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**08/27/07** The remains of Hurricane Dean limped into the Pacific last week. The forecast called for some heavy rain on Thursday night and we hoped for a little bit of weather. Baja Sur needs the rain desperately, as we are now about 1/2 way through our usual rainy season and haven't accumulated more than a few drops so far.

We watched it here Thursday afternoon, bands of heavy rain moving up toward East Cape on satellite and radar imagery. We issued an Insider Update, relaying the information issued at 5PM by the NHC. About 8PM it first started to become evident on the satellite, the whole thing dried up within miles of reaching the Baja Sur coastline. Over the next 36hrs much of Baja Sur received a little precipitation from the system and a few lucky areas received some monsoonal cloud bursts.

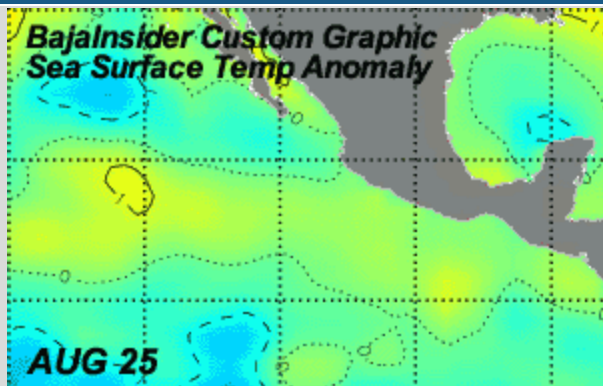
Now we are in the last week of August, certainly within the realm of possibility for a Baja Sur tropical cyclone landfall - but there doesn't appear to be anything on the horizon.

The Eastern Pacific Hurricane Birthing Zone is about to endure a flurry of three tropical wave passages. There is substantial tropical thunderstorm activity but the National Hurricane Center is forecasting for the first two waves to pass west of 110°W without forming a tropical cyclone. The westward most wave is currently stimulating thunderstorms just SW of Manzanillo with the second is bearing across the Tehuantepec, about to stimulate shower SW of Acapulco. The NHC seems to express more faith in the second wave generating a tropical Low east of 110°W rather than the first wave.

We need to remain aware of storm formation as far east as Acapulco, as this provides more opportunity for the system to follow the curve of the Mexican mainland and later become a threat to Baja Sur.

Two weeks ago, the Pacific High, located north of Hawaii and west of San Francisco, extended a ridge SE, to just south of Cabo San Lucas. the 1012Mb isobar was drawn in a loop around Baja Sur. This in effect provided a shield to storms passing to the NW, it literally fenced them out. Today a trough extends from a thermal Low over Arizona south down the length of the Sea of Cortez into the Hurricane Birthing Zone. Storms that form along the coastline and turn NW near Manzanillo could get 'caught in the groove' and directed toward us, like Ignacio in '04 and John in '06.

## SST Anomaly



The colors represent deviation of this years water temperatures from the norm. Green is normal, blue colder than normal and yellow warmer than normal waters.

So, it's been another quiet week for storms formation in our own basin. The approaching first two waves really aren't given much chance of developing into anything before moving west of 110°W. Once storms are that far west it becomes unlikely that we need to worry about them.

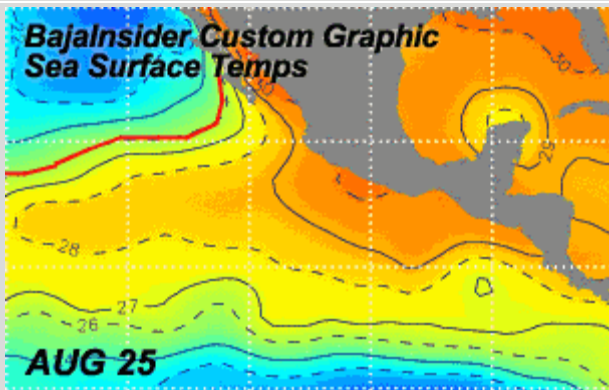
Usually, by this point in the season we have had 10 named storms, so far this season only 6. We've only had two hurricanes and both of those were well out into the Pacific. Usually by this time of year 6 have formed inside of 110°W, this year just two have formed in that region.

One reason may be La Nina. Take a look at the SST Anomaly graphic below. Now how, over the last month, an increasing amount of blue or colder water is appearing at the bottom of the frame. This colder water may be drawing air SW at upper levels through the Tehuantepec and southern Mexico across the area of

ocean where the more easterly systems form. Click here to see an animation of the visible light satellite view of the eastern Eastern Pacific. At the time of this article all the cloud tops across most of the visible region are smeared to the SW. This indicates the clouds are boiling up to higher altitudes, only to be swept to the SW. Tropical cyclones need quieter air to establish the cyclonic column that feeds the storm. Otherwise, when we look at the Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly graphic we don't see anything too alarming. Much of our Hurricane Birthing Zone is slightly above normal temperatures, further out in the Pacific some areas are a slight 1°C above normal. Water just south of Cabo San Lucas toward the mainland is just about seasonal. Once up into the Sea of Cortez, we do find some areas that are more than 1°C above normal. But since the Anomaly graphic is more of a strategic look at storm formation, the water deep in the Sea becomes irrelevant, as if a storm gets that far, we're already in trouble!

Over the next 72hrs the Pacific High is again forecast to extend a ridge southeastward toward Baja. this will provide dryer air, some winds from the north and perhaps some slightly cooler temperatures. All these positive climatic aspects also lead to a lesser chance of a tropical cyclone threat.

## SST Analysis



Tropical cyclones thrive in waters warmer than 26° C and degenerate in waters below that temp. Areas south and east of the red line have the potential for a tropical storm strike


Lets turn our attention to the SST Analysis. The 26° thermo cline shown on the graphic left by a red arrow is another sign that we are in the threat season for Baja. Water warmer than 26°C is an integral part of storm formation and growth. Once crossing into waters below that temperature storms degrade very quickly. The magic line now encompasses then entire tip of Baja, up as far north in the Pacific as Magdalena Bay. This is just about normal for this time of year.

Current forecasts call for the two tropical waves to stimulate some activity, but development is expected to be slow to occur close to the coastline.

**So now the fun part, my prognostications.** Last week I called for a Hurricane to form east of 110°W from the second wave of this batch to cross into our basin. Well, I'm not wrong, at least not yet. It just hasn't happened yet. Because last weeks Hurricane Watch was later in the week and this one being early, I get a Mulligan for last week prognostications.

This week, I'm gonna back down from that forecast of a hurricane inside 110°W. I am going to bet on that high level SE flow to continue and knock the tops off of any cyclonic activity that tries to form near the Mexican mainland. I think we're going to get two tropical cyclones out of these three waves, but none of them will move to the NNW soon enough to scare us. But remember, what do I know...

But we need some rain!

Clear skies and fair winds!   
Tomas

**Our Eastern Pacific Hurricane Watch is an editorial/entertainment analysis of data from the National Hurricane Center, NASA and NOAA and is based on information provided by the same, but is an amateur endeavor. For actual storm information readers should refer to notices and warnings posted by the National Hurricane Center. or visit the Mexican Nation Metrological website for more information.**