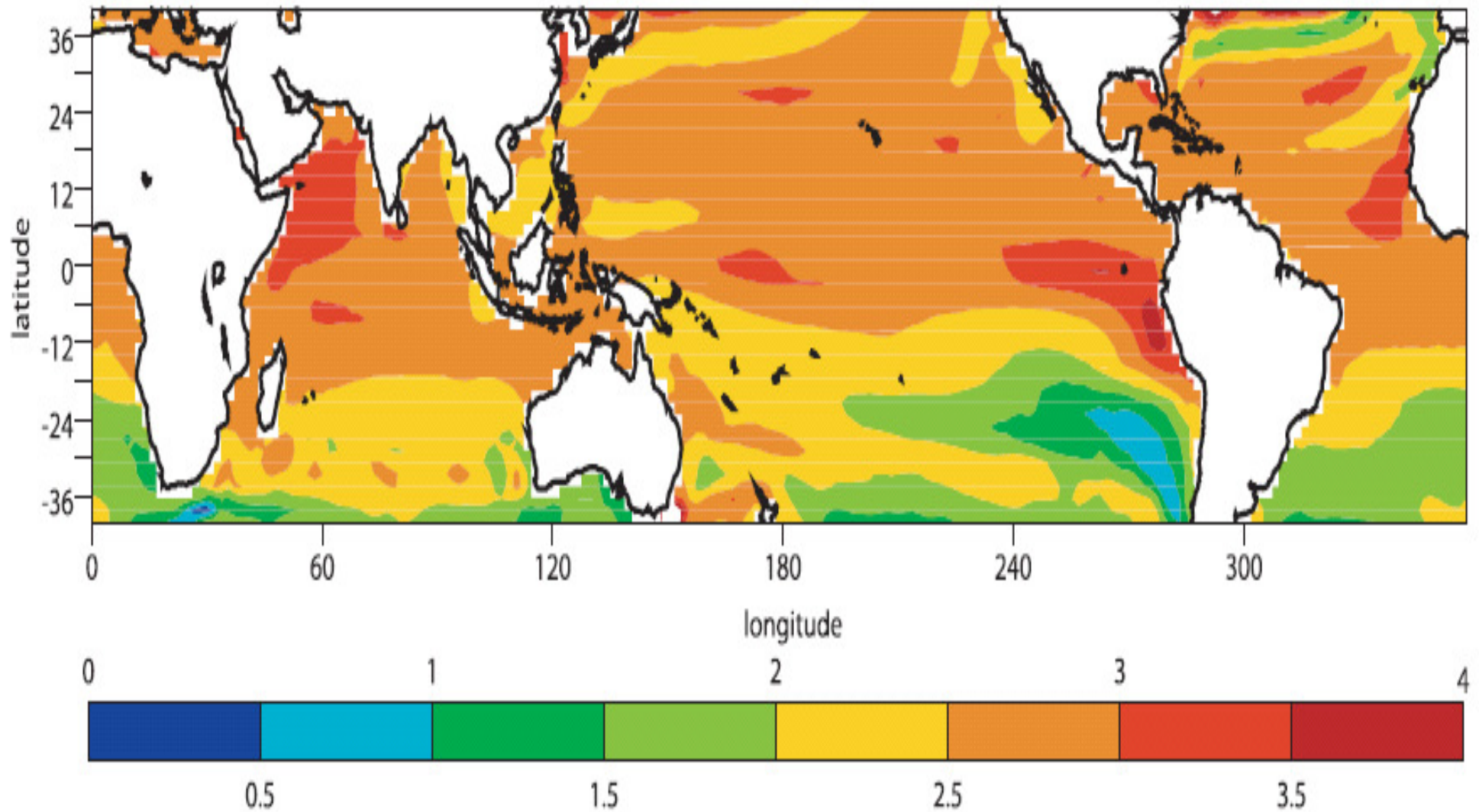
# ■ Summary

- **Therefore, to cope with changes in tropical cyclone activity requires a thorough understanding of why such variations in the atmospheric and oceanographic conditions occur.**
- **Improved predictions of seasonal tropical cyclone activity will only come if we can predict such variations.**



***But what can we expect in the future given the fact that global warming will continue?***

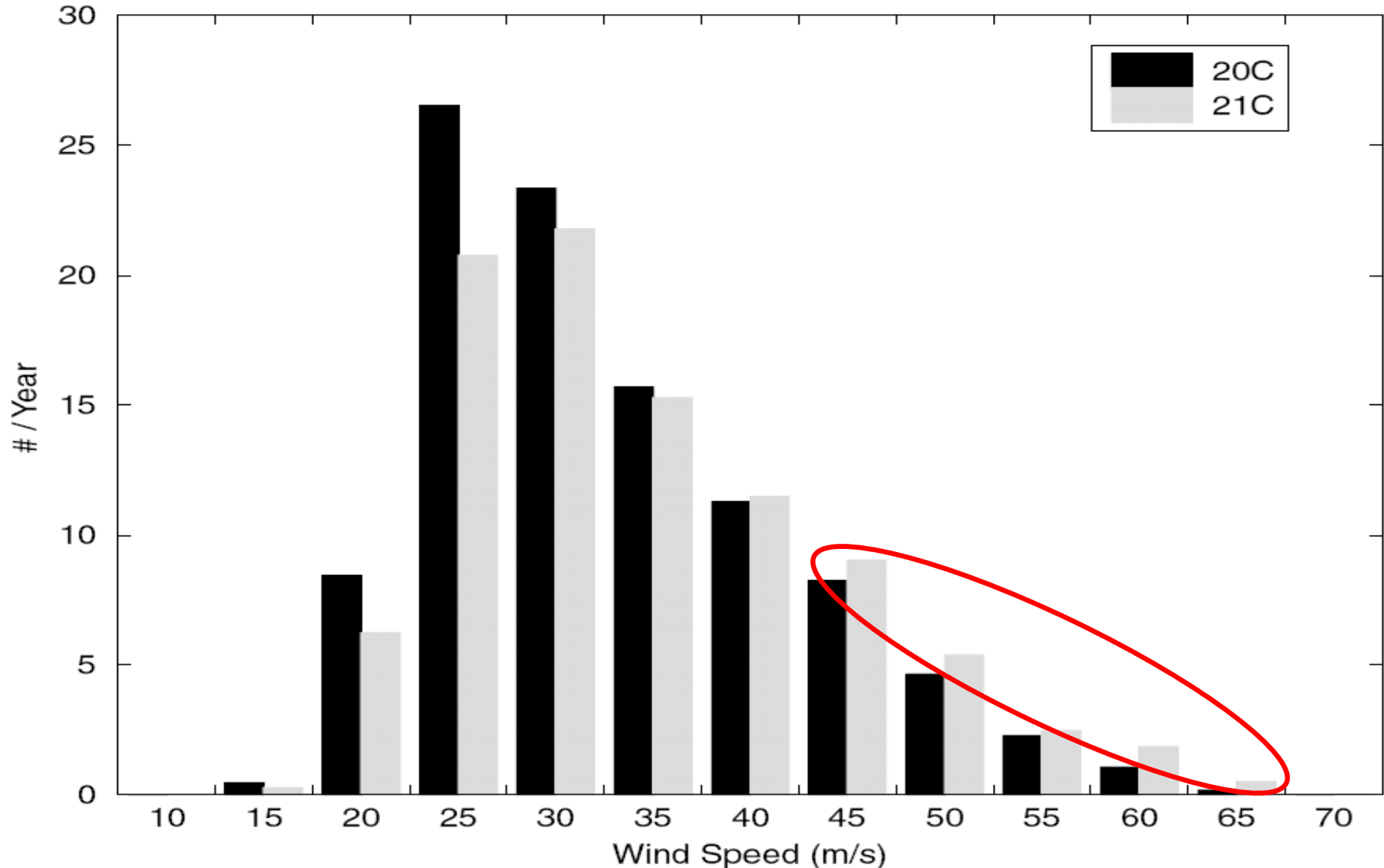
## Averaged ocean temperatures (2071–2100) minus (1961–1990)



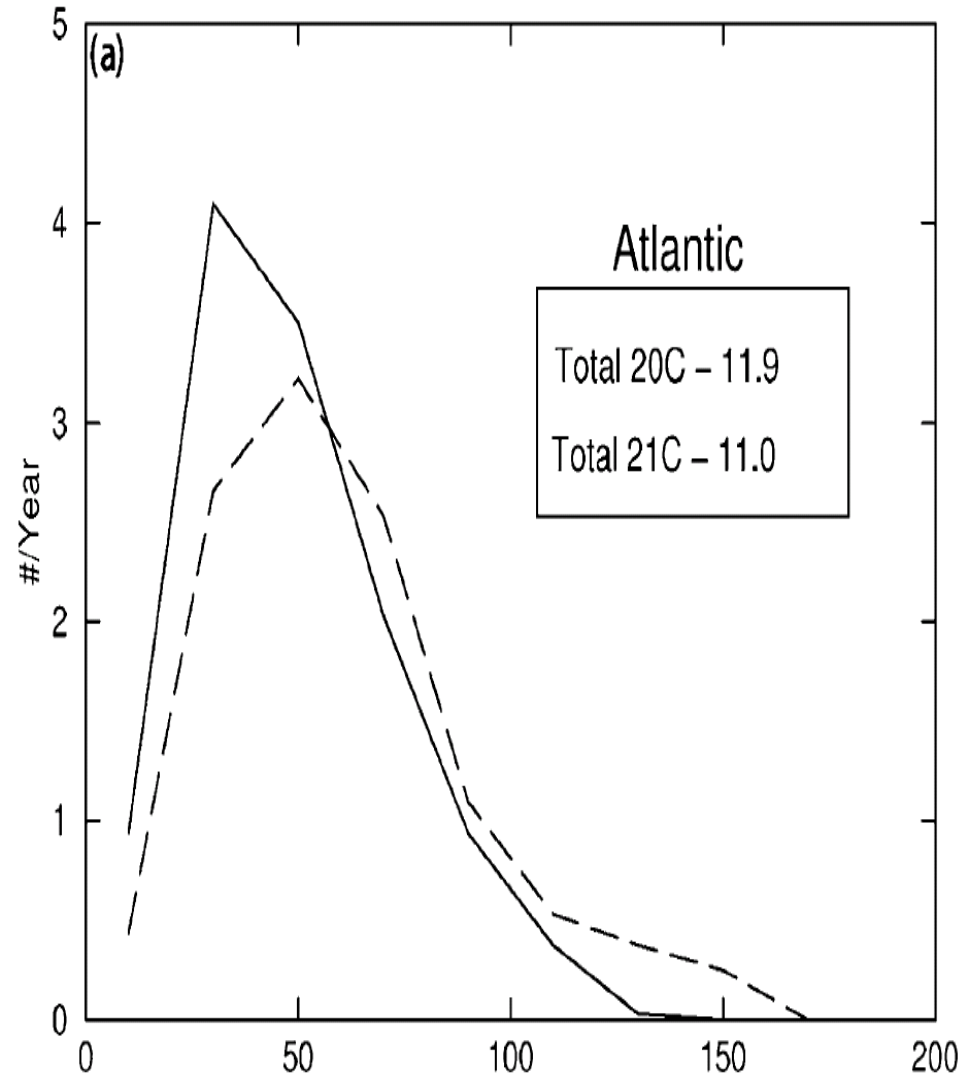
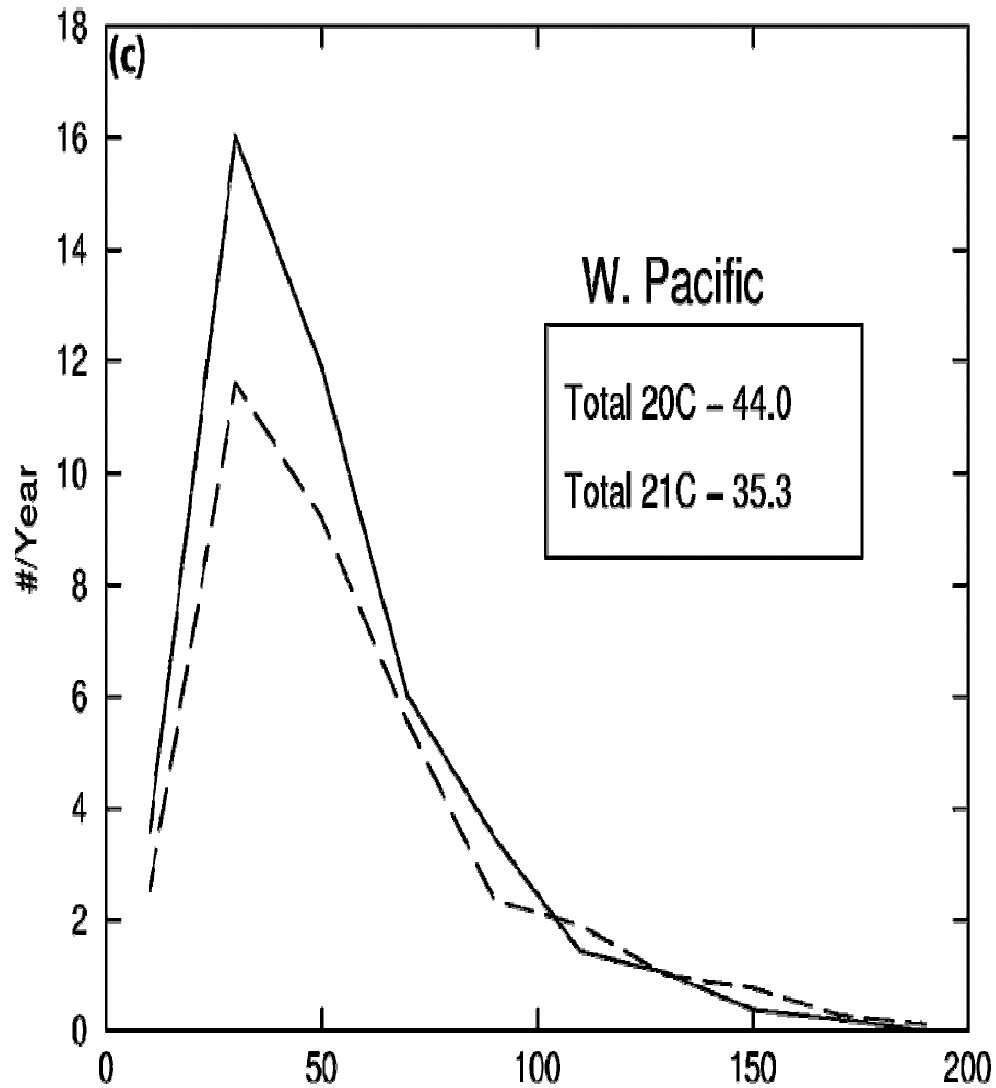
## Ratio (%) of number of tropical storms in global warming experiment to number without global warming

Experiment	Blue/red: statistically-significant values								
	Global	NH	SH	Ocean basin					
				N Atl.	WN Pac.	NE Pac.	N Indian	S Indian	SW Pac.
10y 1xCO <sub>2</sub> , 2xCO <sub>2</sub>	66	72	61	161	34	33	109	43	69
10y 1xCO <sub>2</sub> 2xCO <sub>2</sub> from 115y CO <sub>2</sub> 1% pa	102			86	111	91	116	124	99
15y IS95a 2082-2097	94	97	90	75	70	180	142	110	82
10y A1B 2080-2099	70	72	68	134	62	66	48	72	57
2071-2100, A1B		92		92	80	104	74		
2071-2100, A1B		90		87	72	93	49		
A1B, 2180-2200			86	102	106	95	92		

# Distribution of Maximum Wind Speeds for 20th and 21st Century Simulations (Northern Hemisphere)



# Distribution of Maximum Rotation for 20th and 21st Century Simulations



# ■ Summary

- **Total tropical cyclone activity is likely to decrease under a global warming scenario.**
- **Number of intense tropical cyclones could increase but the percent will likely be small (at most a few %)**
- **Variation in tropical cyclone activity will still be largely driven by those in the atmosphere and/or ocean on annual to decadal time scales.**