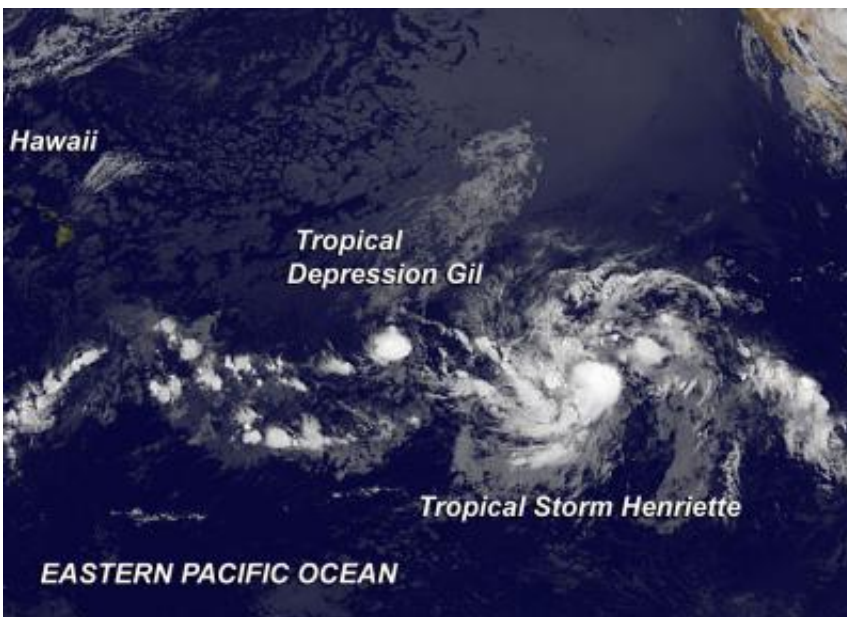


NASA eyes 2 Eastern Pacific tropical cyclones: 1 up, 1 down

August 6 2013



In an infrared image on Aug. 5 at 8 a.m. EDT, NOAA's GOES-15 satellite imagery showed Tropical Depression Gil approaching the Central Pacific Ocean, and Tropical Storm Henriette located to Gil's east. Credit: NASA GOES Project

Tropical Depression Gil has been weakening for a couple of days, while Tropical Storm Henrietta appears to be strengthening in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. NOAA's GOES-15 satellite captured both storms in one image that clearly showed Henrietta was the larger storm, and NASA's Aqua satellite peered under Henrietta's clouds to reveal a developing eye.

Tropical Depression Gil is more than halfway to Hawaii from Mexico and continues to hold onto depression strength. Meanwhile, NOAA's GOES-15 satellite captured both storms in one image on Aug. 5 at 1200 UTC (8 a.m. EDT). The imagery shows Tropical Storm Henriette dwarfed the smaller Gil. The [infrared image](#) was created by NASA's GOES Project at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. GOES satellite imagery showed a circular concentration of thunderstorms tightly around Gil's small center, while Henriette, located to the east, is several times the size of Gil.

Gil is Tropically "Depressed"

On Monday, Aug. 4 at 11 a.m. EDT (1500 UTC) the center of Tropical Storm Gil was near latitude 13.4 north and longitude 138.6 west, about 1,175 miles/1,890 km east-southeast of Hilo, Hawaii. Gil is moving toward the west-southwest near 8 mph (13 kph) and is expected to continue in that direction for the next day and turn west. Gil's [maximum sustained winds](#) were near 30 mph (45 kph). Gil became a depression over the weekend of Aug. 3 and 4 after reaching hurricane status. Gradual weakening is forecast during the next 48 hours. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1007 millibars.

The National Hurricane Center noted that Gil is weakening and will likely cease to qualify as a tropical cyclone in the next day or two. However, if Gil survives the adverse atmospheric environment and holds together, it would track far south of the Hawaiian Island chain over the weekend of Aug. 10 and 11.

NASA Infrared Data Shows a Developing Eye in Henriette

Infrared data from the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder or AIRS

instrument that flies aboard NASA's Aqua satellite showed a developing eye in Tropical Storm Henriette. AIRS captured an infrared image of Tropical Storm Henriette on August 5 at 0917 UTC (5:17 a.m. EDT). Strongest storms and heaviest rains appeared around the center where cloud top temperatures exceeded -63F/-52C. The GOES [satellite imagery](#) showed that Henriette had grown in size and dwarfs Tropical Depression Gil, located to its west.

Henriette developed from the System 90E which became the eighth tropical depression of the eastern Pacific Ocean hurricane season over the weekend of Aug. 3 and 4.

On Aug. 5 at 11 a.m. EDT (1500 UTC), Tropical Storm Henriette's maximum sustained winds had increased to near 60 mph/95 kph. Further strengthening is forecast by the National Hurricane Center and Henriette is expected to become a hurricane in the next day.

Henriette was located near latitude 12.1 north and longitude 128.2 west, about 1,415 miles (2,280 km west-southwest of the southern tip of Baja California, Mexico. Henriette is moving toward the west near 6 mph/9 kph and is expected to turn west-northwestward Minimum central pressure is near 999 millibars.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Citation: NASA eyes 2 Eastern Pacific tropical cyclones: 1 up, 1 down (2013, August 6)
retrieved 19 April 2024 from
<https://phys.org/news/2013-08-nasa-eyes-eastern-pacific-tropical.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.