

The state of the MJO isn't much different than last week. The MJO still projects weakly onto the RMM and CPC velocity potential indices and model forecasts continue to predict very little MJO propagation during the next two weeks. Other modes of intraseasonal variability remain weak as well. Aside from a couple of weak Equatorial Rossby waves over the Dateline, there isn't much intraseasonal activity expected within the forecast period. The transition towards El Nino continues, though, and the interannual signal in the low-level zonal wind field is expected to continue its transition towards El Nino conditions, as the CFS forecasts the trade winds to continue breaking down over the next few weeks.

The Atlantic has become active over the past week. Hurricane Florence developed on Sep. 1 from a wave off the coast of Africa and the National Hurricane Center predicts that it will continue to track through the North Atlantic over the next five days. Tropical Storm Gordon, currently over the Gulf of Mexico, formed on Sep. 3 and is forecast to move northwestward towards the northern Gulf Coast. The National Hurricane Center provides the official source of information regarding Gordon's track. Hurricane Olivia also formed in the East Pacific during the past week, on Sep. 2, and is forecast to track westward over the next five days.

Today's forecast over the Atlantic includes high confidence for tropical cyclone formation during Week-1 over an area just west of the coast of Africa as dynamical models continue to spin up Easterly Waves. Both current environmental conditions and climatology suggest that these waves are likely to achieve tropical cyclone status. The area of risk for formation is slightly broader during Week-2, but encompasses the same general area as Week-1. The GFS and some ensemble members from the European model suggest that tropical cyclone development is possible over the western Gulf of Mexico during Week-2, which has been indicated in our forecast. In the East Pacific, there is a moderate chance of tropical cyclone formation right along 10 deg. N during Week-1, which shifts slightly east during Week-2.

Further west, there are indications from the GFS and ECMWF ensembles of a moderate chance of tropical cyclone formation in the West Pacific. During Week-1, this risk is found just east of the Philippines and shifts slightly north during Week-2.

Precipitation forecasts reflect a consensus of dynamical model forecasts and tropical cyclone track forecasts. During Week-1, reduced monsoonal precipitation is favored to continue across parts of South Asia, while convection, possibly associated with a weak intraseasonal signal, returns to the Indian Ocean just south of the Equator. An area of enhanced convection is also favored over Japan as the remnants of TC Jebi move over the area.

During Week-2, weak intraseasonal variability is likely to lead to enhanced precipitation east of the Philippines and below-average precipitation over New Guinea. Forecasts over Africa are made in consultation with the CPC international desk, and can represent local-scale conditions in addition to global-scale variability.