

During the past several days, suppressed convection partly associated with an Equatorial Rossby Wave was observed over the South China Sea, Philippines and the adjacent West Pacific, while the central and eastern Pacific remained very active. Hurricane Karina formed well south of the Baja Peninsula on August 12, and is forecast to continue on a westward track while maintaining tropical storm intensity. Additional tropical cyclogenesis is possible in the same region over the next several days. Another disturbance southwest of Hawaii has a high potential for development during the remainder of the Week-1 period.

During Week-2, dynamical models favor a continuation of the active eastern Pacific basin, with additional tropical cyclogenesis possible. Dynamical models continue to indicate a low to moderate potential for tropical cyclone development over the eastern Atlantic during the Week-2 period. The moderate shape was retained in this update based on a potential for relaxed vertical shear indicated by the CFS.

The original forecast discussion released August 12 follows.

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The MJO remained weak in general and this is indicated by objective MJO indices, both as represented by velocity potential as well as the RMM index. There is some evidence, however, of an intraseasonal signal, primarily noted as an envelope of suppressed convection that has slowly shifted eastward to the western Pacific from the Indian Ocean. A strong westward moving equatorial Rossby wave (ERW) is evident across the western Pacific as well. During the past week, suppressed convection was evident over a large area of the western Pacific from the Date Line to the Philippines while enhanced convection was primarily located across southern India, the eastern Indian Ocean and the far northwest Pacific south of Japan. The Africa monsoon intensified and was shifted northward of its climatological position.

Tropical cyclones Iselle and Julio impacted Hawaii and nearby waters during the past week and in recent days Super Typhoon Halong weakened south of Japan as it moved northward towards the country making landfall as a tropical storm.

Looking ahead, the fact remains that robust, canonical and longer-lived MJO activity has been difficult to initiate and maintain in recent months and this is likely to continue. Both statistical and dynamical model forecast tools indicate little prospects for more strong MJO activity to emerge in the coming few weeks. The MJO is unlikely to play a major role in anomalous tropical convection although it may contribute to anomalous convection across portions of the Indo-Pacific warm pool region. The highlighted impacts in the outlook are principally based on ERW evolution, the tilt toward a warm ENSO base state and model guidance.

The supposition of the suppressed phase of the ERW and any MJO signal along with strong support for drier than average conditions from model guidance favor below-median rainfall for an area from Southeast Asia into the western Pacific. Recent satellite imagery, above average SSTs and model guidance support elevated odds of above-median rainfall for some areas from southern India to the western Maritime continent. Both of these regions are favored to persist through Week-2, in general.

The West Africa monsoon is favored to remain enhanced and shifted northward of its climatological position throughout the period. Tropical cyclone activity is favored to remain above average across the east-central Pacific consistent with above average SSTs in this region and overall favorable large scale conditions away from the coast of Mexico during Week-1, consistent with a warm ENSO base state.

Alternatively, although conditions in the main development region of the Atlantic basin will be more favorable then recent weeks, prospects only increase to near climatological levels with the only highlighted threat confined to the eastern Atlantic basin at only modest confidence during Week-2.

West-northwest tracks of potential tropical cyclones developing during the Week-1 period increase the odds for above-median rainfall near Hawaii in Week-2.