

# Global Ocean Monitoring: Recent Evolution, Current Status, and Predictions

Prepared by  
Climate Prediction Center, NCEP/NOAA  
**April 9, 2021**

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/GODAS/>

This project, to deliver real-time ocean monitoring products, is implemented

by CPC in cooperation with NOAA's Global Ocean Monitoring and Observing Program (GOMO)



- Overview
- Recent highlights
  - Pacific/Arctic Ocean
  - Indian Ocean
  - Atlantic Ocean
- Global SSTA Predictions

## • Pacific Ocean

- NOAA “ENSO Diagnostic Discussion” on 8 Apr 2021 stated “A transition from La Niña to ENSO-Neutral is likely in the next month or so, with an 80% chance of ENSO-neutral during May-July 2021.”
- La Niña conditions weakened with Niño3.4 =  $-0.51^{\circ}\text{C}$  in Mar 2021.
- The negative phase of PDO has persisted since Jan 2020 with PDOI =  $-1.0$  in Mar 2021.

## • Indian Ocean

- SSTAs were small in the tropical Indian Ocean in Mar 2021.

## • Atlantic Ocean

- A positive phase of the meridional dipole mode persisted in Mar 2021.
- NAO was in a positive phase in Mar 2021 with NAOI = 0.36.

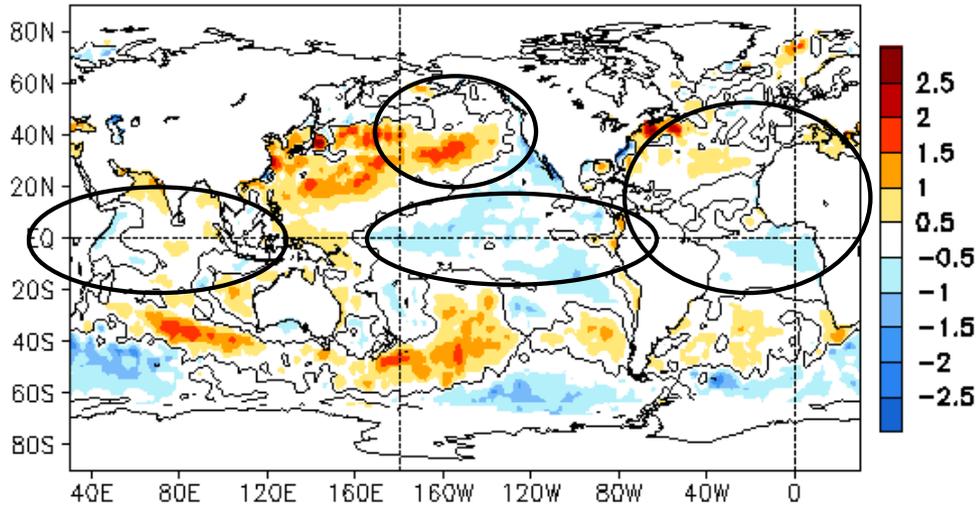
## • Arctic Ocean

- The seasonal maximum in the sea ice extent was observed on 21 Mar 2021.
- The sea ice extent for Mar 2021 was the 9<sup>th</sup> lowest since 1979.
- With ICs in Jan-Mar 2021, NCEP/CPC predicted a near-normal sea ice extent during spring and early summer 2021.

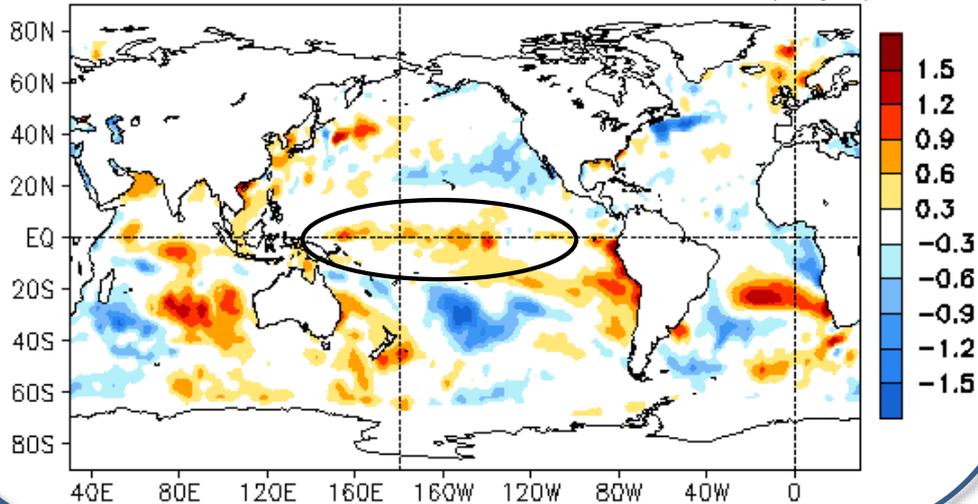
# Global Oceans

# Global SST Anomaly ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and Anomaly Tendency

MAR 2021 SST Anomaly ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )  
(1991–2020 Climatology)



MAR 2021 – FEB 2021 SST Anomaly ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

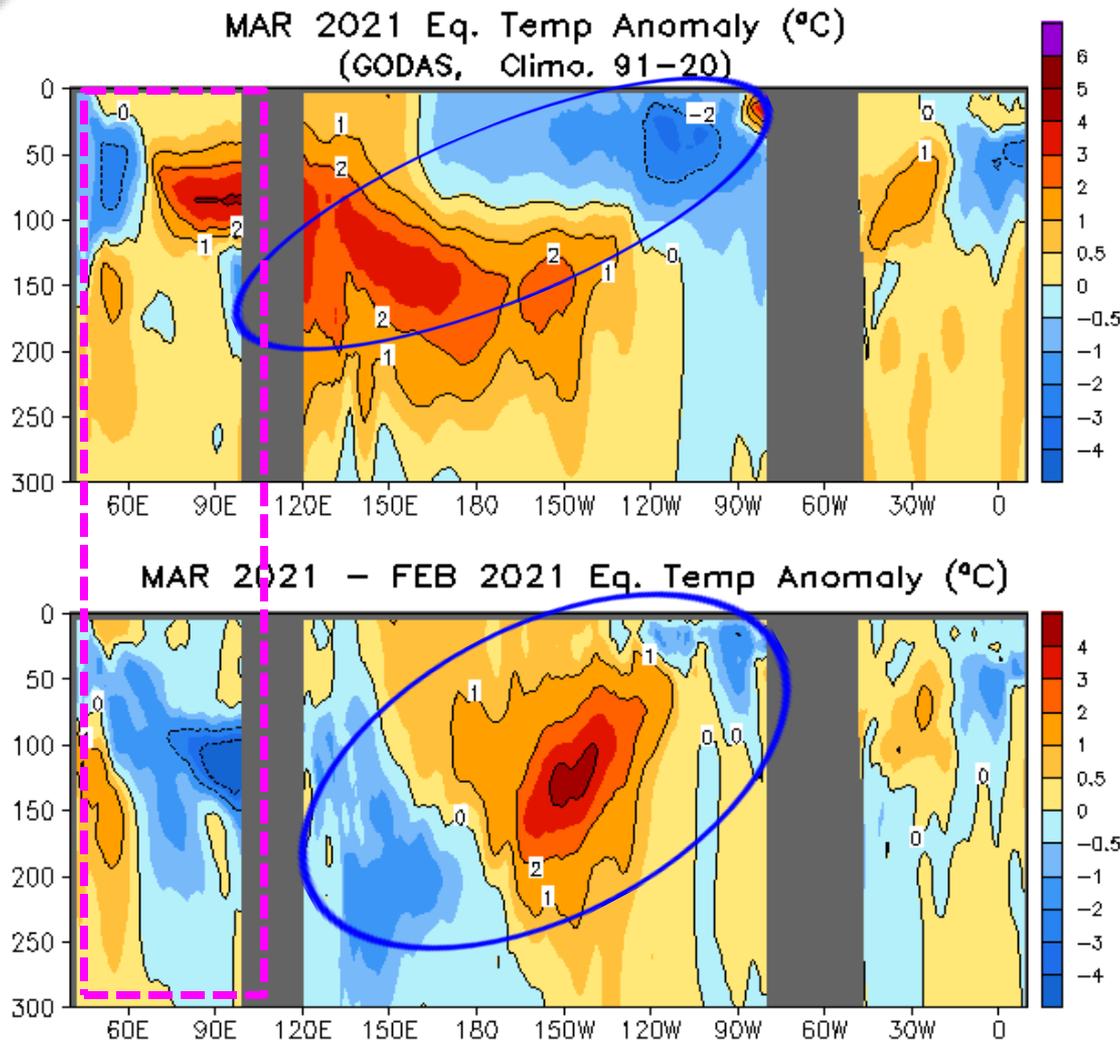


- Negative SSTAs weakened in the central and eastern tropical Pacific.
- Positive SSTAs were evident in the NE Pacific.
- Positive (negative) SSTAs were present in the tropical North (South) Atlantic Ocean.
- SSTAs were small in the tropical Indian Ocean.

- Positive SSTA tendencies were present in the equatorial Pacific.

Sea surface temperature anomalies (top) and anomaly tendency (bottom). Data are derived from the NCEP OI SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991–2020 base period means.

# Longitude-Depth Temperature Anomaly and Anomaly Tendency in 2°S-2°N



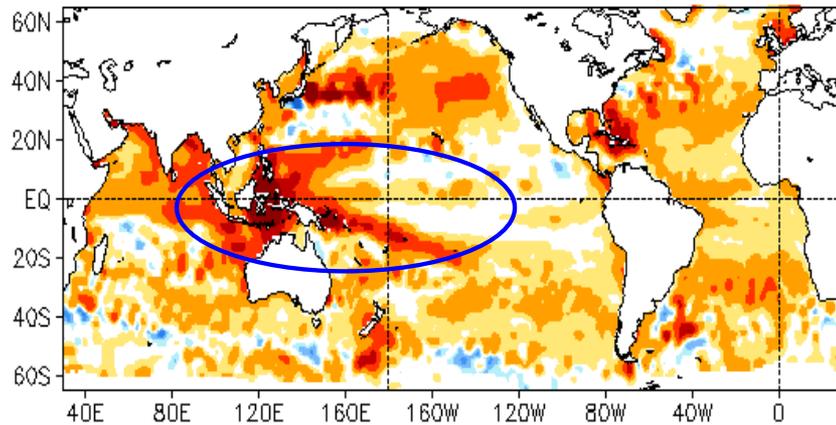
- A dipole-like temperature structure (tilt mode) persisted with positive (negative) anomalies in the western (eastern) Pacific.
- Positive anomalies have been observed in the eastern Indian Ocean since Oct 2020.

- Temperature anomaly tendency was positive (negative) along the thermocline in the east-central (western and eastern) Pacific, implying an eastward propagation of the positive anomalies.

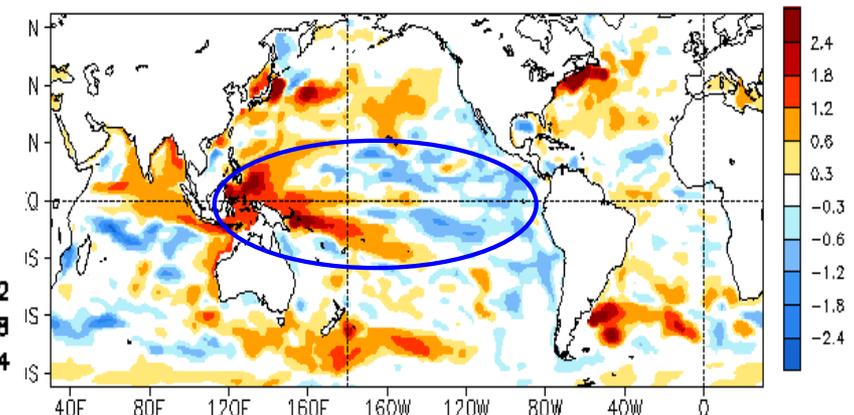
Equatorial depth-longitude section of ocean temperature anomalies (top) and anomaly tendency (bottom). Data is from the NCEP's global ocean data assimilation system. Anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.

# Global SSH and HC300 Anomaly & Anomaly Tendency

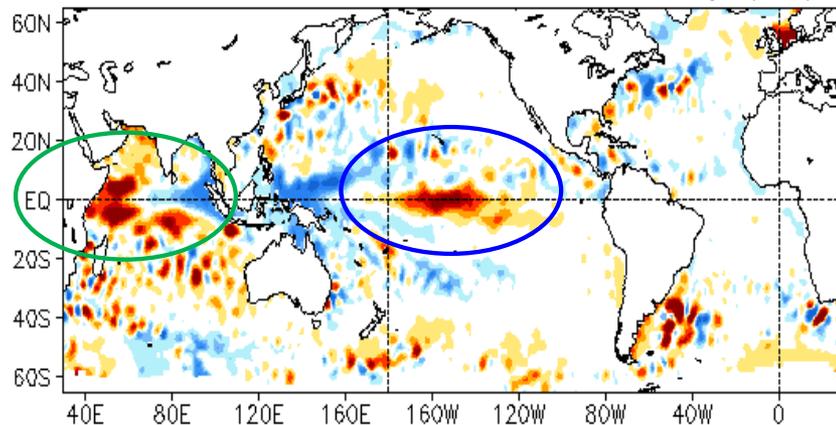
MAR 2021 SSH Anomaly (cm)  
(AVISO Altimetry, Climo. 93-13)



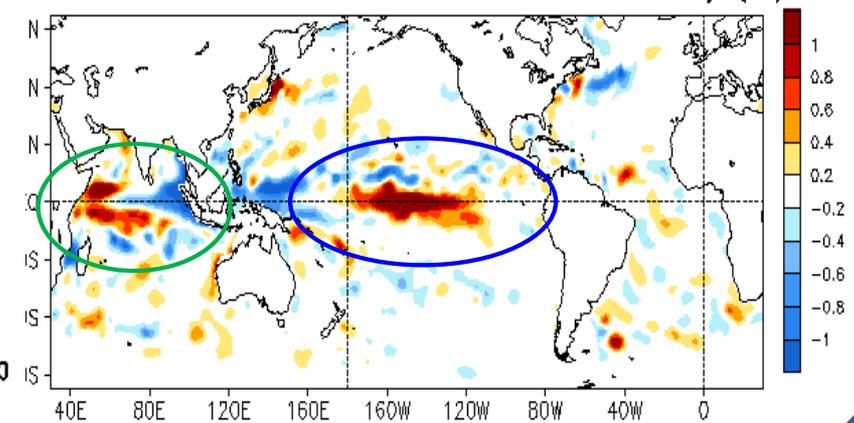
MAR 2021 Heat Content Anomaly (°C)  
(GODAS, Climo. 91-20)



MAR 2021 - FEB 2021 SSH Anomaly (cm)



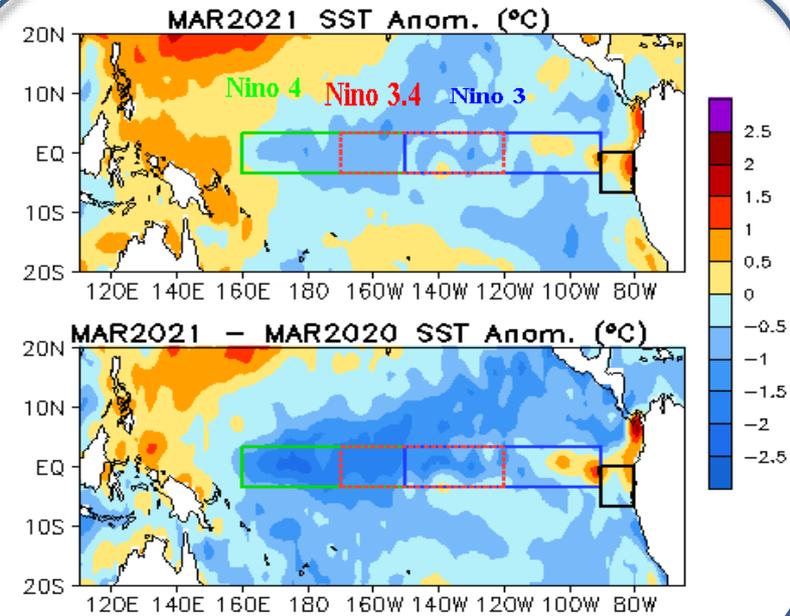
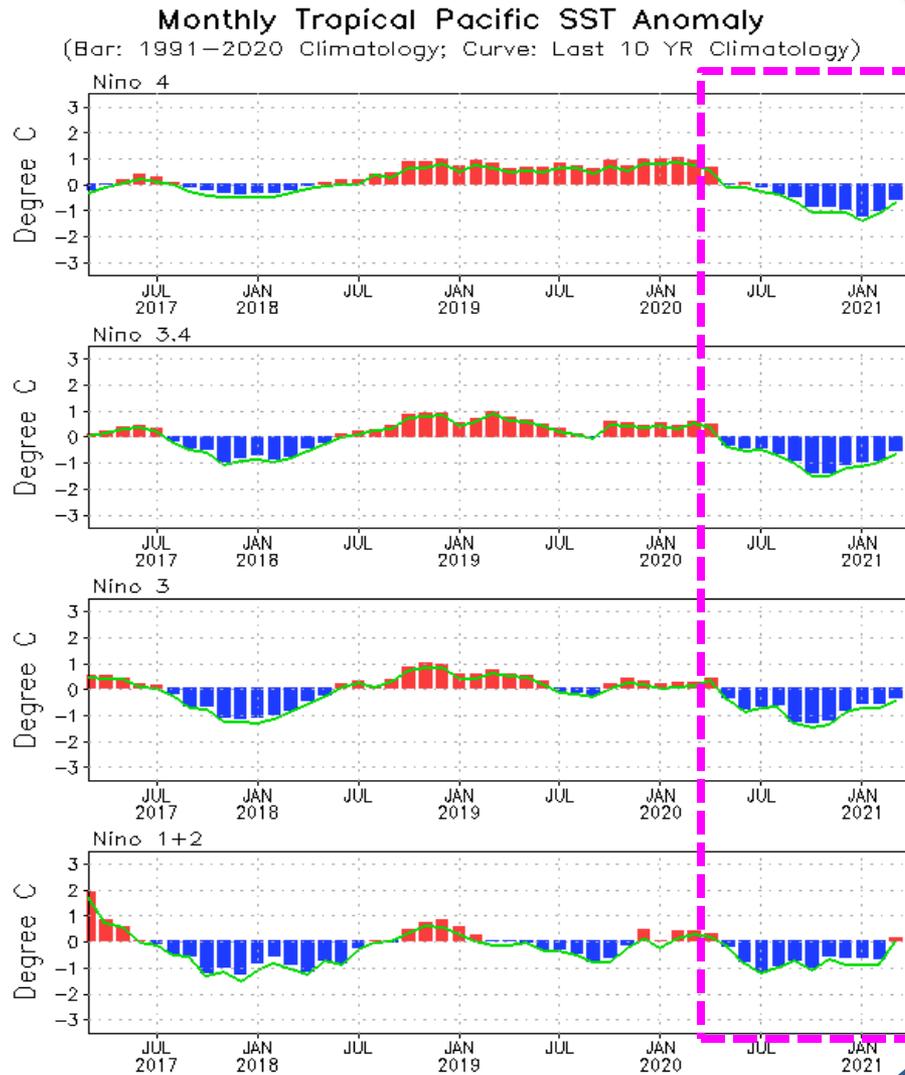
MAR 2021 - FEB 2021 Heat Content Anomaly (°C)



- The SSHA pattern was overall consistent with the HC300A pattern, but with a significant trend component in SSHA.
- Anomaly tendencies: Positive in the east-central tropical Pacific and western tropical Indian Oceans; negative in the western tropical Pacific and eastern Indian Oceans.

# Tropical Pacific Ocean and ENSO Conditions

# Evolution of Pacific Niño SST Indices

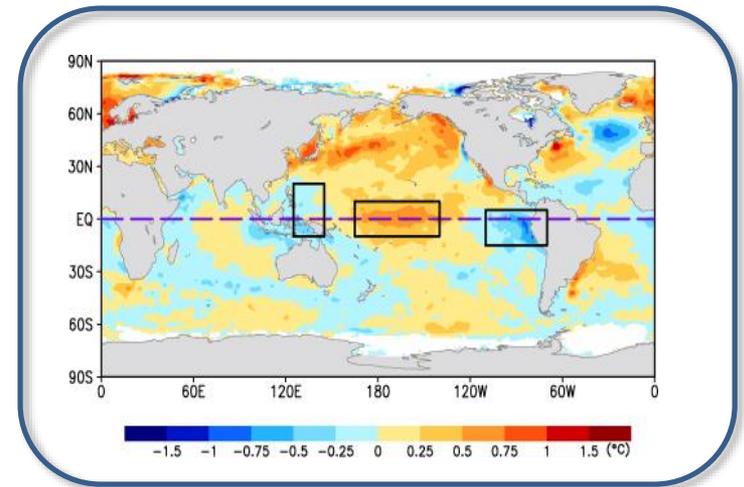
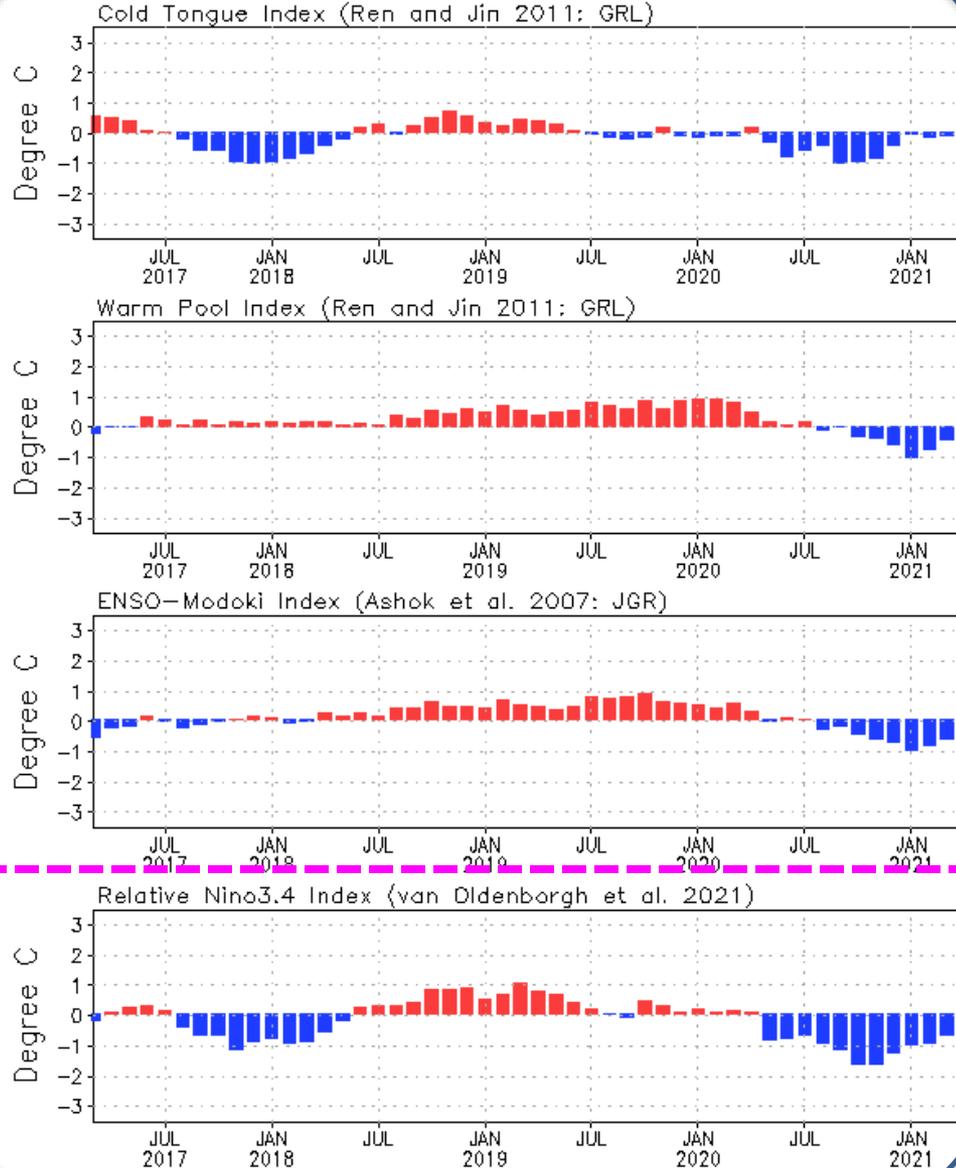


- All Niño indices weakened and Niño1+2 became positive, with Niño3.4 =  $-0.51^{\circ}\text{C}$  in Mar 2021.
- Compared with Mar 2020, the central and eastern tropical Pacific was cooler in Mar 2021.
- The indices may have slight differences if based on different SST products.

Niño region indices, calculated as the area-averaged monthly mean sea surface temperature anomalies ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) for the specified region. Data are derived from the NCEP OI SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.

# Evolution of Pacific Niño SST Indices

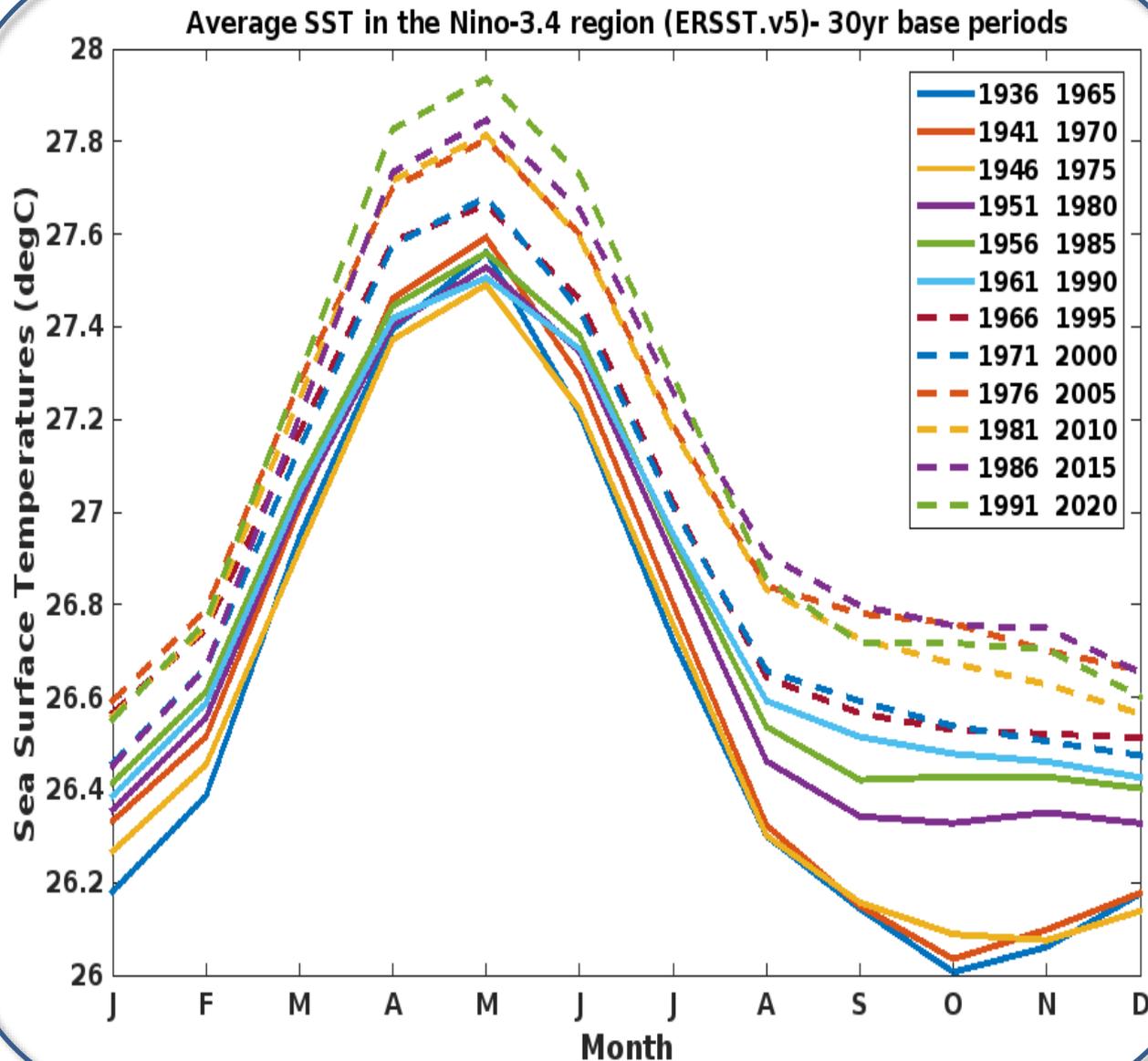
## Monthly Tropical Pacific SST Anomaly



- Relative Niño3.4 index is now included, which is defined as the conventional Niño3.4 index minus the SSTA averaged in the whole tropics ( $0^{\circ}$ - $360^{\circ}$ ,  $20^{\circ}$ S- $20^{\circ}$ N), in order to remove the global warming signal. Also, to have the same variability as the conventional Niño3.4 index, the relative Niño3.4 index is renormalized (van Oldenborgh et al. 2021: ERL, 10.1088/1748-9326/abe9ed).

[Relative Niño3.4 data updated monthly at:  
https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/data/indices/RelativeNiño3.4.ascii.txt](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/data/indices/RelativeNiño3.4.ascii.txt)

# Why Relative Niño3.4 Index?



- CPC's the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI) is 3-month running mean of ERSST.v5 SSTAs in the Niño 3.4 region (5°N-5°S, 120°-170°W), based on centered 30-year base periods updated every 5 years.

- **So, the ENSO classifications based on the CPC's ONI in the latest 15-years are subjected to be modified due to a climatology update.**

[https://origin.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/ensostuff/ONI\\_v5.php](https://origin.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensostuff/ONI_v5.php)

# Why Relative Niño3.4 Index?

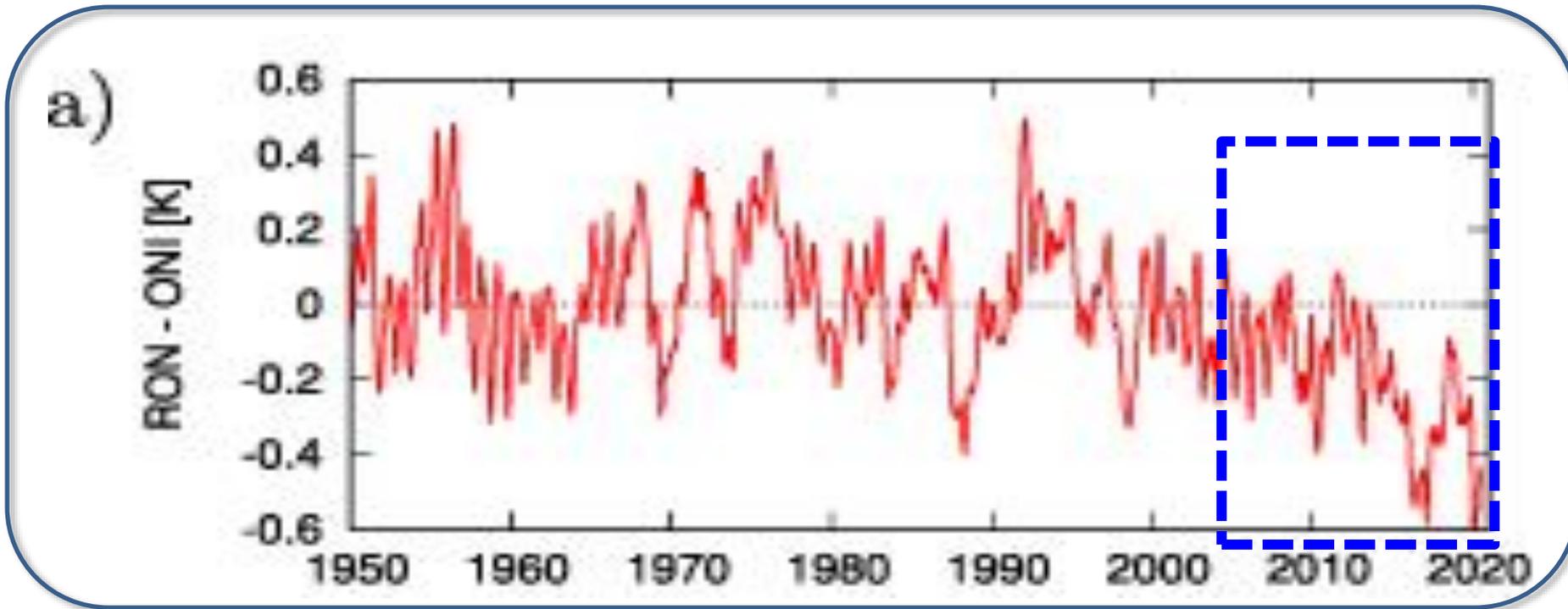
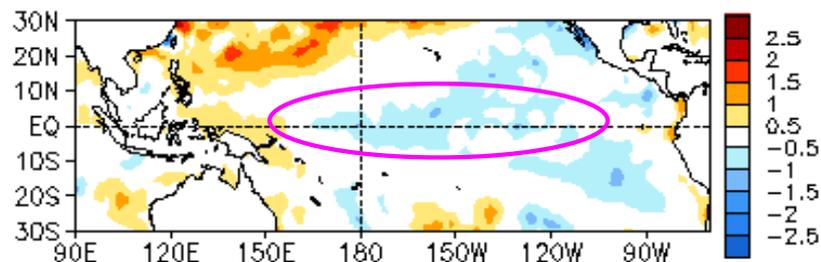


Figure 3. (a) Difference between the relative Ocean Niño Index (ONI) proposed here and the current NOAA/NCEP ONI definition

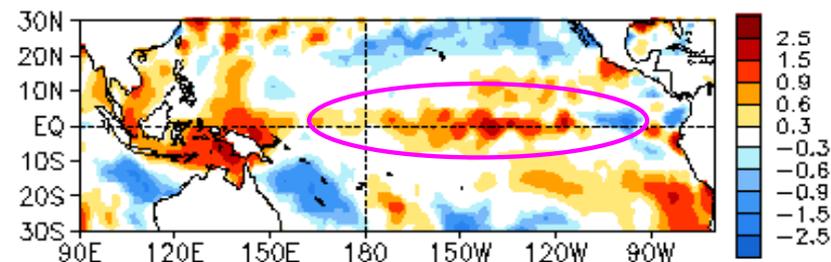
- *Relative Niño3.4 index is now included, which is define as the conventional Niño3.4 index minus the SSTA averaged in the whole tropics ( $0^{\circ}$ - $360^{\circ}$ ,  $20^{\circ}$ S- $20^{\circ}$ N), in order to remove the global warming signal. Also, to have the same variability as the conventional Niño3.4 index, the relative Niño3.4 index is renormalized (van Oldenborgh et al. 2021: ERL, 10.1088/1748-9326/abe9ed).*

- **Compared with the relative Niño3.4, due to the warming trend in the Niño3.4, El Niño may be overestimated & La Niña may be underestimated based on the Niño3.4 during the latest 15 years.**

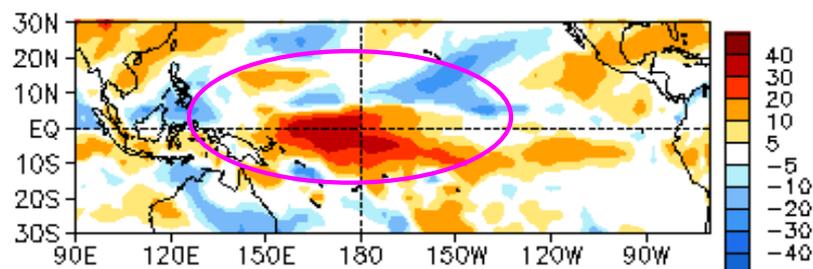
MAR 2021 SST Anom. ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



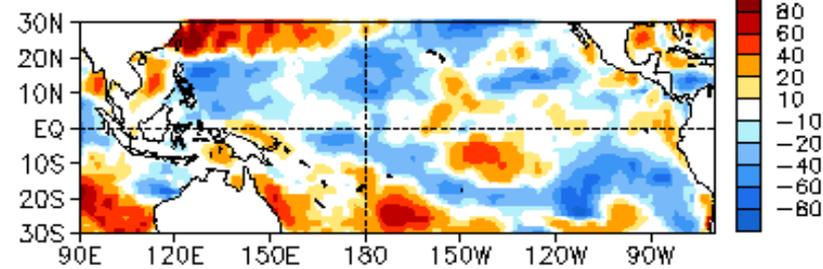
24MAR2021 – 24FEB2021 SST Anom. ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



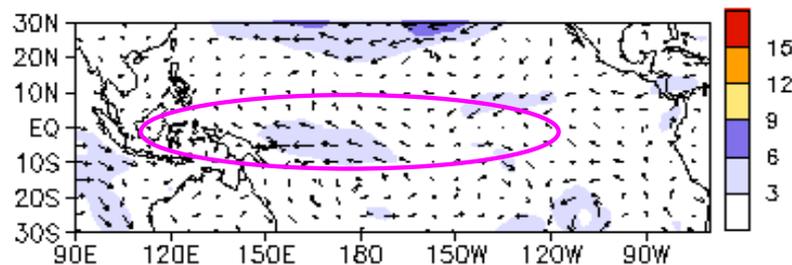
MAR 2021 OLR Anom. ( $\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ )



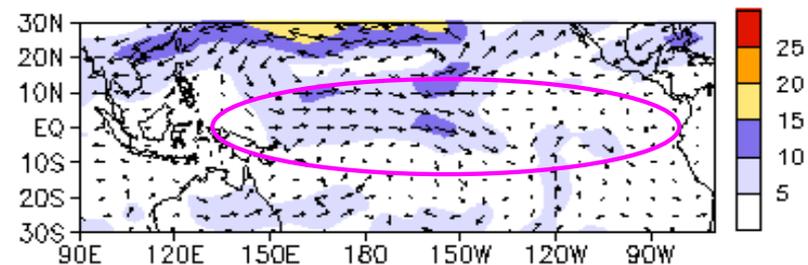
MAR 2021 SW + LW + LH + SH ( $\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ )



925mb Wind Anom. (m/s)

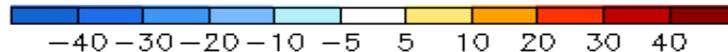
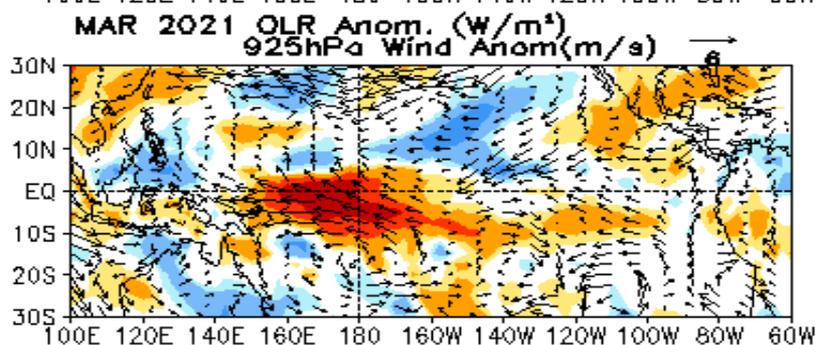
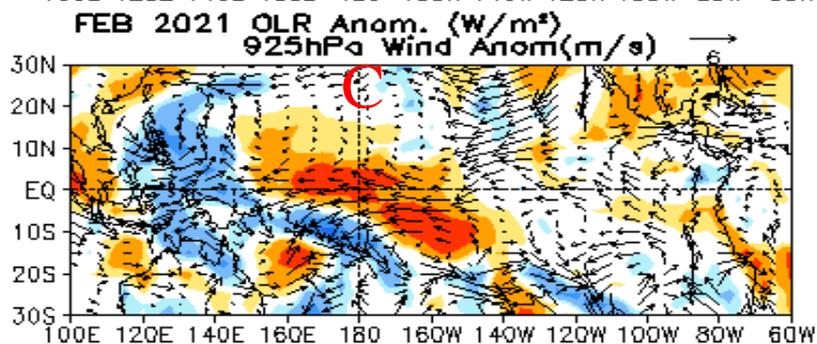
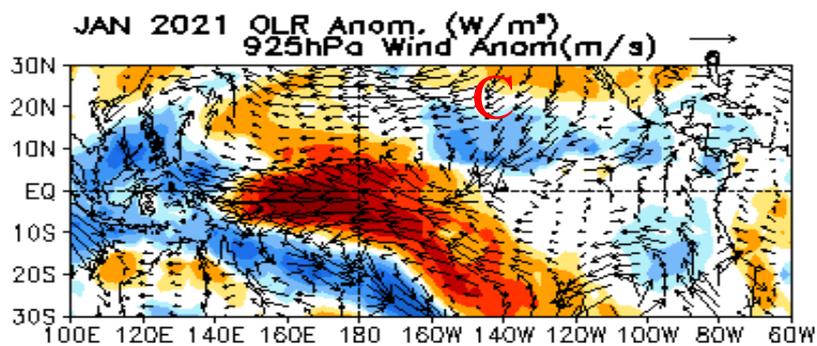
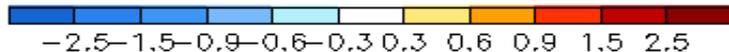
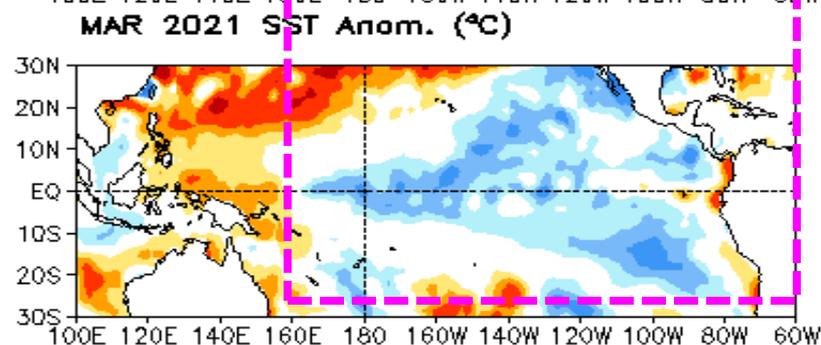
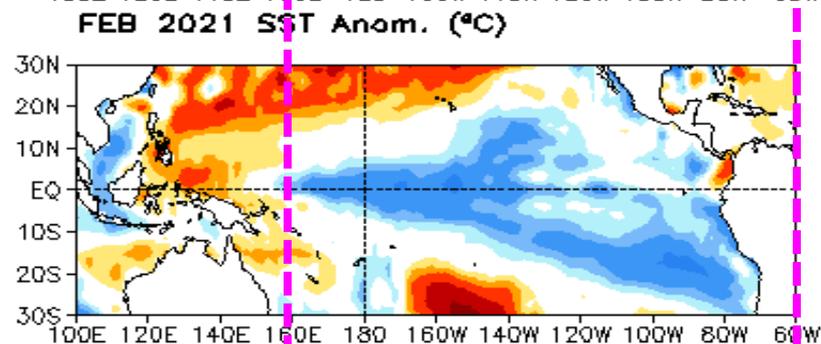
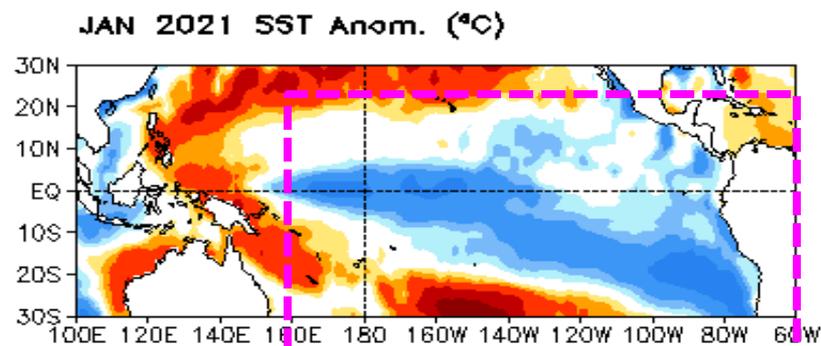


200 mb Wind Anom. (m/s)



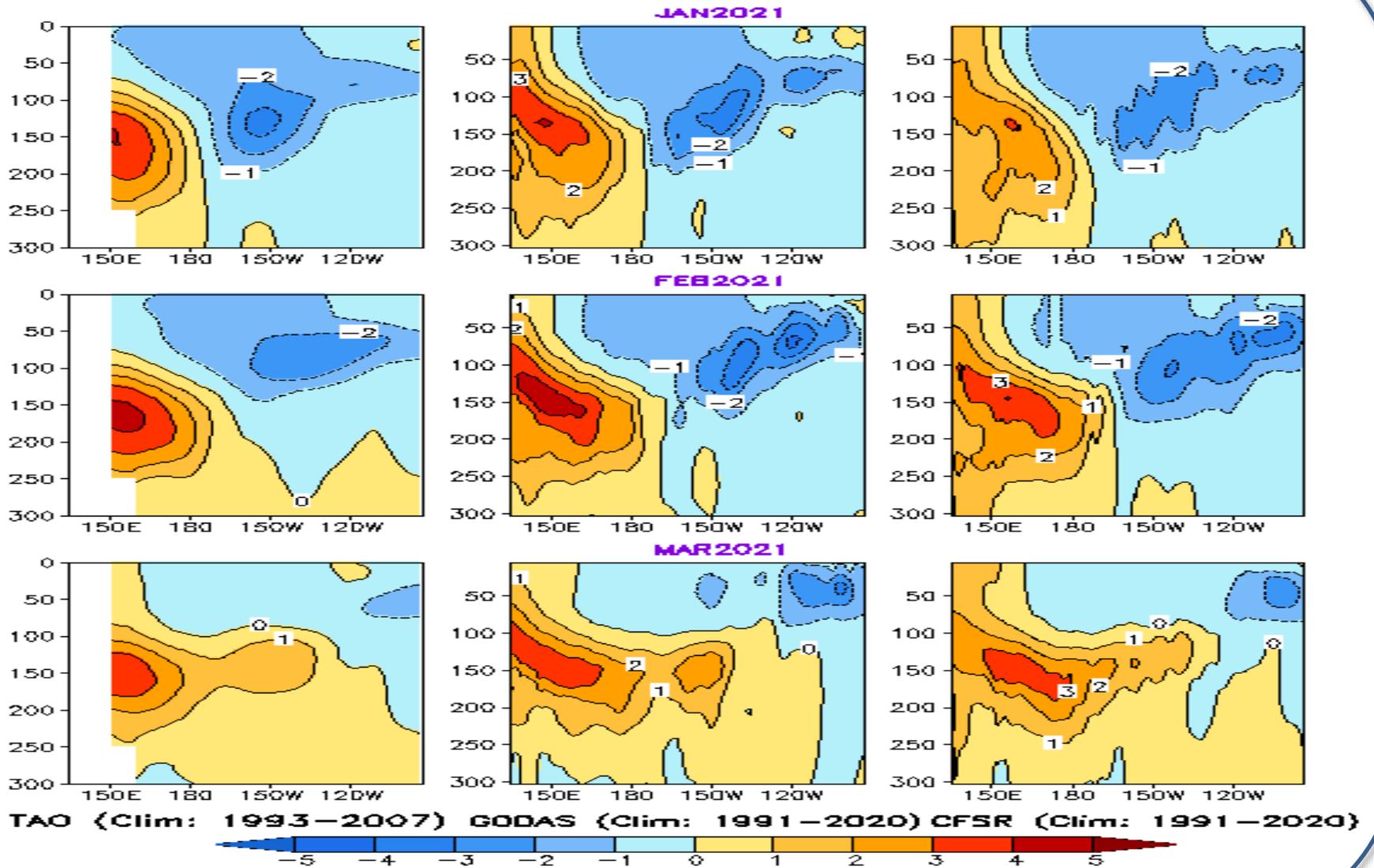
Sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (top-left), anomaly tendency (top-right), Outgoing Long-wave Radiation (OLR) anomalies (middle-left), sum of net surface short- and long-wave radiation, latent and sensible heat flux anomalies (middle-right; positive means heat into the ocean), 925-mb wind anomaly vector and its amplitude (bottom-left), 200-mb wind anomaly vector and its amplitude (bottom-right). SST are derived from the NCEP OI SST analysis, OLR from the NOAA 18 AVHRR IR window channel measurements by NESDIS, winds and surface radiation and heat fluxes from the NCEP CDAS. Anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.

# Latest 3-month Tropical Pacific SST , OLR, & uv925 anomalies

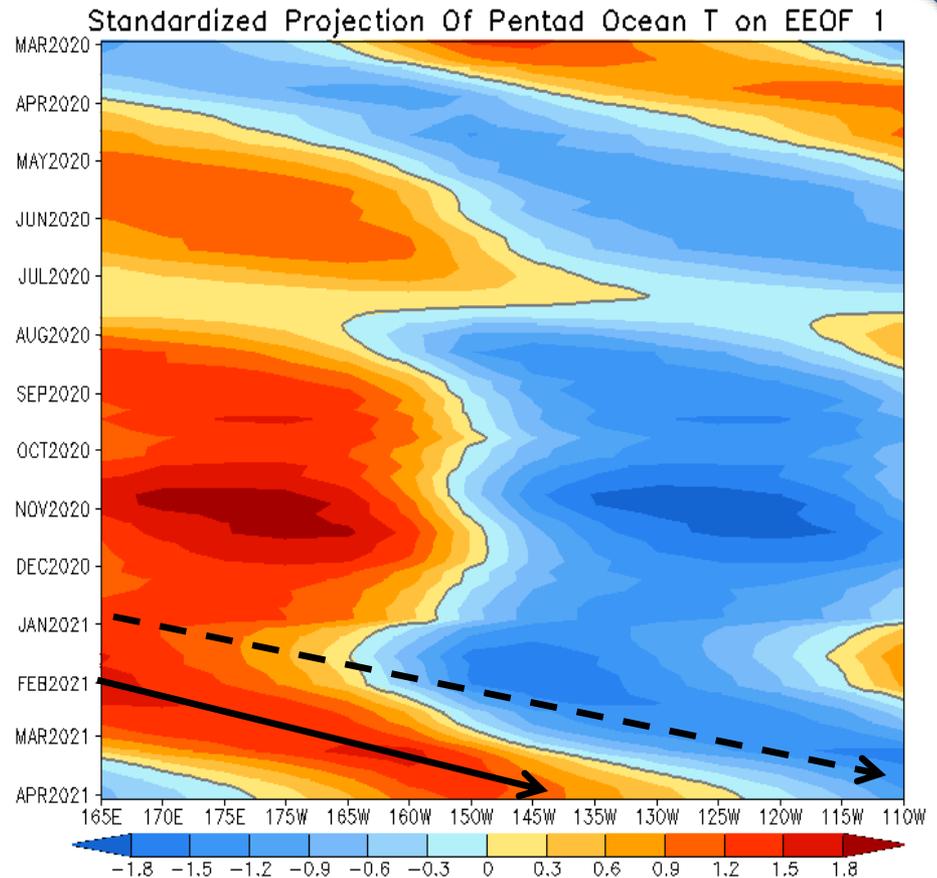
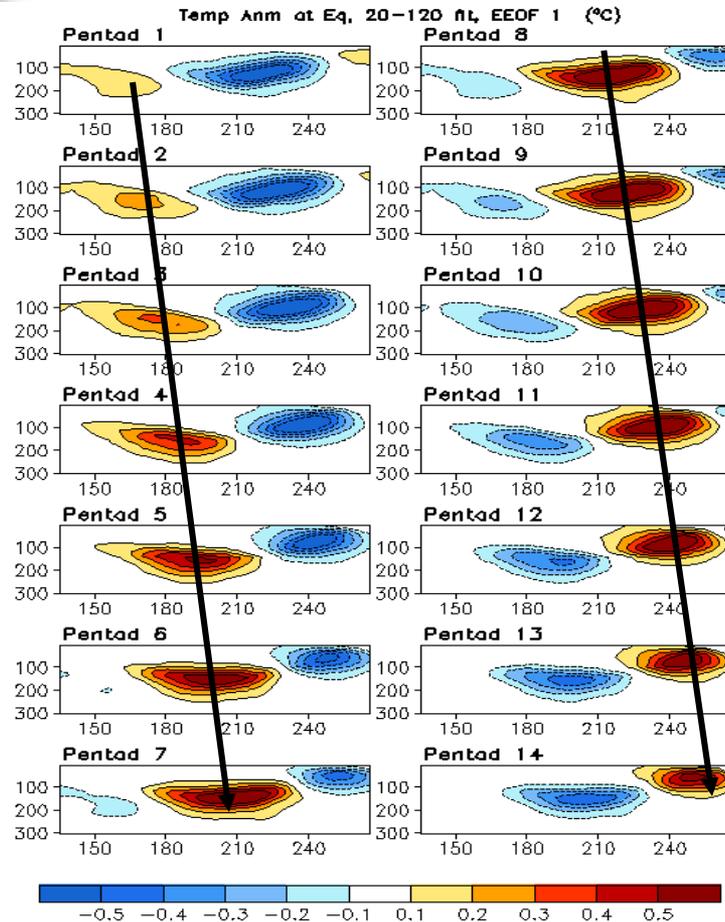


# Latest 3-month subsurface temperature anomaly along the Equator

Ocean Temperature Anomaly in 2S–2N (°C)



# Oceanic Kelvin Wave (OKW) Index

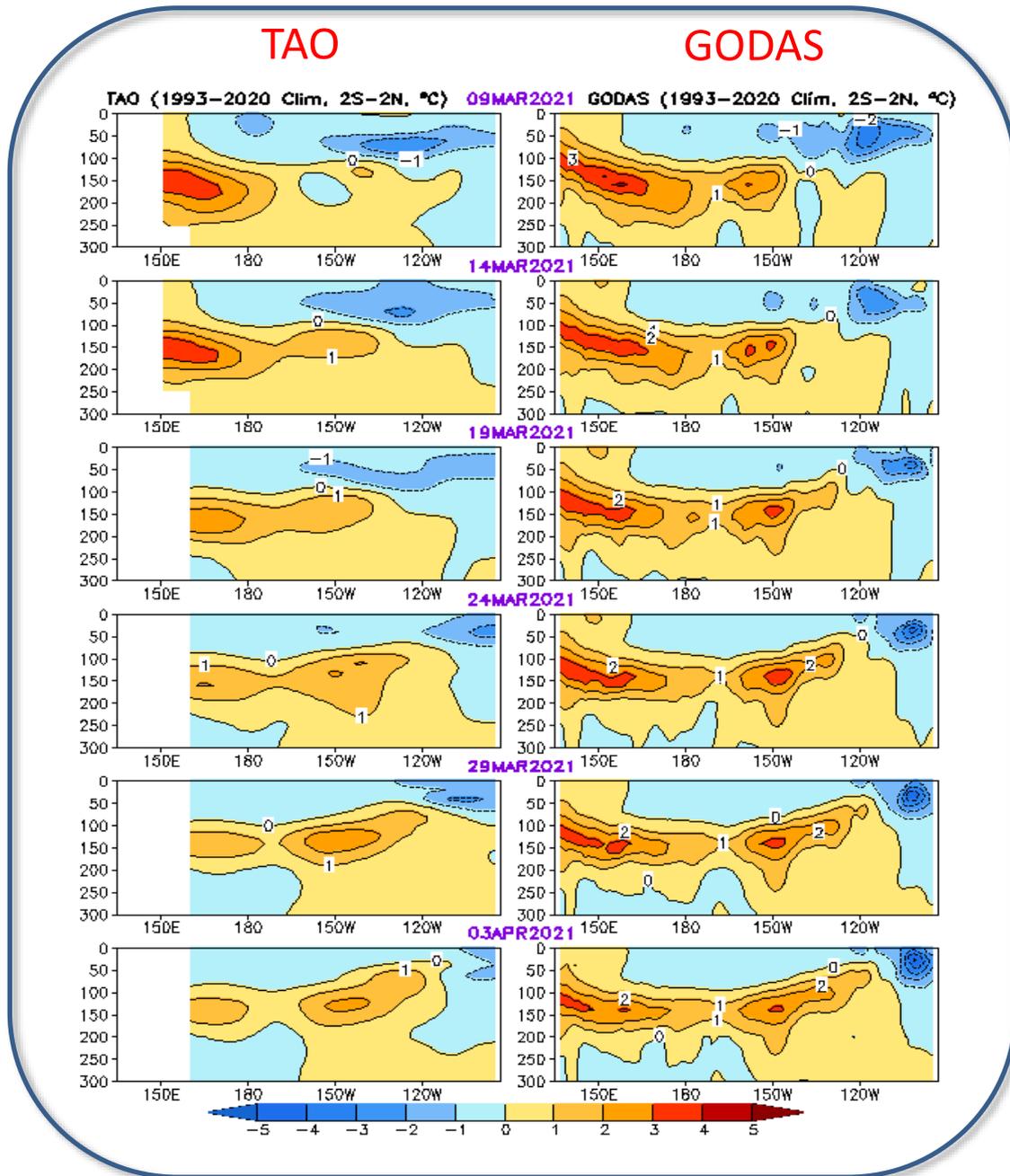


- Upwelling Kelvin waves were initiated in Mar & Jul 2020, leading to the subsurface cooling in the eastern equatorial Pacific.

- Downwelling Kelvin wave was initiated in Jan 2021, consisting with the weakening of La Niña.

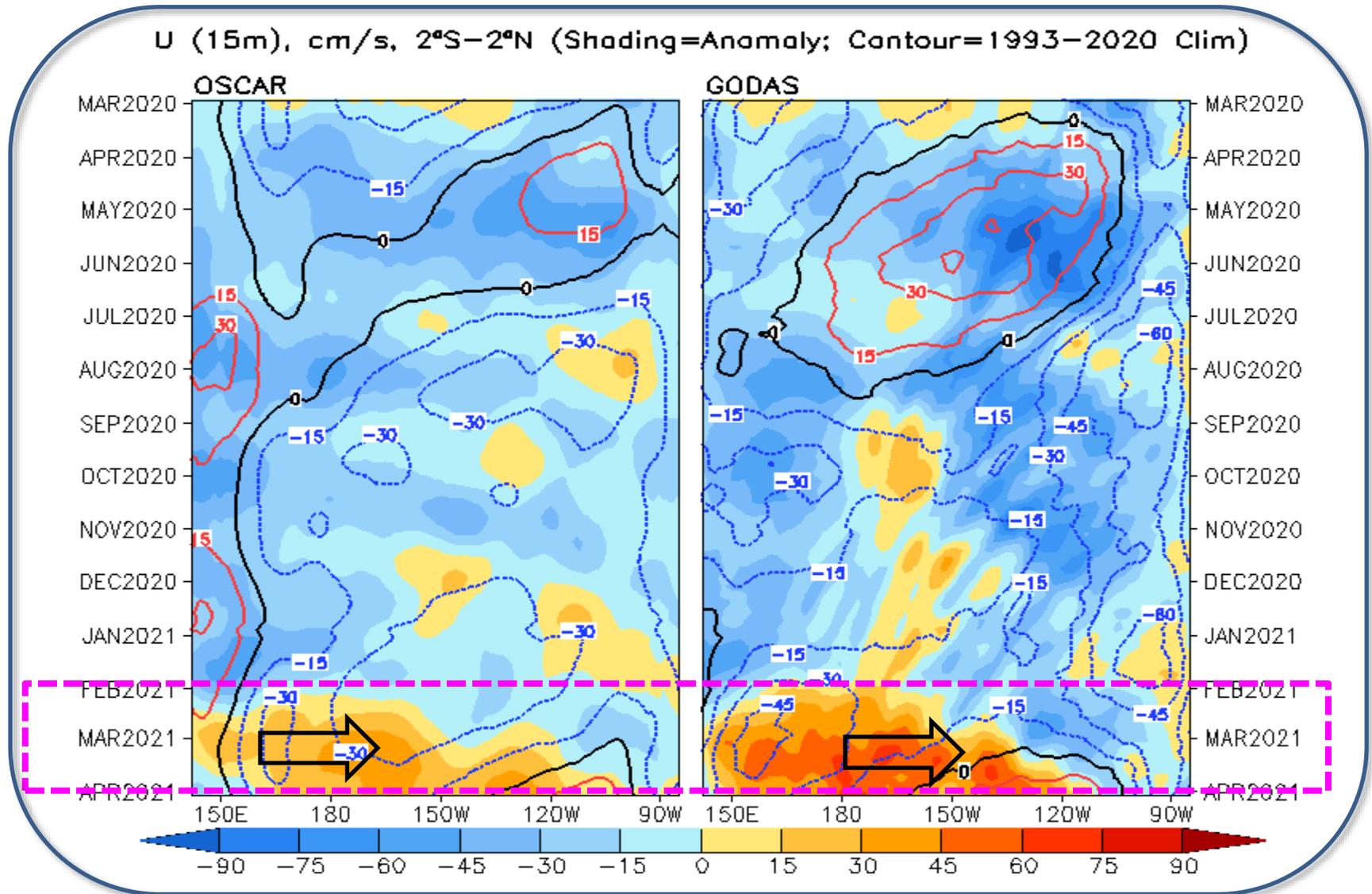
(OKW index is defined as standardized projections of total anomalies onto the 14 patterns of Extended EOF1 of equatorial temperature anomalies (Seo and Xue, GRL, 2005).)

# Equatorial Pacific Ocean Temperature Pentad Mean Anomaly



- Positive ocean temperature anomalies along the thermocline in the western and east-central Pacific propagated eastward and negative anomalies in the far-eastern Pacific weakened in the last 2-months, consisting with the weakening of La Niña
- The features of the ocean temperature anomalies were similar between GODAS and TAO analysis.

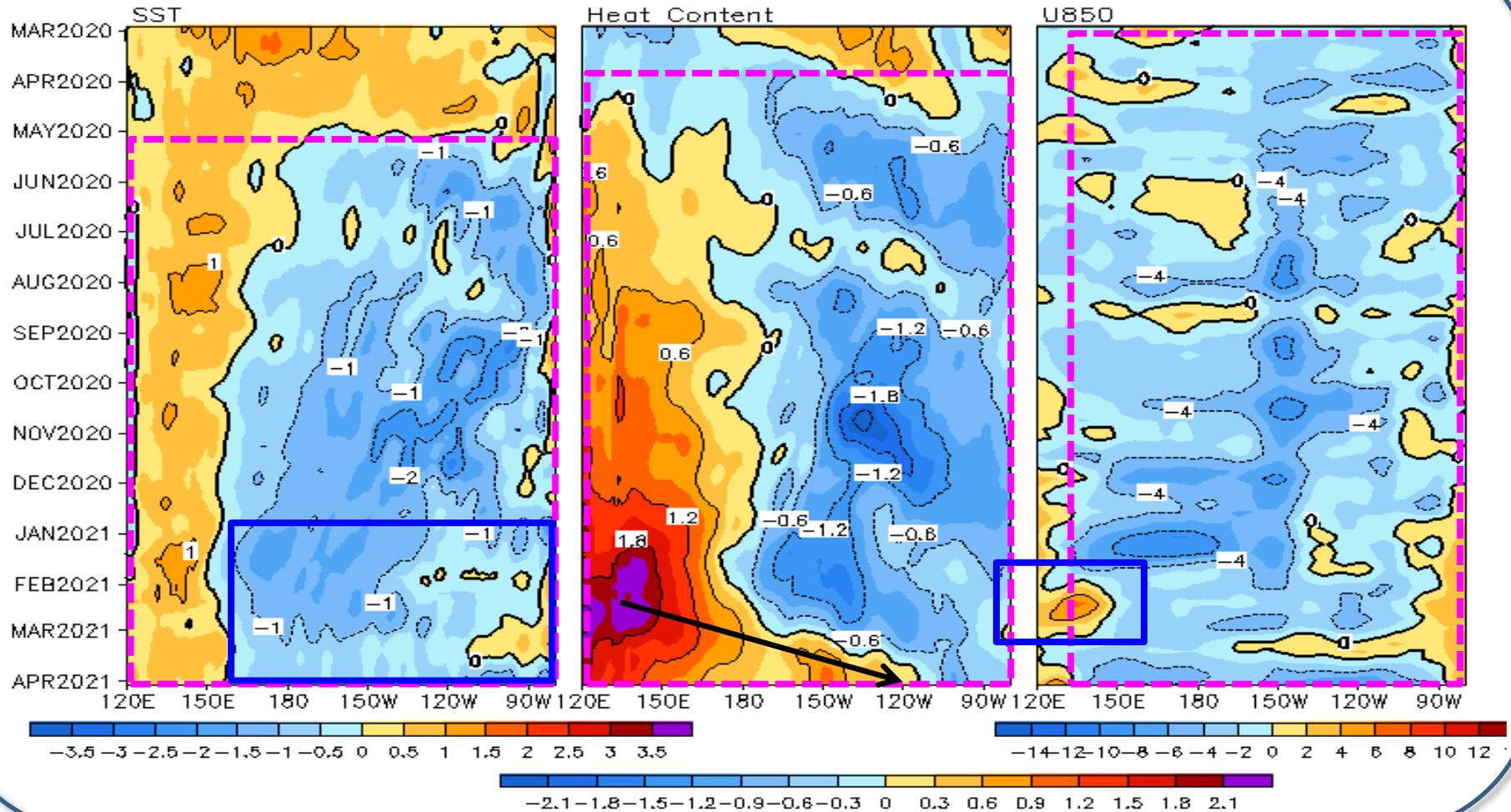
# Evolution of Equatorial Pacific Surface Zonal Current Anomaly (cm/s)



- Anomalous eastward currents emerged in the western & central equatorial Pacific in both OSCAR and GODAS in Feb and Mar 2021, contributing to the weakening of the La Niña.

# Equatorial Pacific SST ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), HC300 ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), u850 (m/s) Anomalies

2°S–2°N Average, 3 Pentad Running Mean

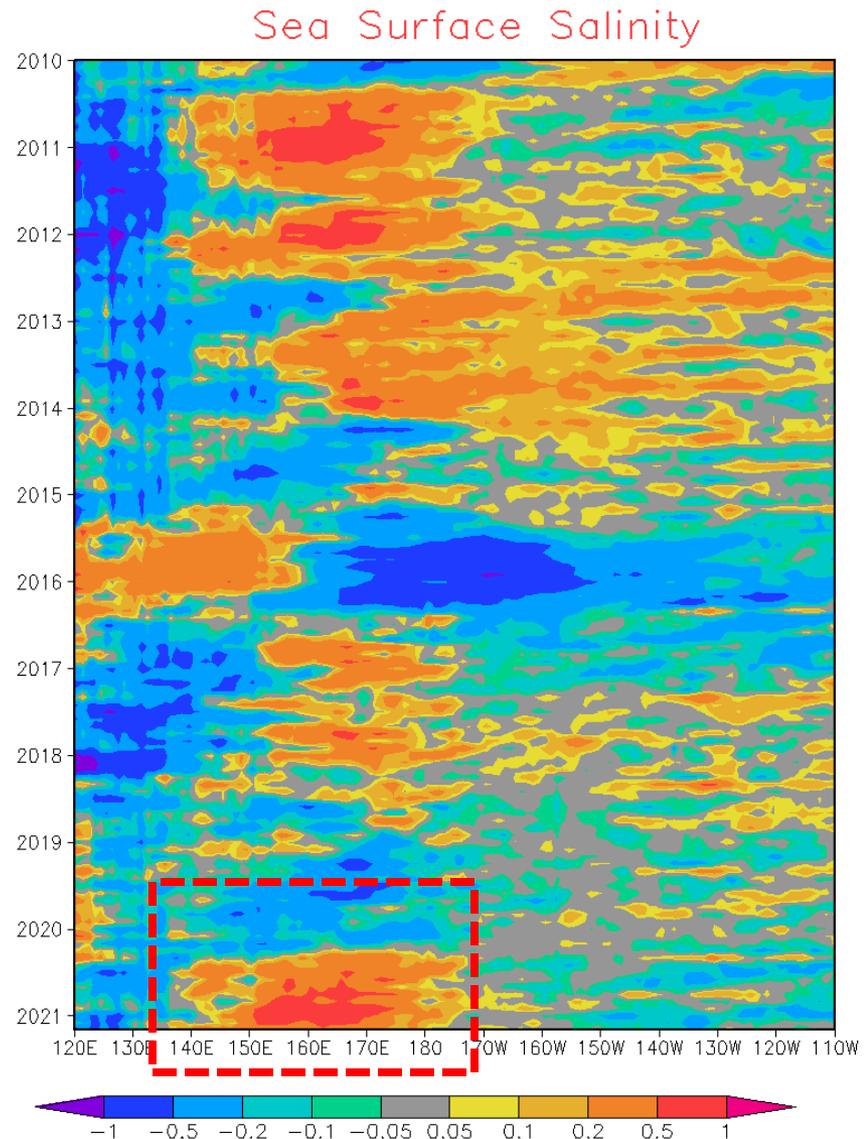


- Easterly wind anomaly was present across the equatorial Pacific since Mar 2020.
- Negative HC300A weakened in the eastern Pacific and positive HC300A in the western Pacific propagated eastward in Feb-Mar 2021.
- Negative SSTAs weakened in the eastern equatorial Pacific since Jan 2021.

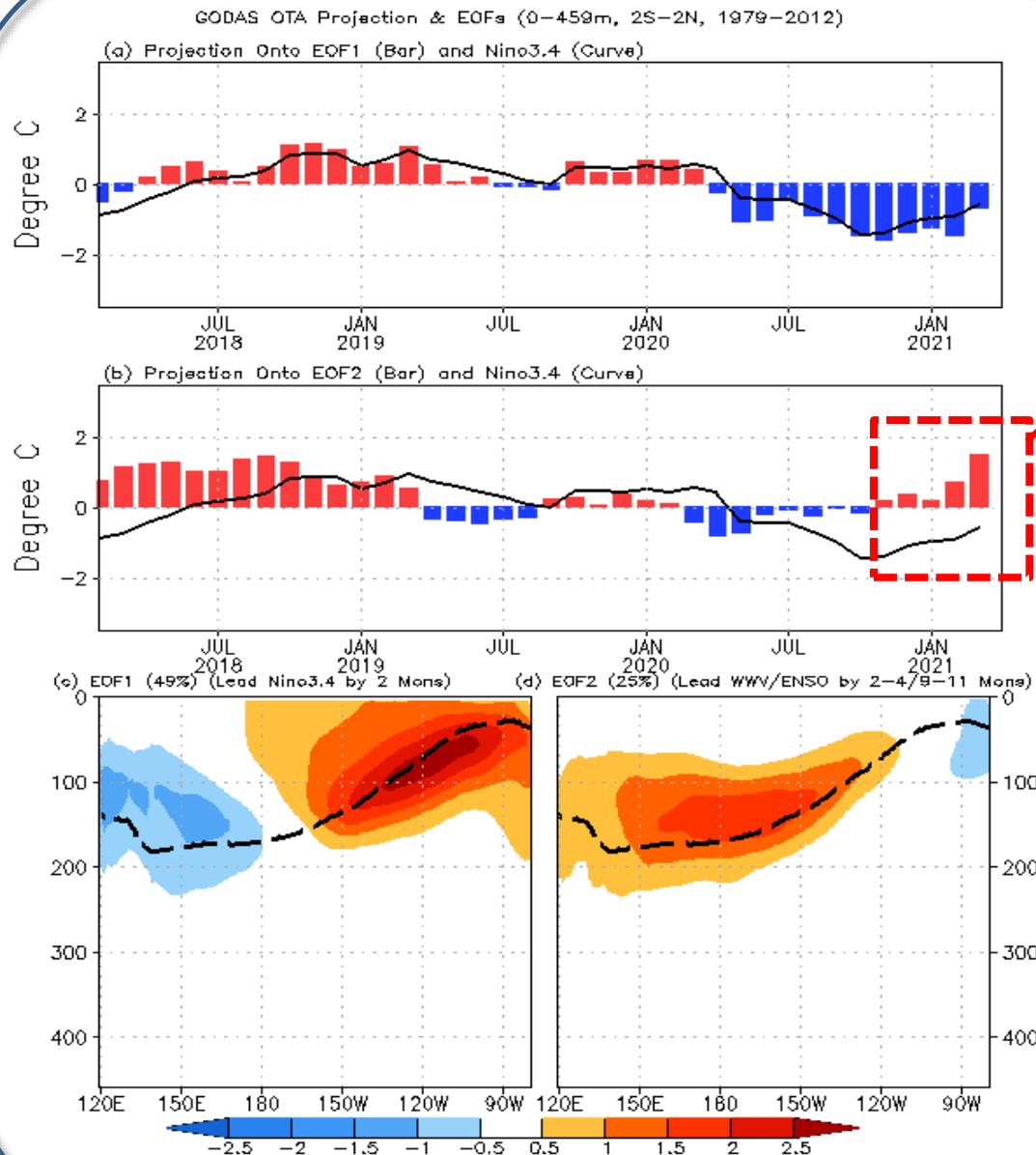
# Monthly SSS Anomaly Evolution over Equatorial Pacific

**NOTE: Since June 2015, the BASS SSS is from in situ, SMOS and SMAP; before June 2015, The BASS SSS is from in situ, SMOS and Aquarius.**

- Hovemoller diagram for equatorial SSS anomaly ( $5^{\circ}$  S- $5^{\circ}$  N);
- In the equatorial Pacific Ocean, west of  $140^{\circ}$  E, negative SSS signal continues; positive SSS signal also continues between  $140^{\circ}$  E and  $170^{\circ}$  W; while negative SSS signal continues east of  $160^{\circ}$  W.



# Equatorial Sub-surface Ocean Temperature Monitoring



- The equatorial Pacific has been in a recharge phase since Nov 2020.

- Projection of ocean temperature anomalies onto EOF1 and EOF2; EOF1: Tilt/dipole mode (ENSO peak phase); EOF2: WWV mode.

- Recharge/discharge oscillation (ENSO transition phase); Recharge process: heat transport from outside of equator to equator; Negative -> positive phase of ENSO

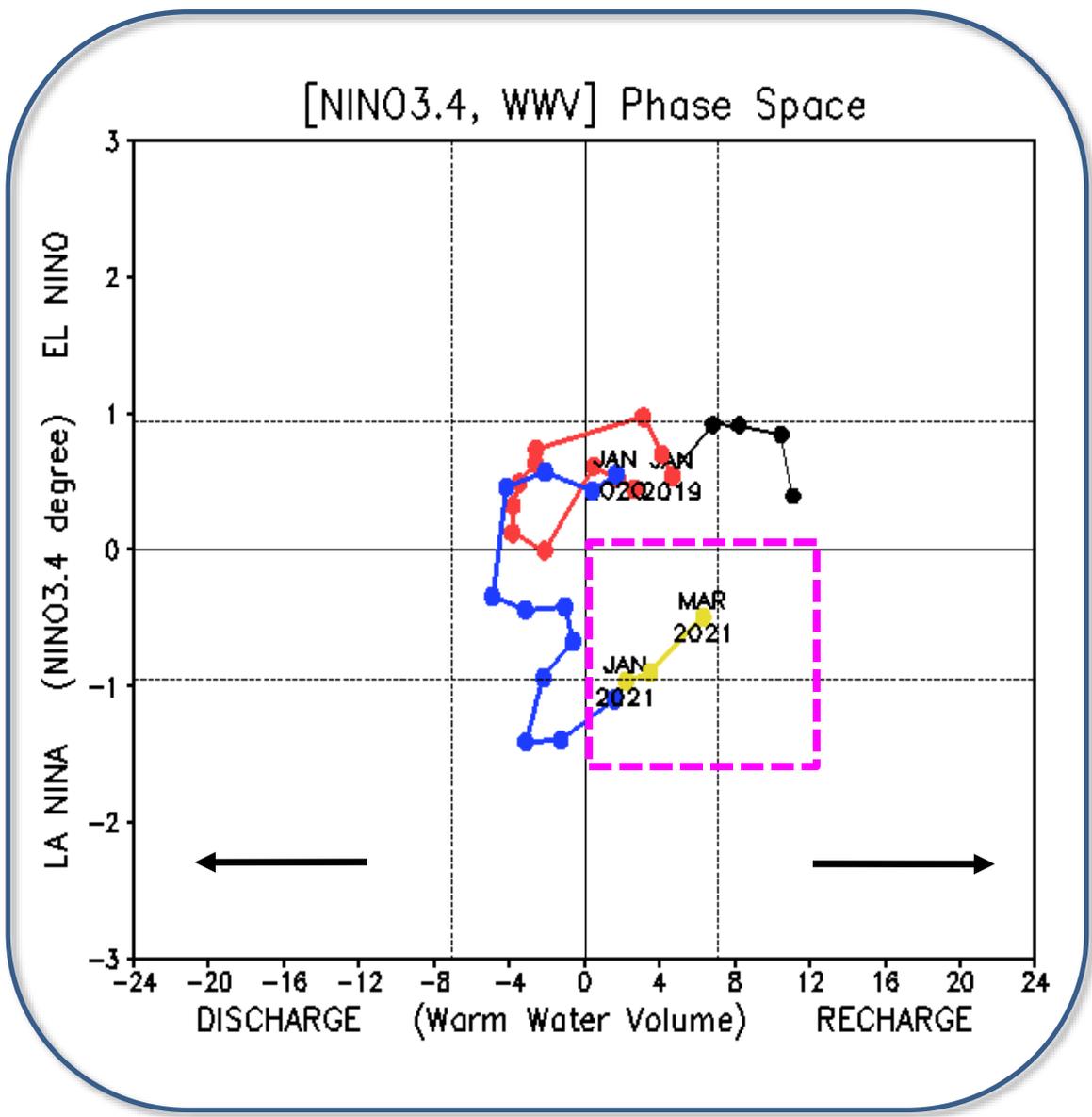
- For details, see: Kumar A, Z-Z Hu (2014) DOI: 10.1007/s00382-013-1721-0.

# Warm Water Volume (WWV) and Niño3.4 Anomalies

- Equatorial Warm Water Volume (WWV) was in a recharge phase in Jan-Mar 2021.

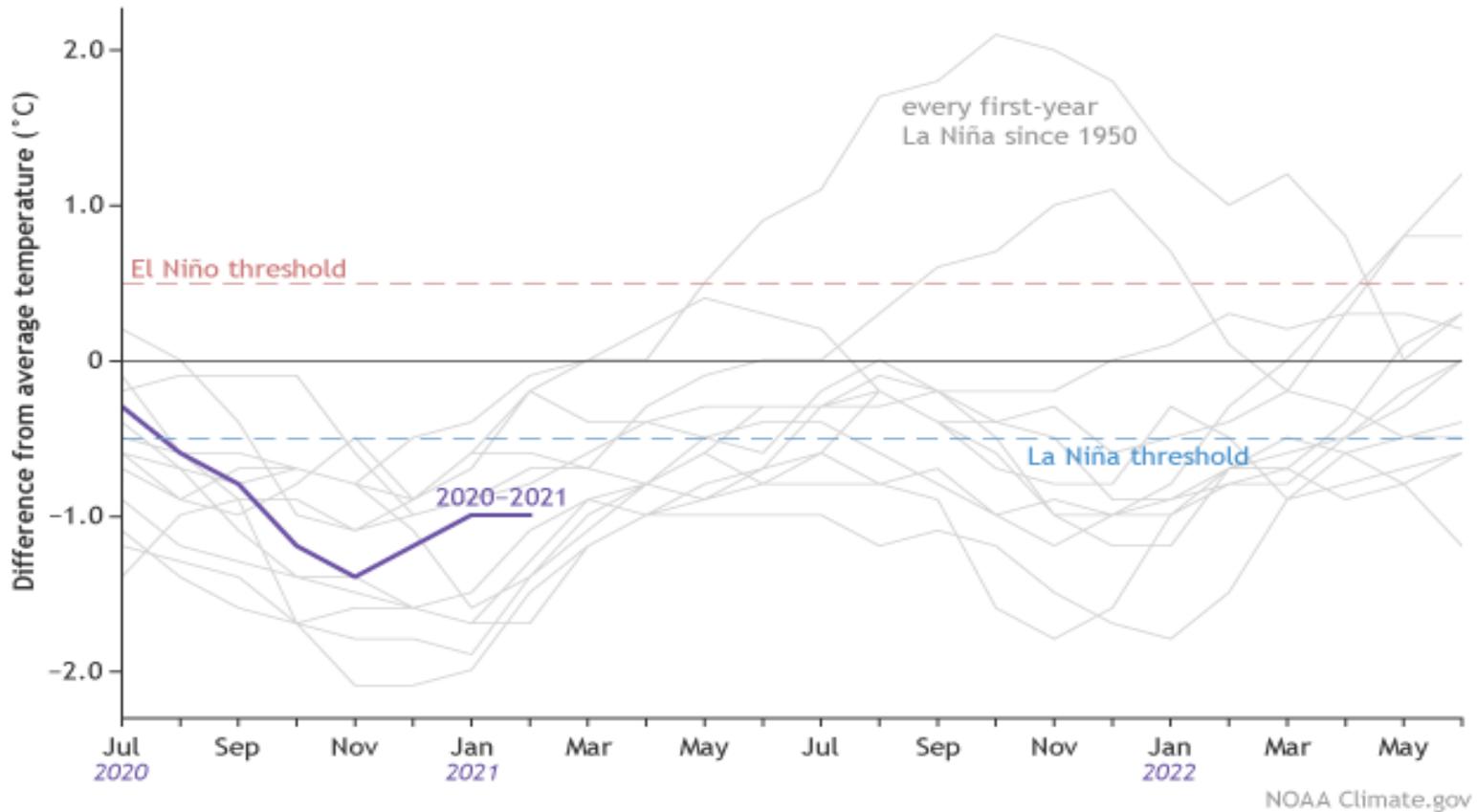
-As WWV is intimately linked to ENSO variability (Wyrtki 1985; Jin 1997), it is useful to monitor ENSO in a phase space of WWV and Niño3.4 (Kessler 2002).

- Increase (decrease) of WWV indicates recharge (discharge) of the equatorial oceanic heat content.



Phase diagram of Warm Water Volume (WWV) and Niño3.4 indices. WWV is the average of depth of 20°C in [120°E-80°W, 5°S-5°N] calculated with the NCEP's GODAS. Anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.

Monthly sea surface temperature Niño 3.4 Index values

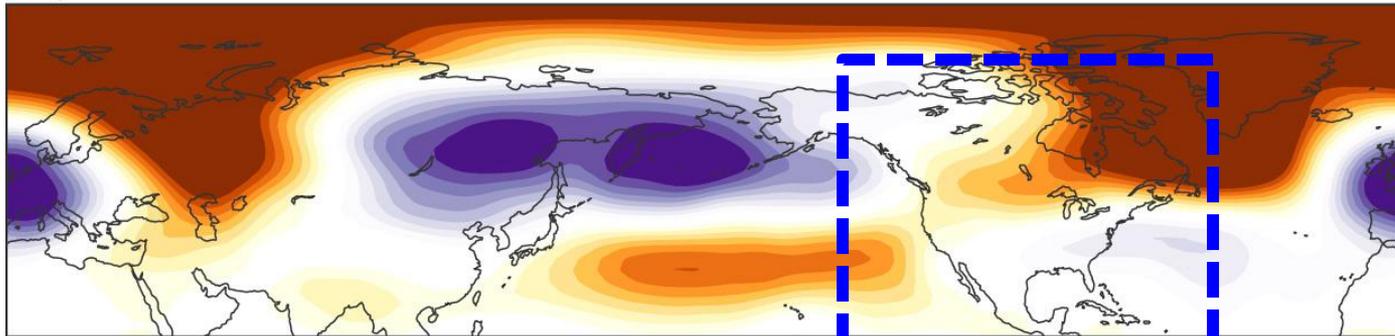


- Monthly sea surface temperature in the Niño 3.4 region of the tropical Pacific for 2020-21 (purple line) and all other years starting from first-year La Niña winters since 1950. Climate.gov graph based on ERSSTv5 temperature data.

**Dr. Nat Johnson; GFDL**

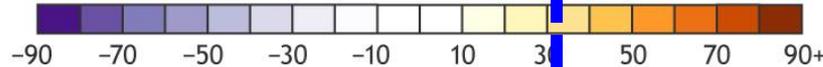
<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/enso/march-2021-enso-update-fine-feathered-friends>

Air pressure anomalies for Dec 2020-Jan 2021

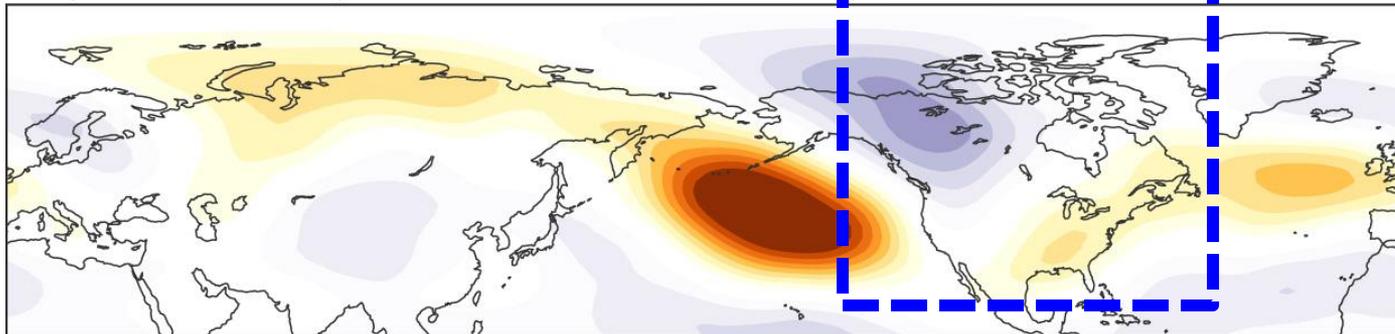


December-January  
compared to 1991-2020

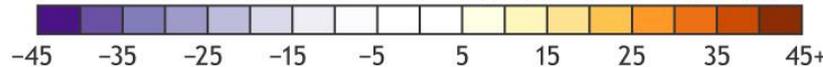
difference from average 500 hPa geopotential height (m)



Composite Dec-Jan air pressure anomalies for the 13 strongest La Niña events since 1950



difference from average 500 hPa geopotential height (m)

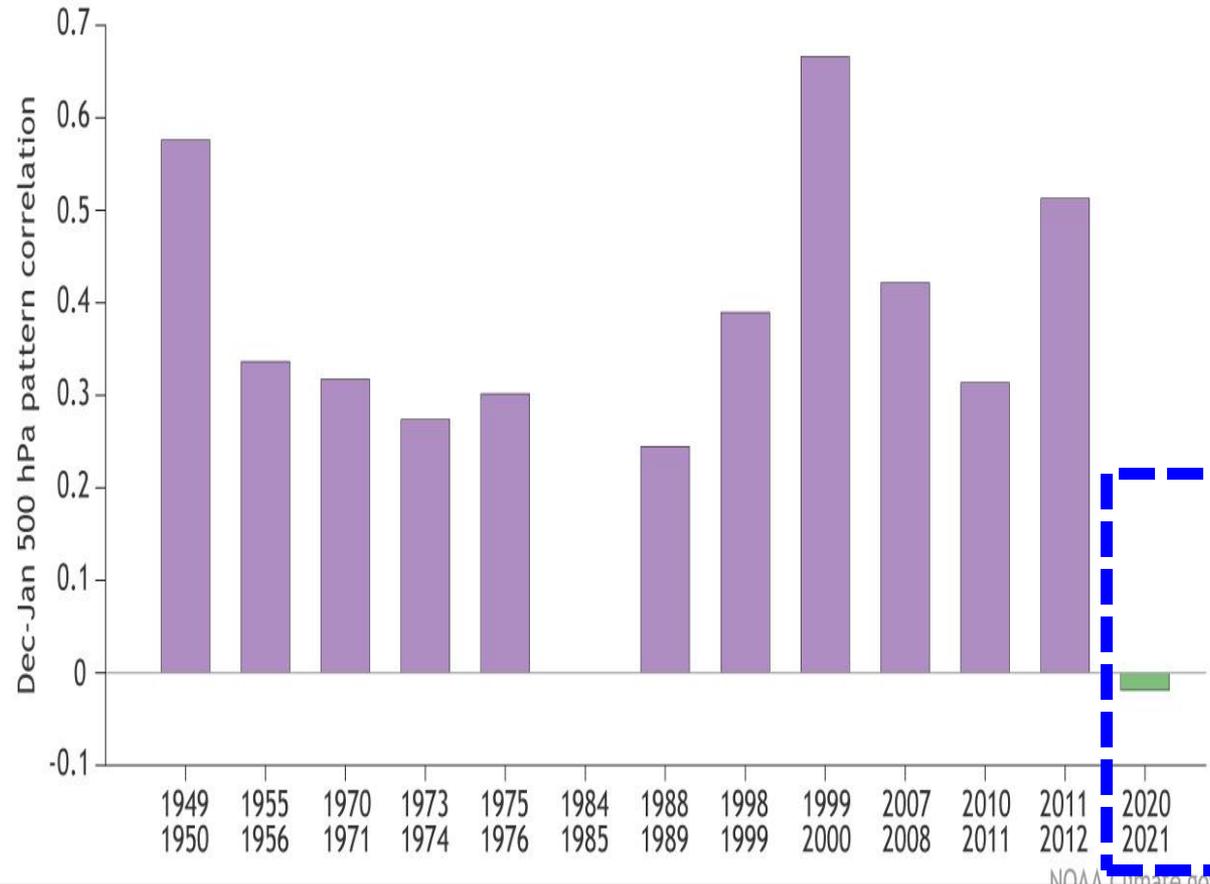


NOAA Climate.gov  
Data: NCEP-NCAR

**Did the Northern Hemisphere get the memo on this year's La Niña? (Dr. Nat Johnson; GFDL)**

<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/enso/did-northern-hemisphere-get-memo-years-la-ni%C3%B1a>

Individual La Niña events compared to a composite pattern of the 13 strongest La Niña events

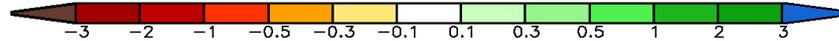
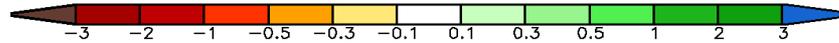
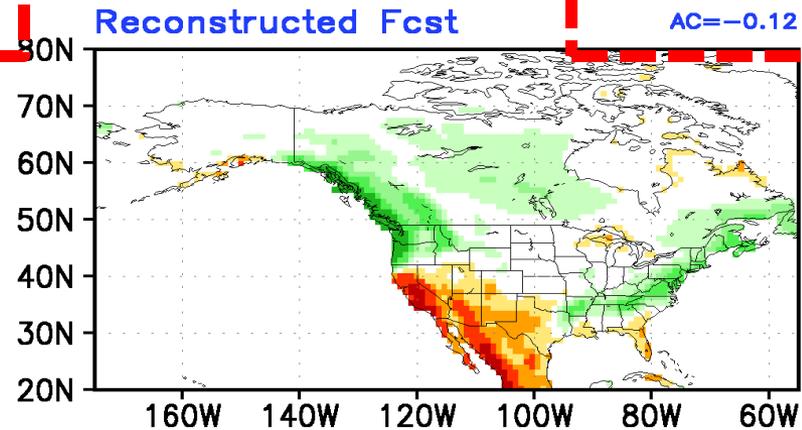
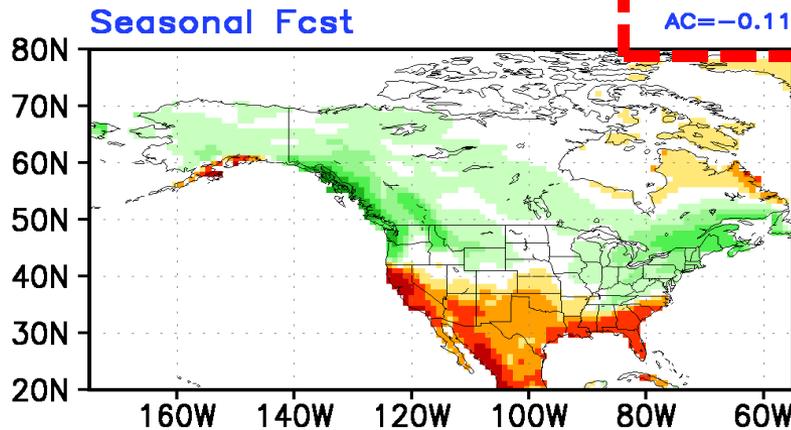
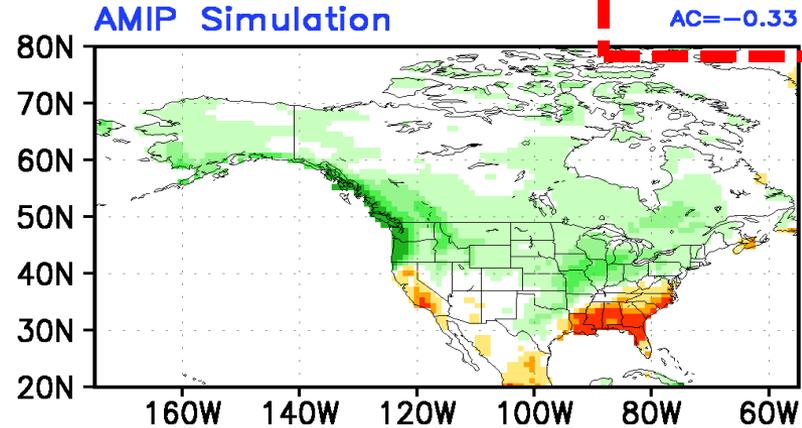
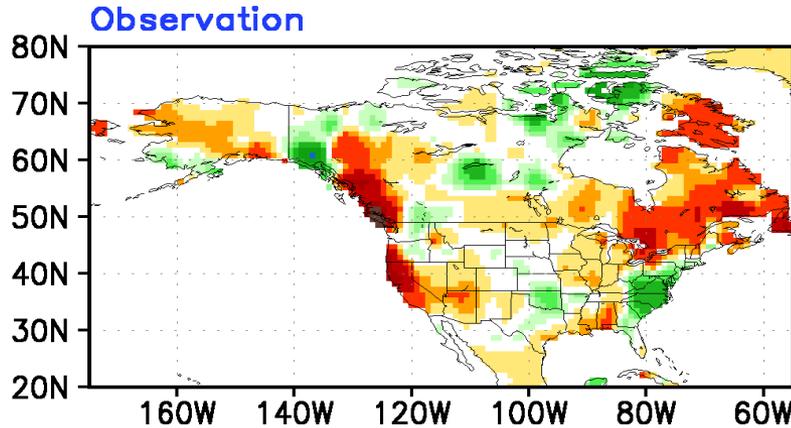


- Pattern correlations between the individual La Niña and average La Niña December – January 500 hPa geopotential height anomalies north of 15° N for the 13 strongest La Niña episodes since 1950.

**Did the Northern Hemisphere get the memo on this year's La Niña? (Dr. Nat Johnson; GFDL)**

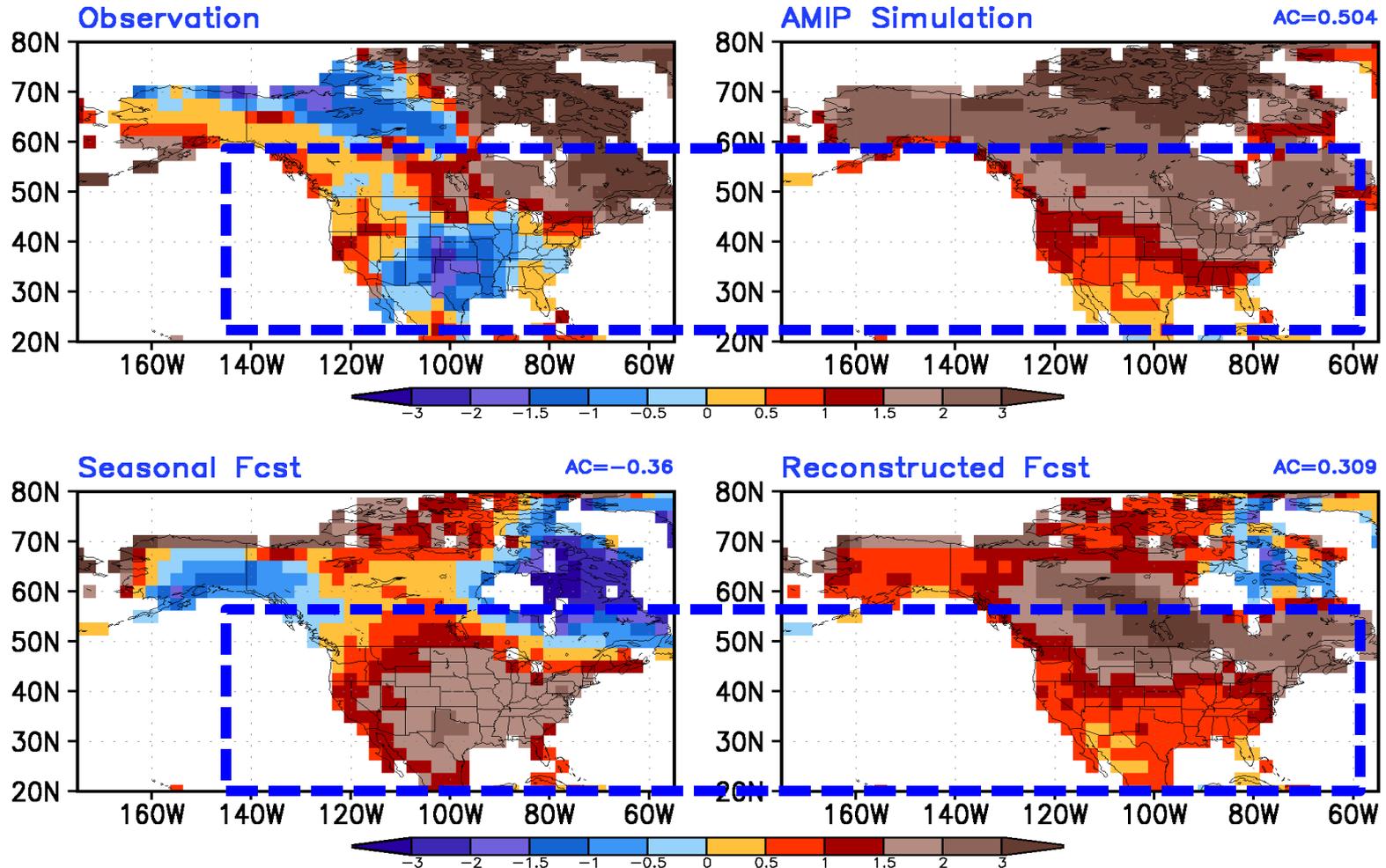
<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/enso/did-northern-hemisphere-get-memo-years-la-ni%C3%B1a>

# DJF2020/2021 Observed & Model Simulated/Forecast Ensemble Average Anomalies Prec(mm/day)



<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/people/mchen/AttributionAnalysis/>

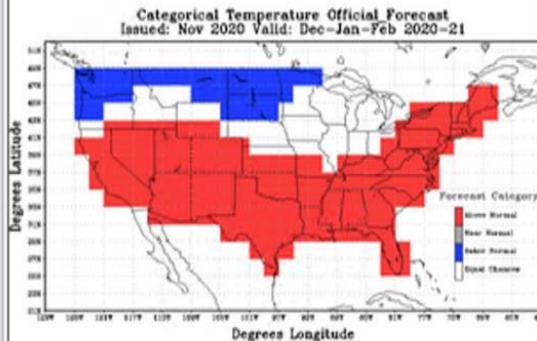
# DJF2020/2021 Observed & Model Simulated/Forecast Ensemble Average Anomalies T2m(K)



<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/people/mchen/AttributionAnalysis/>

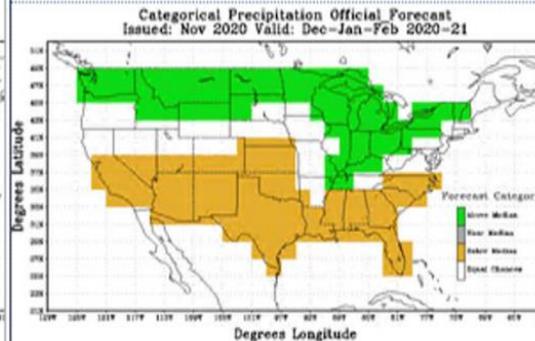
**Temperature Forecast Heidke Skill Scores :**  
 Non-Equal Chance(non EC) forecasts: -22.35  
 All forecasts: -17.24  
 % coverage not Equal Chance forecasts : 77.16

Temperature (Forecast)  
 Download Forecast Data Archive  
[\(CAT, PROB ABOVE PROB BELOW\)](#)  
[How To Read Temperature Forecasts](#)

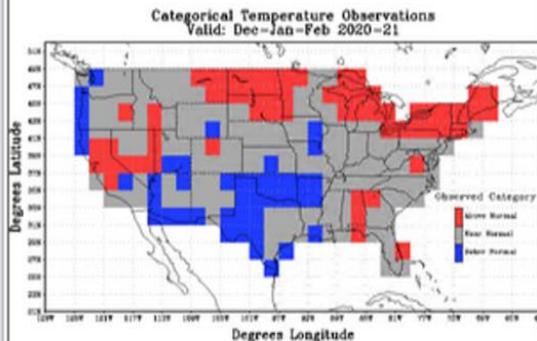


**Precipitation Forecast Heidke Skill Scores :**  
 Non-Equal Chance(non EC) forecasts: -0.29  
 All forecasts: -0.22  
 % coverage not Equal Chance forecasts : 74.14

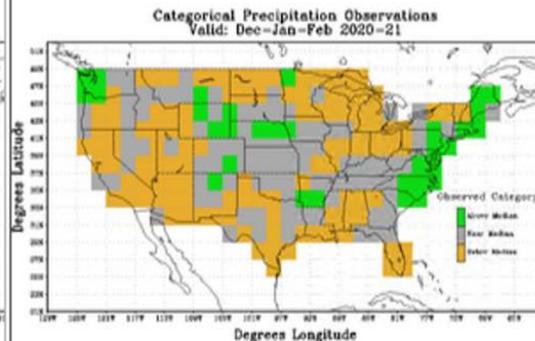
Precipitation (Forecast)  
 Download Forecast Data Archive  
[\(CAT, PROB ABOVE PROB BELOW\)](#)  
[How To Read Precipitation Forecasts](#)



Temperature (Observations)  
 Download Observational Data Archive  
[\(Temperature Observations\)](#)  
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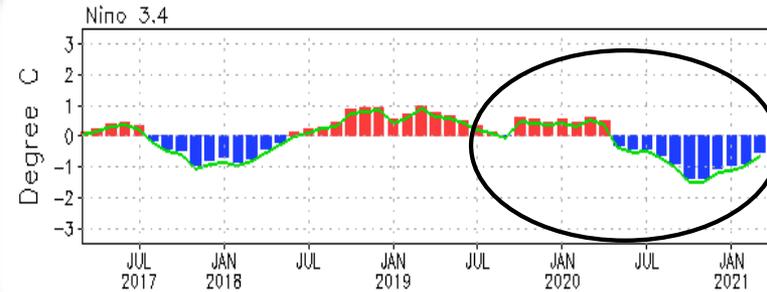
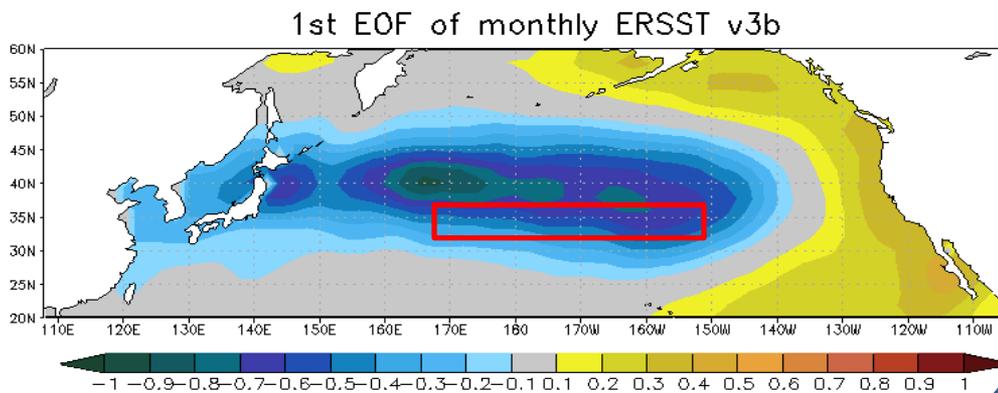
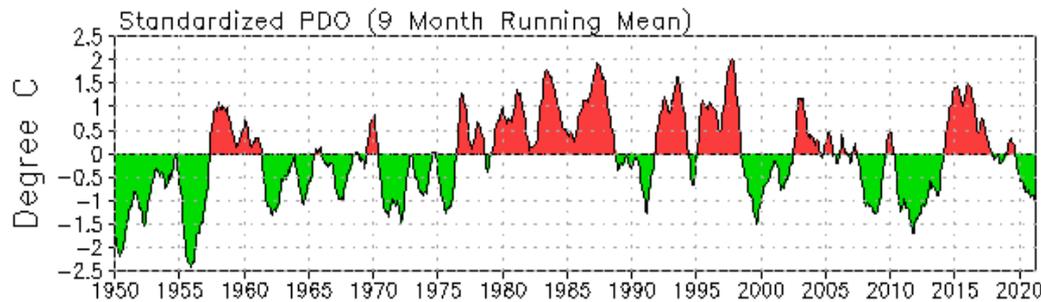
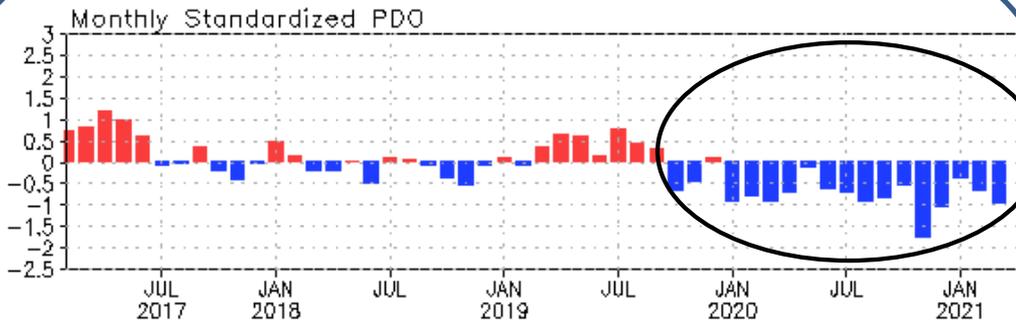
Precipitation (Observations)  
 Download Observational Data Archive  
[\(Precipitation Observations\)](#)  
[How To Read Observations](#)



- **2020/21 DJF Temperature Forecast Heidke Skill Scores :**  
 Non-Equal Chance(non EC) forecasts: -22.35  
 All forecasts: -17.24  
 % coverage not Equal Chance forecasts: 77.16
- **Precipitation Forecast Heidke Skill Scores :**  
 Non-Equal Chance(non EC) forecasts: -0.29  
 All forecasts: -0.22  
 % coverage not Equal Chance forecasts : 74.14

# North Pacific & Arctic Oceans

# Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) Index



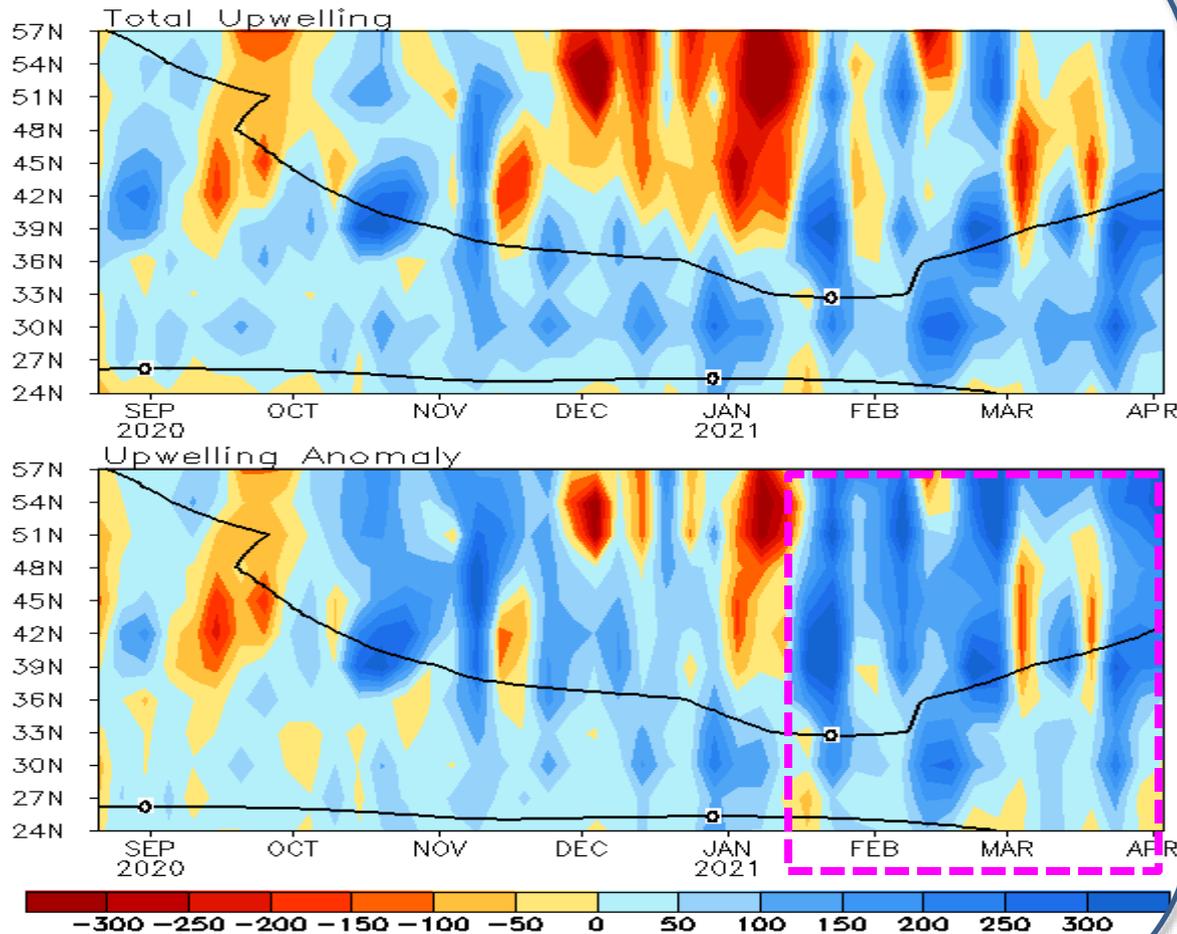
- The negative phase of PDO has persisted since Jan 2020 with PDOI = -1.0 in Mar 2021.

- Statistically, ENSO leads PDO by 3-4 months, through teleconnection via atmospheric bridge, with El Niño (La Niña) associated with positive (negative) PDO Index.

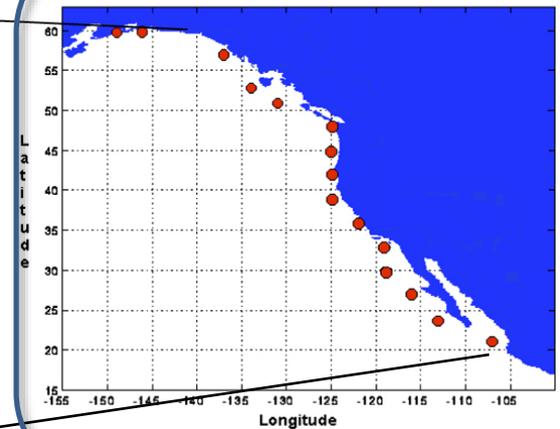
- PDO is defined as the 1<sup>st</sup> EOF of monthly ERSST v3b in the North Pacific for the period 1900-1993. PDO index is the standardized projection of the monthly SST anomalies onto the 1<sup>st</sup> EOF pattern.
- The PDO index differs slightly from that of JISAO, which uses a blend of UKMET and Olv1 and Olv2 SST.

# North America Western Coastal Upwelling

**Pentad Coastal Upwelling for West Coast North America**  
( $\text{m}^3/\text{s}/100\text{m}$  coastline)



Standard Positions of Upwelling Index Calculations



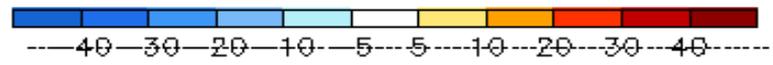
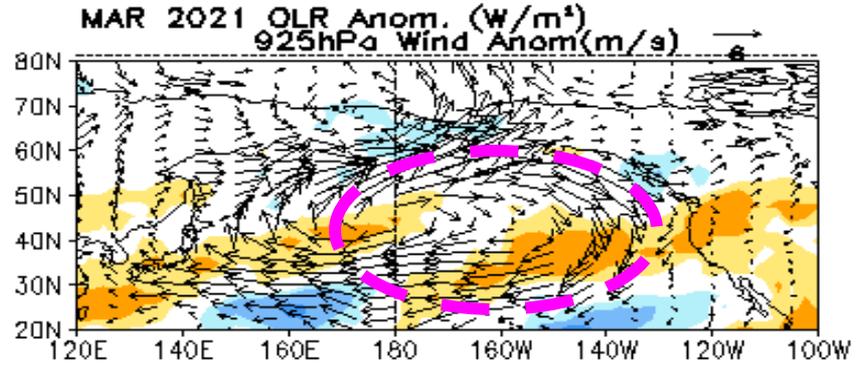
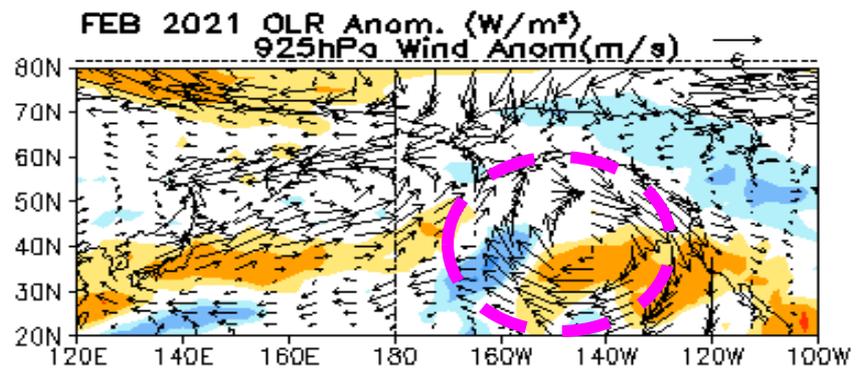
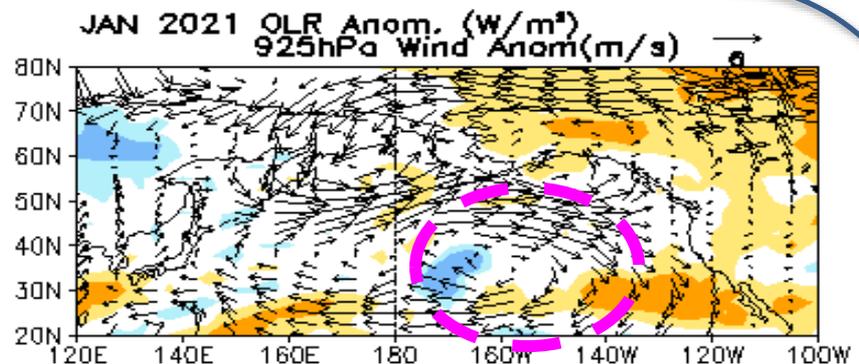
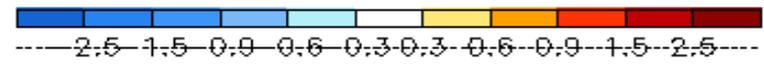
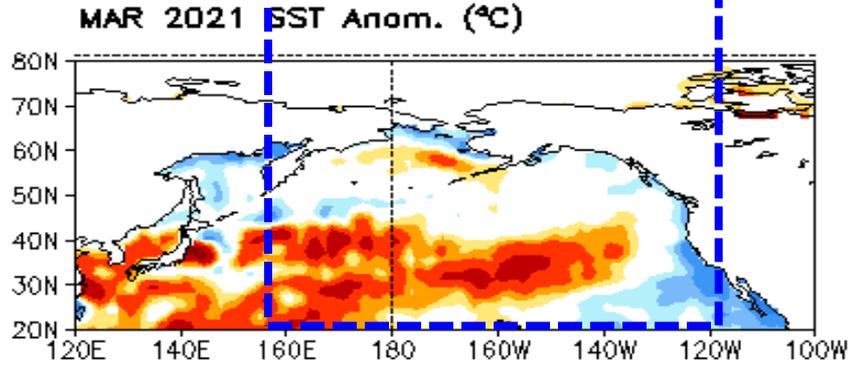
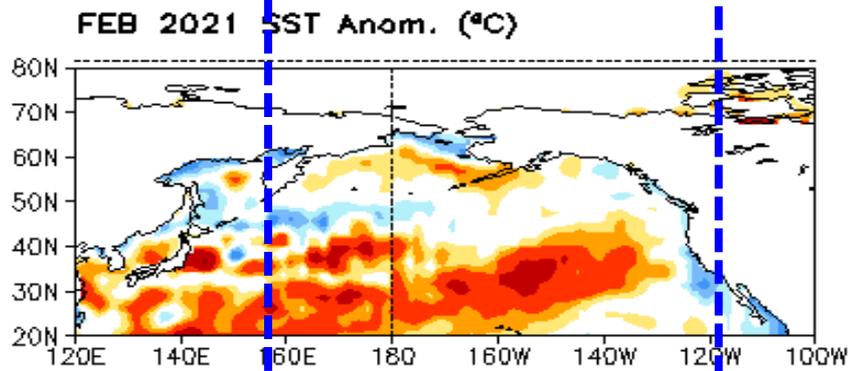
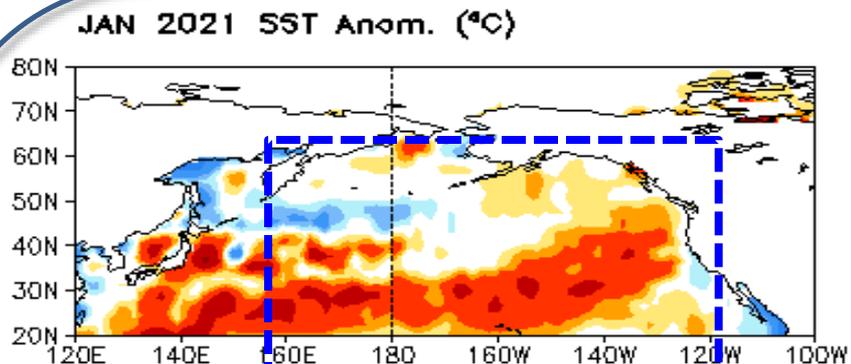
- Coastal anomalous upwelling has been present north of  $27^\circ\text{N}$  since 2<sup>nd</sup> half of Jan 2021.

(top) Total and (bottom) anomalous upwelling indices at the 15 standard locations for the western coast of North America. derived from the vertical velocity of the NCEP's GODAS and are calculated as integrated vertical volume transport at 50-meter depth from each location to its nearest coast point ( $\text{m}^3/\text{s}/100\text{m}$  coastline). Anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period pentad means.

- Area below (above) black line indicates climatological upwelling (downwelling) season.

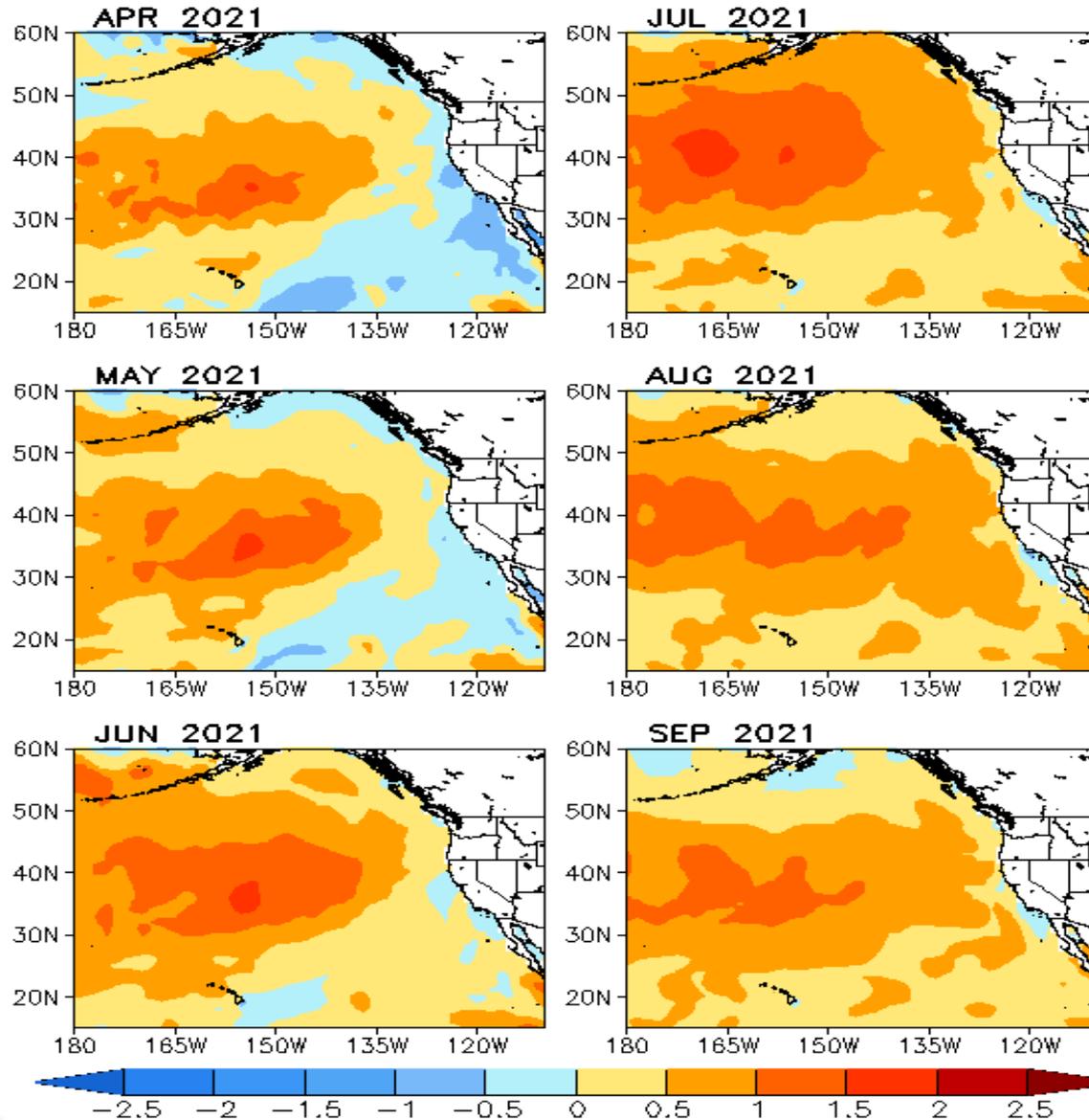
- Climatologically upwelling season progresses from March to July along the west coast of North America from  $36^\circ\text{N}$  to  $57^\circ\text{N}$ .

# Latest 3-month North Pacific SST, OLR & uv925 anomalies



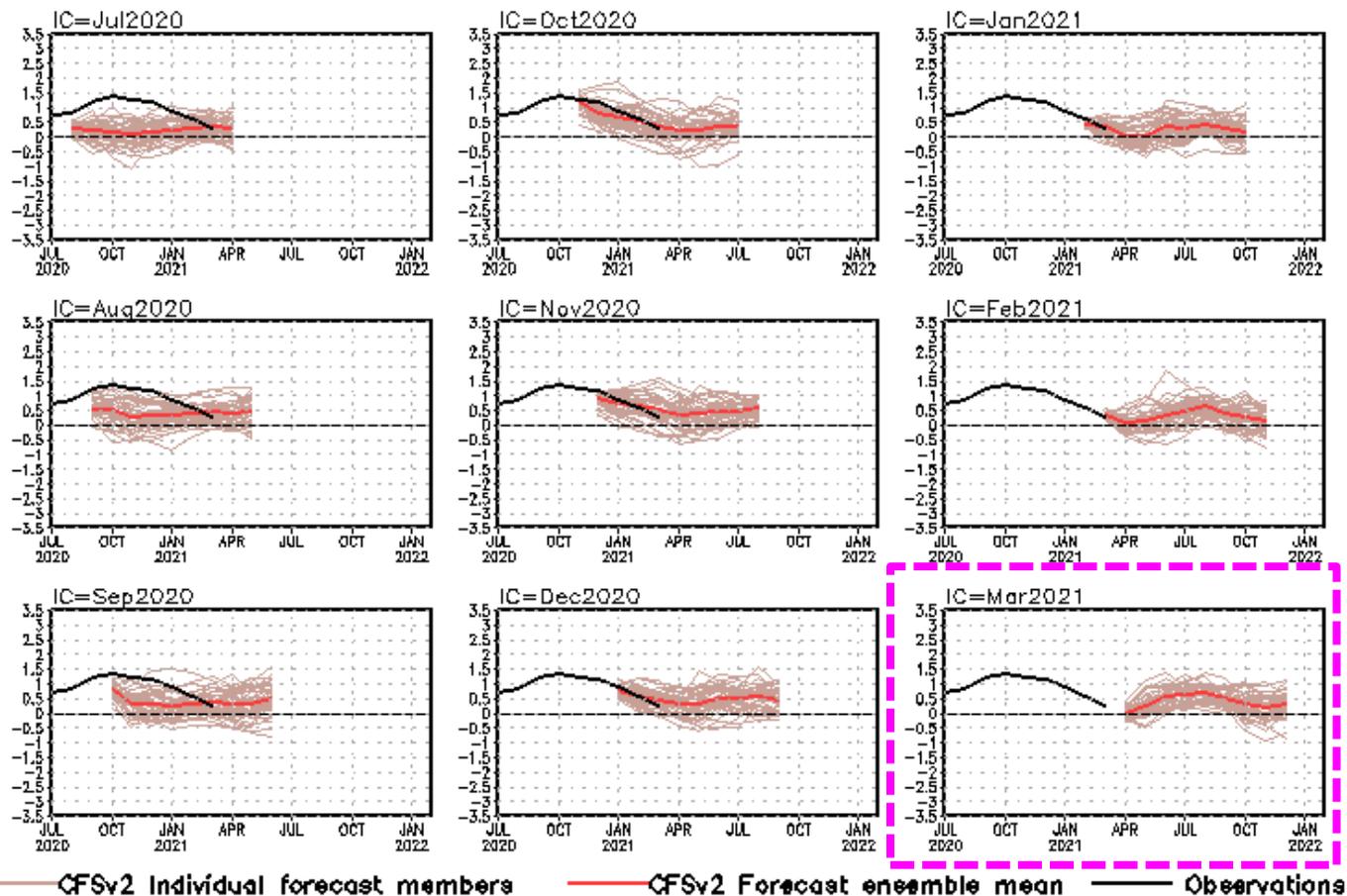
# CFSv2 NE Pacific Marine Heatwave Predictions

CFSv2 Predicted SST Anomaly (40 Member Mean; °C)



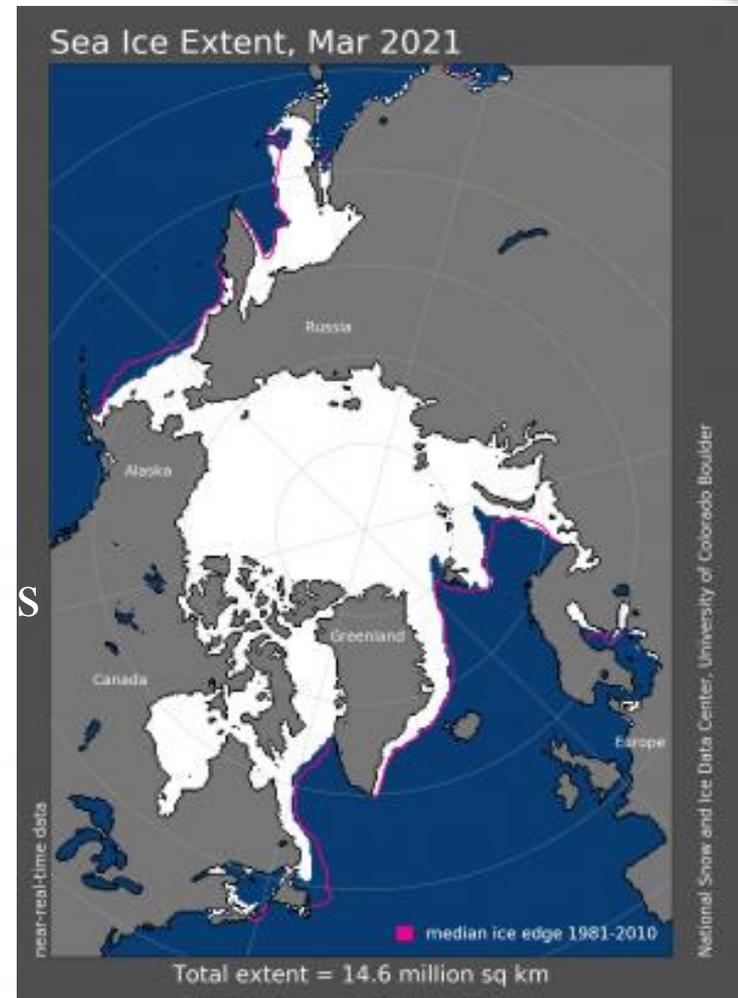
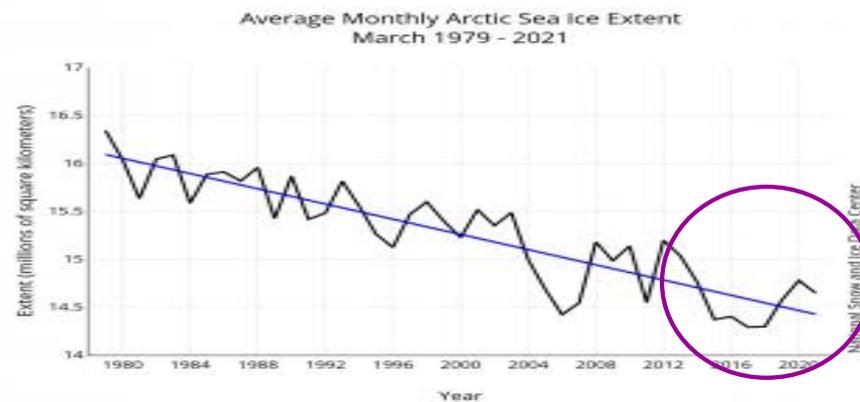
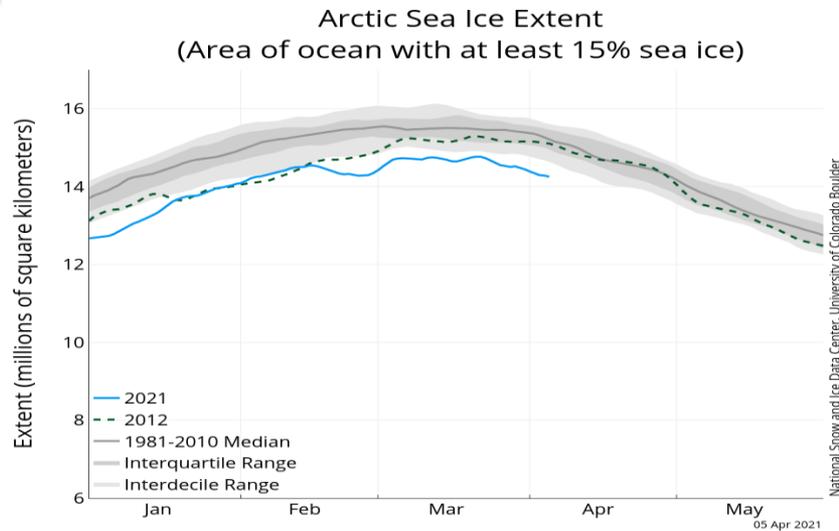
- Latest CFSv2 predictions suggest that the current warm state will continue in the next 6 months.

## SST anomalies (K)[150W–125W,28N–50N]



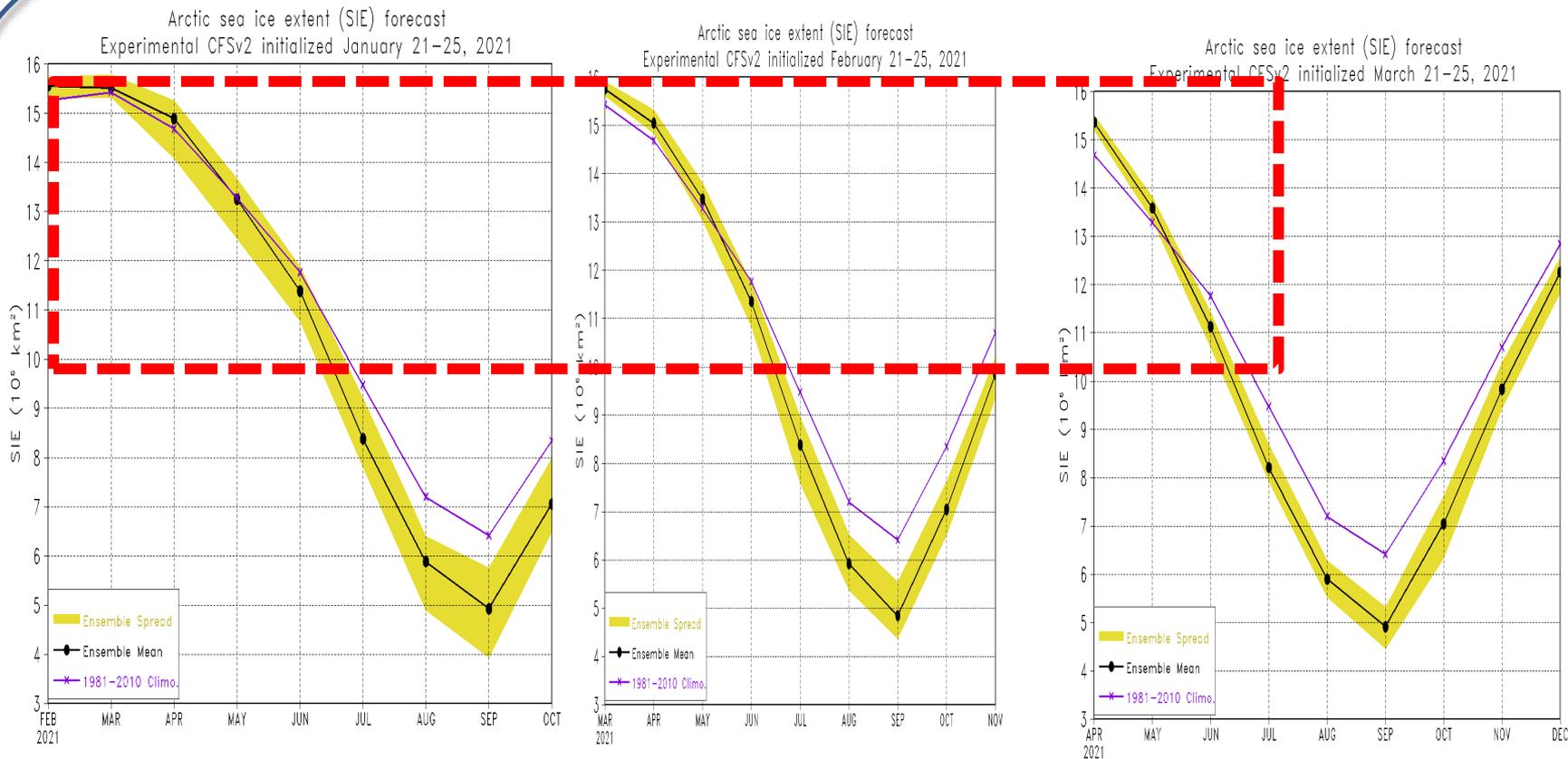
- Earlier CFSv2 predictions underestimated the strength of NP Marine Heatwave;
- Latest CFSv2 predictions call above-normal SSTs in 2021.

CFS NE Pacific SST predictions from the latest 9 initial months. Displayed are 40 forecast members (brown) made four times per day initialized from the last 10 days of the initial month (labelled as IC=MonthYear) as well as ensemble mean (blue) and observations (black). Anomalies were computed with respect to the 1991-2020 base period means.



- The seasonal maximum in the sea ice extent was observed on 21 March 2021.
- The sea ice extent averaged for Mar 2021 was the 9<sup>th</sup> lowest in the satellite record.
- Through 2021, the linear rate of decline for Mar sea ice extent is 2.6% per decade.

# NCEP/CPC Arctic Sea Ice Extent Forecasts



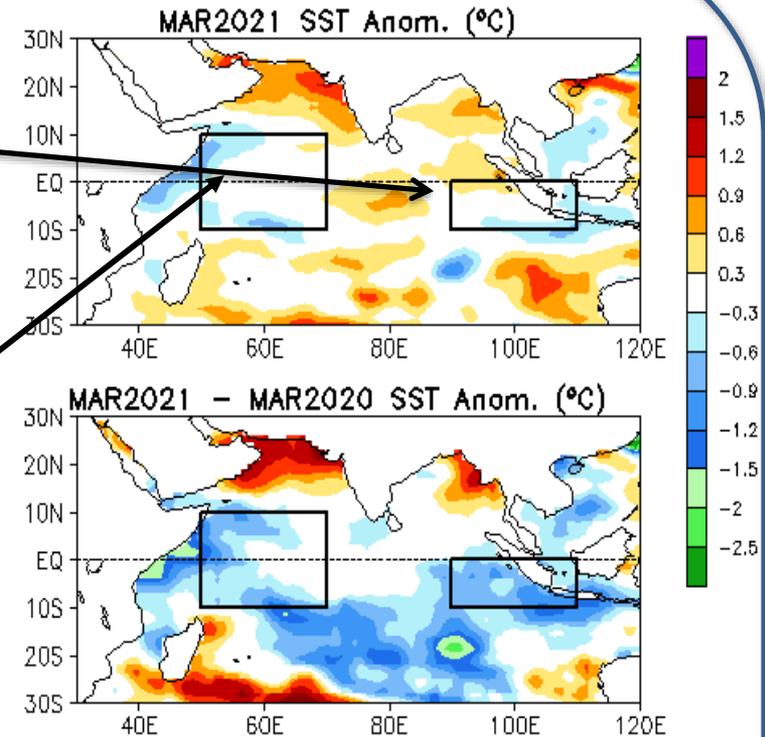
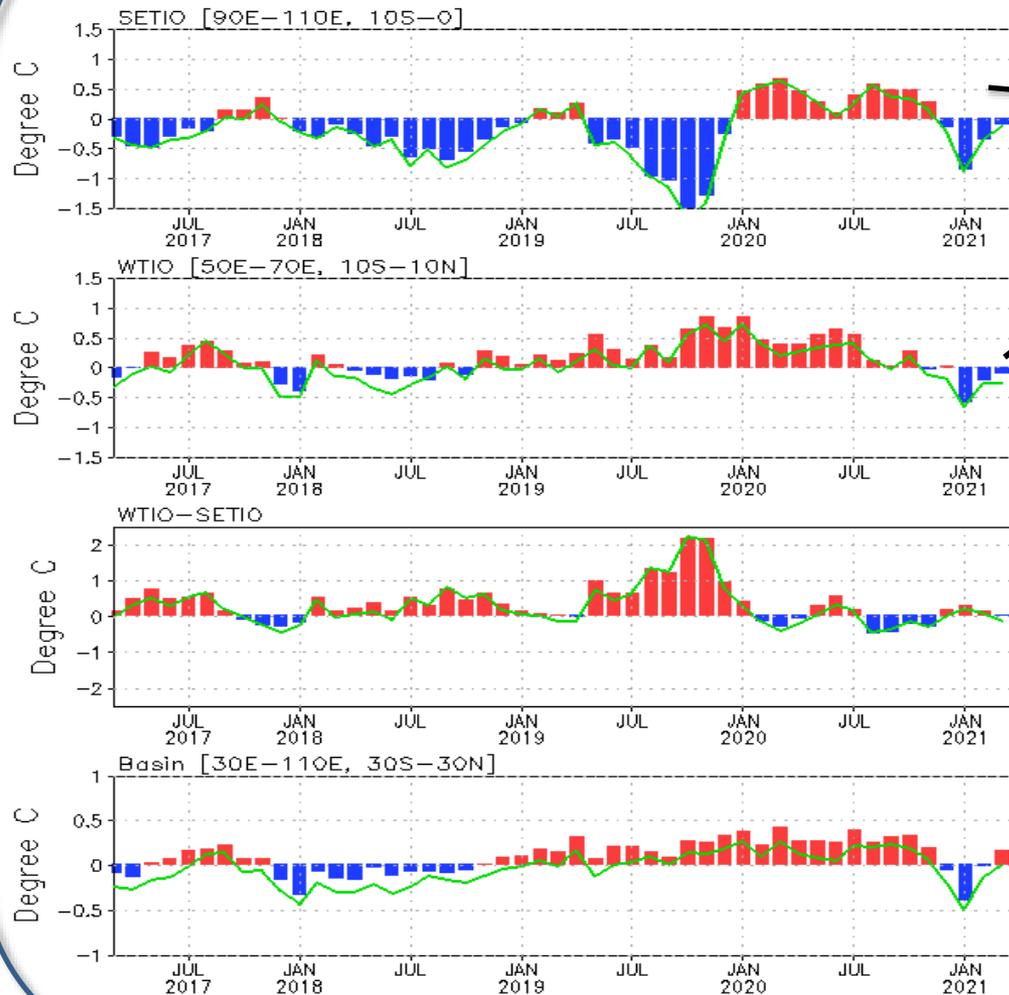
For ICs in Jan-Mar 2021, NCEP/CPC predicted a near-normal sea ice extent during spring & early summer 2021.

Indian Ocean

# Evolution of Indian Ocean SST Indices

## Monthly Tropical Indian SST Anomaly

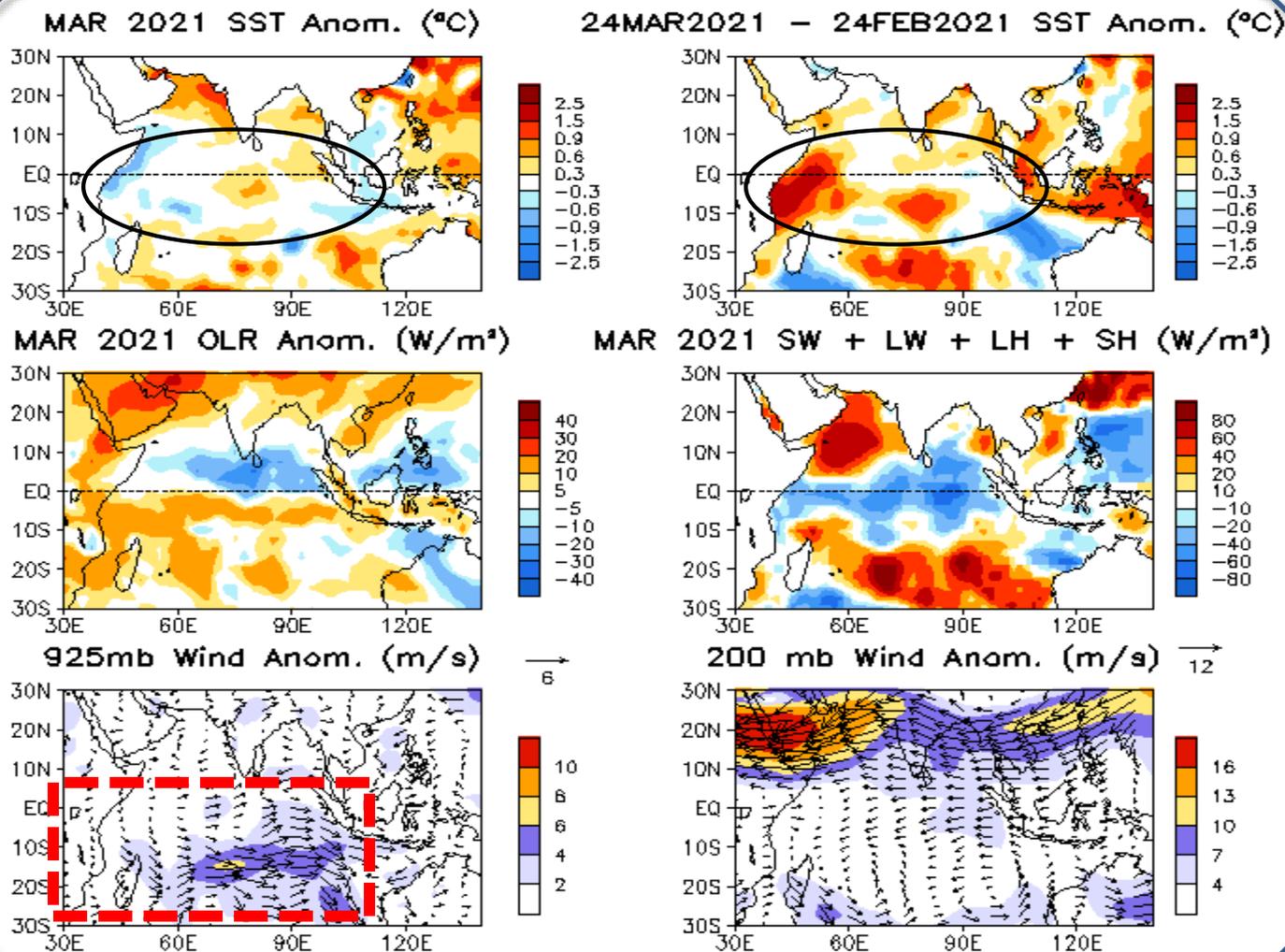
(Bar: 1991–2020 Climatology; Curve: Last 10 YR Climatology)



- Overall, SSTAs were small in the tropical Indian Ocean in Mar 2021.

Indian Ocean Dipole region indices, calculated as the area-averaged monthly mean sea surface temperature anomalies (OC) for the SETIO [90°E–110°E, 10°S–0°] and WTIO [50°E–70°E, 10°S–10°N] regions, and Dipole Mode Index, defined as differences between WTIO and SETIO. Data are derived from the NCEP OI SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.

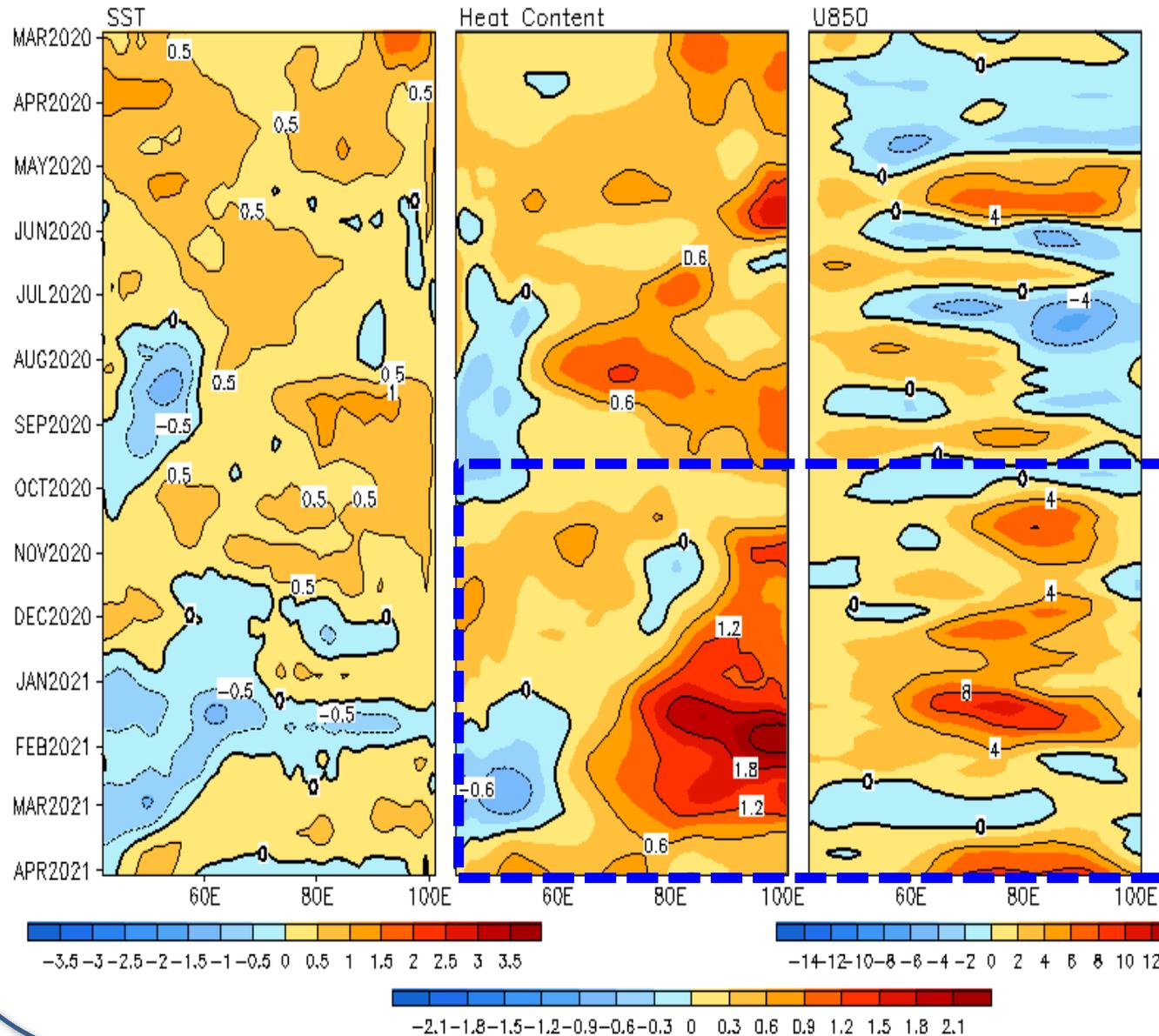
# Tropical Indian: SSTA, SSTA Trend, OLR, heat flux uv925-mb & uv200 anomalies



- SSTAs were small and the tendencies were mostly positive in the tropical Indian Ocean.

SSTAs (top-left), SSTA tendency (top-right), OLR anomalies (middle-left), sum of net surface short- and long-wave radiation, latent and sensible heat flux anomalies (middle-right), 925-mb wind anomaly vector and its amplitude (bottom-left), 200-mb wind anomaly vector and its amplitude (bottom-right). SST are derived from the OI SST analysis, OLR from the NOAA 18 AVHRR IR window channel measurements by NESDIS, winds and surface radiation and heat fluxes from the NCEP CDAS. Anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.

## 2°S–2°N Average, 3 Pentad Running Mean



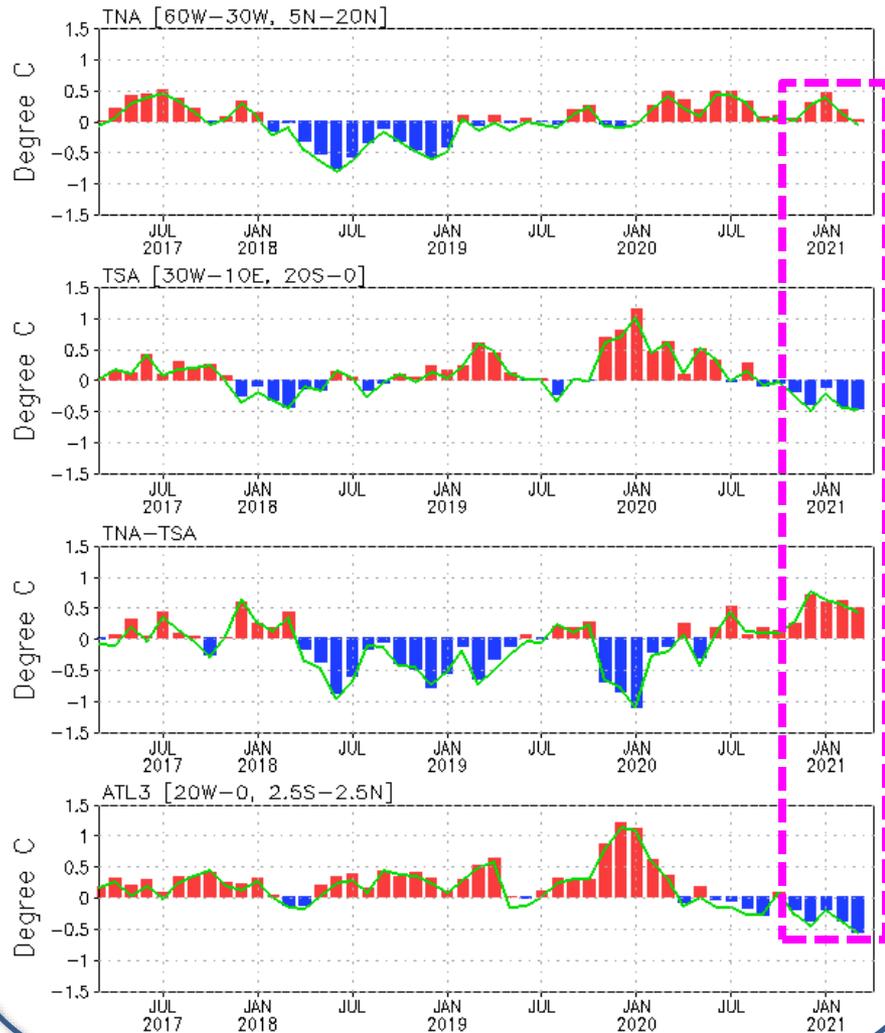
- Westerly wind anomaly in the equatorial Indian Ocean led to the subsurface warming in the eastern Indian Ocean.

# Tropical and North Atlantic Ocean

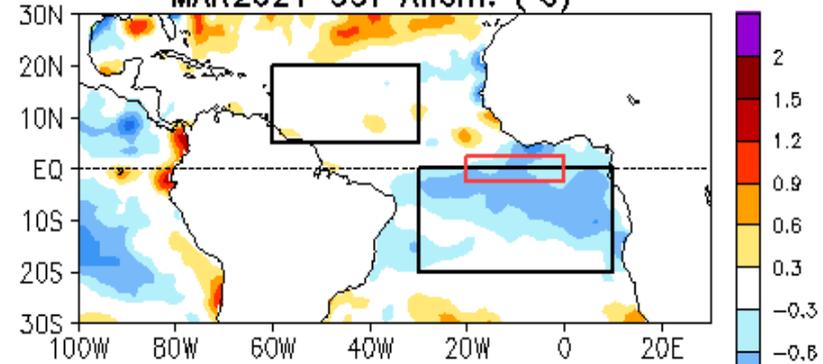
# Evolution of Tropical Atlantic SST Indices

## Monthly Tropical Atlantic SST Anomaly

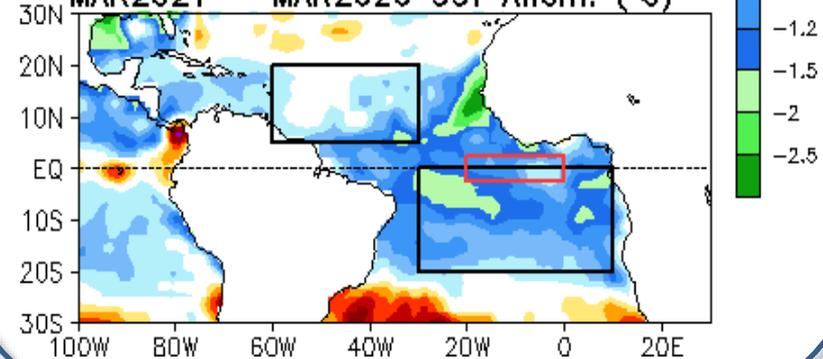
(Bar: 1991–2020 Climatology; Curve: Last 10 YR Climatology)



## MAR2021 SST Anom. (°C)



## MAR2021 – MAR2020 SST Anom. (°C)

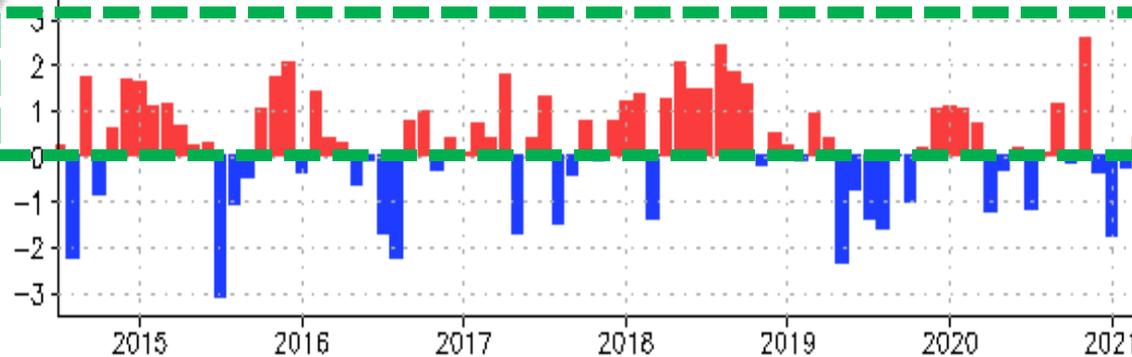


- Positive (negative) SSTAs in the tropical North (South) Atlantic feature a positive phase of the Atlantic meridional dipole mode during Dec 2020-Mar 2021.

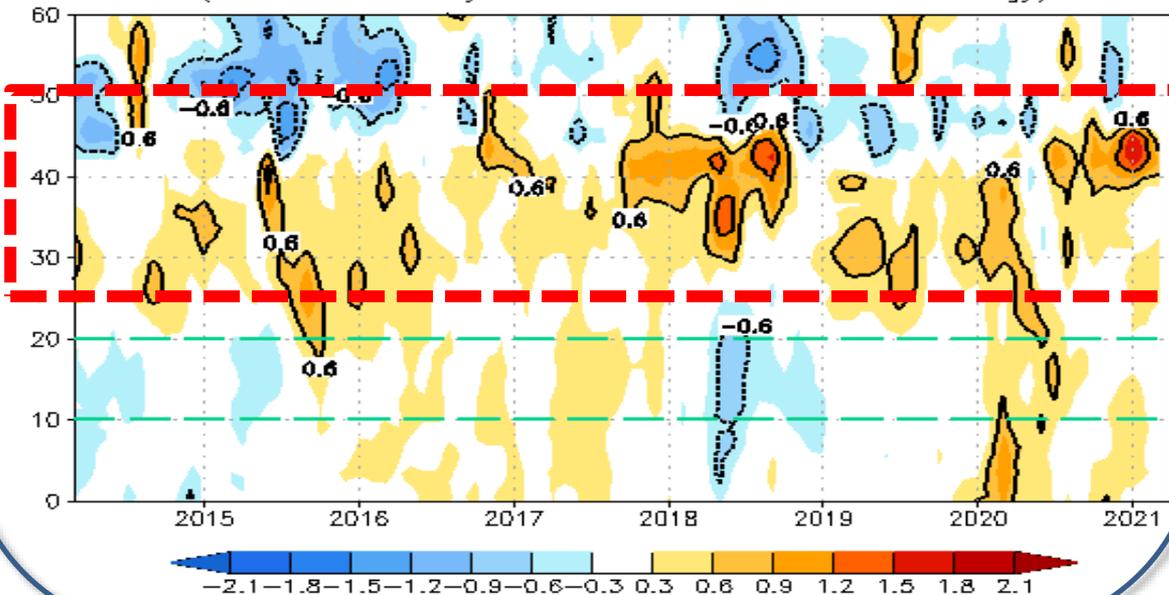
Tropical Atlantic Variability region indices, calculated as the area-averaged monthly mean sea surface temperature anomalies (°C) for the TNA [60°W–30°W, 5°N–20°N], TSA [30°W–10°E, 20°S–0] and ATL3 [20°W–0, 2.5°S–2.5°N] regions, and Meridional Gradient Index, defined as differences between TNA and TSA. Data are derived from the NCEP OI SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991–2020 base period means.

# NAO and SST Anomaly in North Atlantic

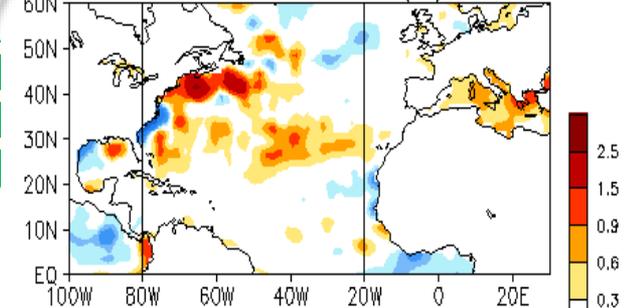
Monthly Standardized NAO



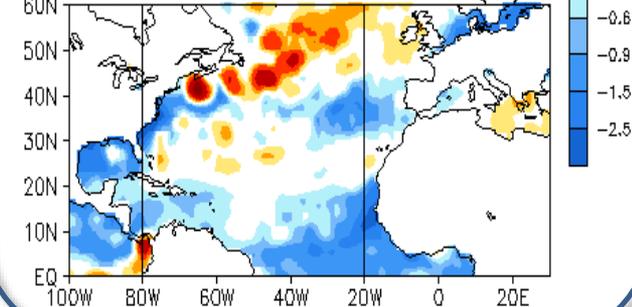
Zonal Averaged Monthly SSTA in North Atlantic (80W-20W, C)  
(Olv2 SST Anomaly referred to 1991-2020 Climatology)



MAR2021 SST Anom. (°C)



MAR2021 - MAR2020 SST Anom. (°C)

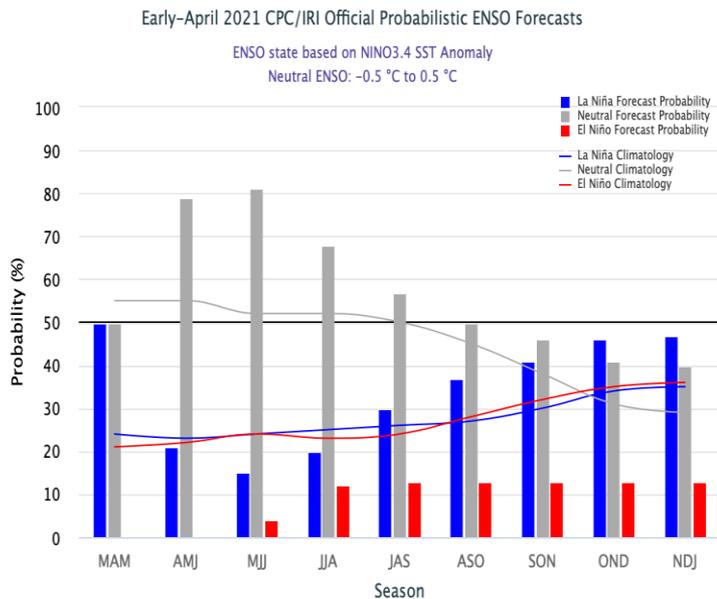
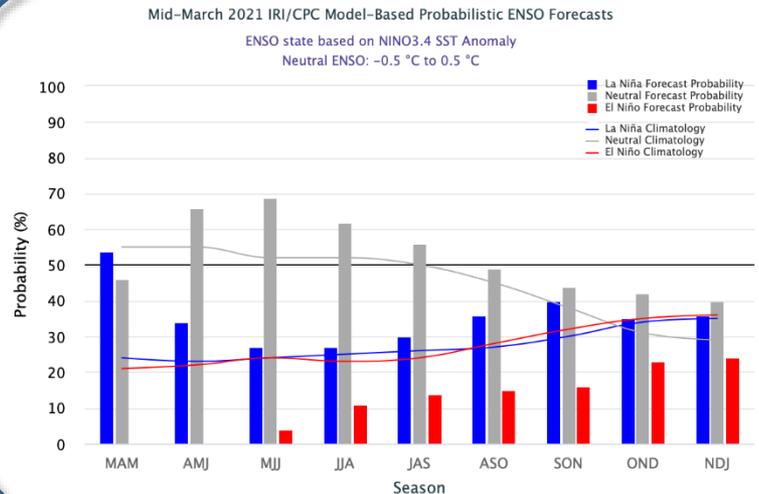
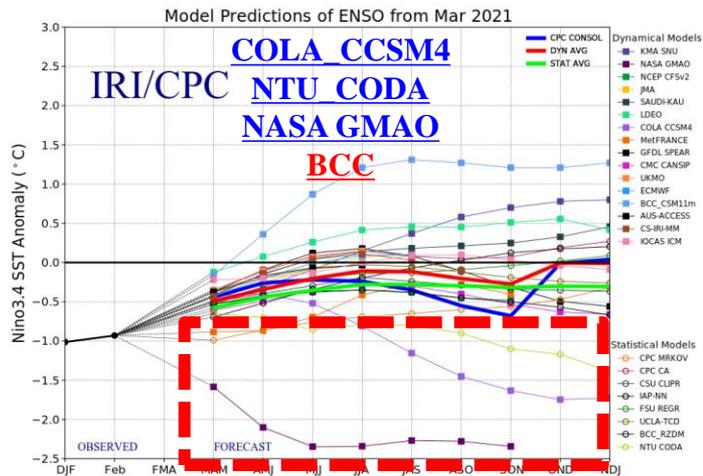


- NAO was in a positive phase in Mar 2021 with NAOI= 0.36.
- The prolonged positive SSTAs in the middle latitudes were evident, due to the domination of the positive phase of NAO during the last 5-6 years.

Monthly standardized NAO index (top) derived from monthly standardized 500-mb height anomalies obtained from the NCEP CDAS in 20°N-90°N (<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>). Time-Latitude section of SST anomalies averaged between 80°W and 20°W (bottom). SST are derived from the NCEP OI SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.

# ENSO and Global SST Predictions

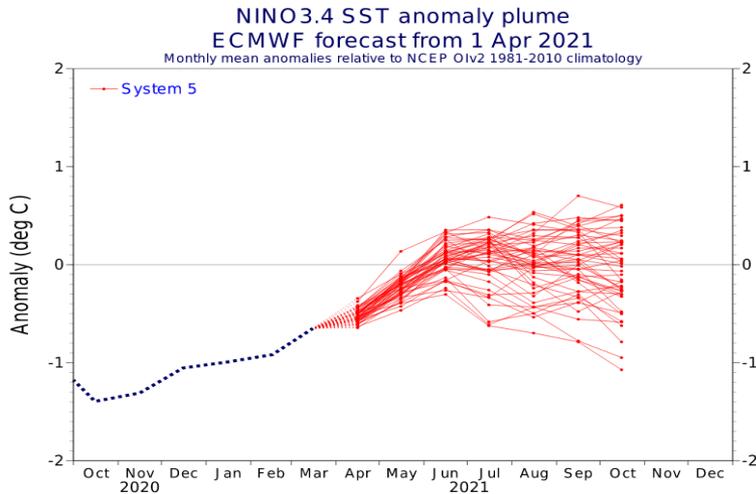
# IRI/CPC Niño3.4 Forecast



**- ENSO Alert System**  
**Status: La Niña Advisory**  
**- Synopsis:** *A transition from La Niña to ENSO-Neutral is likely in the next month or so, with an 80% chance of ENSO-neutral during May-July 2021.*

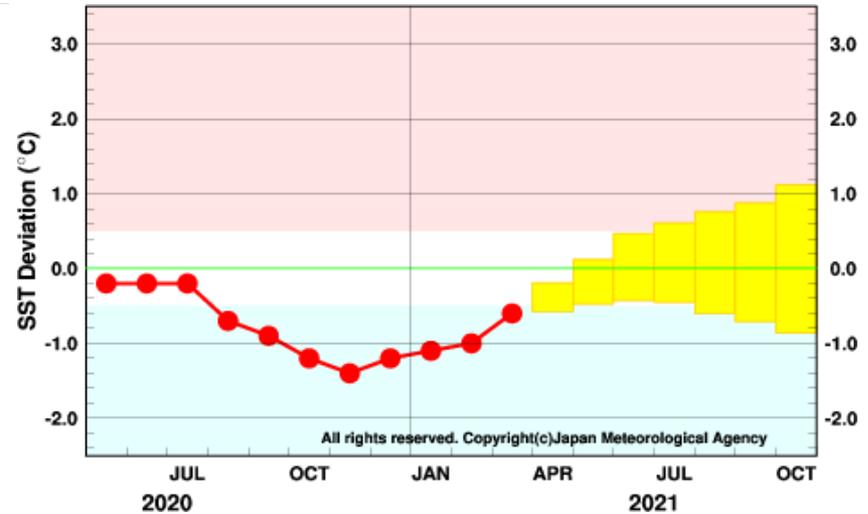
# Individual Model Niño3.4 Forecasts

**EC: IC= 01 Apr, 2021**

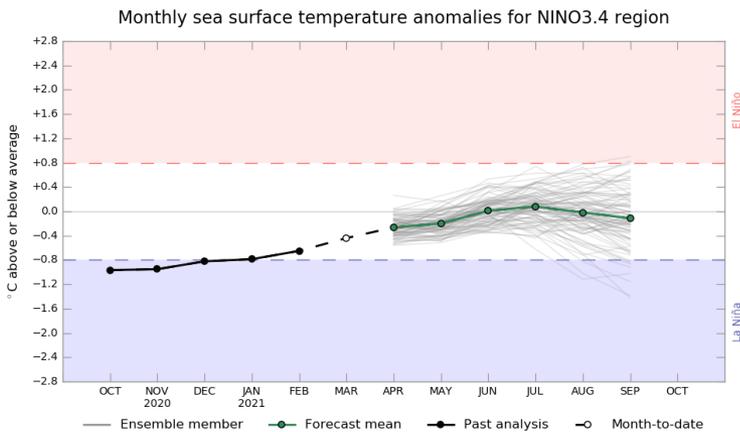


ECMWF

**JMA: Updated 9 Apr, 2021**



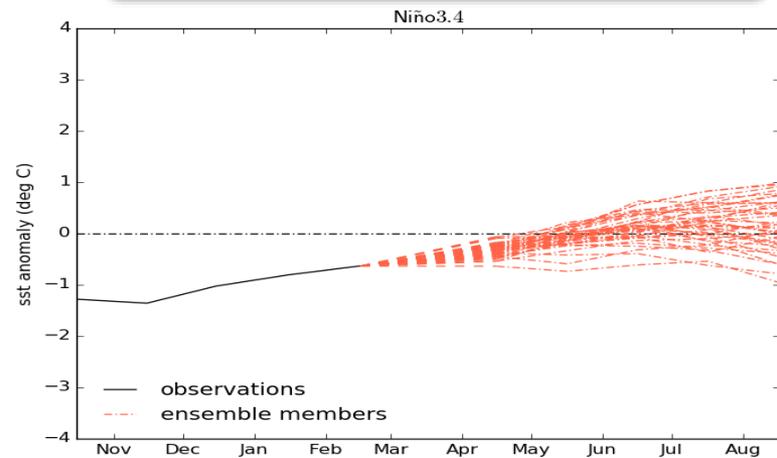
**BOM: Updated 27 Mar, 2021**



www.bom.gov.au/climate  
Commonwealth of Australia 2021, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

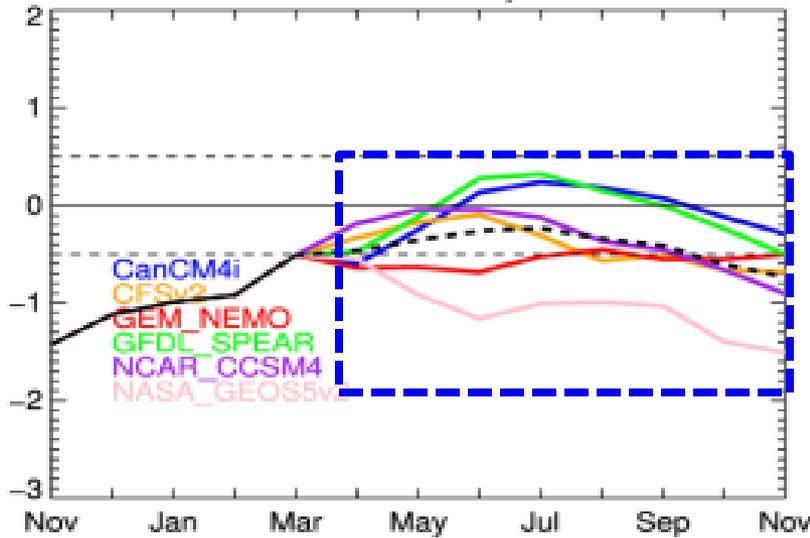
Model: ACCESS-S1  
Base period 1990-2012  
Model run: 27 Mar 2021

**UKMO: Updated 11 Mar, 2021**

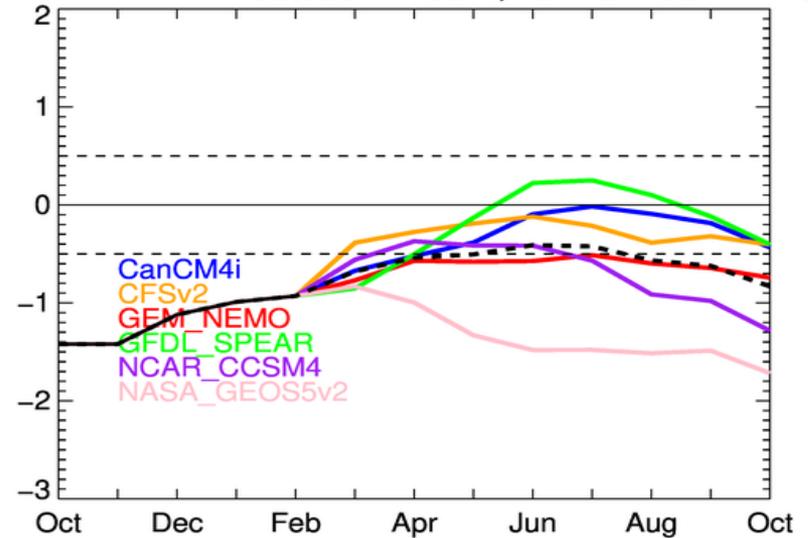


# NMME forecasts with the latest 4-month initial conditions

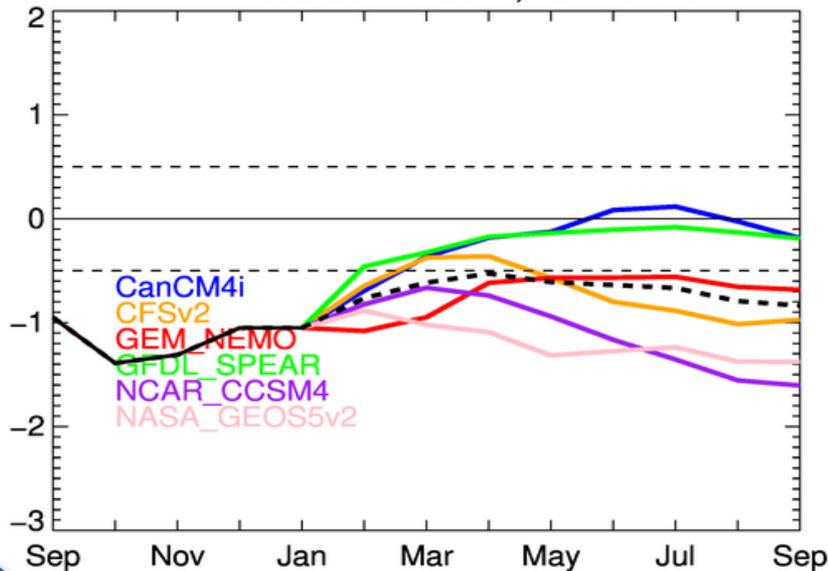
NMME scaled Nino3.4, IC=202104



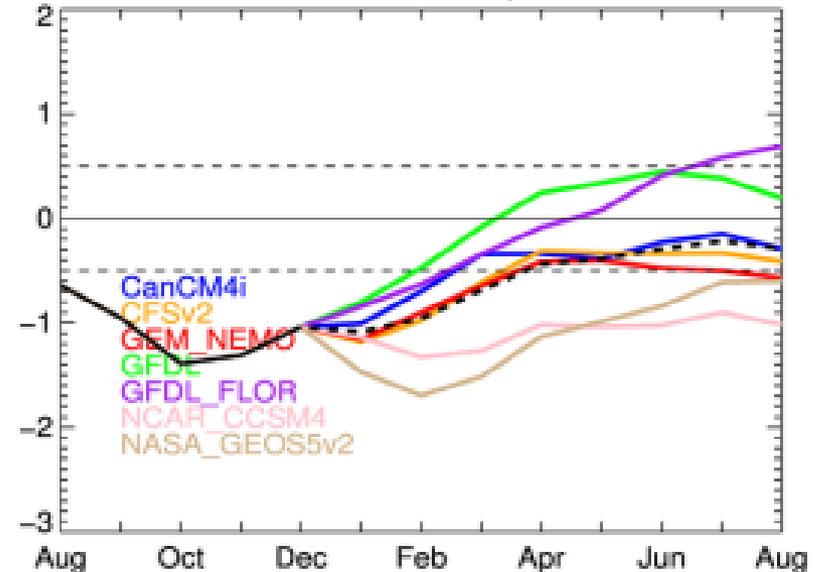
NMME scaled Nino3.4, IC=202103



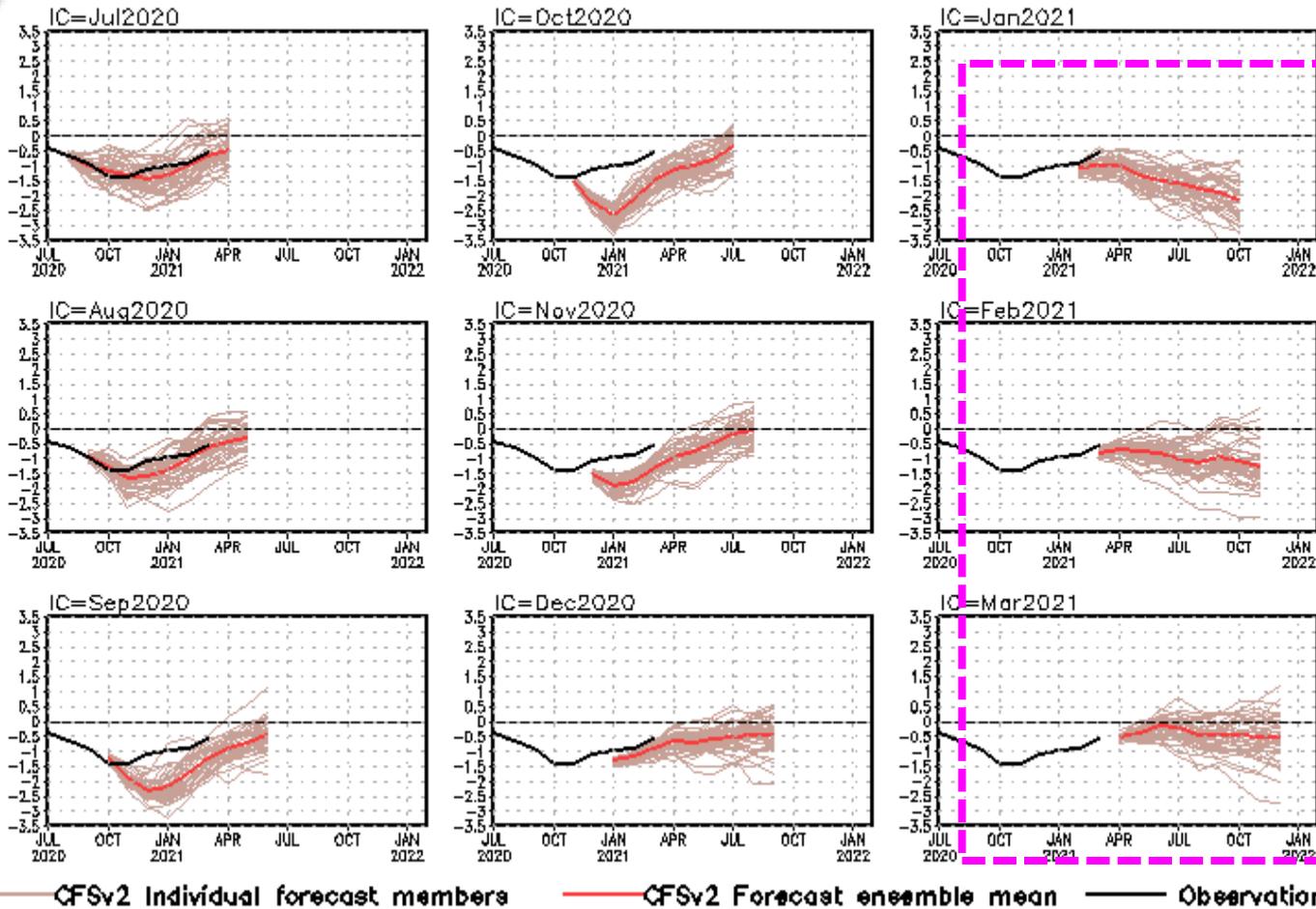
NMME scaled Nino3.4, IC=202102



NMME scaled Nino3.4, IC=202101



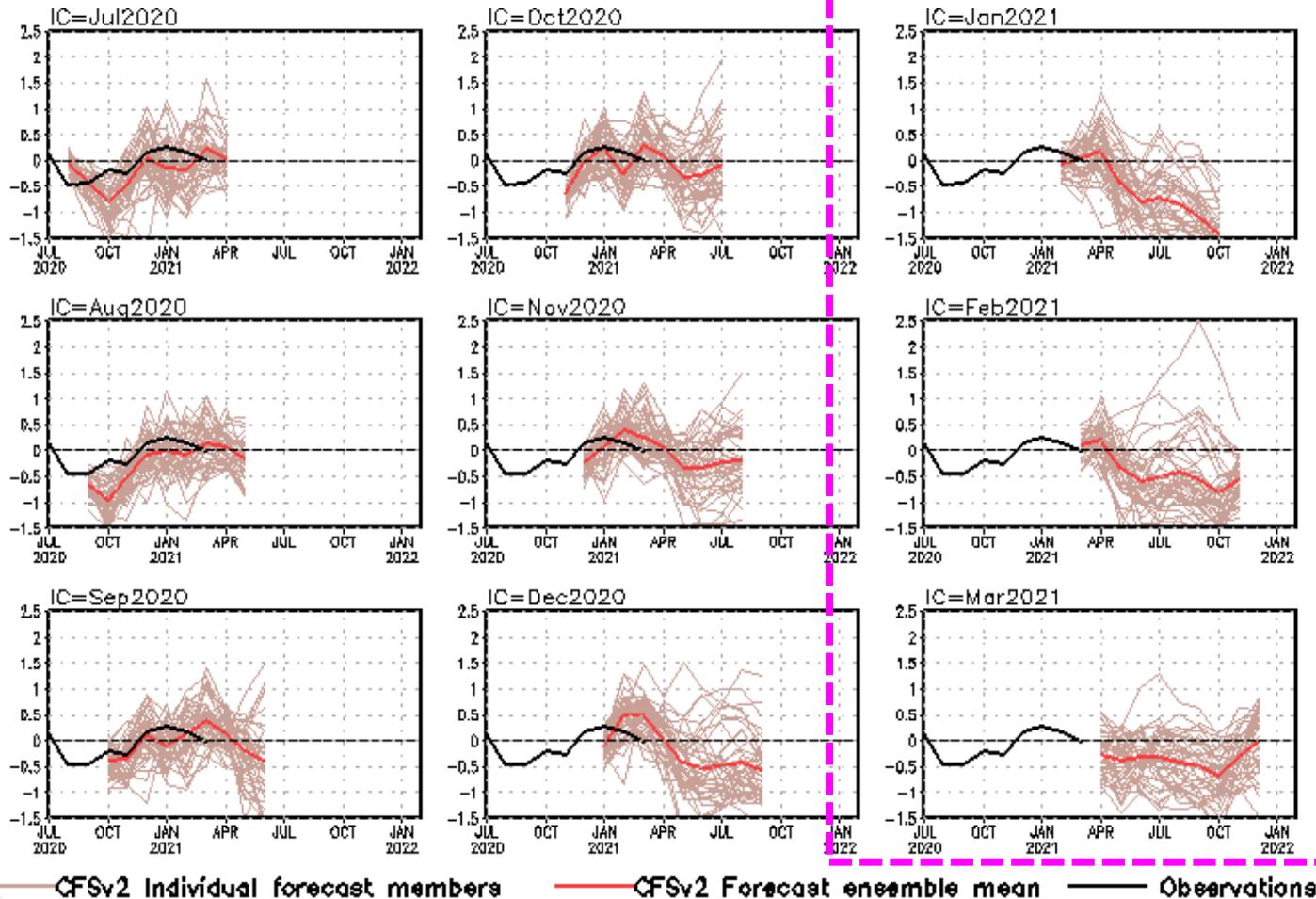
## NINO3.4 SST anomalies (K)



- CFSv2 oceanic IC reset on 15Jan2021 led to strong cooling tendencies in the predictions with ICs in Jan 2021.

CFS Niño3.4 SST prediction from the latest 9 initial months. Displayed are 40 forecast members (brown) made four times per day initialized from the last 10 days of the initial month (labelled as IC=MonthYear) as well as ensemble mean (blue) and observations (black). Anomalies were computed with respect to the 1991-2020 base period means.

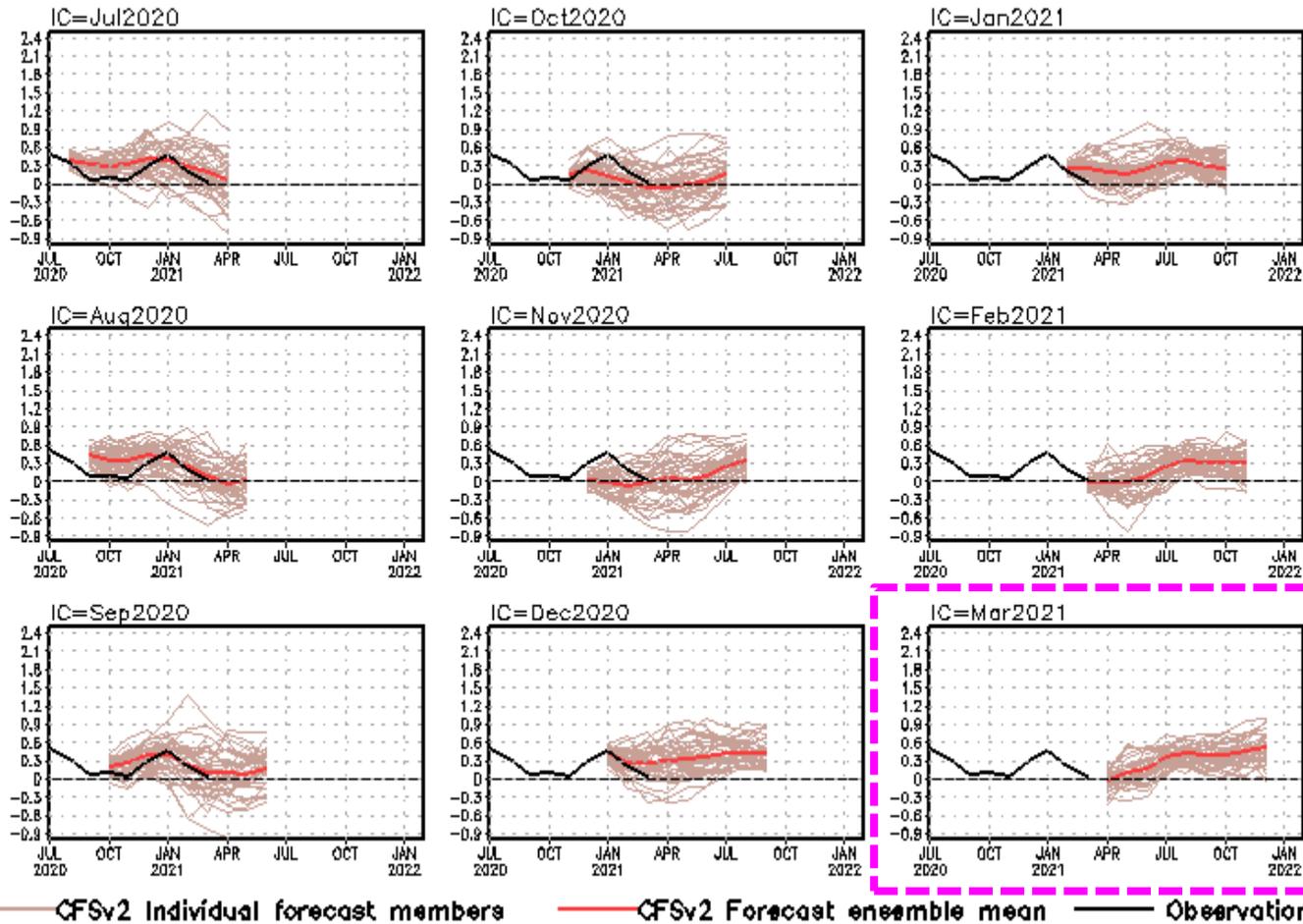
## Indian Ocean Dipole SST anomalies (K)



- Latest CFSv2 predicts a negative phase of IOD in 2021.

CFS Dipole Model Index (DMI) SST predictions from the latest 9 initial months. Displayed are 40 forecast members (brown) made four times per day initialized from the last 10 days of the initial month (labelled as IC=MonthYear) as well as ensemble mean (blue) and observations (black). The hindcast climatology for 1981-2006 was removed, and replaced by corresponding observation climatology for the same period. Anomalies were computed with respect to the 1991-2020 base period means.

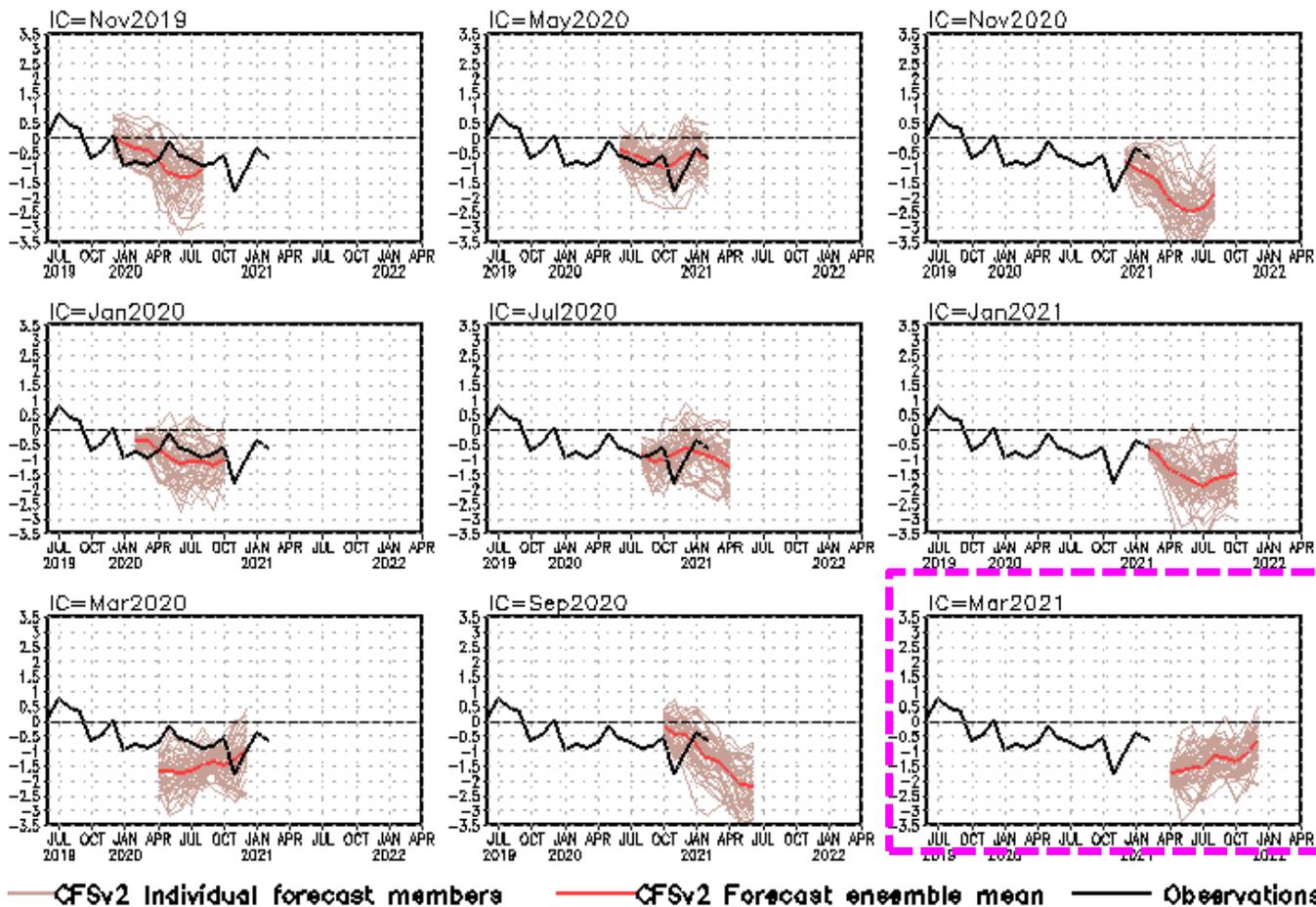
## Tropical N. Atlantic SST anomalies (K)



- Latest CFSv2 predictions call for above normal SSTs in the tropical N. Atlantic in 2021 hurricane season.

CFS Tropical North Atlantic (TNA) SST predictions from the latest 9 initial months. Displayed are 40 forecast members (brown) made four times per day initialized from the last 10 days of the initial month (labelled as IC=MonthYear) as well as ensemble mean (blue) and observations (black). Anomalies were computed with respect to the 1991-2020 base period means. TNA is the SST anomaly averaged in the region of [60oW-30oW, 5oN-20oN].

## standardized PDO index



- CFSv2 predicts a negative phase of PDO in the coming seasons.

CFS Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) index predictions from the latest 9 initial months. Displayed are 40 forecast members (brown) made four times per day initialized from the last 10 days of the initial month (labelled as IC=MonthYear) as well as ensemble mean (blue) and observations (black). Anomalies were computed with respect to the 1991-2020 base period means. PDO is the first EOF of monthly ERSSTv3b anomaly in the region of [110°E-100°W, 20°N-60°N]. CFS PDO index is the standardized projection of CFS SST forecast anomalies onto the PDO EOF pattern.

- ❖ Drs. Jieshun Zhu, Caihong Wen, and Arun Kumar: reviewed PPT, and provide insightful suggestions and comments
- ❖ Drs. Li Ren and Pingping Xie provided the BASS/CMORPH/CFSR EVAP package
- ❖ Dr. Wanqiu Wang provided the sea ice forecasts and maintained the CFSv2 forecast archive

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[Arun.Kumar@noaa.gov](mailto:Arun.Kumar@noaa.gov)

[Caihong.Wen@noaa.gov](mailto:Caihong.Wen@noaa.gov)

[Jieshun.Zhu@noaa.gov](mailto:Jieshun.Zhu@noaa.gov)

- **Weekly Optimal Interpolation SST (OI SST) version 2 (Reynolds et al. 2002)**
- **Extended Reconstructed SST (ERSST) v5 (Huang et al. 2017)**
- **Blended Analysis of Surface Salinity (BASS) (Xie et al. 2014)**
- **CMORPH precipitation (Xie et al. 2017)**
- **CFSR evaporation adjusted to OAFlux (Xie and Ren 2018)**
- **NCEP CDAS winds, surface radiation and heat fluxes (Kalnay et al. 1996)**
- **NESDIS Outgoing Long-wave Radiation (Liebmann and Smith 1996)**
- **NCEP's GODAS temperature, heat content, currents (Behringer and Xue 2004)**
- **Aviso altimetry sea surface height from CMEMS**
- **Ocean Surface Current Analyses – Realtime (OSCAR)**
- **In situ data objective analyses (IPRC, Scripps, EN4.2.1, PMEL TAO)**
- **Operational Ocean Reanalysis Intercomparison Project**  
[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/GODAS/multiora\\_body.html](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/GODAS/multiora_body.html)  
[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/GODAS/multiora93\\_body.html](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/GODAS/multiora93_body.html)

Backup Slides

# Global Sea Surface Salinity (SSS): Anomaly for March 2021

**New Update: The NCEI SST data used in the quality control procedure has been updated to version 2.1 since May 2020;**

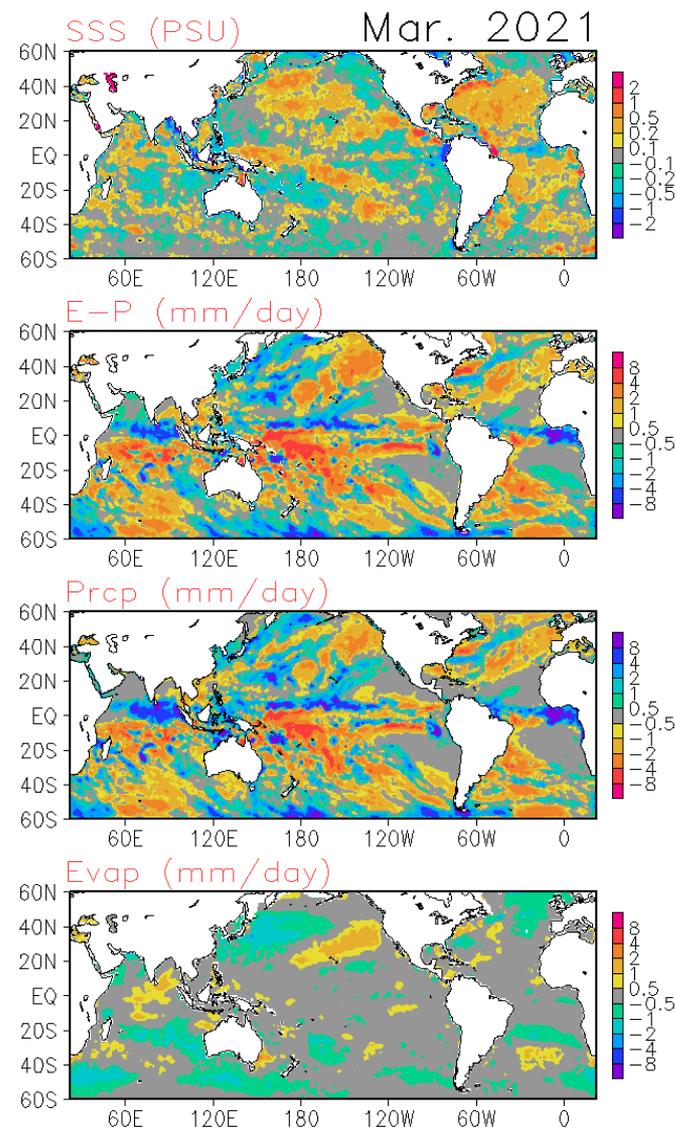
Positive SSS anomaly continues in the western equator Pacific Ocean and SPCZ region, which is likely caused by the reduced precipitation. Positive SSS anomalies continue and expand in the central N. Pacific ocean. Positive SSS anomaly along the Equatorial Indian Ocean is likely due to decreased precipitation. Positive SSS anomalies continue and strengthen between equator and 40° N in the North Atlantic Ocean. Such positive salinity anomaly is possibly caused by decreased precipitation.

SSS : Blended Analysis of Surface Salinity (BASS) V0.Z  
(a CPC-NESDIS/NODC-NESDIS/STAR joint effort)

<ftp.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/precip/BASS>

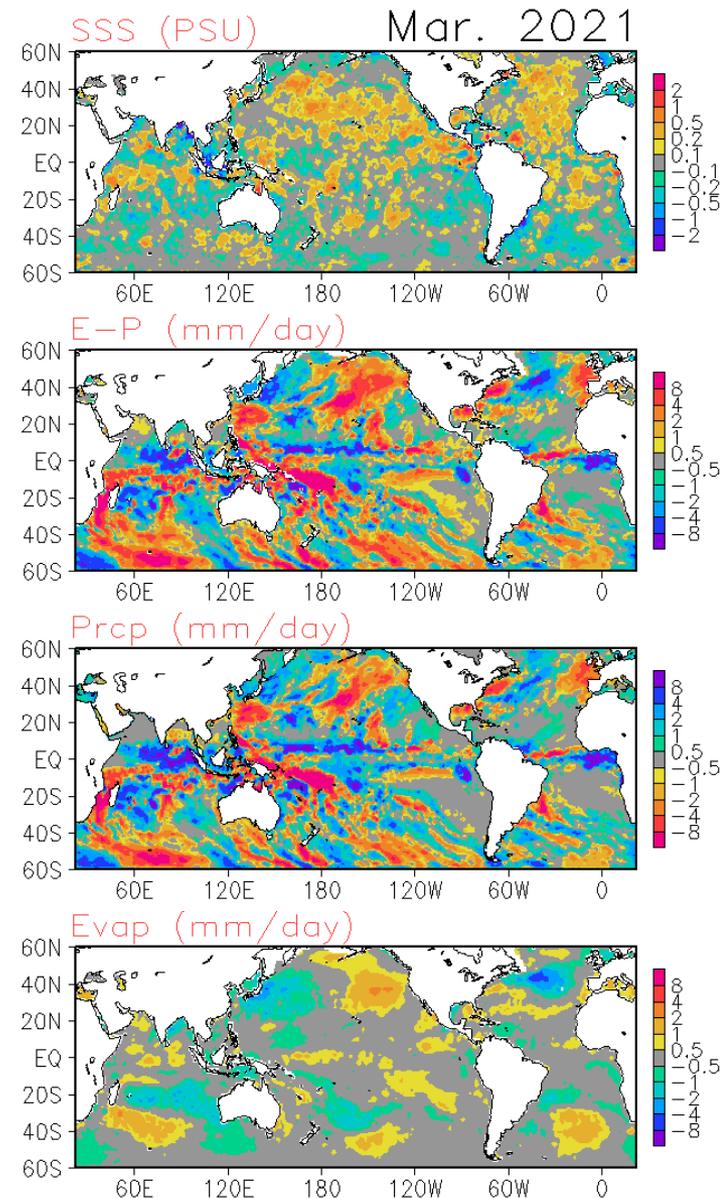
Precipitation: CMORPH adjusted satellite precipitation estimates

Evaporation: Adjusted CFS Reanalysis



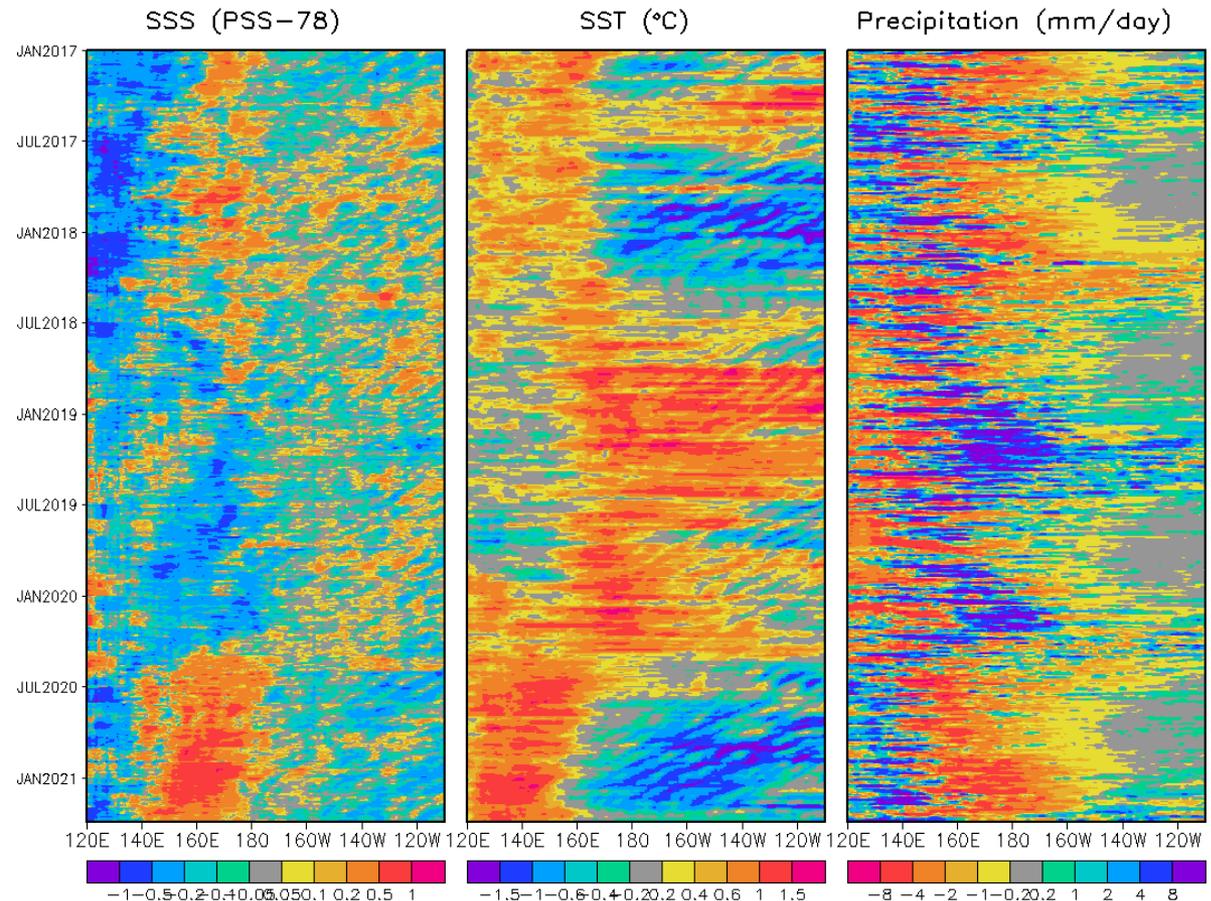
# Global Sea Surface Salinity (SSS): Tendency for March 2021

Compared with last month, SSS increased between equator and 40° N in the North Pacific Ocean. SSS increased in the Indian Ocean along and little south of Equatorial Indian Ocean, which is likely caused by reduced precipitation. SSS in the North Atlantic Ocean increased in most area between 30° S and 40° N with stronger signals in the North Atlantic ocean.

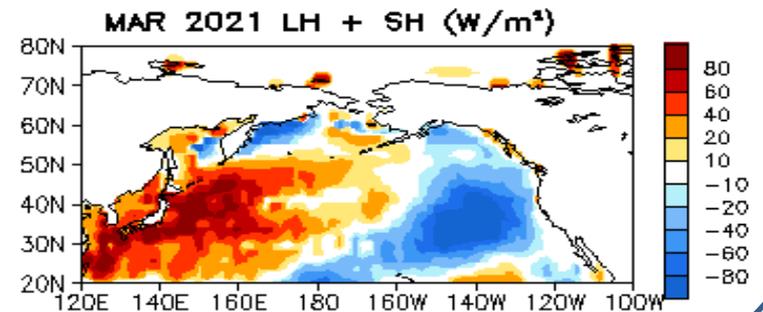
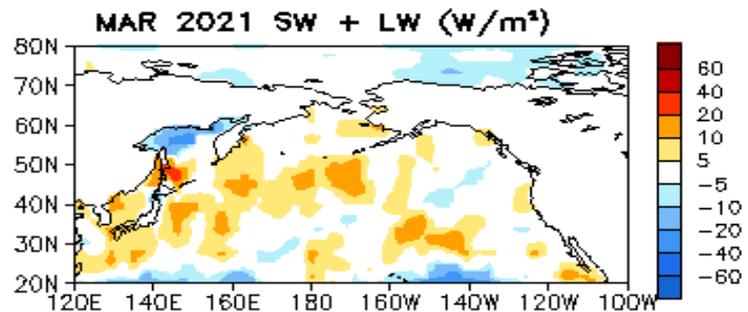
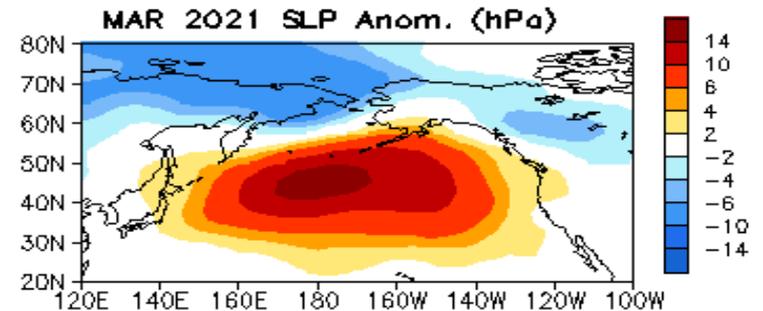
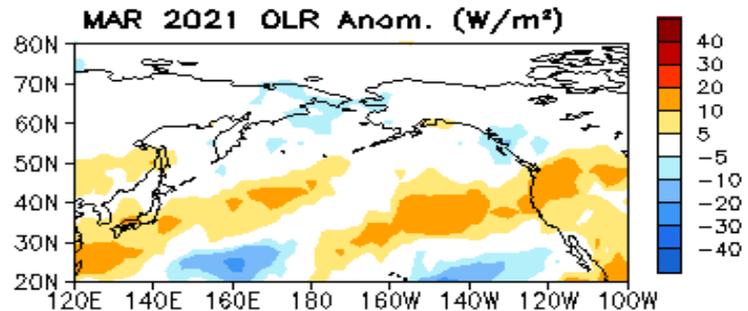
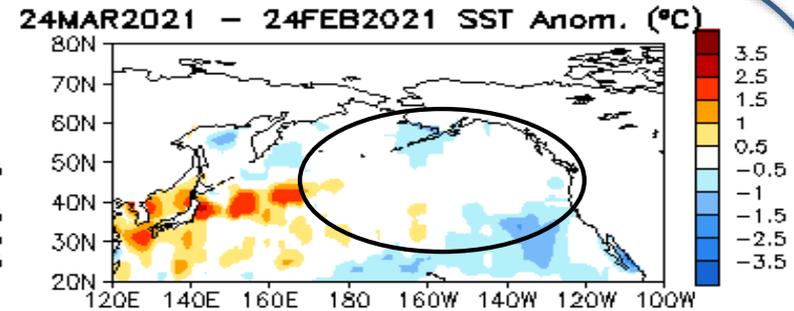
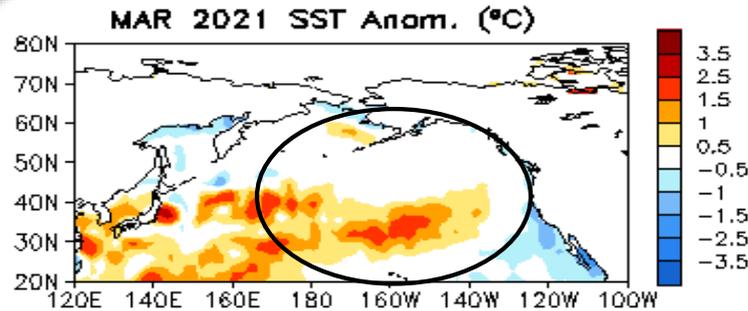


## Figure caption:

Hovemoller diagram for equatorial ( $5^{\circ} \text{S}$ - $5^{\circ} \text{N}$ ) 5-day mean SSS, SST and precipitation anomalies. The climatology for SSS is Levitus 1994 climatology. The SST data used here is the OISST V2 AVHRR only daily dataset with its climatology being calculated from 1985 to 2010. The precipitation data used here is the adjusted CMORPH dataset with its climatology being calculated from 1999 to 2013.

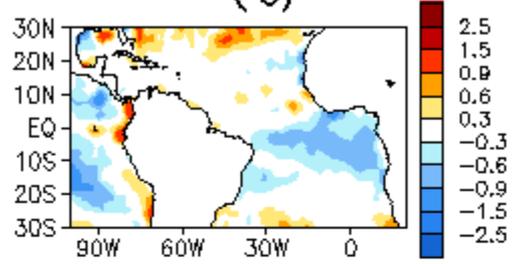


# North Pacific & Arctic Ocean: SSTA, SSTA Trend, OLR, SLP, Heat Flux Anomalies

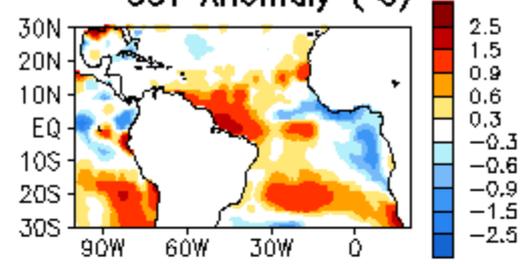


Sea surface temperature (top-left; NCEP OI SST Analysis), anomaly tendency (top-right), Outgoing Long-wave Radiation (OLR) (middle-left; NOAA 18 AVHRR IR), sea surface pressure (middle-right; NCEP CDAS), sum of net surface short- and long-wave radiation (bottom-left; positive means heat into the ocean; NCEP CDAS), sum of latent and sensible heat flux (bottom-right; positive means heat into the ocean; NCEP CDAS). Anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.

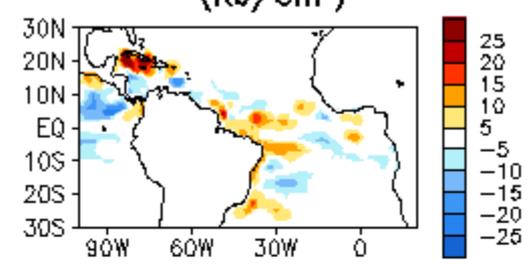
MAR 2021 SST Anom. (°C)



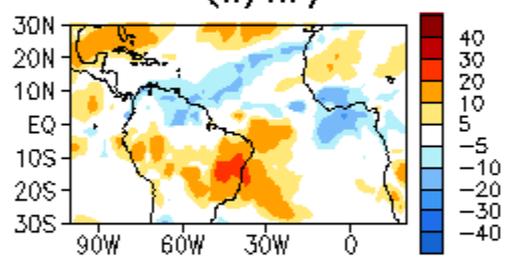
24MAR2021 - 24FEB2021 SST Anomaly (°C)



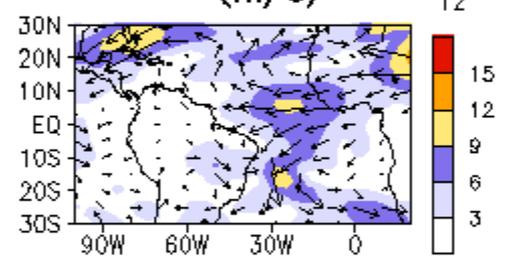
MAR 2021 TCHP Anom. (KJ/cm²)



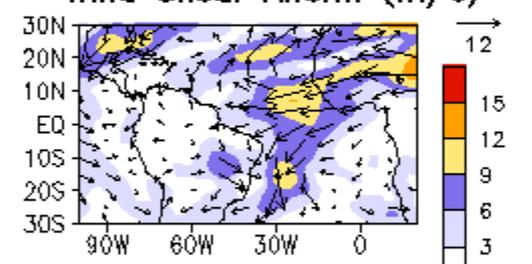
MAR 2021 OLR Anom. (W/m²)



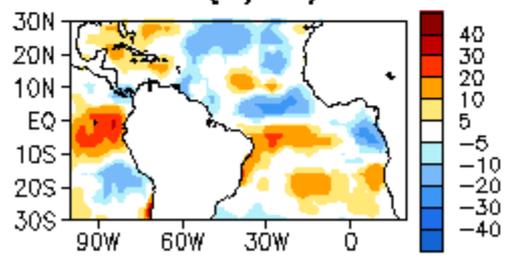
MAR 2021 200mb Wind Anom. (m/s)



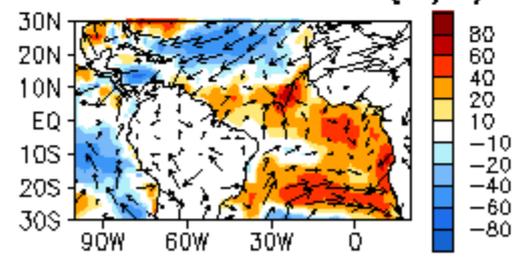
MAR 2021 200mb - 850mb Wind Shear Anom. (m/s)



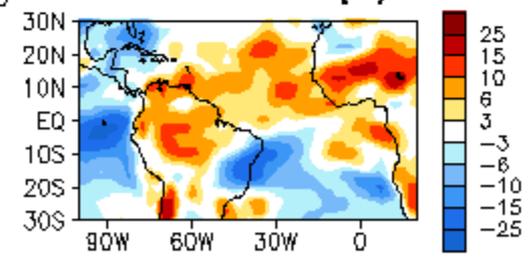
MAR 2021 SW + LW Anom. (W/m²)



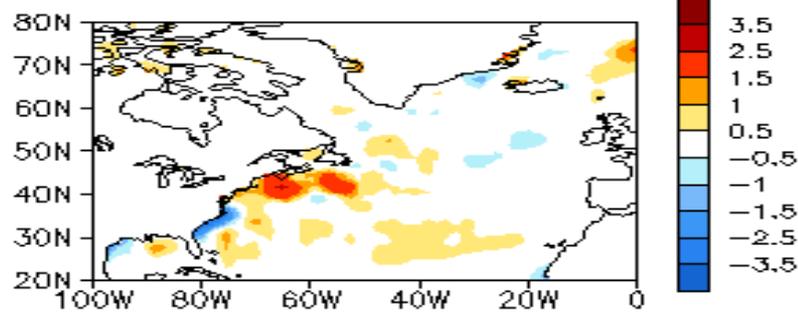
LH + SH Anom. (W/m²)



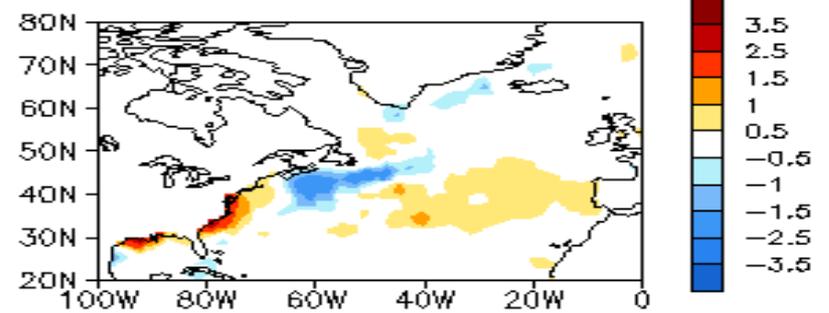
MAR 2021 700 mb RH Anom. (%)



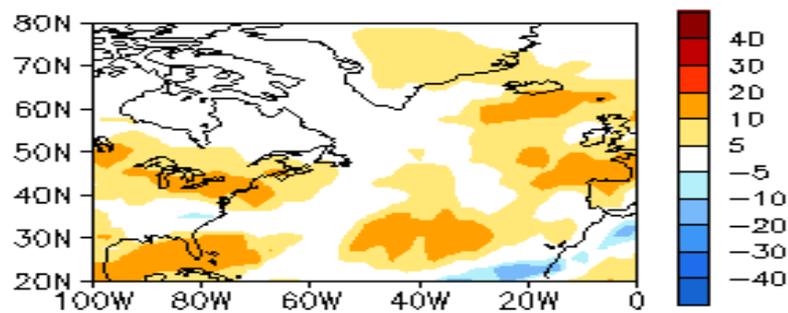
**MAR 2021 SST Anom. (°C)**



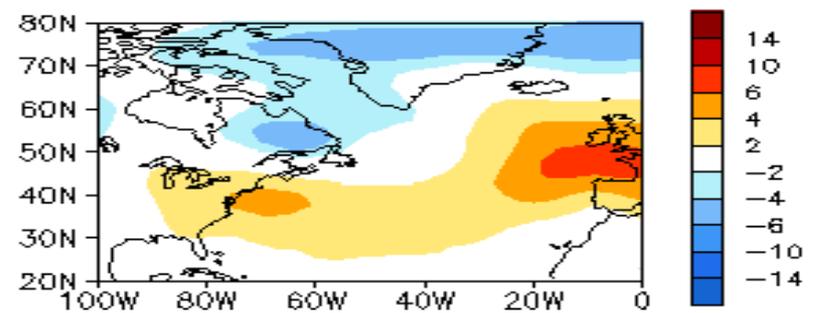
**24MAR2021 - 24FEB2021 SST Anom. (°C)**



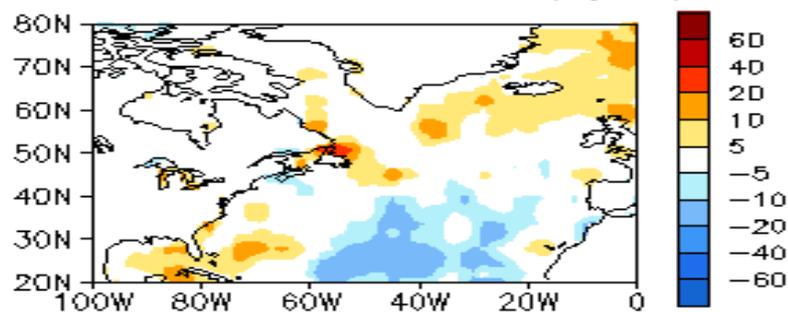
**MAR 2021 OLR Anom. (W/m<sup>2</sup>)**



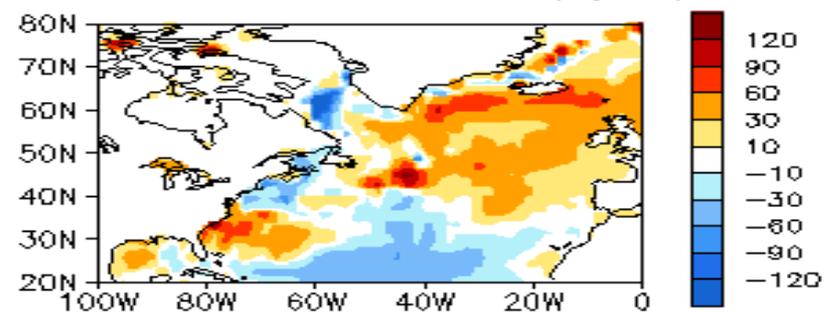
**MAR 2021 SLP Anom. (hPa)**



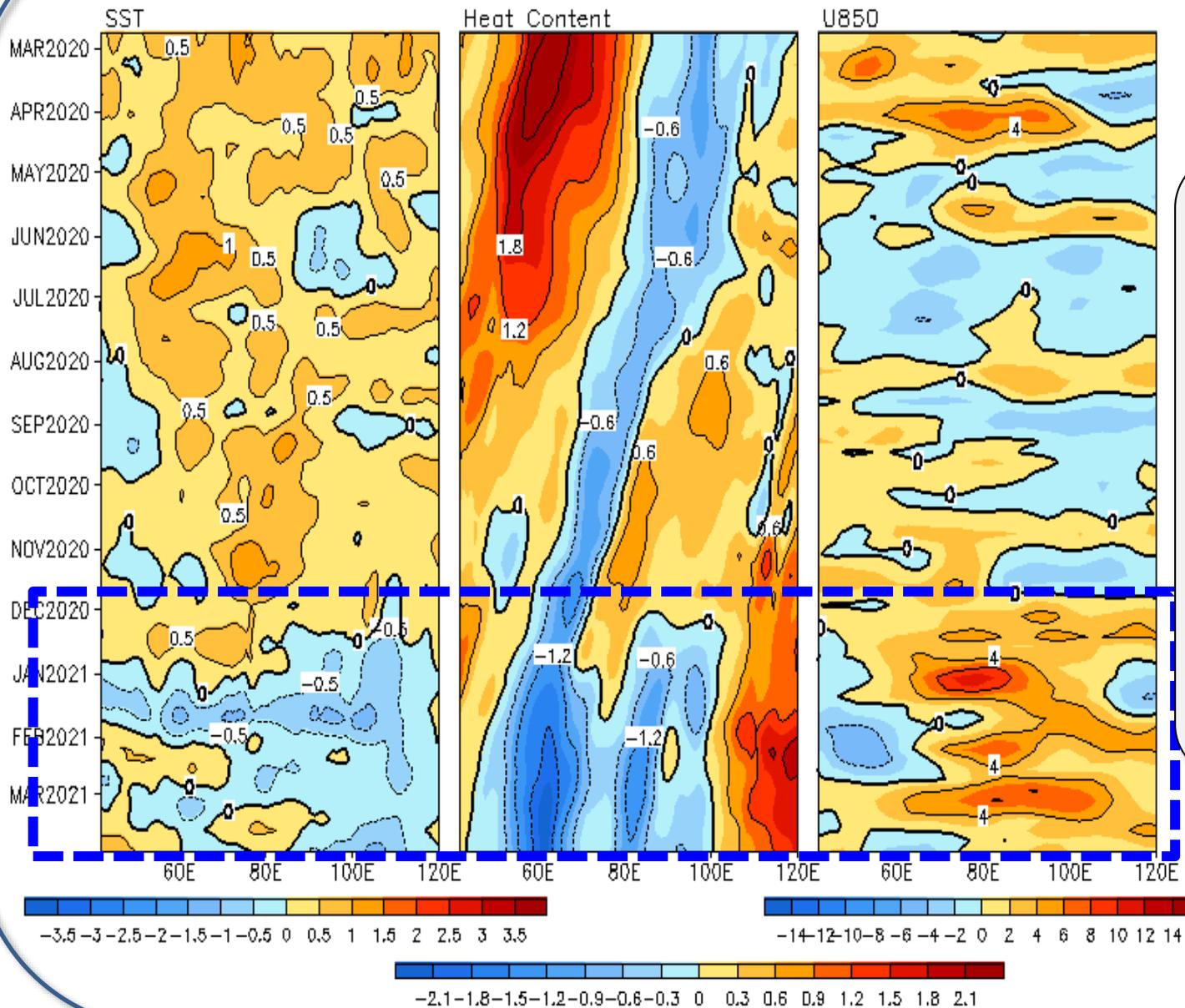
**MAR 2021 SW + LW (W/m<sup>2</sup>)**



**MAR 2021 LH + SH (W/m<sup>2</sup>)**



### 12°S–8°S Average, 3 Pentad Running Mean



- Westerly wind anomaly persisted in the tropical Indian Ocean, leading to the subsurface warming in the eastern and cooling in the western Indian Ocean.

A