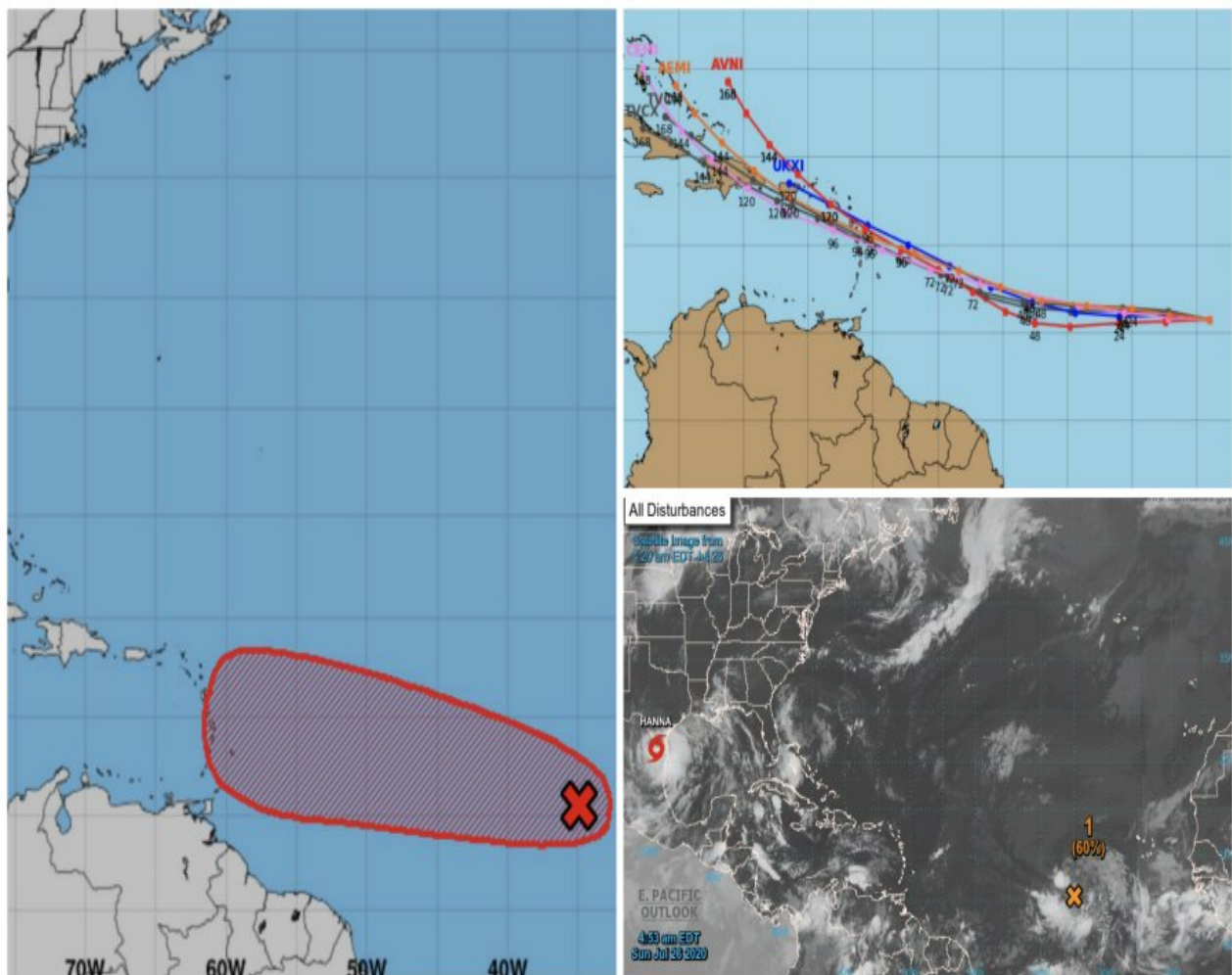


The Virgin Islands Consortium

Weather System Developing in Atlantic Takes Aim at Leeward Islands, Including USVI and Puerto Rico

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As the remnants of what was Tropical Storm Gonzalo faded in the far south Windward Islands Saturday, another system with a 60 percent chance of development in 48 hours and 90 percent chance in five days, has a current path leading it to the Leeward Islands, among them the USVI and Puerto Rico.

According to the National Hurricane Center's 2:00 a.m. forecast, the system — a broad area of low pressure associated with a tropical wave located about 1000 miles west-southwest of the Cabo Verde Islands — is producing a large area of cloudiness and disorganized showers and thunderstorms. Environmental conditions appear conducive for development, and a tropical depression is likely to form early this week while the wave

moves westward at around 15 mph across the tropical Atlantic, N.H.C. said.

Most models have the system heading directly over the Leeward Islands, passing through the USVI, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, before titling north while coming close to Florida.

The strength with which the system will affect the Leeward islands depends on development as it moves closer. The National Hurricane Center is expecting a tropical depression early this week.