

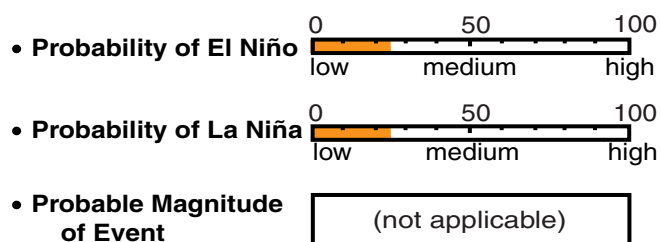
ENSO QUICK LOOK April 17, 2003

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

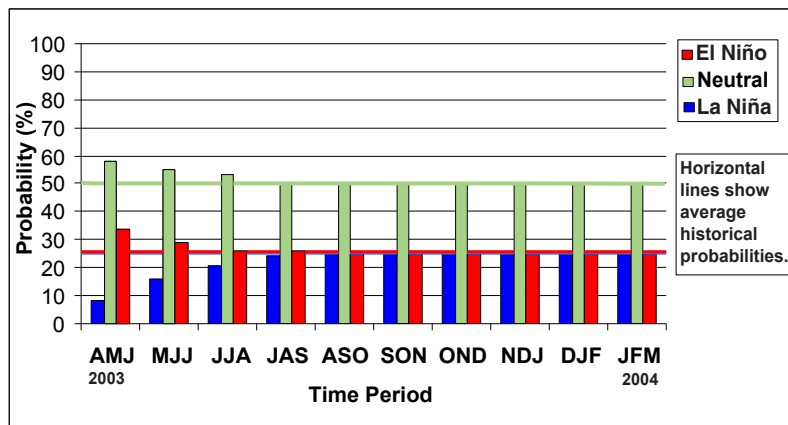
The El Niño of 2002-03 has now nearly dissipated to neutral conditions, and the remaining slightly warmer than normal sea surface temperatures are likely to decrease further during the mid-April to June period. The outlook beyond June 2003 is more uncertain. Based on the behavior of past El Niño events and current model forecasts, it is most likely that conditions will be near- neutral during the second half of 2003. Through the end of May, lingering climate effects associated with the nearly dissipated El Niño are expected to be weak.

Current ENSO Forecast Summary *

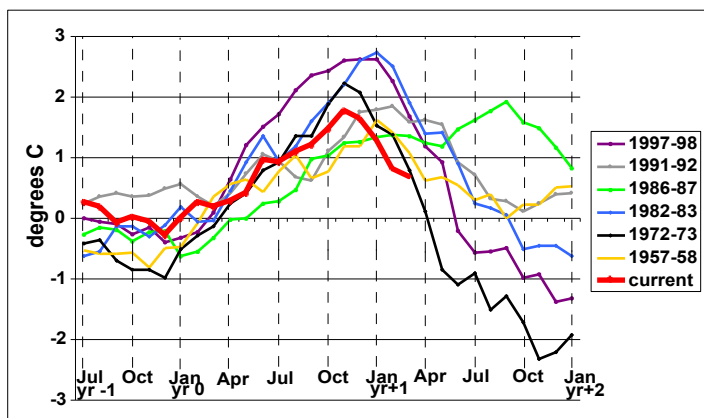
Forecast Period: August 2003 - October 2003



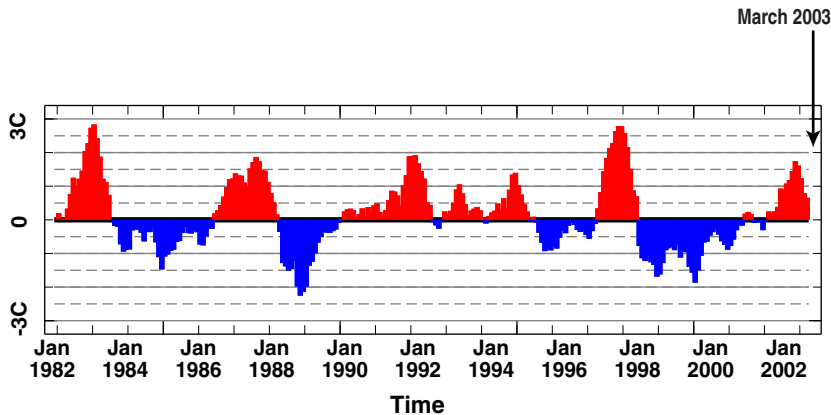
IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast for NINO3.4 Region **



Current Conditions vs. Past El Niño**



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).