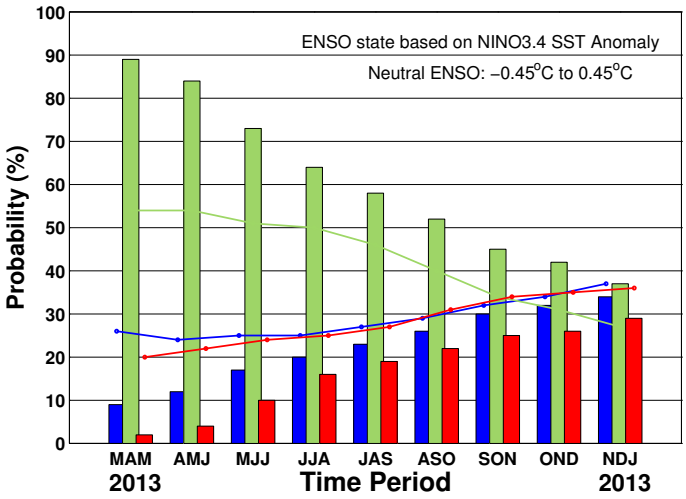
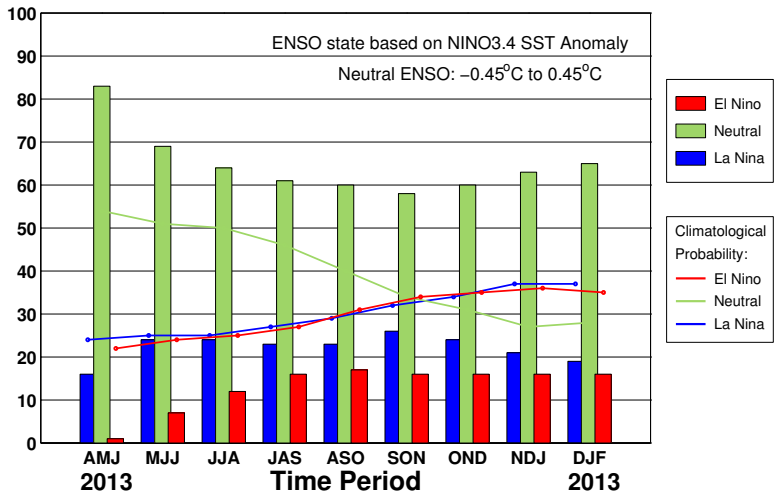
ENSO *QUICK LOOK* **April 18, 2013** **A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO",** based on NINO3.4 index (120-170W, 5S-5N)

During March through mid-April the observed ENSO conditions remained in the neutral ENSO condition. Most of the ENSO prediction models indicate a continuation of neutral ENSO into northern autumn, but a few statistical models call for cooling toward weak La Niña conditions and an even smaller set of dynamical models predict warming toward borderline El Niño conditions.

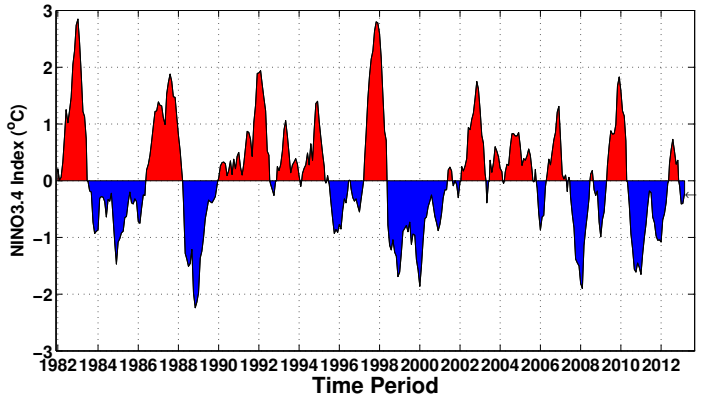
Early-Apr CPC/IRI Consensus Forecast[1]



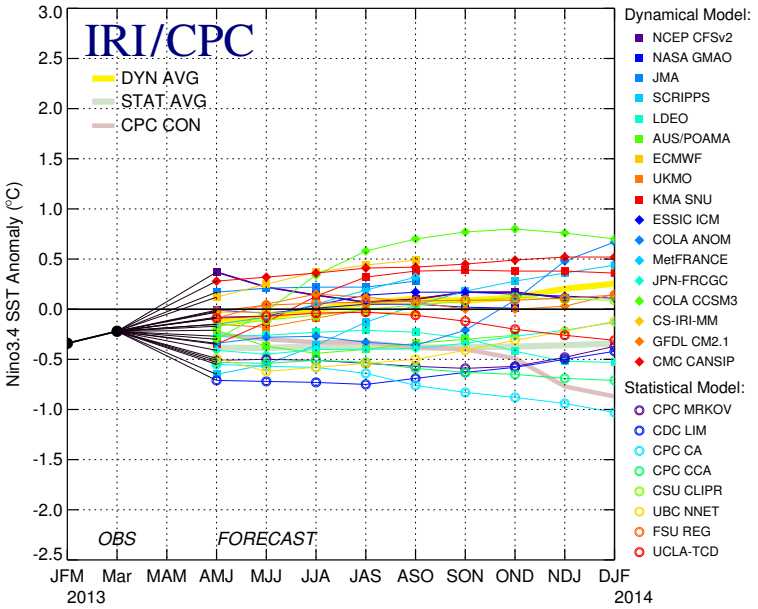
Mid-Apr IRI/CPC Plume-Based Forecast[2]



Historical Sea Surface Temperature Index



Mid-Apr 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*

[1]Based on a consensus of CPC and IRI forecasters, in association with the official CPC/IRI ENSO Diagnostic Discussion.
[2]Purely objective, based on regression, using equally weighted model predictions from the plume.