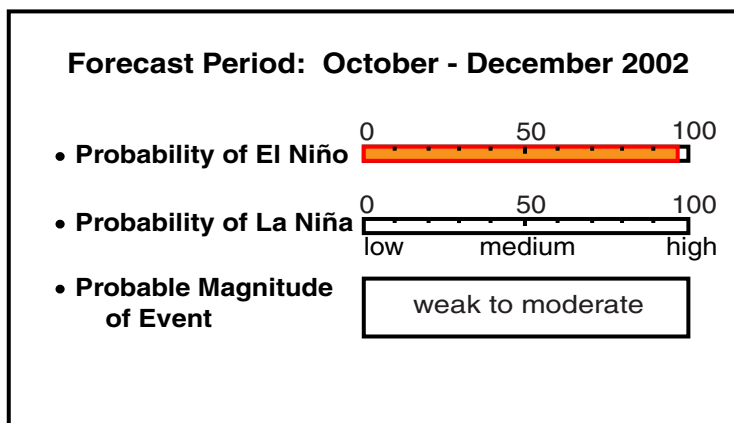


ENSO QUICK LOOK August 16, 2002

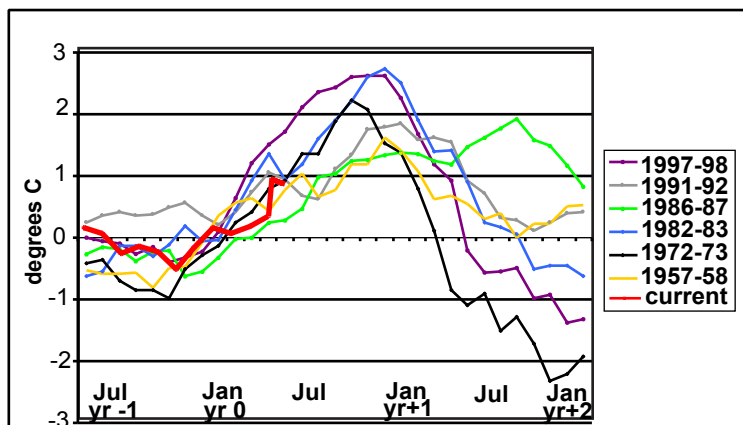
A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation , or "ENSO"

There is greater than a 95% probability that current conditions represent the early stage of an El Niño event that will persist through the remainder of 2002 and into early 2003. The most likely strength of this El Niño will be weak to moderate, which is significantly less than the 1997-98 event. The associated climate effects are generally expected to be weaker than those associated with the 1997-98 El Niño but may nonetheless be substantial in some areas.

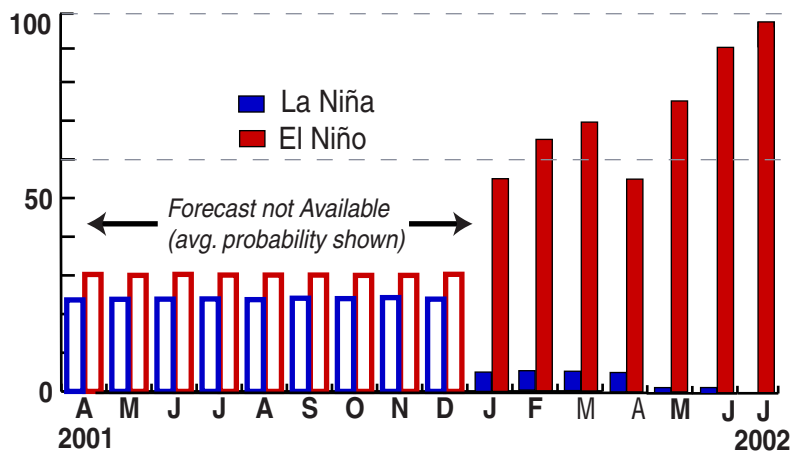
Current ENSO Forecast Summary *



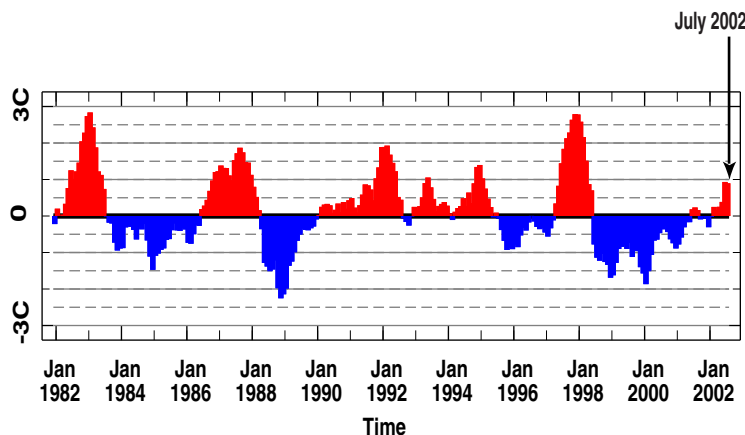
Current Conditions vs. Past El Niño**



ENSO Probabilities over the past year



Historical Sea Surface Temperature Index**



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*

* Probability of an El Niño refers to the likelihood of a sustained (that is, over several seasons) warming across a broad region of the eastern and central tropical Pacific, not just along coastal South America.

** Based on sea surface temperature departures from the long-term average over the "NINO 3.4" region (120-170W, 5S-5N).