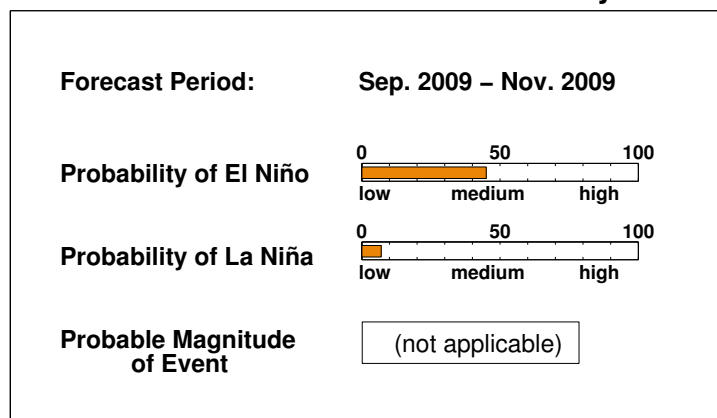


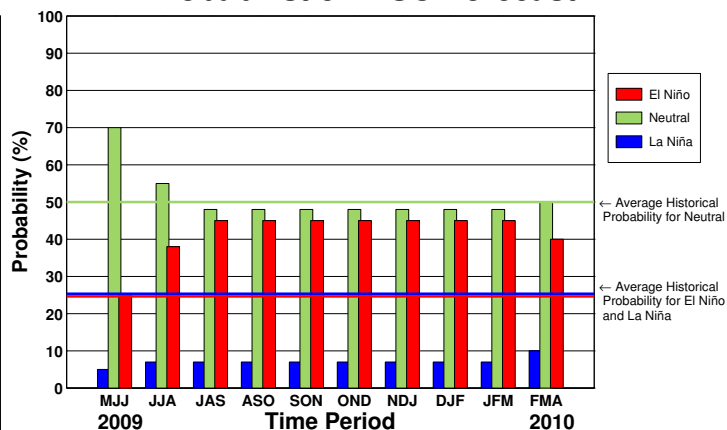
ENSO QUICK LOOK May 21, 2009 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

The equatorial Pacific has warmed to the positive half of the neutral range, after weak La Niña conditions ended early last month. During the May-Jul season there is an approximately 70 percent probability of maintaining ENSO-neutral conditions. However, by Jul-Sep season and enduring through the end of 2009, the probability for El Niño conditions rises to 45 percent, for neutral conditions decreases to 45 to 50 percent, and for a return to La Niña conditions only 5 to 10 percent.

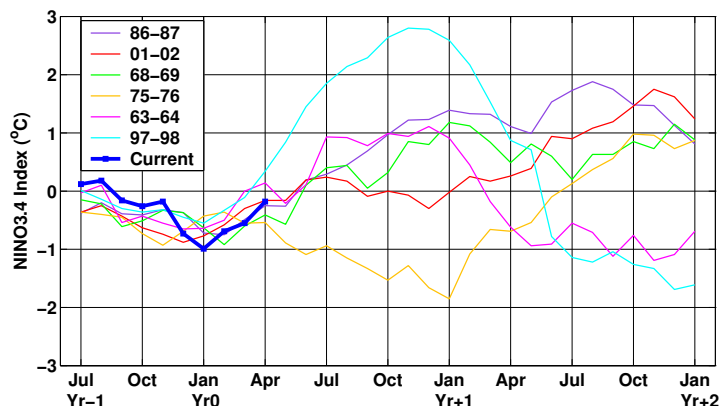
Current ENSO Forecast Summary¹



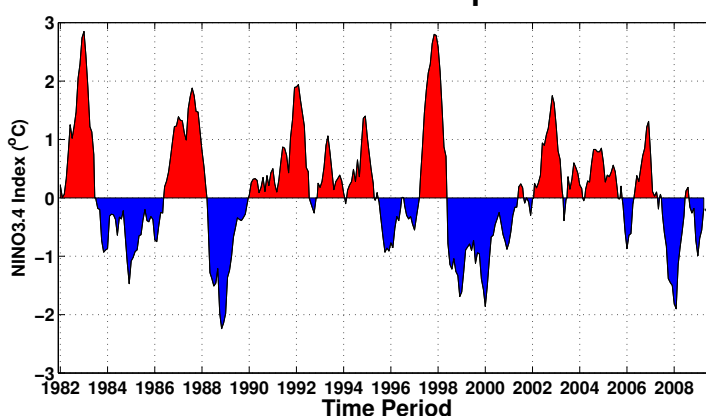
IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast²



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).