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

Prepared by
Climate Prediction Center, NCEP/NOAA
November 9, 2023

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)
Outline

• Overview

• Recent highlights
  – Pacific Ocean
  – Arctic & Antarctic Oceans
  – Indian Ocean
  – Atlantic Ocean

• Global SSTA Predictions
• **Pacific Ocean**
  – NOAA “ENSO Diagnostic Discussion” on 9 Nov 2023 stated “El Niño is anticipated to continue through the Northern Hemisphere spring (with a 62% chance during April-June 2024)”.
  – The PDO has been in a negative phase since Jan 2020 with PDOI = -1.7 in Oct 2023.
  – Strong subsurface warming has persisted in the central north Pacific Ocean since 2020.

• **Arctic and Antarctic Oceans**
  – Average Arctic sea ice extent during Oct 2023 ranked the seventh lowest Oct since 1979.
  – Antarctic sea ice extent remained at historical low level.

• **Indian Ocean**
  – A positive Indian dipole event continued to develop in Oct 2023.

• **Atlantic Ocean**
  – SST warming in the north Atlantic during Aug-Oct 2023 hit the historical high for the same season since 1982.
  – Hurricane activity was active in Oct 2023.
Global Oceans
SSTs were above average across most of the equatorial Pacific Ocean.
- Positive SSTAs persisted in the North Pacific.
- Positive SSTAs dominated the Atlantic Ocean.
- Negative (positive) SSTAs were present in the eastern (western) Indian Ocean, reflecting a growing positive Indian dipole event.

- Both negative and positive SSTA tendencies were observed in the North Pacific Ocean.
- Negative SSTA tendencies dominated the North Atlantic Ocean.
- Negative (positive) SSTA tendencies were present in the eastern (far western) equatorial Indian Ocean.

SSTAs (top) and SSTA tendency (bottom). Data are derived from the OIv2.1 SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.
Global Monthly SST anomaly and Marine Heat Waves

- MHWs were observed in the Northeast subtropical Pacific, Northwest Pacific, central-eastern equatorial Pacific, Northeast Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, Labrador basin and the western Indian Ocean.

(Left panel) Monthly SST anomaly (shaded) and locations experiencing marine heat waves (hatched) by the end date labelled in the plot. (Right panel) SST evolution at a specific location. Green line and blue line are the 90th percentile and daily climatology, respectively. Shaded area denotes the periods experiencing MHW. MHW is defined as a prolonged warming exceeding 90th percentile of daily SST for at least 14 consecutive days. Data is derived from NCEI OISSTv2.1 and the reference period is 1991-2020.
Positive temperature anomalies were present along the central-eastern thermocline in the Pacific.

Negative (positive) temperature anomalies were observed along the eastern (western) thermocline in the Indian Ocean, favoring a positive IOD development.

Negative temperature anomaly dominated the thermocline in the Atlantic Ocean.

Negative (positive) temperature anomaly tendency were observed in the western and eastern (central) thermocline in the Pacific.

Dipole pattern of anomaly tendency continued in the Indian Ocean.
Tropical Pacific Ocean and ENSO Conditions
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 OIv2.1 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.
Westward Expansion & Evolution of Coastal El Niño
Since Feb 2023, a set of westerly wind surges triggered downwelling Kelvin waves, helping to reinforce the subsurface warming in the central-eastern Pacific.

- Westerly wind anomalies prevailed over most of equatorial Pacific Ocean in Oct 2023.
- Positive SST anomalies strengthened in the central and eastern Pacific in Oct 2023.
- Anomalous eastward currents were present in the equatorial Pacific in both OSCAR and GODAS since Feb 2023, which were consistent with the growth of the positive SSTA.
- Anomalous eastward currents enhanced west of 150W in Oct 2023.
The monthly subsurface temperature data is obtained from the Real-time Ocean Reanalysis Intercomparison Project (https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/GODAS/multiora93_body.html).
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/multiorm93_body.html ).
Niño 4 and Niño3.4 indices strengthened in Oct 2023, with Niño3.4 = 1.6°C.

Positive Nino1+2 weakened in Oct 2023, with Nino1+2 = 2.5°C.

Compared with Oct 2022, the tropical Pacific was much warmer in Oct 2023.

The indices may have 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 OIv2.1 SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.
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
2023 Pacific Hurricane Season Activities

NOAA’s 2023 Hurricane Season Outlooks

For the Eastern Pacific hurricane region, the outlooks indicate a 55% chance of an above-normal season, a 35% chance of a near-normal season, and a 10% chance of an above-normal season. The odds for the Central Pacific are 50% for an above-normal season, 35% for a near-normal season, and 15% for a below-normal season.

These outlooks are for the overall seasonal activity. They are not a hurricane intensity forecast.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E. Pacific</th>
<th>Observations (By Nov 6)</th>
<th>Outlook (May 25) 55% above-normal</th>
<th>(1991-2020)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total storms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major hurricanes</td>
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<td>4-8</td>
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</table>
North Pacific & Arctic Oceans
Last 3-month North Pacific SST, SLP, and uv925 anomalies.
- Positive temperature anomaly (>0.9°C) penetrated to 150m deep and persisted since 2020.
- Subsurface warming in the last three years is the strongest since 1979.
The negative phase of PDO has persisted since Jan 2020 with PDOI = -1.7 in Oct 2023.

- Negative H300-based PDO index has persisted since Nov 2016, with HPDO = -1.8 in Oct 2023.

- 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.
North America Western Coastal Upwelling

(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 36ºN to 57ºN.

- Anomalous upwelling dominated along the coastline in the second-half of Oct 2023.
- MHW persisted in the northwest Pacific Ocean in Oct 2023.
- MHWs were observed in the northeastern tropical Pacific in Oct 2023.
- Considerable amount of anomalously warm waters persisted near the coast of California.

(Left panel) Weekly SST anomaly (shaded) and locations experience Marine heat waves (hatched) by the date labelled in the plot. (right panel) SST evolution at a specific location. Green line and blue line denote the seasonal 90th percentile and daily climatology, respectively. Shaded area denotes the periods experiencing MHW. MHW is defined as a discrete prolonged warmer than 90th percentile of daily SST for at least 14 days. Data is derived from NCEI OISSTv2.1 and the climatology reference period is 1991-2020
- Average Arctic sea ice extent during Oct 2023 was 6.37 million square kilometers, the seventh lowest Oct in the satellite record.
Antarctic sea ice extent was 15.79 million square kilometers on Oct 31, remaining at record low levels.
UFS

Arctic sea ice extent (SIE) forecast
Experimental UFS initialized October 21–25, 2023

- UFS forecasts suggest SIE maximum in Mar 2023 will be close to 1991-2020 climatology.

Indian Ocean
Evolution of Indian Ocean SST Indices

Indian Ocean region indices, calculated as the area-averaged monthly mean SSTA (OC) for the SETIO [90ºE-110ºE, 10ºS-0] and WTIO [50ºE-70ºE, 10ºS-10ºN] regions, and Dipole Mode Index, defined as differences between WTIO and SETIO. Data are derived from the OIv2.1 SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.

- Indian dipole mode index (DMI) has been greater than 0.4ºC since Aug 2023. It indicated a positive IOD event is underway.
- Positive Indian dipole mode index (DMI) strengthened in Oct 2023, with DMI = 1.43 ºC.
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 Olv2.1 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.
Tropical and North Atlantic Ocean
Evolution of Tropical Atlantic SST Indices

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 OIv2.1 SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.

- Strong positive SSTA in the tropical north Atlantic weakened slightly in Oct 2023.

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.
Evolution of SST anomaly in the North Atlantic
- Statistically, Wind shear tends to enhance (weaken) over the Hurricane Main Development region (MDR, green box) during El Niño (La Niña) events.
- Negative wind shear anomalies dominated in the MDR during Aug-Oct 2023, favouring tropical storm development.
- NOAA forecasters have increased the likelihood of an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season from 30% in outlook issued in May to 60% in August outlook update.
- Main climate factors expected to influence the 2023 Atlantic hurricane activity are: the ongoing El Niño, the warm phase of the Atlantic Multi-Decadal Oscillation and record-warm Atlantic SSTs.
- Likelihood of greater activity rises due to record-warm Atlantic SST.  
2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season Activities

By 6 Nov 2023, twenty tropical storms formed, with seven developing into hurricane and three major hurricanes.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2023_Atlantic_hurricane_season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Atlantic</th>
<th>Observations (By Nov 6)</th>
<th>Updated Outlook (Aug) 60% above-normal</th>
<th>Outlook (May 25) 40% near-normal</th>
<th>(1991-2020)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total storms</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Major hurricanes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Strong MHWs has been persist near the west coast of North Africa since Apr 2023.
- MHWs continued near the Caribbean and the Labrador basin.
NAO and SST Anomaly in North Atlantic

Monthly standardized NAO index (top) derived from monthly standardized 500-mb height anomalies obtained from the NCEP CDAS in 20°N-90°N.

Time-latitude section of SSTAs averaged between 80°W and 20°W (bottom). SST are derived from the OIv2.1 SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.

- Negative NAO strengthened substantially in Oct 2023, with NAO = -1.7.
- Strong warming continued in the eastern North Atlantic Ocean.

Monthly standardized NAO index (top) derived from monthly standardized 500-mb height anomalies obtained from the NCEP CDAS in 20°N-90°N. Time-latitude section of SSTAs averaged between 80°W and 20°W (bottom). SST are derived from the OIv2.1 SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.
ENSO and Global SST Predictions
CFSv2 and NMME SST predictions

CFSv2 IC:Nov for DJF 2023

NMME IC:Nov for DJF 2023

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/CFSv2/CFSv2seasonal.shtml

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/NMME/
Uncertainty in ocean initial conditions and NMME forecasts
Both CFSv2 and CCSM4 use CFSR as ocean initial conditions.
Impact of NSST cold bias on CFSv2

Monthly SST Anomaly Difference (°C) in Pacific equator [2S–2N]

Bias pathway: NSST ↔ CFSR ↔ CFSv2

Individual Model Forecasts: A strong to very strong El Niño in 2023

EC: Niño3.4, IC= 1 Nov 2023

UKMO: Niño3.4, Updated 11 Oct 2023

BOM: Niño3.4, Updated 21 Oct 2023

JMA: Niño3.4, Updated 11 Oct 2023
Most of models forecasted that El Niño conditions will continue through the Northern Hemisphere spring 2024.

- Dynamical model ensemble mean favors of a strong El Niño through Jan-Mar 2023.

ENSO Alert System Status issued on Nov 9 2023:
- **El Niño Advisory**

**Synopsis:** “El Niño is anticipated to continue through the Northern Hemisphere spring (with a 62% chance during April-June 2024)”
Evolution of NINO34 & NINO1+2 in El Niño Years

Nino 34 and NINO1+2 indice are derived from the NCEP OI SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.
Comparisons among 1982, 1997 and 2023 El Niño events

Nino 34 and NINO1+2 indice are derived from the NCEP OI SST analysis, and anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period means.
All NMME members predict the positive IOD event will last through Feb 2024.

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/international/ocean_monitoring/indian/IO_monitoring_fcsts/io_index.shtml
NMME Forecasts in the Atlantic Ocean

NMME Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies (DecC)
Dec2023–Feb2024
November2023 initial conditions

NMME MDR fcst, IC=202311

NMME ATL3 fcst, IC=202311
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.

- CFSv2 predicts the negative phase of PDO will continue through spring 2024.
- NMME forecasts suggest that MHW coverage will remain elevated near 30% of the global oceans through the end of 2023.
- MHW conditions are expected to persist in the eastern tropical Pacific, central North Pacific, Northwest Pacific near Japan and tropical North Atlantic through the end of year.
- MHW condition will persist in the Caribbean Sea through the end of 2023 with 70-100% probability.

https://psl.noaa.gov/marine-heatwaves/#report
Drs. Arun Kumar, Zeng-Zhen Hu, Jieshun Zhu reviewed PPT, and provide insightful suggestions and comments.
Dr. Pingping Xie provided the BASS/CMORPH/CFSR EVAP package.
Drs. Jieshun Zhu and Wanqiu Wang provided the upgraded sea ice forecasts.

Please send your comments and suggestions to:
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Caihong.Wen@noaa.gov
Jieshun.Zhu@noaa.gov
Zeng-Zhen.Hu@noaa.gov
NCEP/CPC Ocean Monitoring & Briefing Operation (Hu et al., 2022, BAMS)
- Weekly Optimal Interpolation SST (OIv2.1 SST; Huang et al. 2021)
- 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
Backup Slides
New Update: The NCEI SST data used in the quality control procedure has been updated to version 2.1 since May 2020;

Enhanced fresh water flux, driven by strong precipitation, is observed across the equatorial Pacific, positioned slightly south of its climatological latitudes, causing freshened SSS anomalies there. Negative SSS anomalies also appear over the equatorial Atlantic and the Bay of Bengal, largely attributable to the positive precipitation over the regions. Saltier SSS anomalies, meanwhile, are present over the central northern Pacific and over the western southern Pacific east of Australia over regions of reduced ocean-going fresh water flux.

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
Fresh water flux (E-P) exhibits an enhanced tendency across the equatorial Pacific slightly south of normal ITCZ positions, creating a freshened SSS tendency over the region. Negative (freshened) SSS tendency is also observed over the Bay of Bengal in consistent with the E-P tendency there. Also noticeable is the saltier SSS tendency offshore of the norther coast of Brazil, likely caused by the drier precipitation tendency there.
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.

- Hovermoller diagram for equatorial SSS anomaly (5°S-5°N);
- Freshened SSS anomalies over the western and central equatorial Pacific (130°E-180°) are further enhanced as a result of the strong ITCZ activities during September 2023. Saltier SSS anomalies over the eastern equatorial Pacific is weakening and started to turn into negative as shown in the pentad figure on next slide.
**Figure caption:** Hovermoller 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.
SSHs were above normal in the equatorial Pacific in GODAS & AVISO.
- The tendencies indicated an increase (decrease) of SSH in the eastern (western) tropical Pacific.
Evolution of Monthly Mean Zonal Wind Stress Anomaly across [5S-5N]

Data source: NCEP R2 reanalysis
Evolution of Monthly Mean D20 Anomaly across [2S-2N]

Data source: NCEP GODAS
Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) Index

- The PDO has been in a negative phase since Jan 2020 with PDOI = -1.9 in Jul 2023.

- 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; OIv2.1 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.
Established theories:
• Warm phase of Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation (AMO)
• Warmer SSTs across the Atlantic hurricane main development region
• Reduced wind shear (i.e., ENSO impact)
• Stronger West African monsoon

https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/enso/impacts-el-ni%C3%B1o-and-la-ni%C3%B1a-hurricane-season

(Gerry Bell, 2014)
N. Atlantic: SST, SST tend., OLR, SLP, & heat flex anom.
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.

- The latest CFSv2 forecasts call for an El Niño in the second half of 2023.
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 predicts a positive phase of IOD in the 2nd half of 2023.
NMME forecasts from different initial conditions