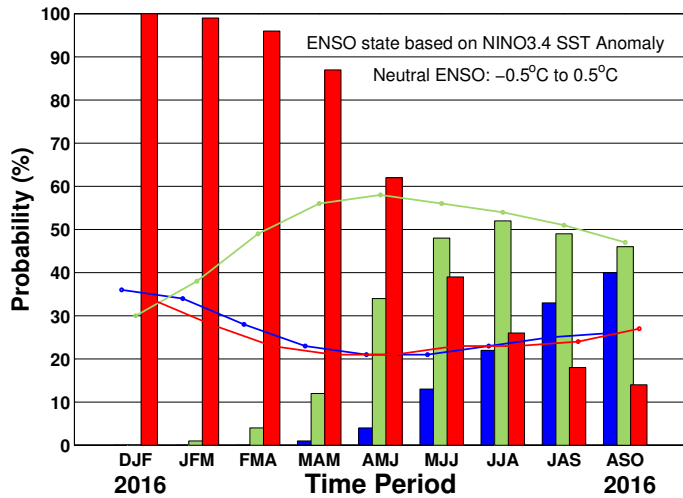


# ENSO QUICK LOOK January 21, 2016

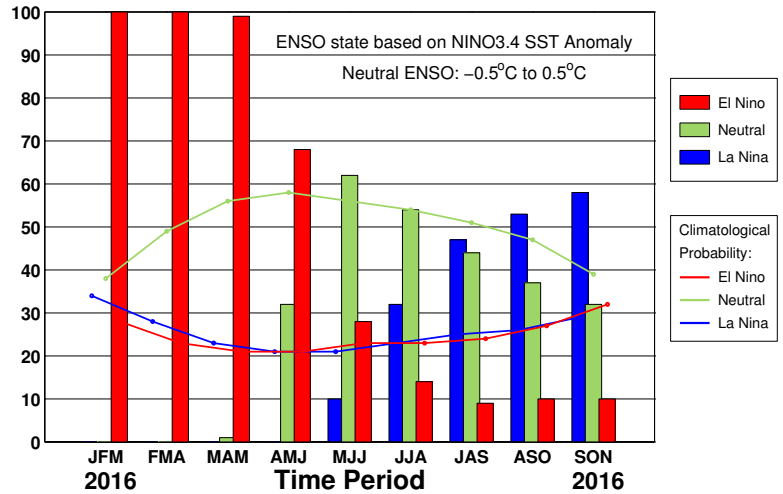
A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or “ENSO”, based on NINO3.4 index (120-170W, 5S-5N)

During mid-January 2015 the tropical Pacific SST was at a strong El Niño level, having peaked in November and December. All atmospheric variables strongly support the El Niño pattern, including weakened trade winds and excess rainfall in the east-central tropical Pacific. The consensus of ENSO prediction models indicate continuation of strong El Niño conditions during the January-March 2016 season in progress. The beginning of a gradual weakening of the SST anomaly is underway, with the event dissipating to neutral conditions by late spring or early summer 2016.

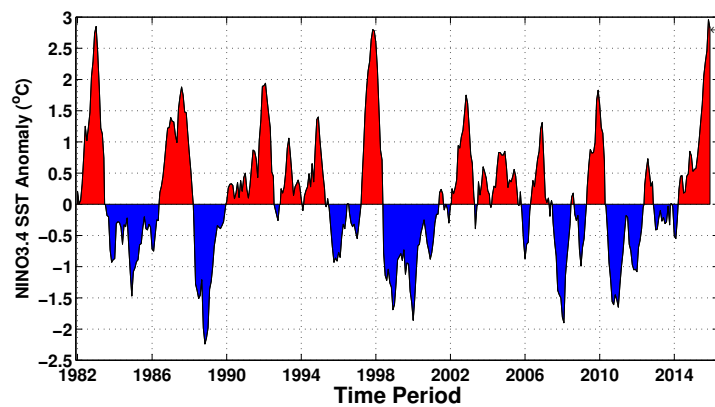
Early-Jan CPC/IRI Consensus Forecast<sup>1</sup>



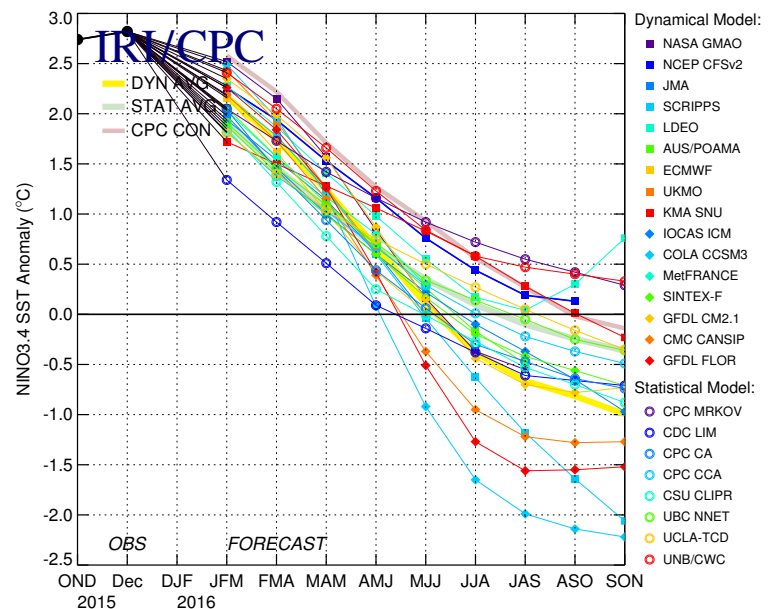
Mid-Jan IRI/CPC Plume-Based Forecast<sup>2</sup>



Historical NINO3.4 SST Anomaly



Mid-Jan 2016 Plume of Model ENSO Predictions



## Historically Speaking

- El Niño and La Niña events tend to develop during the period Apr-Jun and they:*
- Tend to reach their maximum strength during Dec-Feb
  - Typically persist for 9-12 months, though occasionally persisting for up to 2 years
  - Typically recur every 2 to 7 years

<sup>1</sup>Based on a consensus of CPC and IRI forecasters, in association with the official CPC/IRI ENSO Diagnostic Discussion.

<sup>2</sup>Plume-based forecast based on ensemble mean of all weighted model predictions from the plume.