

APRIL
2015

International Research Institute for Climate and Society

CLIMATE BRIEFING



What you need to know.

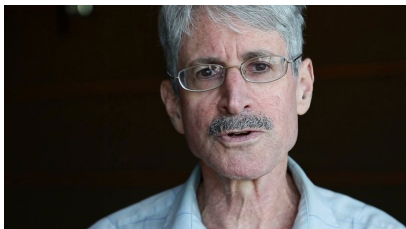
From late Oct. through mid-April, tropical Pacific sea-surface temps have met or exceeded thresholds for a weak El Niño condition. Beginning in late February, the expected atmospheric responses also became apparent, including a significant weakening of the trade winds and above-average cloudiness and rainfall straddling the international dateline along the equator. Now, both ocean and atmosphere are in weak El Niño mode.

A new set of model runs indicates the probability for El Niño near 80% from the March-May season in progress, through the Aug-Oct season (lower chart on right). These probabilities are slightly higher than those of the official ENSO forecast issued April 9, which used both models and human judgement.

While a majority of models suggests El Niño strengthening during summer from its present weak level, due to considerable uncertainty of forecasts at this time of year, we don't have high confidence in forecasts for coming El Niño strength.

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!

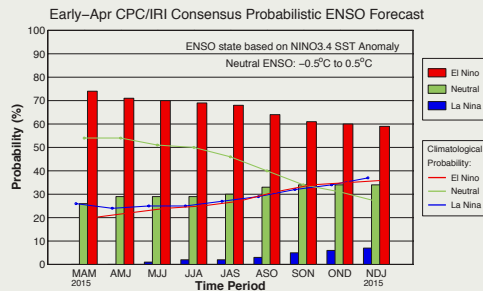


Link: <https://vimeo.com/125074930>

*Video usually posted by 5 pm on the day of the briefing.

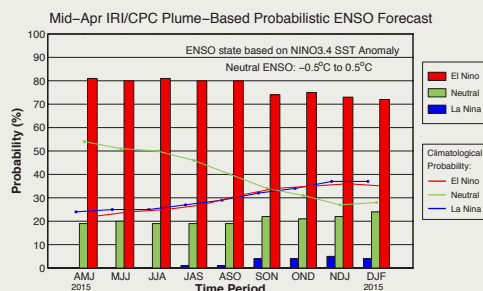
This month's key graphic.

Current Official ENSO forecast (issued April 9)



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-April)



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/fctbriefingApr15.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