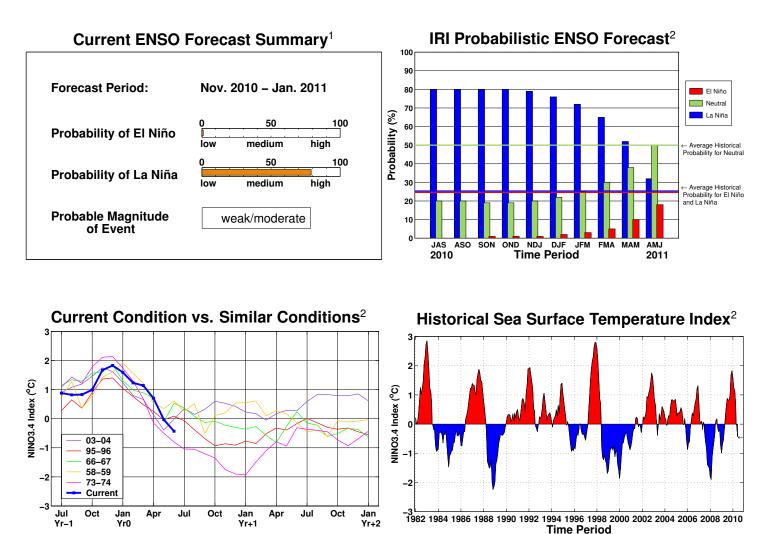
ENSO *QUICK LOOK* **July 15, 2010** A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

Following the dissipation of the 2009/10 El Niño in early May 2010, a brief period of ENSO-neutral conditions was observed until mid-June, when weak borderline La Niña conditions emerged. For the July-September season currently in progress, there is an approximately 80 percent probability for continuing La Niña conditions, and a 20 percent probability for returning neutral ENSO conditions. Probabilities for La Niña conditions continue at approximately 80 percent through the remainder of 2010.



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).