# Using soundings to trace the trade wind inversion height across the tropical oceans

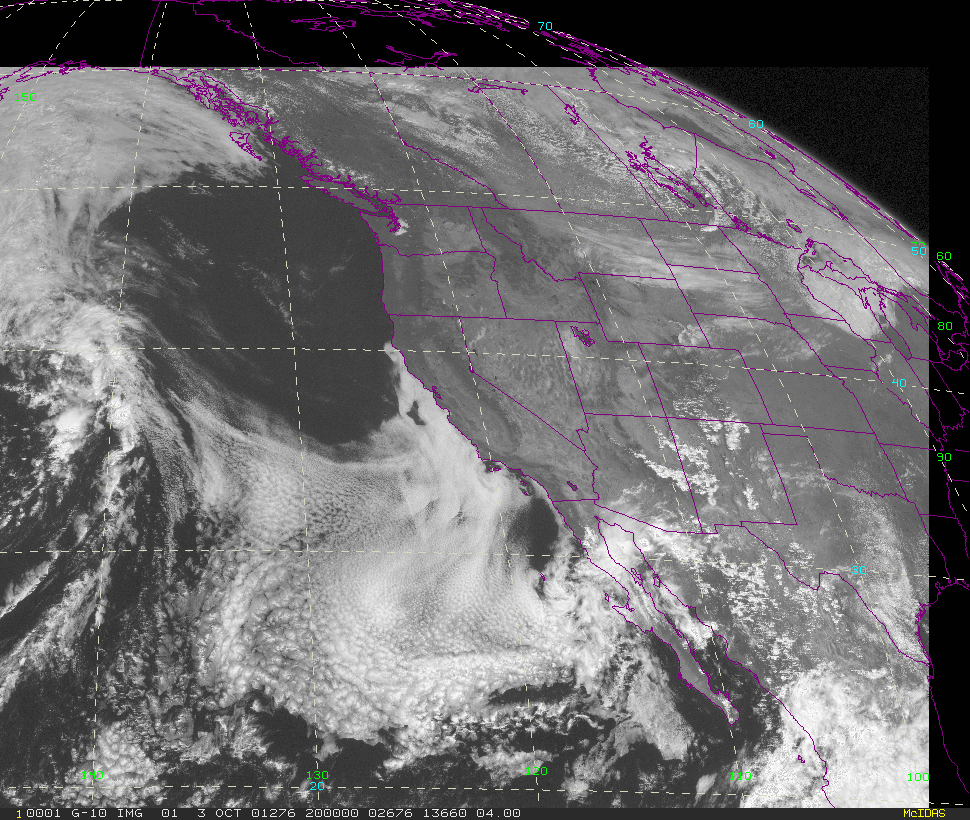
In support of Unit 1 Topics:

6. General Circulation of the Tropics

8. Spatial and temporal climatology of tropical circulation features

## Bonus critical thinking questions and answers

1.



Note the large area of clouds west of southern California and the Baja peninsula.

How high would you expect the tops of these clouds to reach?

* 1. Middle troposphere
  2. Lower troposphere
  3. Upper troposphere

Answer: b

Feedback

This region in the eastern tropical Pacific under the influence of the Pacific Subtropical High and subsidence dominates. This means that the trade wind inversion will be low and the cloud layer will be shallow. This is confirmed when we examine the corresponding IR image and see that the cloud layer has warm cloud tops. Note the grey of the marine cloud deck compared with the bright white of the other clouds in the image.

