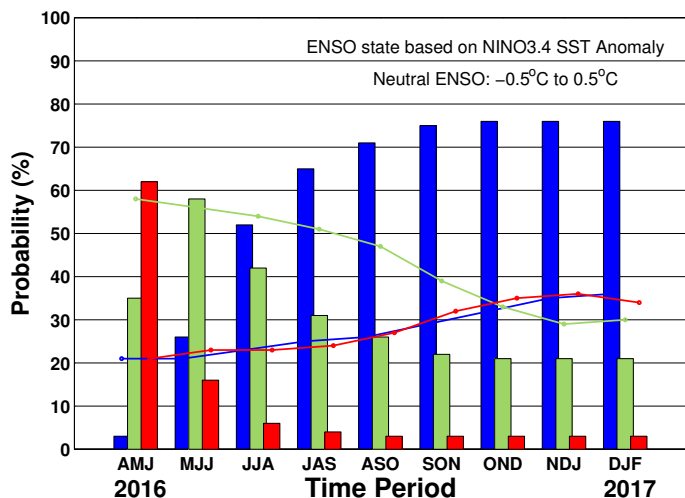


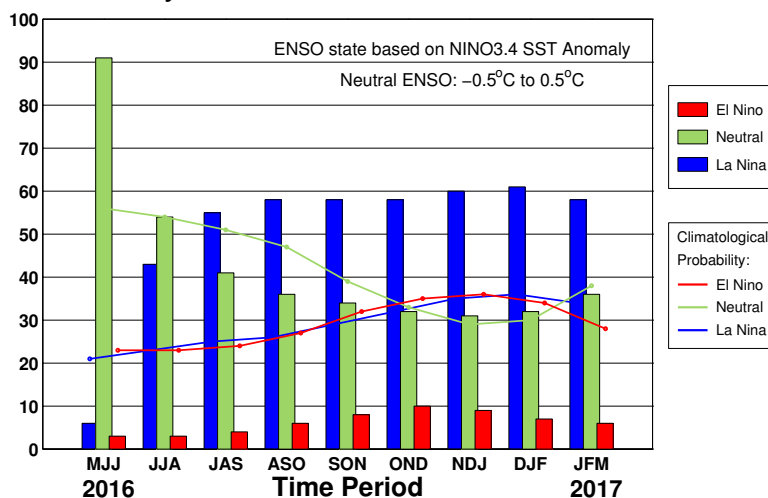
ENSO QUICK LOOK May 19, 2016 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or “ENSO”, based on NINO3.4 index (120-170W, 5S-5N)

During mid-May 2016 the positive tropical Pacific SST anomaly was quickly weakening, now indicating only a weak El Niño. The atmospheric variables continue to support the El Niño pattern, but at much reduced strength. This includes only a mildly weakened Walker circulation and excess rainfall in the central tropical Pacific, failing to extend eastward as it did in previous months. Most ENSO prediction models indicate a return to neutral by the end of May, with likely development of La Niña (of unknown strength) by fall.

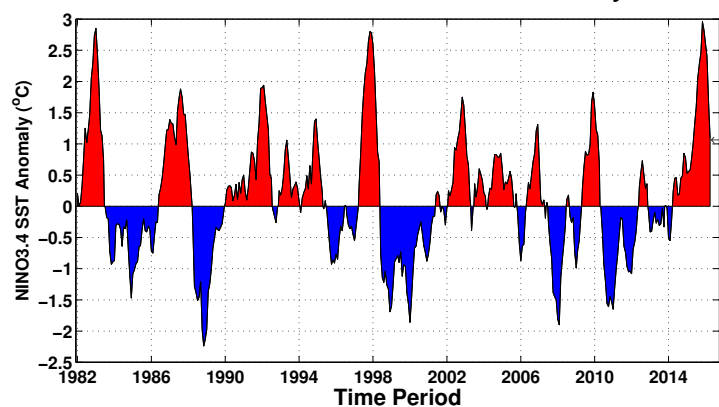
Early-May CPC/IRI Official Forecast¹



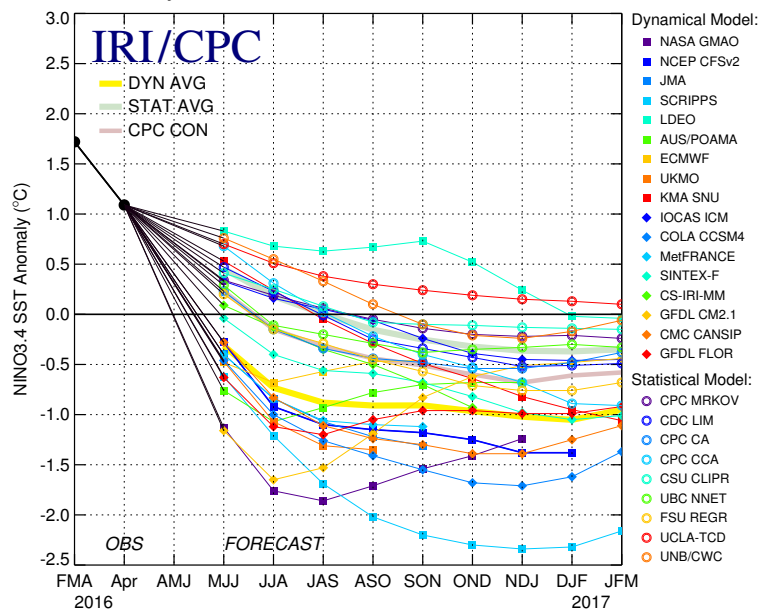
Mid-May IRI/CPC Model-Based Forecast²



Historical NINO3.4 SST Anomaly



Mid-May 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

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

²Dynamical model-based ensemble mean, as well as weighted model medians from the plume.