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!

Additional Resources.

Powerpoint of May briefing:  
iricolumbia.edu/~tonyb/fctbriefingMay14.ppt

All of IRI’s Forecasts:  
iricolumbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/

IRI’s ENSO Map Room:  
iridl.iedo.columbia.edu/maproom/ENSO/

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

ENSO questions? Tweet @climatesociety w/ #ENSOQandA

This month's key graphic.

Current Official ENSO forecast (From May 8)

Updated ENSO forecast (Mid May)

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