# Re-analysis of the 1959 Manzanillo Mexico Hurricane

## L*andfall intensity changed from category 5 to category 4*

A re-analysis of the track and intensity data has been completed for the October 1959 hurricane that struck the Pacific coast of Mexico at Manzanillo. This is the first eastern Pacific hurricane to have undergone a reassessment of its track and intensity, following the methodology used in the ongoing Atlantic basin re-analysis.

This hurricane was originally on record as a category 5 hurricane at landfall. Based on the reassessment, however, it is now indicated as a category 4 hurricane at landfall with winds estimated at 140 mph. In addition, the reassessment made significant changes to other parts of the track and intensity history for this storm.

This reassessment now allows a better perspective on the strongest Pacific hurricanes to hit Mexico, an issue brought into focus by Hurricane Patricia in 2015. As of this writing, Patricia will rank as the strongest such hurricane (estimated maximum winds of 150 mph at landfall), with Hurricane Madeline (1976) ranked second (estimated 145 mph winds), and the Manzanillo hurricane of 1959 ranked third. It should be noted that Madeline has not yet been re-analyzed.


*Original and re-analyzed best track of the 1959 Manzanillo hurricane courtesy of Josh Morgerman and Andrew Hagen.*

Revisions to the database for this hurricane were accomplished by obtaining the original observations collected – mainly by ships, weather stations, and reports from government of Mexico – and analyzing the cyclone based upon our understanding of hurricanes today.

Here is the link to reanalysis:
http://icyclone.com/upload/now/feb_2016/Reanalysis_of_Great_Mexico_Hurricane_1959_FINAL.pdf

Josh Morgerman, Andrew Hagen, and their collaborators, along with NHC Best Track Change Committee provided the data for the reanalysis of this hurricane.

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