

FEB.
2015

International Research Institute for Climate and Society

CLIMATE BRIEFING



What you need to know.

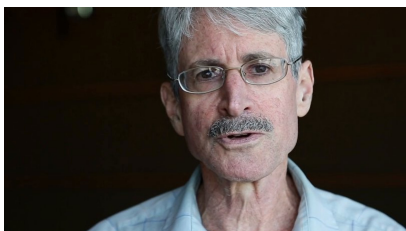
From late October through mid-February, tropical Pacific SSTs have exceeded thresholds for a weak El Niño condition. However, not all of the expected atmospheric manifestations have appeared. Notably weak has been a greater-than-normal amount of cloudiness and rainfall near the international dateline along the equator, required for El Niño to exert its climate impacts outside of the tropics. In the last few weeks, such cloudiness conditions have finally appeared to some extent. However, considering seasonal constraints, this almost-El Niño is unlikely to consolidate further in the coming few months.

A new set of model runs indicates the probability for El Niño at 45–50% for the February–April season in progress, remaining just below 50% through spring season (lower chart on right). These probabilities are slightly lower than those of the official ENSO forecast issued February 5, which used both models and human judgement.

A slight majority of models suggests El Niño restrengthening again by early summer. However, due to considerable uncertainty of forecasts at this time of year, we do not have high confidence in these forecasts at this time.

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!

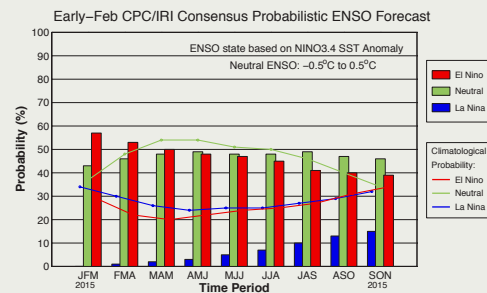


Link: <https://vimeo.com/116823205>

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

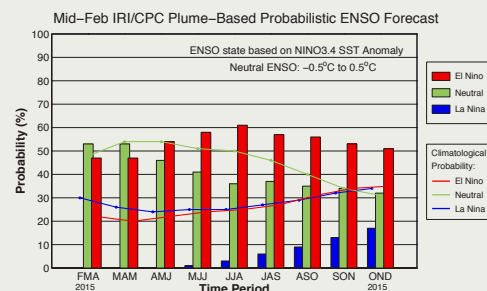
This month's key graphic.

Current Official ENSO forecast (issued February 5)



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-February)



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/fctbriefingFeb15.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