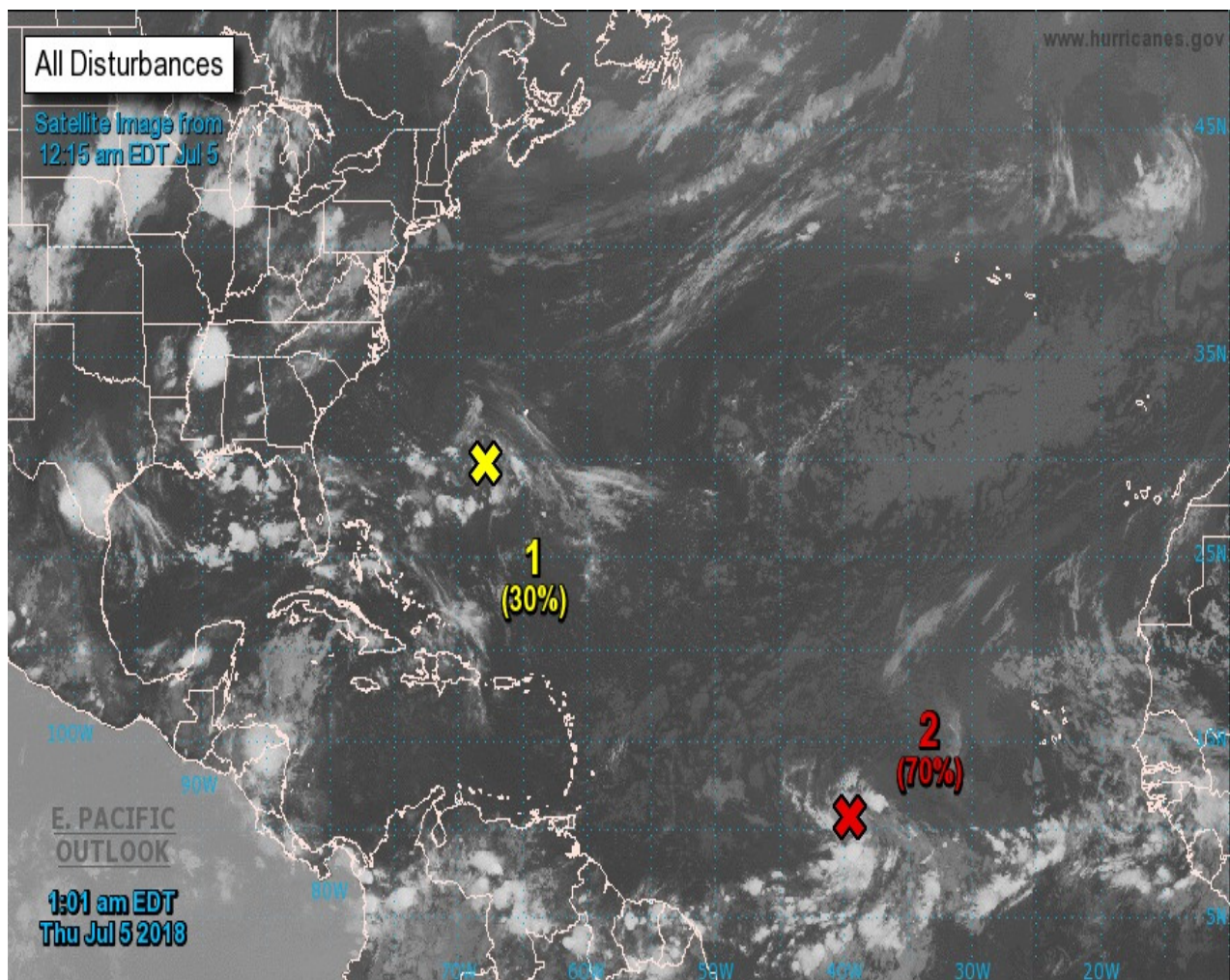


The Virgin Islands Consortium

National Hurricane Center Monitoring Tropical Disturbance In Atlantic

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The National Hurricane Center, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is monitoring a tropical disturbance that is producing showers and is associated with a small area of low pressure and a tropical wave located between the Cabo Verde Islands and the Lesser Antilles.

The system remains well organized, N.H.C. said, and a tropical depression could form at any time. This disturbance is forecast to move westward or west-northwestward at 15 to 20 mph over the tropical Atlantic Ocean. However, in a few days, the upper-level winds are forecast to become unfavorable, and the system is expected to degenerate into a trough of low pressure before it approaches the Lesser Antilles.

Formation chance through 48 hours is high at 70 percent and remains high through the next five days at the same percentage.

The N.H.C. is also monitoring showers and thunderstorms located a few hundred miles to the southwest of Bermuda associated with a weak trough of low pressure.

The system appears to be less organized, and the potential for a tropical depression to form is diminishing, according to N.H.C. However, environmental conditions are still conducive for some development before the end of the week, while the system moves west- northwestward and then northward between Bermuda and the east coast of the United States. The disturbance is then forecast to interact with a frontal system on Sunday, which should limit any additional development.

Formation chance through the next 48 hours is 30 percent, N.H.C. said. The chance of development grows to 50 percent through the next five days.