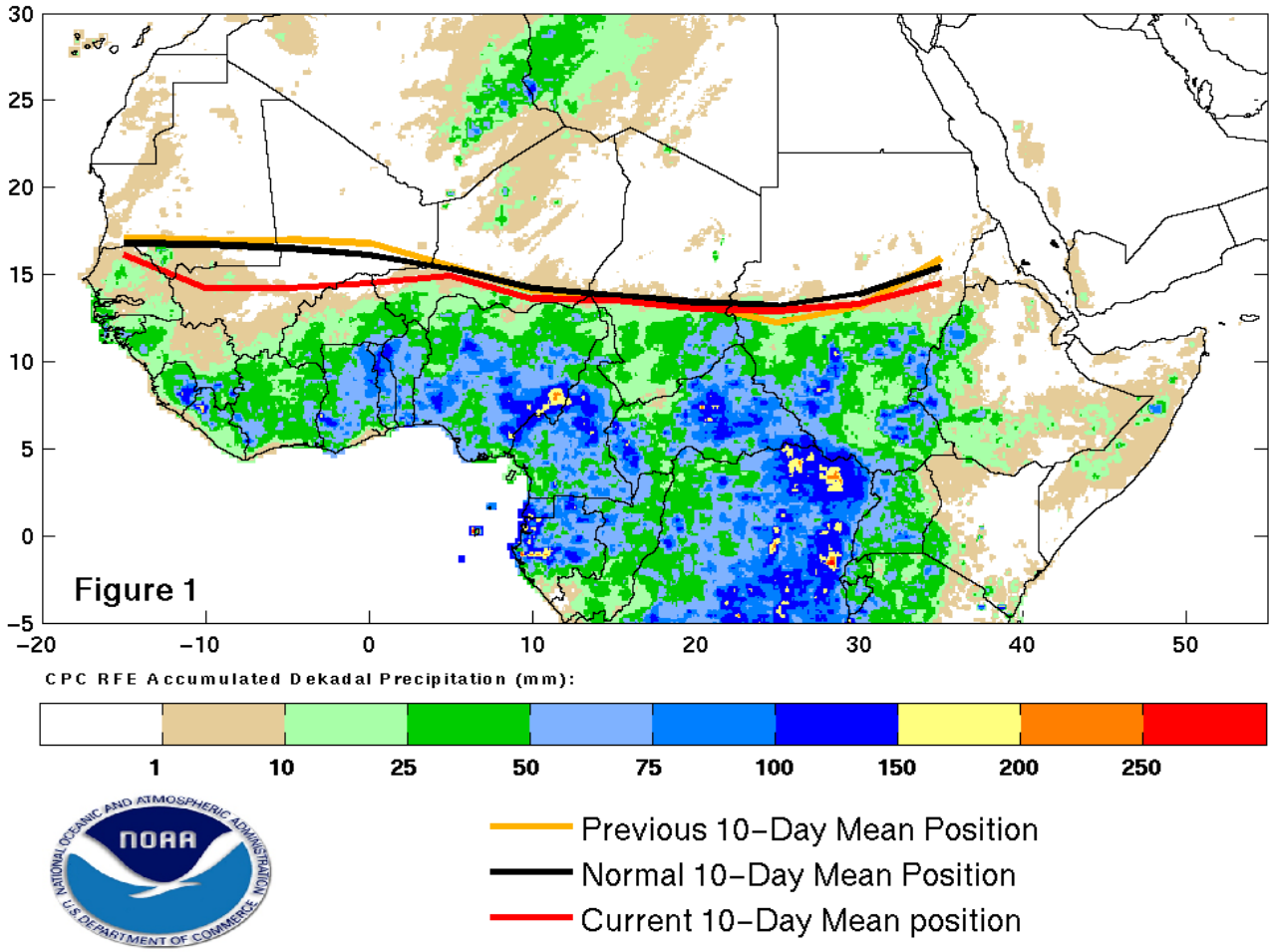
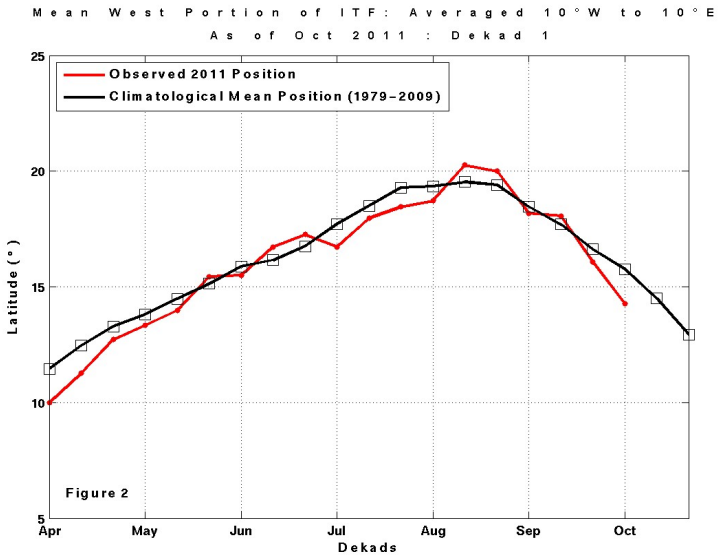
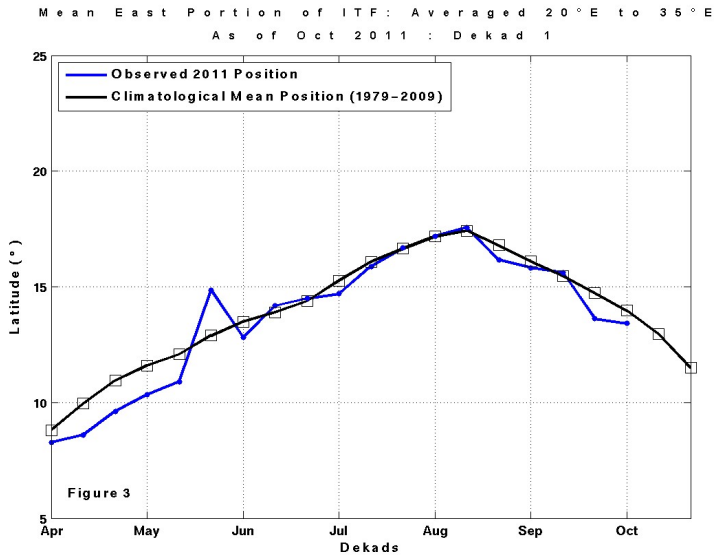
Current vs. Mean Position of the Africa ITF

Oct 2011 : Dekad 1







From October 1-10, 2011, the ITF shifted equatorward over western portions of Africa while it rebounded slightly poleward across localized eastern portions. The mean western portion of the ITF was located approximately at 14.3 degrees North, which was 1.8 degrees south of the previous dekads' position of the ITF and 1.5 degrees south of the climatology mean. Persistent and strong northerly winds helped push the ITF well south of the climatology mean during the past dekad resulting in little rainfall over western Mali and Senegal. The eastern portion of the ITF was approximated at 13.4 degrees North, which was south of the climatology mean by 0.6 degrees and south of the previous dekad's position by 0.2 degrees. While far eastern portions of the ITF continued to move south, a late increase in moist, southerly winds caused a slight northward movement of the ITF over central and western regions of Sudan. Figure 1 shows the current ITF position relative to the climatology position for the first dekad of October and its previous position during the third dekad of September. Figures 2 and 3 are time series, illustrating the latitudinal means of the western and eastern portions of the ITF, respectively, and their evolutions since the start of April.