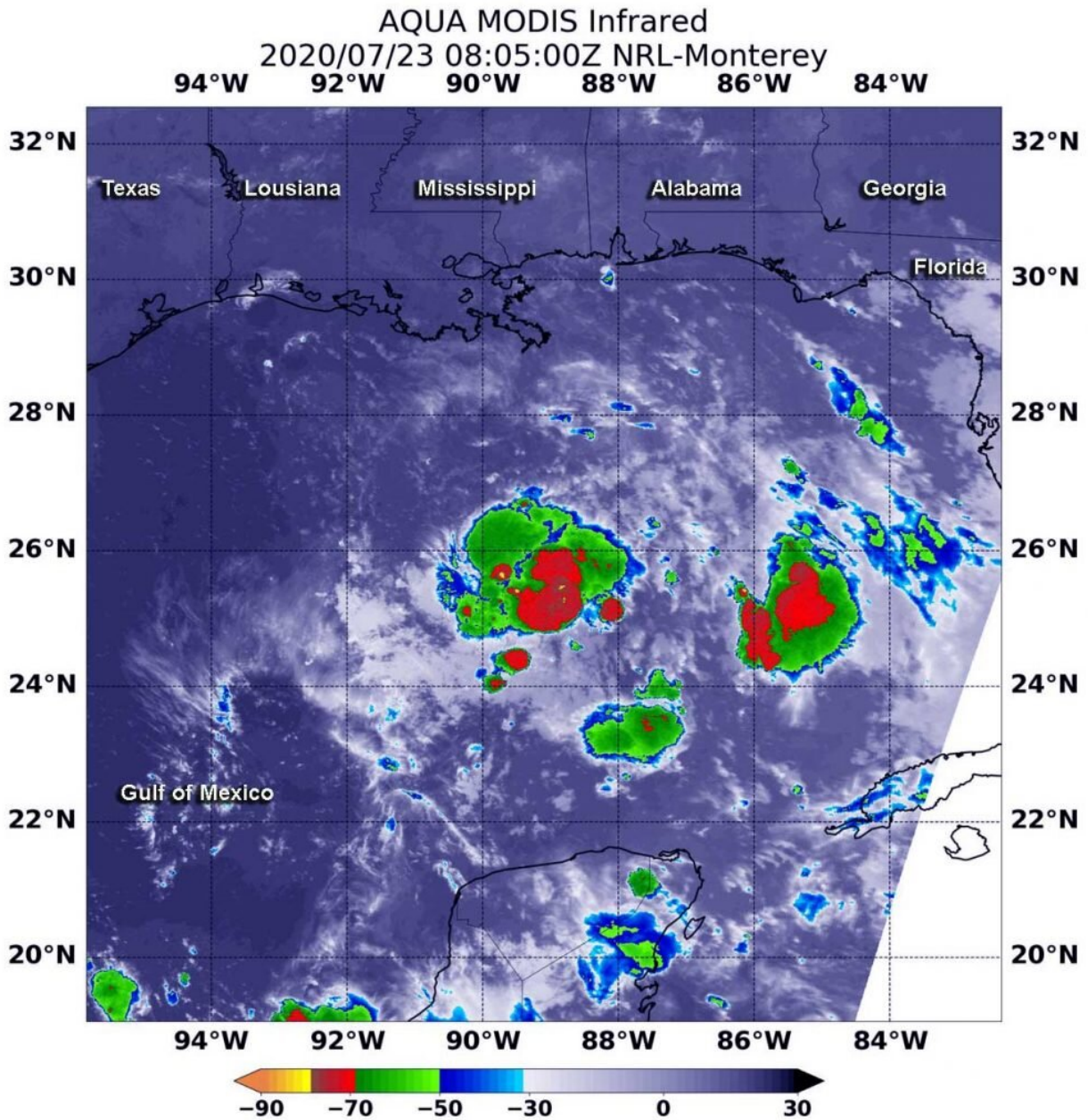


# NASA finds strength in new Gulf Tropical Depression 8

July 23 2020, by Rob Gutro



On July 23 at 4:05 a.m. EDT (0805 UTC), the MODIS instrument aboard NASA's Aqua satellite gathered temperature information about Tropical Depression 8's cloud tops. MODIS found several areas of powerful thunderstorms (red) where temperatures were as cold as or colder than minus 70 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 56.6 Celsius). Credit: NASA/NRL

NASA's Aqua satellite used infrared light to identify the strongest storms and coldest cloud top temperatures in Tropical Depression 8, spinning in the Gulf of Mexico.

Tropical Depression 8 formed in the Gulf about 530 miles (855 km) east-southeast of Port O'Connor, Texas on July 22 by 11 p.m. EDT.

On July 23 at 4:05 a.m. EDT (0805 UTC), the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer or MODIS instrument aboard NASA's Aqua satellite analyzed Tropical Depression 8's cloud tops in [infrared light](#). Infrared data provides [temperature](#) information, and the strongest thunderstorms that reach high into the atmosphere have the coldest cloud top temperatures.

Aqua found the most powerful thunderstorms around the center of circulation and areas east of the center, where temperatures were as cold as or colder than minus 70 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 56.6 Celsius). Cloud top temperatures that cold indicate strong storms with the potential to generate heavy rainfall.

At 2 p.m. EDT (1800 UTC) the National Hurricane Center (NHC issued a Tropical Storm Watch from Port Mansfield to High Island, Texas.

At that time, the center of Tropical Depression 8 was located by an Air

Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircraft near latitude 26.0 degrees north and longitude 90.3 degrees west. That is about 415 miles (665 km) east-southeast of Port O'Connor, Texas. In 15 hours, the [storm](#) had moved 115 miles closer to Port O'Connor.

The depression is moving toward the west-northwest near 7 mph (11 kph), and a west-northwestward to westward motion is expected during the next couple of days. Maximum sustained winds are near 35 mph (55 kph) with higher gusts. The latest minimum central pressure reported by the Hurricane Hunter Aircraft is 1008 millibars.

Satellite data at 2 p.m. EDT revealed Tropical Depression 8 is getting better organized, with a better-defined center located near the northeastern end of a broadly curved convective band.

Slow strengthening is expected, and the depression could become a [tropical storm](#) during the next 12 to 24 hours. On the forecast track, the center of the depression is expected to move across the northwestern Gulf of Mexico today and Friday and make landfall along the Texas coast on Saturday.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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