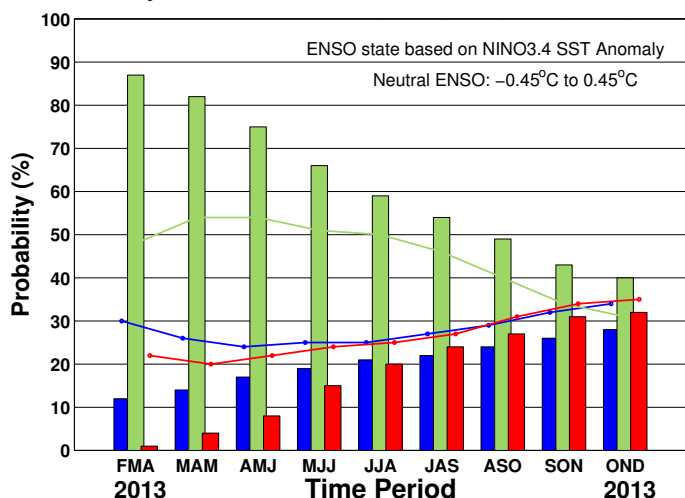


# ENSO QUICK LOOK March 21, 2013

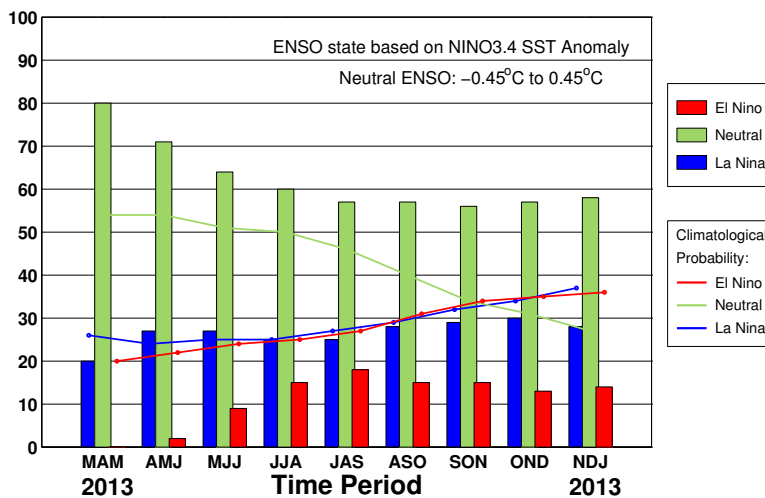
A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or “ENSO”, based on NINO3.4 index (120-170W, 5S-5N)

During January through mid-March the observed ENSO conditions have leaned toward La Niña, but remained in the neutral range. Most of the ENSO prediction models call for neutral ENSO conditions through northern summer 2013, but some statistical models call for weak La Niña while some dynamical models call for warming and possible weak El Niño.

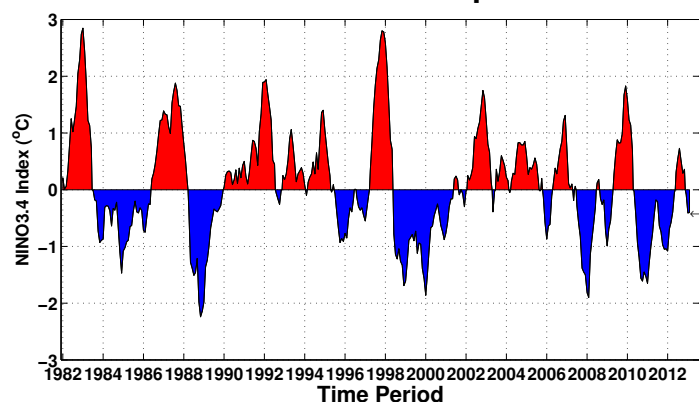
Early-Mar CPC/IRI Consensus Forecast<sup>1</sup>



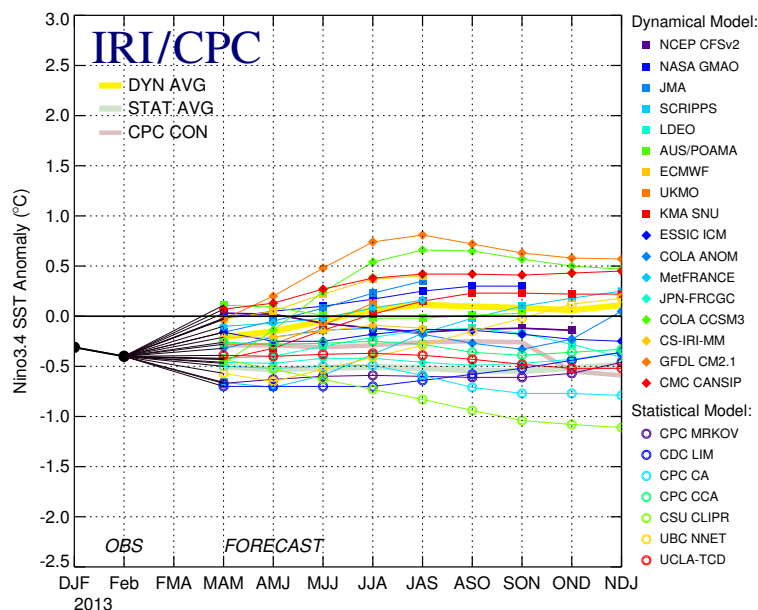
Mid-Mar IRI/CPC Plume-Based Forecast<sup>2</sup>



Historical Sea Surface Temperature Index



Mid-Mar 2013 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.