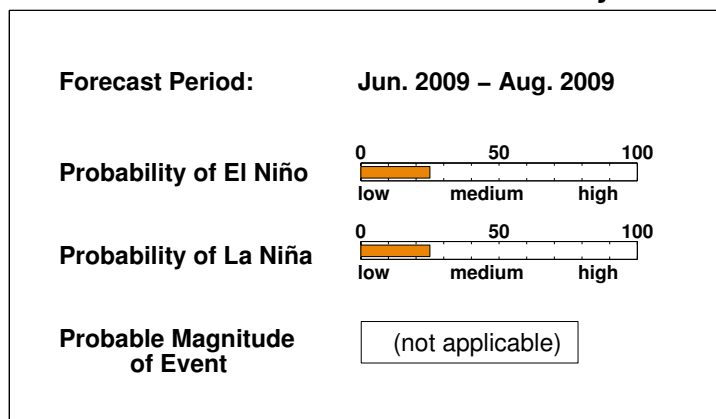


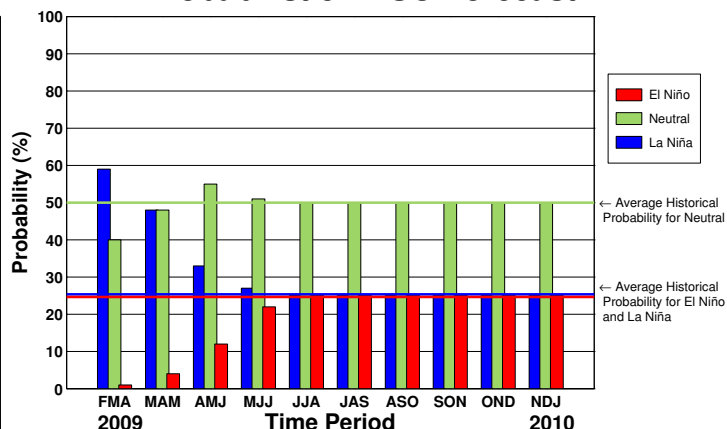
# ENSO QUICK LOOK Feb 18, 2009 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

The equatorial Pacific has exhibited weak but clear La Niña conditions since December 2008, and such conditions continue as of mid-February. There is a 55-60 percent probability of La Niña conditions persisting during the February-April season, decreasing to 30-35 percent for the April-June season as near-neutral conditions become most likely.

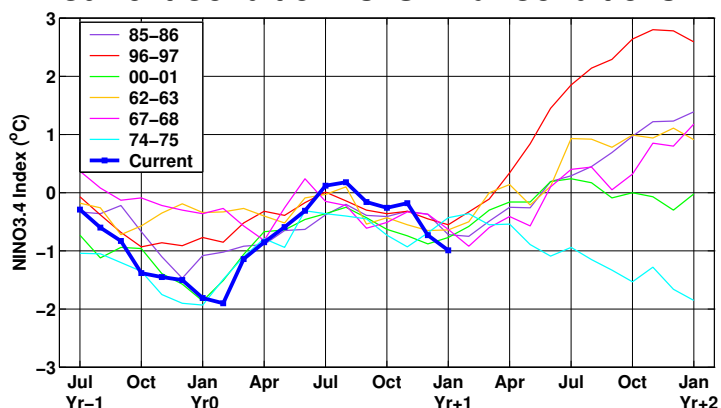
## Current ENSO Forecast Summary<sup>1</sup>



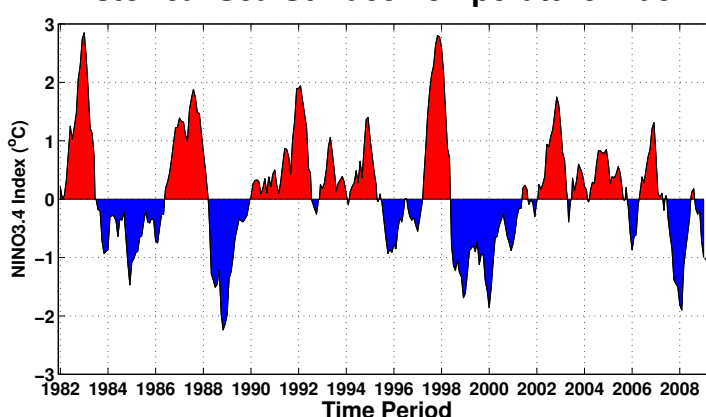
## IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast<sup>2</sup>



## 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).