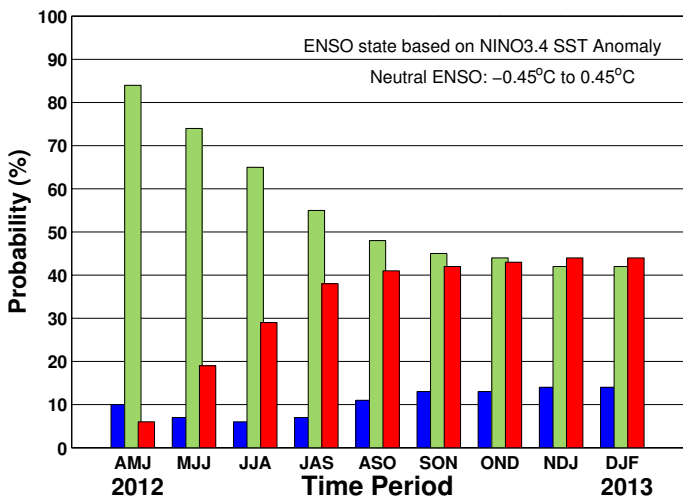


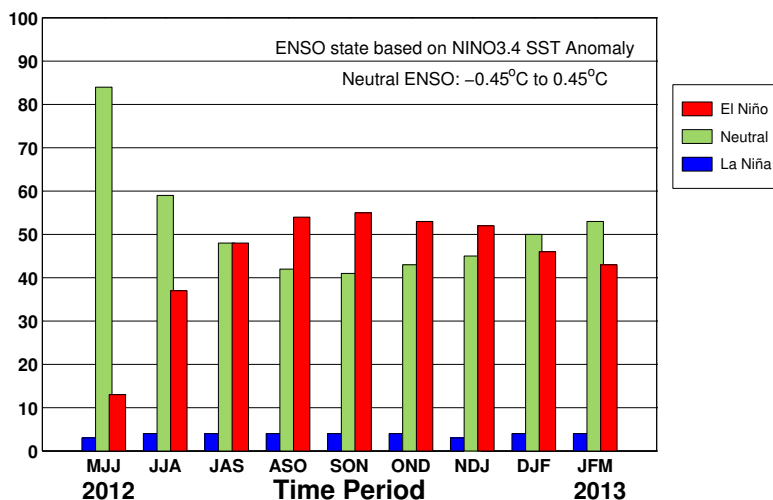
# ENSO QUICK LOOK May 17, 2012 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or “ENSO”, based on NINO3.4 index (120-170W, 5S-5N)

Slightly more than half of the ENSO prediction models predict El Niño conditions developing around the July-September season, continuing through the rest of 2012. However, 40-45% of the models indicate persistence of ENSO-neutral conditions. Currently, no models indicate a re-emergence of La Niña conditions.

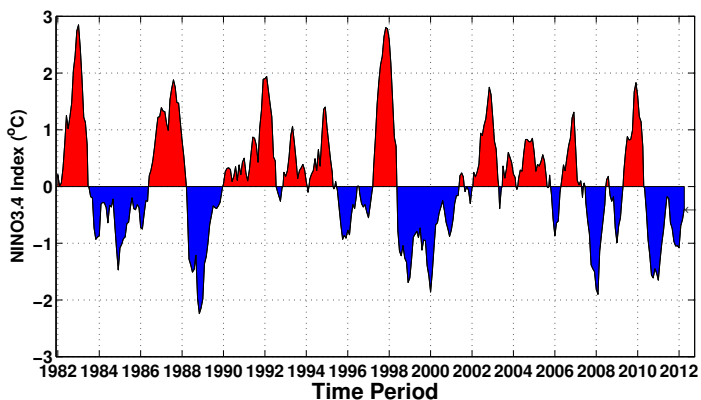
**Official Early-May CPC/IRI Consensus Forecast<sup>1</sup>**



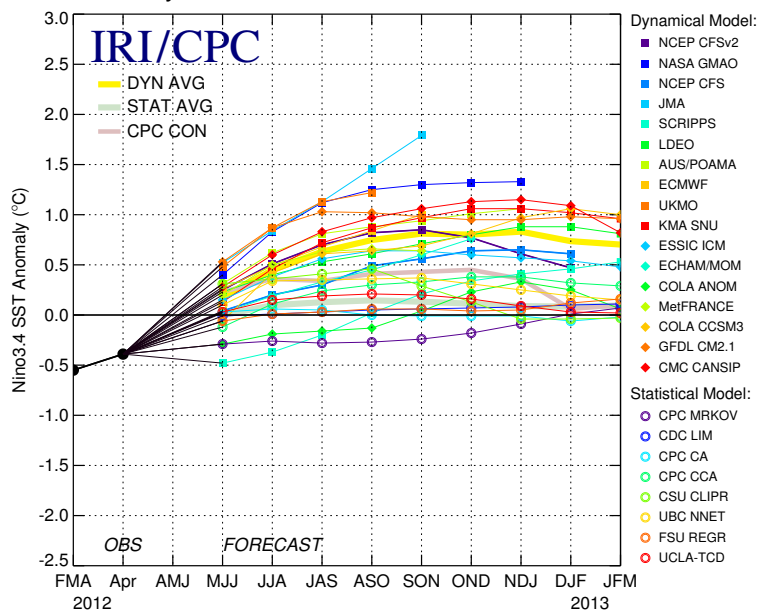
**Mid-May IRI/CPC Plume-Based Forecast<sup>2</sup>**



**Historical Sea Surface Temperature Index**



**Mid-May 2012 Plume of Model ENSO Predictions**



## 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>Official: Based on a consensus of CPC and IRI forecasters, in association with CPC/IRI ENSO Diagnostic Discussion.

<sup>2</sup>Unofficial: Purely objective, based on regression, using equally weighted model predictions from the plume.