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Table of Contents

TROPICS

Highlights ............ page 6
Table of Atmospheric Indices ......... page 7
Table of Oceanic Indices ............ page 8

FIGURE

Time Series
Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) T1
Tahiti and Darwin SLP Anomalies T1
OLR Anomalies T1
CDAS/Reanalysis SOI & Equatorial SOI T2
200-hPa Zonal Wind Anomalies T3
500-hPa Temperature Anomalies T3
30-hPa and 50-hPa Zonal Wind Anomalies T3
850-hPa Zonal Wind Anomalies T4
Equatorial Pacific SST Anomalies T5

Time-Longitude Sections
Mean and Anomalous Sea Level Pressure T6
Mean and Anomalous 850-hPa Zonal Wind T7
Mean and Anomalous OLR T8
Mean and Anomalous SST T9
Pentad SLP Anomalies T10
Pentad OLR Anomalies T11
Pentad 200-hPa Velocity Potential Anomalies T12
Pentad 850-hPa Zonal Wind Anomalies T13
Anomalous Equatorial Zonal Wind T14
Mean and Anomalous Depth of the 20°C Isotherm T15

Mean & Anomaly Fields
Depth of the 20°C Isotherm T16
Subsurface Equatorial Pacific Temperatures T17
SST T18
SLP T19
850-hPa Vector Wind T20
200-hPa Vector Wind T21
200-hPa Streamfunction T22
200-hPa Divergence T23
200-hPa Velocity Potential and Divergent Wind T24
OLR T25
SSM/I Tropical Precipitation Estimates T26
Cloud Liquid Water T27
Precipitable Water T28
Divergence & E-W Divergent Circulation T29 - T30
Pacific Zonal Wind & N-S Divergent Circulation T31 - T32

Appendix 1: Outside Contributions
Tropical Drifting Buoys A1.1
FIGURE

Pacific Wind Stress and Anomalies A1.2
Satellite-Derived Surface Currents A1.3 - A1.4

FORECAST FORUM

Discussion ........ page 49
Canonical Correlation Analysis Forecasts F1 - F2
NCEP Coupled Model Forecasts F3 - F4
NCEP Markov Model Forecasts F5 - F6
LDEO Model Forecasts F7 - F8
Linear Inverse Modeling Forecasts F9 - F10
Scripps/MPI Hybrid Coupled Model Forecast F11
ENSO-CLIPER Model Forecast F12
Model Forecasts of Niño 3.4 F13

EXTRATROPICS

Highlights ........ page 64
Table of Teleconnection Indices ........ page 66
Global Surface Temperature E1
Temperature Anomalies (Land Only) E2
Global Precipitation E3
Regional Precipitation Estimates E4 - E5
U. S. Precipitation E6
Northern Hemisphere
Teleconnection Indices E7
Mean and Anomalous SLP E8
Mean and Anomalous 500-hPa heights E9
Mean and Anomalous 300-hPa Wind Vectors E10
500-hPa Persistence E11
Time-Longitude Sections of 500-hPa Height Anomalies E12
700-hPa Storm Track E13
Southern Hemisphere
Mean and Anomalous SLP E14
Mean and Anomalous 500-hPa heights E15
Mean and Anomalous 300-hPa Wind Vectors E16
500-hPa Persistence E17
Time-Longitude Sections of 500-hPa Height Anomalies E18
Stratosphere
Height Anomalies S1 - S2
Temperatures S3 - S4
Ozone S5 - S6
Vertical Component of EP Flux S7
Ozone Hole S8
Appendix 2: Additional Figures
Arctic Oscillation and 500-hPa Anomalies A2.1
Snow Cover A2.2
Tropical Highlights - August 2016

Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were slightly below-average across the east-central and eastern equatorial Pacific during August 2016 (Fig. T18, Table T2). The latest monthly Niño indices were -0.5°C for the Niño 3 region, -0.5°C for the Niño 3.4 region, and +0.4°C for the Niño 1+2 region (Table T2, Fig. T5). The depth of the oceanic thermocline (measured by the depth of the 20°C isotherm) remained below-average across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific (Figs. T15, T16), and the corresponding sub-surface temperatures were 1-3°C below average (Fig. T17).

Also during August, the lower-level winds were near-average across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific, while upper-level westerly anomalies were seen to the east of the Date Line (Table T1, Figs. T20, T21). Meanwhile, suppressed convection was observed across the western and central equatorial Pacific (Figs. T25, E3). Collectively, these oceanic and atmospheric anomalies reflect ENSO-neutral conditions.

For the latest status of the ENSO cycle see the ENSO Diagnostic Discussion at: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/index.html
### Table T1 - Atmospheric Index Values for the Most Recent 12 Months

Indices are standardized by the mean annual standard deviation, except for the Tahiti and Darwin SLP anomalies which are in units of hPa. Positive (negative) values of 200-hPa zonal wind index imply westerly (easterly) anomalies. Positive (negative) values of 850-hPa zonal wind indices imply easterly (westerly) anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period means.

| Month | SLP Anomalies
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tahiti 5N-5S</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tahiti 135E-180</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tahiti 165W-110W</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tahiti 160E-160W</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 16</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN 16</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 16</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 16</td>
<td>0.2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 16</td>
<td>-1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 16</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.4 21.0</td>
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<td>JUL 16</td>
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<td>2.6 22.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 15</td>
<td>2.3 22.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE T2. Mean and anomalous sea surface temperature (°C) for the most recent 12 months. Anomalies are departures from the 1981–2010 adjusted OI climatology (Smith and Reynolds 1998, *J. Climate*, **11**, 3320-3323).
FIGURE T1. Five-month running mean of the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) (top), sea-level pressure anomaly (hPa) at Darwin and Tahiti (middle), and outgoing longwave radiation anomaly (OLR) averaged over the area 5N-5S, 160E-160W (bottom). Anomalies in the top and middle panels are departures from the 1981-2010 base period means and are normalized by the mean annual standard deviation. Anomalies in the bottom panel are departures from the 1981-2010 base period means. Individual monthly values are indicated by “x”s in the top and bottom panels. The x-axis labels are centered on July.
FIGURE 12. Three-month running mean of a CDAS/Reanalysis-derived (a) Southern Oscillation Index (RSOI), (b) standardized pressure anomalies near Tahiti (solid) and Darwin (dashed), (c) an equatorial SOI ([EPAC] - [INDO]), and (d) standardized equatorial pressure anomalies for (EPAC) (solid) and (INDO) (dashed). Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period means and are normalized by the mean annual standard deviation. The equatorial SOI is calculated as the normalized difference between the standardized anomalies averaged between 5°N–5°S, 80°W–130°W (EPAC) and 5°N–5°S, 90°E–140°E (INDO).
FIGURE T3. Five-month running mean (solid lines) and individual monthly mean (dots) of the 200-hPa zonal wind anomalies averaged over the area 5N-5S, 165W-110W (top), the 500-hPa virtual temperature anomalies averaged over the latitude band 20N-20S (middle), and the equatorial zonally-averaged zonal wind anomalies at 30-hPa (red) and 50-hPa (blue) (bottom). In the top panel, anomalies are normalized by the mean annual standard deviation. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period means. The x-axis labels are centered on January.
FIGURE T4. Five-month running mean (solid line) and individual monthly mean (dots) of the standardized 850-hPa zonal wind anomaly index in the latitude belt 5N-5S for 135E-180 (top), 175W-140W (middle) and 135W-120W (bottom). Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period means and are normalized by the mean annual standard deviation. The x-axis labels are centered on January. Positive (negative) values indicate easterly (westerly) anomalies.
FIGURE T5. Nino region indices, calculated as the area-averaged sea surface temperature anomalies (C) for the specified region. The Nino 1+2 region (top) covers the extreme eastern equatorial Pacific between 0-10S, 90W-80W. The Nino-3 region (2nd from top) spans the eastern equatorial Pacific between 5N-5S, 150W-90W. The Nino 3.4 region (3rd from top) spans the east-central equatorial Pacific between 5N-5S, 170W-120W. The Nino 4 region (bottom) spans the date line and covers the area 5N-5S, 160E-150W. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means (Smith and Reynolds 1998, J. Climate, 11, 3320-3323). Monthly values of each index are also displayed in Table 2.
FIGURE T6. Time-longitude section of mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) sea level pressure (SLP) averaged between 5N-5S (CDAS/Reanalysis). Contour interval is 1.0 hPa (top) and 0.5 hPa (bottom). Dashed contours in bottom panel indicate negative anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means. The data are smoothed temporally using a 3-month running average.
FIGURE T7. Time-longitude section of mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) 850-hPa zonal wind averaged between 5N-5S (CDAS/Reanalysis). Contour interval is 2 ms$^{-1}$. Blue shading and dashed contours indicate easterlies (top) and easterly anomalies (bottom). Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means. The data are smoothed temporally using a 3-month running average.
FIGURE T8. Time-longitude section of mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) outgoing longwave radiation (OLR) averaged between 5N-5S. Contour interval is 10 Wm$^{-2}$. Dashed contours in bottom panel indicate negative OLR anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means. The data are smoothed temporally using a 3-month running average.
FIGURE T9. Time-longitude section of monthly mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) sea surface temperature (SST) averaged between 5N-5S. Contour interval is 1°C (top) and 0.5°C (bottom). Dashed contours in bottom panel indicate negative anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period means (Smith and Reynolds 1998, *J. Climate*, 11, 3320-3323).
FIGURE T10. Time-longitude section of anomalous sea level pressure (hPa) averaged between 5N-5S (CDAS/Reanalysis). Contour interval is 1 hPa. Dashed contours indicate negative anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period pentad means. The data are smoothed temporally using a 3-point running average.
FIGURE T11. Time-longitude section of anomalous outgoing longwave radiation averaged between 5N-5S. Contour interval is 15 Wm$^{-2}$. Dashed contours indicate negative anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period pentad means. The data are smoothed temporally using a 3-point running average.
FIGURE T12. Time-longitude section of anomalous 200-hPa velocity potential averaged between 5N-5S (CDAS/Reanalysis). Contour interval is $3 \times 10^6$ m$^2$s$^{-1}$. Dashed contours indicate negative anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period pentad means. The data are smoothed temporally using a 3-point running average.
FIGURE T13. Time-longitude section of anomalous 850-hPa zonal wind averaged between 5N-5S (CDAS/Reanalysis). Contour interval is 2 ms$^{-1}$. Dashed contours indicate negative anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period pentad means. The data are smoothed temporally by using a 3-point running average.

Contour interval is 2 ms$^{-1}$. Dashed contours indicate negative anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period pentad means. The data are smoothed temporally by using a 3-point running average.
FIGURE T14. Equatorial time-height section of anomalous zonally-averaged zonal wind (m s$^{-1}$) (CDAS/Reanalysis). Contour interval is 10 ms$^{-1}$. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE T15. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) depth of the 20C isotherm averaged between 5N-5S in the Pacific Ocean. Data are derived from the NCEP’s global ocean data assimilation system which assimilates oceanic observations into an oceanic GCM (Behringer, D. W., and Y. Xue, 2004: Evaluation of the global ocean data assimilation system at NCEP: The Pacific Ocean. AMS 84th Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, 11-15). The contour interval is 10 m. Dashed contours in bottom panel indicate negative anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period means.
FIGURE T16. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) depth of the 20°C isotherm for AUG 2016. Contour interval is 40 m (top) and 10 m (bottom). Dashed contours in bottom panel indicate negative anomalies. Data are derived from the NCEP’s global ocean data assimilation system version 2 which assimilates oceanic observations into an oceanic GCM (Xue, Y. and Behringer, D.W., 2006: Operational global ocean data assimilation system at NCEP, to be submitted to BAMS). Anomalies are departures from the 1981–2010 base period means.
FIGURE T17. Equatorial depth-longitude section of ocean temperature (top) and ocean temperature anomalies (bottom) for AUG 2016. Contour interval is 1°C. Dashed contours in bottom panel indicate negative anomalies. Data are derived from the NCEP’s global ocean data assimilation system version 2 which assimilates oceanic observations into an oceanic GCM (Xue, Y. and Behringer, D.W., 2006: Operational global ocean data assimilation system at NCEP, to be submitted to BAMS). Anomalies are departures from the 1981–2010 base period means.
FIGURE T18. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) sea surface temperature (SST). Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means (Smith and Reynolds 1998, *J. Climate*, 11, 3320-3323).
FIGURE T19. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) sea level pressure (SLP) (CDAS/Reanalysis). In top panel, 1000 hPa has been subtracted from contour labels, contour interval is 2 hPa, and values below 1000 hPa are indicated by dashed contours. In bottom panel, anomaly contour interval is 1 hPa and negative anomalies are indicated by dashed contours. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE T20. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) 850-hPa vector wind (CDAS/Reanaysis) for AUG 2016. Contour interval for isotachs is 4 ms$^{-1}$ (top) and 2 ms$^{-1}$ (bottom). Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE T21. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) 200-hPa vector wind (CDAS/Reanalysis) for AUG 2016. Contour interval for isotachs is 15 ms$^{-1}$ (top) and 5 ms$^{-1}$ (bottom). Anomalies are departures from 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE T22. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) 200-hPa streamfunction (CDAS/Reanalysis). Contour interval is $20 \times 10^6$ m$^2$s$^{-1}$ (top) and $5 \times 10^6$ m$^2$s$^{-1}$ (bottom). Negative (positive) values are indicated by dashed (solid) lines. The non-divergent component of the flow is directed along the contours with speed proportional to the gradient. Thus, high (low) stream function corresponds to high (low) geopotential height in the Northern Hemisphere and to low (high) geopotential height in the Southern Hemisphere. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE T23. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) 200-hPa divergence (CDAS/Reanalysis). Divergence and anomalous divergence are shaded blue. Convergence and anomalous convergence are shaded orange. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE T24. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) 200-hPa velocity potential (10^6 m^2 s^-1) and divergent wind (CDAS/Reanalysis). Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE T25. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) outgoing longwave radiation for AUG 2016 (NOAA 18 AVHRR IR window channel measurements by NESDIS/ORA). OLR contour interval is 20 Wm$^{-2}$ with values greater than 280 Wm$^{-2}$ indicated by dashed contours. Anomaly contour interval is 15 Wm$^{-2}$ with positive values indicated by dashed contours and light shading. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE T26. Estimated total (top) and anomalous (bottom) rainfall (mm) based on the Special Sensor Microwave/Imager (SSM/I) precipitation index (Ferraro 1997, J. Geophys. Res., 102, 16715-16735). Anomalies are computed from the SSM/I 1987-2010 base period monthly means. Anomalies have been smoothed for display purposes.
FIGURE T27. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) cloud liquid water (g m⁻²) based on the Special Sensor Microwave/Imager (SSM/I) (Weng et al 1997: *J. Climate*, 10, 1086-1098). Anomalies are calculated from the 1987-2010 base period means.
FIGURE T28. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) vertically integrated water vapor or precipitable water (kg m⁻²) based on the Special Sensor Microwave/Imager (SSM/I) (Ferraro et al., 1996: Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc., 77, 891-905). Anomalies are calculated from the 1987-2010 base period means.
FIGURE T29. Pressure-longitude section (100E-80W) of the mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) divergence (contour interval is $1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ s}^{-1}$) and divergent circulation averaged between 5N-5S. The divergent circulation is represented by vectors of combined pressure vertical velocity and the divergent component of the zonal wind. Red shading and solid contours denote divergence (top) and anomalous divergence (bottom). Blue shading and dashed contours denote convergence (top) and anomalous convergence (bottom). Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE T30. Pressure-longitude section (80W-100E) of the mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) divergence (contour interval is $1 \times 10^{-6}$ s$^{-1}$) and divergent circulation averaged between 5N-5S. The divergent circulation is represented by vectors of combined pressure vertical velocity and the divergent component of the zonal wind. Red shading and solid contours denote divergence (top) and anomalous divergence (bottom). Blue shading and dashed contours denote convergence (top) and anomalous convergence (bottom). Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE T31. Pressure-latitude section of the mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) zonal wind (m s⁻¹) and divergent circulation averaged over the west Pacific sector (120E-170E). The divergent circulation is represented by vectors of combined pressure vertical velocity and the divergent component of the meridional wind. Red shading and solid contours denote a westerly (top) or anomalous westerly (bottom) zonal wind. Blue shading and dashed contours denote an easterly (top) or anomalous easterly (bottom) zonal wind. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE T32. Pressure-latitude section of the mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) zonal wind (m s$^{-1}$) and divergent circulation averaged over the central Pacific sector (130W-180W). The divergent circulation is represented by vectors of combined pressure vertical velocity and the divergent component of the meridional wind. Red shading and solid contours denote a westerly (top) or anomalous westerly (bottom) zonal wind. Blue shading and dashed contours denote an easterly (top) or anomalous easterly (bottom) zonal wind. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE A1.2.

FSU SURFACE PSEUDO-STRESS VECTORS AND ANOMALIES: August 2016. Pseudo-stress vectors (top) are objectively assimilated from ship and buoy winds on a 2° grid. Ship and buoy data are independently weighted and the background field is created from the data. Contour interval of the vector magnitudes is 20 m s⁻². Anomalies (bottom) are departures from the 1981–2010 mean. The contour interval is 10 m s⁻². For more information, please visit our web site at http://www.noaa.fsu.edu/SWEMOC/html/winds.shtml. Produced by Jeremy Ralph, Mark A. Recuress, and Shawn R. Smith, Center for Ocean–Atmospheric Prediction Studies, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306–2840, USA.
Forecast Forum

The canonical correlation analysis (CCA) forecast of SST in the central Pacific (Barnett et al. 1988, Science, 241, 192196; Barnston and Ropelewski 1992, J. Climate, 5, 13161345), is shown in Figs. F1 and F2. This forecast is produced routinely by the Prediction Branch of the Climate Prediction Center. The predictions from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Coupled Forecast System Model (CFS03) are presented in Figs. F3 and F4a, F4b. Predictions from the Markov model (Xue, et al. 2000: J. Climate, 13, 849871) are shown in Figs. F5 and F6. Predictions from the latest version of the LDEO model (Chen et al. 2000: Geophys. Res. Let., 27, 25852587) are shown in Figs. F7 and F8. Predictions using linear inverse modeling (Penland and Magorian 1993: J. Climate, 6, 10671076) are shown in Figs. F9 and F10. Predictions from the Scripps / Max Planck Institute (MPI) hybrid coupled model (Barnett et al. 1993: J. Climate, 6, 15451566) are shown in Fig. F11. Predictions from the ENSOCLIPER statistical model (Knaff and Landsea 1997, Wea. Forecasting, 12, 633652) are shown in Fig. F12. Niño 3.4 predictions are summarized in Fig. F13, provided by the Forecasting and Prediction Research Group of the IRI.

The CPC and the contributors to the Forecast Forum caution potential users of this predictive information that they can expect only modest skill.

ENSO Alert System Status: Not Active

Outlook

ENSO-Neutral conditions are slightly favored (between 55-60%) during the upcoming Northern Hemisphere fall and winter 2016-17.

Discussion

ENSO-Neutral conditions were observed over the past month, although sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were below-average over the east-central equatorial Pacific Ocean (Fig. T18). While the Niño-3.4 and Niño-3 regions were -0.5°C for the month, Niño-4 and Niño 1+2 were 0.0°C and +0.4°C, respectively (Table T2). Subsurface temperatures across the eastern and central Pacific remained below average, and negative temperature anomalies remained weak across the western Pacific (Fig. T17). Atmospheric anomalies over the tropical Pacific Ocean largely indicated ENSO-Neutral conditions. The traditional Southern Oscillation index and the equatorial Southern Oscillation index were weakly positive during August (Table T1 & Fig. T2). The lower-level winds were near average, while the upper-level winds were anomalously westerly in a small region to the east of the International Date Line (Figs. T20-T21). Convection was suppressed over the western and
central tropical Pacific, although less suppressed compared to last month (Fig. T25). Overall, the combined ocean and atmosphere system continues to reflect ENSO-Neutral.

The multi-model averages favor borderline Neutral-La Niña conditions (3-month average Niño-3.4 index less than or equal to -0.5°C) during the Northern Hemisphere fall, continuing into winter (Figs. F1-F13). However, the more recently updated model runs from the North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) more strongly favor ENSO-Neutral. The forecaster consensus prefers this outcome, which is supported by the lack of significant anomalies in several indicators over the past month (winds, convection, subsurface temperatures). Overall, ENSO-Neutral conditions are slightly favored (between 55-60%) during the upcoming Northern Hemisphere fall and winter 2016-17.

Weekly updates of oceanic and atmospheric conditions are available on the Climate Prediction Center homepage (El Niño/La Niña Current Conditions and Expert Discussions).
FIGURE F1. Canonical correlation analysis (CCA) sea surface temperature (SST) anomaly prediction for the central Pacific (5°N to 5°S, 120°W to 170°W (Barnston and Ropelewski, 1992, *J. Climate*, 5, 1316-1345). The three plots on the left hand side are, from top to bottom, the 1-season, 2-season, and 3-season lead forecasts. The solid line in each forecast represents the observed SST standardized anomaly through the latest month. The small squares at the mid-points of the forecast bars represent the real-time CCA predictions based on the anomalies of quasi-global sea level pressure and on the anomalies of tropical Pacific SST, depth of the 20°C isotherm and sea level height over the prior four seasons. The vertical lines represent the one standard deviation error bars for the predictions based on past performance. The three plots on the right side are skills, corresponding to the predicted and observed SST. The skills are derived from cross-correlation tests from 1956 to present. These skills show a clear annual cycle and are inversely proportional to the length of the error bars depicted in the forecast time series.
FIGURE F2. Canonical Correlation Analysis (CCA) forecasts of sea-surface temperature anomalies for the Nino 3.4 region (5N-5S, 120W-170W) for the upcoming five consecutive 3-month periods. Forecasts are expressed as standardized SST anomalies. The CCA predictions are based on anomaly patterns of SST, depth of the 20C isotherm, sea level height, and sea level pressure. Small squares at the midpoints of the vertical forecast bars represent the CCA predictions, and the bars show the one (thick) and two (thin) standard deviation errors. The solid continuous line represents the observed standardized three-month mean SST anomaly in the Nino 3.4 region up to the most recently available data.
Figure F3. Predicted 3-month average sea surface temperature (left) and anomalies (right) from the NCEP Coupled Forecast System Model (CFS03). The forecasts consist of 40 forecast members. Contour interval is 1°C, with additional contours for 0.5°C and -0.5°C. Negative anomalies are indicated by dashed contours.
FIGURE F4. Predicted and observed sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies for the Nino 3 (top) and Nino 3.4 (bottom) regions from the NCEP Coupled Forecast System Model (CFSv2). The forecasts consist of 40 forecast members. The ensemble mean of all 40 forecast members is shown by the blue line, individual members are shown by thin lines, and the observation is indicated by the black line. The Nino-3 region spans the eastern equatorial Pacific between 5N-5S, 150W-90W. The Nino 3.4 region spans the east-central equatorial Pacific between 5N-5S, 170W-120W.
FIGURE F5. Predicted 3-month average sea surface temperature anomalies from the NCEP/CPC Markov model (Xue et al. 2000, *J. Climate*, 13, 849-871). The forecast is initiated in AUG 2016. Contour interval is 0.3°C and negative anomalies are indicated by dashed contours. Anomalies are calculated relative to the 1971-2000 climatology.
FIGURE F6. Time evolution of observed and predicted SST anomalies in the Nino 3.4 region (up to 12 lead months) by the NCEP/CPC Markov model (Xue et al. 2000, J. Climate, 13, 849-871). Anomalies are calculated relative to the 1971-2000 climatology. Shown in each panel are the forecasts grouped by three consecutive starting months: (a) is for December, January, and February, (b) is for March, April, and May, (c) is for June, July, and August, and (d) is for September, October, and November. The observed Nino 3.4 SST anomalies are indicated by the black dashed lines. The Nino 3.4 region spans the east-central equatorial Pacific between 5N-5S, 170W-120W.
FIGURE F7. Forecasts of the tropical Pacific Predicted SST (shading) and vector wind anomalies for the next 3 seasons based on the LDEO model. Each forecast represents an ensemble average of 3 sets of predictions initialized during the last three consecutive months (see Figure F8).
FIGURE F8. LDEO forecasts of SST anomalies for the Nino 3 region using wind stresses obtained from (top) QuickSCAT, (middle) NCEP, and (bottom) Florida State Univ. (FSU), along with SSTs (obtained from NCEP), and sea surface height data (obtained from TOPEX/POSEIDON) data. Each thin blue line represents a 12-month forecast, initialized one month apart for the past 24 months. Observed SST anomalies are indicated by the thick red line. The Nino-3 region spans the eastern equatorial Pacific between 5N-5S, 150W-90W.
 FIGURE F9. Forecast of tropical SST anomalies from the Linear Inverse Modeling technique of Penland and Magorian (1993: *J. Climate*, 6, 1067-1076). The contour interval is 0.3°C. Anomalies are calculated relative to the 1981-2010 climatology and are projected onto 20 leading EOFs.
FIGURE F10. Predictions of Niño 3.4 SSTA (blue solid line) and verification (solid red line). The Niño3.4 Index was calculated in the area 6N-6S, 170W-120W. The 1980-2010 climatology was subtracted from ERSST data between 1950 and 2010, after which they were projected onto 20 EOFs containing 90% of the variance. Significant 1950-2010 trends were subtracted from the corresponding PCs, the forecast was made on the detrended anomalies, after which the trend was added to the forecast. The dotted lines indicate the one standard deviation confidence interval for the forecasts based on a perfect adherence to assumption.
FIGURE F11. SST anomaly forecast for the equatorial Pacific from the Hybrid Coupled Model (HCM) developed by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Max-Plank Institut fuer Meteorologie.
FIGURE F12. ENSO-CLIPER statistical model forecasts of three-month average sea surface temperature anomalies (green lines, deg. C) in (top panel) the Nino 4 region (5N-5S, 160E-150W), (second panel) the Nino 3.4 region (5N-5S, 170W-120W), (third panel) the Nino 3 region (5N-5S, 150W-90W), and (fourth panel) the Nino 1+2 region (0-10S, 90W-80W) (Knaff and Landsea 1997, Wea. Forecasting, 12, 633-652). Bottom panel shows predictions of the three-month standardized Southern Oscillation Index (SOI, green line). Horizontal bars on green line indicate the adjusted root mean square error (RMSE). The Observed three-month average values are indicated by the thick blue line. SST anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period means, and the SOI is calculated from the 1951-1980 base period means.
FIGURE F13. Time series of predicted sea surface temperature anomalies for the Nino 3.4 region (deg. C) from various dynamical and statistical models for nine overlapping 3-month periods. The Nino 3.4 region spans the east-central equatorial Pacific between 5S-5N, 170W-120W. Figure provided by the International Research Institute (IRI).
Extratropical Highlights – August 2016

1. Northern Hemisphere

The 500-hPa circulation during August featured above-average heights over the high latitudes of both the western and eastern North Pacific, the northeastern U.S., Europe, and western Russia, and below-average heights over the central North Atlantic and the polar region (Fig. E9). This overall pattern projected strongly onto several teleconnection patterns, including the positive phase of the East Atlantic (+2.1) and Polar/Eurasia (+2.4) patterns and the negative phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO, -2.2) and East Atlantic/ West Russia (-3.3) pattern (Table E1, Fig. E7).

The main land-surface temperature signals during August included above-average temperatures in Alaska, western Canada, the eastern U.S., Europe, western Russia, and China (Fig. E1). The main precipitation signals included above-average totals in the southern and central U.S., and below-average totals in the Pacific Northwest and northeastern U.S. (Fig. E3).

a. North America

The 500-hPa circulation during August featured above-average heights over the Gulf of Alaska and the northeastern U.S., along with a broad trough across central North America (Fig. E9). This pattern was associated with above-average surface temperature in Alaska, western Canada, and the eastern U.S. (Fig. E1), with departures exceeding the 90th percentile of occurrences in both southwestern Alaska and the eastern U.S.

Precipitation during August was above average across the southeastern and central U.S. (Fig. E3), with area-average totals exceeding the upper 90th percentile of occurrences in the Great Plains, Midwest, and Gulf Coast regions (Fig. E5). Precipitation was below average in the Pacific Northwest and northeastern U.S., with monthly totals in both areas falling into the lowest 10th percentile of occurrences.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, exceptional or extreme drought continued across central and southern California during August. Extreme drought also persisted in portions of northern Georgia and northeastern Wyoming, and developed in western New York and portions of New England. Severe drought was evident in eastern Oregon, western Nevada, and northern Mississippi. Moderate drought was evident in eastern Oregon, the southern half of New Mexico, and western Arizona.

b. Europe/ western Russia

The 500-hPa circulation during August featured above-average heights over Europe and western Russia, and below-average heights over the central North Atlantic and the polar region (Fig. E9). This pattern projected strongly onto several teleconnection patterns, including the positive phase of the East Atlantic (+2.1) and Polar/Eurasia (+2.4) patterns and the negative phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO, -2.2) and East Atlantic/ West Russia (-3.3) pattern (Table E1, Fig. E7).
This overall pattern was associated with a continuation of above-average surface temperatures across Europe and western Russia, with the most significant departures exceeding the 90th percentile of occurrences in western Russia (Fig. E1). Western Europe also recorded below-average precipitation during August, with totals in some locations falling into the lowest 10th percentile of occurrences.

c. Northern Africa
The West African monsoon season, which lasts from June-September, has been well above average so far this year (Fig. E3). Area-averaged totals were above average during June, July, and August, with the June and July totals nearing the 100th percentile of occurrences (Fig. E4).

2. Southern Hemisphere
The mean 500-hPa circulation during August featured above-average heights over Antarctica and south of Australia, and below-average heights over the high latitudes of the South Pacific and the central South Atlantic Ocean (Fig. E15). Surface temperature signals during August included above-average temperatures in southern South America and South Africa (Fig. E1).

The Antarctic ozone hole typically develop rapidly during August and reaches its peak size in September. The ozone hole then gradually decreases during October and November, and dissipates in early December (Fig. S8). During August 2016, the ozone hole intensified and reached 15 million square kilometers by the end of the month. This size is roughly the average for the 2006-2015 period.
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**TABLE E1: Standardized amplitudes of selected Northern Hemisphere teleconnection patterns for the most recent thirteen months (computational procedures are described in Fig. E7). Pattern names and abbreviations are Northern Hemisphere Oscillation (NAO); East Atlantic pattern (EA); West Pacific pattern (WP); East Pacific-North Pacific (EP-NP); North Pacific/Northeast US pattern (PNA); Tropical/Northern Hemisphere pattern (TINH); East Atlantic/Western Russia pattern (EATL/WRUS-called Eurasia-2 pattern by Barnston and Livezey, 1987). No value is plotted for calendar months in which the pattern does not appear as a leading mode.**
FIGURE E1. Surface temperature anomalies (°C, top) and surface temperature expressed as percentiles of the normal (Gaussian) distribution fit to the 1981–2010 base period data (bottom) for AUG 2016. Analysis is based on station data over land and on SST data over the oceans (top). Anomalies for station data are departures from the 1981–2010 base period means, while SST anomalies are departures from the 1981–2010 adjusted OI climatology. (Smith and Reynolds 1998, J. Climate, 11, 3320-3323). Regions with insufficient data for analysis in both figures are indicated by shading in the top figure only.
FIGURE E2. Monthly global (top), Northern Hemisphere (middle), and Southern Hemisphere (bottom) surface temperature anomalies (land only, °C) from January 1990 - present, computed as departures from the 1981–2010 base period means.
FIGURE E3. Anomalous precipitation (mm, top) and precipitation percentiles based on a Gamma distribution fit to the 1981–2010 base period data (bottom) for AUG 2016. Data are obtained from a merge of raingauge observations and satellite-derived precipitation estimates (Janowiak and Xie 1999, *J. Climate*, **12**, 3335–3342). Contours are drawn at 200, 100, 50, 25, -25, -50, -100, and -200 mm in top panel. Percentiles are not plotted in regions where mean monthly precipitation is <5 mm/month.
FIGURE E4. Areal estimates of monthly mean precipitation amounts (mm, solid lines) and precipitation percentiles (% bars) for the most recent 13 months obtained from a merge of raingauge observations and satellite-derived precipitation estimates (Janowiak and Xie 1999, *J. Climate*, **12**, 3335–3342). The monthly precipitation climatology (mm, dashed lines) is from the 1981–2010 base period monthly means. Monthly percentiles are not shown if the monthly mean is less than 5 mm.
FIGURE E5. Areal estimates of monthly mean precipitation amounts (mm, solid lines) and precipitation percentiles (%, bars) for the most recent 13 months obtained from a merge of raingauge observations and satellite-derived precipitation estimates (Janowiak and Xie 1999, *J. Climate*, 12, 3335–3342). The monthly precipitation climatology (mm, dashed lines) is from the 1981–2010 base period monthly means. Monthly percentiles are not shown if the monthly mean is less than 5 mm.
FIGURE E6. Observed precipitation (upper left), departure from average (upper right), percent of average (lower left), and average precipitation (lower right) for AUG 2016. The units are given on each panel. Base period for averages is 1981-2010. Results are based on CPC’s U.S. daily precipitation analysis, which is available at http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/prodcuts/precip/realtime.
FIGURE E7. Standardized monthly Northern Hemisphere teleconnection indices. The teleconnection patterns are calculated from a Rotated Principal Component Analysis (RPCA) applied to monthly standardized 500-hPa height anomalies during the 1981-2010 base period. To obtain these patterns, ten leading un-rotated modes are first calculated for each calendar month by using the monthly height anomaly fields for the three-month period centered on that month: [i.e., The July modes are calculated from the June, July, and August standardized monthly anomalies]. A Varimax spatial rotation of the ten leading un-rotated modes for each calendar month results in 120 rotated modes (12 months x 10 modes per month) that yield ten primary teleconnection patterns. The teleconnection indices are calculated by first projecting the standardized monthly anomalies onto the teleconnection patterns corresponding to that month (eight or nine teleconnection patterns are seen in each calendar month). The indices are then solved for simultaneously using a Least-Squares approach. In this approach, the indices are the solution to the Least-Squares system of equations which explains the maximum spatial structure of the observed height anomaly field during the month. The indices are then standardized for each pattern and calendar month independently. No index value exists when the teleconnection pattern does not appear as one of the ten leading rotated EOF’s valid for that month.
FIGURE E8. Northern Hemisphere mean and anomalous sea level pressure (CDAS/Reanalysis) for AUG 2016. Mean values are denoted by solid contours drawn at an interval of 4 hPa. Anomaly contour interval is 2 hPa with values less (greater) than -2 hPa (2 hPa) indicated by dark (light) shading. Anomalies are calculated as departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE E9. Northern Hemisphere mean and anomalous 500-hPa geopotential height (CDAS/Reanalysis) for AUG 2016. Mean heights are denoted by solid contours drawn at an interval of 6 dam. Anomaly contour interval is 3 dam with values less (greater) than -3 dam (3 dam) indicated by dark (light) shading. Anomalies are calculated as departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE E10. Northern Hemisphere mean (left) and anomalous (right) 300-hPa vector wind (CDAS/Reanalysis) for AUG 2016. Mean (anomaly) isotach contour interval is 10 (5) ms\(^{-1}\). Values greater than 30 ms\(^{-1}\) (left) and 10 ms\(^{-1}\) (rights) are shaded. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE E11. Northern Hemisphere percentage of days during AUG 2016 in which 500-hPa height anomalies greater than 15 m (red) and less than -15 m (blue) were observed. Values greater than 70% are shaded and contour in-
FIGURE E12. Northern Hemisphere: Daily 500-hPa height anomalies for AUG 2016 averaged over the 5° latitude band centered on 40°N. Positive values are indicated by solid contours and dark shading. Negative values are indicated by dashed contours and light shading. Contour interval is 60 m. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period daily means.
FIGURE E13. Northern Hemisphere 500-hPa heights (thick contours, interval is 6 dam) overlaid with (Top) Standard deviation of 10-day high-pass (HP) filtered height anomalies and (Bottom) Normalized anomalous variance of 10-day HP filtered height anomalies. A Lanczos filter is used to calculate the HP filtered anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 daily means.
FIGURE E14. Southern Hemisphere mean and anomalous sea level pressure (CDAS/Reanalysis) for AUG 2016. Mean values are denoted by solid contours drawn at an interval of 4 hPa. Anomaly contour interval is 2 hPa with values less (greater) than -2 hPa (2 hPa) indicated by dark (light) shading. Anomalies are calculated as departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE E15. Southern Hemisphere mean and anomalous 500-hPa geopotential height (CDAS/Reanalysis) for AUG 2016. Mean heights are denoted by solid contours drawn at an interval of 6 dam. Anomaly contour interval is 3 dam with values less (greater) than -3 dam (3 dam) indicated by dark (light) shading. Anomalies are calculated as departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE E16. Southern Hemisphere mean (left) and anomalous (right) 300-hPa vector wind (CDAS/Reanalysis) for AUG 2016. Mean (anomaly) isotach contour interval is 10 (5) ms$^{-1}$. Values greater than 30 ms$^{-1}$ (left) and 10 ms$^{-1}$ (rights) are shaded. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means.
FIGURE E17. Southern Hemisphere percentage of days during AUG 2016 in which 500-hPa height anomalies greater than 15 m (red) and less than -15 m (blue) were observed. Values greater than 70% are shaded and contour in-
FIGURE E18. Southern Hemisphere: Daily 500-hPa height anomalies for AUG 2016 averaged over the 5° latitude band centered on 40°S. Positive values are indicated by solid contours and dark shading. Negative values are indicated by dashed contours and light shading. Contour interval is 60 m. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period daily means.
FIGURE S1. Stratospheric height anomalies (m) at selected levels for AUG 2016. Positive values are indicated by solid contours and dark shading. Negative values are indicated by dashed contours and light shading. Contour interval is 60 m. Anomalies are calculated from the 1981-2010 base period means. Winter Hemisphere is shown.
FIGURE S2. Height-longitude sections during AUG 2016 for height anomalies (contour) and temperature anomalies (shaded). In both panels, positive values are indicated by solid contours and dark shading, while negative anomalies are indicated by dashed contours and light shading. Contour interval for height anomalies is 60 m and for temperature anomalies is 2°C. Anomalies are calculated from the 1981-2010 base period monthly means. Winter Hemisphere is shown.
FIGURE S4. Daily mean temperatures at 10-hPa and 2-hPa (thick line) in the region 65°–90°N and 65°–90°S for the past two years. Dashed line depicts the 1981-2010 base period daily mean. Thin solid lines depict the daily extreme maximum and minimum temperatures.
FIGURE S5. Monthly ozone anomalies (percent) from the long term monthly means for five zones: 50N-30N (NH mid-latitudes), 25N-10N (NH tropical surf zone), 10N-10S (Equatorial-QBO zone), 10S-25S (SH tropical surf zone), and 30S-50S (SH mid-latitudes). The long term monthly means are determined from the entire data set.
FIGURE S6. Northern (top) and Southern (bottom) Hemisphere total ozone anomaly (percent difference from monthly mean for the period 1979-1986). The region near the winter pole has no SBUV/2 data.
FIGURE S7. Daily vertical component of EP flux (which is proportional to the poleward transport of heat or upward transport of potential energy by planetary wave) at 100 hPa averaged over (top) 30°N–90°N and (bottom) 30°S–90°S for AUG 2016. The EP flux unit (kg m⁻¹ s⁻²) has been scaled by multiplying a factor of the Brunt Vaisala frequency divided by the Coriolis parameter and the radius of the earth. The letter ‘M’ indicates the current monthly mean value and the letter ‘C’ indicates the climatological mean value. Additionally, the normalized departures from the monthly climatological EP flux values are shown.
FIGURE S8. Daily time series showing the size of the SH polar vortex (representing the area enclosed by the 32 PVU contour on the 450K isentropic surface), and the areal coverage of temperatures < -78°C on the 450K isentropic surface.
FIGURE A2.1. (a) Daily amplitudes of the Arctic Oscillation (AO) the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), and the Pacific-North American (PNA) pattern. The pattern amplitudes for the AO, (NAO, PNA) are calculated by projecting the daily 1000-hPa (500-hPa) height anomaly field onto the leading EOF obtained from standardized time-series of daily 1000-hPa (500-hPa) height for all months of the year. The base period is 1981–2010.

(b-d) Northern Hemisphere mean and anomalous 500-hPa geopotential height (CDAS/Reanalysis) for selected periods during AUG 2016 are shown in the remaining 3 panels. Mean heights are denoted by solid contours drawn at an interval of 8 dam. Dark (light) shading corresponds to anomalies greater than 50 m (less than -50 m). Anomalies are calculated as departures from the 1981-2010 base period daily means.
FIGURE A2.2. SSM/I derived snow cover frequency (%) (left) and snow cover anomaly (%) (right) for the month of AUG 2016 based on departure from 1987-2010 baseline for the Northern Hemisphere (top) and Southern Hemisphere (bottom). It is generated using the algorithm described by Ferraro et. al, 1996, Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc., vol 77, 891-905.