NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER TROPICAL CYCLONE REPORT[1]

TROPICAL STORM CRISTOBAL

(AL032026)

12–13 August 2026

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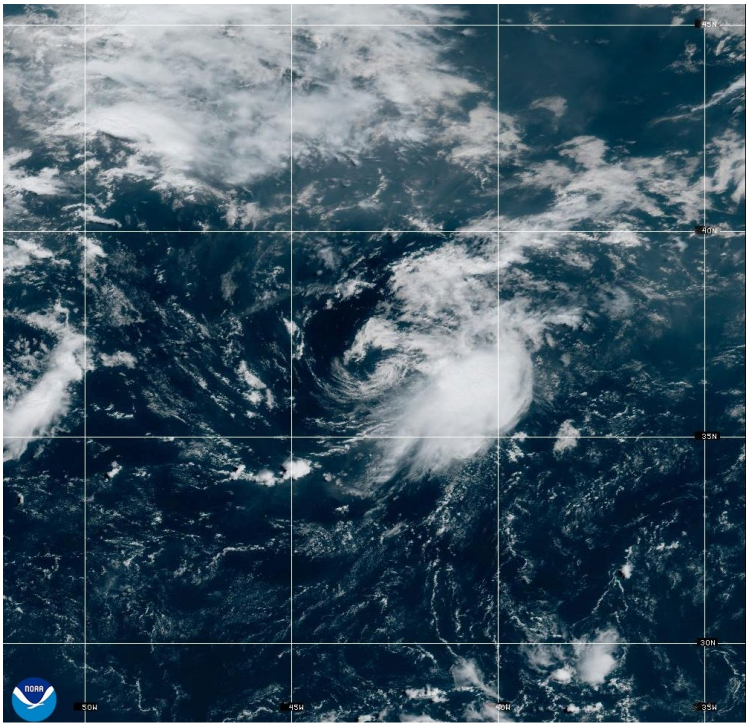
3 November 2026



GOES-19 GEOCOLOR SATELLITE IMAGE OF TROPICAL STORM CRISTOBAL AROUND THE TIME OF ITS PEAK INTENSITY AT 1500 UTC 12 AUGUST. IMAGE COURTESY OF NOAA/NESDIS/STAR.

Cristobal was a short-lived tropical storm over the central subtropical Atlantic that did not impact land.

[1] This is an abbreviated Tropical Cyclone Report since there were no coastal watches or warnings issued and no direct fatalities reported in association with Cristobal.

Tropical Storm Cristobal

12–13 AUGUST 2026

BEST TRACK

The "best track[2]" positions and intensities for Tropical Storm Cristobal are listed in Table 1. The best track chart of Cristobal's path is given in Fig. 1, with the wind and pressure histories along with available observations[3] shown in Figs. 2 and 3, respectively.

There were no ship reports of winds of tropical storm force associated with Cristobal.

Origin

Cristobal's origins can be traced to a low-level trough over the eastern Atlantic, located a few hundred miles southwest of the Azores, that was first apparent on 2 August. The trough initially moved southwestward, steered by a low- to mid-level ridge, and passed over the Bahamas on 7 August. The disturbance then turned northward around the western periphery of the ridge, passing offshore of the east coast of the United States on 9 August and then moved just north of Bermuda the following day. Satellite data indicate that the system developed a well-defined closed circulation and sufficiently organized deep convection to be classified as a tropical cyclone by 0600 UTC 12 August. Since the cyclone already had maximum sustained winds of 35 kt, the system became a tropical storm at that time when it was located about 900 n mi west-southwest of the Azores.

Peak Intensity and Minimum Pressure

Cristobal's peak intensity of 40 kt at 1200 and 1800 UTC 12 August is supported by ASCAT data that showed peak winds of 35-40 kt.

The estimated minimum central pressure of 1003 mb is primarily based on the Knaff-Zehr-Courtney pressure-wind relationship.

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[2] A digital record of the complete best track, including wind radii, can be found on line at https://ftp.nhc.noaa.gov/atcf/. Data for the current year's storms are located in the *btk* directory, while previous years' data are located in the *archive* directory.

[3] Observations include subjective satellite-based Dvorak technique intensity estimates from the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB), objective Advanced Dvorak Technique (ADT) estimates and Satellite Consensus (SATCON) estimates from the Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies/University of Wisconsin-Madison. Data and imagery from NOAA polar-orbiting satellites including the Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit (AMSU), the NASA Global Precipitation Mission (GPM), the European Space Agency's Advanced Scatterometer (ASCAT), the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) satellites, and the Time-Resolved Observations of Precipitation structure and storm Intensity with a Constellation of Smallsats (TROPICS) satellites, among others, were also useful in constructing the best track of Cristobal.

CASUALTY AND DAMAGE STATISTICS

There were no reports of damage or casualties associated with Cristobal.

FORECAST AND WARNING VERIFICATION

Table 2 provides the number of hours prior to formation that Cristobal was first included in each genesis likelihood category in the NHC Tropical Weather Outlook (TWO). The genesis of Cristobal was not well anticipated, largely due to the marginally favorable environmental conditions and the relatively short window for potential tropical cyclone development. The system was first introduced in the TWO about 54 hours before genesis, at 0000 UTC 10 August with 2-day and 7-day genesis probabilities of 10% (low chance of development). These probabilities were increased to 40% (medium chance) at 0000 UTC 12 August. The probabilities weren't raised to the high category until after genesis occurred, as found in post-analysis. Figure 4 shows composites of the 7-day TWO genesis areas for each likelihood category prior to Cristobal's formation. There was an unusually low hit-rate for the genesis area highlighted in the Tropical Weather Outlook, likely due to the disorganized structure of the system prior to formation and a lack of a well-defined circulation.

A verification of NHC official track and intensity forecasts are not provided since there was only one verifying 12-hour forecast, and the statistics are not meaningful.

There were no coastal watches or warnings issued for Cristobal.

Table 1. Best track for Tropical Storm Cristobal, 12–13 August 2026.

Date/Time (UTC)	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°W)	Pressure (mb)	Wind Speed (kt)	Stage
12 / 0600	37.0	46.6	1007	35	tropical storm
12 / 1200	36.8	43.9	1003	40	"
12 / 1800	36.9	41.8	1003	40	"
13 / 0000	37.4	40.0	1006	35	"
13 / 0600	38.1	38.7	1010	30	low
13 / 1200	39.0	37.5	1013	25	"
13 / 1800	40.1	36.4	1016	25	"
14 / 0000					dissipated
12 / 1200	36.8	43.9	1003	40	maximum wind and minimum pressure

Table 2. Number of hours in advance of formation associated with the first NHC Tropical Weather Outlook forecast in the indicated likelihood category. Note that the timings for the “Low” category do not include forecasts of a 0% chance of genesis.

	Hours Before Genesis	
	48-Hour Outlook	**168-Hour Outlook**
Low (<40%)	54	54
Medium (40%-60%)	6	6
High (>60%)	-	-

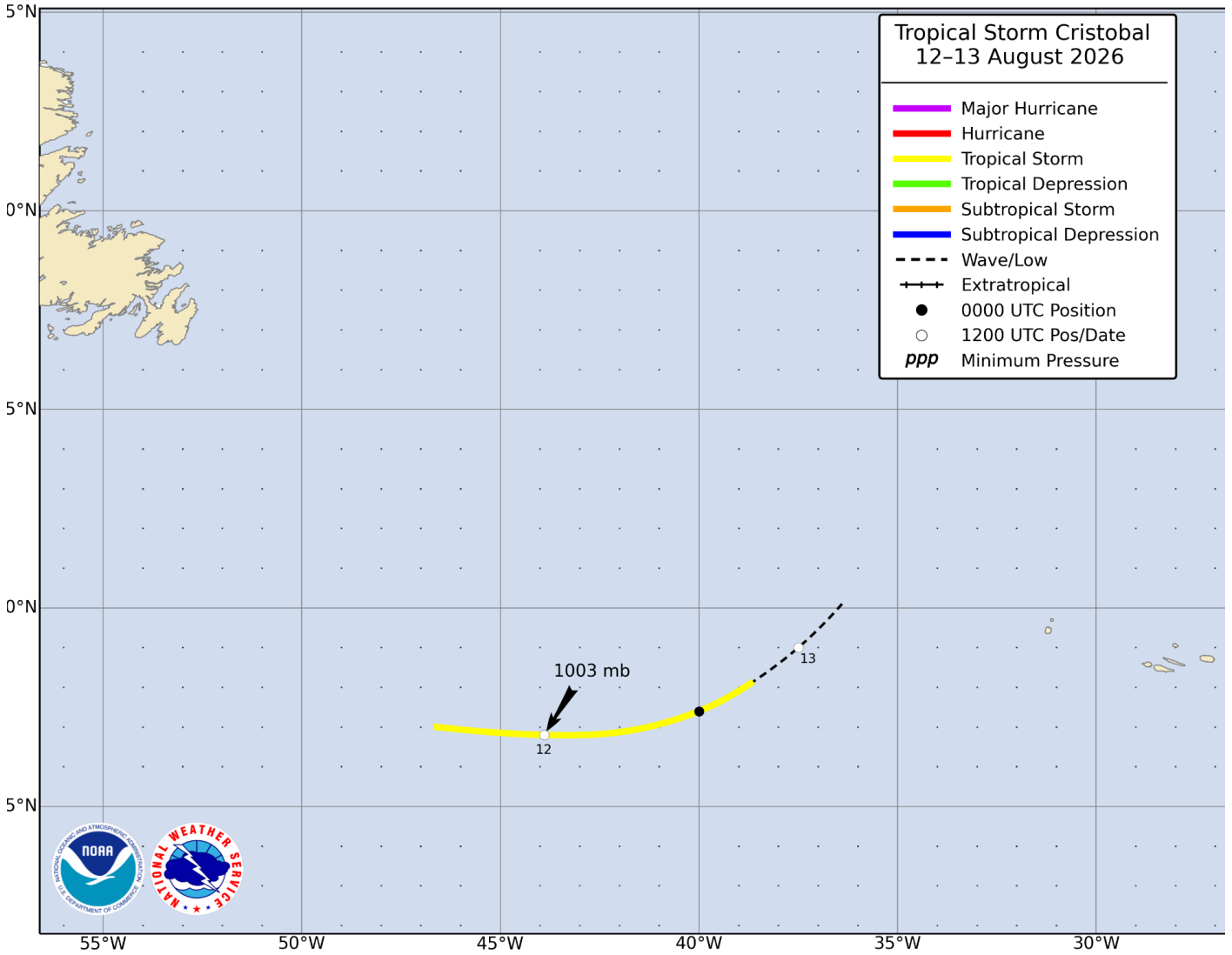

Figure 1. Best track positions for Tropical Storm Cristobal, 12–13 August 2026.

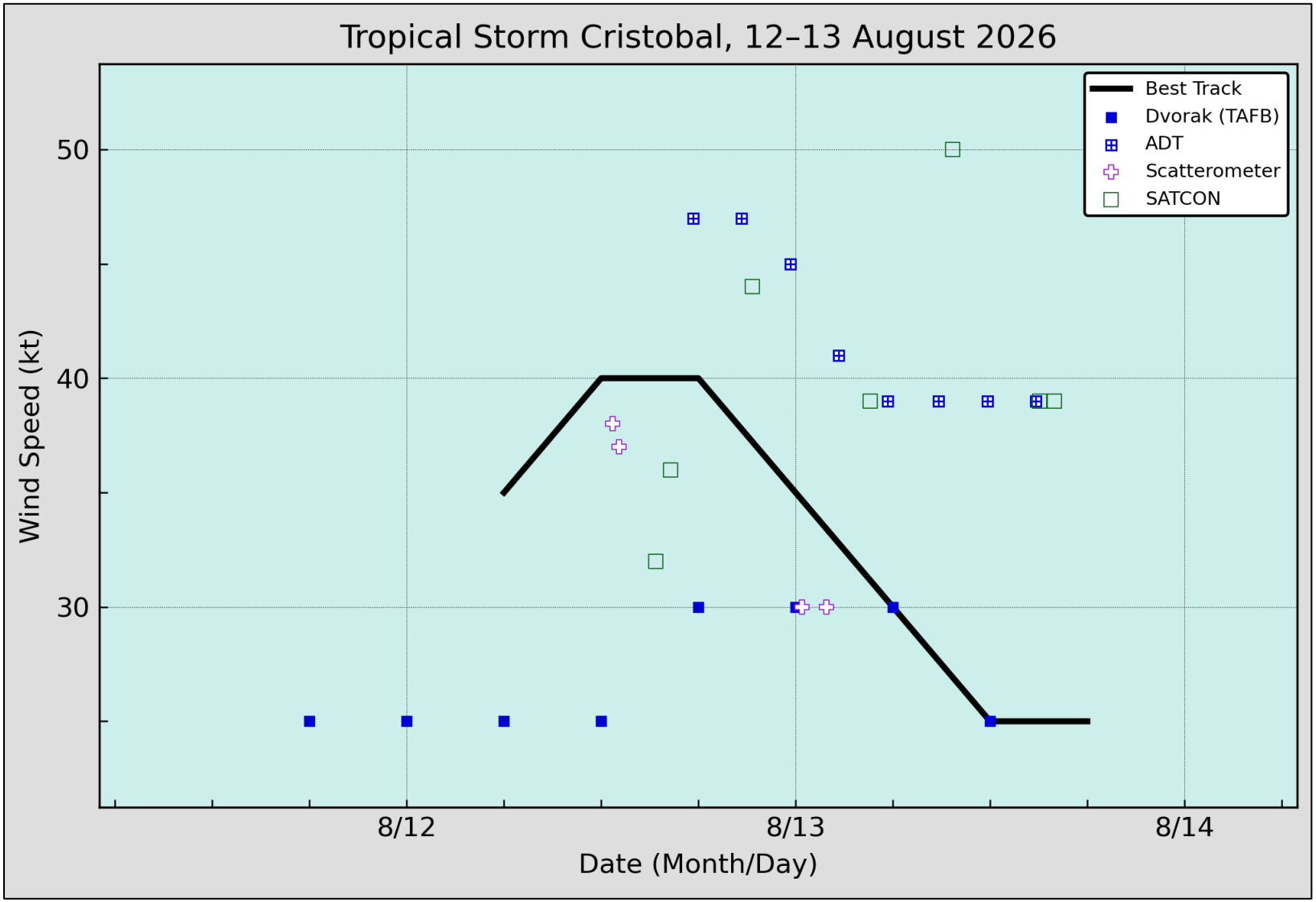

Figure 2. Selected wind observations and best track maximum sustained surface wind speed curve for Tropical Storm Cristobal, 12–13 August 2026. Advanced Dvorak Technique estimates represent the Current Intensity at the nominal observation time. SATCON intensity estimates are from the Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies. Dashed vertical lines correspond to 0000 UTC.

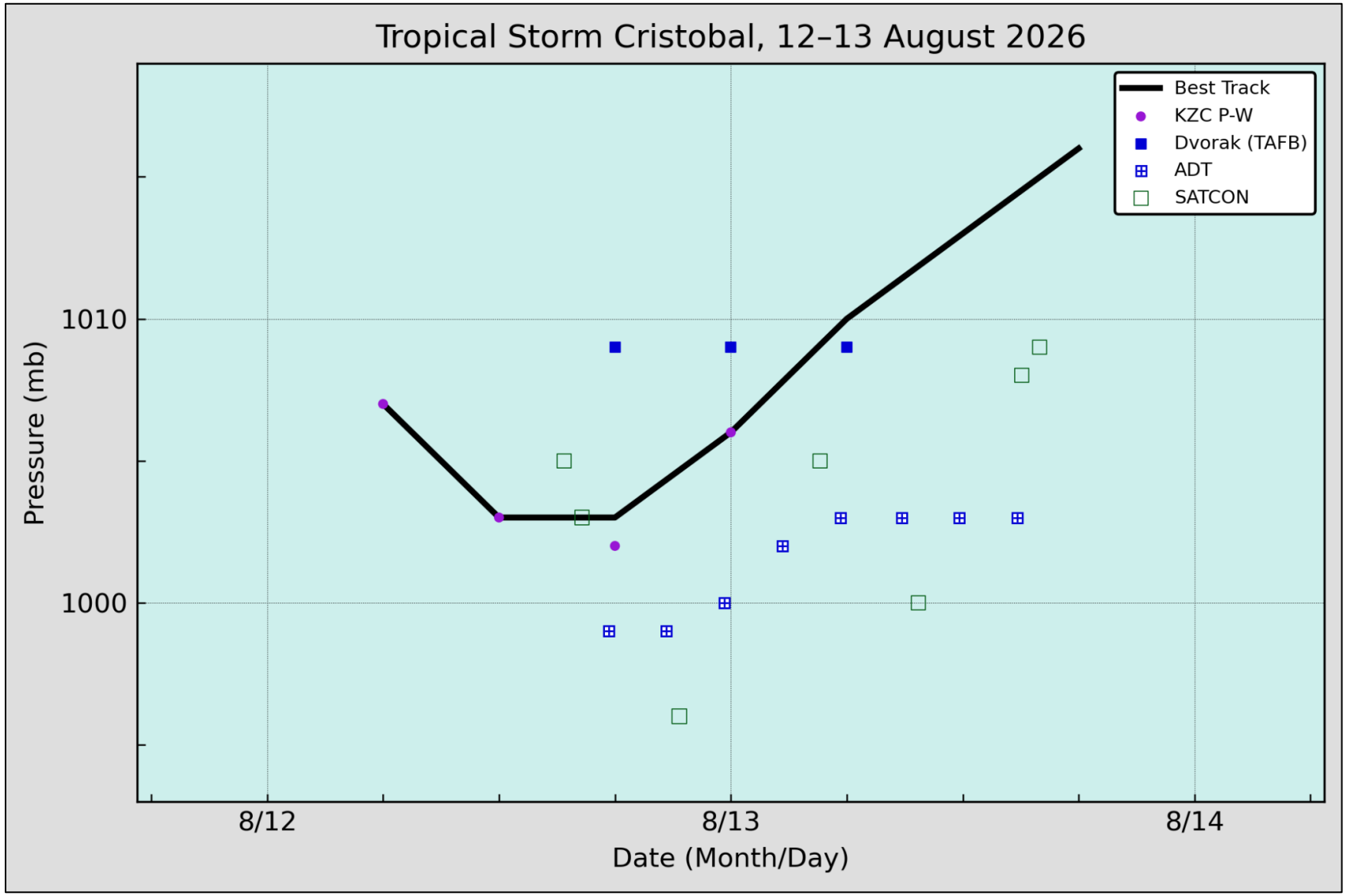

Figure 3. Selected pressure observations and best track minimum central pressure curve for Tropical Storm Cristobal, 12–13 August 2026. KZC P-W refers to pressure estimates derived using the Knaff-Zehr-Courtney pressure-wind relationship. Dashed vertical lines correspond to 0000 UTC.

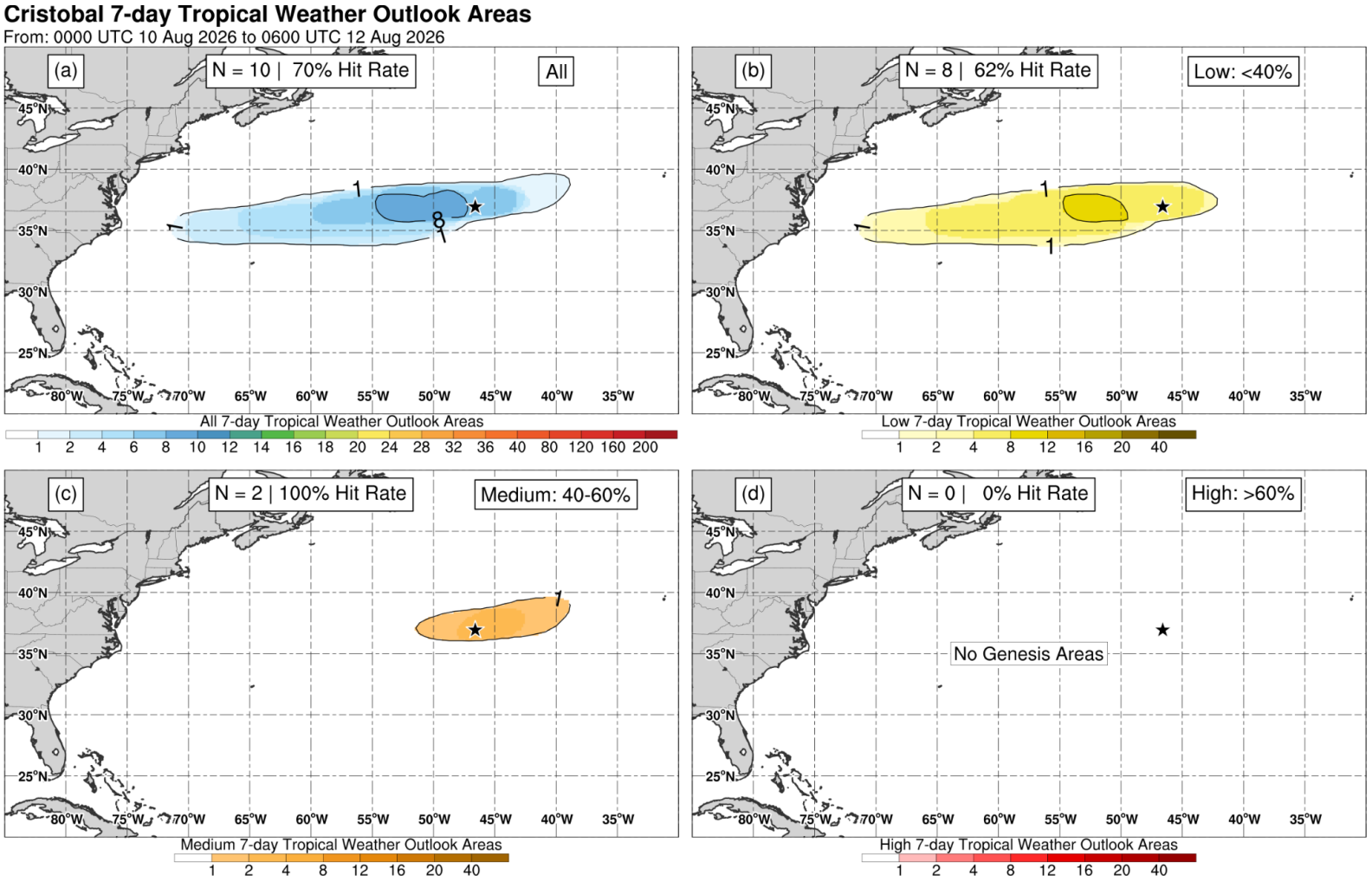

Figure 4. Composites of 7-day tropical cyclone genesis areas depicted in NHC's Tropical Weather Outlooks prior to the formation of Tropical Storm Cristobal for (a) all probabilistic genesis categories, (b) the low (<40%) category, (c) medium (40–60%) category, and (d) high (>60%) category. The location of genesis is indicated by the black star.