

DEC.  
2014

International Research Institute for Climate and Society

# CLIMATE BRIEFING



## What you need to know.

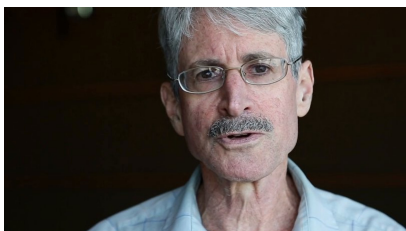
**Since late October, tropical Pacific SSTs have exceeded thresholds for a weak El Niño condition.** However, not all of the atmospheric manifestations have appeared. More complete participation of the atmosphere is required to achieve the coupling needed for a lasting El Niño episode. Notably missing is a greater-than-normal amount of cloudiness and rainfall near the international dateline along the equator, required for El Niño to exert its climate impacts outside of the tropics. A more comprehensive, complete El Niño development is likely during January or February.

**A new set of model runs indicates the probability for El Niño at 80-85% for the December-February season in progress,** and at least 60% through the March-May season (lower chart on right). These probabilities are slightly higher than those of the official ENSO forecast issued December 4, which used both models and human judgement.

**A majority of models forecast weak event strength,** although a few predict moderate strength for December-February. We think a weak event is the most likely outcome.

## 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!

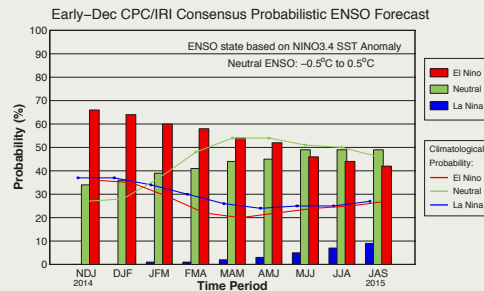


Link: <https://vimeo.com/114821929>

\*Video usually posted by 3 pm on the day of the briefing.

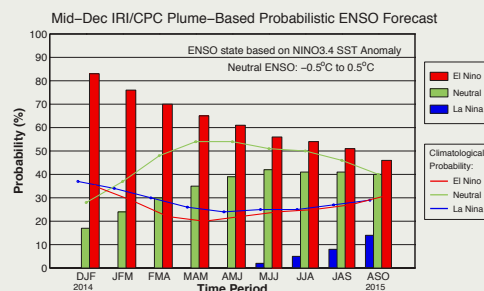
## This month's key graphic.

### Current Official ENSO forecast (issued Dec. 4)



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-December)



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

## Additional Resources.

**Powerpoint of this month's briefing:**  
[iri.columbia.edu/~tonyb/fctbriefingDec14.ppt](http://iri.columbia.edu/~tonyb/fctbriefingDec14.ppt)

**All of IRI's Forecasts:**  
[iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/](http://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/)

**IRI's ENSO Map Room:**  
[iridl.ideo.columbia.edu/maproom/ENSO/](http://iridl.ideo.columbia.edu/maproom/ENSO/)

**Email** [media@iri.columbia.edu](mailto:media@iri.columbia.edu) to sign up for this bulletin

**ENSO questions?** Tweet @climatesociety w/ #ENSOQandA