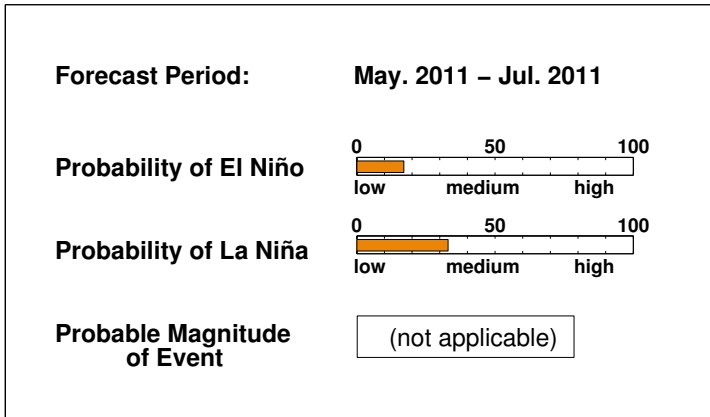


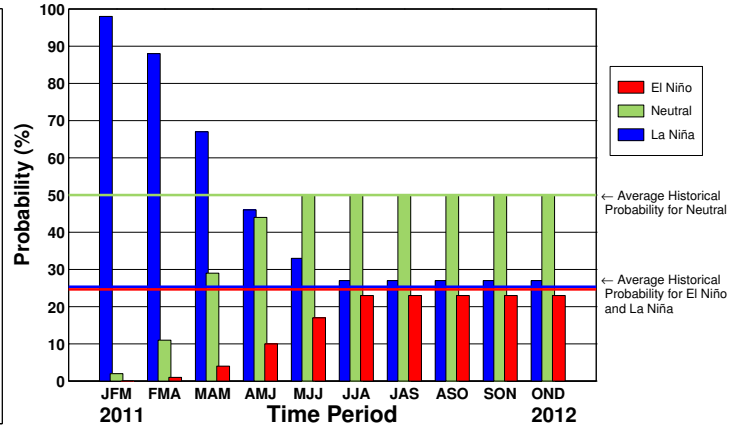
# ENSO QUICK LOOK January 20, 2011 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

Moderate to strong La Niña conditions have been observed since mid-August 2010, and continue as of mid-January 2011. For the January-March season currently in progress, there is an approximately 98 percent probability for continuing La Niña conditions, and a 2 percent probability for returning to neutral ENSO conditions. Probabilities for La Niña conditions continue at 88 percent or more through the February-April season, and do not drop to below 50 percent until the April-June season.

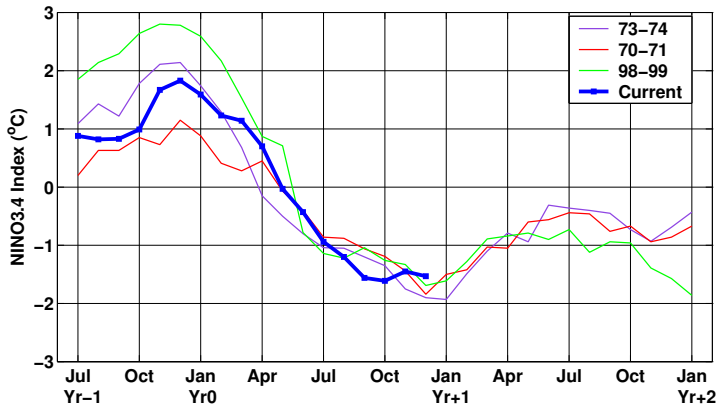
## Current ENSO Forecast Summary<sup>1</sup>



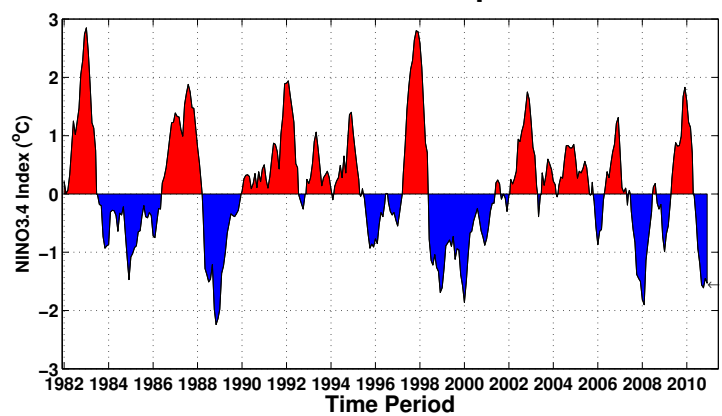
## IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast<sup>2</sup>



## 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).