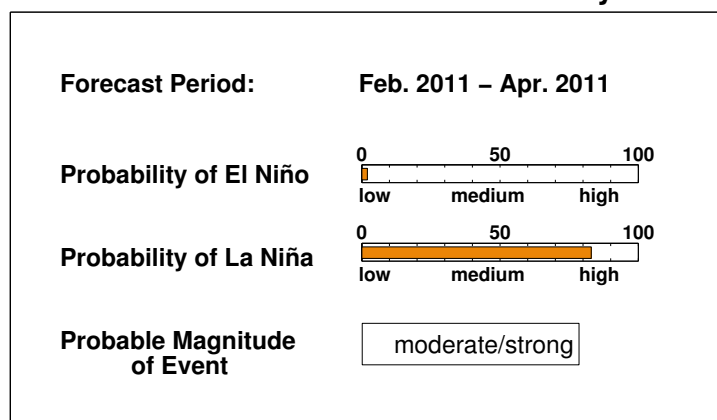


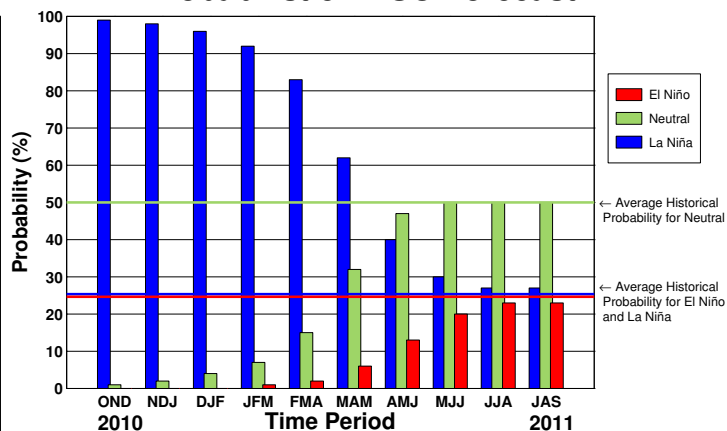
# ENSO QUICK LOOK October 21, 2010 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

Weak La Niña conditions emerged in mid-June 2010, increased to moderate strength by mid-July, and have been at moderate to strong levels since mid-August. For the October-December season currently in progress, there is an approximately 99 percent probability for continuing La Niña conditions, and a 1 percent probability for returning to neutral ENSO conditions. Probabilities for La Niña conditions continue at 95 percent or more through the December-February season of 2010/11, and do not drop to below 50 percent until the April-June season of 2011.

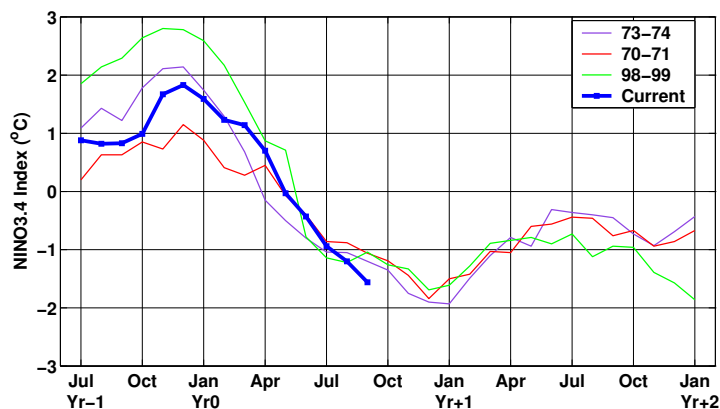
## Current ENSO Forecast Summary<sup>1</sup>



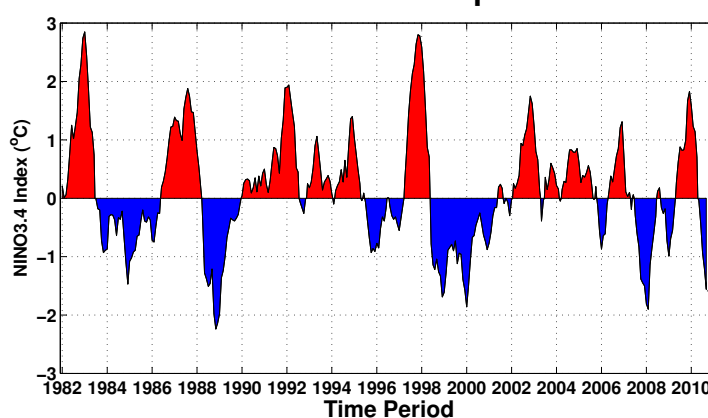
## IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast<sup>2</sup>



## 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).