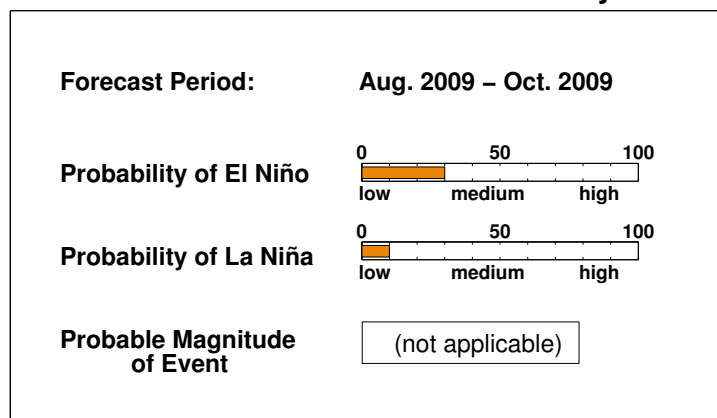


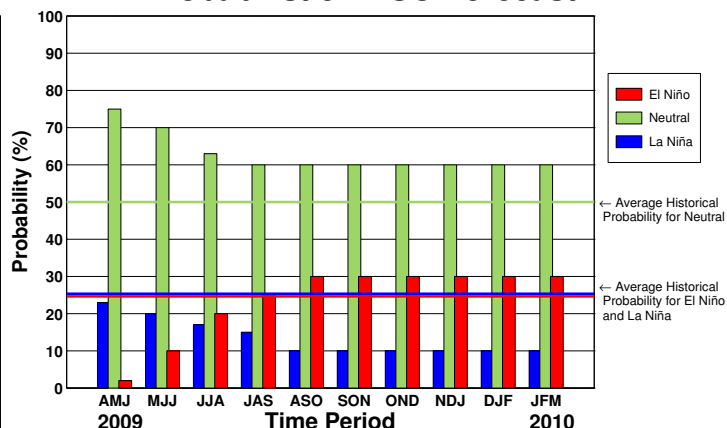
ENSO QUICK LOOK Apr 15, 2009 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

The equatorial Pacific has returned to ENSO-neutral this month, after exhibiting weak La Niña conditions since December 2008. During the Apr-Jun season there is an approximately 75 percent probability of maintaining ENSO-neutral conditions, and that is predicted to be the most likely situation through the end of 2009 and into early 2010. The likelihood of returning to La Niña conditions remains below 25 percent probability.

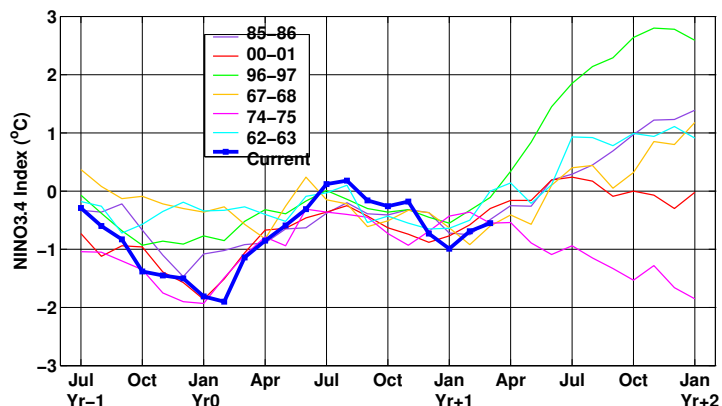
Current ENSO Forecast Summary¹



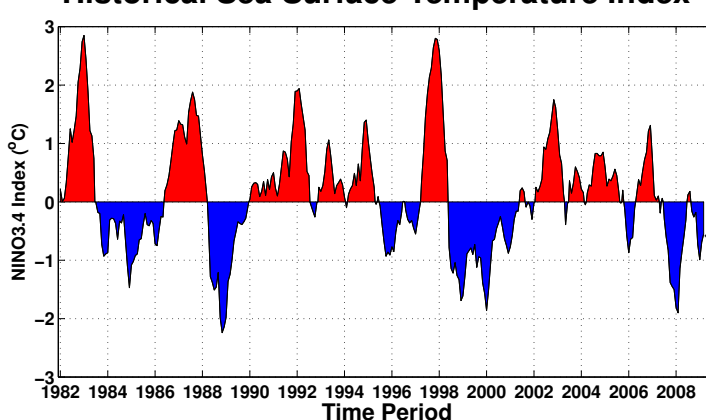
IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast²



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).