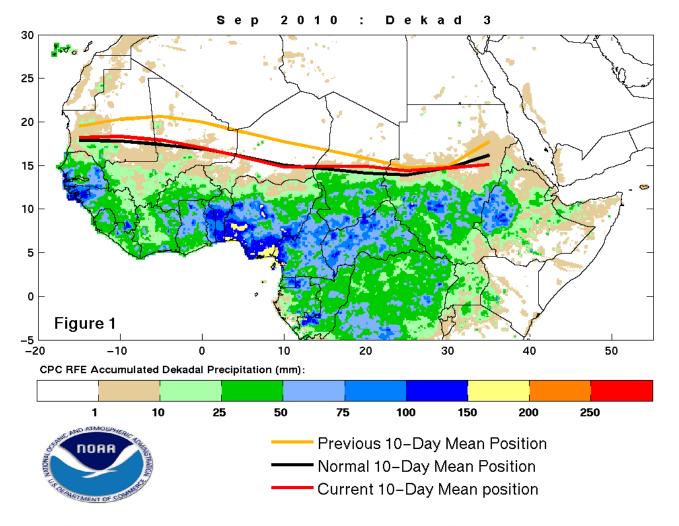
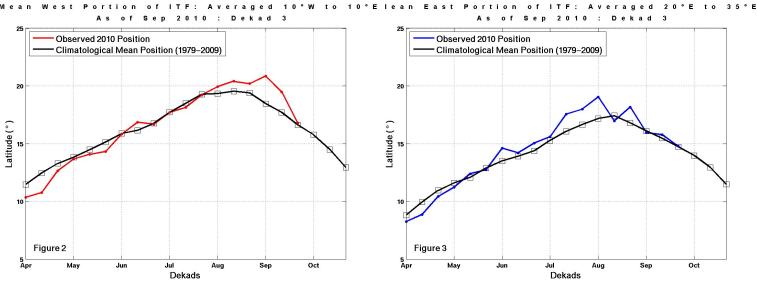
Current vs. Mean Position of the Africa ITF





From September 21-30, 2010, the ITF experienced a southward shift towards the normal climatological position over many parts of West Africa. The mean western portion of the ITF was approximated at 16.8N, which represented a sharp southward departure from the second dekad of September. After several dekads of an anomalously northward position of the ITF, the third dekad of September saw the ITF's position fall more in line with climatology. The southward placement of the ITF during the third dekad of September can be attributed to weaker southerly winds across much of West Africa. The mean eastern portion of the ITF was approximated at 14.8N, which continues the seasonal southward progression of the ITF over eastern Africa and remains near the climatological average position for late September. The above map (Figure 1) shows the current ITF position relative to the positions of climatology for the third dekad of September, and its previous position during the second dekad of September. Figures 2 and 3 are time series illustrating the mean latitudinal values of the western and eastern portion of the ITF, respectively, and their observed progressions since April, 2010.