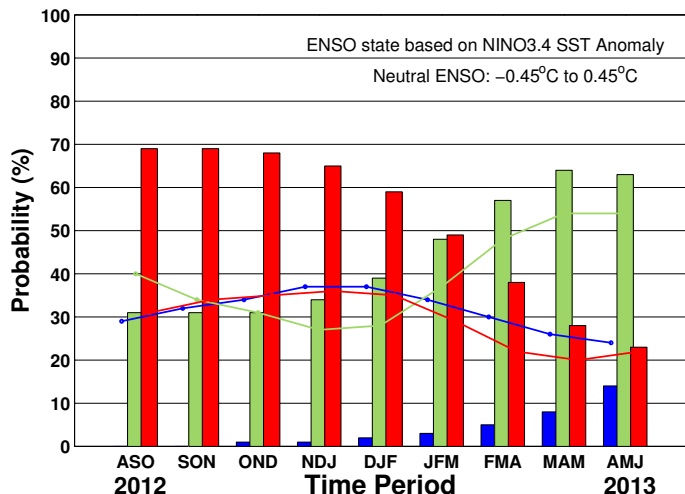


# ENSO QUICK LOOK September 20, 2012

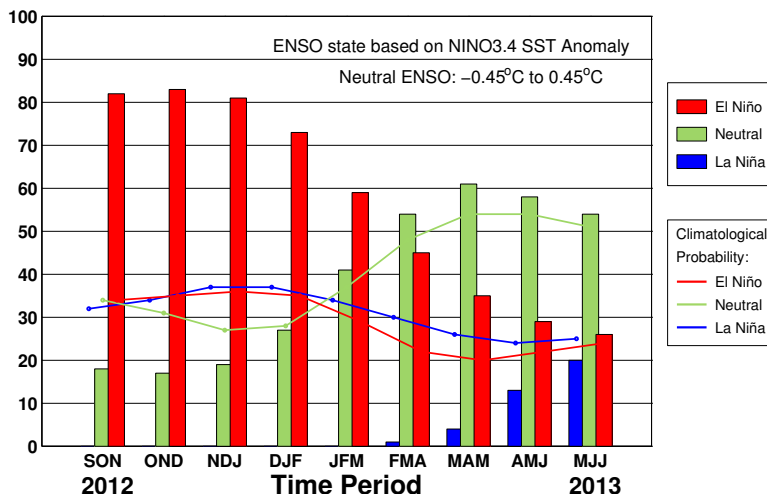
A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or “ENSO”, based on NINO3.4 index (120-170W, 5S-5N)

More than 80% of the ENSO prediction models predict El Niño SST conditions during the September-November season, continuing into northern winter 2012-13. Among those predicting El Niño, very few predict more than a weak event.

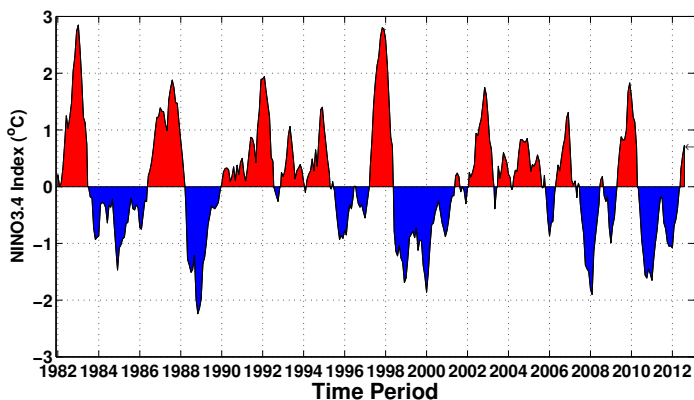
Early-Sep CPC/IRI Consensus Forecast<sup>1</sup>



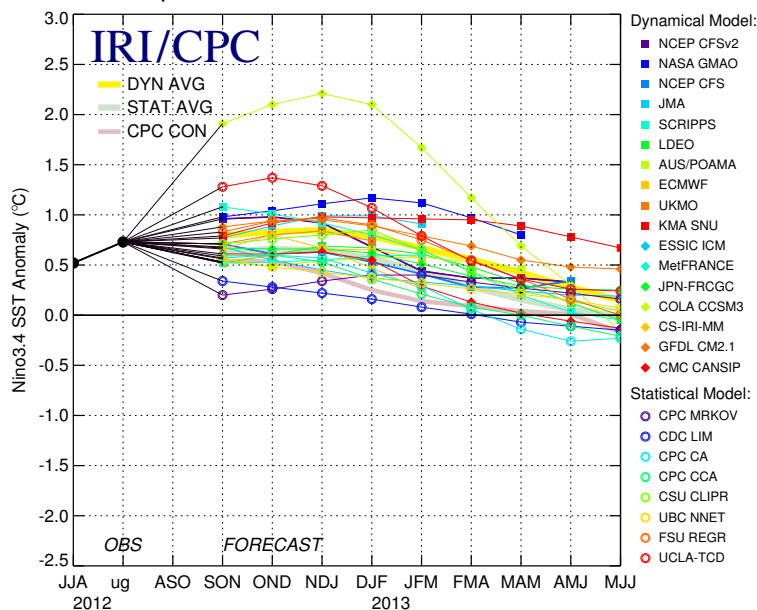
Mid-Sep IRI/CPC Plume-Based Forecast<sup>2</sup>



Historical Sea Surface Temperature Index



Mid-Sep 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>Based on a consensus of CPC and IRI forecasters, in association with the official CPC/IRI ENSO Diagnostic Discussion.

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