

El Niño Monitoring and Outlook

Climate Prediction Division, Japan Meteorological Agency
issued on 11 October 2005

< URL: http://okdk.kishou.go.jp/products/el_nino/index.html >

Current Diagnosis

- Negative SST anomalies developed in the eastern equatorial Pacific, while positive SST anomalies persisted in the central part.
- Negative temperature anomalies were dominant in the eastern equatorial subsurface ocean.
- Easterly wind anomalies dominated over much of the equatorial Pacific in the first half of September.

El Niño Outlook

- The Region B (Niño 3) SST is likely to be around normal during autumn and winter.
- It is unlikely that El Niño or La Niña will develop during the prediction period.

In September 2005, negative SST anomalies developed in the eastern equatorial Pacific, while positive SST anomalies persisted in the central part. The SST deviation from the 1961-1990 mean for Region B (Niño 3) decreased from +0.5°C for August to -0.2°C for September. Also, in the subsurface ocean, negative temperature anomalies dominated in the eastern equatorial Pacific.

The above oceanic changes during September are considered to be due to the enhancement of the Trade Winds over the equatorial Pacific in the first half of September. The easterly wind anomalies, however, were replaced by weak westerly wind anomalies in the second half of the month. In the subsurface ocean, eastward propagation of both positive temperature anomalies in the west and negative ones in the east is recognized. However, it is considered that the magnitudes of these anomalies are not large enough to result in significant change of the Region B SST deviation in the next few months. Current atmospheric and oceanic conditions in the equatorial Pacific are almost near normal, and there is no indication toward El Niño or La Niña at present.

The JMA's El Niño forecast model predicts that the Region B SST will be around normal (1961-1990 mean) during autumn and winter (Figure 1).

Judging from all the above, the Region B SST is likely to be around normal during autumn and winter. At present, it is unlikely that El Niño or La Niña will develop during the prediction period.

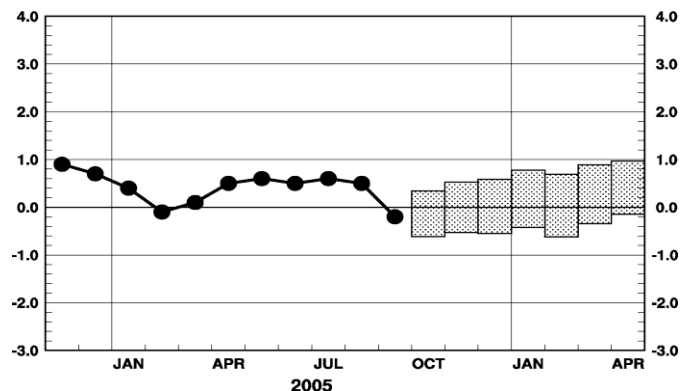


Figure 1. Outlook of the SST deviation for Region B (Niño.3) by the El Niño forecast model. This figure indicates a time series of the monthly sea surface temperature (SST) deviation for Region B (4°N-4°S, 150°W-90°W). Thick lines with closed circles show the observed SST deviation and boxes show the predicted one for the next six months by the El Niño forecast model. Each box denotes the range where the SST deviation will be included with the probability of 70%.