## Seasonal forecasting at ECMWF

L. Ferranti

## The operational forecasting system

High resolution forecast: twice per day Tl 1279 ~ 16km 137-level, to 10 days ahead (next update Tco1279 ~ 9km)

#### Coupled atmosphere-ocean system

Ensemble Prediction System (ENS): twice daily Tl 639/319 32/64 km 91-level, 51 members to 15 days ahead (next update Tco639 – 18Km)

Extended range forecasts /ENS extension: twice a week (Mon/Thu)

TI 639/319 ~ 32/64 km 91 levels, 51 members to 46 days ahead

(next update Tco639/319 18km/36Km)

Long range forecasts: once a month - 51 members, ~80 km 91 levels,

to 7 months ahead

TC January 2014

Long range forecasts provide information about atmospheric and oceanic conditions averaged over the next few months.

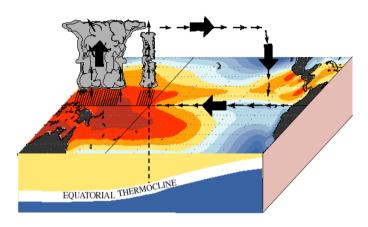
Despite the chaotic nature of the atmosphere, long term predictions rely on a number of components which themselves show variations on long time scales (seasons and years) and, to a certain extent, are predictable.

The most important of these components is the ENSO (El Nino Southern Oscillation) cycle. Although ENSO is a coupled ocean-atmosphere phenomenon centred over the tropical Pacific it affect atmospheric circulation over remote regions.

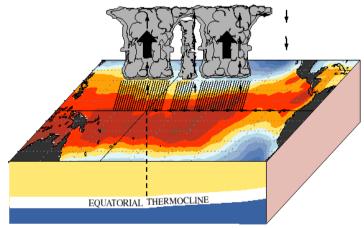
- ENSO variability
- Other tropical ocean SST
- Climate change long term trends
- Land surface conditions e.g. soil moisture in 2003, sea-ice

# THE EL NIÑO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO) CYCLE

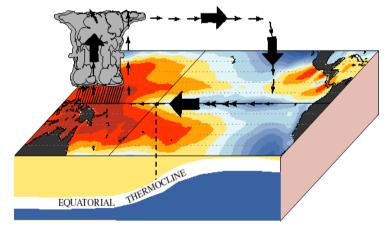
**December - February Normal Conditions** 



**December - February El Niño Conditions** 



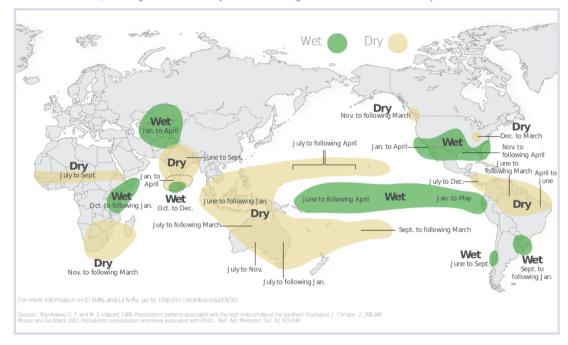
**December - February La Niña Conditions** 

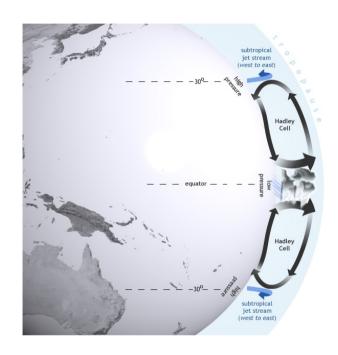


## **ENSO** global impacts:

#### El Niño and Rainfall

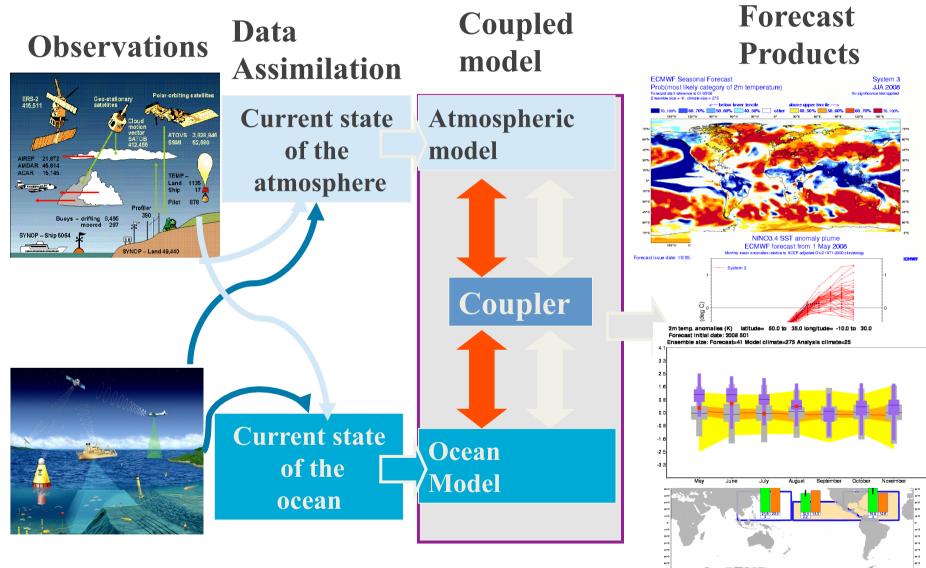
El Niño conditions in the tropical Pacific are known to shift rainfall patterns in many different parts of the world. Although they vary somewhat from one El Niño to the next, the strongest shifts remain fairly consistent in the regions and seasons shown on the map below.





By strengthening the Hadley circulation, El Niño can trigger a cascade of noticeable departures from the normal rainfall patterns around the globe. The changes stretching across the globe are called El Niño teleconnections. Teleconnection patterns emerge in climate simulations, and they show up in historical observations.

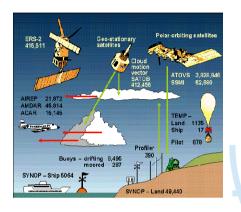
## **ECMWF Seasonal Forecasting System**



### **Initialization:**

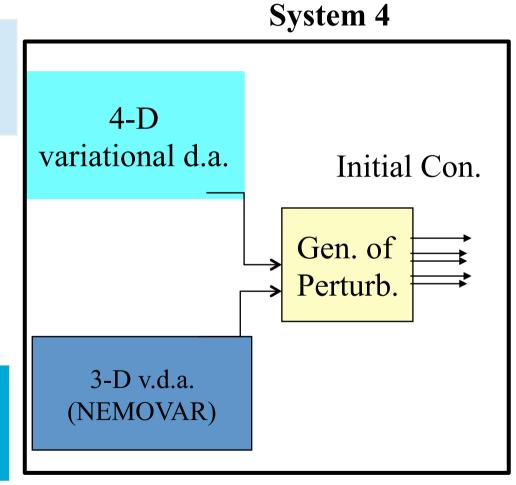
### Data Assimilation

#### **Observations**



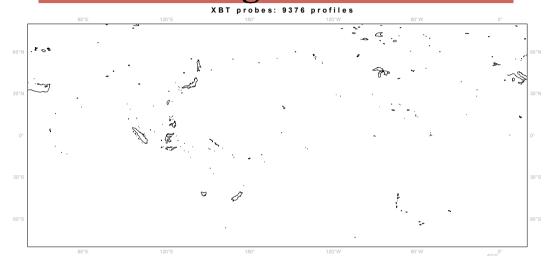
Current state of the atmosphere

Current state of the ocean



## Ocean Observing System

**Data coverage for June 1982** 



Changing observing system is a challenge for consistent reanalysis

Data coverage for Nov

Today's Observations will be used in years to come

**▲**Moorings: Subsurface Temperature

**♦ ARGO floats: Subsurface Temperature and Salinity** 

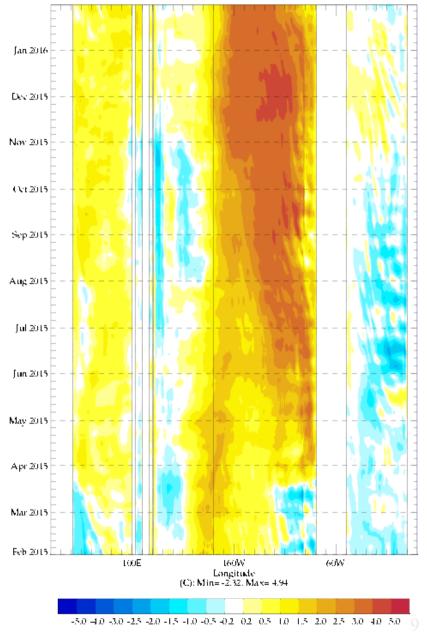
+ XBT : Subsurface Temperature

# Current ocean conditions from ECMWF ocean data assimilation:

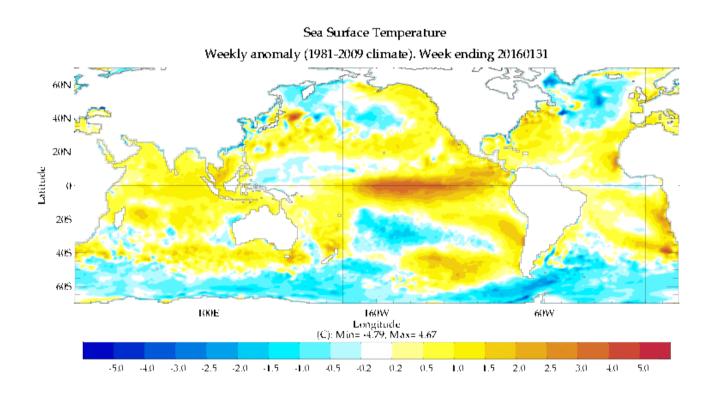
During January through mid-March 2015, near-to-below average SSTs were observed in the eastern Pacific, and positive SST anomalies persisted across the western and central Pacific. From June through September, the largest positive SST anomalies shifted westward.

Generally, positive SST anomalies greater than 2°C remain east of the Date Line.

#### Sea Surface Temperature at the Equator Last 365 daily anomalies (1981-2009 climate) ending 20160131

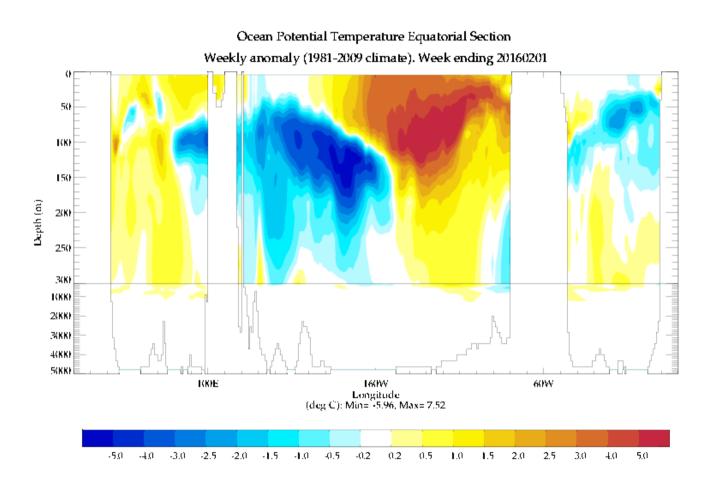


# Current ocean conditions from ECMWF ocean data assimilation :



ECMINE Ocean Analysis Real Time Jan 31 2016

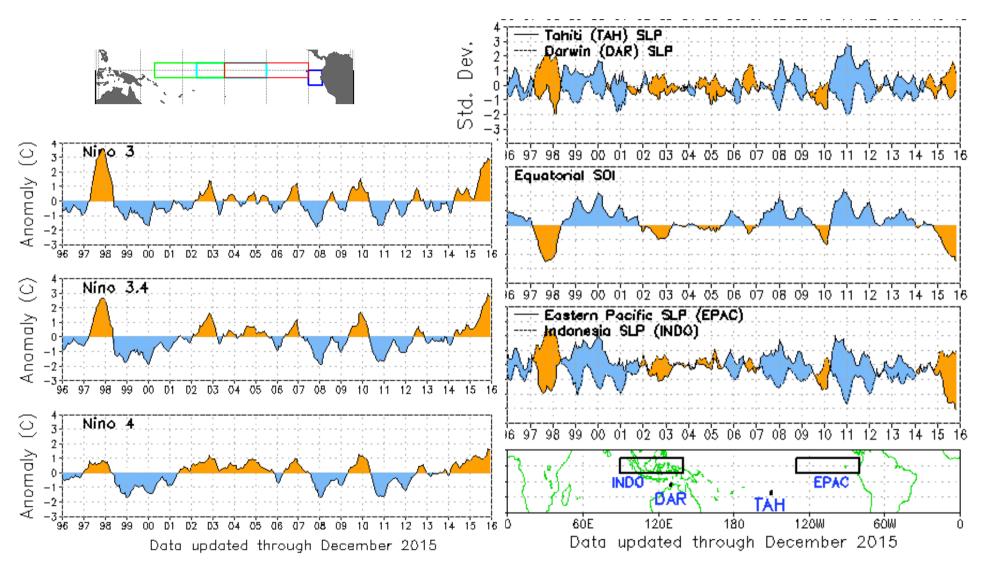
# Current ocean conditions from ECMWF ocean data assimilation :



ECMWT Oven Analysis Real Time Feb (12016)

#### SST anomalies

#### Southern Oscillation Index (SOI):



## ECMWF System 4: main features

#### Operational forecasts

- 51-member ensemble from 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month
- released on the 8th
- 7-month integration

#### Re-forecast set

- 30 years, start dates from 1 Jan 1981 to 1 Dec 2010
- 15-member ensembles, 7-month integrations
- 13-month extension from 1<sup>st</sup> Feb/May/Aug/Nov

#### Experimental ENSO outlook

- 13-month extension from 1<sup>st</sup> Feb/May/Aug/Nov
- 15-member ensemble

## **Products:**

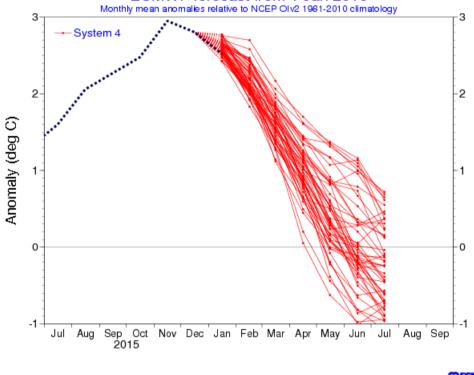
- Ocean Analysis
- Seasonal outlook:

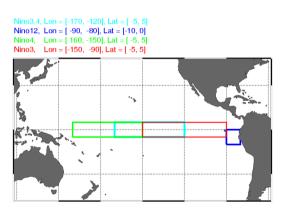
(up to 7 months ahead)

- Forecasts for Nino3, Nino3.4 and Nino4
- Spatial plots (ens.mean anomaly, terciles ..)
- Climagrams (similar to Epsgrams, teleconenction patterns)
  - Tropical storms

# NINO3.4 plumes





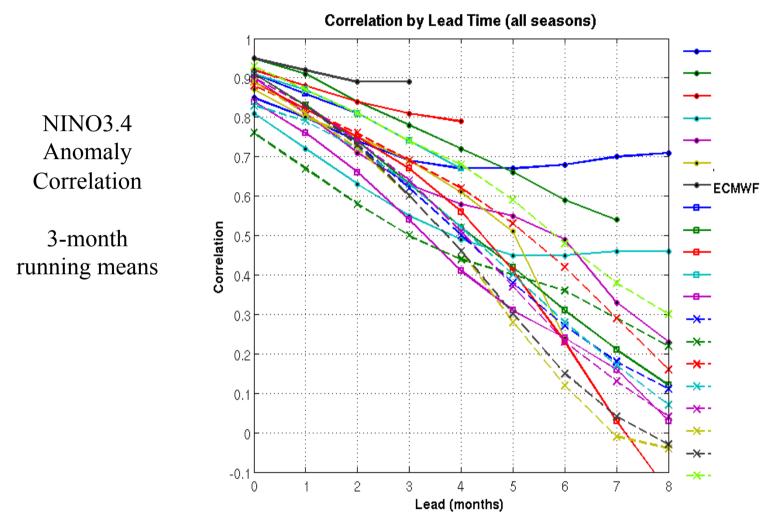


**CECMWI** 

Forecast is made available on the 8h of each month

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#### ENSO skill: comparison with other seasonal fc. systems



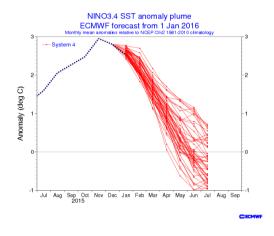
*From:* Barnston et al. 2011: Skill of Real-time Seasonal ENSO Model Predictions during 2002-2011—Is Our Capability Increasing? BAMS

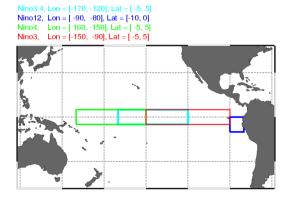
## **EUROSIP** multi-model system:

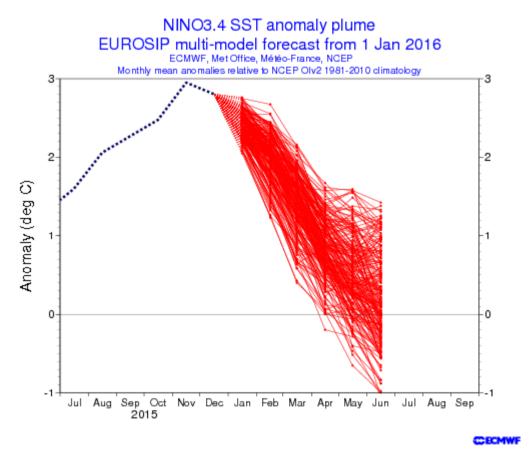
4 Coupled Systems: ECMWF, Météo France, Met Office, NCEP

- Ensemble generation for the 4 systems is different
- Development of multi-model products is ongoing
- •EUROSIP products are available to WMO users

#### **EUROSIP** multi-model system:



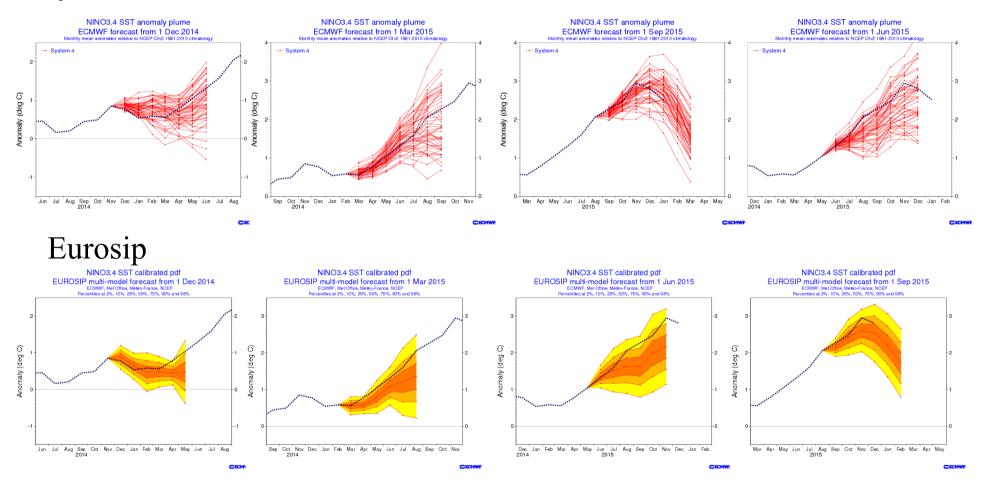




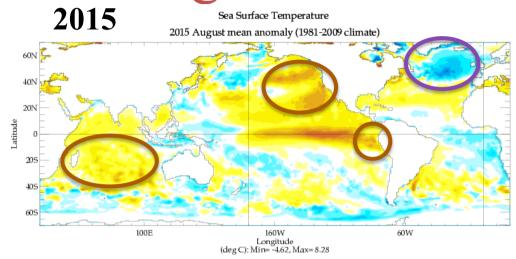
Eurosip is issued on the 15th of the month

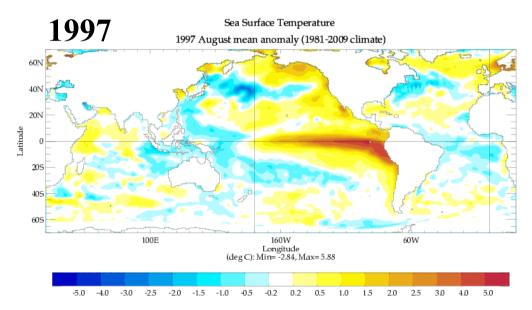
## Plumes for Nino 3.4

### System 4



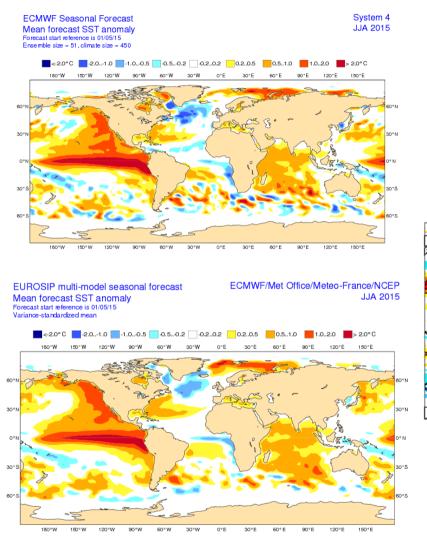
# Global SST anomalies for August: 2015 versus 1997



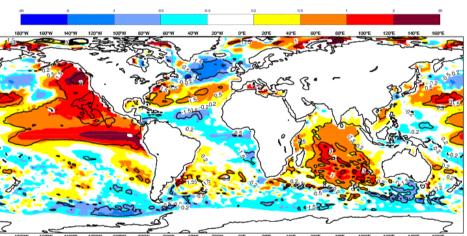


- Smaller anomalies over the pacific East coast (Nino1+2)
- Warm SST over the Pacific (40-15N)
  Eastern Pacific.
- Cold SST anomalies over the mid-lat.
   Atlantic likely to affect the ENSO teleconnection over Europe.

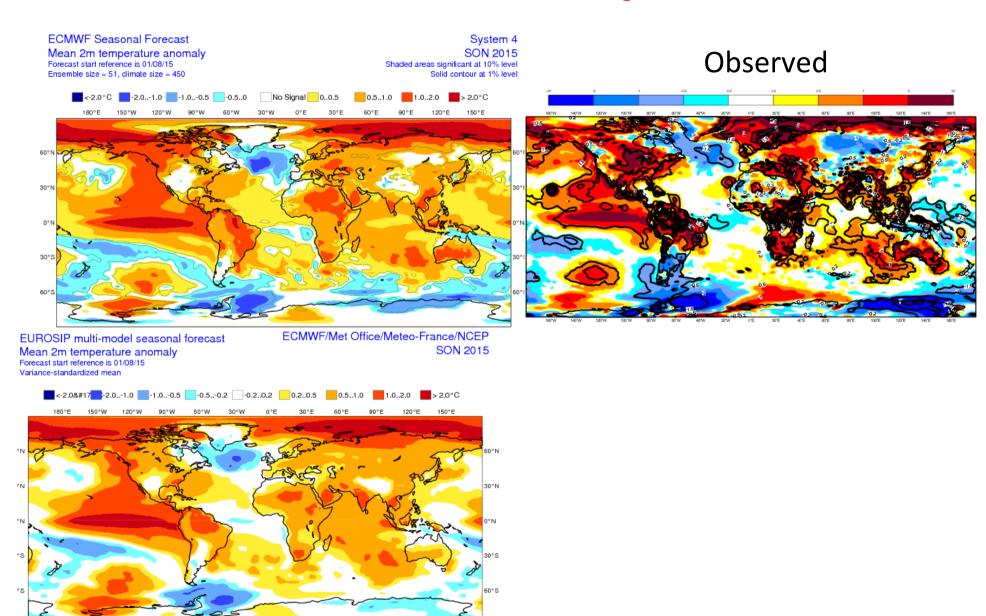
## Extended forecasts range performance for JJA 2015:



# SST anomalies

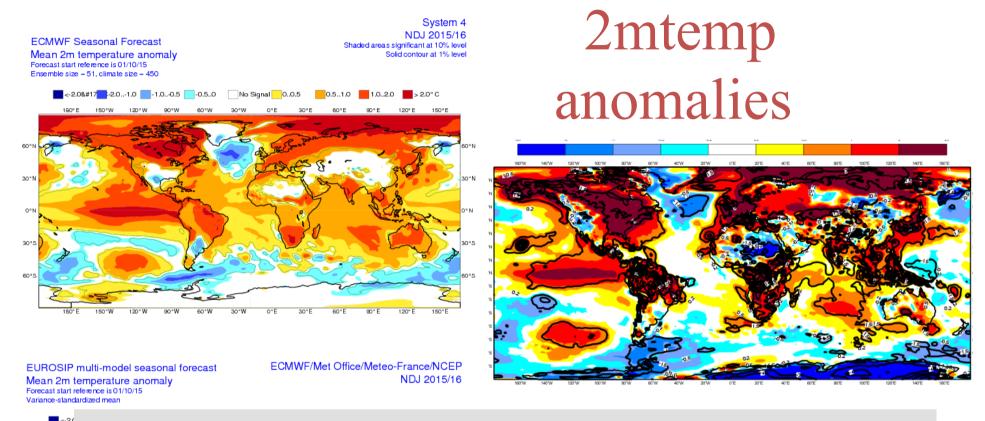


#### Seasonal forecast SON: 2-metre temperature anomalies



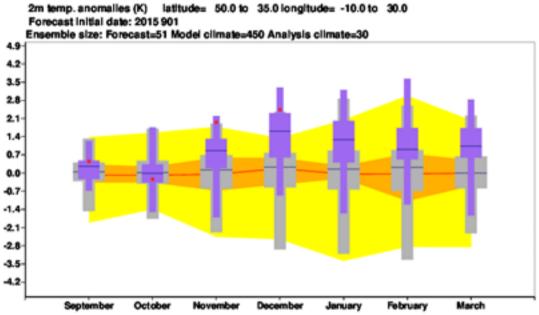
120°E

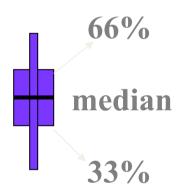
#### Extended forecasts range performance for NDJ 2016:

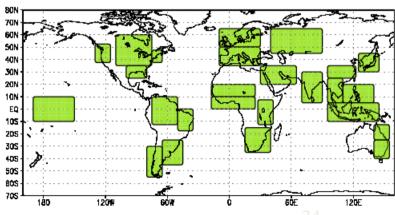


2015 was the hottest year in the modern record, global temperature was well over 0.4 OC warmer than the 1981-2010 average, and almost 0.1 OC warmer than the previous warmest year. To what extent El Niño contributed to the record-breaking warmth is still a matter of debate.

## 2m temp anomalies for Europe







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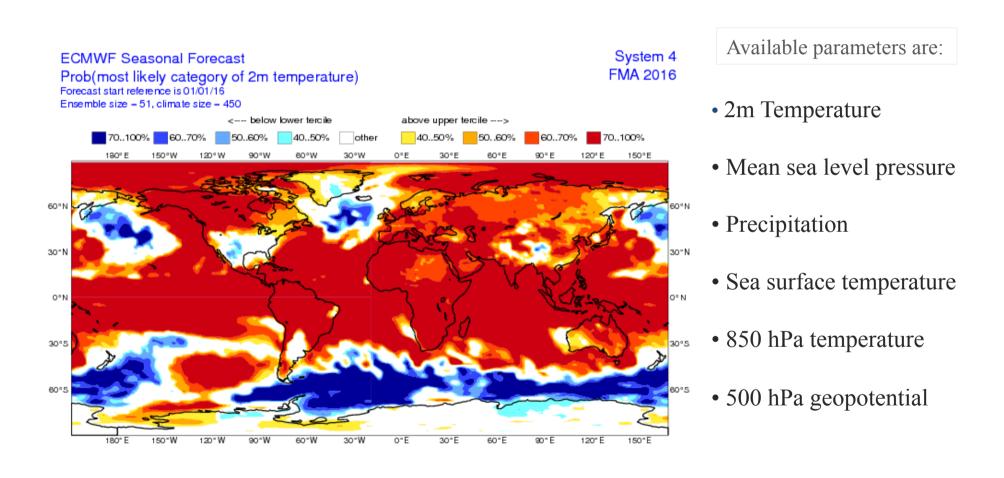
## Outlook for Europe

Long-term predictions over Europe are particularly difficult:

- At times during very large El Niño part of Europe seem to be affected.
- However non-linearity of the atmosphere seem to play a relevant role over this region.
- The Atlantic Ocean influence on the weather over Europe is not yet well understood.

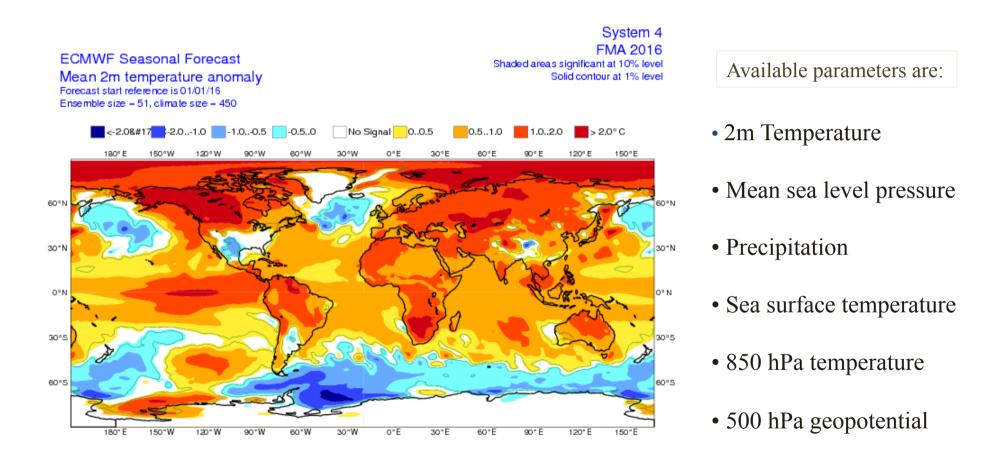
#### Seasonal forecast charts:

Spatial maps representing the seasonal forecast in terms of model probabilities stratified by terciles.



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Spatial maps representing the seasonal forecast in terms of model probabilities stratified by terciles.



# Reliability: 2m T > upper tercile over Europe, JJA

#### Sys 4

Reliability diagram for ECMWF with 15 ensemble members

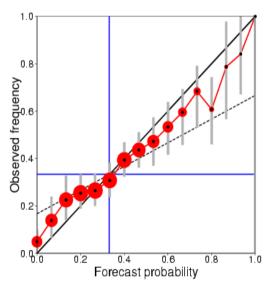
Near-surface air temperature anomalies above the upper tercile

Accumulated over Europe (land and sea points)

Hindcast period 1981-2010 with start in May average over months 2 to 4

Skill scores and 95% conf. intervals ( 1000 samples)
Brier skill score: 0.092 ( 0.007, 0.162)

Brier skill score: 0.092 ( 0.007, 0.162)
Reliability skill score: 0.986 ( 0.950, 0.994)
Resolution skill score: 0.106 ( 0.056, 0.173)



#### Sys 3

Reliability diagram for ECMWF with 11 ensemble members

Near-surface air temperature anomalies above the upper tercile

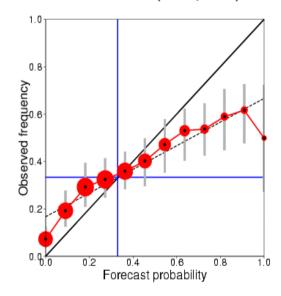
Accumulated over Europe (land and sea points)

Hindcast period 1981-2010 with start in May average over months 2 to 4

Skill scores and 95% conf. intervals (1000 samples)

Brier skill score: 0.031 (-0.045, 0.094)
Reliability skill score: 0.943 ( 0.891, 0.965)

Resolution skill score: 0.089 ( 0.056, 0.133)

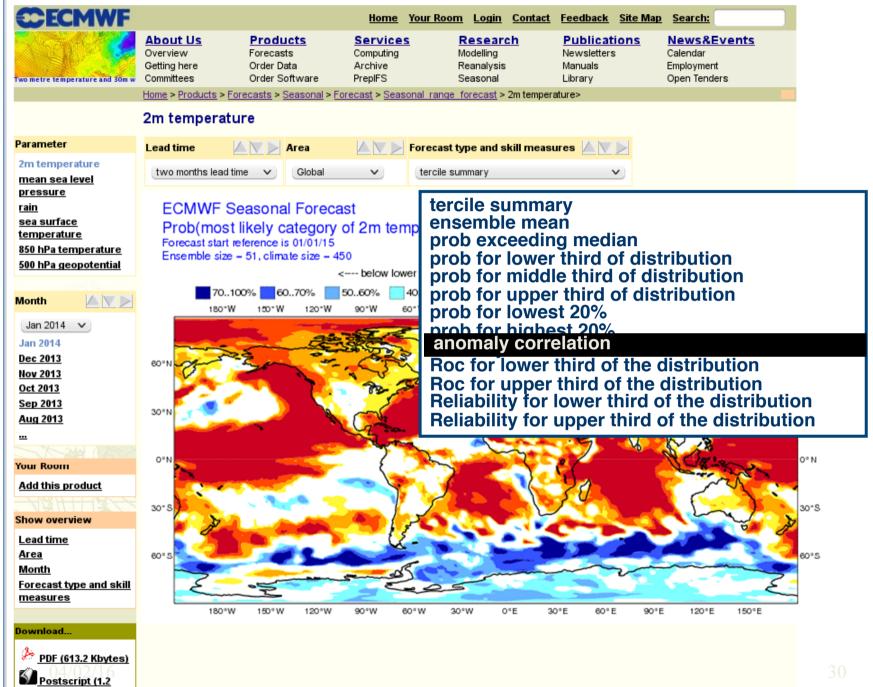


## Validation:

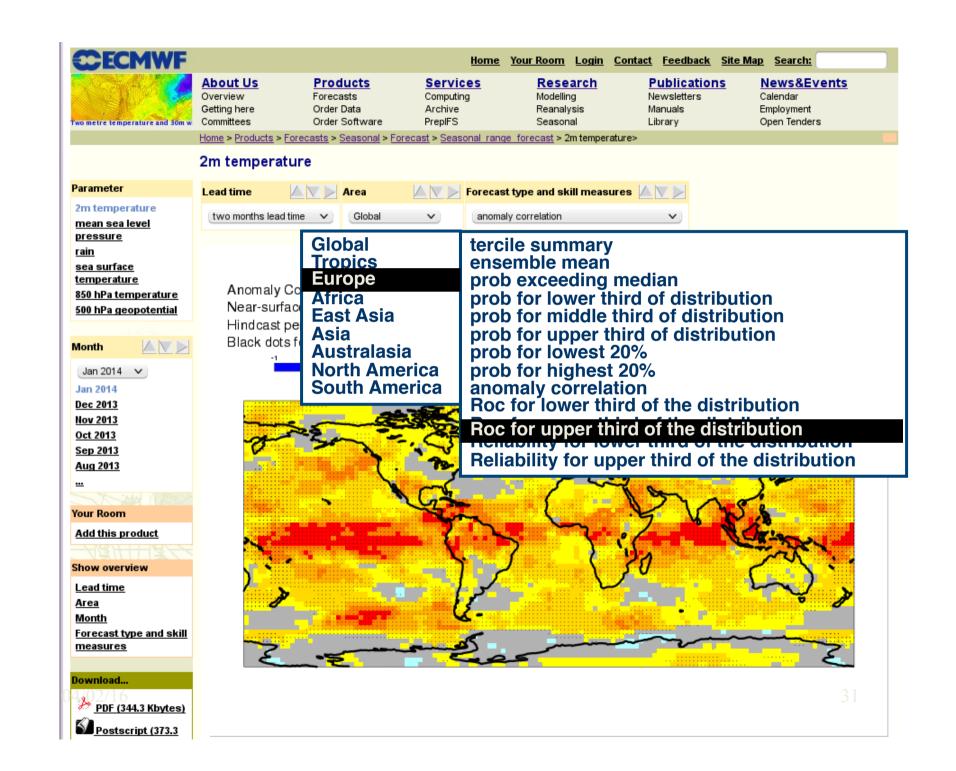
• Documentation of skill levels is provided to the users:

- The measure of skill conforms to a common standard defined by the WMO

- The verification sampling for seasonal forecast is limited, importance of significance levels in the verification statistics



Mbytes)



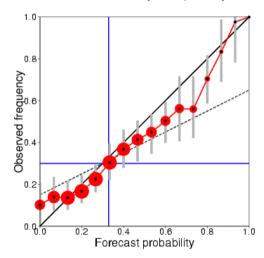
#### Reliability for summer predictions: warm events

#### Europe

Reliability diagram for ECMWF with 15 ensemble members
Near-surface air temperature anomalies below the lower tercile
Accumulated over Europe (land and sea points)

Hindcast period 1981-2010 with start in May average over months 2 to 4 Skill scores and 95% conf. intervals (1000 samples)

Brier skill score: 0.108 ( 0.009, 0.183)
Reliability skill score: 0.980 ( 0.921, 0.991)
Resolution skill score: 0.128 ( 0.072, 0.203)



#### **Tropics**

Reliability diagram for ECMWF with 15 ensemble members

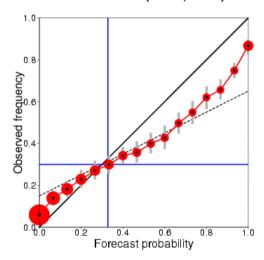
Near-surface air temperature anomalies below the lower tercile

Accumulated over tropical band (land and sea points)

Hindcast period 1981-2010 with start in May average over months 2 to 4

Skill scores and 95% conf. intervals (1000 samples)

Brier skill score: 0.214 ( 0.146, 0.279)
Reliability skill score: 0.949 ( 0.925, 0.965)
Resolution skill score: 0.266 ( 0.211, 0.322)



#### Reliability for winter predictions: cold event

#### Europe

Reliability diagram for ECMWF with 15 ensemble members

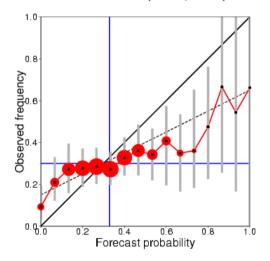
Near-surface air temperature anomalies below the lower tercile

Accumulated over Europe (land and sea points)

Hindcast period 1981-2010 with start in November average over months 2 to 4

Skill scores and 95% conf. intervals ( 1000 samples)

Brier skill score: -0.053 (-0.177, 0.032)
Reliability skill score: 0.929 ( 0.810, 0.969)
Resolution skill score: 0.018 ( 0.008, 0.068)



#### **Tropics**

Reliability diagram for ECMWF with 15 ensemble members

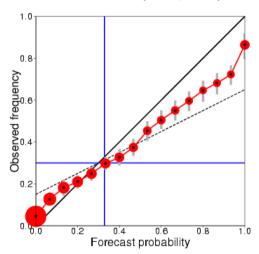
Near-surface air temperature anomalies below the lower tercile

Accumulated over tropical band (land and sea points)

Hindcast period 1981-2010 with start in November average over months 2 to

Skill scores and 95% conf. intervals ( 1000 samples)

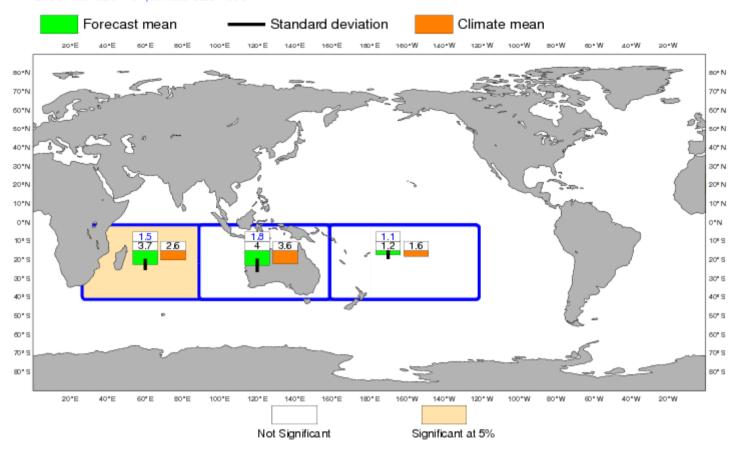
Brier skill score: 0.248 ( 0.175, 0.311)
Reliability skill score: 0.964 ( 0.942, 0.978)
Resolution skill score: 0.284 ( 0.225, 0.338)



#### ECMWF Seasonal Forecast Hurricane or typhoon Frequency Forecast start reference is 01/01/2015

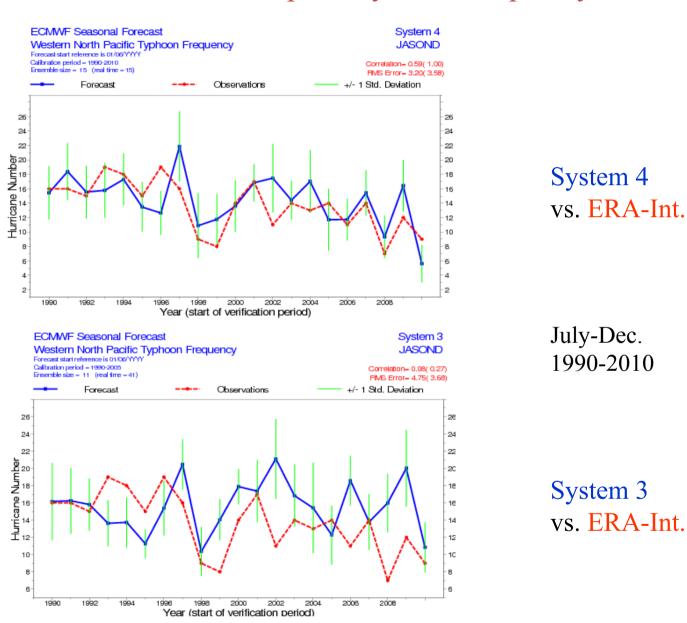
Forecast start reference is 01/01/2015 Ensemble size = 51,climate size =300 System 4 FMAMJJ 2015

Climate (initial dates) = 1990-2009



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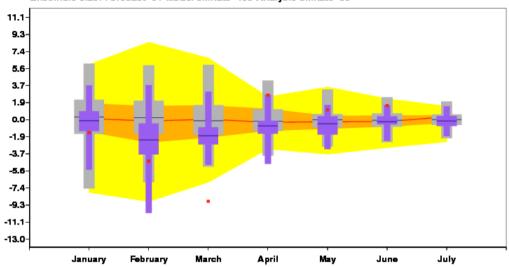
#### Prediction of tropical cyclone frequency: NW Pacific

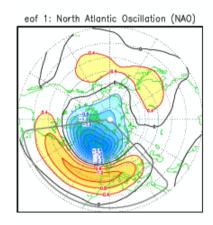


### Climagrams: teleconnections indices NAO

North Atlantic Oscillation Forecast initial date: 2013 101

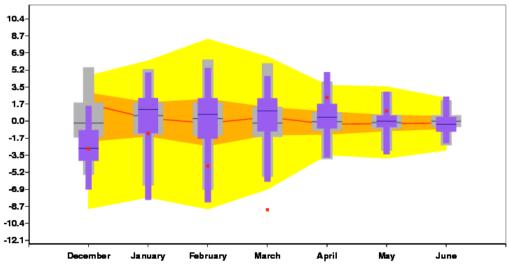
Ensemble size: Forecast=51 Model climate=450 Analysis climate=30

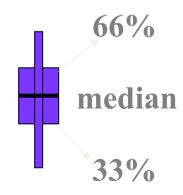




North Atlantic Oscillation Forecast initial date: 20121201

Ensemble size: Forecast=51 Model climate=450 Analysis climate=30

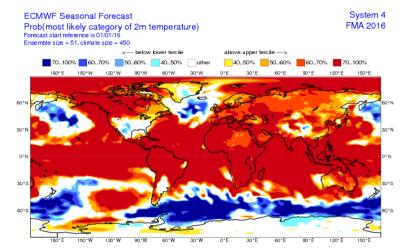




# Summary (2)

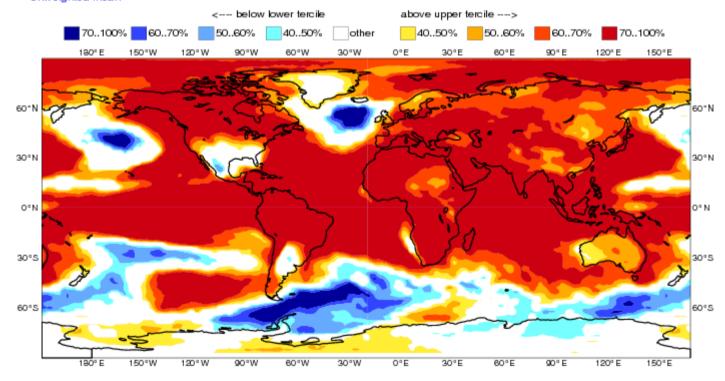
- The current operational seasonal forecast system provides a set graphic products on the web and digital data set to the users.
- The ECMWF seasonal forecast is a good system for El Nino predictions.
- Seasonal forecast predictions, particularly over mid-latitudes, should be used in combination with some estimate of the forecast skill.
   Various skill estimates are available to the users.
- Multi-model approach: a way to deal with model error (model calibration) and to enhance forecast reliability.
- For further reading see ECMWF Tech Memo N.656, available at <a href="http://www.ecmwf.int/publications">http://www.ecmwf.int/publications</a>

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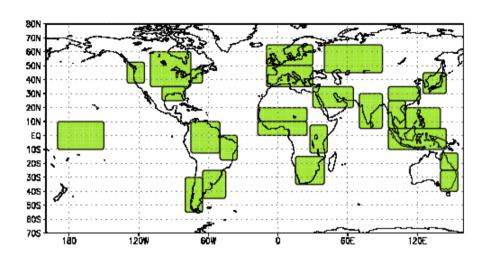
### **EUROSIP 2mt predictions:**

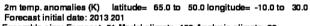
EUROSIP multi-model seasonal forecast Prob(most likely category of 2m temperature) Forecast start reference is 01/01/16 Unweighted mean ECMWF/Met Office/Meteo-France/NCEP FMA 2016

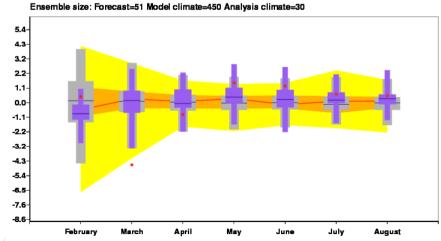


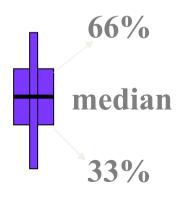
04/02/16

# Climagrams: temp. area averages







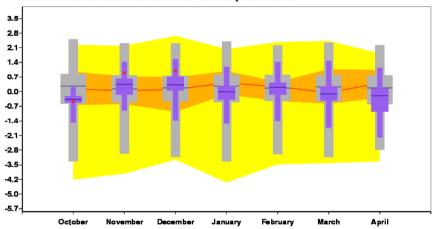


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# Climagrams: teleconnections indices SOI

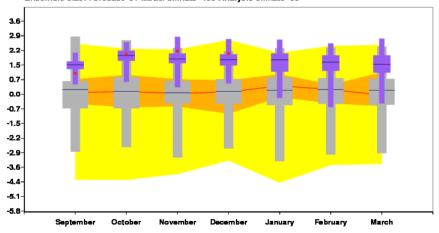
Equatorial Southern Oscillation Forecast initial date: 20131001

Ensemble size: Forecast=51 Model climate=450 Analysis climate=30

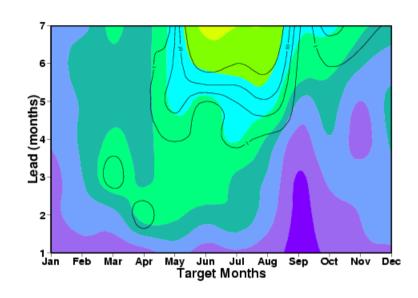


Equatorial Southern Oscillation Forecast initial date: 2011 901

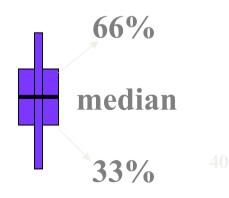
Ensemble size: Forecast=51 Model climate=450 Analysis climate=30



Anomaly correlation: Equatorial Southern Oscillation







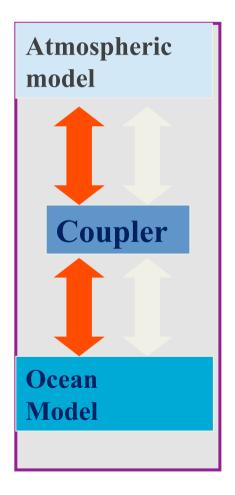
### Summary (1):

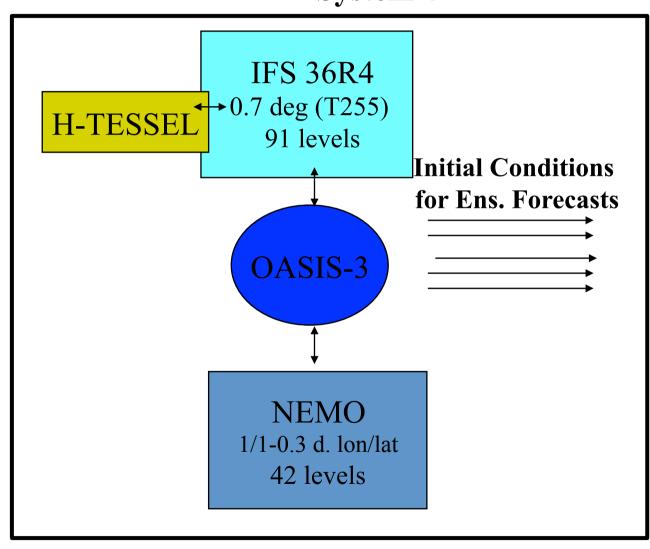
- Seasonal fc. System-4 (S4): IFS-NEMO coupled model, 3-D var. ocean data assimilation (NEMOVAR), higher atmos. spatial resolution than S3, larger ensemble size, extended re-forecast set.
- Model biases: much reduced extra-tropical biases, too strong trade winds and cold SST bias in the equatorial Pacific. ENSO SST variability is over-estimated.
- SST forecast skill: similar to S3 in the NINO regions (better in NINO3, slightly worse in NINO4), increased in the tropical and sub-trop. Atlantic.
- Skill for atmospheric variables: spatial averages of ensemble-mean scores are consistently higher than in S3 (NH summer better than winter).
- Tropical atmospheric variability: more realistic patterns of rainfall variability, better simulation of the interannual and decadal variation in tropical cyclone frequency.
- Reliability: the enhanced internal variability and better match between spread and error lead to more reliable seasonal forecasts w.r.t. S3 in both tropical and extratropical regions.

# The ECMWF Seasonal fc. system

System 4

# **Coupled** model

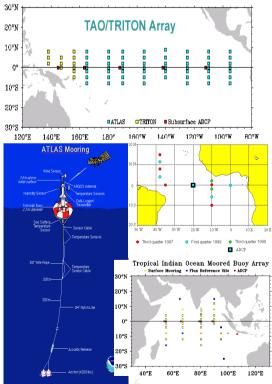




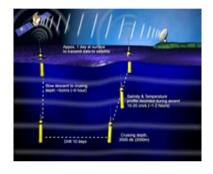
### Real Time Ocean Observations

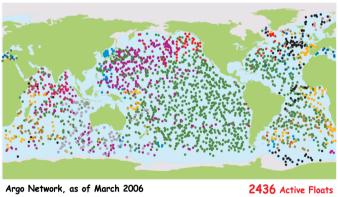
### **Moorings**





### **ARGO floats**

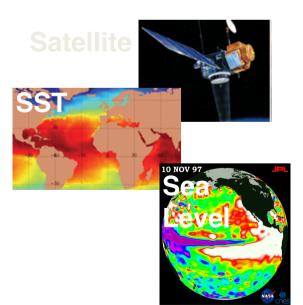




- ARGENTINA (6) AUSTRALIA (92)
- CANADA (76) CHILE (4) CHINA (9)
  - FRANCE (163) • GERMANY (123) • INDIA (74) IRELAND (1)
- MAURITIUS (2)
  - MEXICO (1)
    NETHERLANDS (7) NEW ZEALAND (6)
- NORWAY (9)
  RUSSIAN FED. (3)
- SPAIN (6)
   UNITED KINGDOM (96)
   UNITED STATES (1293)

### XBT (eXpendable **BathiThermograh**)





# Can the weather be predicted months in advance?

 Predictions may be possible a few months in advance based on the fact that irregular weather variations have been associated with El Niño - a warming of the Pacific Ocean near the equator- and La Niña, a similar event caused by the cooling of equatorial Pacific waters.

 The slow changes in the surface temperatures of the oceans are thought to impart a degree of predictability.

04/02/16

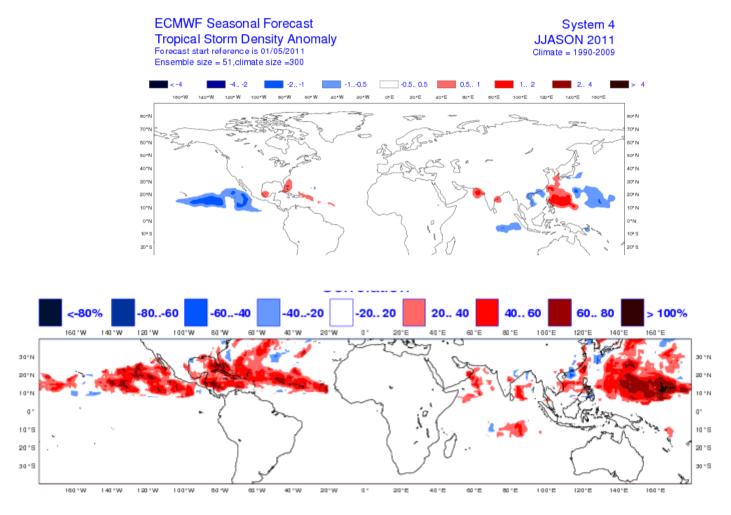
# Seasonal Forecasting at ECMWF

In 1995 ECMWF started an experimental programme in seasonal forecasting. Successful predictions of the exceptional El Nino event of 1997 encouraged the Council to support the seasonal forecast activity.

A range of seasonal products are issued routinely on http://www.ecmwf.int/products/forecasts/seasonal

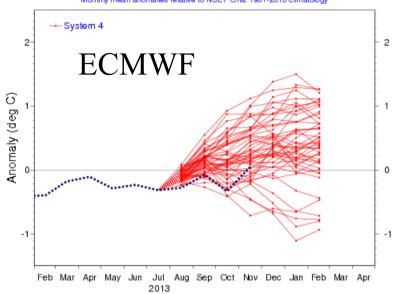
04/02/16

## Cyclone track density new product from S4 and its verification



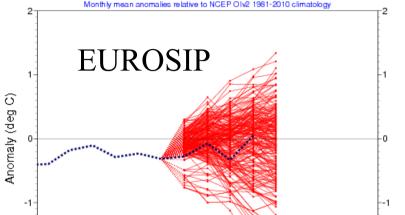
Track density for the July-Dec. period from fc. started on 1 May 1990-2010

### NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume ECMWF forecast from 1 Aug 2013 Monthly mean anomalies relative to NCEP OIv2 1981-2010 climatology



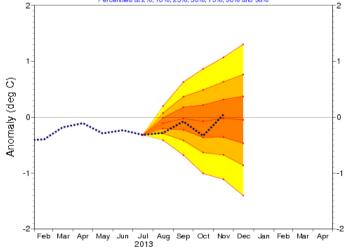
#### NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume

# EUROSIP multi-model forecast from 1 Aug 2013 ECMWF, Met Office, Métio-France, NCEP Monthly mean anomalies relative to NCEP Olv2 1981-2010 climatology

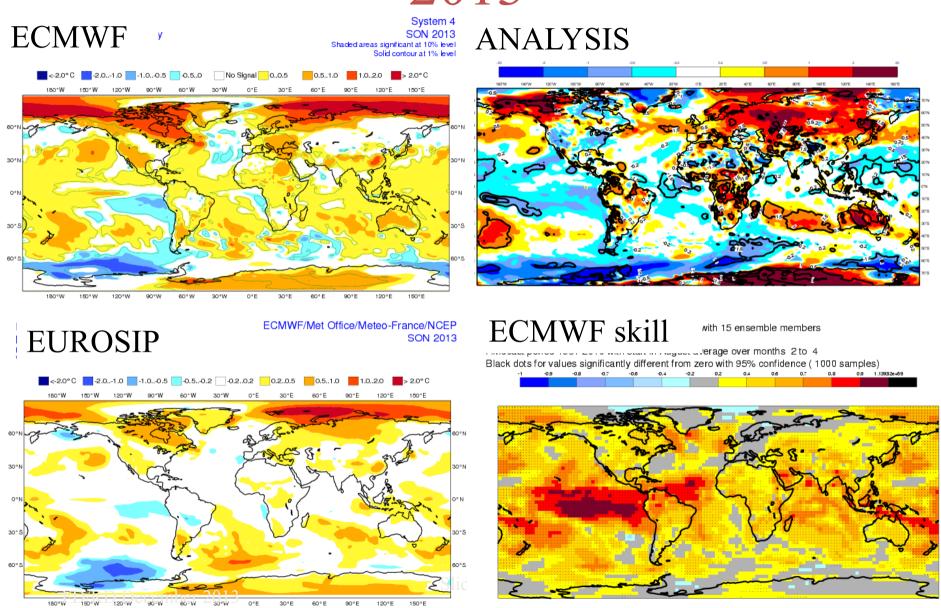


#### Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr NINO3.4 SST calibrated pdf

## EUROSIP multi-model forecast from 1 Aug 2013 ECMWF, Met Office, Méteo-France, NCEP Percentiles at 2%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 90% and 98%

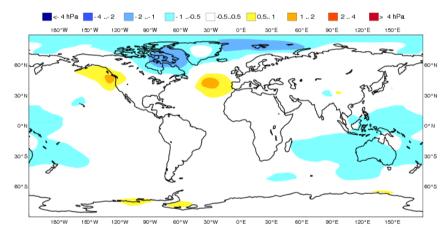


# 2m temperature anomalies 50N 2013



#### EUROSIP multi-model seasonal forecast Mean MSLP anomaly

Forecast start reference is 01/11/13
Variance-standardized mean

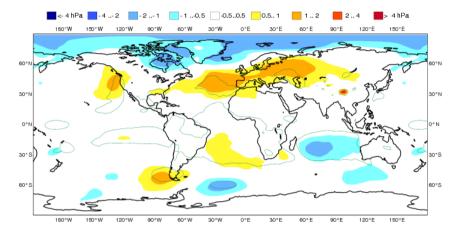


ECMWF/Met Office/Meteo-France/NCEP

DJF 2013/14

#### ECMWF Seasonal Forecast Mean MSLP anomaly Forecast start reference is 01/11/13 Ensemble size – 51, climate size – 450

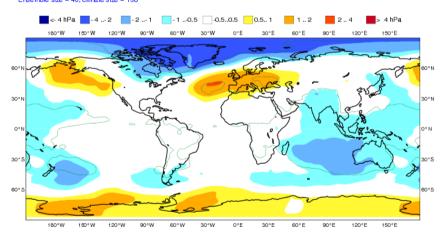
System 4
DJF 2013/14
Solid contour at 1% significance level

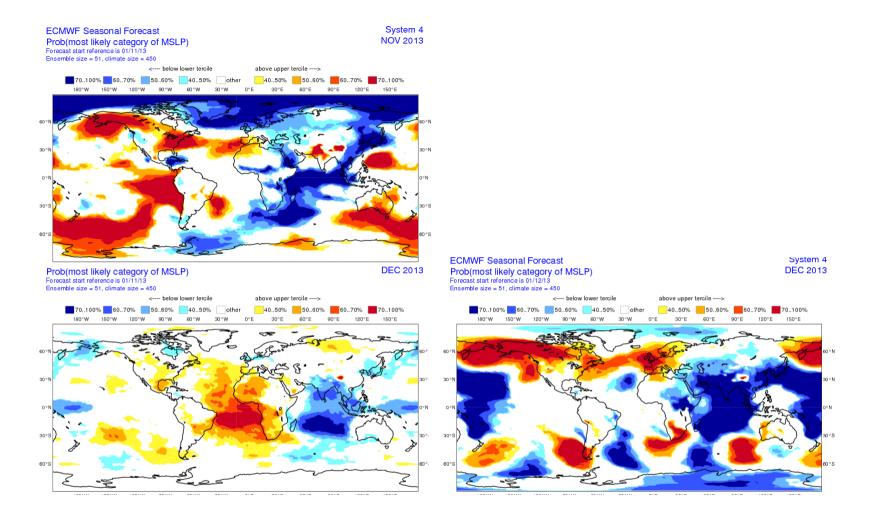


### EUROSIP: Met Office contribution Mean MSI P anomaly

Mean MSLP anomaly
Forecast start reference is 01/11/13
Ensemble size – 40, climate size – 168





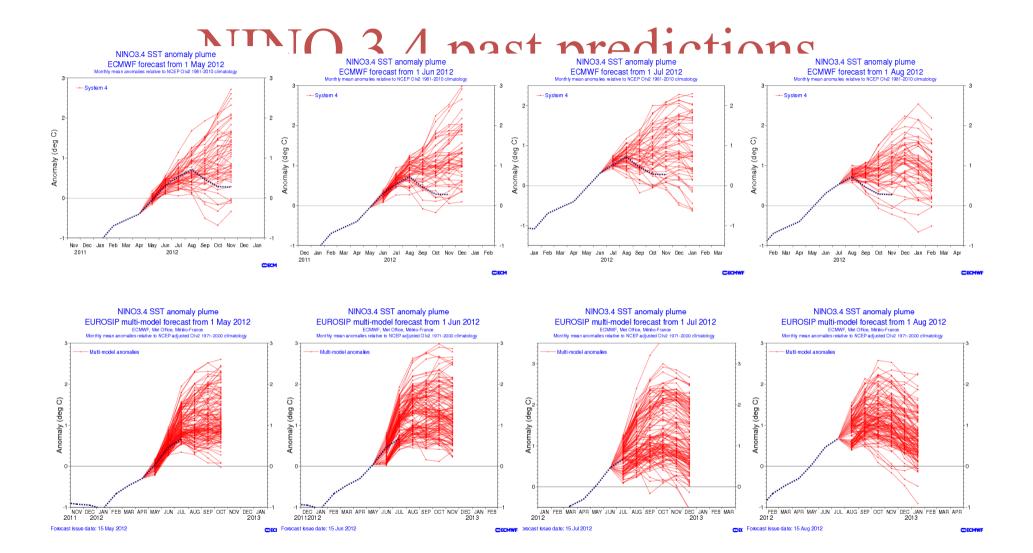


# 3.4 outlook NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume EUROSIP multi-model forecast from 1 Jan 2013 ECMWF, Met Office, Métio-France, NGEP Monthly mean anomalies relative to NGEP OIv2 1981-2010 climatology ENSO Predictions from Feb 2011 to Nov 2012 Anomaly (deg C) Dynamical models ECMWF Statistical models 2 Nino3.4 SST Anomaly (°C) Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun 2012 Anomaly (deg C) 2012 2011 -1



Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep

2012



## Extended range predictions

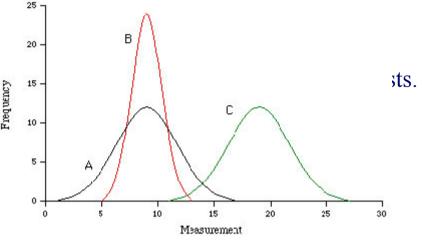
• Products from Extended range predictions are generally defined with reference to the model

climate estimated by the re-forecast data.

• Post-processing/calibration of model data is inc

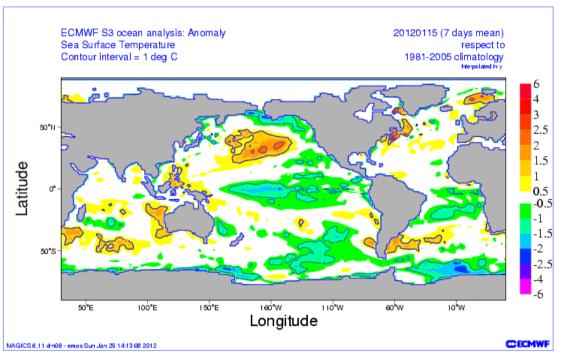
• For each member of the ensemble we define the

•An (t) = For. (t) – Model Climate (t)

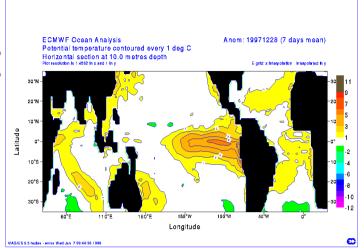


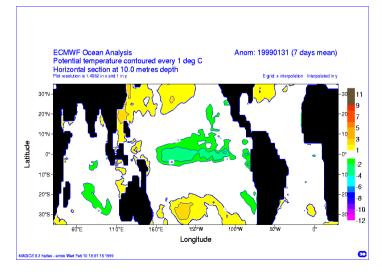
Model climate distribution					
			Re-forecast	Seasonal	
		Period	30 years	ca	
		Ens. Size	15		
			Frequency	monthly	

# Ocean analysis:

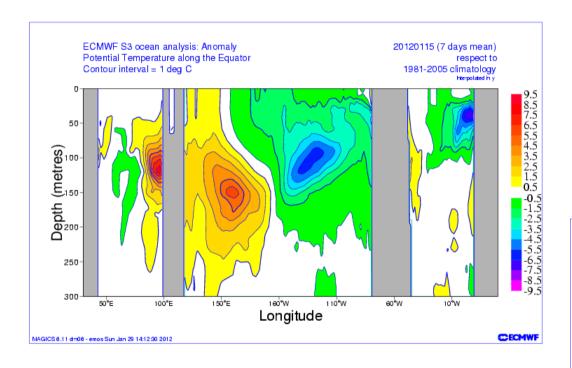


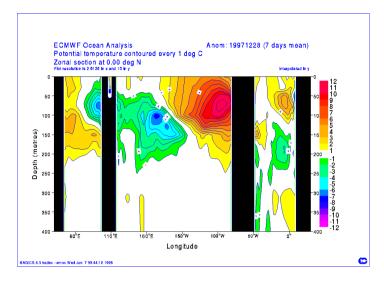
Daily weekly and monthly products are available on the web

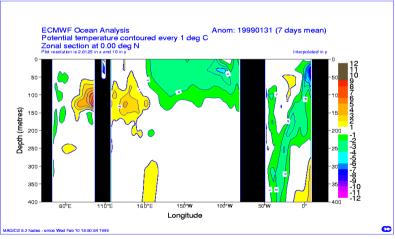




# Ocean analysis:







04/02/16

# Chaotic nature of the atmosphere:

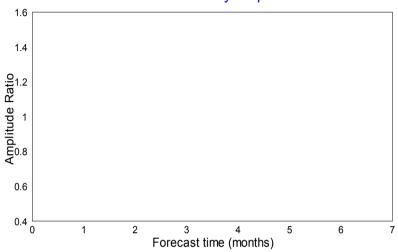
• To deal with the chaotic processes in the atmosphere we use an ensemble of simulations: on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month 40 forecasts are run for 6 months. They have initial conditions from 5-member ensemble of ocean analyses (wind perturbations throughout analysis and SST perturbations at start of forecasts)

• Seasonal forecasting does not give exact predictions, but it may allow us to describe the probability that a certain weather event can happen.

04/02/16

### Calibration of ENSO SST indices

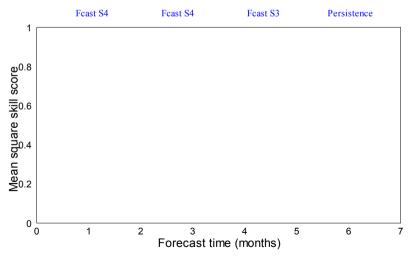




# S4 non calib. S4 calibrated S3

### NINO3 SST mean square skill scores

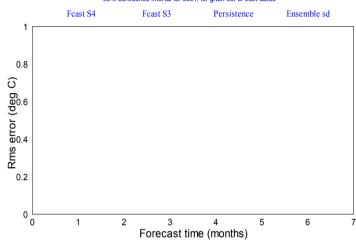
150 start dates from 19910201 to 20081101, various corrections Ensemble sizes are 15 (0001), 11 (0001) and 11 (0001)



# SST scores: Nino 3.4 and Eq.

#### NINO3.4 SST rms errors

360 start dates from 19810101 to 20101201, various corrections Ensemble sizes/corrections are 15/AS (0001) and 11/BC (0001) 95% confidence interval for 0001, for given set of start dates



### NINO3.4 SST anomaly correlation

wrt NCEP adjusted Olv2 1971-2000 climatology 0.9 Anomaly correlation 0.5 0.4 2 6

Forecast time (months)

# Atlantic



S4 error

S3 error

Dashed:

**S4** 

spread

**S**3

spread

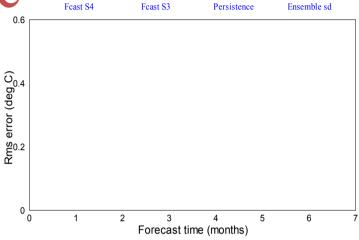
S4 ACC S3 ACC

Pers.

**ACC** 



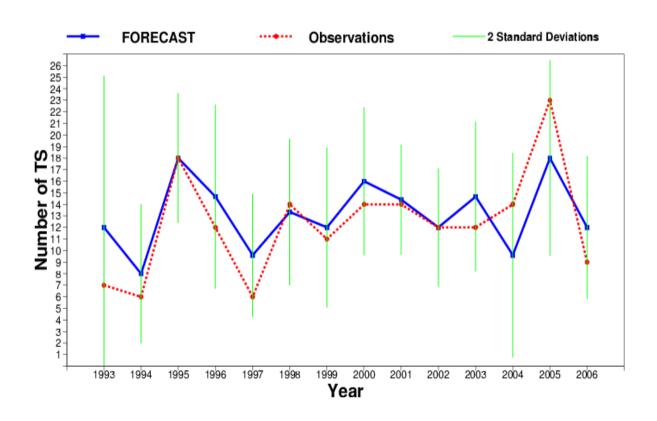
360 start dates from 19810101 to 20101201, various corrections



### **EQATL SST** anomaly correlation

wrt NCEP adjusted Olv2 1971-2000 climatology 0.5 0.4 \_\_\_ 2 3 5 6 Forecast time (months)

# EUROsip seasonal forecasts of tropical storms Forecasts starting on 1st June



# Bias in S4 re-forecasts: SST (DJF)

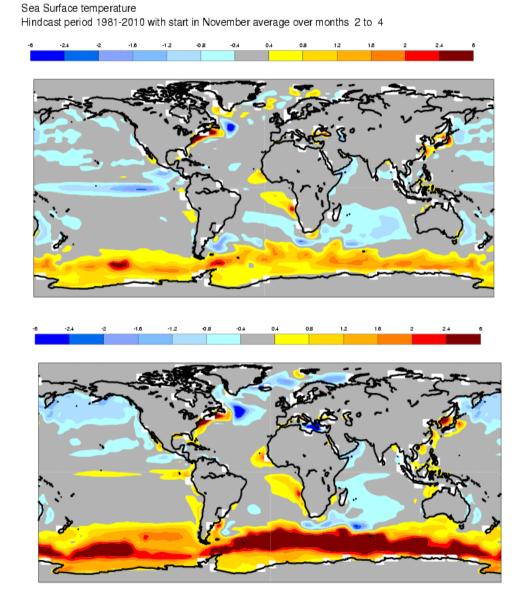
Start: 1 Nov.

1981/2010

Verify: Dec-Feb

System 4

System 3



# Bias in S4 re-forecasts: rainfall (JJA)

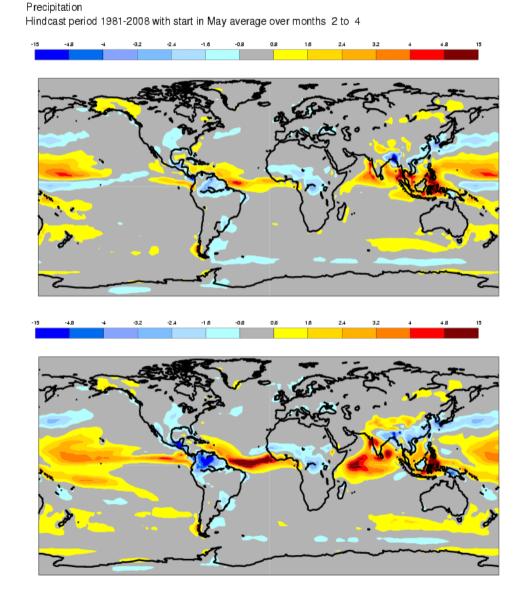
Start: 1 May

1981/2010

Verify: Jun-Aug

System 4

System 3



# Ens-mean ACC in S4 re-forecasts: 2m T (JJA)

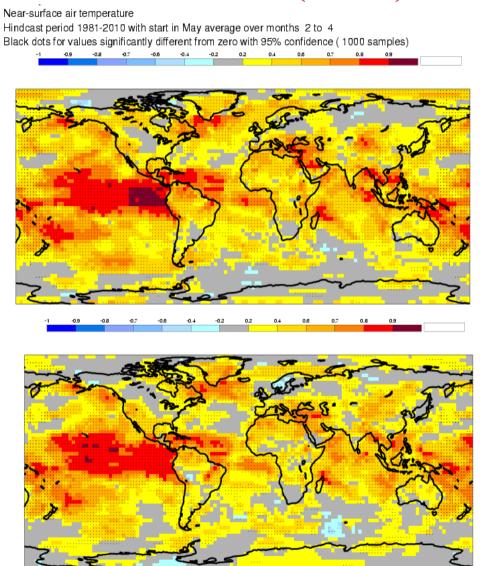
Start: 1 May

1981/2010

Verify: Jun-Aug

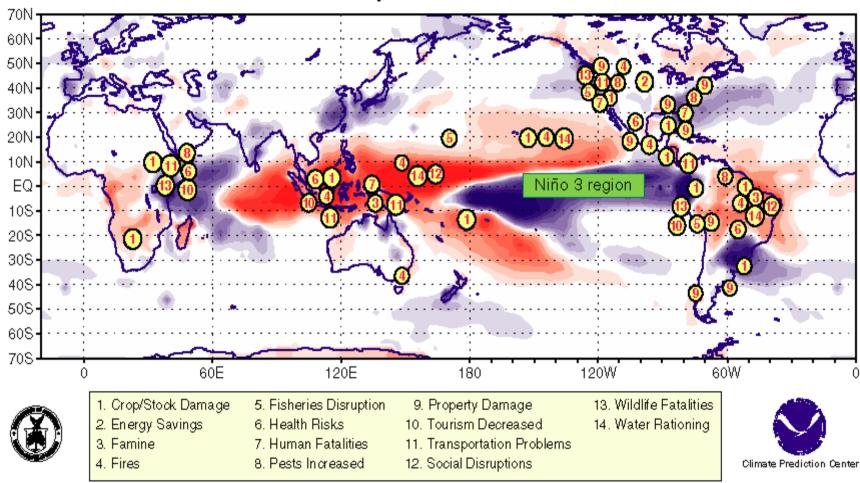
System 4

System 3



# Weather-related natural disasters

### Societal Impacts from 1997/98 El Niño

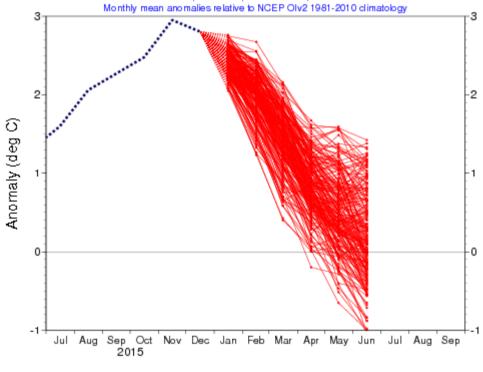


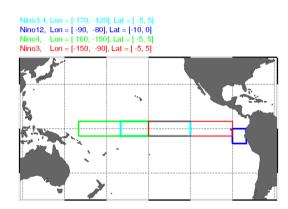
# NINO3.4 plumes

### NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume

EUROSIP multi-model forecast from 1 Jan 2016

ECMWF, Met Office, Météo-France, NCEP





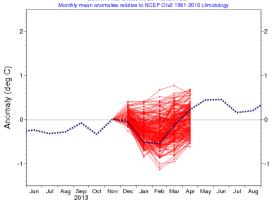
**CERCMWI** 

Forecast is made available on the 8h of each month

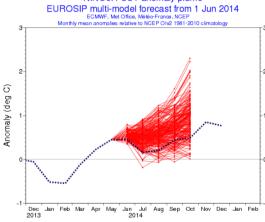
Footer-text Slide 65

#### NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume

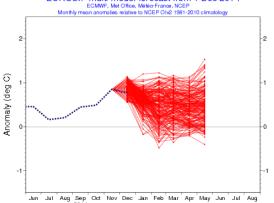
### EUROSIP multi-model forecast from 1 Dec 2013 ECMWF, Met Office, Météo-France, NCEP Monthly mean anomalies relative to NCEP Olv2 1981-2010 climatology



### NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume



#### NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume EUROSIP multi-model forecast from 1 Dec 2014

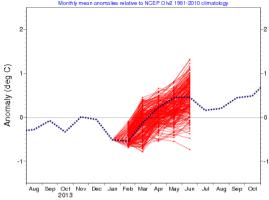


### NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume

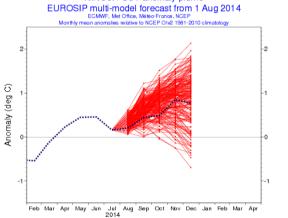
EUROSIP multi-model forecast from 1 Feb 2014

ECMWF, Met Office, Météo-France, NCEP

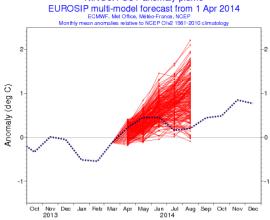
Monthly mean anomalies relative to NCEP OIv2 1981-2010 climatology



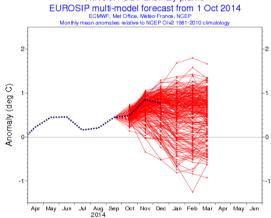
### NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume

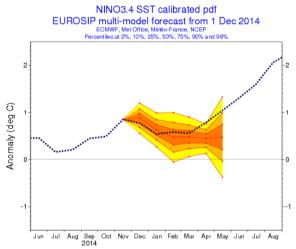


### NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume

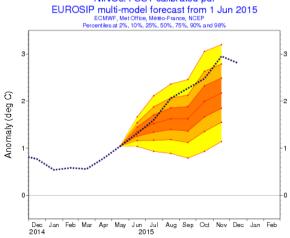


### NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume

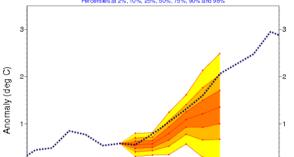




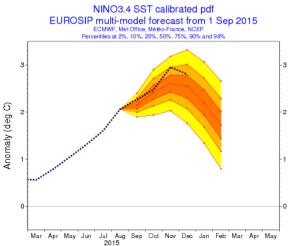
### NINO3.4 SST calibrated pdf



# NINO3.4 SST calibrated pdf EUROSIP multi-model forecast from 1 Mar 2015 ECMWF, Met Office, Metbo-France, NCEP Percentiles at 2%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 90% and 98%



Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov 2014

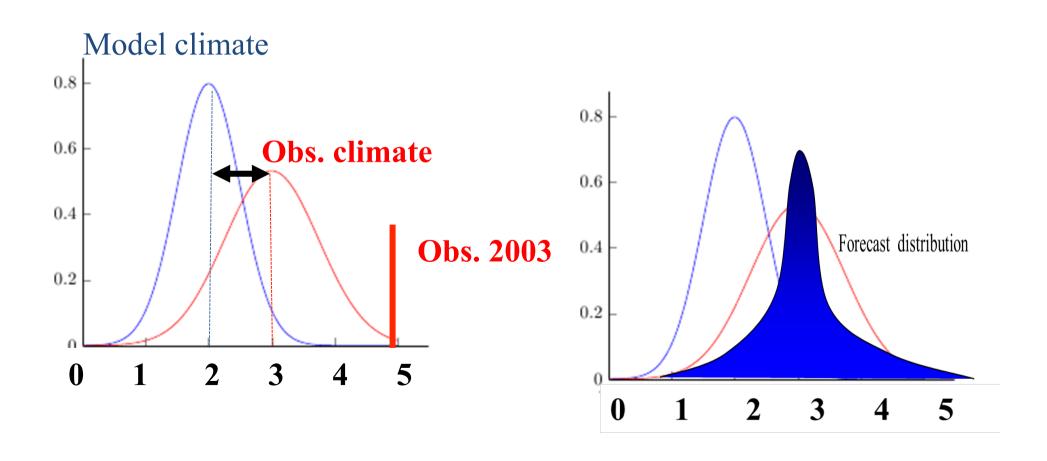


CECMWE

### Extended range predictions

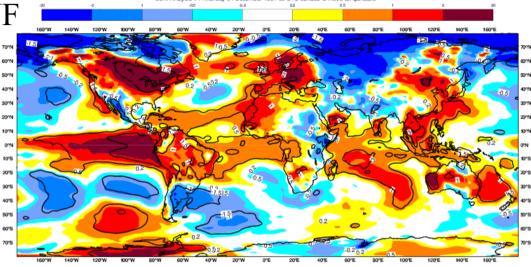
Products from Extended range predictions are generally defined with reference to the model climate estimated by the re-forecast data.

In this way we remove the systematic biases from the forecast

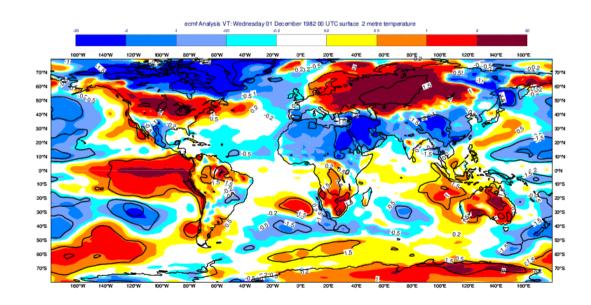


# Implication for ENSO

2m temp anomalies in DJF

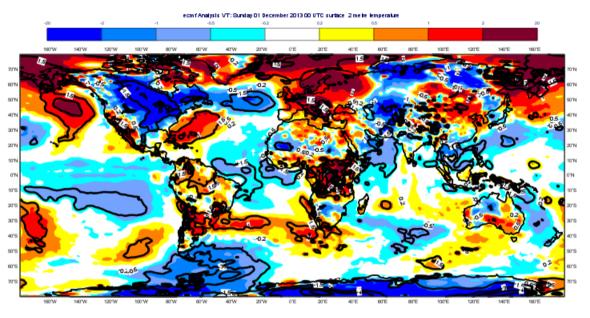


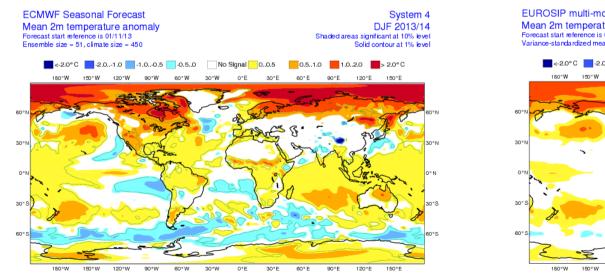
El Nino 1997/98

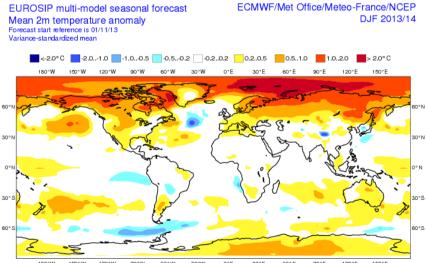


**69** 

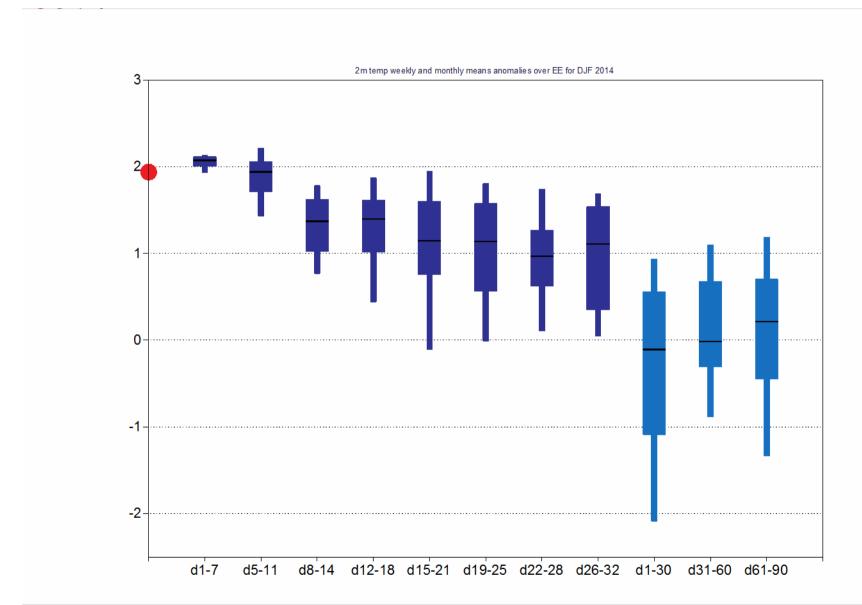
# DJF 2014: 2m temp anomalies







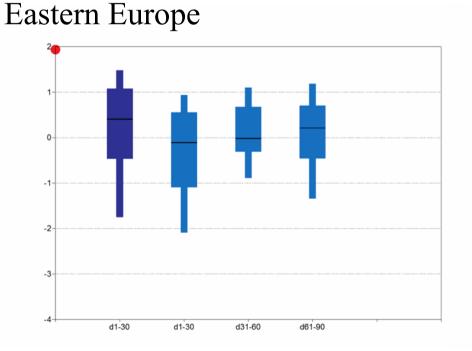
# Predictability of seasonal mean anomalies: 2m temp anomalies averaged over Eastern Europe fo



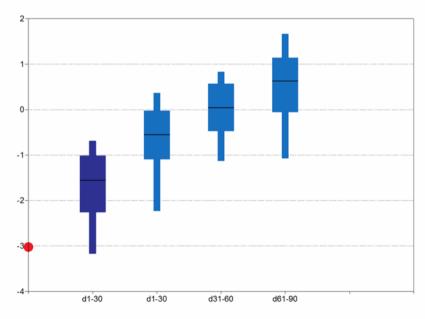
# Predictability of seasonal mean anomalies:

# Monthly system versus Seasonal system

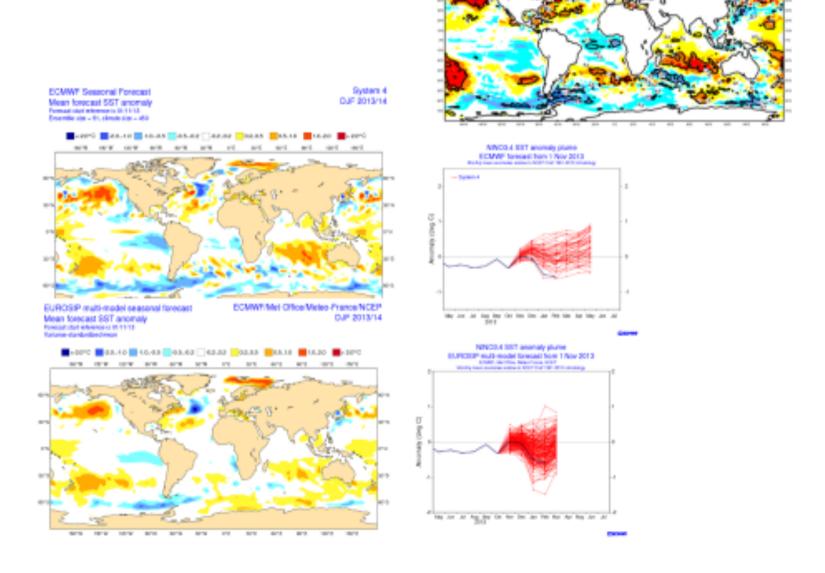
2m temp. anomalies for DJF 2014 averaged over:



### North America



### DJF 2014: SST anomalies



CONTRACTOR PROGRAMMENT AND REAL PROPERTY.