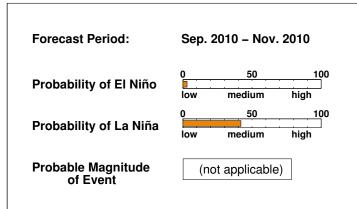
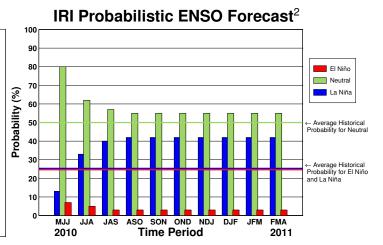
## ENSO QUICK LOOK May 20, 2010 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

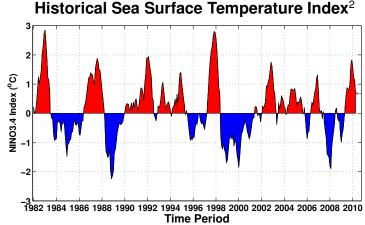
El Niño conditions that prevailed from June 2009 through April 2010 in the equatorial Pacific dissipated during early May, resulting in ENSO-neutral conditions in mid-May. For the May-July season in progress, there is an approximately 80 percent probability of maintaining neutral ENSO conditions, a 13 percent probability for developing La Niña conditions, and a 7 percent probability for a return to El Niño conditions. Probabilities for La Niña conditions increase to 42 percent from the August-October season through the remainder of 2010.







## Current Condition vs. Similar Conditions<sup>2</sup> 66-67 87-88 03-04 Current NINO3.4 Index (°C) Jul Oct Jan Oct Jul Oct Jan Apr Jul Jan Apr Yr-1 Yr0 Yr+1



## **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>&</sup>lt;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>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Based on sea surface temperature departures from the long-term average over the "NINO3.4" region (120-170W, 5S-5N).