

# CLIMATE FACT CHECK: MARCH 2023 EDITION

March 2023 witnessed the release of the final installment of the most recent United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [report](#).

Meet the new alarm.

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## UN science report to provide stark climate warning

March 20, 2023

UN science report to provide stark climate warning  
Humanity still has a chance, close to the last one, to prevent the worst of climate change's future harms, a top ...

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Same as the old alarm.

The Independent-Record  
03 Nov 2014, Mon · Page A3

## UN climate report offers stark warnings and hope

**Global warming | Panel finds that climate change is happening, is almost entirely man's fault**

**KARL RITTER**  
Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Climate change is happening, it's almost entirely man's fault and limiting its impacts may require reducing greenhouse gas emissions to zero this century, the U.N.'s panel on climate science said Sunday.

The fourth and final

by the end of this century for the world to have a decent chance of keeping the temperature rise below a level that many consider dangerous.

The IPCC did not say exactly what such a world would look like but it would likely require a massive shift to renewable sources to power homes, cars and industries combined with new technolo-

more frequent and intense heat waves.

"Science has spoken. There is no ambiguity in their message. Leaders must act. Time is not on our side," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at the report's launch in Copenhagen.

Amid its grim projections, the report said the tools are there to set the world on a low-emissions path and break the addiction to burning oil, coal and gas which pollute the atmosphere with heat-trapping CO2, the chief

greenhouse gas.

"All we need is the will to change, which we trust will be motivated by knowledge and an understanding of the science of climate change," IPCC chairman Rajendra Pachauri said.

The IPCC was set up in 1988 to assess global warming and its impacts. The report released Sunday caps its latest assessment, a mega-review of 30,000 climate change studies that establishes with 95-percent certainty that most of the warming

seen since the 1950s is man-made. The IPCC's best estimate is that just about all of it is man-made, but it can't say that with the same degree of certainty.

Today only a small minority of scientists challenge the mainstream conclusion that climate change is linked to human activity.

Global Climate Change, a NASA website, says 97 percent of climate scientists agree that warming trends over the past century are very likely due to

human activities.

The American public isn't as convinced. A year-old survey by Pew Research showed 67 percent of Americans believed global warming is occurring and 44 percent said the earth is warming mostly because of human activity.

More recently, a New York Times poll said 42 percent of Republicans say global warming won't have a serious impact, a view held by 12 percent of Democrats and 22 percent of independents.

More on the IPCC report later. Meanwhile, here are 10 other scary climate stories from March 2023.

## OFFSHORE WIND INDUSTRY OR 'CLIMATE CHANGE' KILLING WHALES?

The *Washington Post* reported in "[Why sea creatures are washing up dead around the world](#)" that the reason whales and dolphins are washing up dead along the New Jersey shore is that "changes in ocean temperature and water chemistry — attributed to climate change — could be drawing the fish that whales feed upon closer to land, putting the whales at greater risk of colliding with shipping vessels. Post-mortem examinations have indicated that ship strikes are the probable cause of many of the whale deaths."

*The Washington Post*

**Fact Check.** Permits already [issued](#) by the Biden administration for offshore sonar testing to site wind turbines allow companies to harass or incidentally take dozens of whales, including endangered North Atlantic Right whales and thousands of dolphins across various sub-species. If these activities didn't pose a threat of death to these species, why would a harassment or take permits be needed? The Biden administration is [proposing to issue permits](#) to the offshore wind industry to kill more whales and dolphins during offshore wind farm construction. Also, between 1850 and 2020, sea surface temperatures in the north Atlantic Ocean may have [increased by a mere 0.6°C](#). To claim that such small changes are killing whales and dolphins along the New Jersey Shore just defies common sense.

## CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSES ABNORMAL TORNADO BREAKOUT?

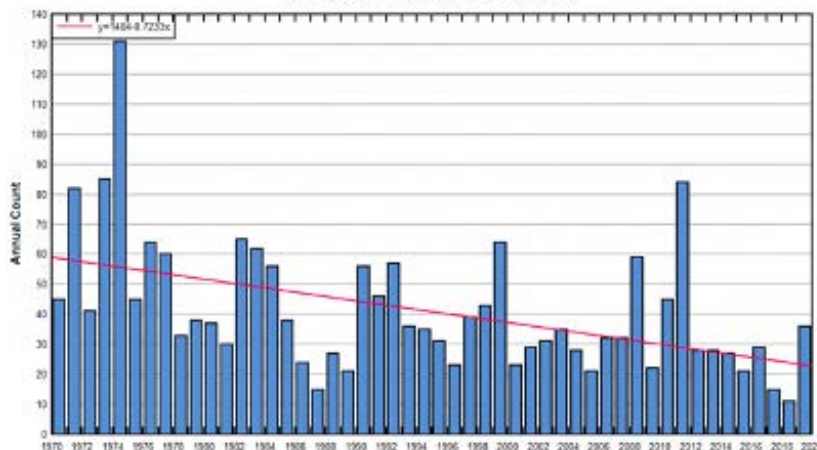
To spin up interest in a *Washington Post* [report](#) about the 2023 tornado season, the Washington Post alarmingly [tweeted](#) about "observing abnormal tornado activity"

*The Washington Post*

**Fact Check.** Almost all [annual tornado activity](#) is either above the average or below the average. What would be unusual is "average" tornado activity. Moreover, there is no correlation between tornado activity and either emissions or so-called "average global temperature."

U.S. Annual Count of Strong to Violent Tornadoes (F3+) 1954-2020

Data Source: NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center



## CLIMATE CHANGE 'GOOSED' NEW ZEALAND STORM?

The Associated Press reported in "[Scientists say climate change goosed New Zealand storm fury](#)," that "Climate change worsened flooding from a tropical cyclone that shut down much of New Zealand last month in one of the country's costliest disasters, scientists said."

**AP** Associated Press

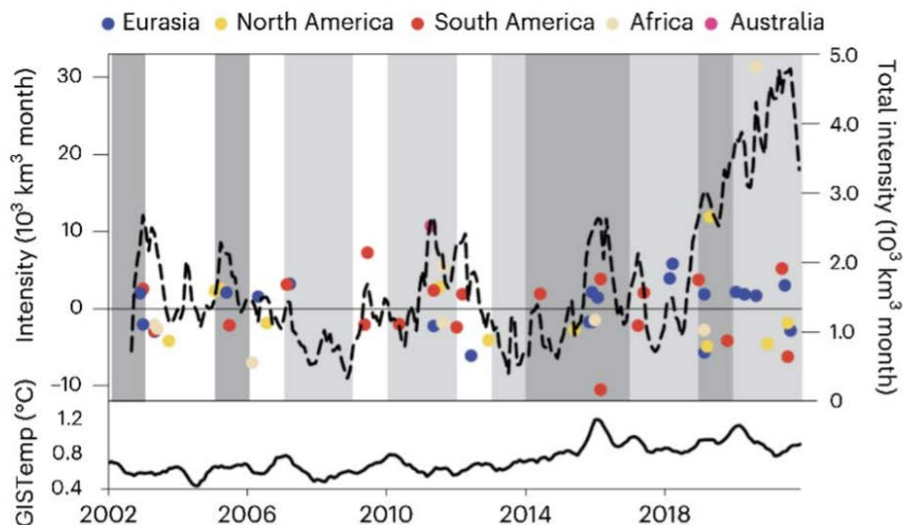
**Fact Check.** For readers who bothered to make it past the headline, the Associated Press also reported: "Scientists also use computer simulations to see if global warming plays a role. But the area that got flooded is so small that most of the computer models couldn't deal with it. The ones that could found a much smaller climate fingerprint than the historical data shows or practically none." Nevertheless, "scientists said they are certain climate change played a role, even if they can't put a precise number on it," the AP reported. So scientists are certain even when they know they can't possibly be.

## WARMER WORLD 'INDISPUTABLY' CAUSES EXTREME DROUGHT AND RAIN?

The Washington Post reported in "[A warmer world causes extreme drought and rain. 'Indisputable' new research proves it](#)," that: "Intense drought and heavy rainfall events have occurred more often in the last eight years than the previous decade."

The Washington Post

**Fact Check.** If you look at the actual [study](#), however, it presents the table, below. The data fail to show any discernible relationship between average global temperature and global intensity of rain/drought events.





## GLOBAL WARMING CAUSING DEEP SEA HEAT WAVES?

Reuters reported in "[Marine heatwaves are sweeping the seafloor around North America](#)," that "Heatwaves unfolding on the bottom of the ocean can be more intense and last longer than those on the sea surface, new research suggests." Reuters added that, "The ocean has absorbed about 90% of the excess heat from global warming... Marine heatwaves have become about 50% more frequent over the past decade."



**Fact Check.** While Reuters admitted that "bottom heat waves can also occur on their own," that plays down the reality that may explain virtually all recent "global warming." Meteorologist Joe Bastardi [pointed](#) out that, "[Emissions-driven global warming] is not what is going on. There has to be geothermal input and they turn a blind eye to it. Marine heatwaves due to the amount of energy in the ocean need outside forcing. You don't heat a pot of water with a blow dryer, a stove does it." Bastardi has previously [pointed out](#) that underwater volcanic activity, such as that from the so-called Ring of Fire in the Pacific, may be driving deep ocean warming and the El Niño/La Niña cycle that seems to be, in turn, driving the warming reported in the past several decades. None of this has anything to do with emissions.

## ALASKAN OIL DRILLING PROJECT IS A CLIMATE BOMB'?

CNN reported in "[Biden administration to approve major Alaska oil drilling project](#)," that opponents of the project were calling it a "climate bomb."



**Fact Check.** The Willow project on Alaska's North Slope is estimated to be worth 600 million barrels of oil to be produced over the next 30 years. While that may see like a lot, our society burns 100 million barrels of oil per day. So regardless of what passes as "climate science," the Willow project's production over 30 years of six days' worth of global oil consumption is insignificant to global climate.

## CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS COFFEE PRODUCTION?

Roast Magazine reported in "[Study: Climate Change Increasing 'Systemic Shock' to Coffee Production](#)" that, "The global coffee industry can expect increasing and 'ongoing systemic shocks' to coffee production due to climate change, according to new research published this month in the journal PLOS Climate... The study takes particular note of the El Niño, the La Niña and the Madden-Julian oscillation (MJO) climate phenomena effecting global tropical regions throughout the coffee-growing world."



**Fact Check.** Because oceanic and atmospheric circulation patterns aren't changing, and weather isn't becoming more extreme in any way that has been measured, it is impossible for these factors to be causing a decline in coffee production. Indeed, data from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) shows that it is not." [Read more...](#)

# VANUATU SUFFERING FROM 'CLIMATE CHANGE'?

Axios reported in "[Tiny island nation takes climate change to The Hague](#)" that, "The small Pacific Island country of Vanuatu is poised to gain UN approval to seek an unprecedented legal opinion on what obligation countries have to combat climate change."



**Fact Check.** Neither Vanuatu nor any other tiny Pacific Island is suffering from ongoing sea level rise (which, by the way, predates industrialization), loss of coral or increased cyclone frequency or intensity. [Read more...](#)

# END OF SNOW?

In February 2014, Ski industry writer and author of "The Last Winter" @PorterFox wrote a global warming-fretting [op-ed](#) entitled, "The End of Snow?"; for the NYTimes.

The New York Times

**Fact Check.** Just nine years later, the *Washington Post* [reported](#) the western US received record snowfall that was so deep it buried ski lifts at California and Utah resorts. By the way wintertime North American snow cover has been [increasing](#) since the 1960s.

The New York Times

Opinion

OPINION

## The End of Snow?

By Porter Fox  
Feb. 7, 2014

7 MIN READ

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Slopes were closed last month at Fichtelberg mountain in Oberwiesenthal, Germany. Jan Wotras/European Pressphoto Agency

The Washington Post  
Democracy Dies in Darkness

## California's pernicious drought almost vanishes with near-historic snow

By Dan Silliman and Jason Samenow  
March 16, 2023 at 2:19 p.m. EDT



Historic snow buries California ski lifts  
0:49

Ski lift at Bear Valley Ski Resort in California has seen 61.6 inches of snow so far this season, burying ski lifts that typically stand 35 feet off the ground. (Video: Jonathan Petremale / LSM)

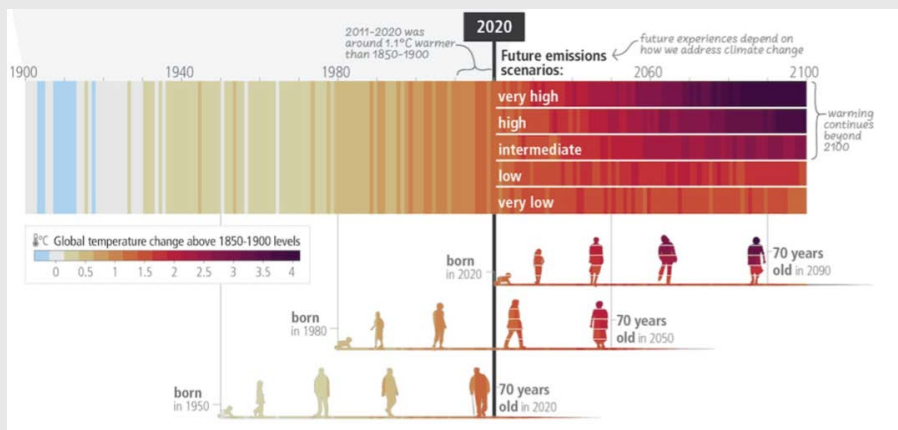
# CLIMATE CHANGE WORSENING AIR TURBULENCE?

Business Insider reported in "[Climate change is making plane turbulence worse, and it could make flights bumpier and more expensive](#)" that "Each year, pilots report an average of 5,500 encounters with severe or greater turbulence. And that number has increased in recent years, thanks to climate change."

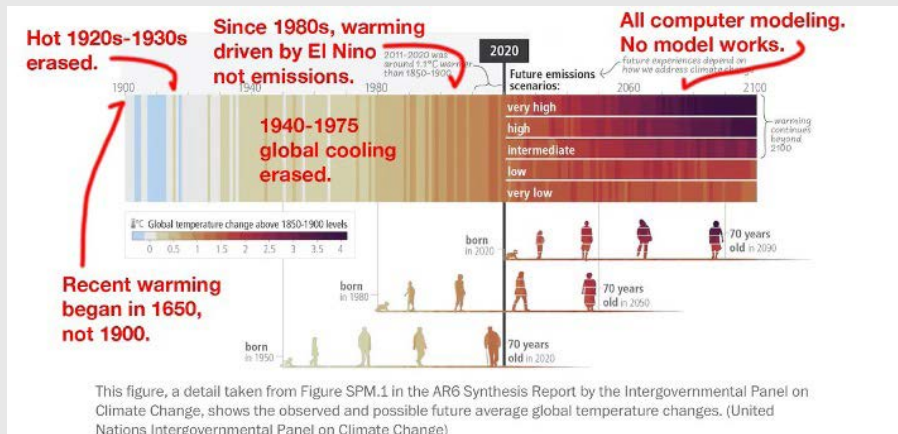
The Washington Post

**Fact Check.** In addition to data showing no significant increase in frequency or severity of extreme weather events, a 2021 report by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) reported no statistically significant increase in air turbulence accidents since 1989, despite a tremendous increase in passengers and miles flown. [Read more...](#)

**Final Word.** The *Washington Post* reported in "[This visual shows how climate change will affect generations](#)" this graph from the new IPCC report.



But this graph is missing a few facts as annotated below.



**See you in May for the April Climate Fact Check!**