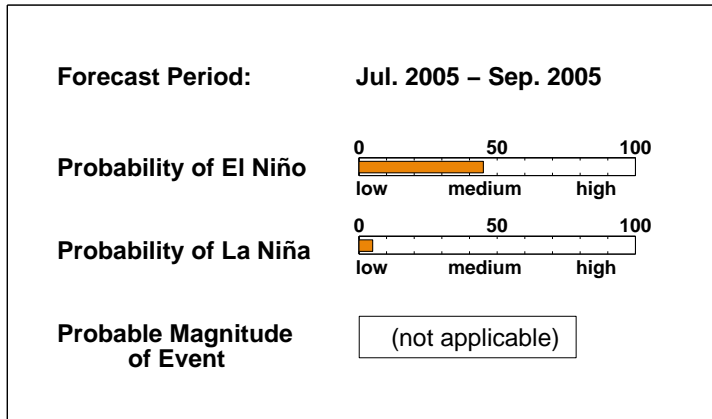


# ENSO QUICK LOOK March 16, 2005

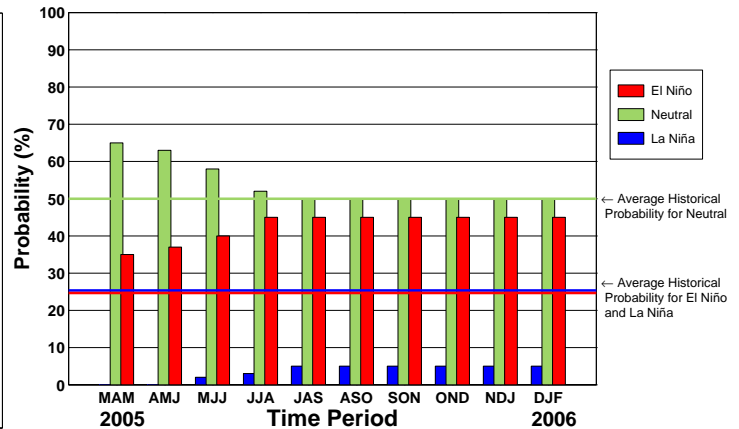
A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

Sea surface temperatures in the east-central equatorial Pacific have returned to near-normal or ENSO-neutral conditions, although they remain above-average throughout much of the equatorial Pacific. Based on the latest observations and forecasts, it is 65 percent likely that neutral conditions will prevail over the Mar-Apr-May 2005 season.

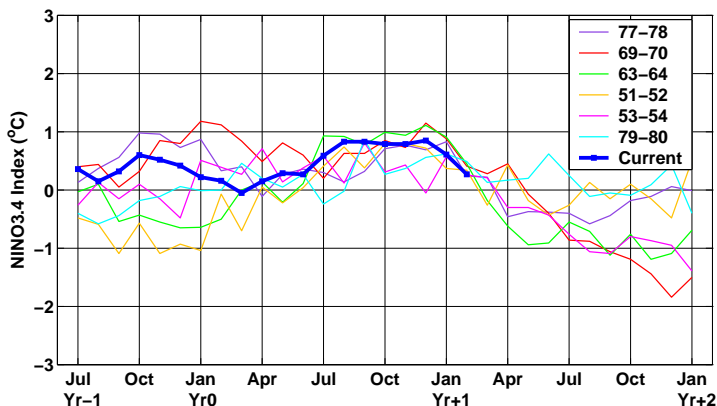
## Current ENSO Forecast Summary<sup>1</sup>



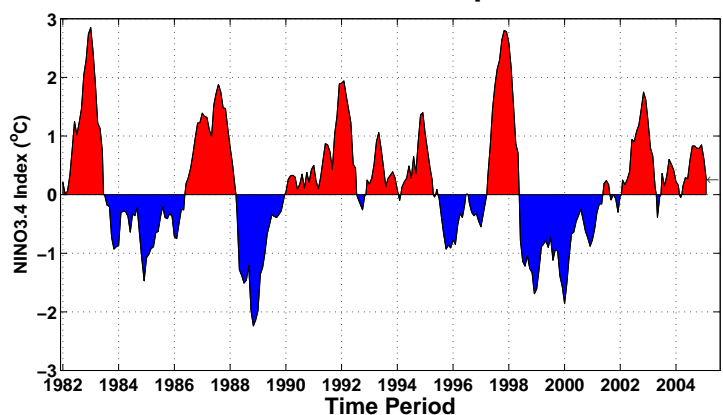
## IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast<sup>2</sup>



## 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).