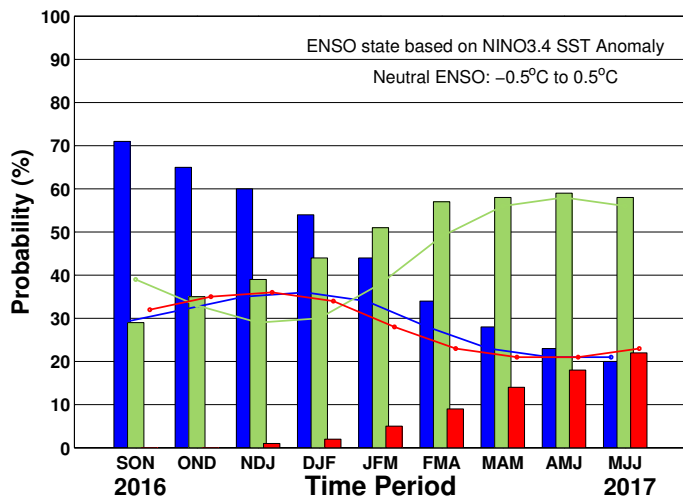


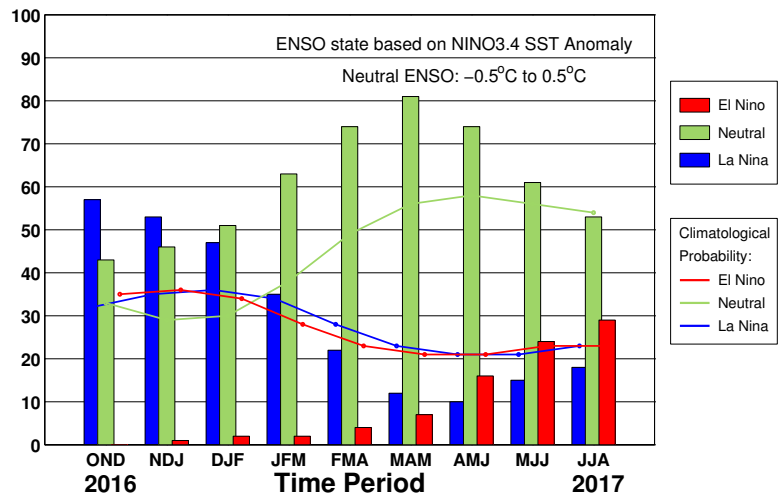
# ENSO QUICK LOOK Oct 20, 2016 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or “ENSO”, based on NINO3.4 index (120-170W, 5S-5N)

During mid-October 2016 the tropical Pacific SST anomaly was slightly stronger than  $-0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the threshold for weak La Niña. However, not all of the atmospheric variables across the tropical Pacific have been supporting weak La Niña conditions for a sufficient duration to constitute good ocean-atmosphere coupling. Although the upper level winds suggest weak La Niña, the lower level trade winds only became stronger than average only in mid-September. The Southern Oscillation index and the pattern of cloudiness and rainfall do indicate weak La Niña conditions. The lack of enhanced trade winds until recently makes us hesitate to say La Niña has really begun, so our diagnosis remains ENSO-neutral. The collection of ENSO prediction models indicates SSTs near or slightly cooler than the threshold of La Niña during fall, then weakening to cool-neutral during winter.

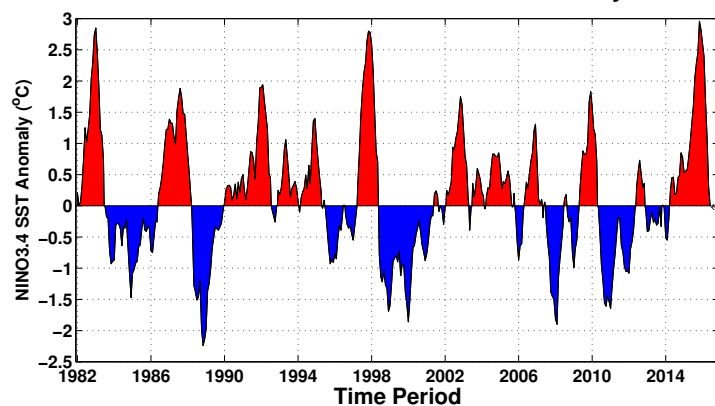
Early-Oct CPC/IRI Official Forecast<sup>1</sup>



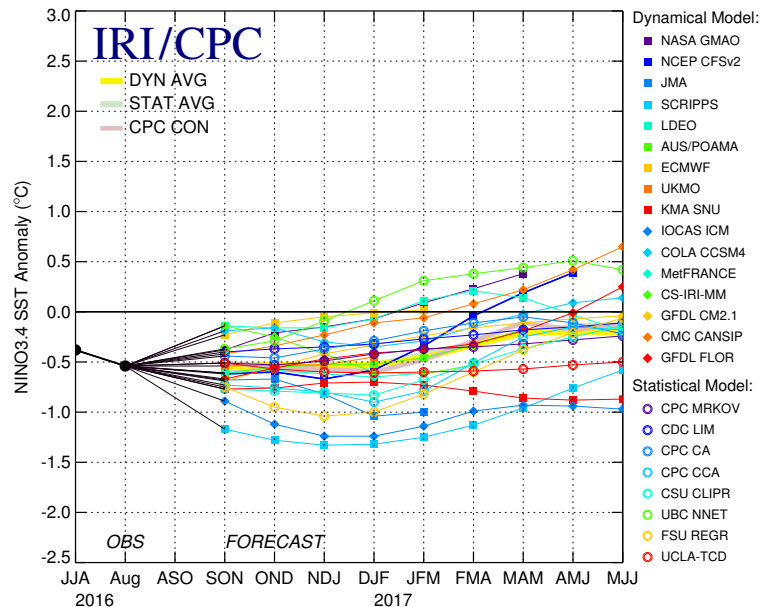
Mid-Oct IRI/CPC Model-Based Forecast<sup>2</sup>



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