

Following a brief amplification of the RMM-based MJO index last week due to the passage of a Kelvin wave constructively interfering with the low frequency La Nina base state, the index weakened again, and retrograded towards the Indian Ocean in association with an equatorial Rossby wave. The response to La Nina conditions remains the primary driver of tropical convective anomalies, and a recent trade wind surge is likely to promote further upwelling of anomalously cold water along the equatorial central and eastern Pacific. Recent observations do suggest the presence of a MJO-like intraseasonal signal attempting to propagate across the Maritime Continent to the West Pacific, with the upper-level velocity potential field showing enhanced divergence building over the SPCZ region. Dynamical model MJO index forecasts generally support the growth of this signal, with the GEFS and ECMWF ensemble means depicting continued retrogression of the signal to the eastern Indian Ocean tied to Rossby wave activity during Week-1, followed by a rapid jump to the West Pacific during Week-2. Dynamical model precipitation forecasts show this potential event unfolding primarily over the Southern Hemisphere in the SPCZ region, which is fairly typical of MJO events in a La Nina background state. Pacific MJO events during the Boreal winter have the potential for inducing lagged pattern changes across North America, favoring building ridging over the western U.S. and troughing across the East, but given the fairly early timing of this event and the likelihood of any widespread convective anomalies unfolding primarily over the Southern Hemisphere, the potential for this event to have substantial impacts on the Northern Hemisphere midlatitude pattern is uncertain.

One tropical cyclone developed during the past week. Tropical Storm Paddy formed over the southeastern Indian Ocean on November 22, and after passing just south of Christmas Island, the storm recently turned to a westward course. Forecasts from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) show Tropical Storm Paddy weakening and eventually dissipating over open waters. It has been nearly a month since the last tropical cyclone formation over the Northwest Pacific basin. During Week-1, analyses of dynamical model ensembles and guidance from JTWC indicate two potential formation areas with moderate confidence: the southwestern Indian Ocean west of where Tropical Storm Paddy developed in association with Rossby wave activity, and the South China Sea in association with a trough. Tropical cyclone development is also possible somewhere in the vicinity of Guam westward towards the Philippines, but confidence remains too low for placement of a hazard on the outlook. During Week-2, several ECMWF and GEFS ensemble members show a potential formation over the Bay of Bengal. Additionally, there is a low potential for formation in the vicinity of northern Australia. A quiet end to the East Pacific and Atlantic hurricane seasons is anticipated.

The precipitation outlook during the next two weeks is based on a consensus of GEFS, CFS, and ECMWF guidance, with consideration given to composite precipitation anomalies of historic La Nina and Pacific MJO events. Widespread enhanced convection is favored across the Maritime Continent during Week-1, progressing eastward to the SPCZ region during Week-2. In contrast, La Nina conditions favor suppressed convection near and west of the Date Line along the Equator, and along the central Pacific ITCZ.

For hazardous weather concerns during the next two weeks across the U.S., please refer to your local NWS Forecast Office, the Weather Prediction Center's Medium Range Hazards Forecast, and CPC's Week-2 Hazards Outlook. Forecasts over Africa are made in consultation with the International Desk at CPC and can represent local-scale conditions in addition to global scale variability.