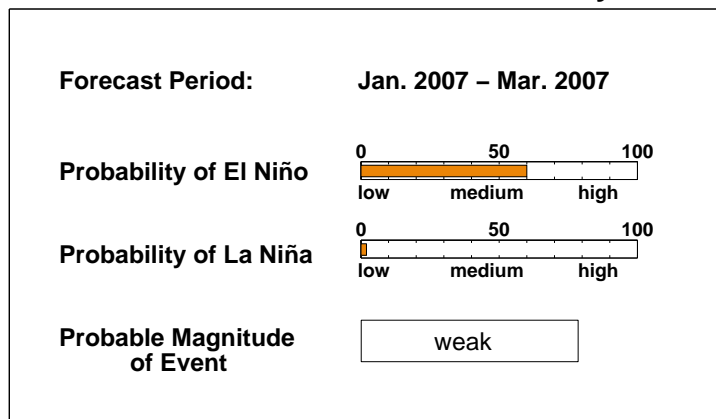


# ENSO QUICK LOOK September 20, 2006

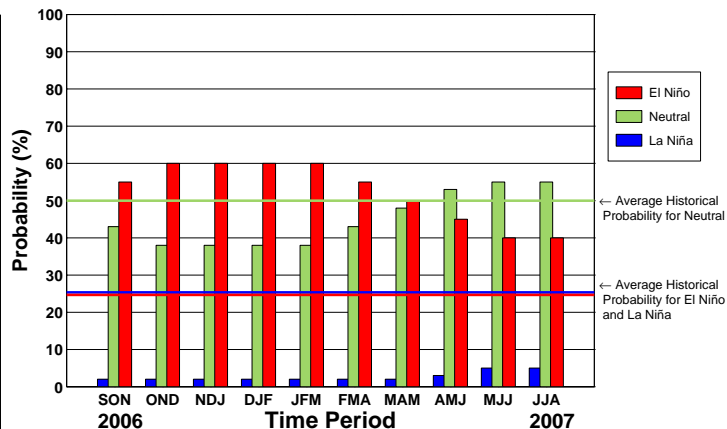
A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

Thresholds for El Niño conditions, in terms of tropical Pacific SST anomalies, have been crossed recently. As of mid-September sea surface temperatures (SSTs) exceed 0.5C above average throughout much of the equatorial Pacific, meet the IRI's threshold of 0.7C for this time of year in the eastern-central Pacific, and are more than 1.0C above-average near the dateline. Note that the actual criteria for El Niño conditions includes the provision that the anomalies, especially in the eastern-central Pacific, remain at or above these levels for at least three months – longer to be considered an El Niño event. Based on the latest observations and forecasts, the probability of developing an El Niño event during September-October-November 2006 season is approximately 55 percent.

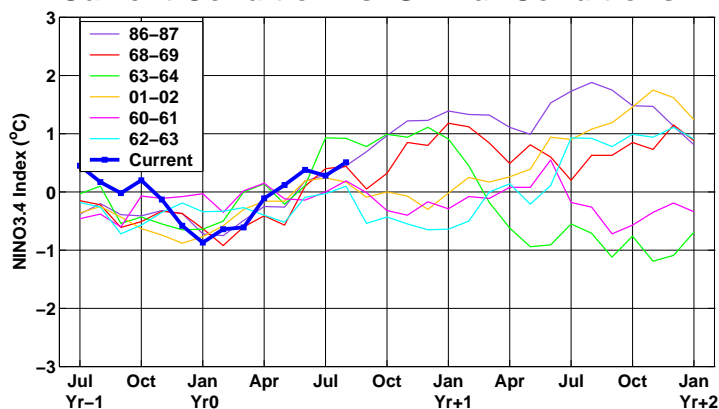
## Current ENSO Forecast Summary<sup>1</sup>



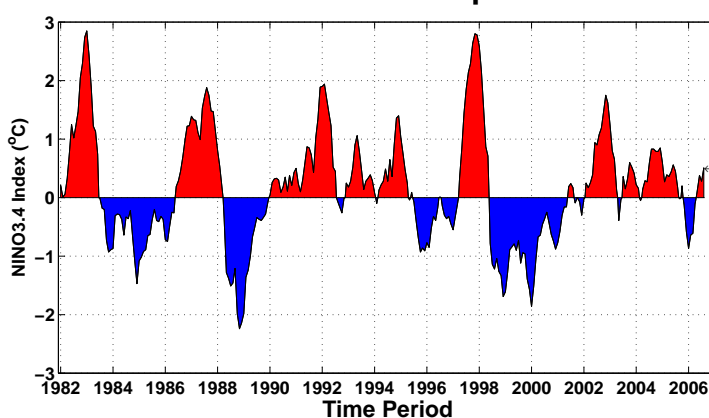
## IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast<sup>2</sup>



## 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).