

Nature's Web

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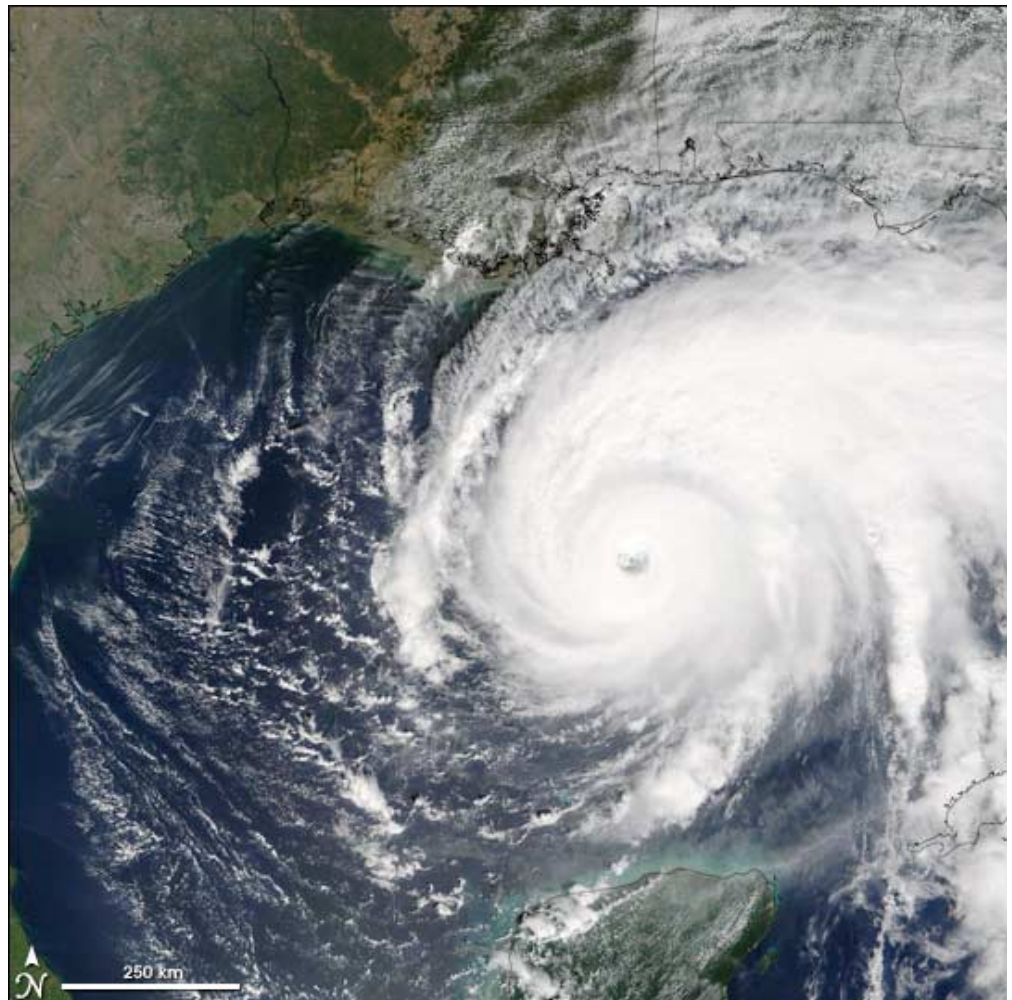
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NASA image courtesy of Jeff Schmaltz, MODIS Rapid Response Team

Hurricane Rita became a Category 5 hurricane on September 21, 2005, reaching a wind speed of 275 km per hour, making it the fourth most powerful Atlantic Ocean storm ever recorded.

Whirling Winds

We often complain about our weather and with all the rain this summer, there must have been lots of moans and groans over the holidays! Sometimes the idea of living in place that is always warm and sunny sounds wonderful. But would it be so great if it brought with it a hurricane season that could last for six months?

In the Atlantic Ocean, around the Caribbean and Central America, hurricanes have been developing over the last few months – a number of them have made the news on this side of the Atlantic, such as Hurricanes Gustav, Hanna and Ike. In this issue of Nature's Web we take a closer look at what hurricanes are, and why and where they occur.

As well as hurricanes, we also look at the work that Lorcan O'Toole and his colleagues are doing to bring back the Golden Eagle to Ireland after 100 years!

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