



## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook May 19 – May 25, 2016

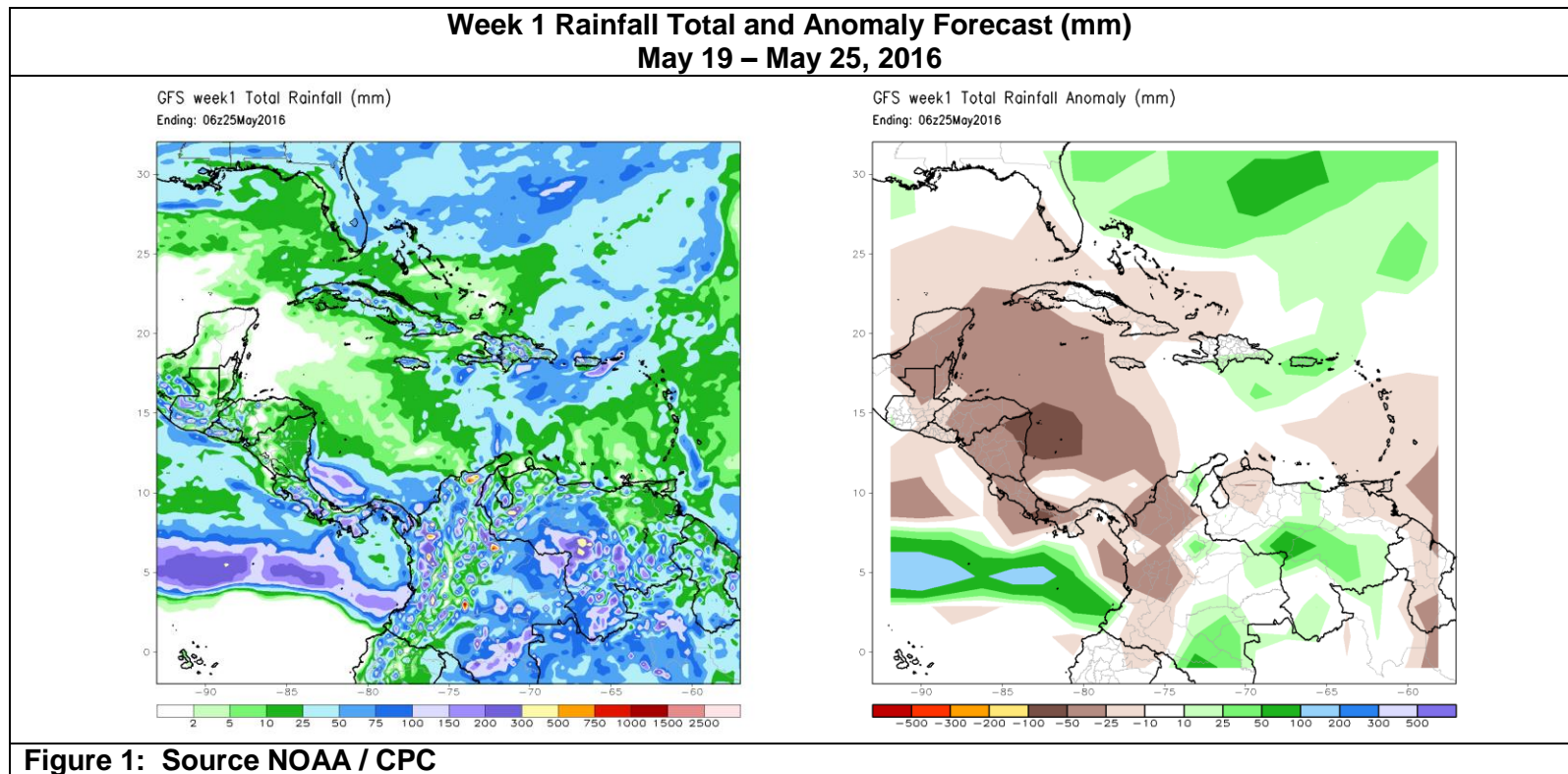
- Rains have been spotty and light across most areas of the region last week.



**After a below-average week of rainfall, moisture deficits are beginning to increase for some local areas.**

Rainfall across the region was well suppressed last week compared to climatology. Significant rainfall totals (>10mm) were limited to northern and southern Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. With the exception of large totals in southeastern Nicaragua, amounts were still below average for most of these areas, generally less than 50mm. Many areas of Nicaragua, Honduras and central Guatemala received nearly no rainfall. Rainfall performance so far this season has begun to slip below average in many areas. In areas like central Guatemala, the deficits are more acute with less 25% of average rainfall registered since the start of April. Western and southern Nicaragua stand in contrast by exhibiting rainfall surpluses in excess of 100mm. Seasonal moisture deficits are beginning to have an effect on ground conditions for some areas as evidenced by satellite estimated vegetation health indices. Poor and worsening values are now being observed in the Petén, Izabal and Alta Verapaz departments of Guatemala, as well as parts of eastern Nicaragua. These are areas that bear the closest monitoring for abnormal dryness in subsequent weeks.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models suggest that increased rain is expected for some areas. The greatest precipitation totals are forecasted for southern Guatemala, El Salvador, and extreme western Honduras. Elsewhere, precipitation is expected to be widespread but remain light to moderate and less than expected according to climatology.



**Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC**