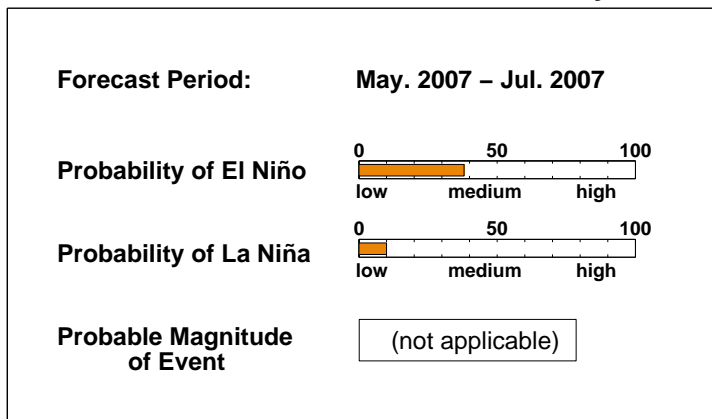


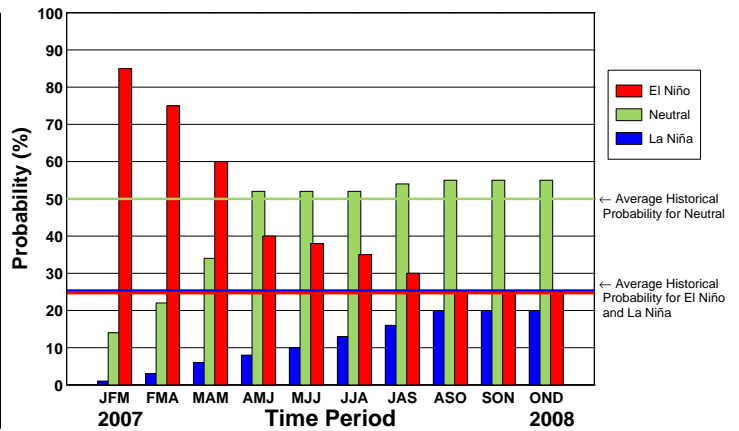
# ENSO QUICK LOOK January 16, 2006 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

As of mid-January the sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies remain 0.5C above average throughout the equatorial Pacific, and in the eastern Pacific they exceed 1.5C above average. Although warm enough to maintain El Niño designation, the equatorial SST anomalies have weakened considerably since mid-December, especially in the central Pacific. Based on the latest observations and forecasts, the probability of maintaining El Niño conditions through the January-February-March 2007 season is approximately 85 percent.

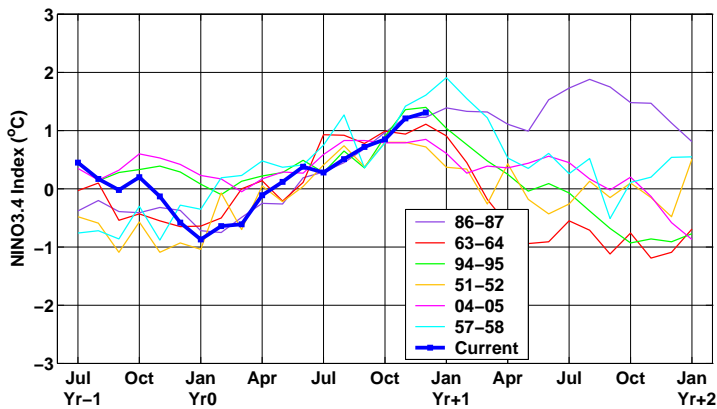
## Current ENSO Forecast Summary<sup>1</sup>



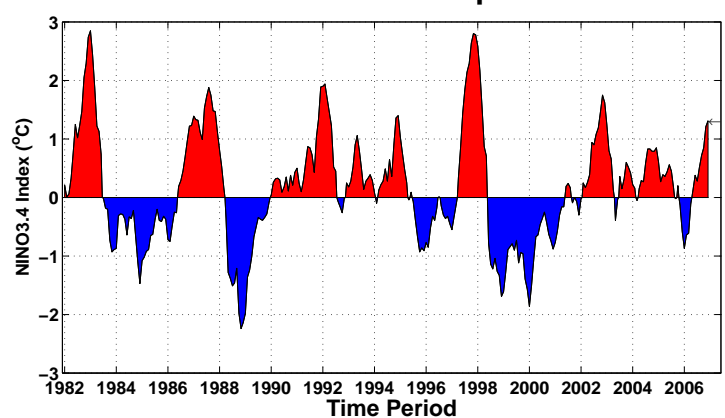
## IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast<sup>2</sup>



## 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).