

JAN.
2015

International Research Institute for Climate and Society

CLIMATE BRIEFING



What you need to know.

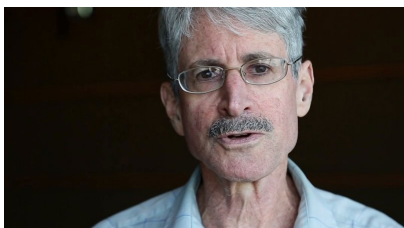
From late October until early January, tropical Pacific SSTs exceeded thresholds for a weak El Niño. However, not all of the expected atmospheric manifestations appeared. More complete participation of the atmosphere is required to achieve the coupling needed for a lasting El Niño. Notably missing is a greater-than-normal amount of cloudiness and rainfall near the international dateline along the equator, required for El Niño to exert its climate impacts outside of the tropics. Although the SST has decreased somewhat during the last week, a more comprehensive, complete El Niño development is still possible through at least February.

A new set of model runs indicates the probability for El Niño at 60–65% for the Jan–March season in progress, remaining just over 50% through the late spring season (lower chart on right). These probabilities are slightly higher than those of the official ENSO forecast issued January 8, which used both models and human judgement.

A majority of models forecast weak event strength, and we think that SST anomalies are unlikely to exceed those already seen during November and December 2014.

Tony's Take*

IRI Chief Climate Forecaster Anthony Barnston gives a video rundown of the climate briefing in under two minutes. Feel free to embed!

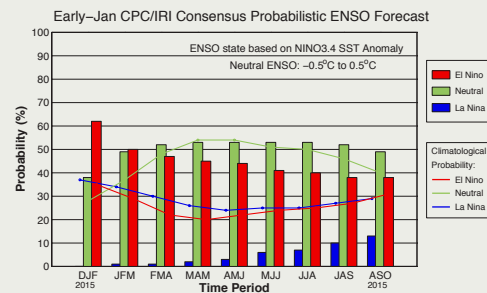


Link: <https://vimeo.com/116823205>

*Video usually posted by 3 pm on the day of the briefing.

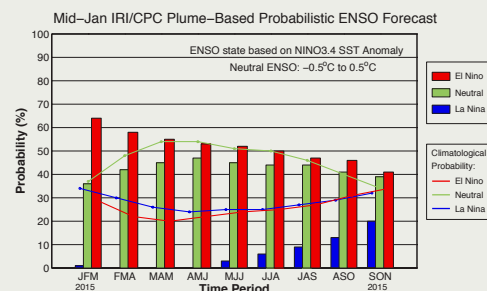
This month's key graphic.

Current Official ENSO forecast (issued January 8)



NOAA's Climate Prediction Center and IRI jointly produce this monthly forecast every first Thursday. It stands as the official consensus forecast for ENSO.

Updated ENSO forecast (mid-January)



IRI and CPC issue an updated model-based ENSO forecast on the third Thursday of each month.

Additional Resources.

Powerpoint of this month's briefing:

iri.columbia.edu/~tonyb/fctbriefingJan15.ppt

All of IRI's Forecasts:

iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/

IRI's ENSO Map Room:

iridl.ideo.columbia.edu/maproom/ENSO/

Email media@iri.columbia.edu to sign up for this bulletin

ENSO questions? Tweet @climatesociety w/ #ENSOQandA