

MARCH 2015

International Research Institute for Climate and Society

CLIMATE BRIEFING



What you need to know.

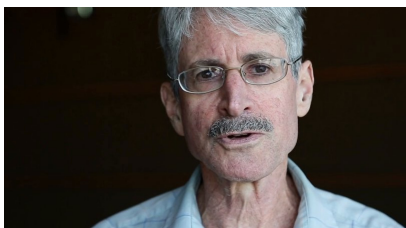
From late Oct. through mid-March, tropical Pacific SSTs have met or exceeded thresholds for a weak El Niño condition. However, until late Feb., many of the expected atmospheric manifestations hadn't appeared. But during the last month, a significant weakening of the trade winds and some eastward migration of above-average cloudiness and rainfall toward the international dateline along the equator mean that the atmosphere is now partially showing an El Niño-like pattern.

A new set of model runs indicates the probability for El Niño at 55-60% for the March-May season in progress, rising to 70% by early summer (lower chart on right). These probabilities are slightly higher than those of the official ENSO forecast issued March 5, which used both models and human judgement.

Although a majority of models suggests El Niño strengthening somewhat from its present weak level by early summer, due to considerable uncertainty of forecasts at this time of year we do not currently have high confidence in these forecasts.

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!

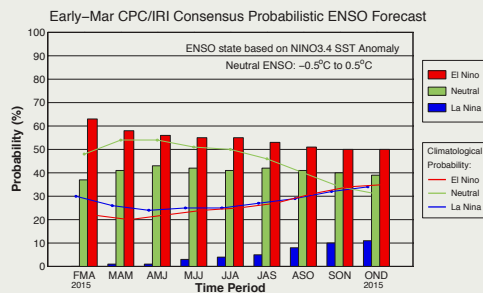


Link: <https://vimeo.com/122603246>

*Video usually posted by 5 pm on the day of the briefing.

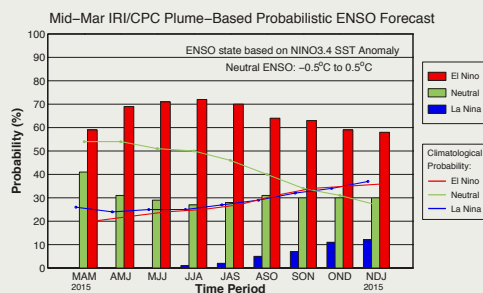
This month's key graphic.

Current Official ENSO forecast (issued March 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-March)



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/fctbriefingMar15.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