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

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July 12, 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 SST Anomaly Predictions

• Special Topics
  – Will a double-dip La Niña occur?
  – Atlantic Niño and its impact on ENSO
Overview

• Pacific Ocean
  – NOAA “ENSO Diagnostic Discussion” issued La Niña Watch on 8 Jul 2021
  – ENSO neutral conditions continued in Jun 2021.
  – The negative phase of PDO has persisted since Jan 2020 with PDOI = -1.5 in Jun 2021.
  – Strong SSTA expanded toward to the N.W. coast of North America.

• Indian Ocean
  – Negative Indian Ocean dipole (IOD) index strengthened in Jun 2021, with IOD = -0.63C.

• Atlantic Ocean
  – Positive SSTA increased substantially in the equatorial Atlantic Ocean in Jun 2021, with potential development into a strong Atlantic Niño.
  – NAO switched to a positive phase in Jun 2021 with NAOI= 1.1.

• Arctic Ocean
  – The monthly average extent for Jun 2021 ranks the sixth lowest in the satellite record.
  – With ICs in Jun 2021, NCEP/CPC predicted a well below-normal sea ice extent during summer and autumn 2021.
Global Oceans
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.

- SSTAs were small in the tropical Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- Positive SSTAs were present in mid-latitude of north Pacific.
- Positive SSTAs were present in the equatorial Atlantic Ocean and along the African coast.

- Positive SSTA tendencies were present in the eastern equatorial Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.
- A north-south dipole pattern of SSTA tendency was observed in the north Atlantic Ocean.
- Positive subsurface ocean anomalies were present along the thermocline in the equatorial Pacific.
- Positive anomalies continued in equatorial Atlantic Ocean, associated with the potential for development of an Atlantic Niño.
- Compared with May, dipole pattern at 50-200m was reversed in the Indian Ocean in Jun 2021.

- Negative (positive) temperature anomaly tendency was present along central-eastern (far eastern) thermocline in the equatorial Pacific.

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.
The SSHA pattern was overall consistent with the HC300A pattern, but with a significant trend component in SSHA. Positive anomalies were present in the equatorial Atlantic. Negative tendencies were observed in the central equatorial Pacific and Indian Oceans, consistent with the subsurface ocean temperature anomaly tendency (previous slide).
Tropical Pacific Ocean and ENSO Conditions
All negative Niño indices weakened in Jun 2021, with Niño3.4 = -0.2°C.

- Compared with Jun 2020, the central and eastern equatorial Pacific was warmer in Jun 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 (°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.
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

APR 2021 SST Anom. (°C)

MAY 2021 SST Anom. (°C)

JUN 2021 SST Anom. (°C)

APR 2021 OLR Anom. (W/m²)

MAY 2021 OLR Anom. (W/m²)

JUN 2021 OLR Anom. (W/m²)

925hPa Wind Anom. (m/s)

925hPa Wind Anom. (m/s)
Equatorial Pacific Sea Surface Salinity (SSS) Anomaly


- Positive SSS anomaly was present around 140E-170W in Jun 2021.

Sea surface salinity (SSS) anomalies are derived from Blended Analysis of Surface Salinity (BASS) V0.Z (Xie et al. 2014). 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. Data is available at ftp.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/precip/BAS.
- Positive SSTA emerged in the eastern Pacific in Jun 2021, which was associated with the subsurface warming at the far eastern Pacific.
- Surface zonal wind stress was dominated by the meso-scale activity.
Anomalous eastward currents emerged in the western & central equatorial Pacific in both OSCAR and GODAS in Feb-Apr 2021.

Both anomalous eastward and westward currents were observed in Jun 2021.
Daily Equatorial Zonal Wind stress anomaly and D20 Tendency

Data source: NCEP GODAS
- Positive ocean temperature anomalies propagated eastward along the thermocline, consistent with daily D20 tendency evolution (previous slide).
- Negative subsurface temperature anomaly were present in the far eastern Pacific.
- The features of the ocean temperature anomalies were similar between GODAS (model based) and TAO (objective) analysis.
North Pacific & Arctic Oceans
Latest 3-month North Pacific SST, OLR & uv925 anomalies

Data source: NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis 1
Weekly SST anomaly and MHWs in the North Pacific

MHWs were observed in the N.E Pacific during late May to early June.

- Strong SSTA expanded toward to the N.W coast of North America in recent weeks.
Two Oceanic PDO indices

SST-based PDO (Wen et al. 2014: GRL)

- The negative phase of PDO has persisted since Jan 2020 with PDOI = -1.5 in Jun 2021.
- Negative H300-based PDO index has persisted 57 months since Nov 2016, with HPDO = -2.1 in Jun 2021.
- SST-based PDO index has considerable variability both on seasonal and decadal time scales.
- H300-based PDO index highlights the slower variability and encapsulates an integrated view of temperature variability in the upper ocean.


SST-based PDO is defined as the 1st EOF of monthly ERSST v3b in the North Pacific for the period 1900-1993. PDO index is the standardized projection of the monthly ERSSTv5 SST anomalies onto the 1st EOF pattern. H300-based Pacific Decadal Oscillation is defined as the projection of monthly mean H300 anomalies from NCEP GODAS onto their first EOF vector in the North Pacific. PDO indices are downloadable from https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/GODAS/ocean_briefing.shtml.
The monthly average extent for Jun 2021 was 10.71 million square kilometers and it ranks the sixth lowest in the satellite record.
For ICs in Jun 2021, NCEP/CPC predicted a well below-normal sea ice extent during summer and autumn 2021.
Indian Ocean
Evolution of Indian Ocean SST Indices

Indian Ocean Dipole region indices, calculated as the area-averaged monthly mean sea surface temperature anomalies (°C) 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.

- Negative Indian Ocean dipole index strengthened in Jun 2021, with IOD = -0.63°C.
Westerly wind anomaly prevailed over the southern eastern Indian Ocean, favoring further warming in the eastern Indian Ocean.
Tropical and North Atlantic Ocean
Evolution of Tropical Atlantic SST Indices

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.

- Negative meridional dipole index continued in Jun 2021.
- ATL 3 index in Jun 2021 hit a historical record since 1982, with ATL3 = 1.3°C.
Atlantic Niño and associated rainfall variability

- Atlantic Niño (Niña) is defined as the 3-month averaged SSTAs exceeding 0.5°C (-0.5 °C) in the ATL 3 region [3°S- 3°N, 20°W-0°] for at least two consecutive overlapping seasons.
- Atlantic Niño usually develops in boreal spring (MAM), peaks in summer (JJA) and dissipates in fall.
- Some Atlantic Niño events are responsible for a failure of the west African summer monsoon and increased frequency of flooding in the west African countries near the Gulf of Guinea and in the northeastern South American.
- Atlantic Niño and associated rainfall variability display large diversity.

Latest 3-month Tropical Atlantic SST, OLR & uv925 and D20 anomalies

Bjerknes feedback
Historical Atlantic Niño & Niña Events

**ATL Niño:**
- Aug 1984 - Sep 1984
- Jul 1987 - Aug 1987
- May 1988 - Aug 1988
- May 1995 - Jun 1995
- May 1996 - Jul 1996
- Dec 1997 - Mar 1998
- May 1999 - Aug 1999
- May 2008 - Jul 2008
- Oct 2010 - Nov 2010
- Nov 2016 - Jan 2017
- Nov 2019 - Feb 2020
- May 2021 - ??

**ATL Niña:**
- May 1982 - Dec 1982
- Mar 1983 - Jul 1983
- Oct 1986 - Feb 1987
- Dec 1989 - Feb 1990
- Apr 1992 - Dec 1992
- Feb 1993 - Apr 1993
- Nov 1996 - Jul 1997
- Nov 2001 - Jan 2002
- Apr 2004 - Jun 2004
- Apr 2005 - Jul 2005
- Dec 2011 - Apr 2012
Tropical Atlantic Ocean: SSTA, SSTA Tend, TCHP, OLR, UV200, UV200-UV850, Heat Flux Anomalies

**Top Row:**
- SSTA (left; OI SST), SSTA tendency (central), Tropical Cyclone Heat Potential anomaly (right; GODAS).

**Middle Row:**
- OLR (left; NOAA 18 AVHRR IR), UV200 (central; NCEP CDAS), UV200-UV850 (right; NCEP CDAS) anomalies.

**Bottom Row:**
- SW+LW (left), LH+SH (central), Relative humidity at 700 hPa (right; NCEP CDAS) anomalies.

Anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.
- NOAA 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook: above-normal Atlantic hurricane season with a 60% chance of an above-normal season, a 30% chance of a near-normal season, and a 10% chance of a below-normal season.
- However, experts do not anticipate the historic level of storm activity seen in 2020. (https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-predicts-another-active-atlantic-hurricane-season)
2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season Activities

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2021_Atlantic_hurricane_season

- By Jul 10 2021, five tropical storms formed with one developing into hurricane.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Atlantic</th>
<th>Observations (By Jul 10)</th>
<th>Outlook (May 21) 60% above-normal</th>
<th>(1991-2020)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total storms</td>
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<td>13-20</td>
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<td>Major hurricanes</td>
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- NAO switched to a positive phase in Jun 2021 with NAOI= 1.1.
- 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.
ENSO and Global SST Predictions
IRI/CPC Niño3.4 Forecast

ENSO Alert System Status: La Niña Watch Issued on 8 Jul 2021

Synopsis: ENSO-neutral is favored through the Northern Hemisphere summer and into the fall (51% chance for the August-October season), with La Niña potentially emerging during the September-November season and last through the 2021-22 winter (66% chance during November-January).
CFSv2 Niño3.4 SST Predictions

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.

Latest CFSv2 predictions call for a moderate La Niña in the northern hemisphere 2021/22 winter.
Individual Model Niño3.4 Forecasts

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

**JMA: Updated 10 June, 2021**

**BOM: Updated 03 July, 2021**

**UKMO: Updated 11 June, 2021**
NMME forecasts with the latest 4-month initial conditions
Warm water volume (WWV) is defined as an average of D20 anomaly across the equatorial Pacific (120°E – 80°W, 5°S-5°N) (Meinen and McPhaden 2000). Central tropical Pacific (CTP) index is calculated as the averaged D20 anomaly in the central tropical Pacific (160°W-110°W, 10°S-10°N) (Wen et al. 2014). The monthly D20 data is obtained from the Real-time Ocean Reanalysis Intercomparison Project (https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/GODAS/multiora93_body.html).
Prediction models are constructed using leave-one-year-out cross validation over the full period by iteratively recomputing the coefficients with the target prediction year removed. For details Wen et al. (2021) DOI: https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-20-0648.1

- Both WWV and CTP in June predict ENSO neutral condition in DJF 2022.
Equatorial Atlantic warming (cooling) induces enhanced (weakened) trade winds in Indo-Pacific regions and leads to subsequent tropical Pacific cooling (warming) 7 month later.

Figure 6. Lead-lag correlations between (a) equatorial Atlantic SST (5°S to 5°N, 90°W to 0°) and zonal wind anomalies at 850 hPa in the Indo-Pacific region (5°S to 5°N, 90°-150°E), (b) zonal wind anomalies at 850 hPa in the Indo-Pacific region and Nino 3.4 index (SST anomalies in 5°S to 5°N, 170°-120°W), and (c) equatorial Atlantic SST and Nino 3.4 index. Black and red lines are observations and multimodel ensemble of ATL runs, respectively. Green, blue solid, and blue dashed lines correspond to the MIROC ATL anomaly, CESM ATL anomaly, and CESM ATL full runs, respectively.

- Large cold bias in CFSR in March 2016 (ocean IC for CFSv2) led to a false El Nino prediction, providing evidence for the impact of tropical Atlantic SST on ENSO.
- Latest CFSv2 predict ATL3 will reach 1.5°C in July, a historical high on record.
CFSv2 Tropical North Atlantic (TNA) SST Predictions

Latest CFSv2 predictions call for above normal SSTs in the tropical N. Atlantic in 2021 hurricane season.
- There are warm biases with ICs in Dec 2020-Feb 2021.

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].
CFSv2 DMI SST Predictions

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.
CFSv2 Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) Index Predictions

CFSv2 individual forecast members  |  CFSv2 forecast ensemble mean  |  Observations

- 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. Arun Kumar, Zeng-Zhen Hu, and Jieshun Zhu: reviewed PPT, and provided 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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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/multiora93_body.html
Relative Niño3.4 index is now included in ENSO monitoring, which is defined as the conventional Niño3.4 index minus the SSTA averaged in the whole tropics (0°-360°, 20°S-20°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/RONI.ascii.txt
Two weak downwelling Kelvin waves were initiated in Feb and Apr 2021, respectively, 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).)*
(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 (m$^3$/s/100m 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°N to 57°N.

- Both coastal anomalous upwelling and downwelling were present in Jun 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 still continues and likely strengthens in the western equatorial Pacific Ocean and SPCZ region. Negative SSS anomaly appears in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. Negative SSS anomaly shows in the northeast Pacific Ocean. Positive SSS anomaly continues between 20°N and 40°N in the North Atlantic Ocean. While, negative SSS anomaly along the Equatorial Atlantic Ocean continues and strengthens which is likely due to increased 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
Compared with last month, SSS increases in the western equatorial Pacific Ocean and SPCZ region. While, SSS decreases in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. SSS also decreases in the equatorial Atlantic Ocean region. SSS increases in the Indian Ocean in most areas north of equator which is likely caused by reduced precipitation.
Pentad SSS Anomaly Evolution over Equatorial Pacific

**Figure caption:**
Hovemoller diagram for equatorial (5°S-5°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.