

**AUG
2015**

International Research Institute for Climate and Society

CLIMATE BRIEFING



What you need to know.

Following July, both oceanic & atmospheric conditions in the tropical Pacific met thresholds required for a strong El Niño, including a significantly warmed sea-surface temperature, marked weakening of trade winds and establishment of above-average cloudiness and rainfall in east-central tropical Pacific. The coupling of the anomalous oceanic and atmospheric patterns helps ensure continuation of El Niño and promotes its further strengthening over the coming months.

A new set of model runs indicates at least a 98% probability for El Niño from the August–October season in progress into early spring season of 2016, and at close to 70% for it to last through spring (lower chart on right). These probabilities are just slightly greater than those of the official ENSO forecast issued August 13, which used both models and human judgement.

A majority of models suggests continuation, and likely further strengthening, of El Niño through autumn. While precise forecasts of peak strength are not possible, this event appears likely to be among the four strongest since 1950.

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!

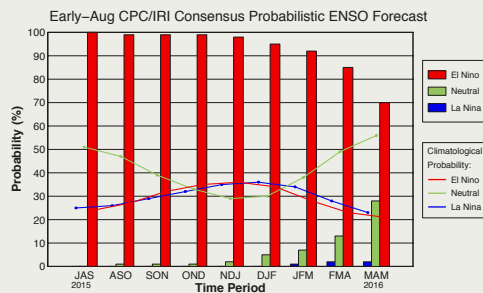


Link: <https://vimeo.com/136783645>*

*Video usually posted by Friday noon.

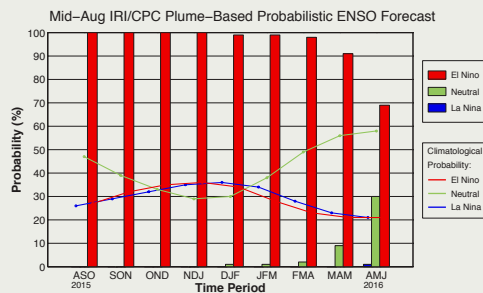
This month's key graphic.

Current Official ENSO forecast (issued August 13)



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

Updated ENSO forecast (August 20)



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/fctbriefingAug15.ppt

All of IRI's Forecasts:
iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/

IRI's ENSO Map Room:
iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/ENSO/

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

ENSO questions? Tweet @climatesociety w/ #ENSOQandA