

### Can Modern Science Stop Hurricanes? *From VOA*

An American website reported last month that President Donald Trump asked U.S. government officials to explore using nuclear bombs to stop hurricanes. It claimed that Trump had suggested the (1)\_\_\_\_\_ use of nuclear bombs to protect the United States against the storms.

While Trump (2)\_\_\_\_\_ suggesting such a plan, he would not have been the first person to propose this idea. In fact, the use of man-made technology have long been explored to destroy or (3)\_\_\_\_\_ large storms.

The first suggestion of using a nuclear weapon to fight a hurricane (4)\_\_\_\_\_ was made during the 1950s. It is said to have come from a U.S. government scientist during the (5)\_\_\_\_\_ of Dwight Eisenhower.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, predicts hurricanes and other (6)\_\_\_\_\_ weather events. It also works to keep the public informed about such storms. The scientific agency says it often receives suggestions that nuclear weapons should be used against hurricanes. NOAA (7)\_\_\_\_\_ the “nuking” of storms on its website. “(8)\_\_\_\_\_ to say, this is not a good idea,” it says.

NOAA says the first problem with this idea is there is no good evidence that a nuclear bomb would weaken or stop a hurricane. In addition, the agency noted that such a plan (9)\_\_\_\_\_ the release of radioactive material in a nuclear blast. This material would “fairly quickly move with the (10)\_\_\_\_\_ winds to affect land areas and cause devastating environmental problems,” it said.

In a much (11)\_\_\_\_\_ scientific exploration of the issue, NOAA said it would be very difficult for explosives to stop the huge amount of energy produced by a large hurricane. It said a (12)\_\_\_\_\_ developed hurricane creates so much energy that it would be equal “to a 10-megaton nuclear bomb exploding every 20 minutes.”

Another idea involves (13)\_\_\_\_\_ waters on the ocean’s surface. A U.S.-based company called Intellectual Ventures says it has developed a water cooling method to weaken hurricanes. It calls the system Salter Sink.

A company video explains the system would use a large pump, powered by ocean (14)\_\_\_\_\_, to push hot water from the surface down into cooler water (15)\_\_\_\_\_. The hot water would travel through a plastic container known as a Salter Sink. The idea was that the water being forced down would mix with cooler water and then return to the surface to help weaken a hurricane.

Several studies have predicted that (16)\_\_\_\_\_ waters in the Atlantic Ocean are expected to increase the number of major hurricanes in the coming years. Currently, the United States and (17)\_\_\_\_\_ countries are now entering the most active part of the hurricane season.

It remains to be seen (18)\_\_\_\_\_ the number and size of future storms will (19)\_\_\_\_\_ additional research into new solutions (20)\_\_\_\_\_ at stopping them. I’m Bryan Lynn.



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While Trump denied suggesting such a plan, he would not have been the first person to propose this idea. In fact, the use of man-made technology have long been explored to destroy or weaken large storms.

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The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, predicts hurricanes and other severe weather events. It also works to keep the public informed about such storms.

The scientific agency says it often receives suggestions that nuclear weapons should be used against hurricanes. NOAA addresses the “nuking” of storms on its website. “Needless to say, this is not a good idea,” it says.

NOAA says the first problem with this idea is there is no good evidence that a nuclear bomb would weaken or stop a hurricane. In addition, the agency noted that such a plan ignores the release of radioactive material in a nuclear blast. This material would “fairly quickly move with the trade winds to affect land areas and cause devastating environmental problems,” it said.

In a much deeper scientific exploration of the issue, NOAA said it would be very difficult for explosives to stop the huge amount of energy produced by a large hurricane. It said a fully developed hurricane creates so much energy that it would be equal “to a 10-megaton nuclear bomb exploding every 20 minutes.”

Another idea involves cooling waters on the ocean’s surface. A U.S.-based company called Intellectual Ventures says it has developed a water cooling method to weaken hurricanes. It calls the system Salter Sink.

A company video explains the system would use a large pump, powered by ocean waves, to push hot water from the surface down into cooler water below. The hot water would travel through a plastic container known as a Salter Sink. The idea was that the water being forced down would mix with cooler water and then return to the surface to help weaken a hurricane.

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It remains to be seen whether the number and size of future storms will fuel additional research into new solutions aimed at stopping them.

I’m Bryan Lynn.

