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

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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 10 Mar 2022 stated “La Niña is favored to continue into the Northern Hemisphere summer (53% chance during June-August 2022), with a 40-50% chance of La Niña or ENSO-neutral thereafter.”
  – La Niña condition persisted with Niño3.4 = -1.0°C in Mar 2022.
  – Positive SSTAs continued in the North Pacific.
  – The PDO has been in a negative phase since Jan 2020 with PDOI = -1.1 in Mar 2022.

• **Arctic Ocean**
  – “Average Arctic sea ice extent for March 2022 was 14.59 million square kilometers (5.63 million square miles), ranking ninth lowest in the satellite record.”

• **Indian Ocean**
  – SSTAs were small in the tropical Indian Ocean in Mar 2022.

• **Atlantic Ocean**
  – SSTs were near average in the tropical Atlantic Ocean in Mar 2022.
  – NAO switched to a positive phase in Dec 2021 with NAOI= 0.4 in Mar 2022.
Global Oceans
SSTAs (top) and SSTA tendency (bottom). Data are derived from the OI SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.

- Negative SSTAs persisted in the central and southeastern tropical Pacific.
- Positive SSTAs persisted in part of the North Pacific.
- Weak SSTAs were evident across the tropical Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

- Positive (negative) SSTA tendencies were observed in the far-eastern (central and east-central) equatorial Pacific.
- Positive (negative) SSTA tendencies were evident in the southern and eastern (western) North Pacific.
- SSTA tendencies were small in the equatorial Atlantic Ocean and central equatorial Indian Ocean.
Positive (negative) temperature anomalies were observed along the thermocline in the western and far-eastern (central) equatorial Pacific.

- Positive (negative) temperature anomalies were observed along the thermocline in the western (eastern) equatorial Atlantic Ocean.

- Temperature anomaly tendency was positive (negative) along the thermocline in the western and far-eastern (central) Pacific.
- Positive temperature anomaly tendency was evident in the eastern Atlantic Ocean.

Equatorial depth-longitude section of ocean temperature anomalies (top) and anomaly tendency (bottom). Data is from the NCEP's GODAS. Anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.
TAO, GODAS, & CFSR monthly mean subsurface temperature anomalies along the Equator during the last 3 months.
Basic features in the tropical Pacific associated with La Nina evolution are consistent between AVISO and GODAS.
Positive (negative) anomalous tendencies were present in the eastern (central) equatorial Pacific.
There are some differences in details between AVISO & GODAS with a lot of small-scale variabilities in AVISO.
Tropical Pacific Ocean and ENSO Conditions
All Niño indices were negative in Mar 2022, with Niño3.4 = -1.0°C.

- Compared with Mar 2021, the east-central and southeastern equatorial Pacific was cooler in Mar 2022.

- The indices may have slight differences if based on different SST products.

Niño region indices, calculated as the area-averaged monthly mean SSTAs (°C) for the specified region. Data are derived from the OI SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.
- Sometimes, ERSSTv5 is warmer or cooler than OIv2.1.
- For both the extreme positive and negative ($\pm1.5^\circ$C) Niño3.4, ERSSTv5 is mostly warmer than OIv2.1.
- During last a couple months, ERSSTv5 was slightly cooler than OIv2.1.
Relative Niño3.4 index 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
SSTAs (top-left), SSTA 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 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.
Current Status of the Pacific Meridional Mode (PMM)

Lagged regressions of seasonally averaged SST and surface wind anomalies on NPMM SST time series calculated from a Maximum Covariance Analysis.

https://www.aos.wisc.edu/~dvimont/MModes/PMM.html

Anomalous westward currents were observed in both OSCAR and GODAS since Feb 2022.
Upwelling Kelvin waves were initiated in May, Aug, & Nov 2021, leading to the subsurface cooling in the eastern equatorial Pacific and the development of the 2021/22 La Niña.

A downwelling Kelvin wave initiated in Dec 2021 led to the weakening of 2021/22 La Niña.

Dipole-like variations with positive (negative) anomalies in the west (east) were observed since Feb 2022.

(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).)
Evolution of Pentad D20 and Taux anomalies along the equator

Depth 20°C Pentad Anomaly, ending Apr 05 2022 (2°S–2°N), 12-Pentads Running Mean

Zonal Wind Stress Pentad Anomaly, ending Apr 05 2022 (2°S–2°N), 3-pentad running mean
Positive (negative) ocean temperature anomalies were present in the central (east-central) Pacific with little propagation.

- The anomalies of GODAS were overall larger than TAO.
Equatorial Sub-surface Ocean Temperature Monitoring

- The equatorial Pacific has been in a recharge phase since Nov 2021.

- 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 & Hu (2014) DOI: 10.1007/s00382-013-1721-0.
As WWV is 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.

- In the WWV index definition, it is the average of ocean temperature anomaly along the whole equatorial Pacific, which sometimes have no coherent variations.

Equatorial Warm Water Volume (WWV) was the recharge phase in Mar 2022.
North Pacific & Arctic Oceans
The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) Index

- The PDO has been in a negative phase since Jan 2020 with PDOI = -1.1 in Mar 2022.

- 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 1st 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 1st EOF pattern.
North Pacific & Arctic Ocean: SSTA, SSTA Tend., OLR, SLP, Sfc Rad, Sfc Flx Anomalies

SSTA (top-left; OI SST Analysis), SSTA 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.
(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 (m³/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 the anomalous coastal upwelling and downwelling were weak since mid-Mar 2022.
North Pacific SST, OLR, and uv925 anomalies
- The CFSv2 predicts that the current SST warm state will continue.
- The seasonal maximum extent of 14.88 million square kilometers was observed on Feb 25.
- Average Arctic sea ice extent for Mar 2022 was 14.59 million square kilometers, ranking ninth lowest in the satellite record.
- The downward linear trend in Mar sea ice extent over the 44-year-satellite record is 2.5% per decade relative to the 1981 to 2010 average.
- Based on the linear trend, since 1979, Mar has seen a loss of 1.74 million square kilometers (672,000 square miles). This is equivalent to about the size of Alaska.
Indian Ocean
Indian Ocean region indices, calculated as the area-averaged monthly mean SSTA (OC) for the SETIO \([90^\circ E-110^\circ E, 10^\circ S-0]\) and WTIO \([50^\circ E-70^\circ E, 10^\circ S-10^\circ N]\) regions, and Dipole Mode Index, defined as differences between WTIO and SETIO. Data are derived from the OI SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.

- Overall, SSTs were near average in the tropical Indian Ocean in Mar 2022.
SSTAs were small in the tropical Indian Ocean. SSTA tendencies along the equator were generally consistent with heat flux anomalies.
Tropical and North Atlantic Ocean
Evolution of Tropical Atlantic SST Indices

- SSTAs were small in the tropical Atlantic and positive in the southern Atlantic.
- The Atlantic Niño event ended in Dec 2021.

Tropical Atlantic Variability region indices, calculated as the area-averaged monthly mean SSTAs (°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 OI SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.
- NAO switched to a positive phase in Dec 2021 with NAOI= 0.4 in Mar 2022.
- The positive SSTAs in the mid-high latitudes of the North Atlantic Ocean were evident since 2021.
- SST in MDR was above average during the last two years.
- SSTA was positive (negative) in the western (eastern) MDR in the last month.
ENSO and Global SST Predictions
Individual Model Forecasts: ENSO will return to neutral in spring or summer

EC: IC = 1 Apr 2022

Australian BOM: Updated 9 Apr 2022

JMA: Updated 11 Apr 2022

UKMO: Updated 11 Apr 2022
Notable warm bias for summer/fall in its Spring IC runs since 2017

Eric Blake - NOAA Federal <eric.s.blake@noaa.gov>
NMME forecasts from different initial conditions
Fig. 3 False alarm years (1984, 1987, 1991, 2001, 2003, 2011, 2013, 2014, and 2017) in which the forecast probability of the wrong sign of the 3-month tendency exceeded 80% for April–June starts. The black curves are observed monthly values of the Niño 3.4 index with 1-month prior tendencies highlighted in the same color as the corresponding forecast. The colored curves are forecast values with heavy lines for the North American multimodel ensemble mean and light lines for North American multimodel ensemble members. Note the differing vertical scales.

The latest CFSv2 forecasts indicate that La Niña will persist in summer – autumn 2022.
- **Enso Alert System Status: La Niña Advisory**

- **Synopsis:** *La Niña is favored to continue into the Northern Hemisphere summer (53% chance during June-August 2022), with a 40-50% chance of La Niña or ENSO-neutral thereafter.*
Three-year history of sea surface temperatures in the Niño-3.4 region of the tropical Pacific for 8 previous double-dip La Niña events. The color of the line indicates the state of ENSO for the third winter (red: El Niño, darker blue: La Niña, lighter blue: neutral). The black line shows the current event. Monthly Niño-3.4 index is from CPC using ERSSTv5.

D20 & Taux in 3-year (1998-2001) & 2-year (2010-13) La Nina & 2020-22 (Suggested by Eric Blake; NHC/NCEP)
The strength of all the strong La Niña events is determined by the in-phase amplification of all time scale variations. Their decay in the boreal spring and early summer is mainly controlled by the intraseasonal-interseasonal variation.

2-year La Niña may be predictable 18 to 24 months in advance

A 1800-year long control simulation of CESM1 & forecasts with the perfect model approach.

- A strong thermocline discharge or a strong El Niño can lead to La Niña conditions that last 2 years.
- Forecasts initialized with strong thermocline discharge or strong peak El Niño amplitude show higher predictability than those with initial conditions of weaker magnitude.

- 2-year La Niña may be predictable 18 to 24 months in advance under specific initial conditions.

Niño-3.4 SST anomalies (°C) during January 2014–March 2015. Black, green, red, purple and blue curves are for SST anomalies in observations, CTL, SE, SE3 and SEpTNWP, respectively. For forecasts, solid curves represent the ensemble mean. Shaded areas in light green and light red represent ensemble spread for CTL and SE. The dots in red, purple and blue curves means that the ensemble mean SST anomalies in SE, SE3 and SEpTNWP are significantly different from those in CTL at the 95% confidence level.

For 2014/15 Nino3.4, “Our experiments show that 40% of the amplitude error at the peak phase could be attributed to the lack of prediction of negative SST anomalies in the southeastern Pacific.” (Zhu et al. 2016)

CFS Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) Index Predictions from Different Initial Months

CFSv2 predicts a negative phase of PDO in 2022.

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.
NCEP CFS DMI SST Predictions from Different Initial Months

Indian Ocean Dipole SST anomalies (K)

- CFSv2 predicts a negative phase of IOD in summer-autumn 2022.

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.
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].

Latest CFSv2 predictions call for slightly above normal SST in the tropical North Atlantic in 2022.
CFSv2 Atlantic SSTA Predictions

Latest CFSv2 predictions call slightly above or near average SST in the tropical North Atlantic in the next 8 months.
Drs. Jieshun Zhu, Caihong Wen, and Arun Kumar: reviewed PPT, and provide insightful suggestions and comments.

Dr. Pingping Xie provided the BASS/CMORPH/CFSR EVAP package.

Dr. Wanqiu Wang provides the sea ice forecasts and maintains the CFSv2 forecast archive.

Please send your comments and suggestions to:
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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
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° S-5° N);
- In the equatorial Pacific Ocean, west of 140° E, negative SSS signal continues; positive SSS signal continues between 140° E and 170° W; neutral or likely negative signal continues east of 150° W.
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 equatorial Pacific Ocean and SPCZ caused reduced precipitation in these areas. Positive SSS anomaly continues between 10°N and 40°N across the North Atlantic Ocean. Negative SSS anomaly continues in the equatorial Atlantic Ocean where enhanced precipitation is observed. Negative SSS anomaly continues in the Bay of Bengal, while positive anomaly appears in the Arabian Sea.

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
ITCZ precipitation is enhanced across both the Pacific and the Atlantic ocean, with a slight merional shift towards north over the majority of the Pacific and towards south over the Atlantic. Precipitation over the SPCZ is weakened. At the meantime, evaporation over the northwest Pacific storm track region is reduced substantially. These changes in the oceanic fresh water, combined with the effects of oceanic transportation and mixed layer processes, created a slight freshened (saltier) tendency of SSS along the Pacific / Atlantic ITCZ (SPCZ) regions, respectively.
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.
Equatorial Pacific SST (°C), HC300 (°C), u850 (m/s) Anomalies

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

SST

Heat Content

U850
- Observed SSTA tendency (dSSTA/dt; bar) and total heat budget (RHS; black line) were positive recently.

- Dynamical terms (Qu, Qv, Qw+Qzz) were either small negative or positive and heat-flux term (Qq) were negative recently.


Qu: Zonal advection; Qv: Meridional advection;
Qw: Vertical entrainment; Qzz: Vertical diffusion
Qq: (Qnet - Qpen + Qcorr)/pcph; Qnet = SW + LW + LH +SH;
Qpen: SW penetration; Qcorr: Flux correction due to relaxation to OI SST