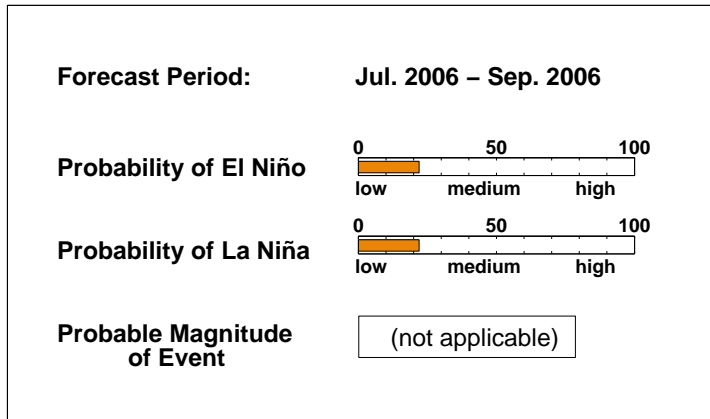


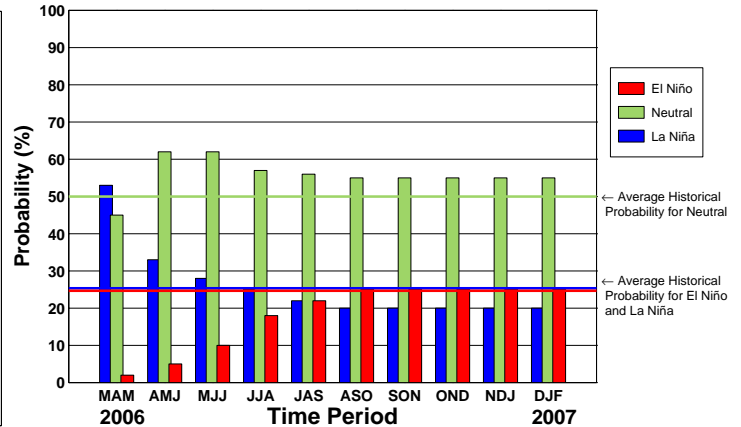
ENSO QUICK LOOK March 15, 2006 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

La Niña conditions persist. As of mid-March sea surface temperatures are approximately 1.0C below average across much of the central-eastern equatorial Pacific. Based on the latest observations and forecasts, the probability of La Niña conditions continuing through the Mar-Apr-May 2006 season is just over 50 percent.

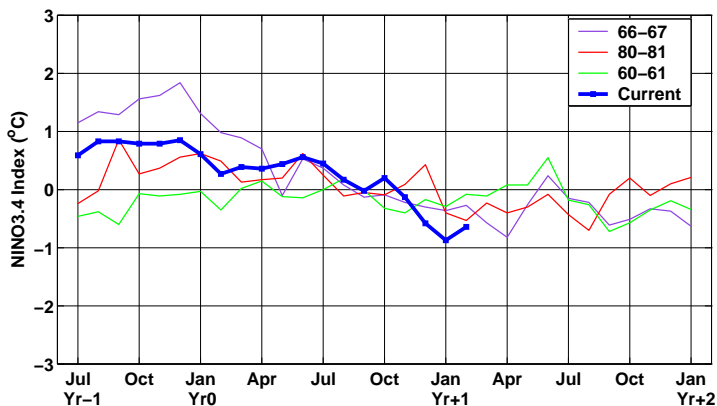
Current ENSO Forecast Summary¹



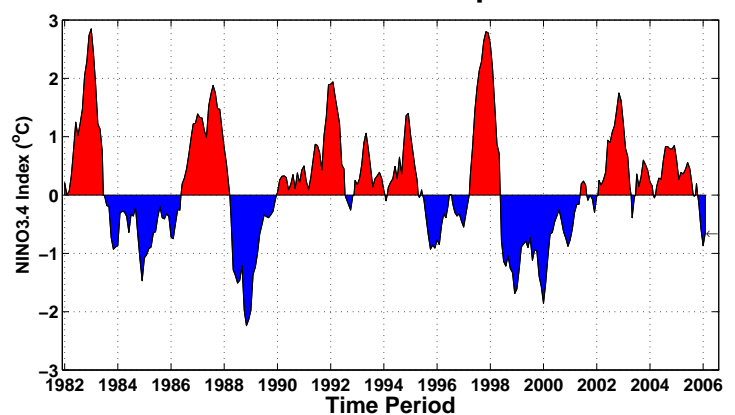
IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast²



Current Condition vs. Similar Conditions²



Historical Sea Surface Temperature Index²



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*

¹Probability 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.

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