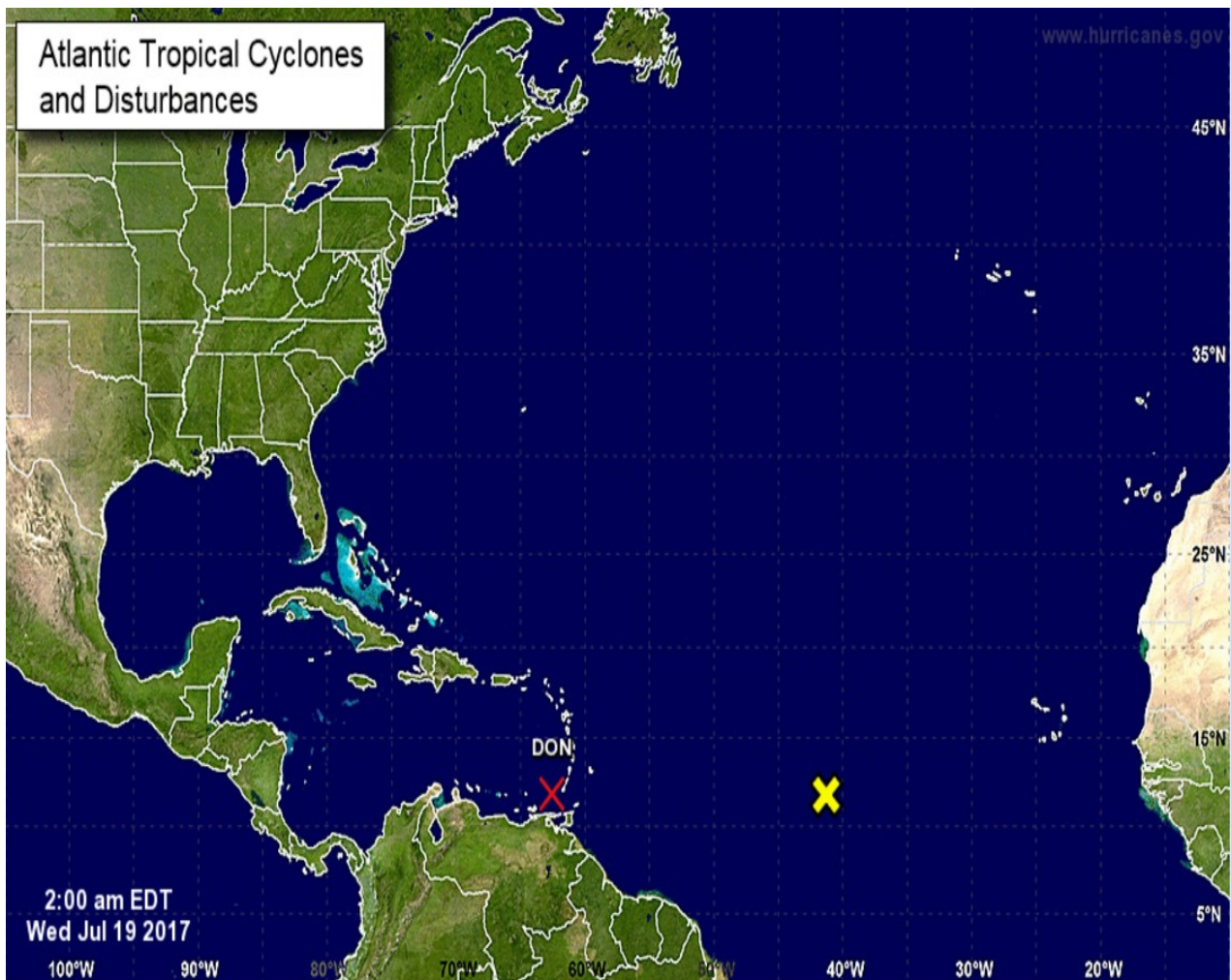


The Virgin Islands Consortium

Weather System Don Loses Tropical Storm Strength, But Carries Thunderstorms

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Even though former tropical storm Don has weakened after crossing the Windward Islands and is not expected to regain strength as it drifts into the Caribbean Sea this week, the weather system -- which strengthened into a tropical storm on Monday evening and later disintegrated by strong winds high up in the atmosphere -- people on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao can expect a period of drenching rain, gusty winds and rough seas through Wednesday, according to the National Hurricane Center.

The remnants of Don, which came after Tropical Storm Bret, will bring showers and thunderstorms westward over the southern Caribbean and brush the northern coasts of

Venezuela and Colombia during Wednesday and Thursday.

"The wave is moving westward at about 22 kt, and it should continue moving quickly westward across the Caribbean Sea during the next couple of days. Due to the system's fast motion, as well as unfavorable atmospheric conditions over the Caribbean Sea, regeneration into a tropical cyclone is not expected at this time. However, the wave is expected to continue producing gales through early Wednesday, and then winds just below gale force for the next couple of days," [said the National Hurricane Center](#).

There will be the risk of flash and urban flooding.

Small craft in the area should monitor the situation and may need to remain in port until the system has passed to the west later this week.

Bathers are urged to exercise caution and heed all warnings until the system has moved by. Unprotected waters will be prone to increasing rip currents and building surf.

Westerly winds are likely to prevent Don from reaching the United States.