

# El Niño/La Niña Watch

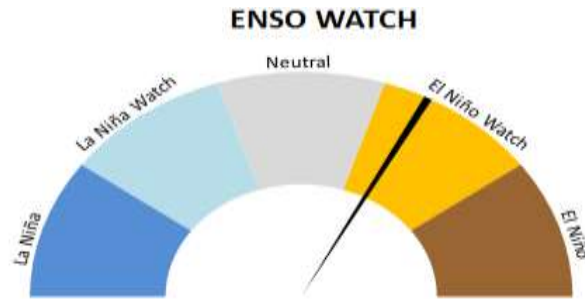


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NB: based on the NINO3.4 index (120W-170W, 5S-5N)

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## El Niño Watch Ongoing: Reasonable Chance (50%) for El Niño Conditions during the 2017 Wet Season



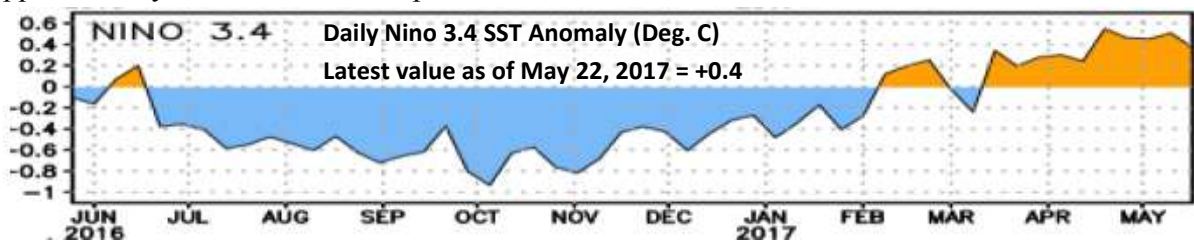
During the last 4-weeks ending May 20, 2017, Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean remained above average, but weakened; while SSTs in central tropical Pacific Ocean continued to warm and are currently near-average but on the warm side. Since mid-April 2017, near-average to above-average SSTs expanded across the equatorial Pacific.

Most of the climate models forecasting the status the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) indicate ENSO-neutral and El Niño conditions have equal chances throughout the wet season. As such, there is large uncertainty with regard to whether El Niño will develop or not, later in the season. Therefore, the El Niño Watch is maintained.

If El Niño develops during the first half of the wet season it could turn-out to be moderate, however if it develops later, it is likely to be a weak event, given that El Niño tends to peak around October to February.

Even though the signal is currently weak, ENSO-neutral on the warm side or El Niño during the local wet season has historically shown some association with tilting the odds towards drier and warmer conditions in Trinidad and Tobago but these effects vary from one ENSO-neutral or El Niño condition to another.

- El Niño and La Niña Watches are activated when CPC/IRI Probabilistic ENSO Outlook indicates approximately 50% chance development.



Source: Adopted from <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/MJO/enso.shtml>