

GLADYS RUBIO

METEOROLOGIST - TROPICAL ANALYSIS & FORECAST BRANCH

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

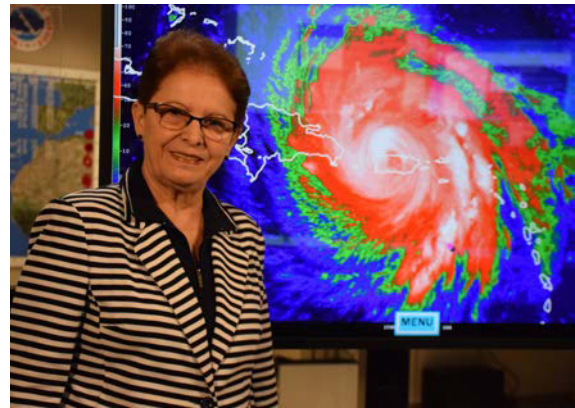
Gladys Rubio is a meteorologist with the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch of NOAA's National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, Florida.

Growing up in Camaguey, Cuba, her longtime interest in meteorology can be traced to 1963, when Hurricane Flora devastated eastern Cuba. She remembers this as the first time she was in the eye of a hurricane. Having had no idea what was happening during this event, she was immediately fascinated by tropical meteorology.

Rubio pursued her interest in tropical meteorology after having moved to Havana City to attend the University of Havana, where she received both her B.S. and M.S. degrees. Since then, she has received significant experience in forecasting in both the private and government sectors.

Rubio began her career at Cuba's Meteorological Service, where she was a member of the technical staff and a shift supervisor for 20 years. She also worked for 10 years at the Cuban Institute, providing daily weather reports on television and radio. One of the most vivid memories of her career was at the Cuban Institute, when she worked 36 hours while Hurricane Kate made landfall. Once again, she was in the eye of the storm.

After having moved to the United States in the early 1990s, Rubio began working for Climacentro in Miami, Florida, in August, 1994. Her job consisted of preparing and disseminating the local forecasts for locations across the U.S. and the Caribbean Islands to more than 40 Hispanic markets. In September, 1996, she began working for The Weather Channel Latin America (TWCLA) as Senior Meteorologist and Tropical Coordinator,



receiving multiple recognition statements and awards for outstanding service during her six year tenure. The most rewarding aspect of working at TWCLA was being a team member of the National Hurricane Center's yearly Caribbean Hurricane Awareness Tour (CHAT) to Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean for three consecutive years, as well as being the on-air tropical expert. These opportunities allowed her to deliver messages to the public to save lives and properties.

In 2004, Rubio began a career with NOAA's National Weather Service, starting as a General Forecaster with the National Weather Service Forecast Office in San Juan, Puerto Rico. There she received a commendation for her performance during the passage of Tropical Storm Jeanne.

Rubio accepted a job at NHC late in 2005 as a marine forecaster in the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB). Since arriving, she has made several important contributions, including her work at the Atlantic and Pacific desks and Best Track Change Committee teams. Rubio has frequently been part of the CHAT and has taken a leading role in communicating the NHC message of preparedness and awareness in Spanish to the public. This has included conducting Spanish language media interviews, translation of outreach materials, and work toward translating the NHC web site into Spanish. She has recently developed a detailed Climatology binder, with a little more than 100 pages for TAFB (Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch) forecasters. She has received several awards for outstanding leadership in many focal points activities, and in international outreach activities. She has also received a recognition for helping the Hurricane Specialist coordinate watches and warnings with foreign meteorological services where Spanish is spoken. She has also served as a mentor and trainer.

