

MAY  
2015

International Research Institute for Climate and Society

# CLIMATE BRIEFING



## What you need to know.

**Beginning in late Feb.**, both oceanic and atmospheric conditions in the tropical Pacific met thresholds required for El Niño, including a warmed sea-surface temperature, significant weakening of trade winds and establishment of above-average cloudiness and rainfall straddling the international dateline along the equator. Currently, both ocean and atmosphere are exhibiting a weak to moderate El Niño.

**A new set of model runs indicates probability for El Niño greater than 90%** from the May–July season in progress through the July–Sept. season, and at least 80% through end of 2015 (lower chart on right). These probabilities are approximately the same as those of the official ENSO forecast issued May 14, which used both models and human judgement.

**Although a majority of models suggests further strengthening of El Niño** during summer, we cannot be confident about forecasts for El Niño's peak strength due to continued uncertainty of forecasts made at this time of year.

## 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!

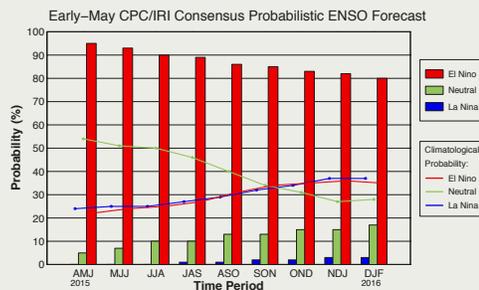


Link: <https://vimeo.com/125074930>

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

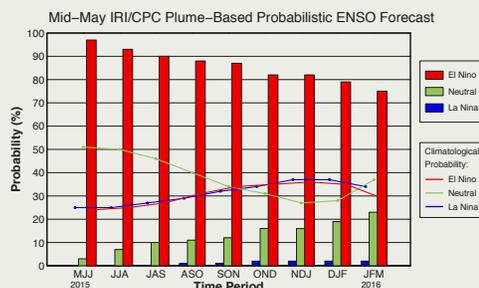
## This month's key graphic.

### Current Official ENSO forecast (issued May 14)



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

### Updated ENSO forecast (May 21)



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/fctbriefingMay15.ppt](http://iri.columbia.edu/~tonyb/fctbriefingMay15.ppt)

### All of IRI's Forecasts:

[iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/](http://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/)

### IRI's ENSO Map Room:

[iridl.ideo.columbia.edu/maproom/ENSO/](http://iridl.ideo.columbia.edu/maproom/ENSO/)

Email [media@iri.columbia.edu](mailto:media@iri.columbia.edu) to sign up for this bulletin

**ENSO questions?** Tweet @climatesociety w/ #ENSOQandA