

MAY
2014

International Research Institute for Climate and Society

CLIMATE BRIEFING



What you need to know.

We currently have borderline neutral/weak El Niño conditions, as the warming process is underway.

El Niño development is likely by the end of this month or early in summer.

According to a new set of model runs, the probability for El Niño is roughly **60%** by the June–August season, rising to **70–75%** by autumn (see lower chart on right). These probabilities are just slightly lower than those of the official ENSO forecast issued on May 8, which used both models and human judgement. A possible reason for the lack of probability increase this time is some weakness in positive feedback in the tropical atmosphere to the warming sea surface temperatures. This situation could easily change, however.

Although most model forecasts call for an event of weak-to-moderate strength, forecasts of the strength at this time are still uncertain, and a strong event cannot be ruled out.

Tony's Take*

IRI Chief Climate Forecaster Anthony Barnston gives a video rundown of the climate briefing in under two minutes. Feel free to embed!

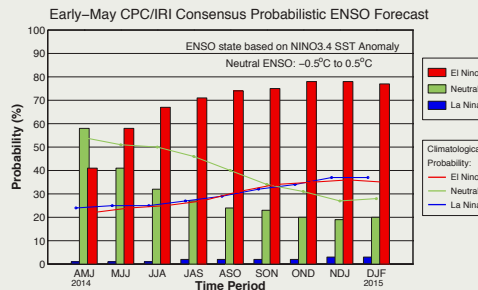


Link: <https://vimeo.com/95354413>

*Video posted by 3pm the day of the briefing.

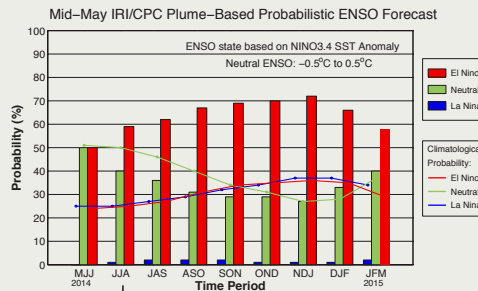
This month's key graphic.

Current Official ENSO forecast (From May 8)



NOAA's Climate Prediction Center and IRI jointly produce this monthly forecast every first Thursday. It stands as the official consensus forecast for ENSO.

Updated ENSO forecast (Mid May)



IRI and CPC issue an updated model-based ENSO forecast on the third Thursday of each month.

For June–July–Aug period, odds of El Niño ~60% – slightly lower than earlier CPC/IRI forecast above.

Additional Resources.

Powerpoint of May briefing:

iri.columbia.edu/~tonyb/fctbriefingMay14.ppt

All of IRI's Forecasts:

iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/

IRI's ENSO Map Room:

iridl.ideo.columbia.edu/maproom/ENSO/

Email media@iri.columbia.edu to sign up for this bulletin

ENSO questions? Tweet @climatesociety w/ #ENSOQandA