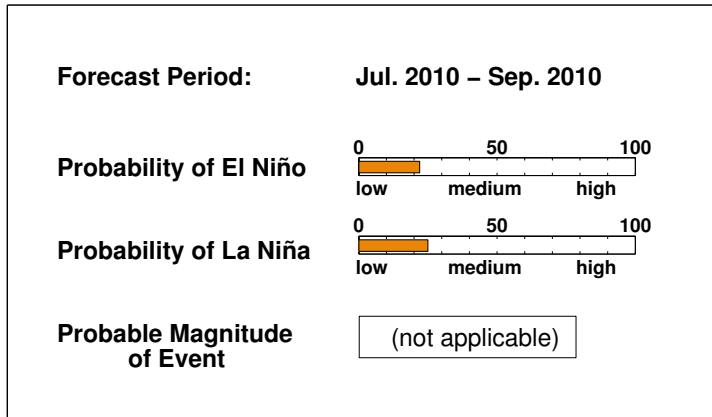


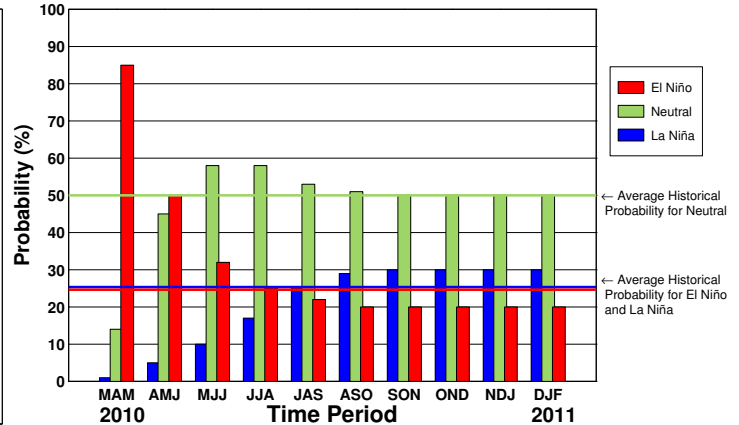
# ENSO QUICK LOOK Mar 18, 2010 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

El Niño conditions remain moderate strength in the equatorial Pacific. For the Mar-May season in progress there is an approximately 85 percent probability of maintaining El Niño conditions. Probabilities for El Niño decrease to 50 percent for the Apr-Jun season, and to 25 percent for the Jun-Aug season. During the second half of 2010, the probability for La Niña conditions rises to 30 percent, which is slightly higher than the 25 percent climatological probability.

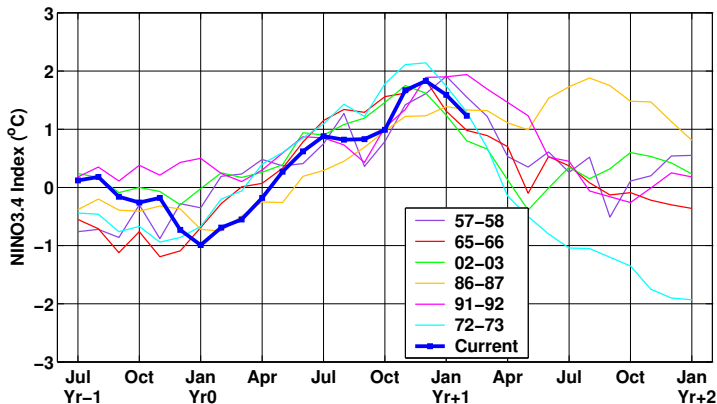
## Current ENSO Forecast Summary<sup>1</sup>



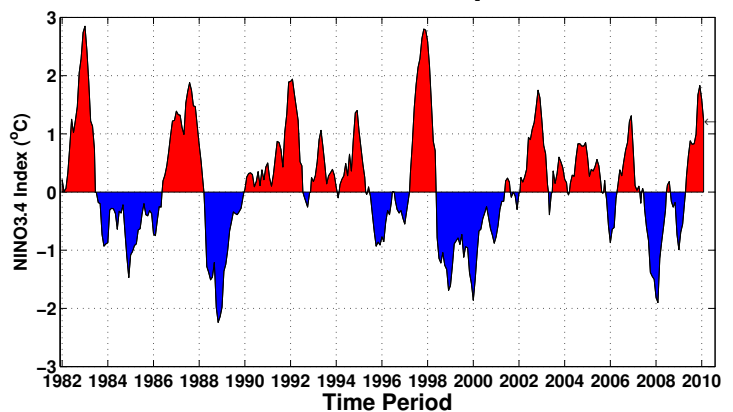
## IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast<sup>2</sup>



## 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).