### El Niño Watch

Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño within the next 3-4 months with chance greater than or equal to 50%. One of the following criteria needs to be satisfied:

- **Observation**: SSTA\(^1\) greater than or equal to 0.5°C and ONI\(^2\) between -0.5°C and 0.5°C in the latest month
- **Prediction**: SSTA greater than or equal to 0.5°C for 2 months out of the next 4 months, or chance\(^3\) of El Niño development greater than or equal to 50% for the next 3 months

### El Niño Alert

Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño within the next 3-4 months with chance greater than or equal to 60%. All of the following criteria need to be satisfied:

- **Observation**: SSTA greater than or equal to 0.5°C in the latest 2 months, and ONI greater than or equal to 0.5 °C in the latest month
- **Prediction**: ONI greater than or equal to 0.5°C for the next 2 months, or chance of El Niño development greater than or equal to 60% for the next 3 months

### El Niño

Issued when El Niño is nearly developed and expected to persist in the next 3 months. All of the following criteria need to be satisfied:

- **Observation**: SSTA greater than or equal to 0.5°C in the latest 2 months, and ONI greater than or equal to 0.5 °C in the latest month
- **Prediction**: ONI greater than or equal to 0.5°C for the next 3 months
La Niña Watch
Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of La Niña within the next 3-4 months with chance greater than or equal to 50%. One of the following criteria needs to be satisfied:

- Observation: SSTA less than or equal to -0.5°C and ONI between -0.5°C and 0.5°C in the latest month
- Prediction: SSTA less than or equal to 0.5°C for 2 months out of the next 4 months, or chance of La Niña development greater than or equal to 50% for the next 3 months

La Niña Alert
Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of La Niña within the next 3-4 months with chance greater than or equal to 60%. All of the following criteria need to be satisfied:

- Observation: SSTA less than or equal to -0.5°C in the latest 2 months, and ONI less than or equal to -0.5°C in the latest month
- Prediction: ONI less than or equal to -0.5°C for the next 2 months, or chance of La Niña development greater than or equal to 60% for the next 3 months

La Niña
Issued when La Niña is nearly developed and expected to persist in the next 3 months. All of the following criteria need to be satisfied:

- Observation: SSTA less than or equal to -0.5°C in the latest 2 months, and ONI less than or equal to -0.5°C in the latest month
- Prediction: ONI less than or equal to -0.5°C for the next 3 months

Inactive
No favorable conditions to exceed El Niño/La Niña warning criteria within the next 3-5 months

---

1) SSTA : Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly at the Nino 3.4 region (5°N–5°S, 120°W–170°W)
2) ONI : Oceanic Niño Index; defined as the 3-month running mean average Nino 3.4 index
3) ENSO probability based on APCC MME probabilistic forecast issued every month