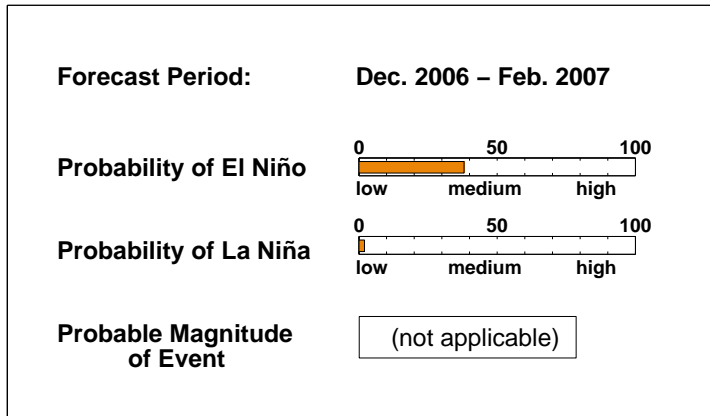


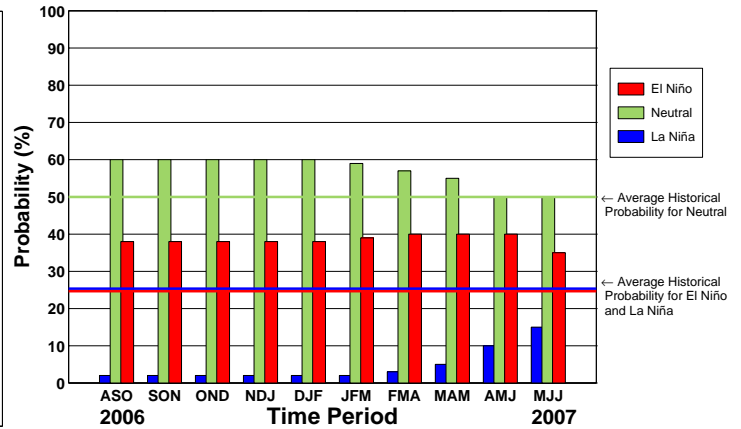
ENSO QUICK LOOK August 17, 2006 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

Neutral conditions exist in the tropical Pacific. As of mid-August sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are near 0.5C above average throughout much of the equatorial Pacific, and are approximately 1.0C above-average near the dateline. There appears to be a warming trend in the equatorial Pacific over the last couple months; however, it is still uncertain whether temperatures will warm to the level of an El Niño event in the coming seasons. Based on the latest observations and forecasts, the probability of neutral conditions continuing through the August-September-October 2006 season is approximately 60 percent.

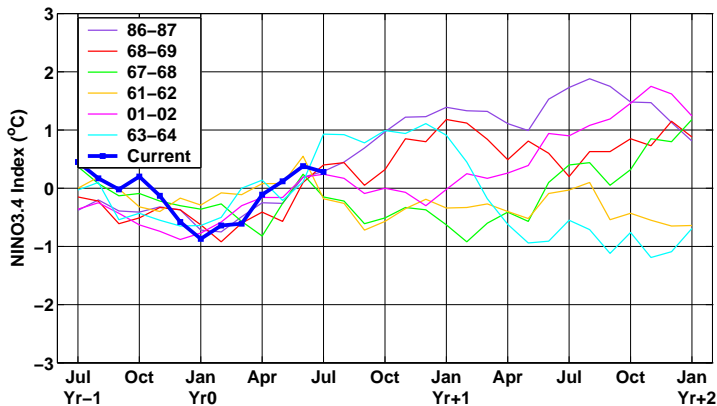
Current ENSO Forecast Summary¹



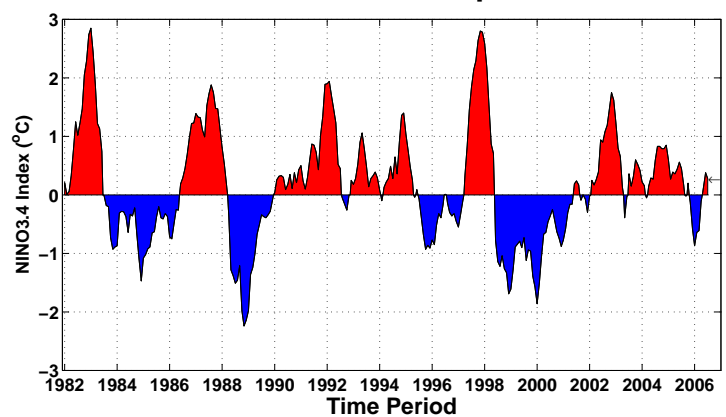
IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast²



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).