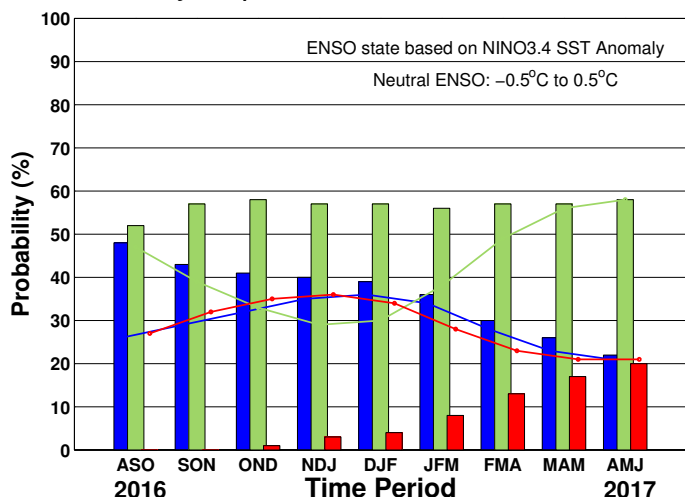


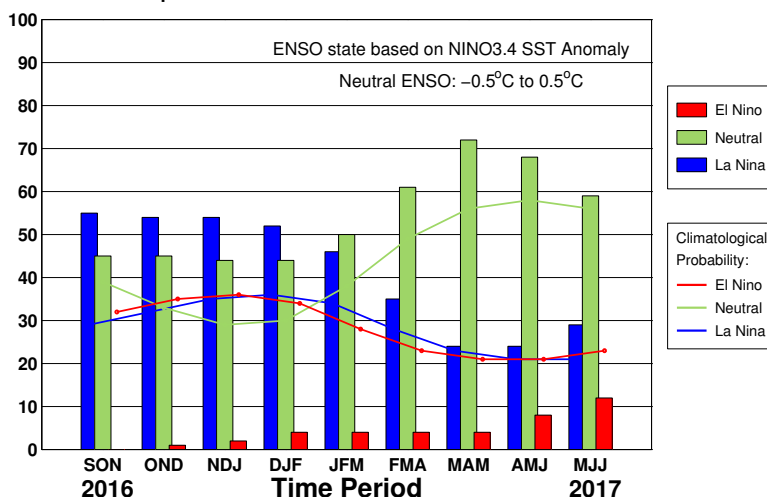
# ENSO QUICK LOOK Sep 15, 2016 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or “ENSO”, based on NINO3.4 index (120-170W, 5S-5N)

During mid-September 2016 the tropical Pacific SST anomaly was close to  $-0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the weak La Niña threshold. However, not all of the atmospheric variables support weak La Niña conditions. Although the upper level winds in the tropical Pacific are somewhat suggestive of La Niña, the lower level winds remain near average. The Southern Oscillation index and the pattern of cloudiness and rainfall in the equatorial Pacific are somewhat suggestive of weak La Niña conditions, but could also be interpreted as being in the cool-neutral range. The collection of ENSO prediction models indicates SSTs hovering at levels near the borderline of La Niña during fall, then weakening to cool-neutral in late fall and into winter.

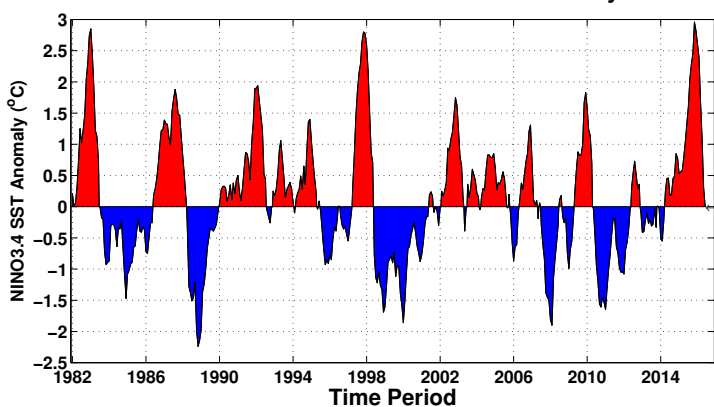
Early-Sep CPC/IRI Official Forecast<sup>1</sup>



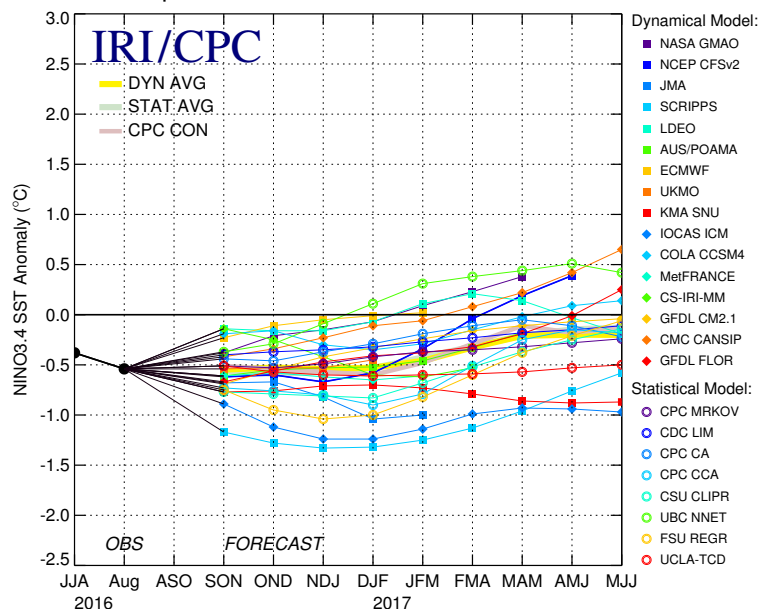
Mid-Sep IRI/CPC Model-Based Forecast<sup>2</sup>



Historical NINO3.4 SST Anomaly



Mid-Sep 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