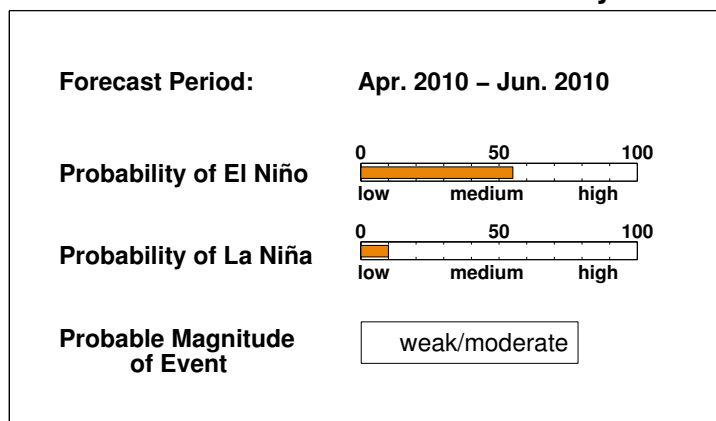


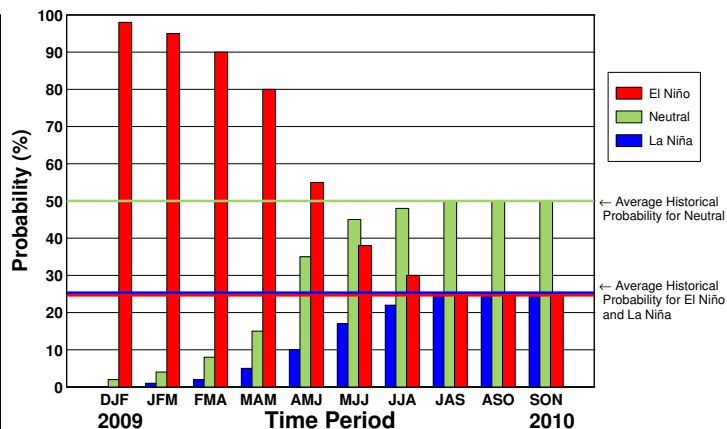
# ENSO QUICK LOOK Dec 17, 2009 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

El Niño conditions remain moderate(+) strength in the equatorial Pacific. For the Dec-Feb season in progress there is an approximately 98 percent probability of maintaining El Niño conditions. Probabilities for El Niño stay at or above 90 percent through the Feb-Apr season, decreasing to 55 percent by Apr-Jun season and to the climatological probability of 25 percent by the Jul-Sep season.

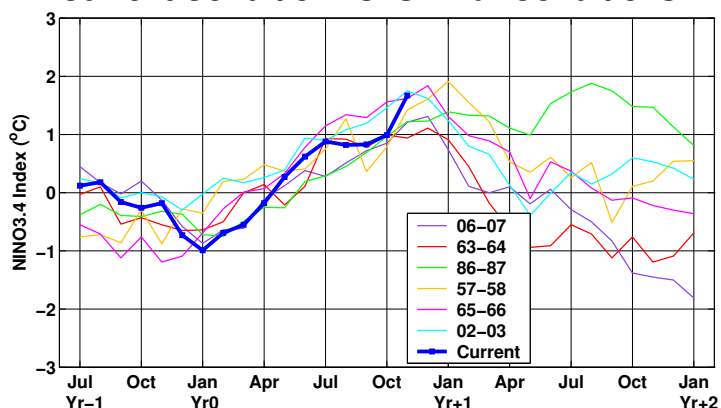
## Current ENSO Forecast Summary<sup>1</sup>



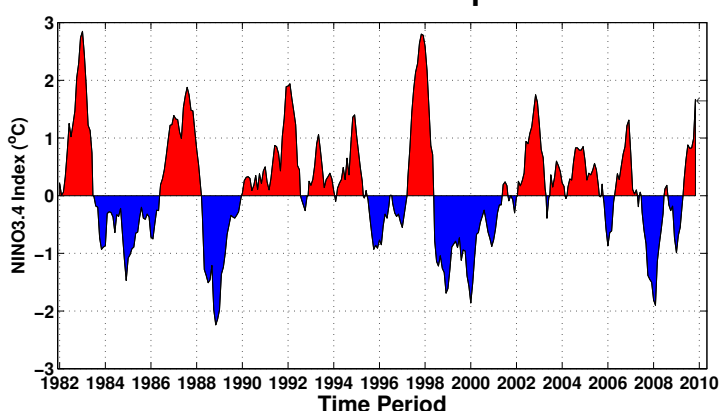
## IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast<sup>2</sup>



## 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).