

WEEKEND WEATHER OUTLOOK BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA

PERIOD: Friday, July 20 until Monday, July 23, 2012

DATE ISSUED: Friday, June 20, 2012, 9:00 am

RFRUTOS

SYNOPSIS: A surge in the easterlies coupled with an approaching Tropical Wave will generate outbreaks of showers and thunderstorms across Belize later this weekend. This activity will increase in intensity on Monday, Monday night and Tuesday morning of next week as the TW makes its entry over Yucatan and Belize.

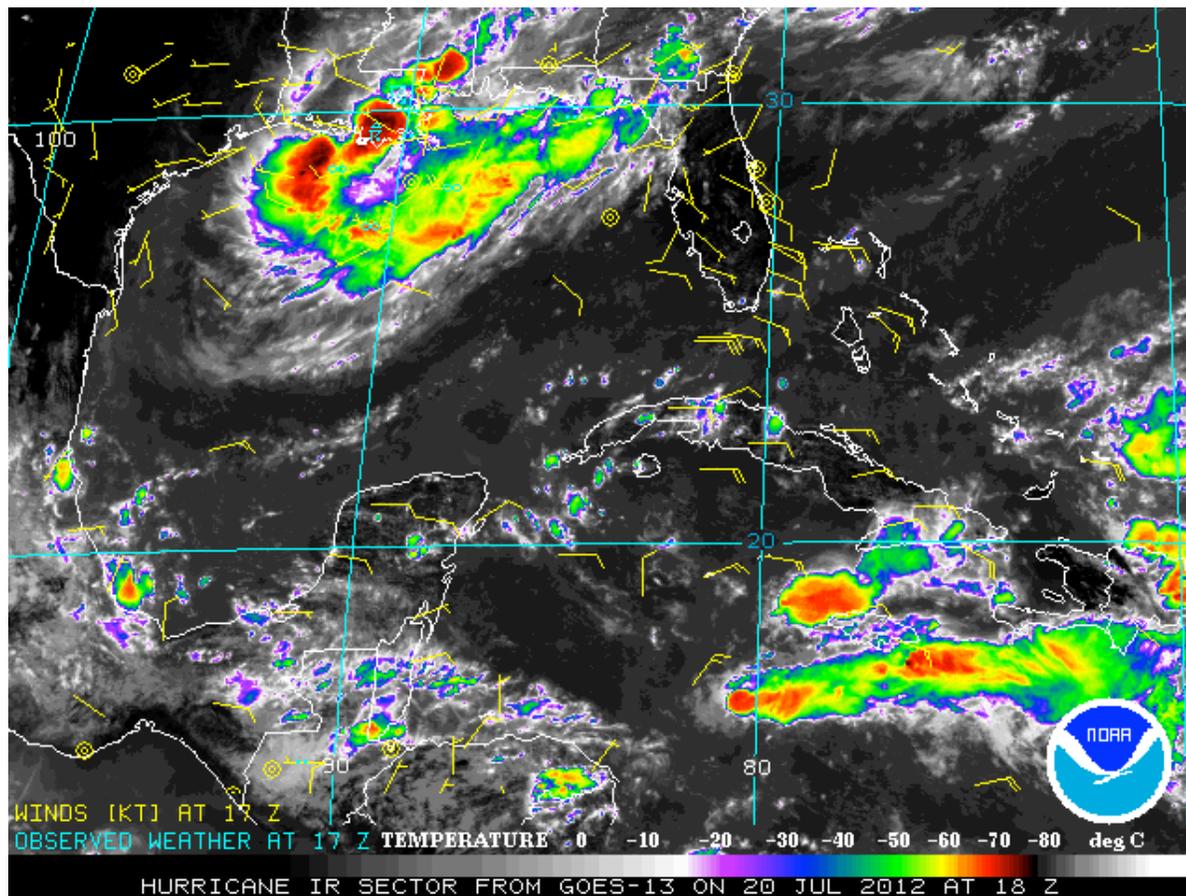
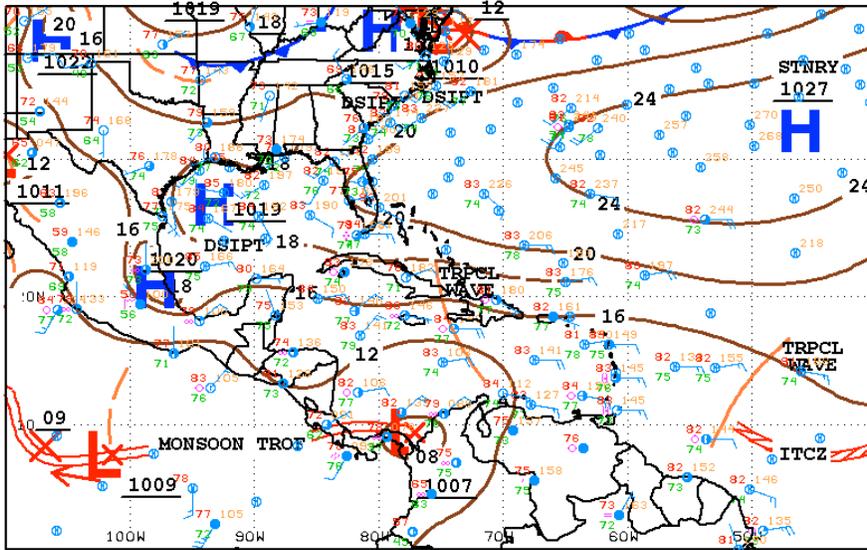


Figure 1 GOES IR Satellite image for 12:00 pm, Friday, July 20, 2012, showing scattered convection over central and southern Belize and coastal waters offshore the Belize district. Heavier thunderstorms are evident over the Caribbean around Jamaica, eastern Cuba and south and NE of Hispaniola.



12Z SOUTHWEST NORTH ATLANTIC SFC ANALYSIS
 ISSUED: FRI JUL 20 14:33:17 UTC 2012

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER
 MIAMI, FLORIDA
 BY: TAFB ANALYST: MKH
 COLLABORATING CENTERS: NHC OPC HPC

Figure 2 NHC surface map for 9:00 am, Friday, July 20, 2012, showing an active TW approaching Jamaica. This TW will reach the coast of Yucatan and Belize on Monday night and early Tuesday next week. The pressure gradient in the NW Caribbean remains relatively tight in the NW Caribbean. Expect a brisk easterly wind gusting to 25 knots over coastal waters this weekend. Gusty winds will increase in strength on Monday and Tuesday.

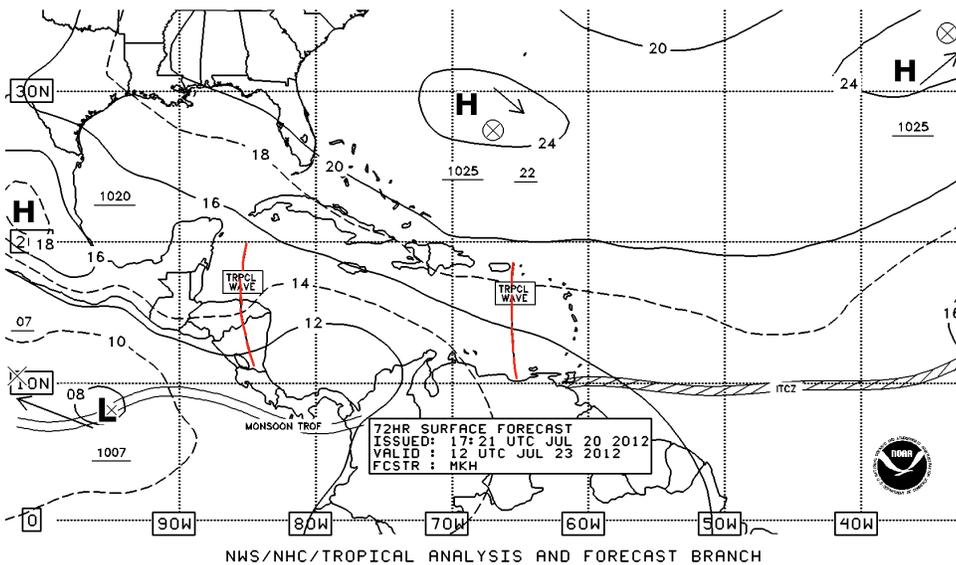


Figure 3 NHC 72-hr forecast surface map valid for 6:00 am, Monday, July 23, 2012, showing an active Tropical Wave moving across the NW Caribbean and Central America. This TW will reach Belize Tuesday morning. A second TW is forecast over the eastern Caribbean by Monday morning, moving westward at 15 mph.

NWS/NHC/TROPICAL ANALYSIS AND FORECAST BRANCH

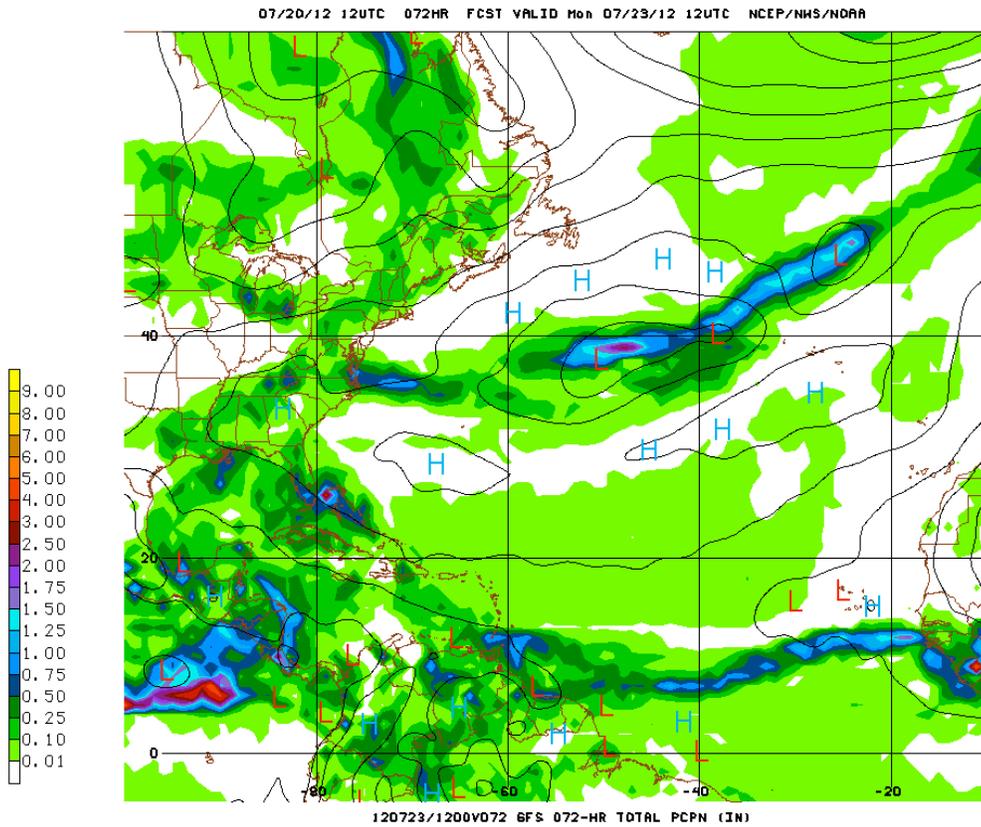


Figure 4 GFS model rainfall projection showing the 24-hour rainfall accumulation for the period ending 6:00 am, Monday, July 23, 2012. Rainfall concentrated over the central coast of Belize with totals ranging from 0.75-1.00 inch.

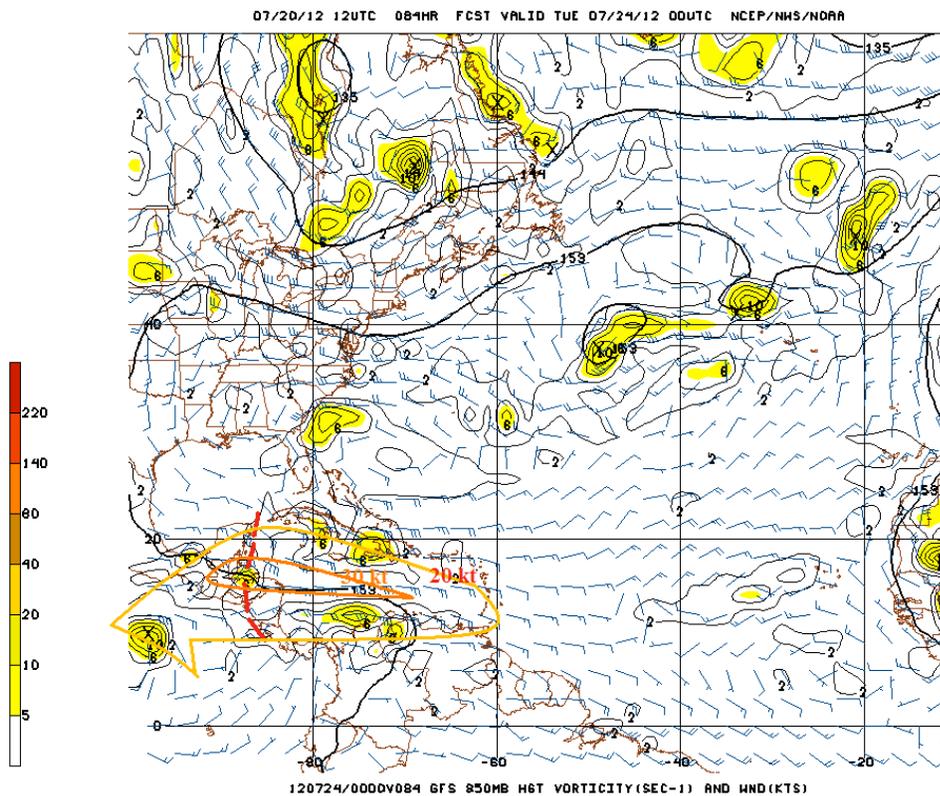


Figure 5 GFS model 84-hr vorticity projection at 850 mb (5,000ft), valid for 6:00 pm Monday, July 20, 2012, showing an active TW approaching Belize and a strong surge in the easterly trades moving into northern Central America and southern Mexico. A vorticity maximum (the center shaded in yellow) is resolved in the Gulf of Honduras and Coastal Toledo District. These features will generate intense showers & TS over southern & central districts and coastal areas of Belize.

Conditions will become increasingly favourable for another bout of showers and thunderstorms this weekend across the country of Belize associated with instability in the atmosphere and the lifting side of an upper level trough axis over the southern Gulf of Mexico. A surge in the low-level easterly flow over the NW Caribbean and northern Central America will herald the approach of an active TW on Monday and Monday night, resulting in an upsurge in the shower and thunderstorm activity, which will become intense at times. The bulk of the rainfall will be concentrated over the central area of the mainland and along the coast on Monday and Tuesday.

Daily rainfall totals over most places will result in rainfall accumulations in the range of 0.10-0.25 of-an-inch today Friday and Saturday. However, the rainfall will be on the increase on Sunday through Tuesday, with daily totals in the hills and coastal areas ranging from 2.00-3.00 inches. Higher rainfall rates are possible in the elevated terrain of the Stann Creek, Cayo and Toledo districts, resulting in rapid runoff and a high probability of flash floods on Monday through early Wednesday. **Residents in flood prone zones and hilly terrain should remain vigilant and be prepared to move to higher grounds if the need arises...**

Belize Seven-day Outlook for Agriculture and Industry...

Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
July 20, 2012	July 21, 2012	July 22, 2012	July 23, 2012	July 24, 2012	July 25, 2012	July 26, 2012
						
Sunny with isolated showers	Cloudy with sunny spells. Few showers & thunderstorms mainly along central coast	Cloudy with outbreaks of showers and thunderstorms especially coast and north	Cloudy with increasing showers & thunderstorms some heavy at times, mainly coast	Cloudy with more outbreaks of showers & thunderstorms along coast / hills	Cloudy with sunny spells. Few showers & thunderstorms mainly central coast	Cloudy with sunny spells. Few showers & thunderstorms
Rainfall: 0.25-0.50 of-an-inch	Rainfall: 0.50-1.00 inch	Rainfall: 0.50-1.25 inch	Rainfall: 0.75-1.50 inch	Rainfall: 2.00-3.00 inches. Higher in the hills	Rainfall: 2.25-3.50 inches. Higher in the hills	Rainfall: 1.00-1.75 inch

OUTLOOK FOR THE MAIN DEVELOPMENT REGION (MDR) OF THE TROPICAL ATLANTIC BASIN

NHC

Friday, July 20, 2012. 12:00 pm Local Time.

Tropical cyclone formation is not expected in the Tropical Atlantic Basin during the next 48 hours.

Summary of Atlantic Basin 2012 Hurricane Season Forecast:

Tropical Cyclones	NHC 1981-2010 Seasonal Average	CSU (Klotzbach & Gray)	NOAA	INSMET (Cuba)
Named Storms (NS)	12	10	9-15	10
Hurricanes (H)	6	4	4-8	5
Major Hurricanes	3	2	1-3	--
Atlantic NS	7.1 (INSMET)			8
Caribbean NS	1.5 (INSMET)			1
Gulf of Mexico NS	2.0 (INSMET)			1
Probability of at least one moving through the Caribbean Sea from Atlantic	50% (INSMET)			55%

Expected 2012 activity in the Atlantic Basin

Climate signals and evolving oceanic and atmospheric conditions, combined with dynamical model forecasts, indicate that a near-normal 2012 Atlantic hurricane season is most likely. This outlook calls for a 50% chance of a near-normal season, a 25% chance of an above-normal season, and a 25% chance of a below normal season.

An important measure of the total overall seasonal activity is NOAA's Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) index, which accounts for the intensity and duration of named storms and hurricanes during the season. This outlook indicates a 70% chance that the 2012 seasonal ACE range will be 65%-140% of the median. According to NOAA's hurricane season classifications, an ACE value above 111% of the 1981-2010 median reflects an above-normal season. An ACE value below 71.4% of the median reflects a below-normal season.

Consistent with the expected ACE range, the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season is predicted to produce (with 70% probability for each range) 9-15 named storms, of which 4-8 are expected to become hurricanes, and 1-3 are expected to become major hurricanes. These ranges are centered near the 1981-2010 period averages of 12 named storms, 6 hurricanes and 3 major hurricanes. (Source: NOAA, June 2012).