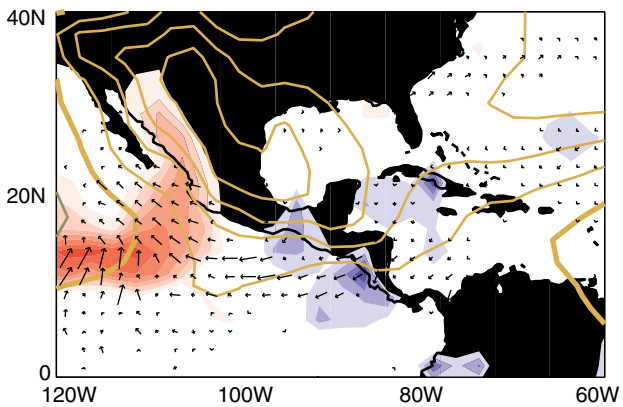

Figure 15. July minus June differences in surface winds (arrows), sea-level pressure (contours: gold denotes pressure increases; zero contour thickened), and rainfall (shading: red denotes increases and blue decreases). The freshening of the trades over much of Central America is related to the rise in sea-level pressure over Mexico. The prevailing northwesterly winds along the west coast of Mexico weaken, allowing surges of moist southerly flow to penetrate into the Gulf of California. The linkage between month-to-month changes in the continental monsoon and the ITCZ appears to be stronger in the microwave sounding unit imagery and rain gauge data shown here than in the infrared imagery shown in the previous figure.