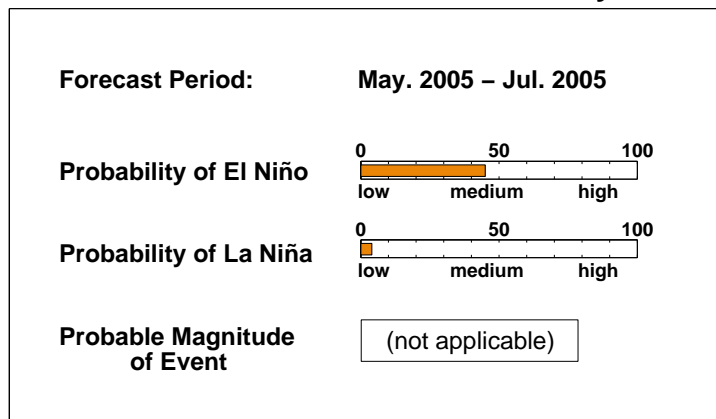


# ENSO QUICK LOOK January 20, 2005

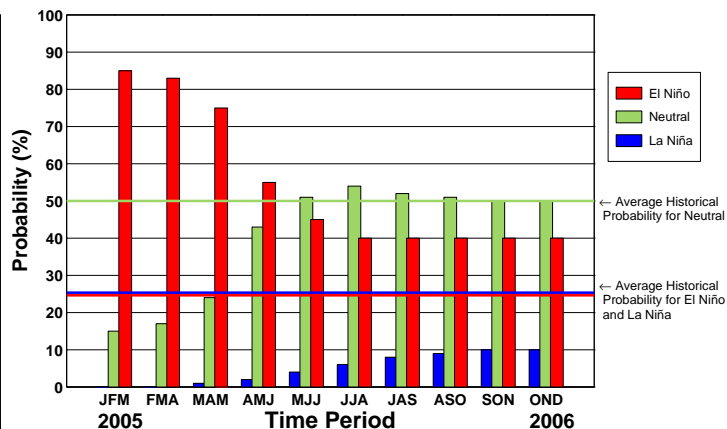
A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

Sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific are currently indicative of weak El Niño conditions, although some of the expected associated atmospheric conditions have not yet materialized. Based on the latest observations and forecasts, it is 85 percent likely that weak El Niño conditions will prevail through at least March 2005.

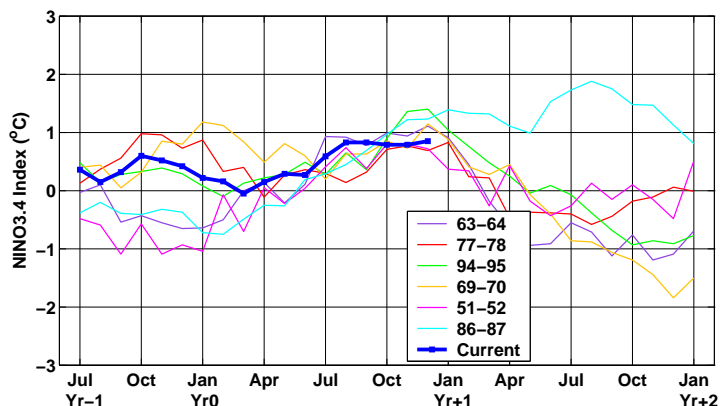
## Current ENSO Forecast Summary<sup>1</sup>



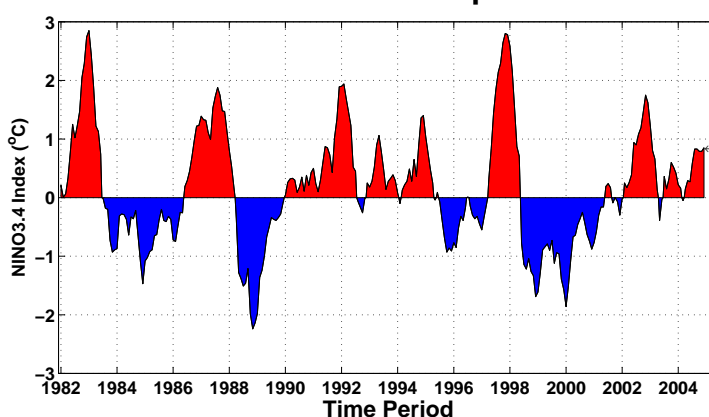
## IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast<sup>2</sup>



## Current Condition vs. Similar Conditions<sup>2</sup>



## Historical Sea Surface Temperature Index<sup>2</sup>



## 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

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>Based on sea surface temperature departures from the long-term average over the "NINO3.4" region (120-170W, 5S-5N).