

# CLIMATE DIAGNOSTICS BULLETIN



**MARCH 2008**

**NEAR REAL-TIME OCEAN / ATMOSPHERE**

**Monitoring, Assessments, and Prediction**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Weather Service  
National Centers for Environmental Prediction**

## CLIMATE DIAGNOSTICS BULLETIN



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## Tropical Highlights - March 2008

Atmospheric and oceanic conditions during March 2008 reflected a moderate La Niña. Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the Pacific Ocean remained below average from west of the Date Line eastward to 120°W. However, these departures weakened during the month (**Fig. T18**), and the latest Niño-3.4 and Niño-4 index values were only slightly cooler than -1°C (**Table T2**). Meanwhile, the SST anomalies near the west coast of South America have been positive since February 2008 (**Table T2, Figs. T9, T18**).

The oceanic thermocline remained shallower than normal east of 140°W and continued to deepen in the region west of the Date Line (**Fig. T16**). Consistent with this structure, sub-surface temperature at thermocline depth remained below average (-1°C to -4°C) across the eastern equatorial Pacific, and above average west of 170°W (**Fig. T17**).

Strong low-level easterly anomalies persisted across the western and central equatorial Pacific during the month (**Fig. T20, Table T1**), which is consistent with the shallower-than-average thermocline in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific (**Figs. T15, T16**). These conditions were associated with enhanced convection (above-average rainfall amounts) across the Indian Ocean, Indonesia and the far western tropical Pacific, and a continuation of suppressed convection (below-average rainfall amounts) across the central equatorial Pacific (**Figs. T25, E3**). Consistent with these anomalies, the Tahiti – Darwin SOI remained positive (+1.1) (**Table T1, Fig. T1**), and the equatorial SOI was +2.4 (**Fig. T2**).

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](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/index.html)

MONTH	SLP ANOMALIES		TAHITI minus DARWIN SOI	850-hPa ZONAL WIND INDEX			200-hPa WIND INDEX	OLR Index
	TAHITI	DARWIN		5N-5S 135E-180	5N-5S 175W-140W	5N-5S 135W-120W		
<b>MAR 08</b>	2.7	1.0	1.1	2.8	1.1	-1.1	1.2	5N-5S 160E-160W 2.4
<b>FEB 08</b>	2.6	-1.7	2.7	2.7	1.6	-0.6	2.5	2.5
<b>JAN 08</b>	1.7	-1.3	1.9	1.1	1.6	-0.1	1.8	1.0
<b>DEC 07</b>	1.5	-1.3	1.8	3.7	1.7	-0.1	0.8	2.2
<b>NOV 07</b>	0.3	-1.1	0.9	1.3	1.8	1.0	1.7	0.8
<b>OCT 07</b>	0.3	-0.6	0.6	1.1	0.6	-0.1	0.2	1.4
<b>SEP 07</b>	-0.1	-0.4	0.2	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.5	0.8
<b>AUG 07</b>	0.9	0.8	0.1	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.6
<b>JUL 07</b>	0.5	1.4	-0.5	1.1	0.1	-1.0	0.2	1.1
<b>JUN 07</b>	-0.5	-0.8	0.2	1.8	0.8	-0.1	1.2	0.6
<b>MAY 07</b>	0.3	0.9	-0.4	0.5	0.6	-0.5	-0.1	0.2
<b>APR 07</b>	0.5	1.2	-0.4	1.5	1.1	-0.6	0.4	0.1
<b>MAR 07</b>	-0.3	0.3	-0.4	0.8	1.2	0.1	0.9	0.8

\* Preliminary

\*\* Revised

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.

MONTH	PACIFIC SST				ATLANTIC SST		Global							
	NIÑO 1+2 0-10°S 90°W-80°W	NIÑO 3 5°N-5°S 150°W-90- °W	NIÑO 3.4 5°N-5°S 170°W-12- 0°W	NIÑO 4 5°N-5°S 160°E-150- °W	N. ATL 5N-20N 60W-30W	S. ATL 0-20S 30W-10E								
<b>MAR 08</b>	0.8	27.3	-0.6	26.5	-1.1	26.0	-1.3	26.8	0.0	25.5	0.7	27.6	-0.2	27.9
<b>FEB 08</b>	0.2	26.3	-1.4	25.0	-1.9	24.8	-1.6	26.4	-0.1	25.4	0.4	26.8	-0.3	27.4
<b>JAN 08</b>	-0.7	23.8	-1.5	24.1	-1.8	24.7	-1.5	26.6	0.1	26.0	0.2	25.6	-0.3	27.2
<b>DEC 07</b>	-2.0	20.8	-1.5	23.6	-1.5	25.0	-0.9	27.4	0.2	26.9	0.1	24.6	-0.2	27.2
<b>NOV 07</b>	-2.2	19.5	-1.8	23.2	-1.5	25.1	-0.9	27.4	0.2	27.7	0.0	23.9	-0.3	27.2
<b>OCT 07</b>	-2.1	18.8	-1.5	23.4	-1.4	25.2	-0.6	27.9	0.2	28.1	-0.1	23.3	-0.2	27.2
<b>SEP 07</b>	-1.9	18.6	-1.3	23.6	-0.8	25.8	-0.4	28.1	0.1	28.0	0.2	23.1	-0.1	27.0
<b>AUG 07</b>	-1.6	19.2	-1.1	23.9	-0.5	26.2	0.1	28.6	0.1	27.7	0.1	23.1	0.0	27.1
<b>JUL 07</b>	-1.6	20.3	-0.8	24.8	-0.3	26.8	0.2	28.8	0.2	27.2	0.2	23.8	0.1	27.4
<b>JUN 07</b>	-1.4	21.7	-0.5	25.9	0.1	27.6	0.4	29.0	0.2	26.8	0.4	25.2	0.2	28.1
<b>MAY 07</b>	-1.6	22.8	-0.7	26.4	-0.2	27.6	0.2	28.9	0.2	26.4	0.3	26.3	0.1	28.5
<b>APR 07</b>	-1.1	24.4	-0.3	27.1	0.1	27.8	0.3	28.7	0.4	26.2	0.3	27.1	0.2	28.7
<b>MAR 07</b>	-0.7	25.8	-0.3	26.8	0.0	27.1	0.5	28.6	0.4	25.8	0.1	27.0	0.2	28.3

\* Preliminary

\*\* Revised

TABLE T2. Mean and anomalous sea surface temperature (°C) for the most recent 12 months. Anomalies are departures from the 1971–2000 adjusted OI climatology (Smith and Reynolds 1998, *J. Climate*, **11**, 3320–3323).

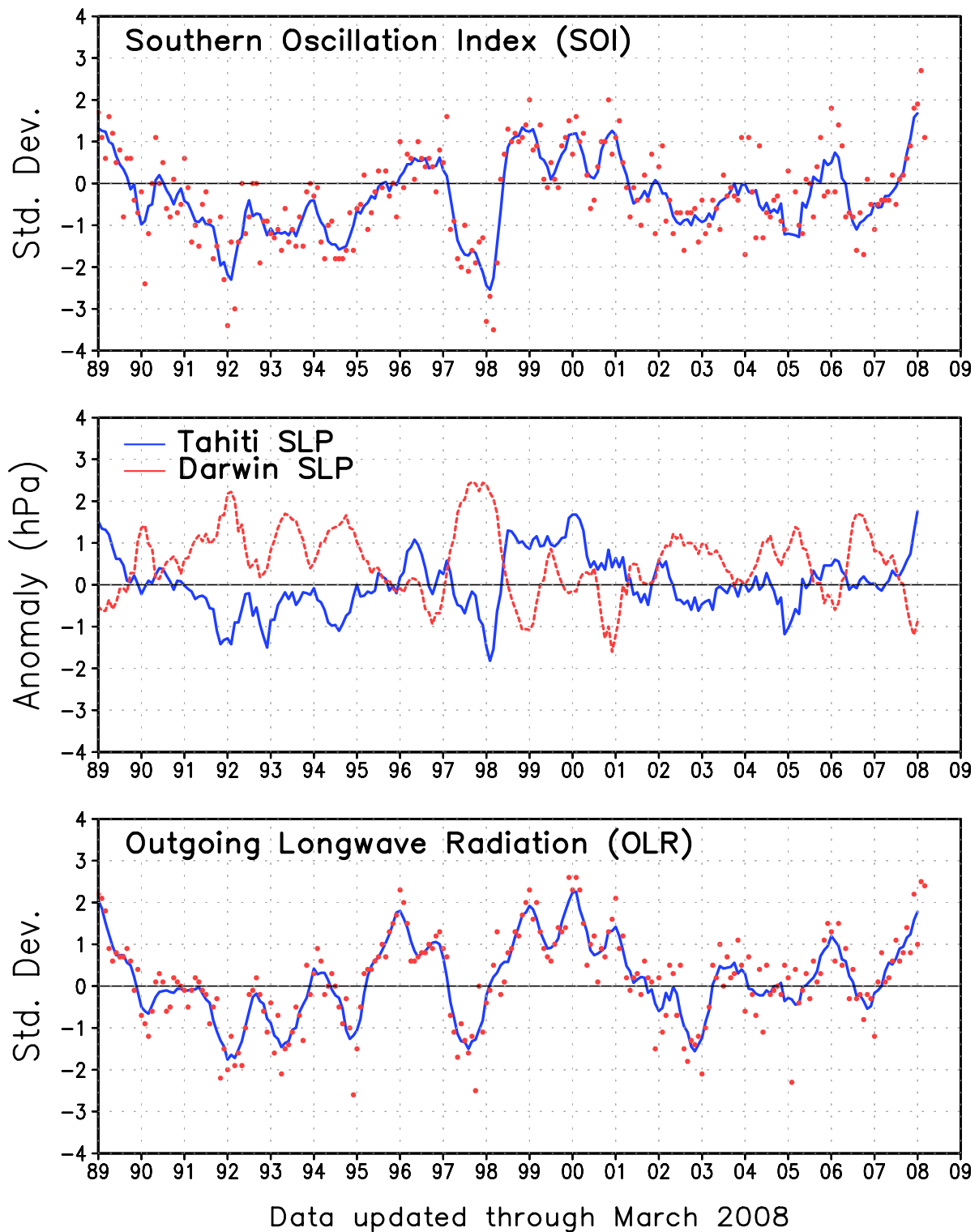


FIGURE T1. Five-month running mean of the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) (top), sea-level pressure anomaly (hPa) at Darwin and Tahiti (middle), and outgoing longwave radiation anomaly (OLR) averaged over the area 5N-5S, 160E-160W (bottom). Anomalies in the top and middle panels are departures from the 1951-1980 base period means and are normalized by the mean annual standard deviation. Anomalies in the bottom panel are departures from the 1979-1995 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.

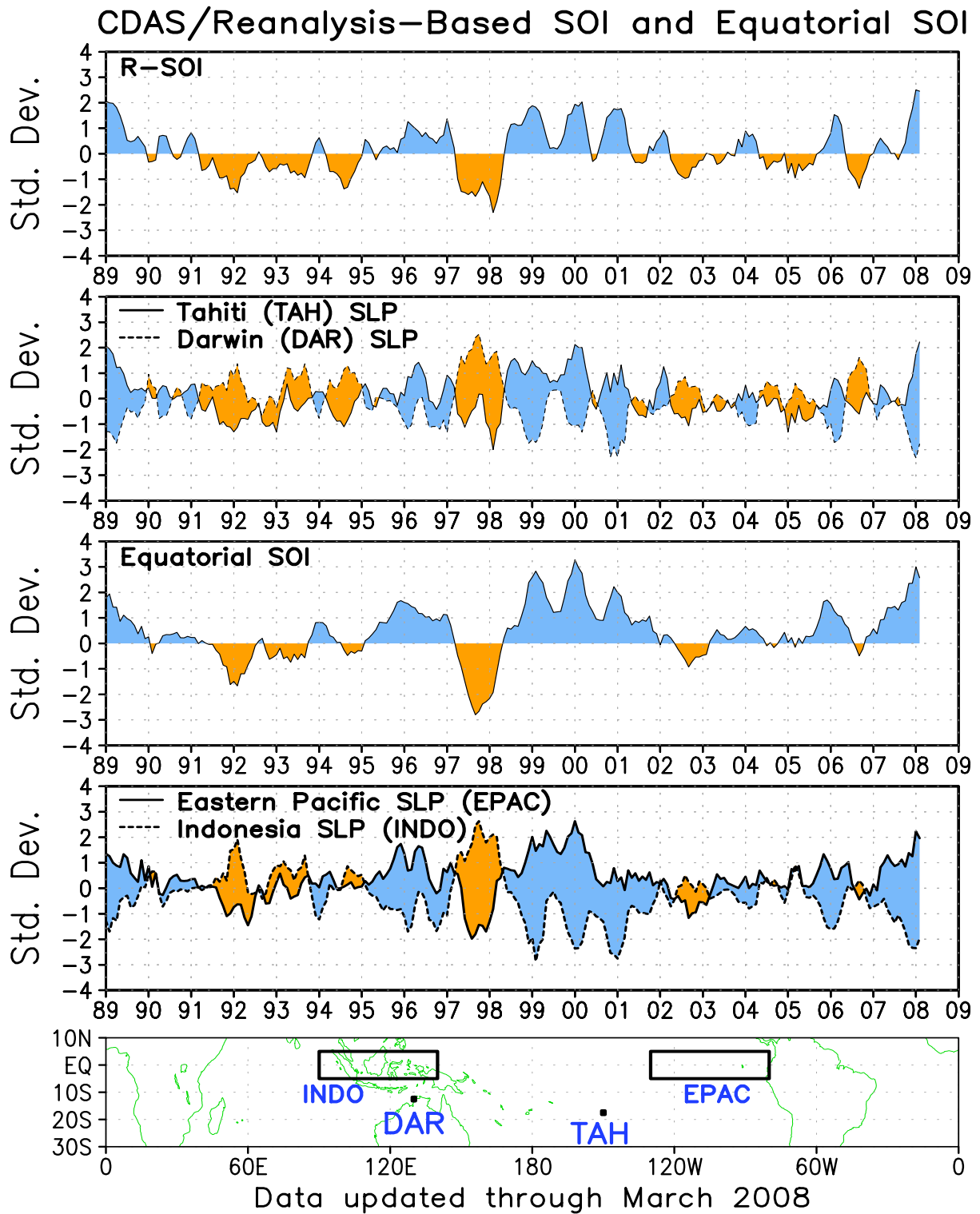


FIGURE T2. Three-month running mean of a CDAS/Reanalysis-derived (a) Southern Oscillation Index (RSOI), (b) standardized pressure anomalies near Tahiti (solid) and Darwin (dashed), (c) an equatorial SOI ([EPAC] - [INDO]), and (d) standardized equatorial pressure anomalies for (EPAC) (solid) and (INDO) (dashed). Anomalies are departures from the 1979–95 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).

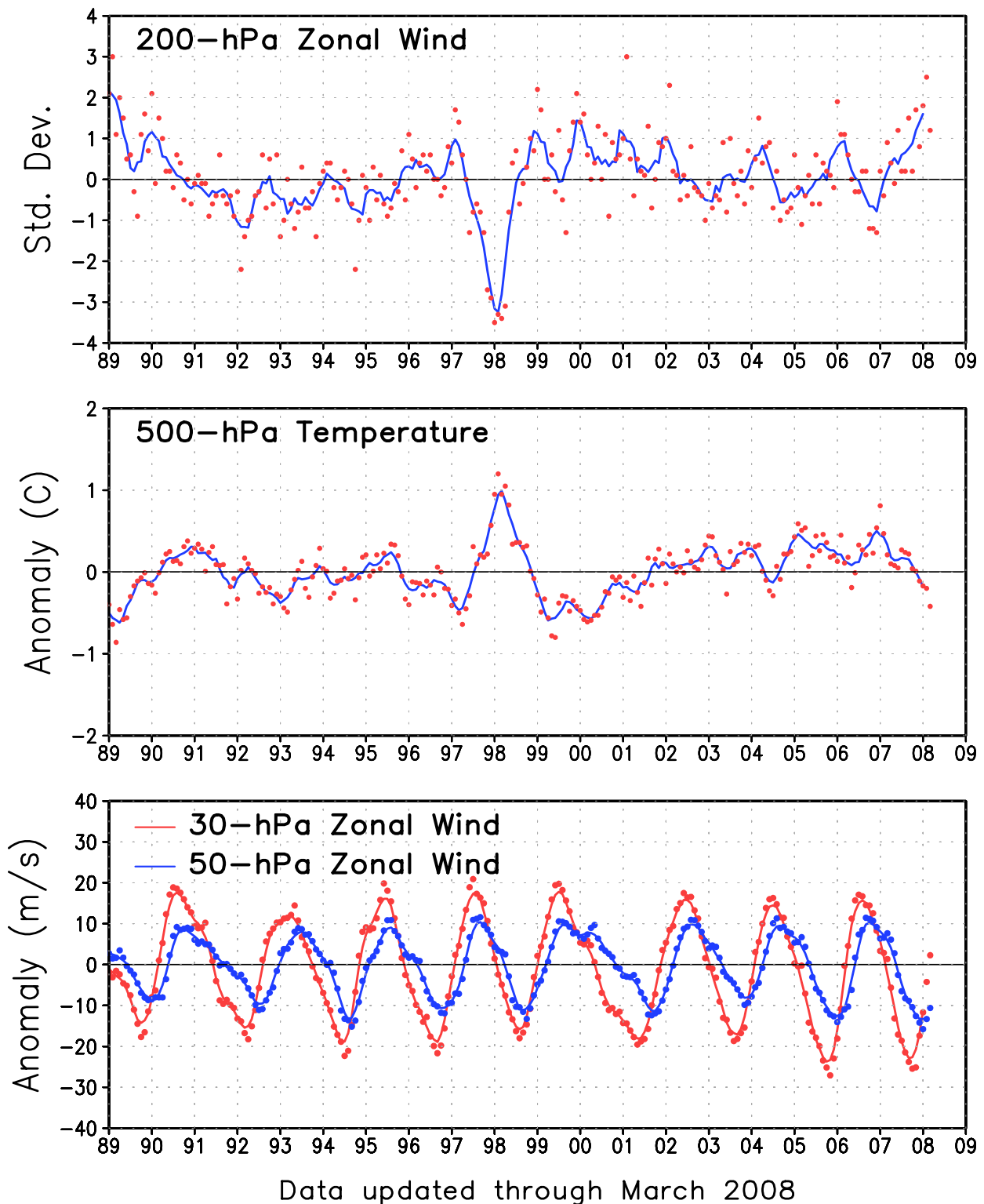


FIGURE T3. Five-month running mean (solid lines) and individual monthly mean (dots) of the 200-hPa zonal wind anomalies averaged over the area 5N-5S, 165W-110W (top), the 500-hPa virtual temperature anomalies averaged over the latitude band 20N-20S (middle), and the equatorial zonally-averaged zonal 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 1979-1995 base period means. The x-axis labels are centered on January.

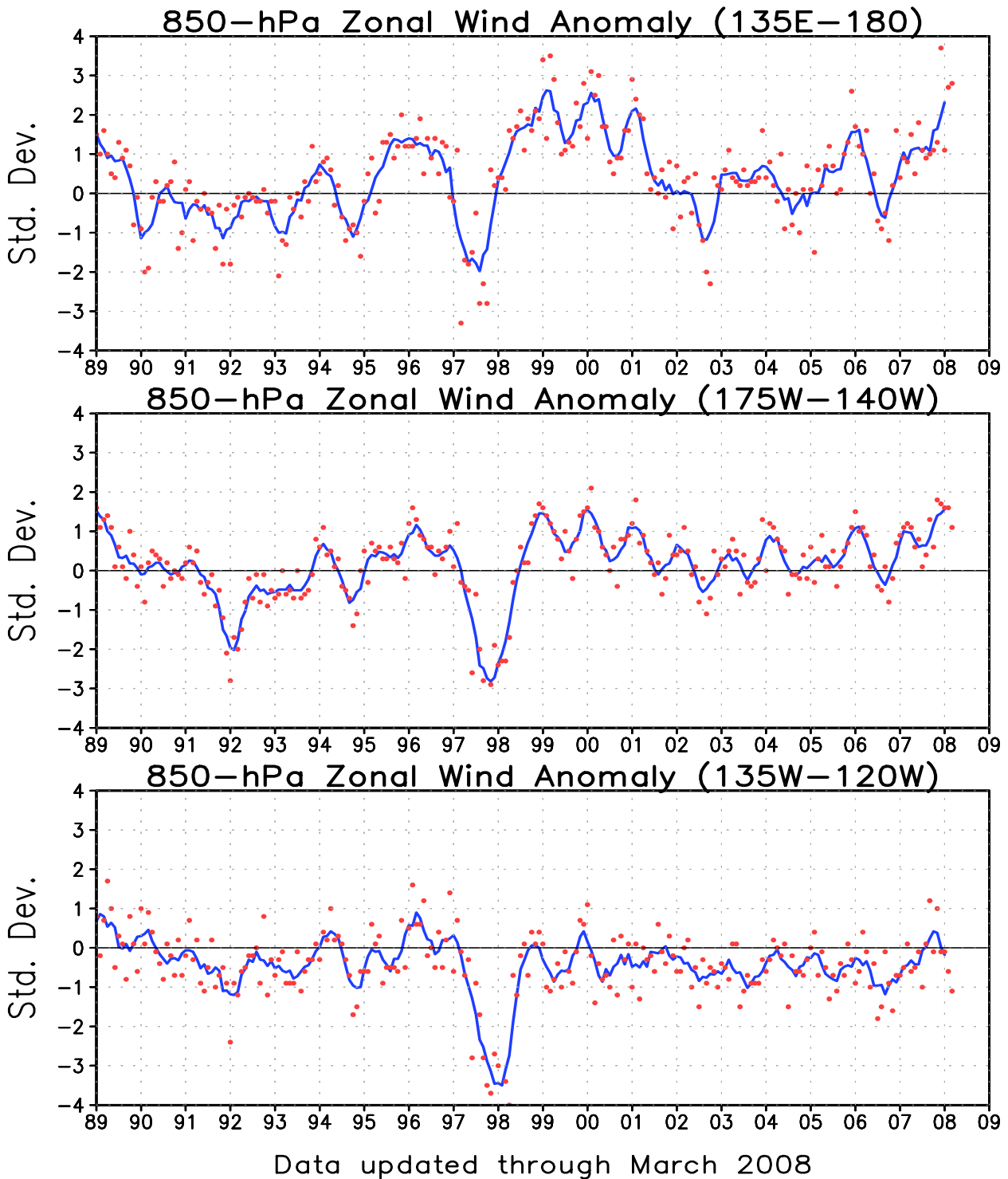


FIGURE T4. Five-month running mean (solid line) and individual monthly mean (dots) of the standardized 850-hPa zonal wind anomaly index in the latitude belt 5N-5S for 135E-180 (top), 175W-140W (middle) and 135W-120W (bottom). Anomalies are departures from the 1979-1995 base period means and are normalized by the mean annual standard deviation. The x-axis labels are centered on January. Positive (negative) values indicate easterly (westerly) anomalies.



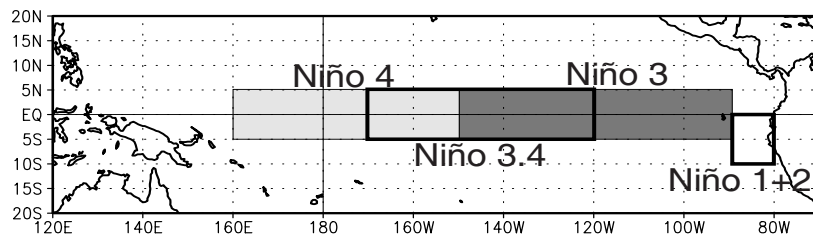
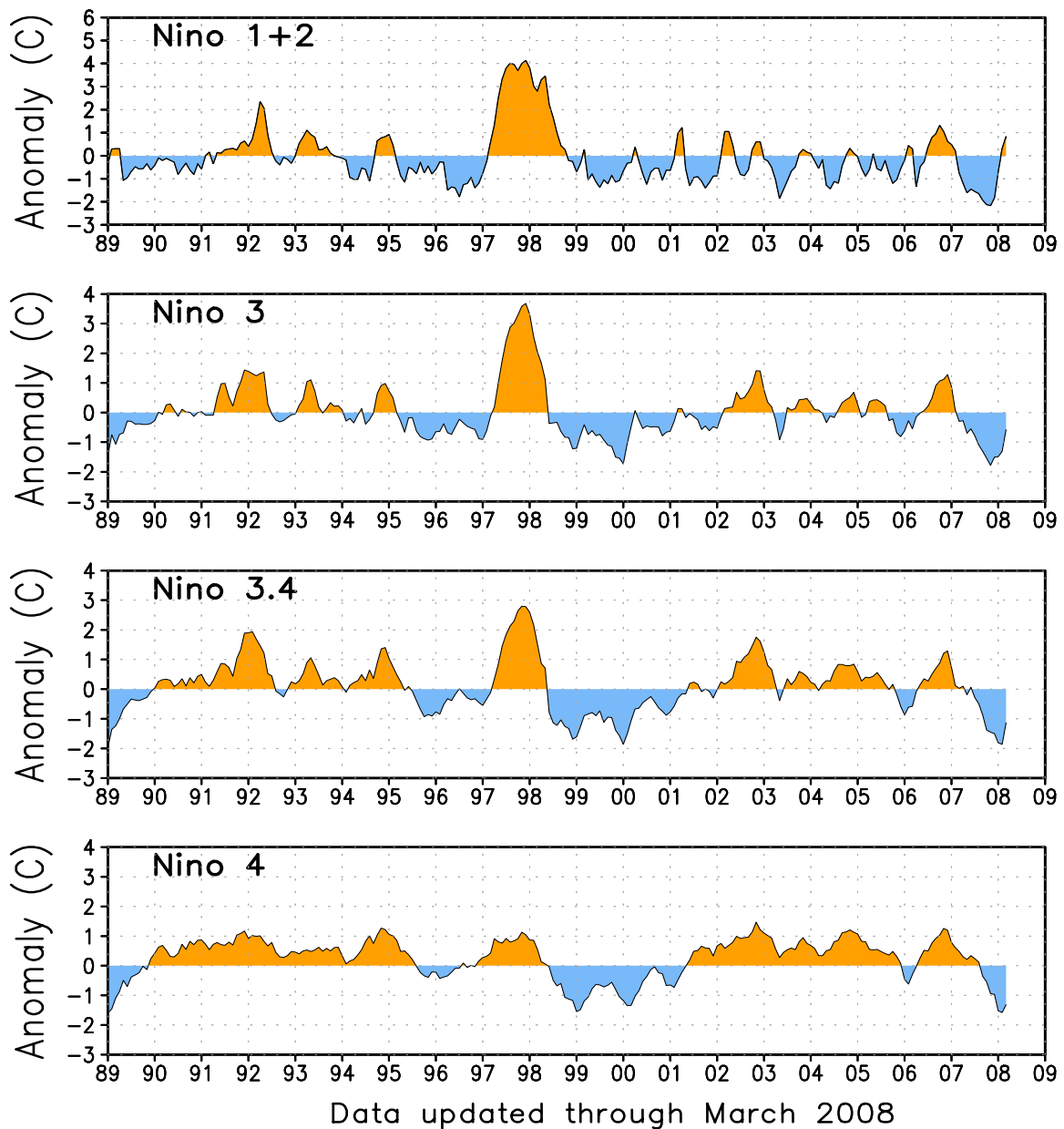


FIGURE T5. Niño region indices, calculated as the area-averaged sea surface temperature anomalies (C) for the specified region. The Niño 1+2 region (top) covers the extreme eastern equatorial Pacific between 0-10S, 90W-80W. The Niño-3 region (2nd from top) spans the eastern equatorial Pacific between 5N-5S, 150W-90W. The Niño 3.4 region (3rd from top) spans the east-central equatorial Pacific between 5N-5S, 170W-120W. The Niño 4 region (bottom) spans the date line and covers the area 5N-5S, 160E-150W. Anomalies are departures from the 1971-2000 base period monthly means (*Smith and Reynolds 1998, J. Climate, 11, 3320-3323*). Monthly values of each index are also displayed in [Table 2](#).

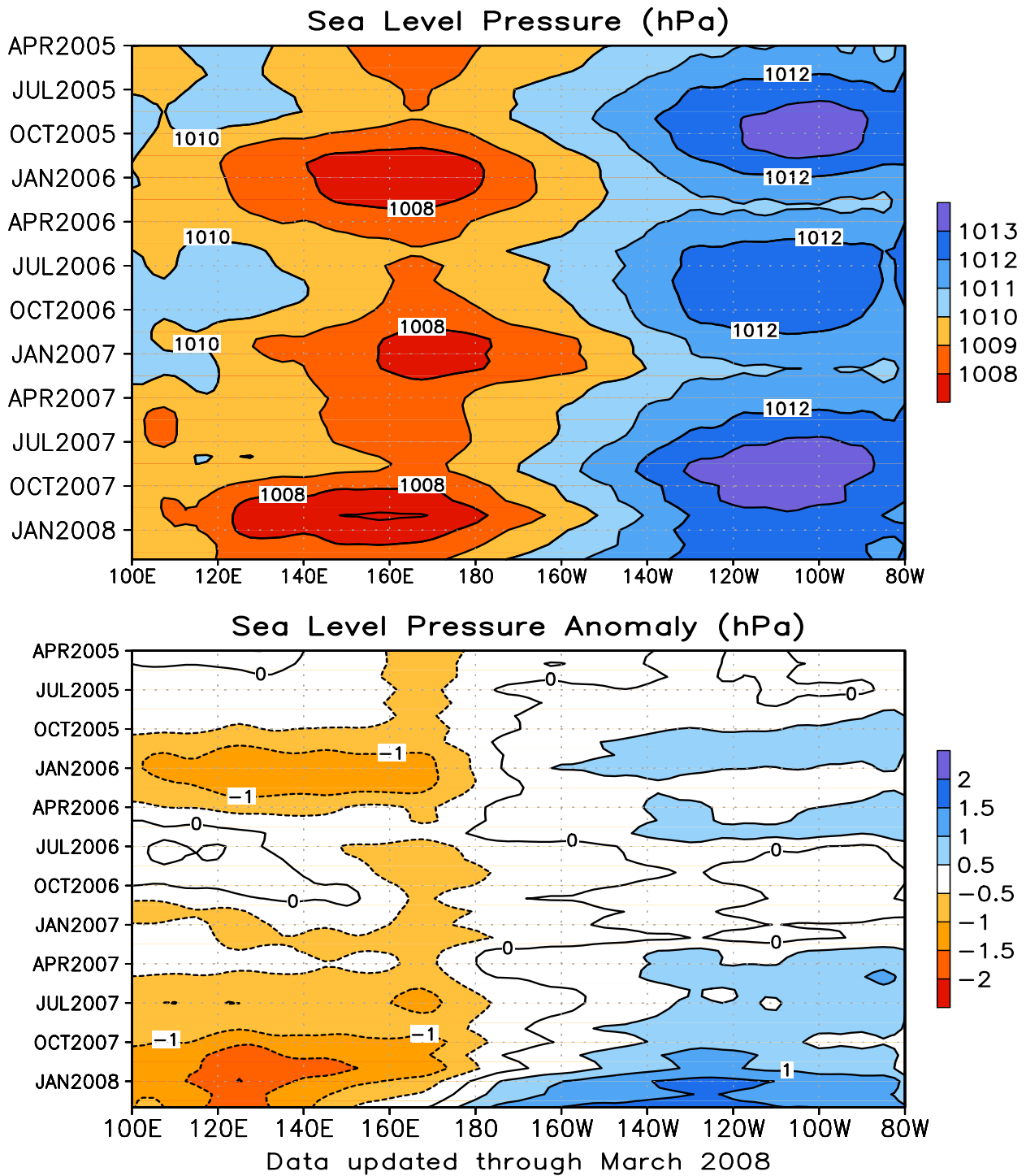


FIGURE T6. Time-longitude section of mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) sea level pressure (SLP) averaged between 5N-5S (CDAS/Reanalysis). Contour interval is 1.0 hPa (top) and 0.5 hPa (bottom). Dashed contours in bottom panel indicate negative anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1979-1995 base period monthly means. The data are smoothed temporally using a 3-month running average.

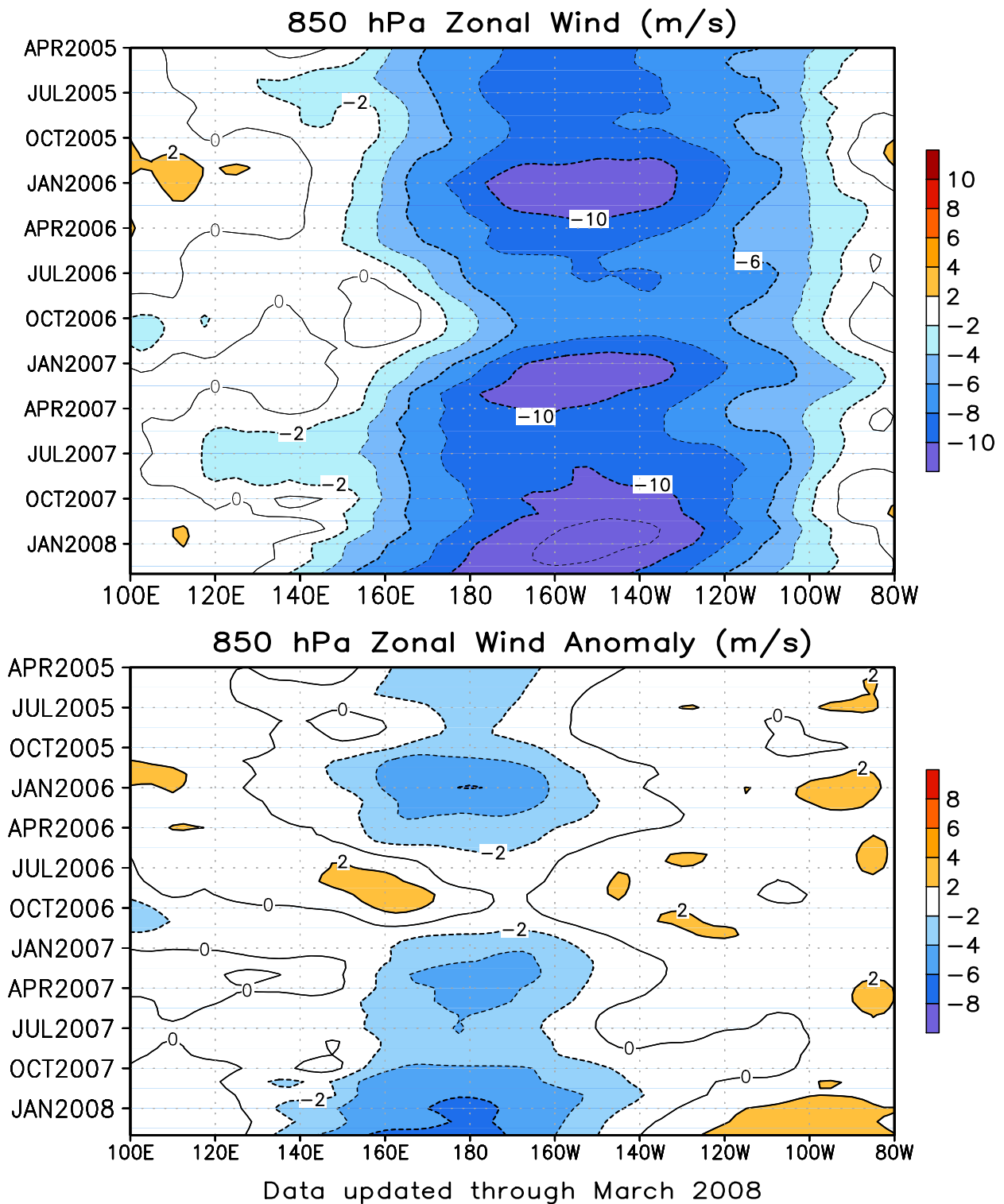


FIGURE T7. Time-longitude section of mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) 850-hPa zonal wind averaged between 5N-5S (CDAS/Reanalysis). Contour interval is  $2 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ . Blue shading and dashed contours indicate easterlies (top) and easterly anomalies (bottom). Anomalies are departures from the 1979-1995 base period monthly means. The data are smoothed temporally using a 3-month running average.

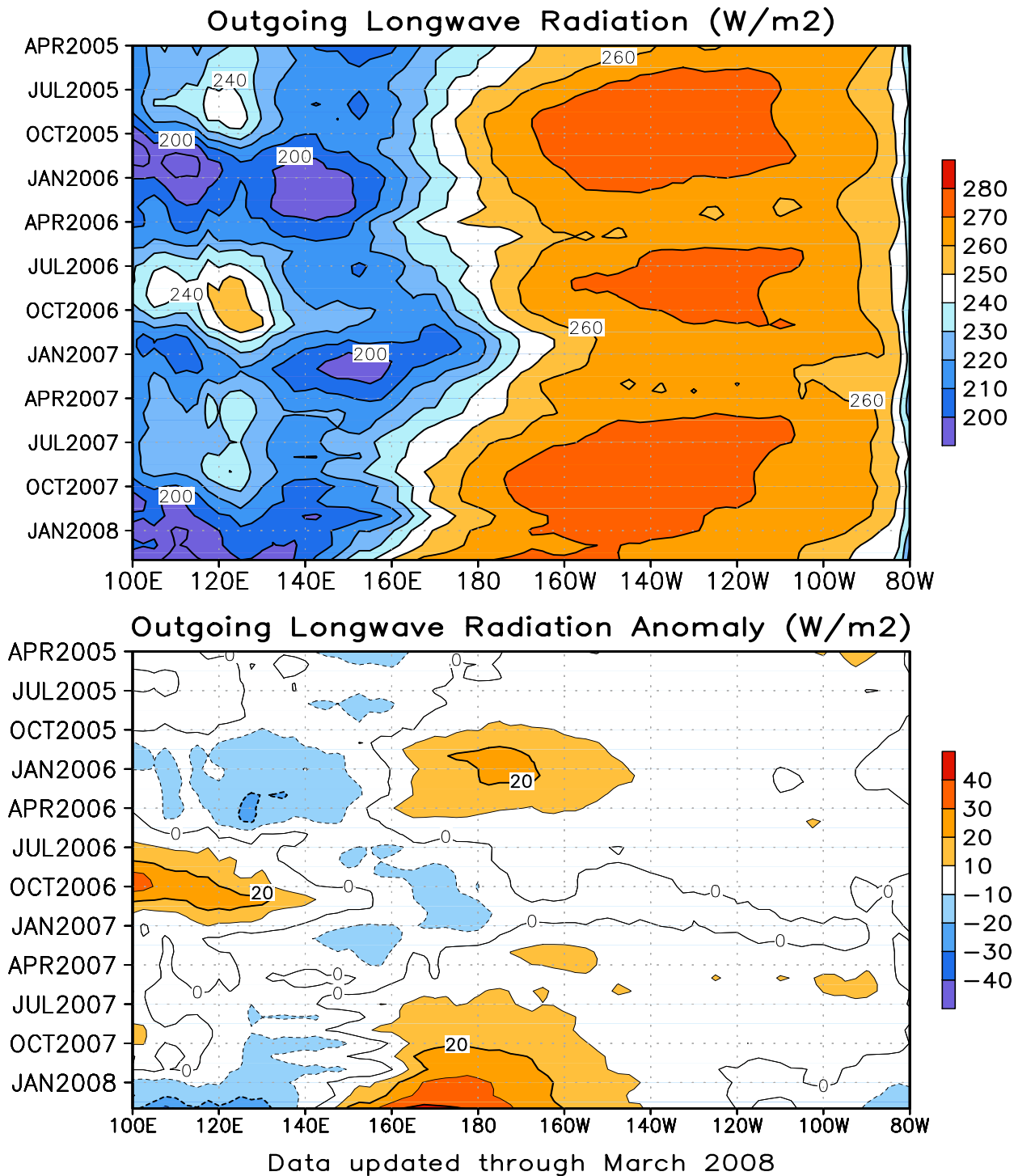


FIGURE T8. Time-longitude section of mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) outgoing longwave radiation (OLR) averaged between 5N-5S. Contour interval is 10 Wm<sup>-2</sup>. Dashed contours in bottom panel indicate negative OLR anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1979-1995 base period monthly means. The data are smoothed temporally using a 3-month running average.

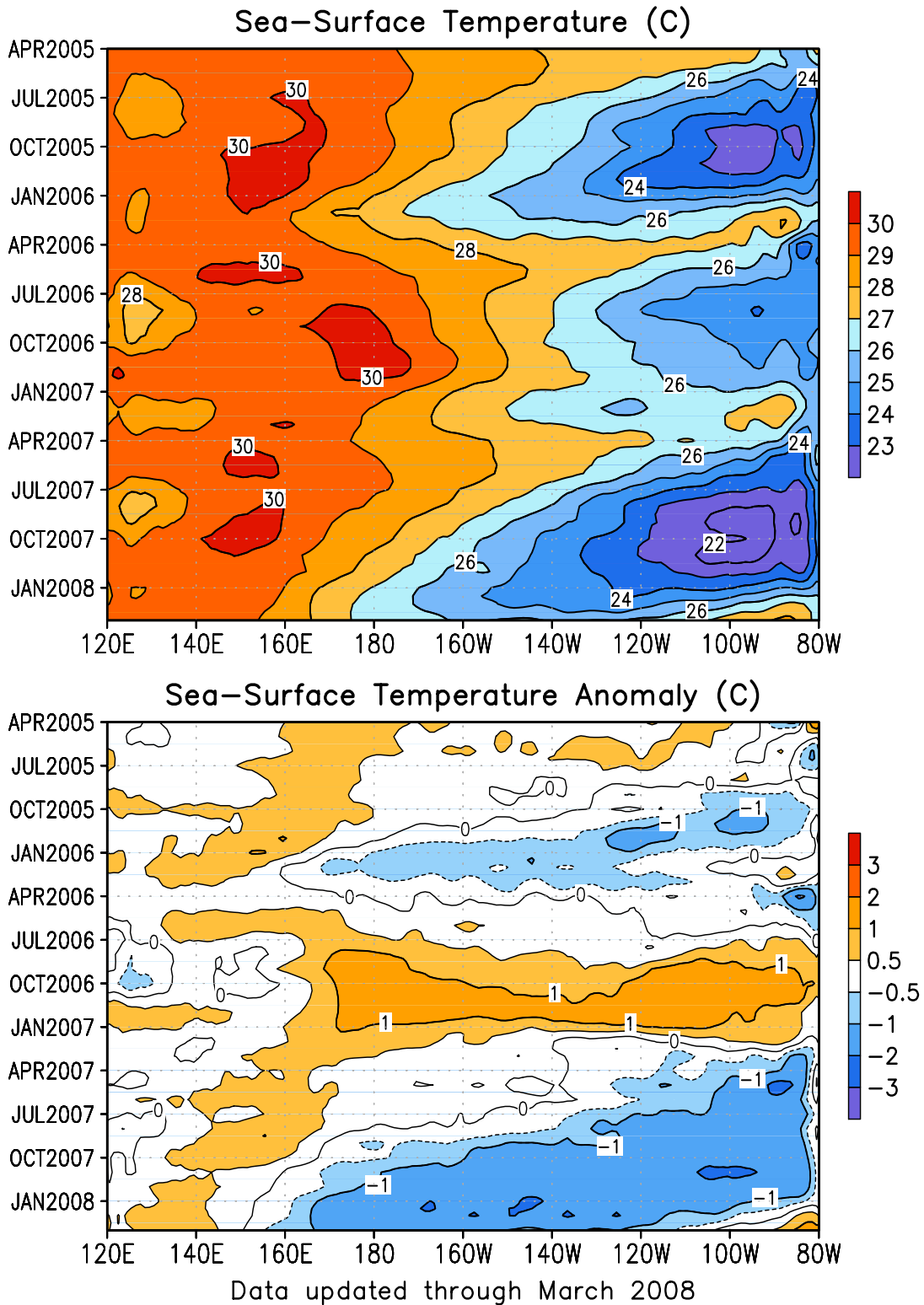


FIGURE T9. Time-longitude section of monthly mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) sea surface temperature (SST) averaged between 5N-5S. Contour interval is 1C (top) and 0.5C (bottom). Dashed contours in bottom panel indicate negative anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1971-2000 base period means (Smith and Reynolds 1998, *J. Climate*, **11**, 3320-3323).

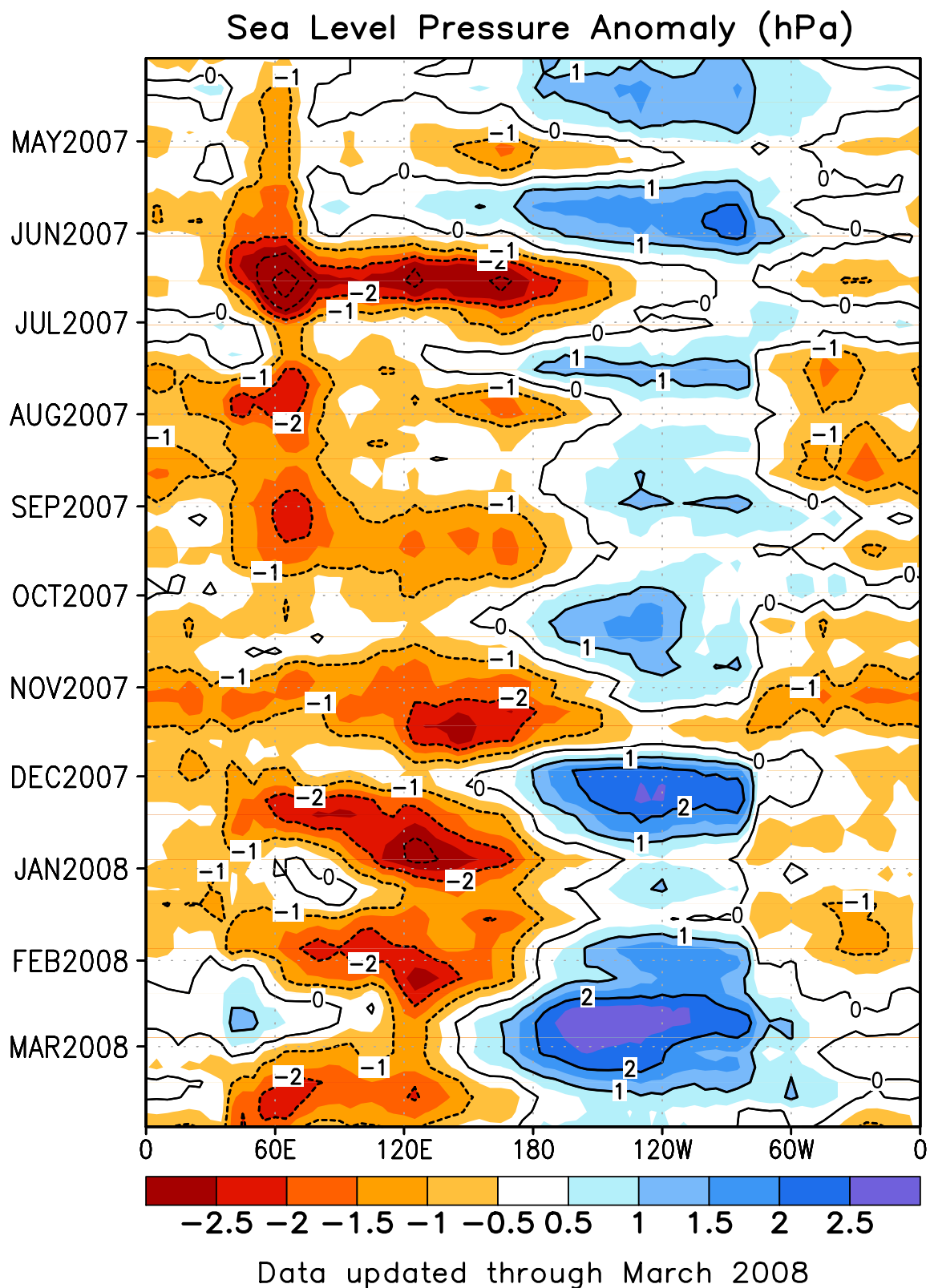
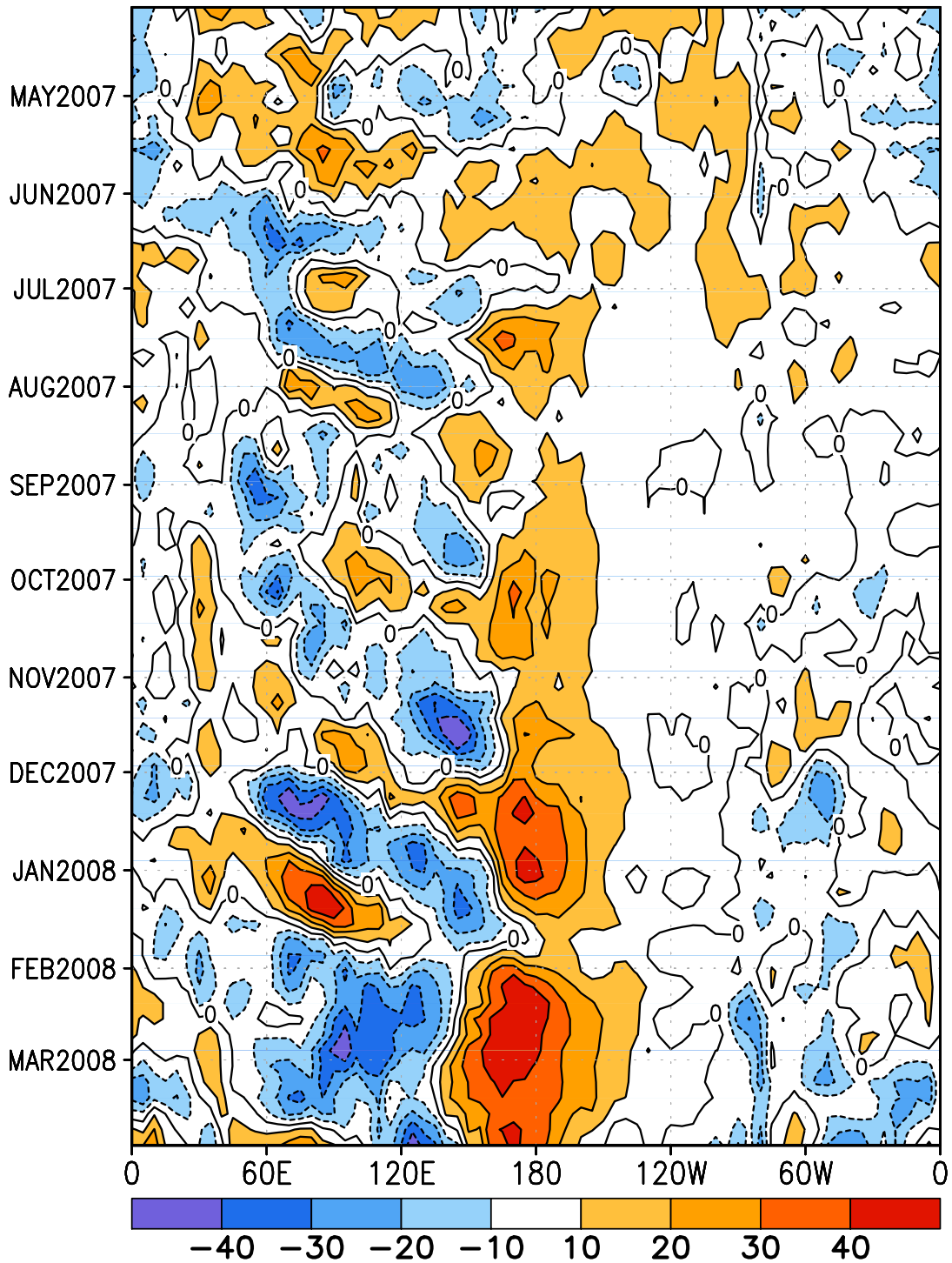


FIGURE T10. Time-longitude section of anomalous sea level pressure (hPa) averaged between 5N-5S (CDAS/Reanalysis). Contour interval is 1 hPa. Dashed contours indicate negative anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1979-1995 base period pentad means. The data are smoothed temporally using a 3-point running average.



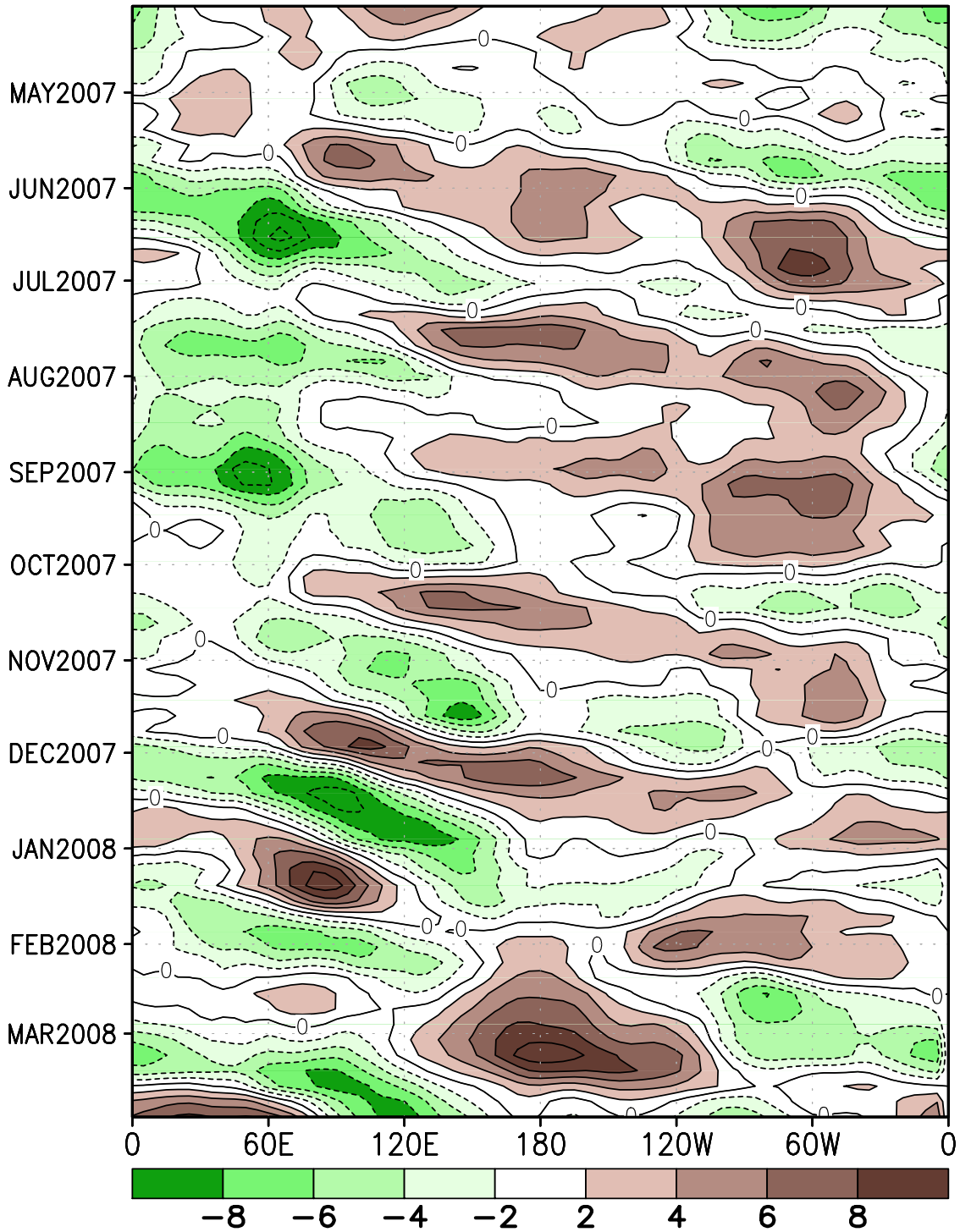
## Outgoing Longwave Radiation Anomaly (W/m<sup>2</sup>)



Data updated through March 2008

FIGURE T11. Time-longitude section of anomalous outgoing longwave radiation averaged between 5N-5S. Contour interval is 15 Wm<sup>-2</sup>. Dashed contours indicate negative anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1979-1995 base period pentad means. The data are smoothed temporally using a 3-point running average.

## 200-hPa Velocity Potential Anomaly



Data updated through March 2008

FIGURE T12. Time-longitude section of anomalous 200-hPa velocity potential averaged between 5N-5S (CDAS/Re-analysis). Contour interval is  $3 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ . Dashed contours indicate negative anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1979-1995 base period pentad means. The data are smoothed temporally using a 3-point running average.



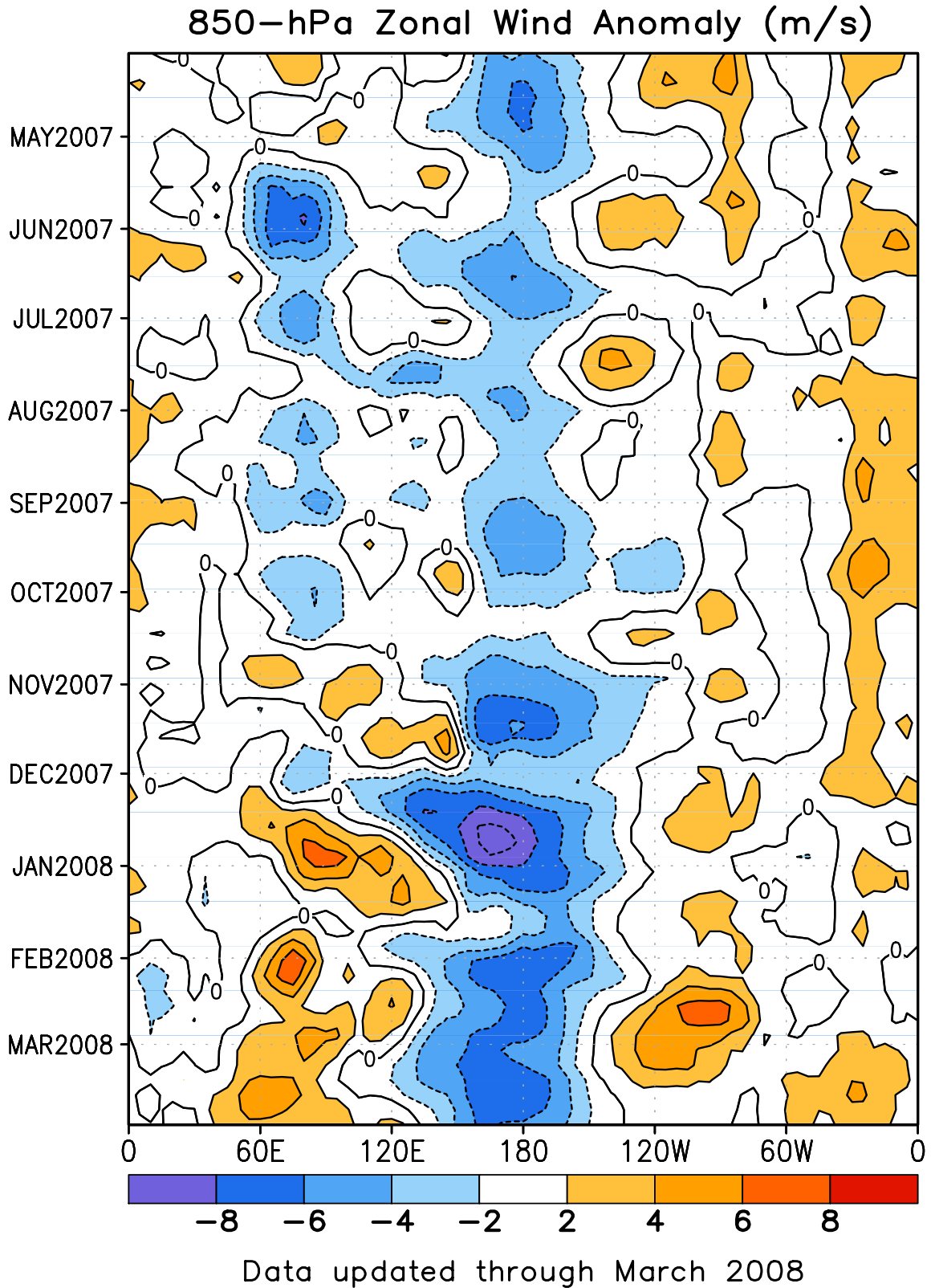


FIGURE T13. Time-longitude section of anomalous 850-hPa zonal wind averaged between 5N-5S (CDAS/Reanalysis). Contour interval is  $2 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ . Dashed contours indicate negative anomalies. Anomalies are departures from the 1979-1995 base period pentad means. The data are smoothed temporally by using a 3-point running average.

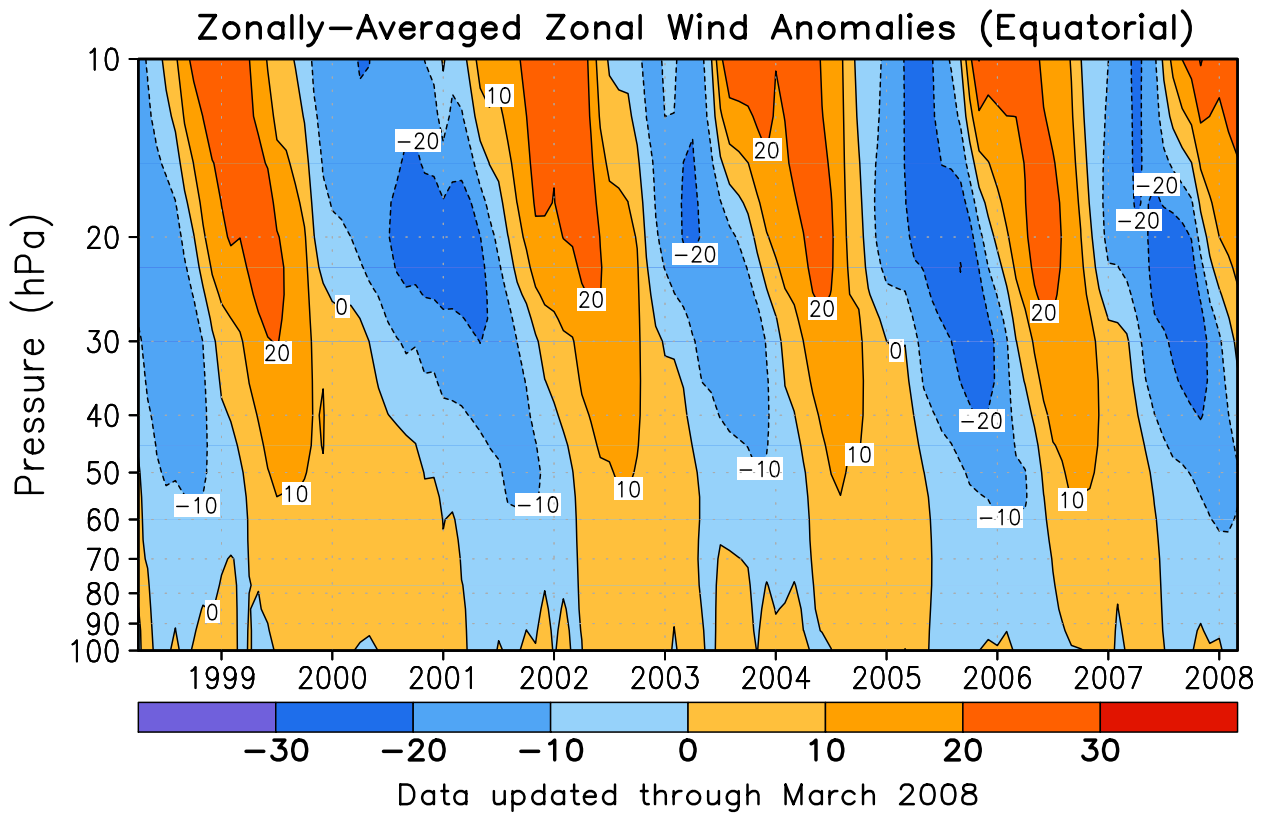


FIGURE T14. Equatorial time-height section of anomalous zonally-averaged zonal wind ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) (CDAS/Reanalysis). Contour interval is  $10 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . Anomalies are departures from the 1979-1995 base period monthly means.

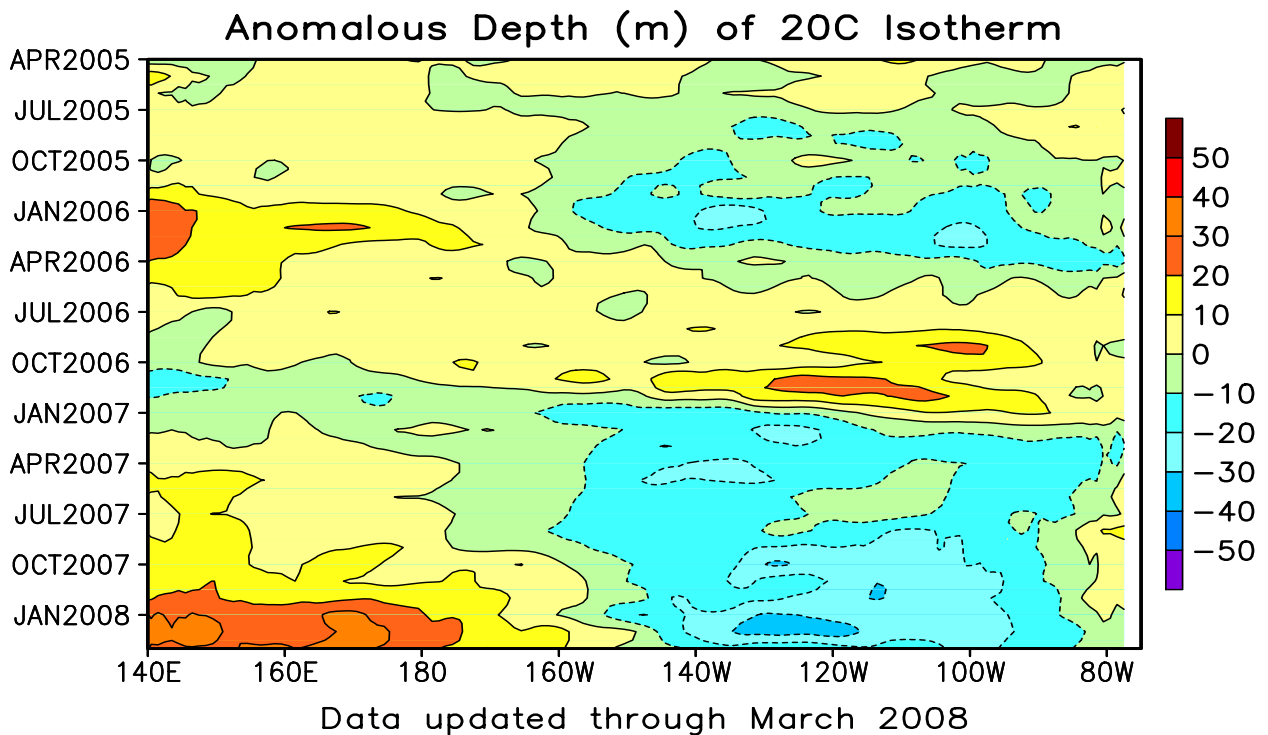
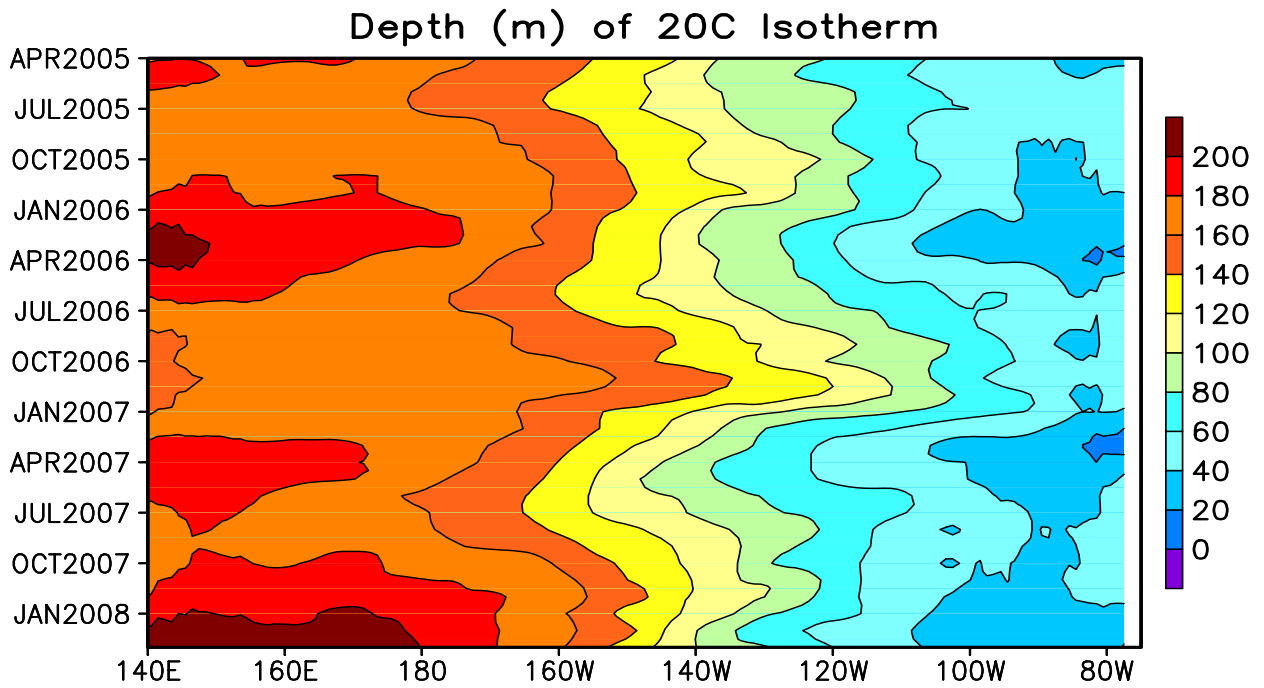


FIGURE T15. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) depth of the 20C isotherm averaged between 5N-5S in the Pacific Ocean. Data are derived from the NCEP's global ocean data assimilation system which assimilates oceanic observations into an oceanic GCM (Behringer, D. W., and Y. Xue, 2004: Evaluation of the 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 1982-2004 base period means.

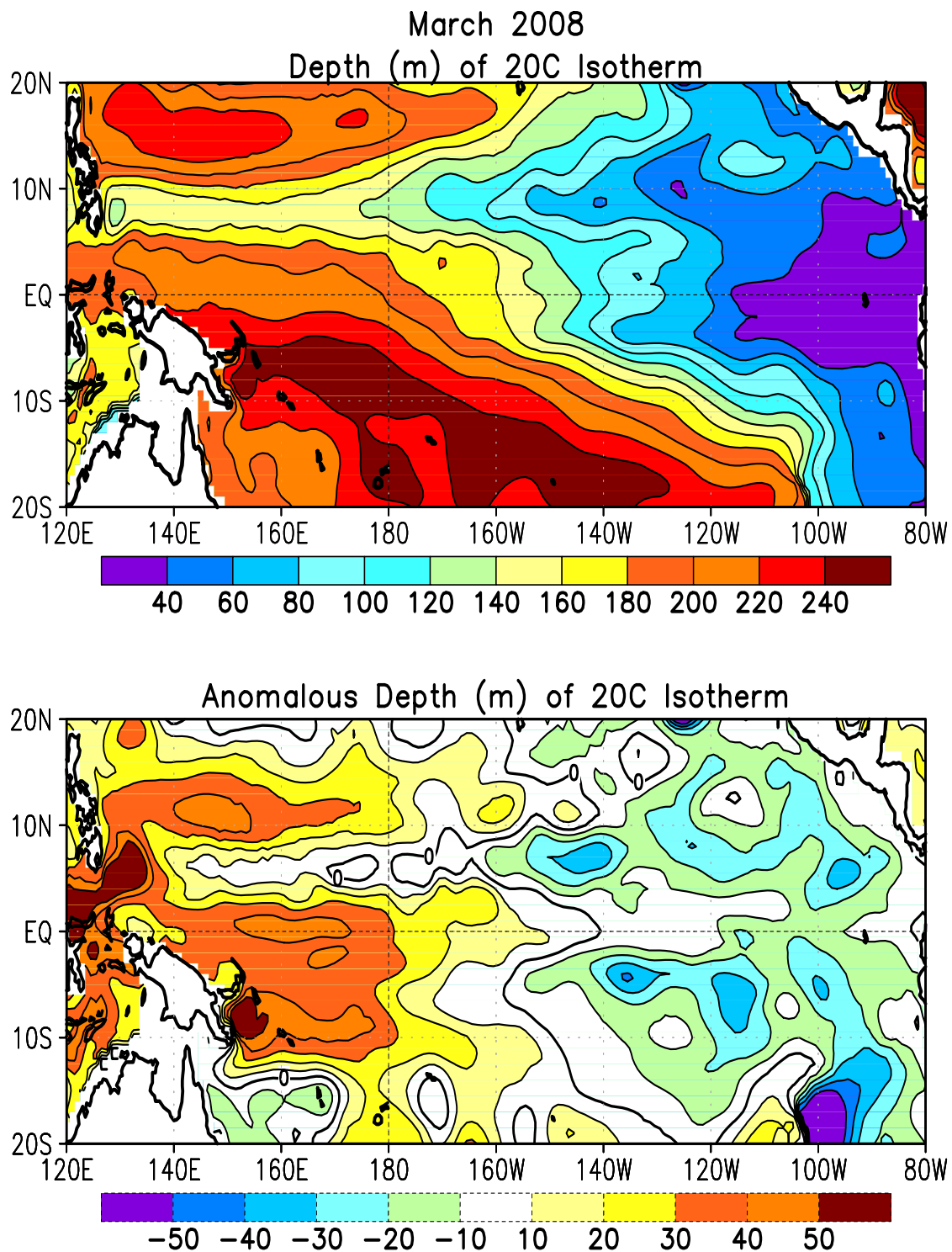
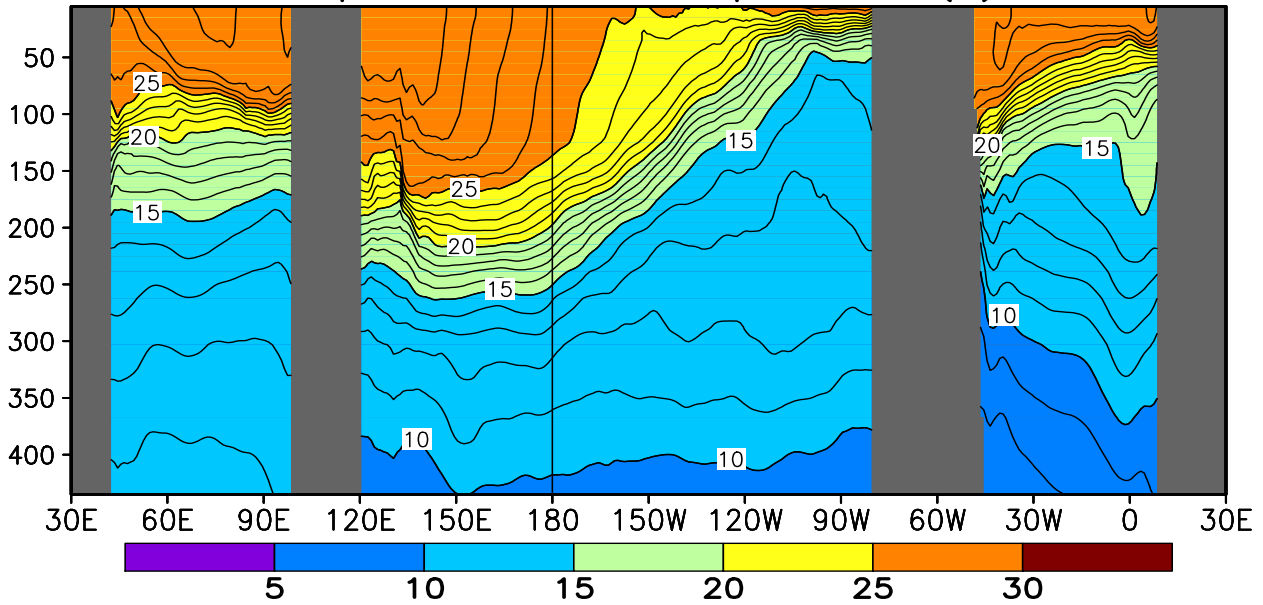


FIGURE T16. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) depth of the 20°C isotherm for MAR 2008. Contour interval is 40 m (top) and 10 m (bottom). Dashed contours in bottom panel indicate negative anomalies. Data are derived from the NCEP’s global ocean data assimilation system version 2 which assimilates oceanic 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 1982–2004 base period means.

March 2008: Depth–Longitude Section  
Equatorial Ocean Temperatures (C)



Equatorial Ocean Temperature Anomalies (C)

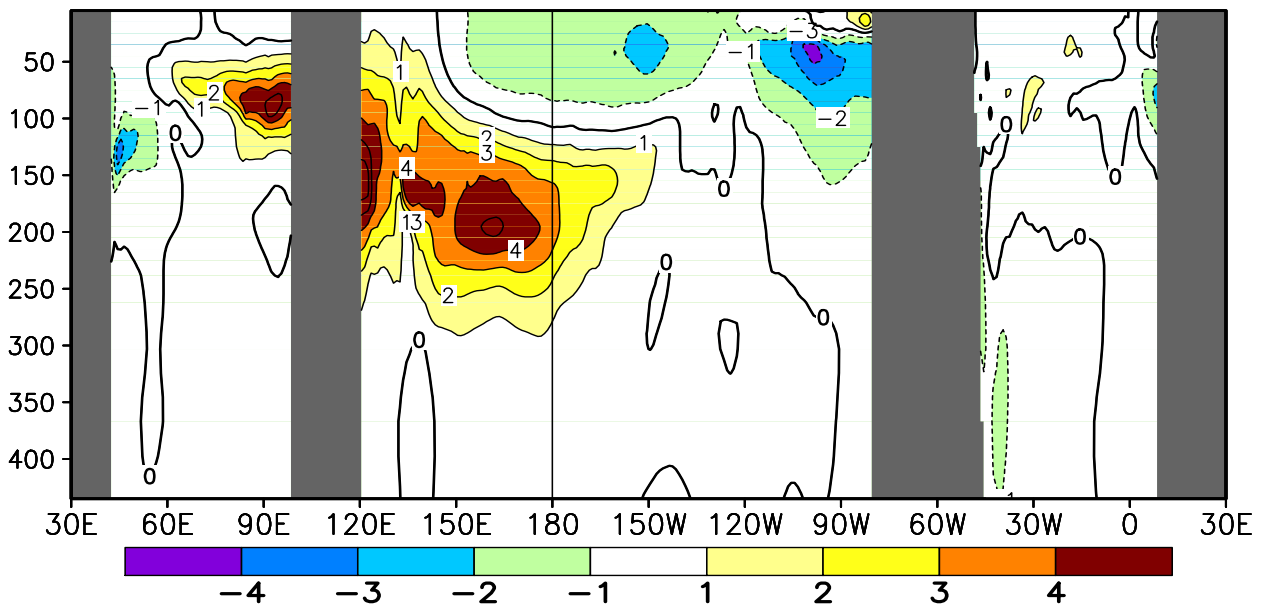


FIGURE T17. Equatorial depth–longitude section of ocean temperature (top) and ocean temperature anomalies (bottom) for MAR 2008. Contour interval is 1°C. Dashed contours in bottom panel indicate negative anomalies. Data are derived from the NCEP’s global ocean data assimilation system version 2 which 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 1982–2004 base period means.

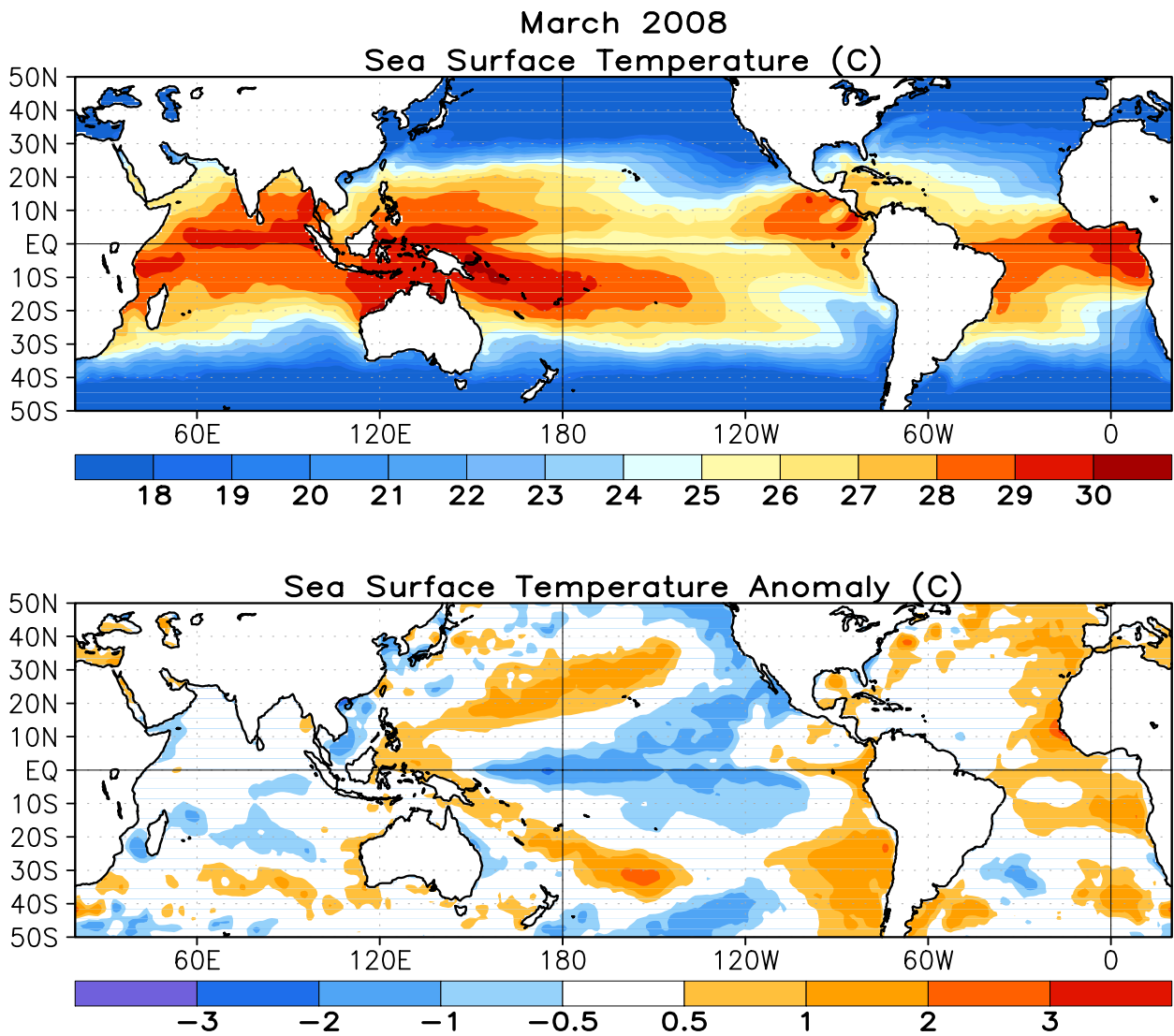


FIGURE T18. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) sea surface temperature (SST). Anomalies are departures from the 1971-2000 base period monthly means (Smith and Reynolds 1998, *J. Climate*, **11**, 3320-3323).

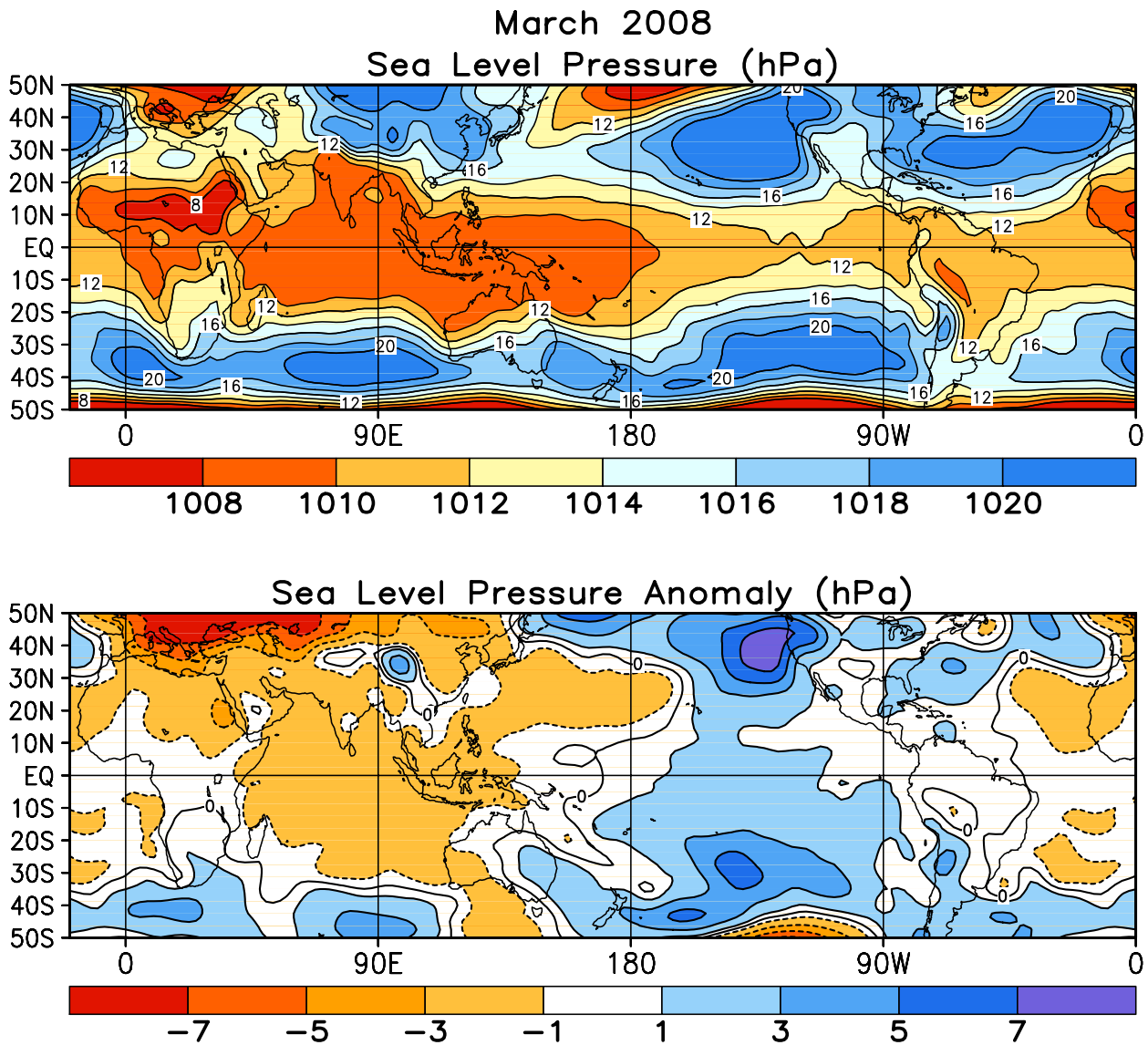


FIGURE T19. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) sea level pressure (SLP) (CDAS/Reanalysis). In top panel, 1000 hPa has been subtracted from contour labels, contour interval is 2 hPa, and values below 1000 hPa are indicated by dashed contours. In bottom panel, anomaly contour interval is 1 hPa and negative anomalies are indicated by dashed contours. Anomalies are departures from the 1979-1995 base period monthly means.



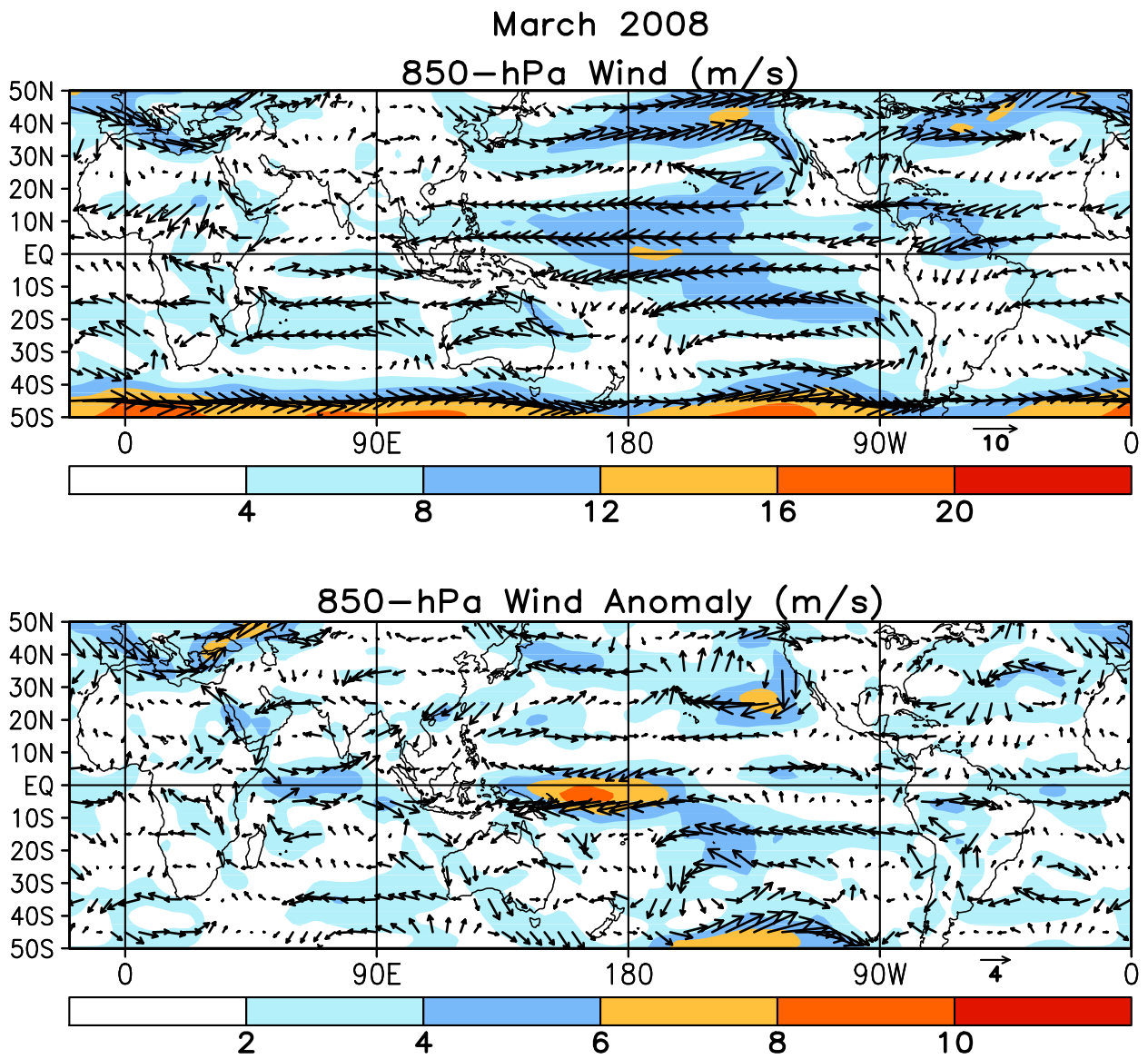


FIGURE T20. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) 850-hPa vector wind (CDAS/Reanalysis) for MAR 2008. Contour interval for isotachs is  $5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  (top) and  $3 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  (bottom). Anomalies are departures from the 1979–95 base period monthly means.



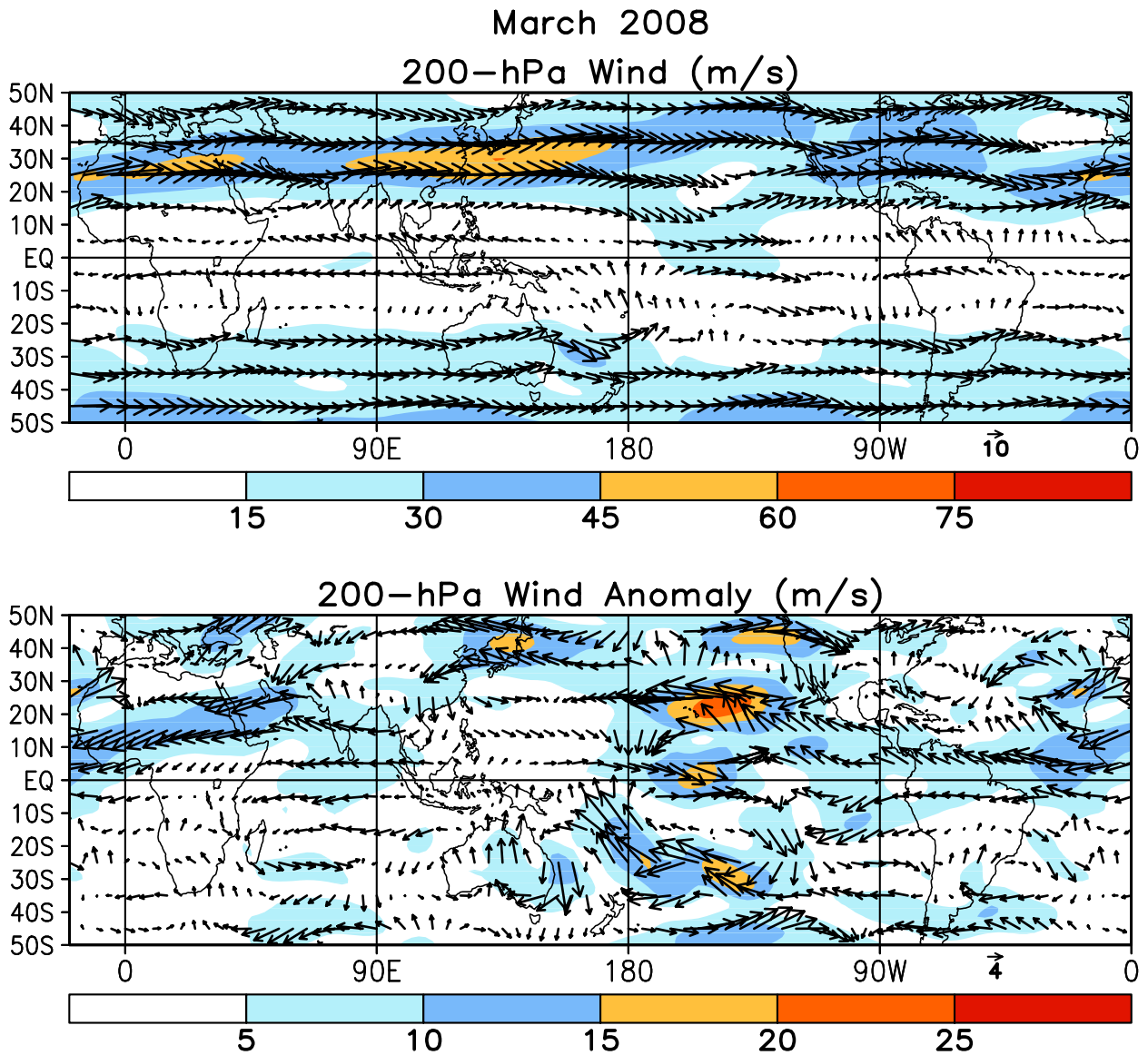


FIGURE T21. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) 200-hPa vector wind (CDAS/Reanalysis) for MAR 2008. Contour interval for isotachs is  $10 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  (top) and  $5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  (bottom). Anomalies are departures from 1979–95 base period monthly means.

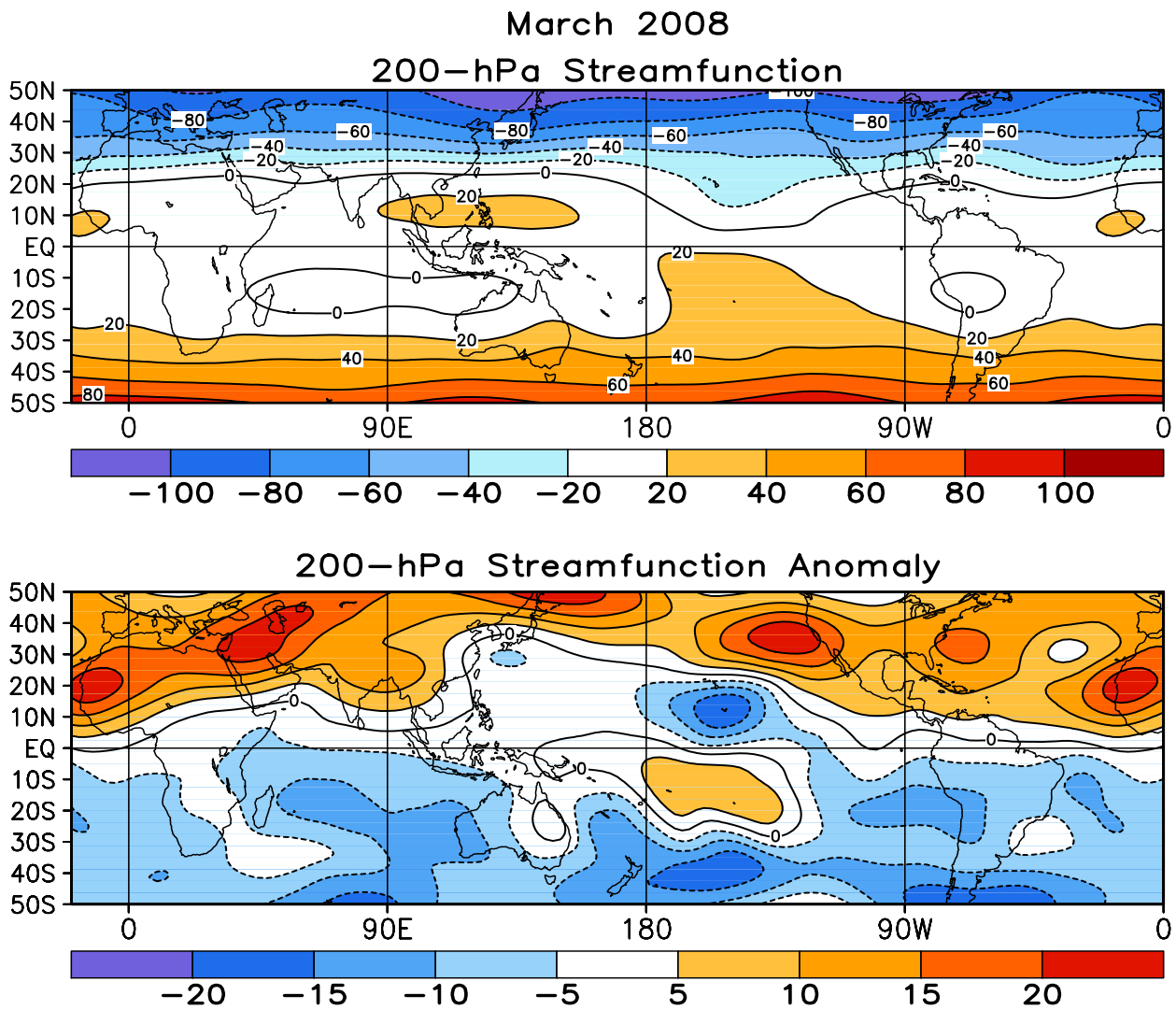


FIGURE T22. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) 200-hPa streamfunction (CDAS/Reanalysis). Contour interval is  $20 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$  (top) and  $5 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$  (bottom). Negative (positive) values are indicated by dashed (solid) lines. The non-divergent component 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 1979-1995 base period monthly means.

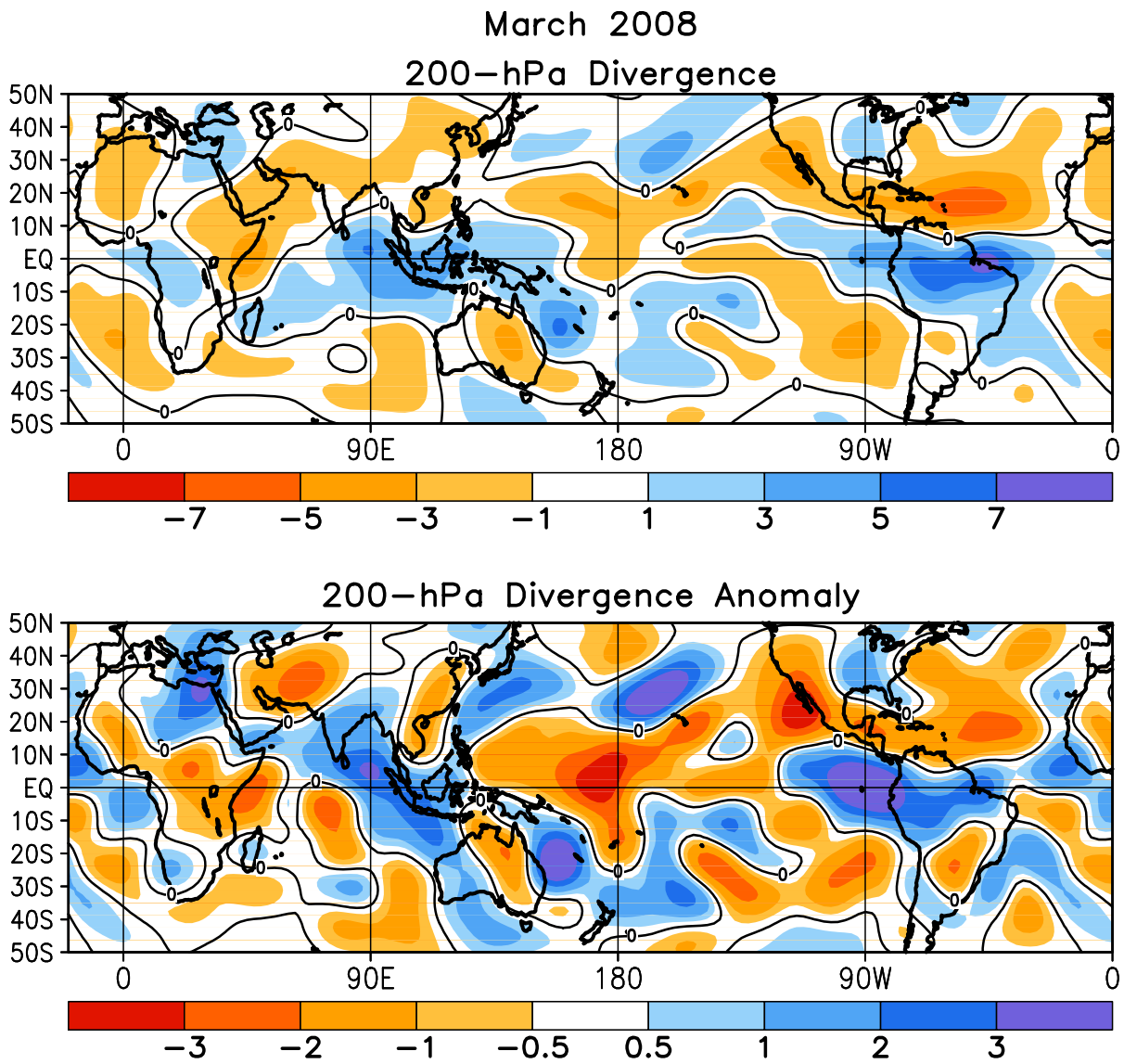


FIGURE T23. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) 200-hPa divergence (CDAS/Reanalysis). Divergence and anomalous divergence are shaded blue. Convergence and anomalous convergence are shaded orange. Anomalies are departures from the 1979-1995 base period monthly means.

March 2008

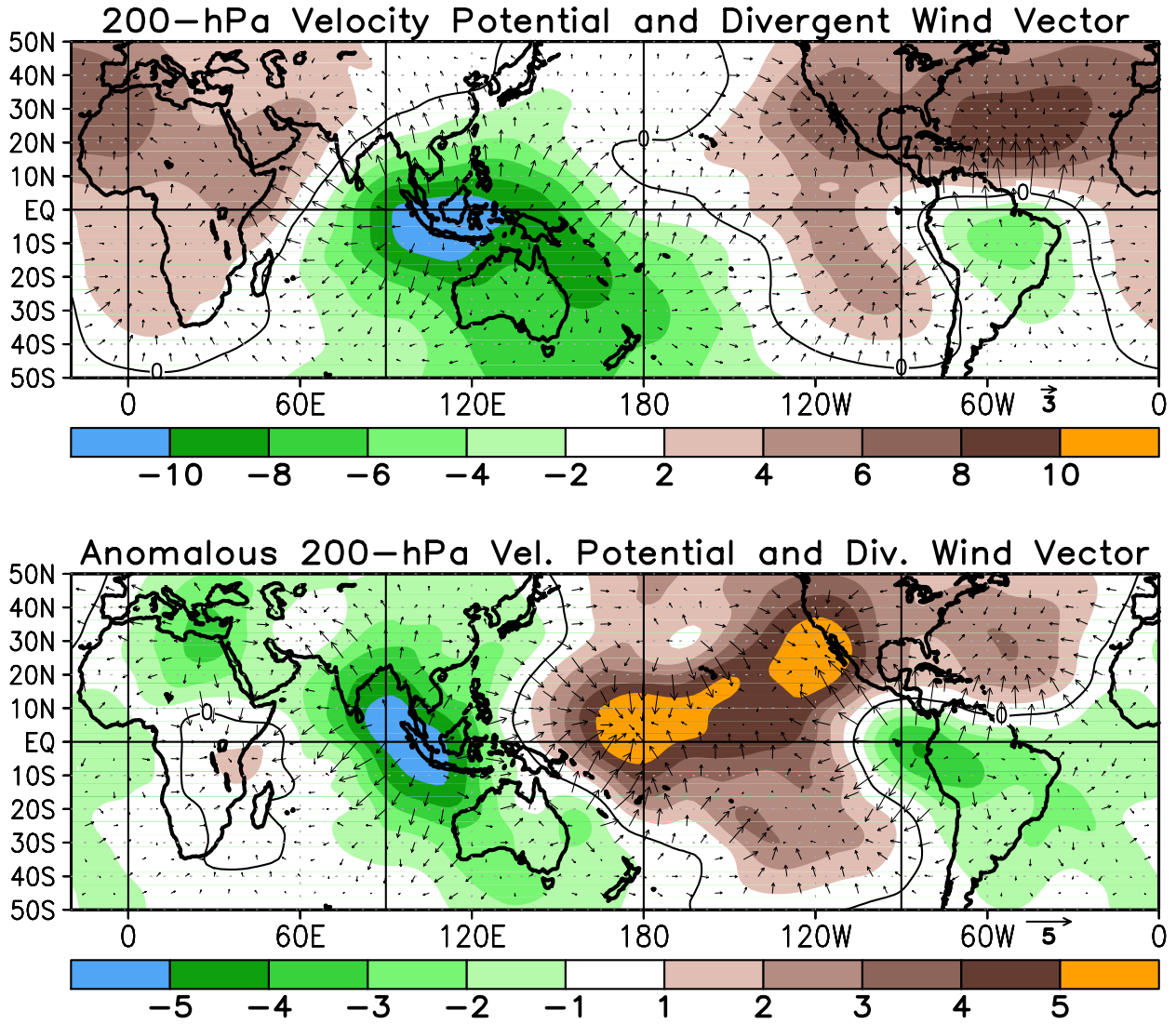


FIGURE T24. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) 200-hPa velocity potential ( $10^6\text{m}^2\text{s}$ ) and divergent wind (CDAS/Reanalysis). Anomalies are departures from the 1979-1995 base period monthly means.

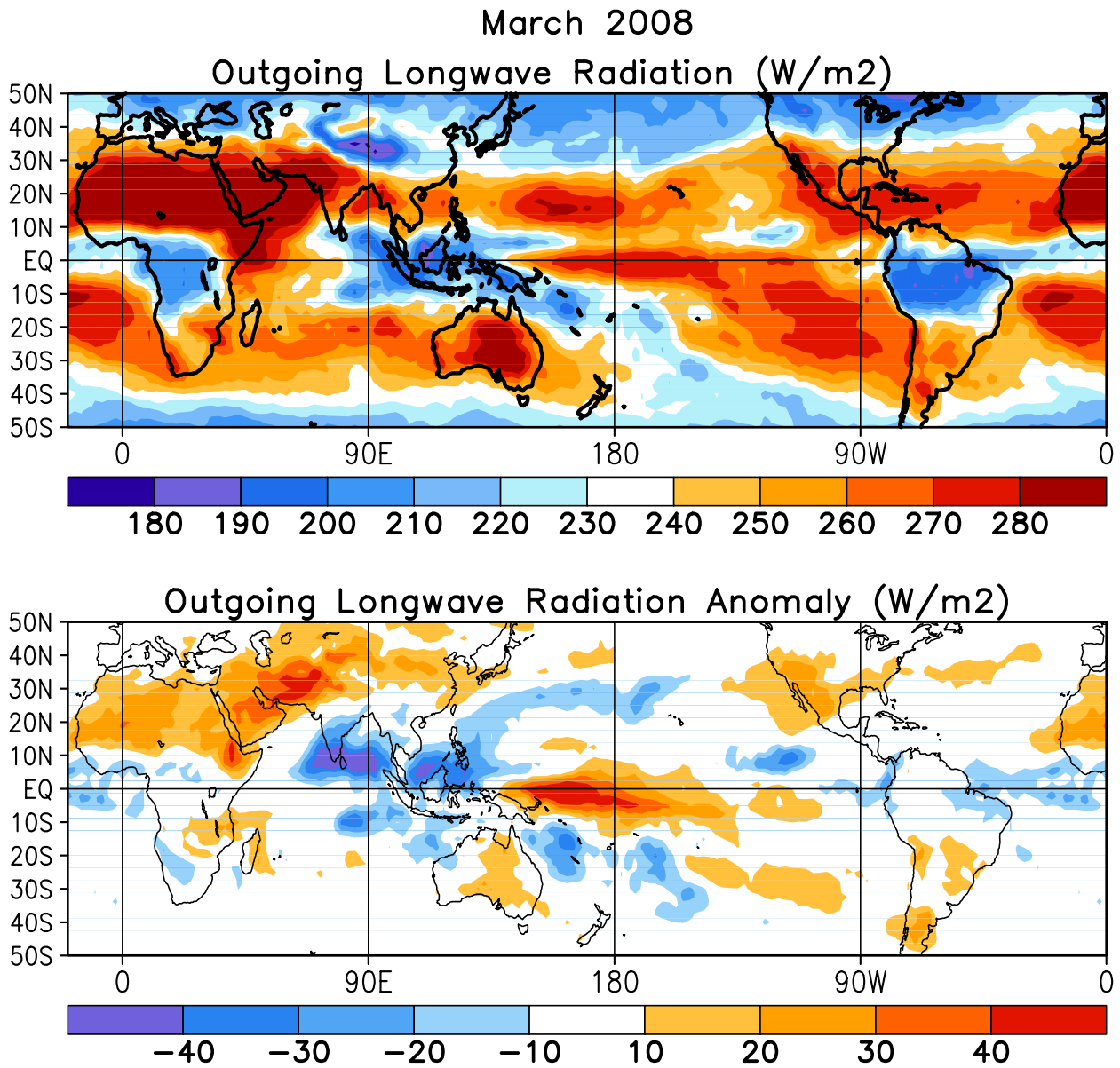


FIGURE T25. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) outgoing longwave radiation for MAR 2008 (NOAA 18 AVHRR IR window channel measurements by NESDIS/ORR). OLR contour interval is  $20 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$  with values greater than  $280 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$  indicated by dashed contours. Anomaly contour interval is  $15 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$  with positive values indicated by dashed contours and light shading. Anomalies are departures from the 1979–95 base period monthly means.

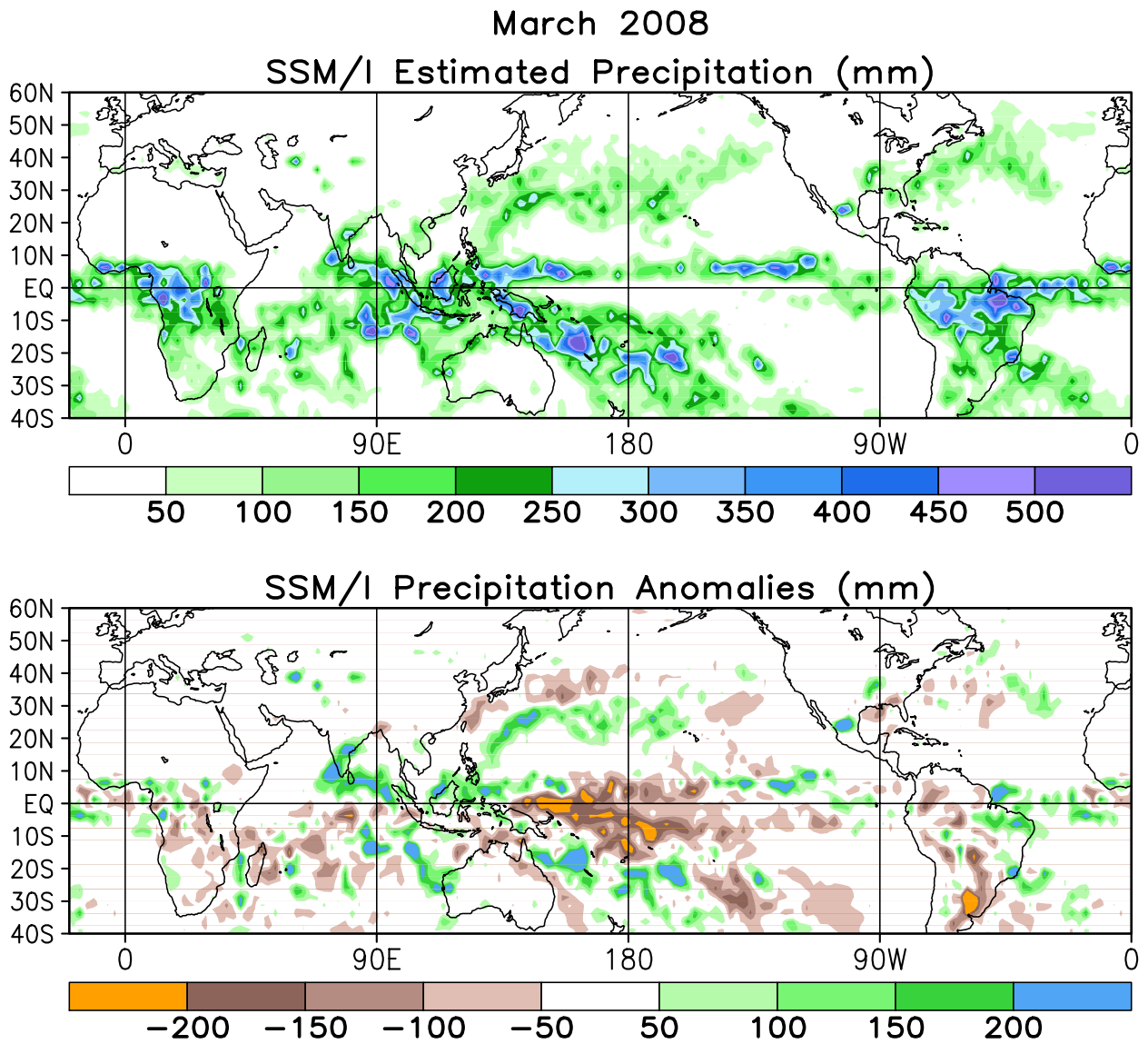


FIGURE T26. Estimated total (top) and anomalous (bottom) rainfall (mm) based on the Special Sensor Microwave/Imager (SSM/I) precipitation index (Ferraro 1997, *J. Geophys. Res.*, **102**, 16715-16735). Anomalies are computed from the 1987-2006 base period monthly means. Anomalies have been smoothed for display purposes.



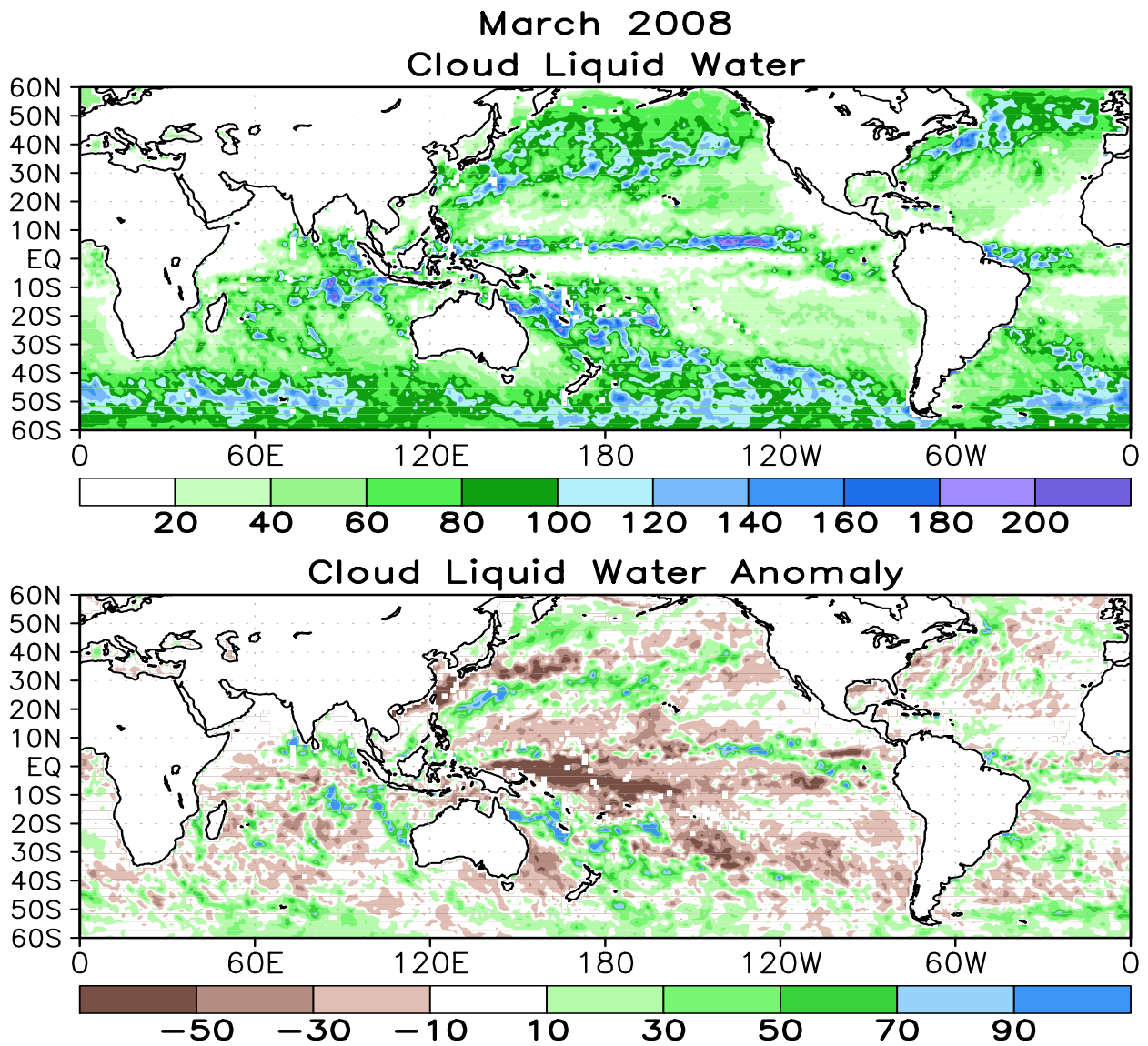


FIGURE T27. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) cloud liquid water ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ ) based on the Special Sensor Microwave/Imager (SSM/I) (Weng et al 1997: *J. Climate*, **10**, 1086-1098). Anomalies are calculated from the 1987-2006 base period means.

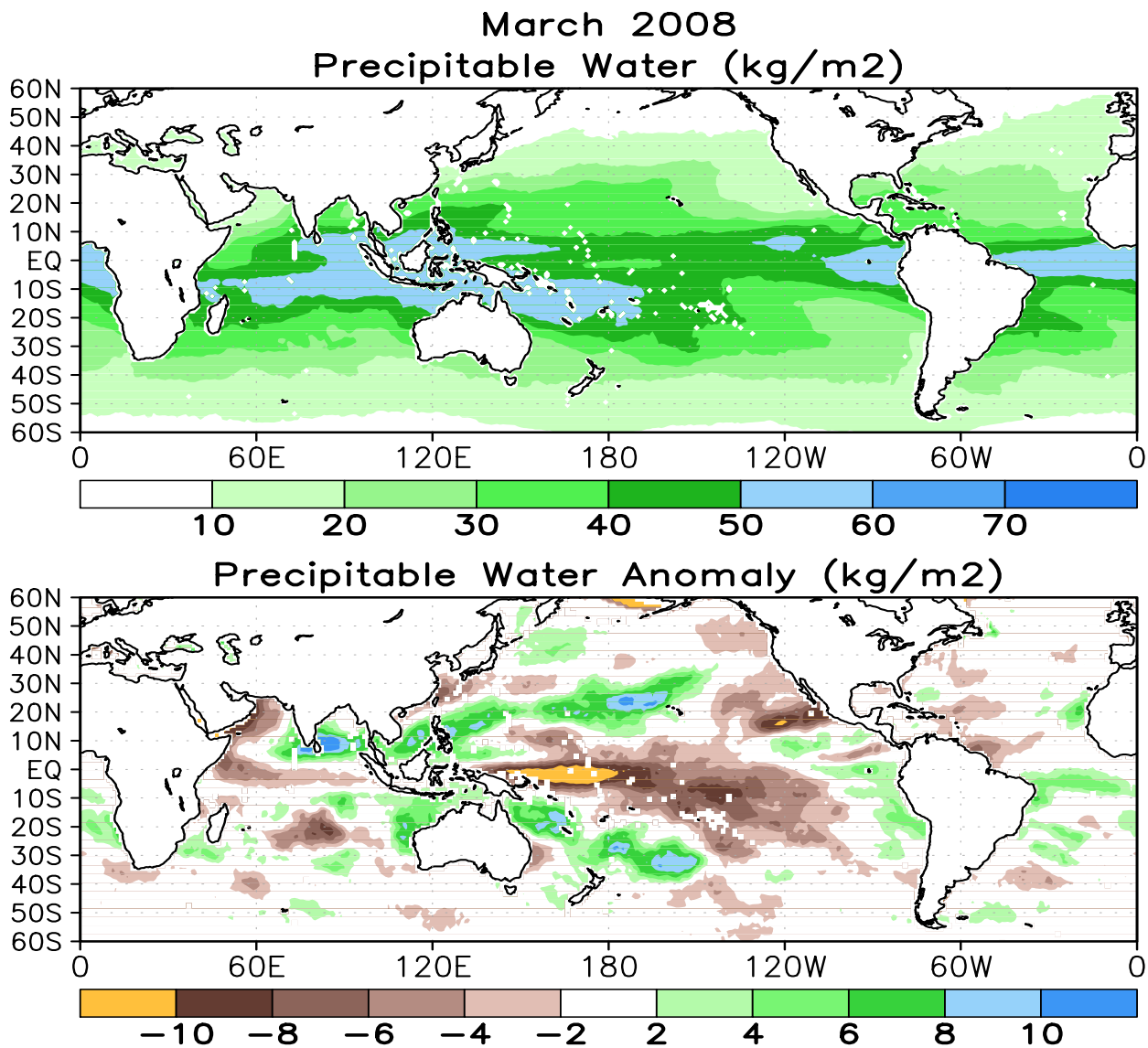


FIGURE T28. Mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) vertically integrated water vapor or precipitable water ( $\text{kg m}^{-2}$ ) based on the Special Sensor Microwave/Imager (SSM/I) (Ferraro et. al, 1996: *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, **77**, 891-905). Anomalies are calculated from the 1987-2006 base period means.



March 2008  
Divergence and East–West Divergent Circulation  
Mean

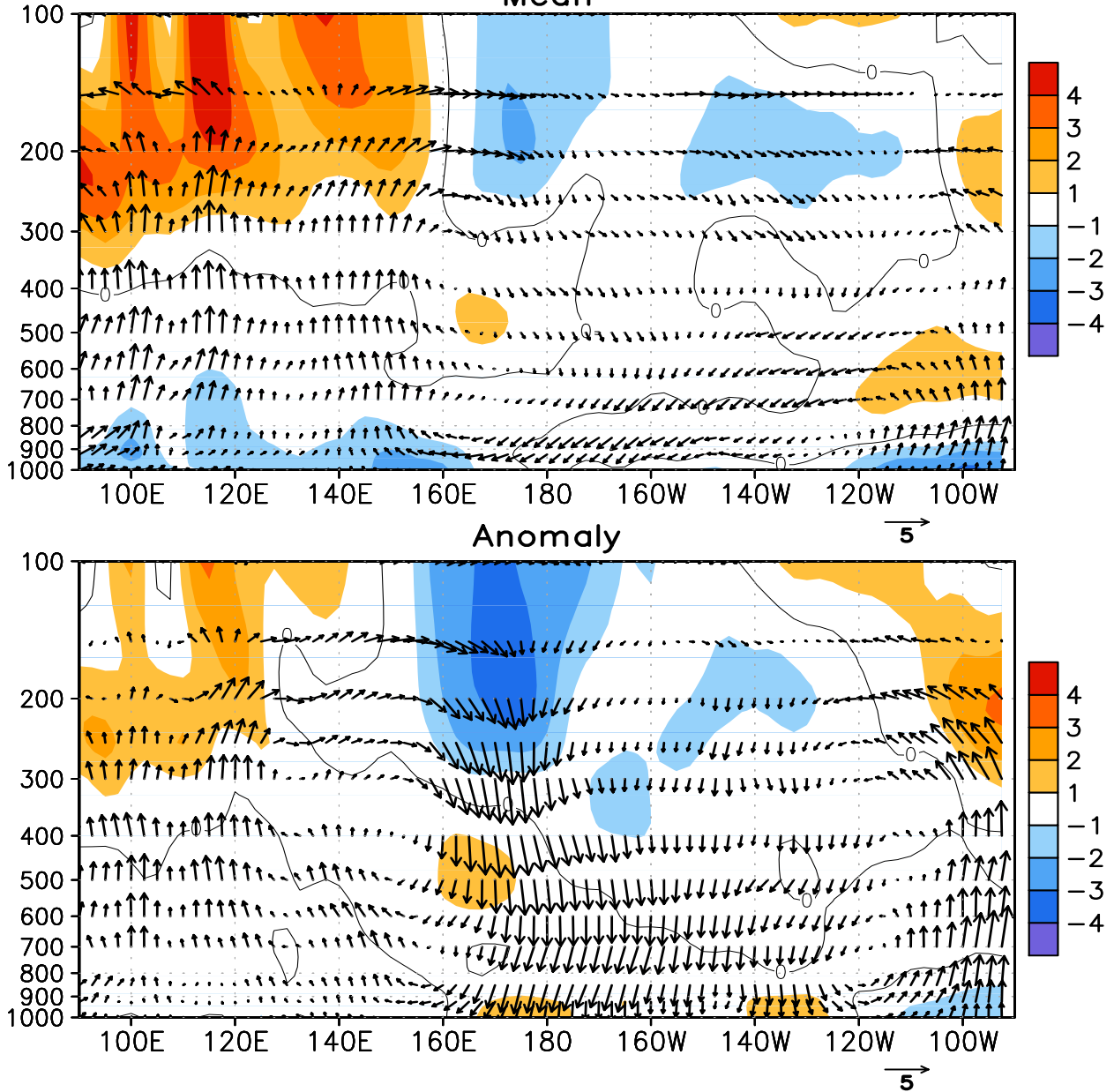


FIGURE T29. Pressure-longitude section (100E–80W) of the mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) divergence (contour interval is  $1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) and divergent circulation averaged between 5N–5S. The divergent circulation is represented by vectors of combined pressure vertical velocity 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 1979–1995 base period monthly means.

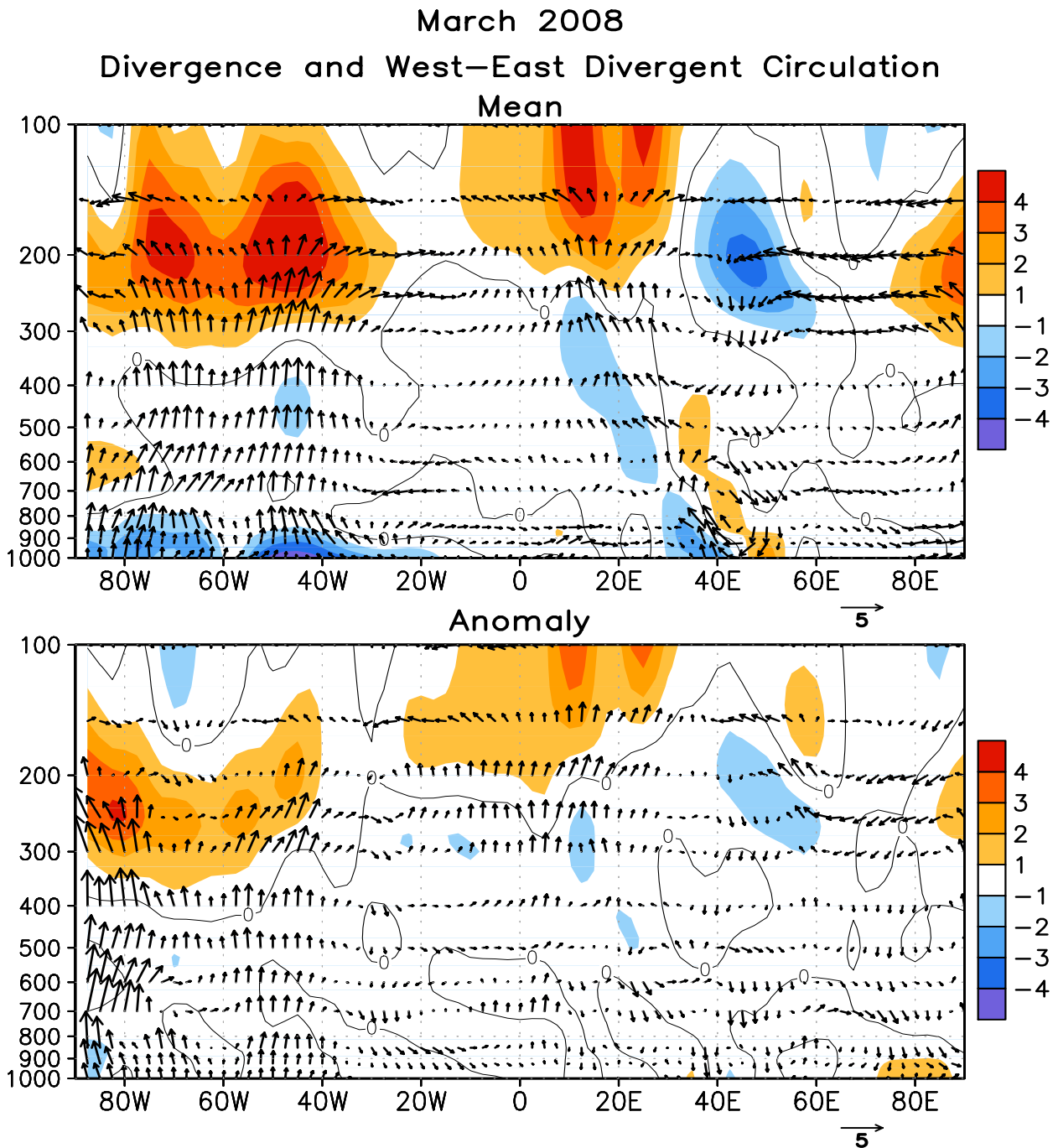


FIGURE T30. Pressure-longitude section (80W-100E) of the mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) divergence (contour interval is  $1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) and divergent circulation averaged between 5N-5S. The divergent circulation is represented by vectors of combined pressure vertical velocity 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 1979-1995 base period monthly means.

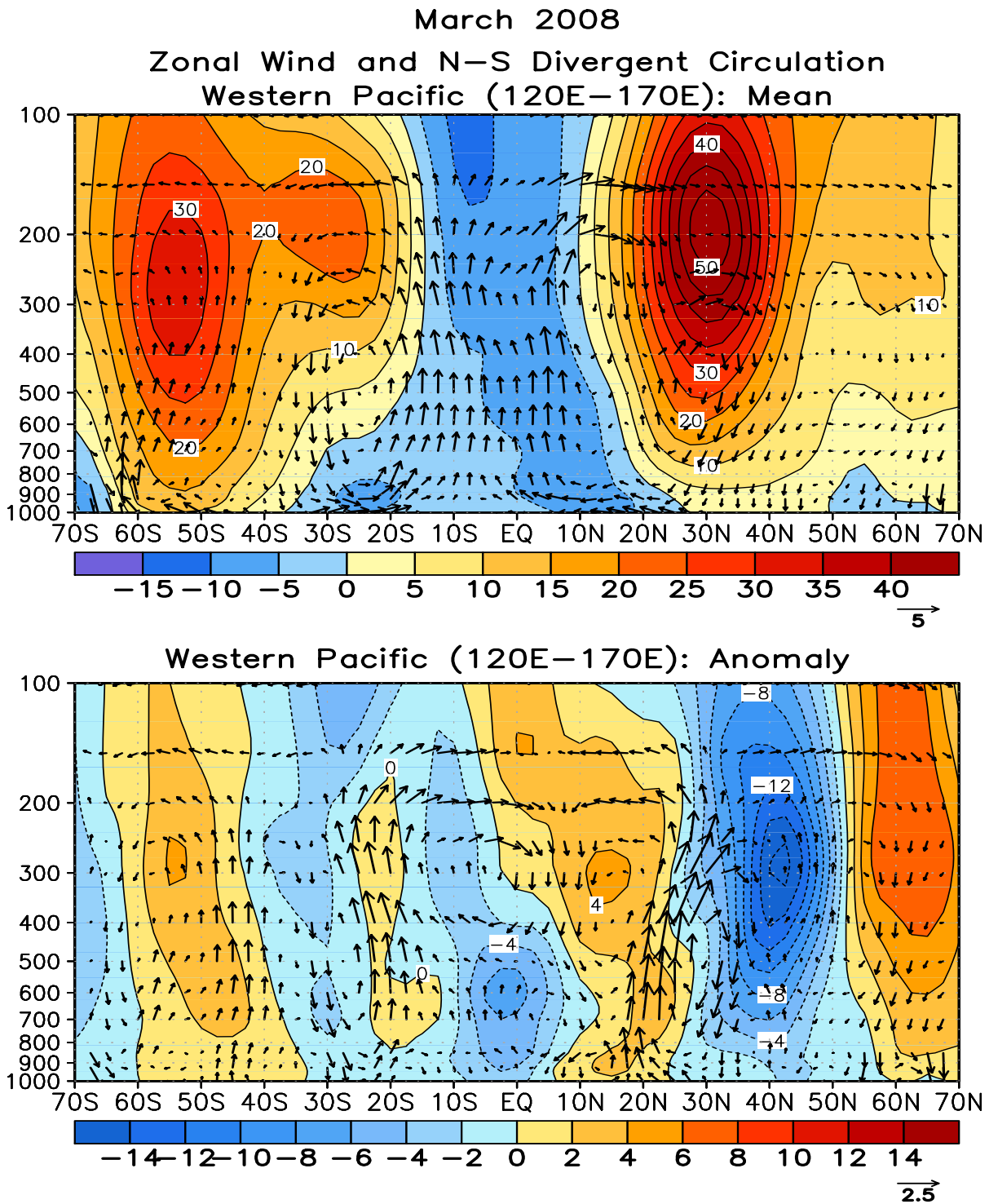


FIGURE T31. Pressure-latitude section of the mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) zonal wind ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) and divergent circulation averaged over the west Pacific sector (120E-170E). The divergent circulation is represented by vectors of combined pressure vertical velocity and the divergent component 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 1979-1995 base period monthly means.

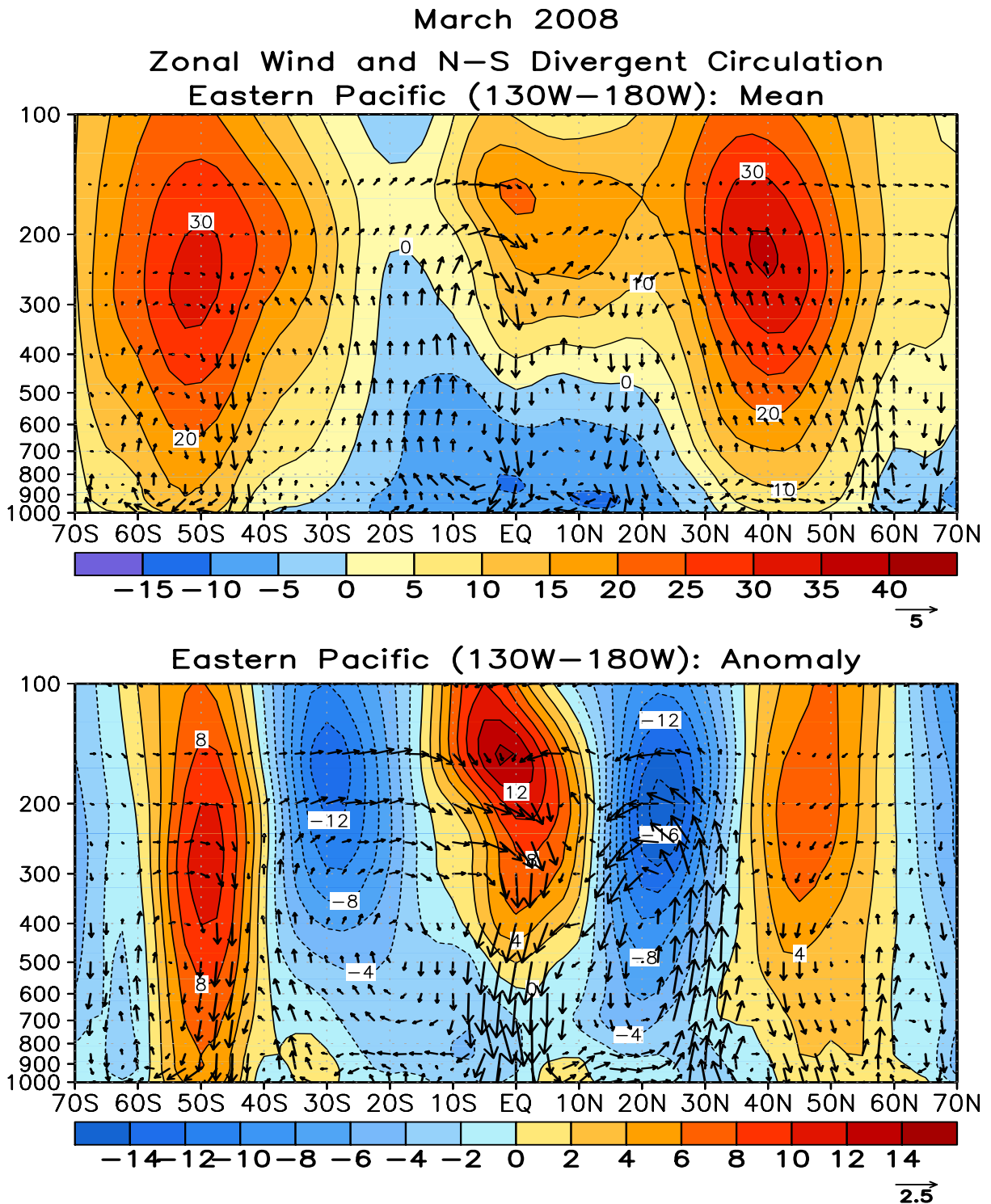
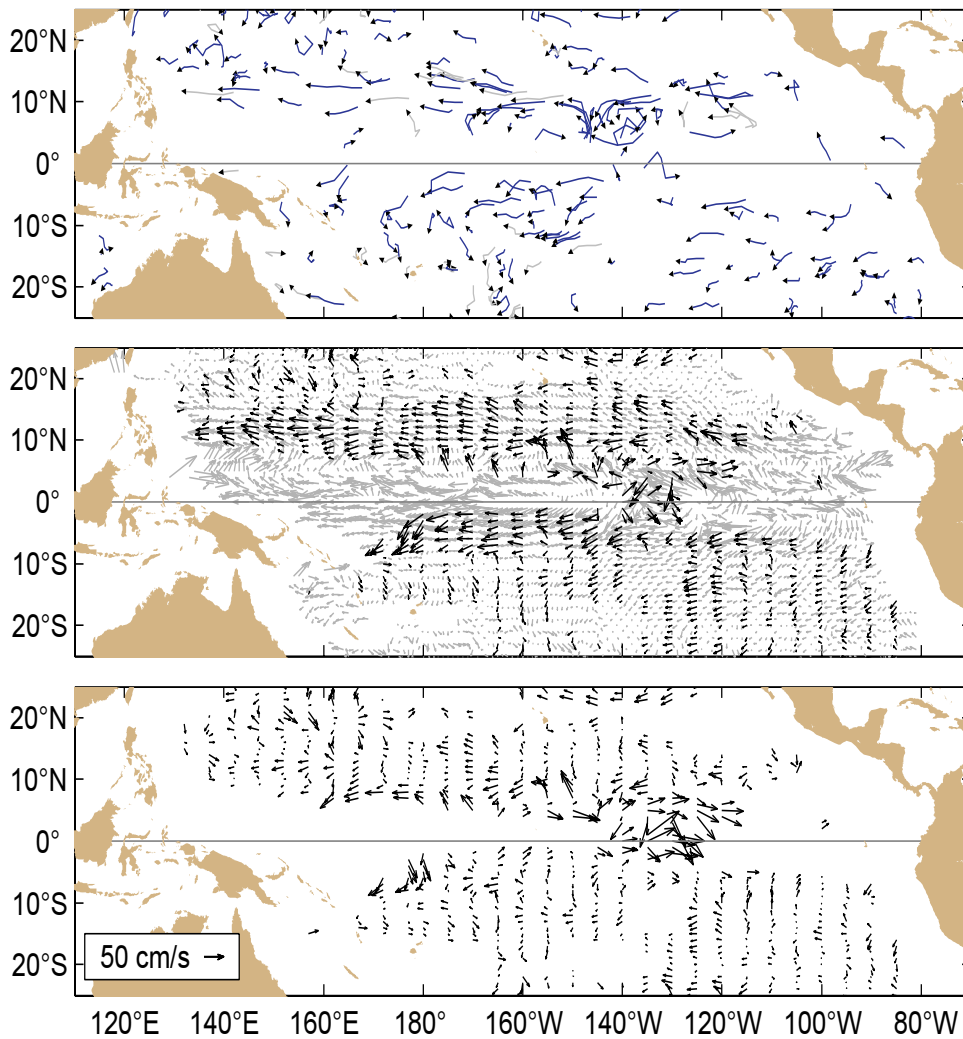


FIGURE T32. Pressure-latitude section of the mean (top) and anomalous (bottom) zonal wind ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) and divergent circulation averaged over the central Pacific sector (130W-180W). The divergent circulation is represented by vectors of combined pressure vertical velocity and the divergent 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 1979-1995 base period monthly means.

During March 2008, 307 satellite-tracked surface drifting buoys, 77% with subsurface drogues attached for measuring mixed layer currents, were reporting from the tropical Pacific. As seen last month, westward anomalies were observed throughout most of the tropical Pacific basin, except in the region 0-8N, 120-140W. A number of drifters in this region exhibited strong eastward anomalies, but were close together and may have been advected by a single feature (e.g., a tropical instability wave) rather than reflecting a larger-scale anomaly. Large scale westward anomalies along 10N were 20 cm/s, as seen for many months now, and were 0-10 cm/s south of the equator. Cold SST anomalies (-0.5 to -3.0C) persisted across the basin between 12S and 15N, while most drifters south of 20S measured SST warmer than normal March values by +0.5 to +1.5C. Several drifters between 95W and the South American coast measured SST warmer by +1.5 to +3.0C.



**Figure A1.1 Top:** Movements of drifting buoys in the tropical Pacific Ocean during March 2008. The linear segments of each trajectory represent a one week displacement. Trajectories of buoys which have lost their subsurface drogues are gray; those with drogues are black.

**Middle:** Monthly mean currents calculated from all buoys 1993-2002 (gray), and currents measured by the drogued buoys this month (black) smoothed by an optimal filter.

**Bottom:** Anomalies from the climatological monthly mean currents for this month.



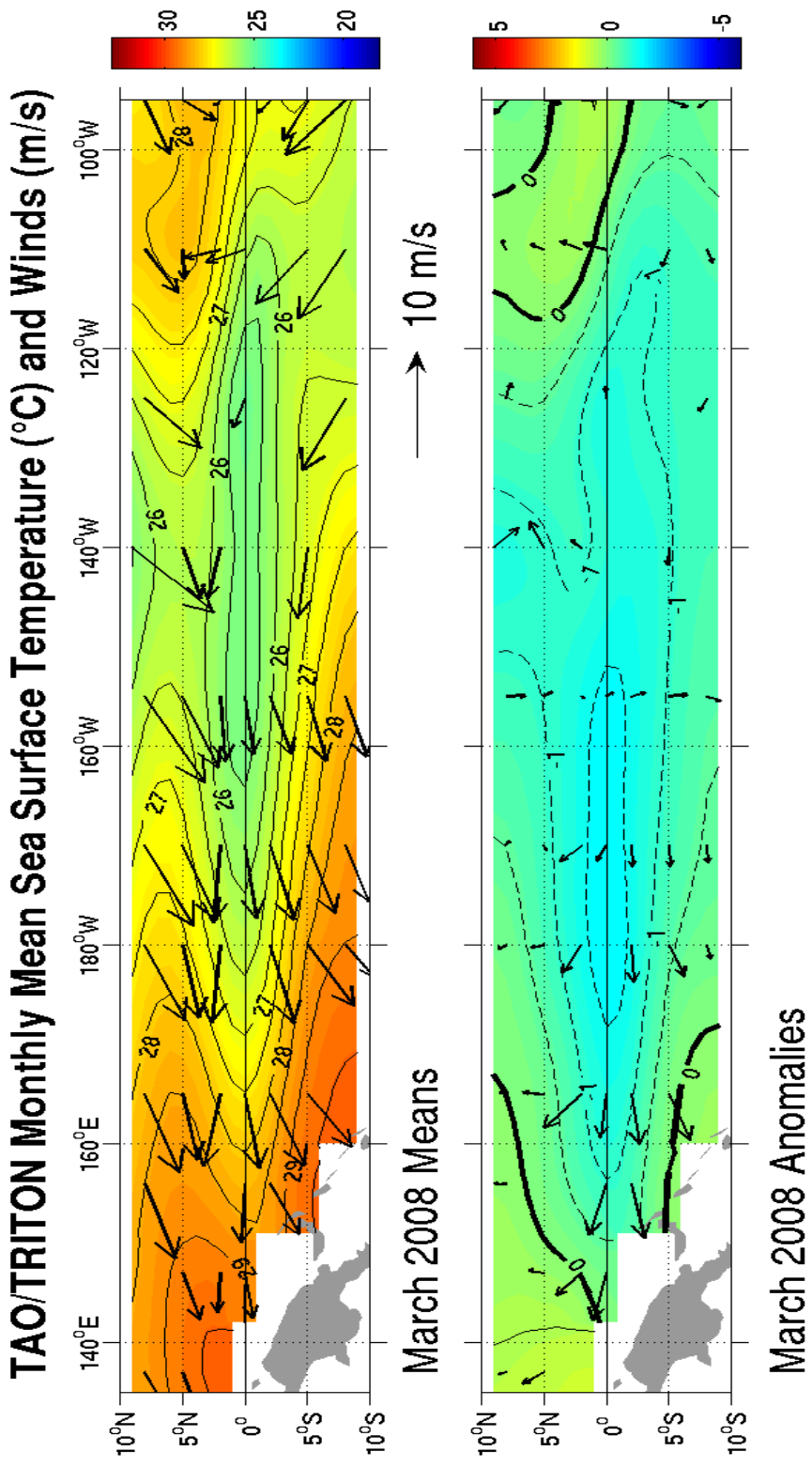


FIGURE A1.2. Wind Vectors and sea surface temperature (SSTs) from the TAO/TRITON mooring array. Top panel shows monthly means; bottom panel shows monthly anomalies from the COADS wind climatology and Reynolds SST climatology (1971-2000). The TAO/TRITON array is presently supported by the United States (NOAA), Japan (STA), and France (IRD). Further information is available from Richard L. Crout (NOAA/NDBC).

### Five Day Zonal Wind, SST, and 20°C Isotherm Depth 2°S to 2°N Average

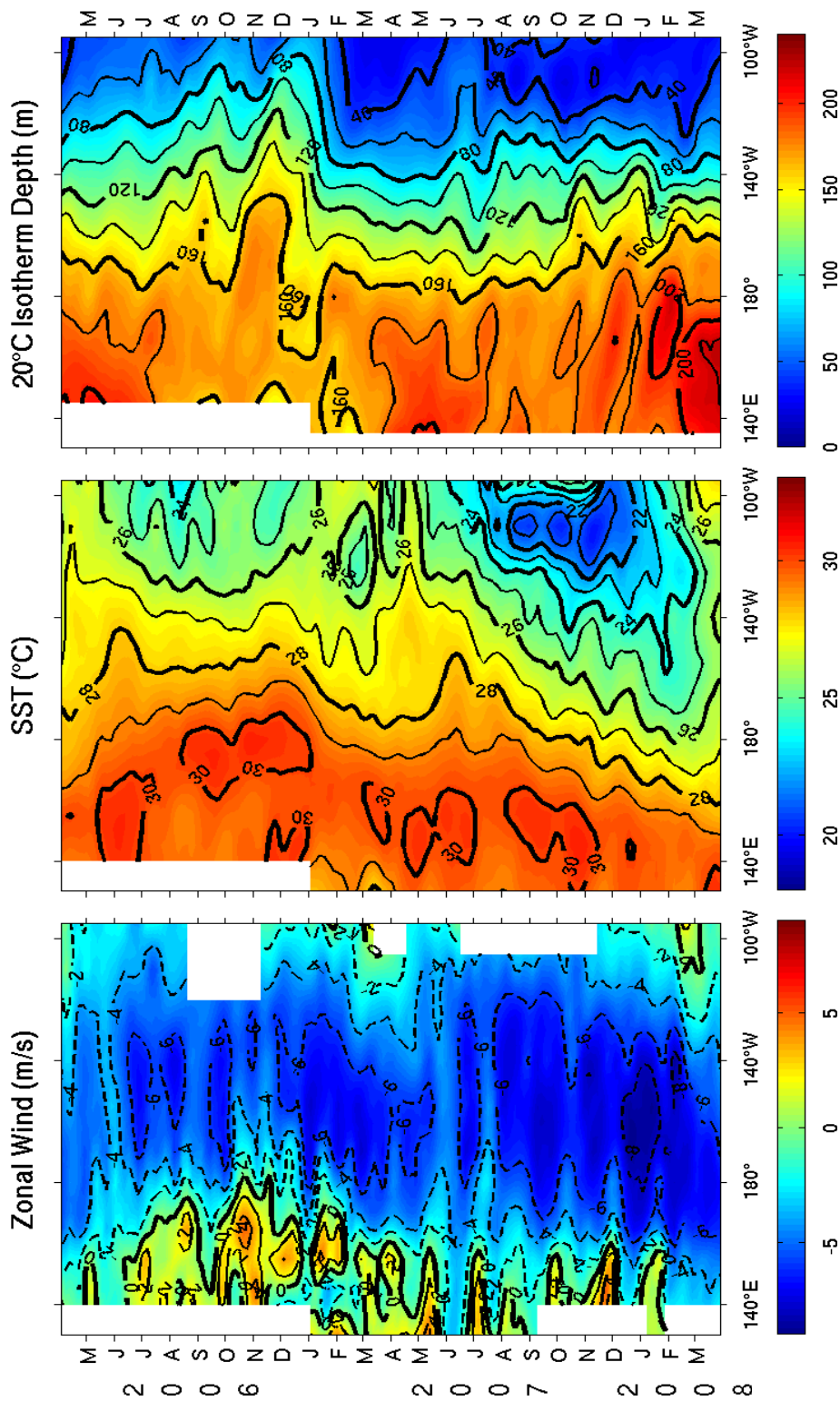


FIGURE A1.3. Time-longitude sections of surface zonal winds ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ), sea surface temperature (C) and 20C isotherm depth (m) for the past 24 months. Analysis is based on 5-day averages of moored time series data from the TAO/TRITON array. Positive winds are westerly. Squares on the abscissas indicate longitude where data were available at the start of the time series (top) and end of the time series (bottom). The TAO/TRITON array is presently supported by the United States (NOAA), Japan (STA), and France (IRD). Further information is available from Richard L. Crout (NOAA/NDBC)

### Five Day Zonal Wind, SST, and 20°C Isotherm Depth Anomalies 2°S to 2°N Average

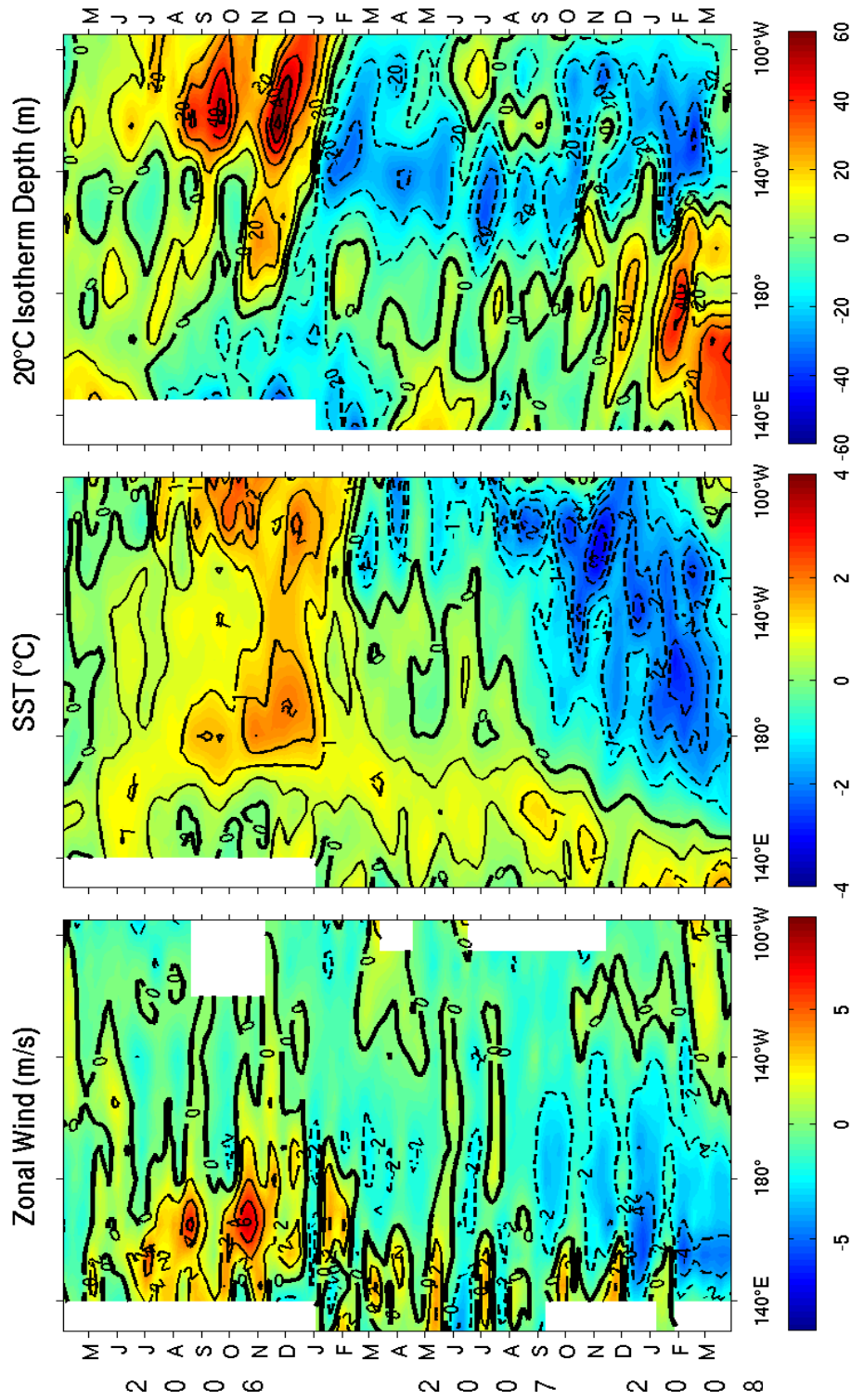
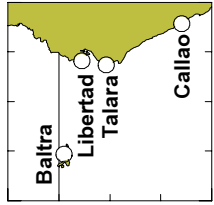


FIGURE A1.4. Time-longitude sections of surface zonal winds ( $m s^{-1}$ ), sea surface temperature (C) and 20C isotherm depth (m) for the past 24 months. Analysis is based on 5-day averages of moored time series data from the TAO/TRITON array. Anomalies are relative to monthly climatologic cubic spline fitted to 5-day intervals (COADS winds, Reynolds SST, CTD/XBT 20C depth). Positive winds are westerly. Squares on the abscissas indicate longitude where data were available at the start of the time series (top) and end of the time series (bottom). The TAO/TRITON array is presently supported by the United States (NOAA), Japan (STA), and France (IRD). Further information is available from Richard L. Crout (NOAA/



# Sea Surface Temperature and Sea Level From Eastern Pacific GOES Stations

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 Dirección de Hidrografía y Navegación de la Marina, Callao, PERU



In cooperation with institutions in Peru and Ecuador, NOAA-AOML maintained a network coastal stations reporting SST and sea level in real time (via satellite downlink) during the TOGA program, from 1985 to 1995. The South American partners took over full operational responsibility there after while NOAA-AOML assumed a data management role, continuing publication of these monthly reports along with their partners. The five-day averages (pentads) at critical stations give us an effective means of monitoring coastal conditions with good time resolution and compact data volume.

The main feature in March is the strong positive intraseasonal pulse in SST and sea level at Talara and Callao. The sea level peaked on March 9 and the temperature shortly after on March 14. This was the second of two strong pulses, the first one peaking in late January. These events may have contributed to the contemporaneous warming seen in SST maps along the South American coast.

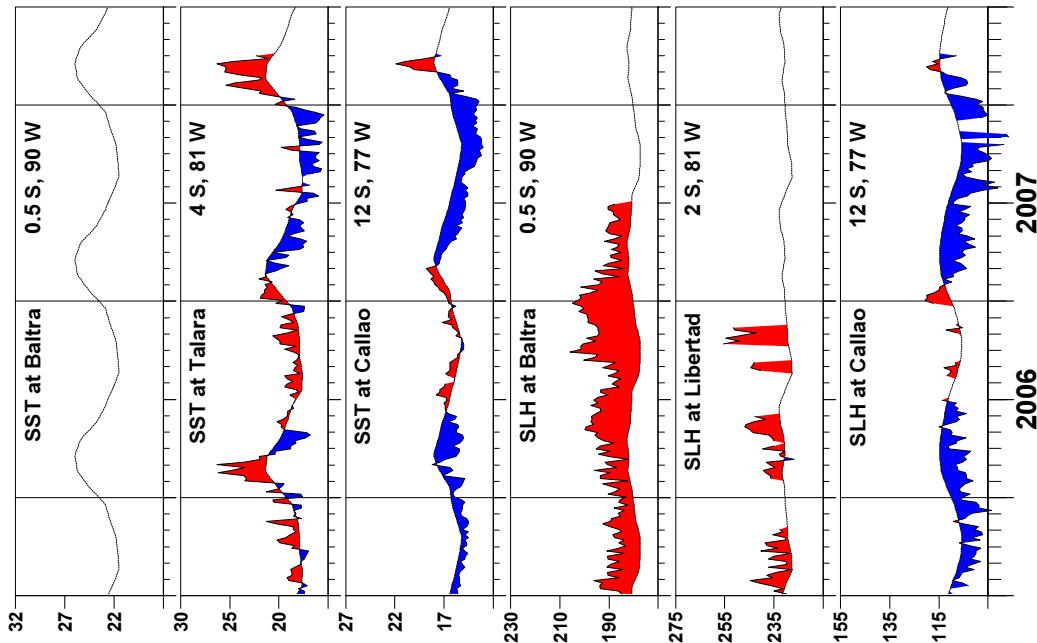


FIGURE A1.5. Five-day averages of sea surface temperature (SST, °C) and sea level height (SLH, cm) from GOES receiving stations in Ecuador & Peru. Dashed line and shading show climatology, departures.

MAR	Sea Sfc Temperature			Sea Level Height		
	Baltra	Talara	Callao	Baltra	Libertad	Callao
4	**	25.4	20.0	**	**	118.6
9	**	25.4	20.5	**	**	119.9
14	**	26.3	21.9	**	**	115.4
19	**	24.7	20.9	**	**	117.5
24	**	21.1	18.9	**	**	114.0
29	**	22.3	17.3	**	**	108.0

MAR	Anomalies		
	Baltra	Talara	Callao
4	**	4.1	2.2
9	**	4.2	2.6
14	**	5.1	3.8
19	**	3.6	2.8
24	**	0.2	0.9
29	**	1.7	-0.6

Email: David.Enfield@noaa.gov; Phone: (305) 361-4351; Fax: (305) 361-4392  
 \*\* - Data missing due to hardware failure

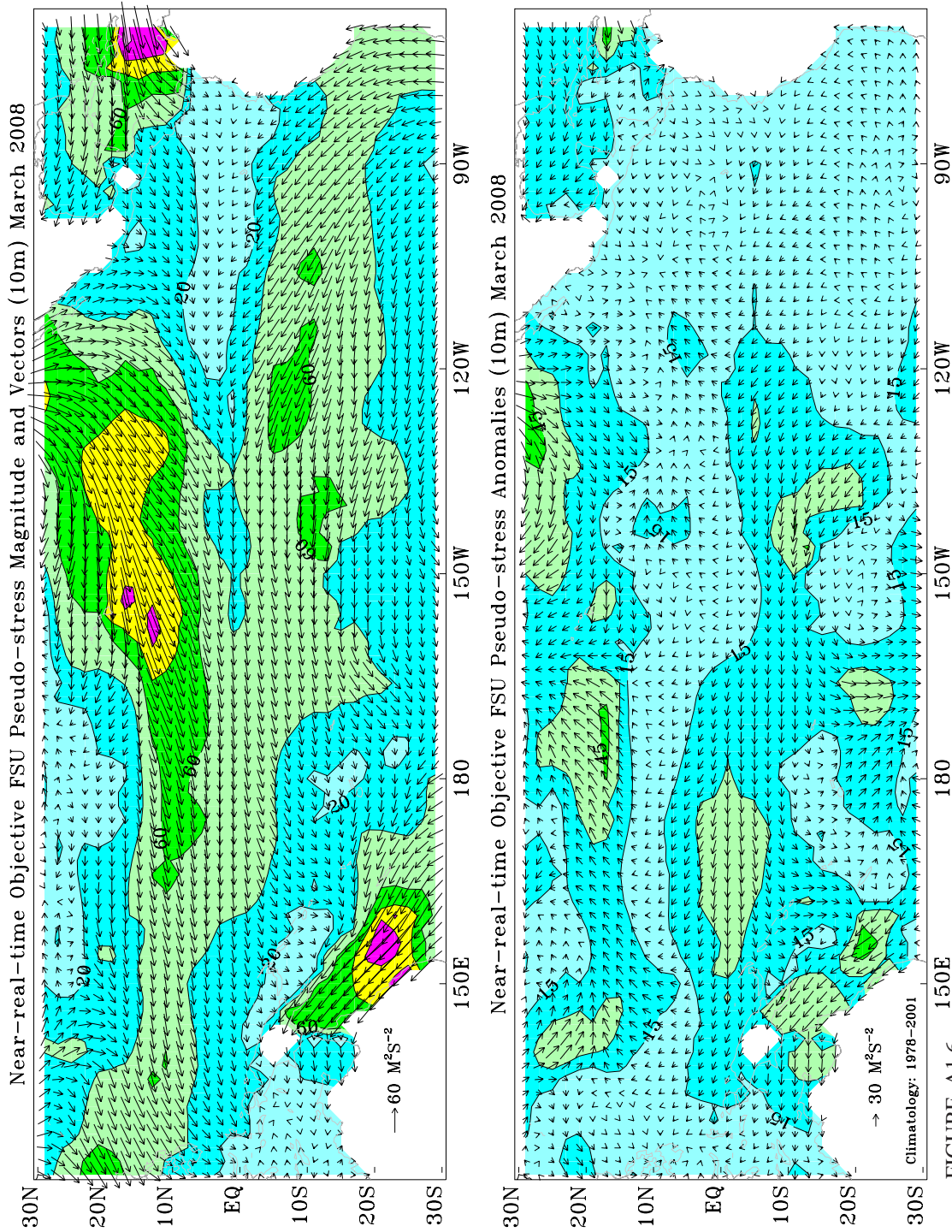


FIGURE A1.6. FSU SURFACE PSEUDO-STRESS VECTORS AND ANOMALIES: March 2008. Pseudo-stress vectors (top) are objectively analyzed from ship and buoy winds on a  $2^\circ$  grid. Ship and buoy data are independently weighted and the background field is created from the data. Contour interval of the vector magnitudes is  $20 M^2S^{-2}$ . Anomalies (bottom) are departures from 1978-2001 mean. The contour interval is  $15 M^2S^{-2}$ . For more information, please visit our web site at <http://www.coaps.fsu.edu/RVSMDC/html/winds.shtml>. Produced by Jeremy Kolph, Mark A. Bourassa, and Shawn R. Smith, Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2840, USA.

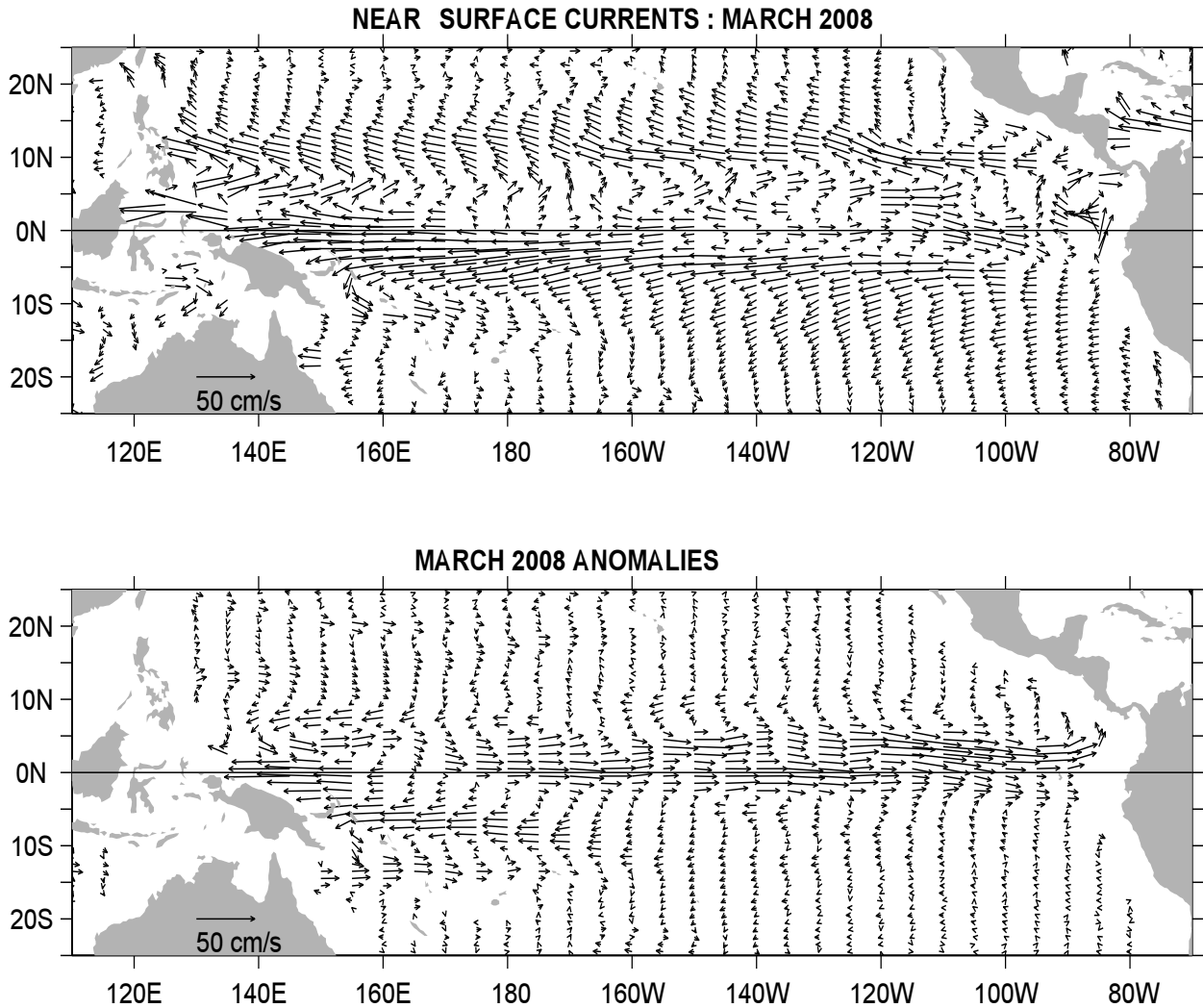


FIGURE A1.7. Ocean Surface Current Analysis-Real-time (OSCAR) for MAR 2008 (Bonjean and Lagerloef 2002, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, Vol. 32, No. 10, 2938-2954; Lagerloef et al. 1999, *JGR-Oceans*, 104, 23313-23326). (top) Total velocity. Satellite data included MAR 2008 Jason sea level anomalies and QuickScat winds. Data were smoothed with optimal filter ( $L_x \sim 10^\circ$ ,  $L_y \sim 2^\circ$ ). (bottom) Velocity anomalies. The subtracted climatology was based on SSM/I and QuickScat winds and Topex/Poseidon and Jason from 1993-2003. See also <http://www.oscar.noaa.gov>.

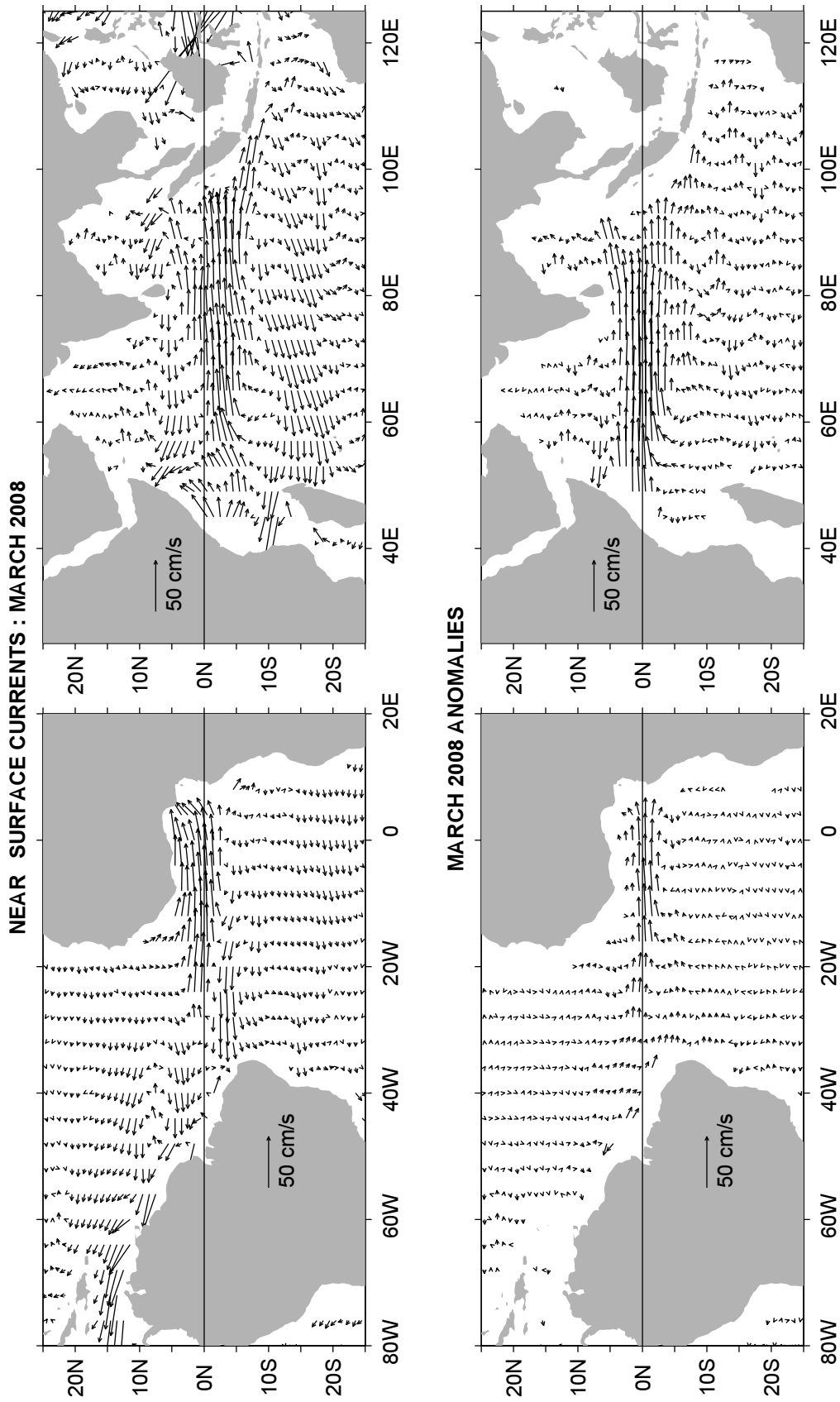


FIGURE A1.8. Ocean Surface Current Analysis-Real-time (OSCAR) for MAR 2008 (Bonjean and Lagerloef 2002, J. Phys. Oceanogr., Vol. 32, No. 10, 2938-2954; Lagerloef et al. 1999, JGR-Oceans, 104, 23313-23326). (top) Total velocity. Satellite data included MAR 2008 Jason sea level anomalies and QuickScat winds. Data were smoothed with optimal filter ( $L_x \sim 10^\circ$ ,  $L_y \sim 2^\circ$ ). (bottom) Velocity anomalies. The subtracted climatology was based on SSM/I and QuickScat winds and Topex/Poseidon and Jason from 1993-2003. See also <http://www.oscar.noaa.gov>.

## 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. Lett.*, **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.

## Outlook

La Niña is expected to continue for the next 3 months.

## Discussion

La Nina declined to moderate-strength during March 2008 as negative sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies weakened across the central and east-central equatorial Pacific. March SSTs were more than 1.0°C below average in areas between 160°E and 110°W (**Fig. T18**). All of the Niño indices warmed during the month (**Table T2**), with only the westernmost Niño-4 and Niño-3.4 regions having values nearly 1.0°C below average. Above-average SSTs remained restricted to the far eastern equatorial Pacific in association with a significant warming trend that began in mid-December. In the central Pacific, the subsurface temperature anomalies also lessened (averaging “1°C to “4°C at thermocline depth), and became increasingly confined to the surface region (**Fig. T17**). This evolution led to a significant weakening of the negative ocean heat content anomalies (average temperatures in the upper 300m of the ocean). Despite this oceanic trend, the atmospheric conditions continue to strongly reflect La Niña. Enhanced low-level easterly winds and upper-level westerly winds persisted across the central equatorial Pacific (**Figs. T20 and T21**), convection remained suppressed throughout the central equatorial Pacific, and enhanced convection covered the far western Pacific (**Fig. T25**). Collectively, these atmospheric and oceanic conditions indicate an ongoing, but weaker, La Niña.



The recent dynamical and statistical SST forecasts for the Niño 3.4 region indicate La Niña will become weak and persist through May-June-July 2008 (**Figs. F1- F13**). Thereafter, there is considerable spread in the forecasts, with nearly one-half indicating La Niña could continue well into the second half of the year. Based on current atmospheric and oceanic conditions and recent trends, La Niña is expected to continue for the next 3 months.

Weekly updates of oceanic and atmospheric conditions are available on the Climate Prediction Center homepage ([El Niño/La Niña Current Conditions and Expert Discussions](#)).

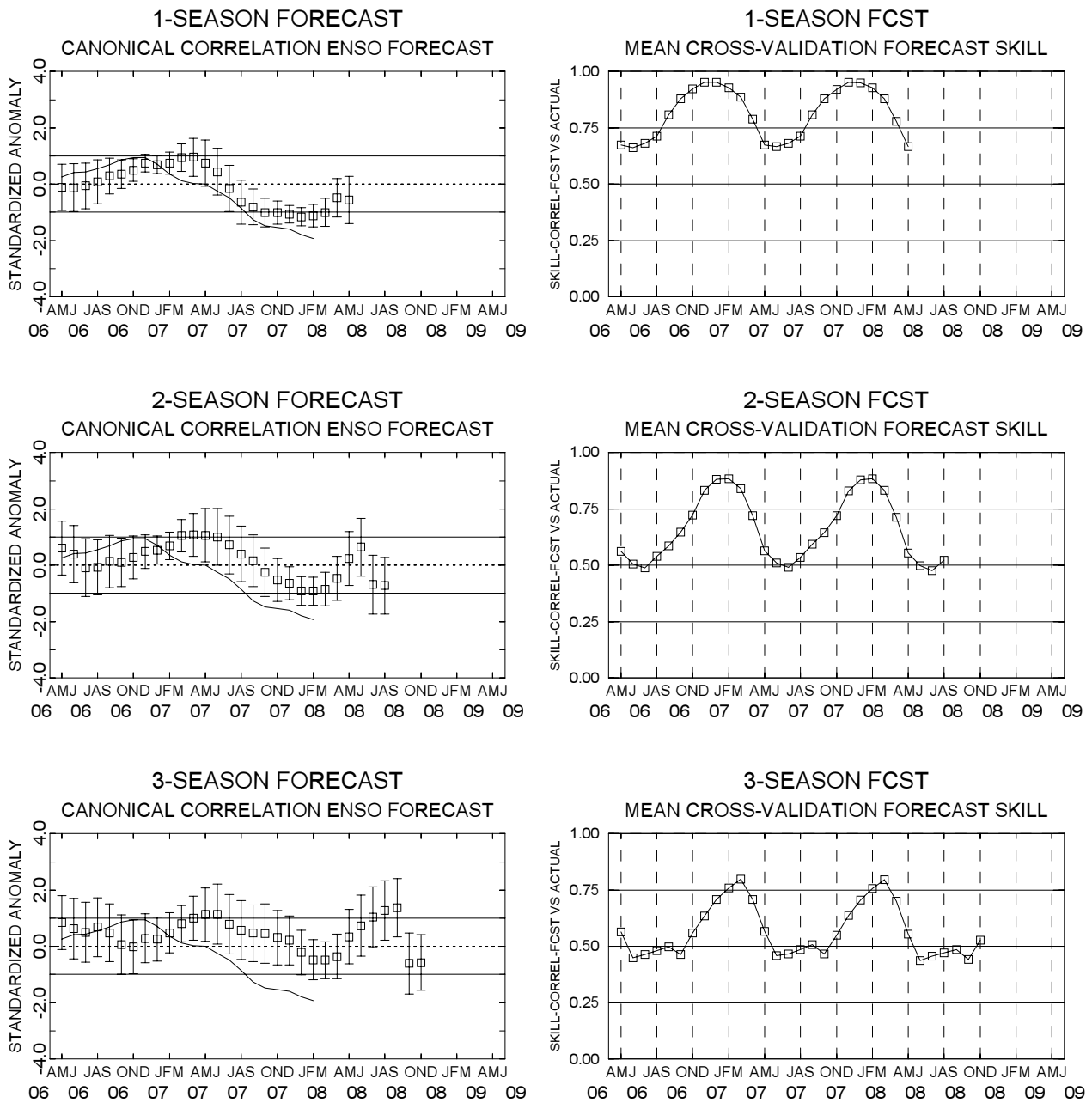


FIGURE F1. Canonical correlation analysis (CCA) sea surface temperature (SST) anomaly prediction for the central Pacific (5°N to 5°S, 120°W to 170°W (Barnston and Ropelewski, 1992, *J. Climate*, **5**, 1316-1345)). The three plots on the left hand side are, from top to bottom, the 1-season, 2-season, 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.



## 0-4 SEASON LEAD FORECAST CANONICAL CORRELATION ENSO FORECAST

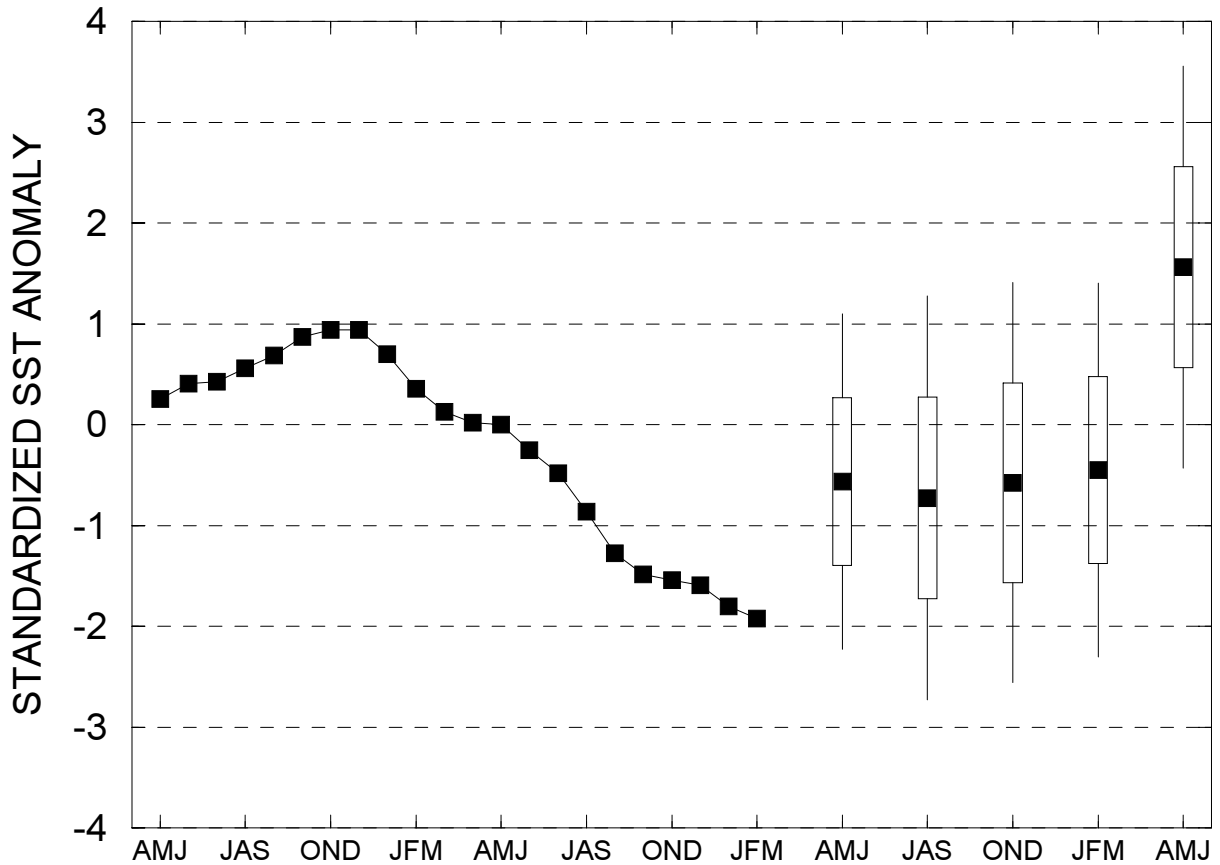


FIGURE F2. Canonical Correlation Analysis (CCA) forecasts of sea-surface temperature anomalies for the Niño 3.4 region (5N-5S, 120W-170W) for the upcoming five consecutive 3-month periods. Forecasts are expressed as standardized SST anomalies. The CCA predictions are based on anomaly patterns of SST, 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 Niño 3.4 region up to the most recently available data.

Last update: Fri Apr 4 2008  
 Initial conditions: 23Mar2008–01Apr2008

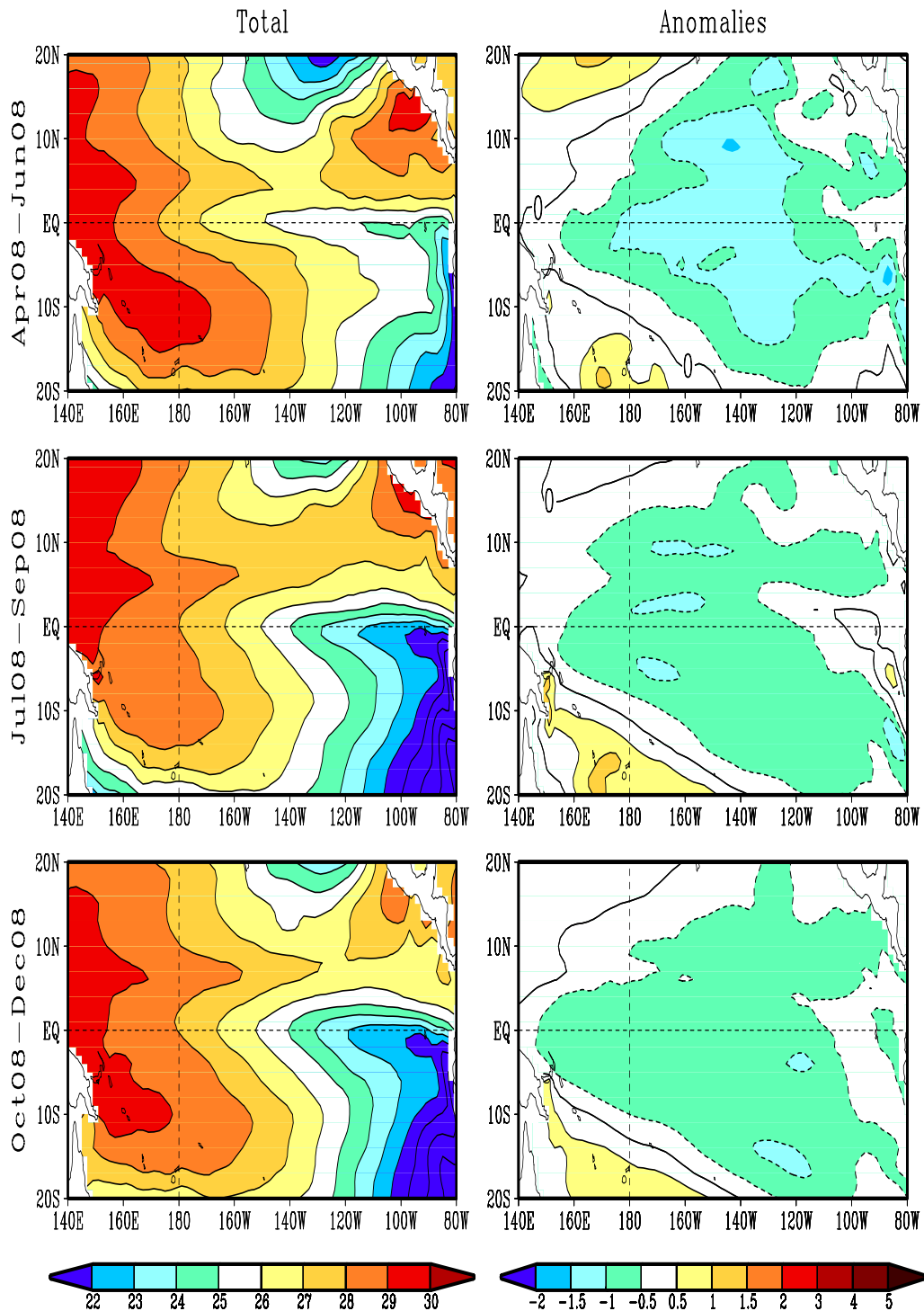


FIGURE F3. Predicted 3-month average sea surface temperature (left) and anomalies (right) from the NCEP Coupled Forecast System Model (CFS03). The forecasts consist of 40 forecast members. Contour interval is 1°C, with additional contours for 0.5°C and -0.5°C. Negative anomalies are indicated by dashed contours.

Last update: Fri Apr 4 2008  
Initial conditions: 23Mar2008-01Apr2008

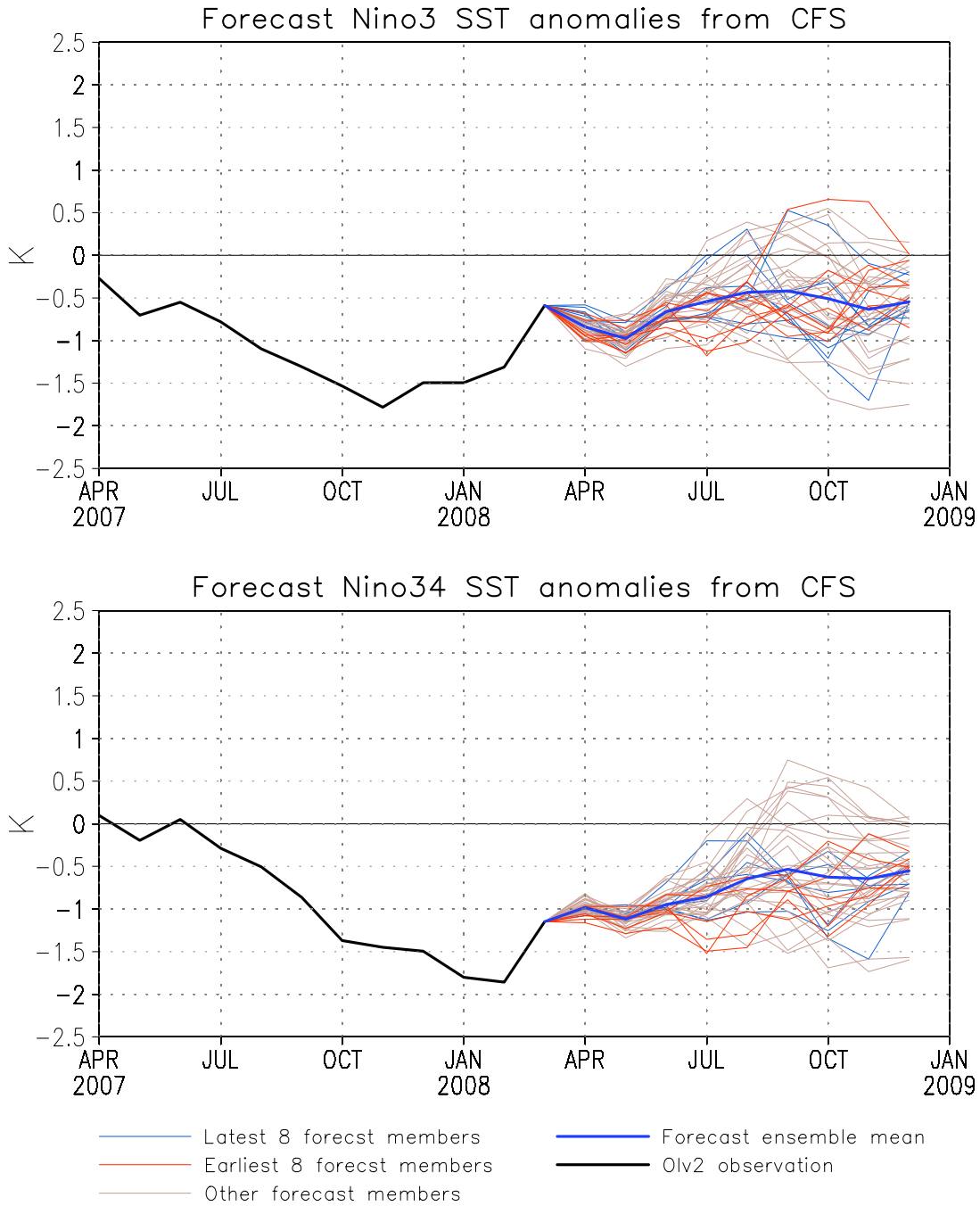


FIGURE F4. Predicted and observed sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies for the Nino 3 (top) and Nino 3.4 (bottom) regions from the NCEP Coupled Forecast System Model (CFS03). The forecasts consist of 40 forecast members. The ensemble mean of all 40 forecast members is shown by the blue line, individual 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 Nno 3.4 region spans the east-central equatorial Pacific between 5N-5S, 170W-120W.

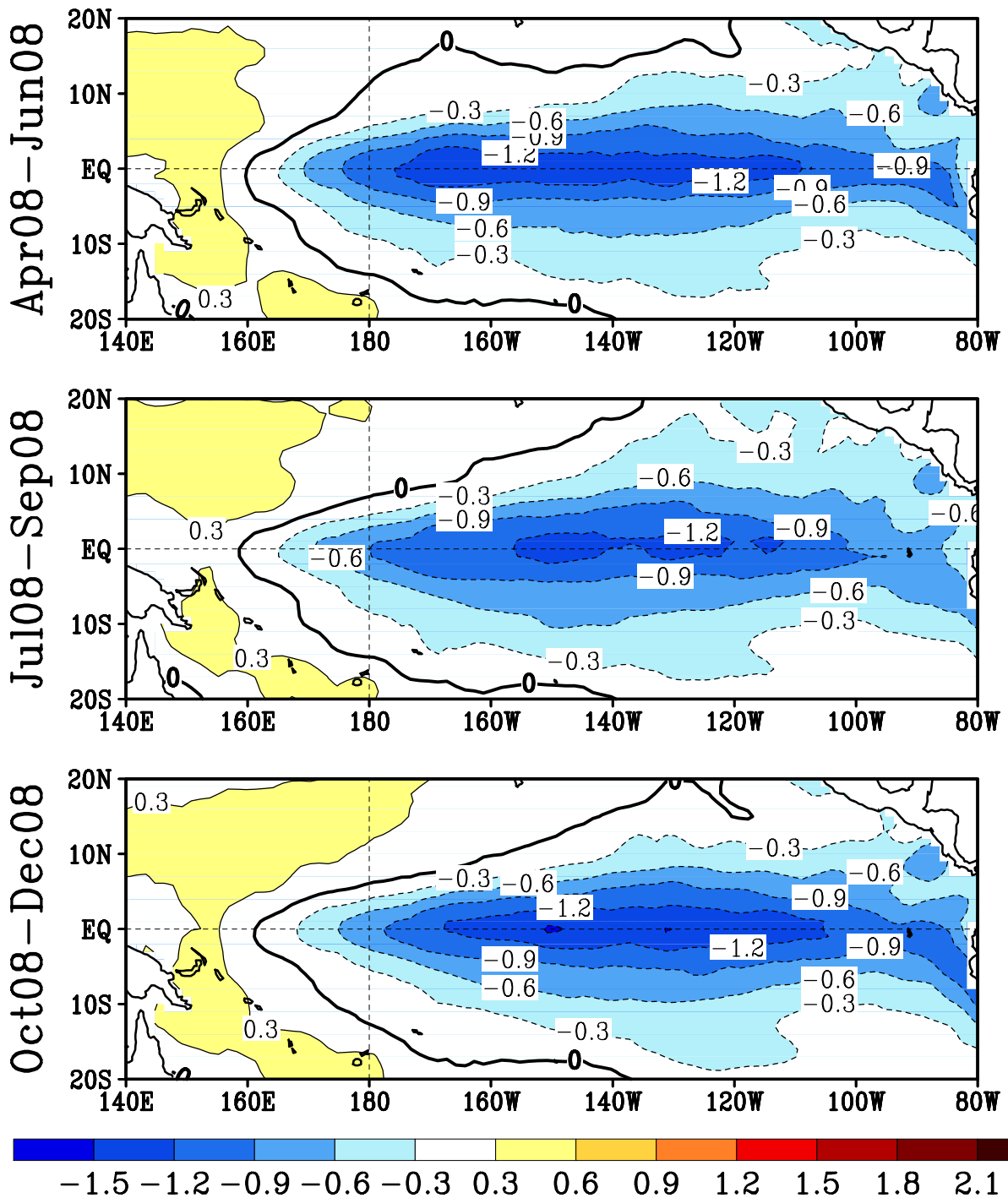


FIGURE F5. Predicted 3-month average sea surface temperature anomalies from the NCEP/CPC Markov model (Xue et al. 2000, *J. Climate*, **13**, 849-871). The forecast is initiated in MAR 2008. Contour interval is 0.3C and negative anomalies are indicated by dashed contours. Anomalies are calculated relative to the 1971-2000 climatology.

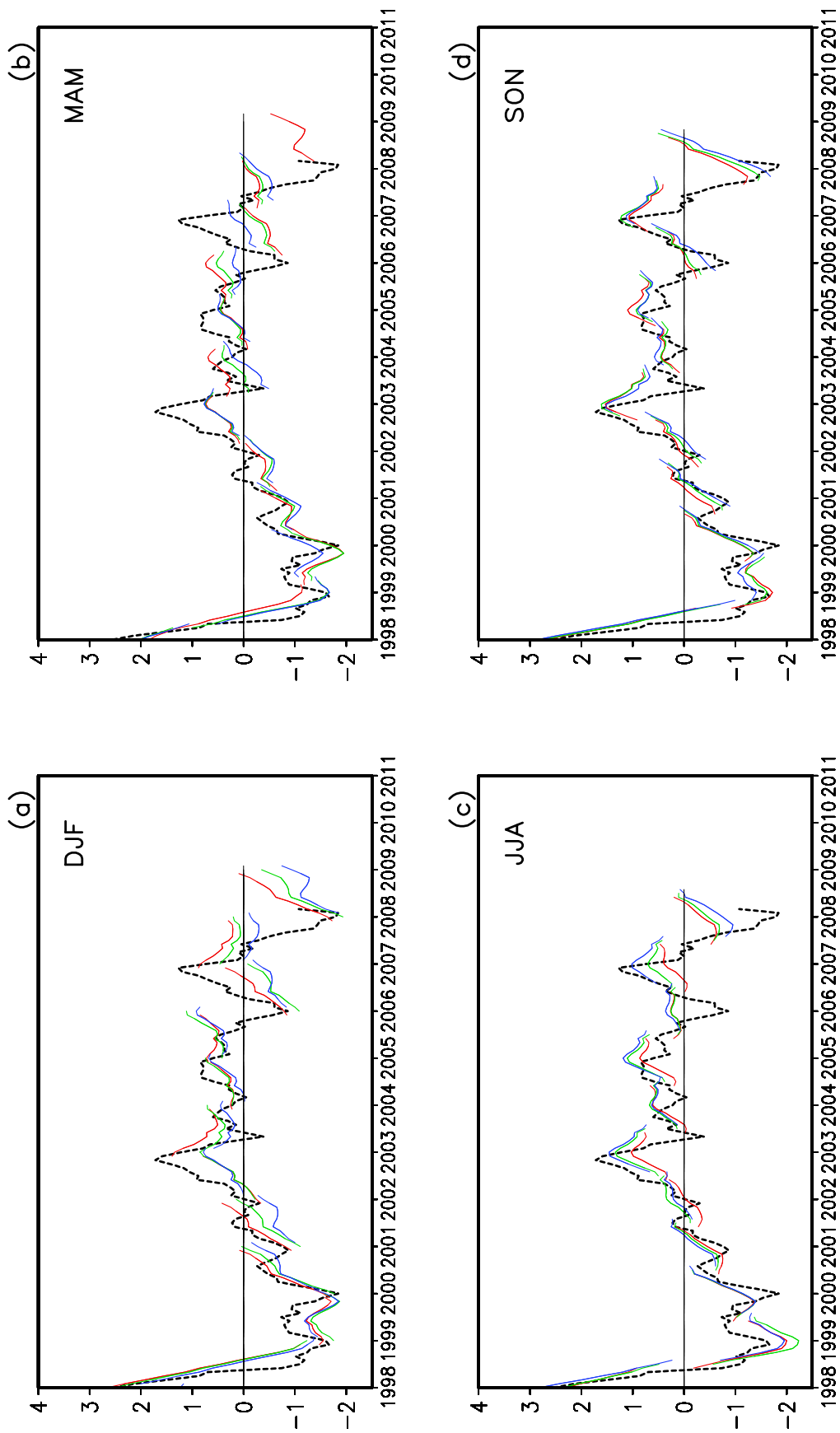
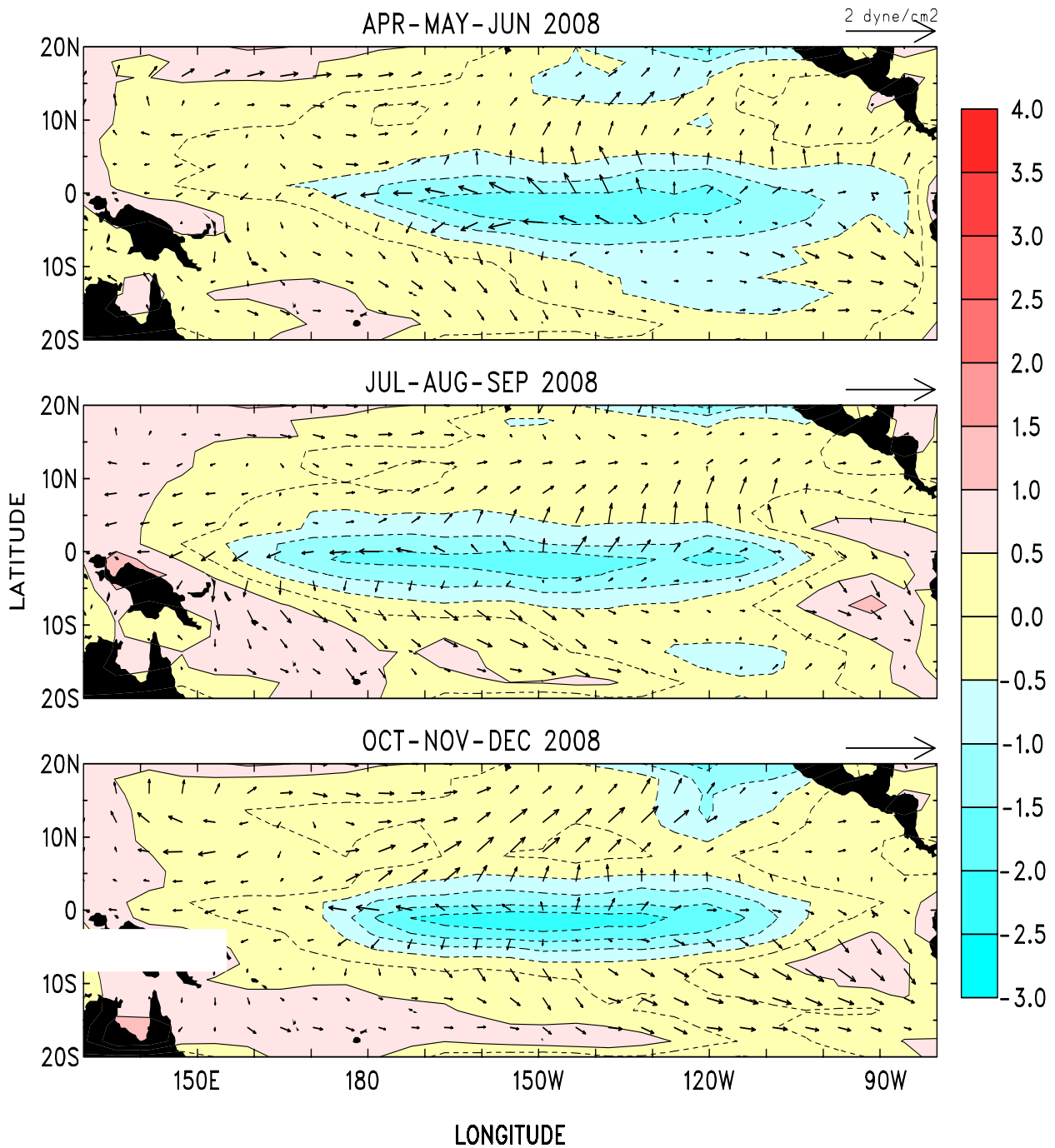


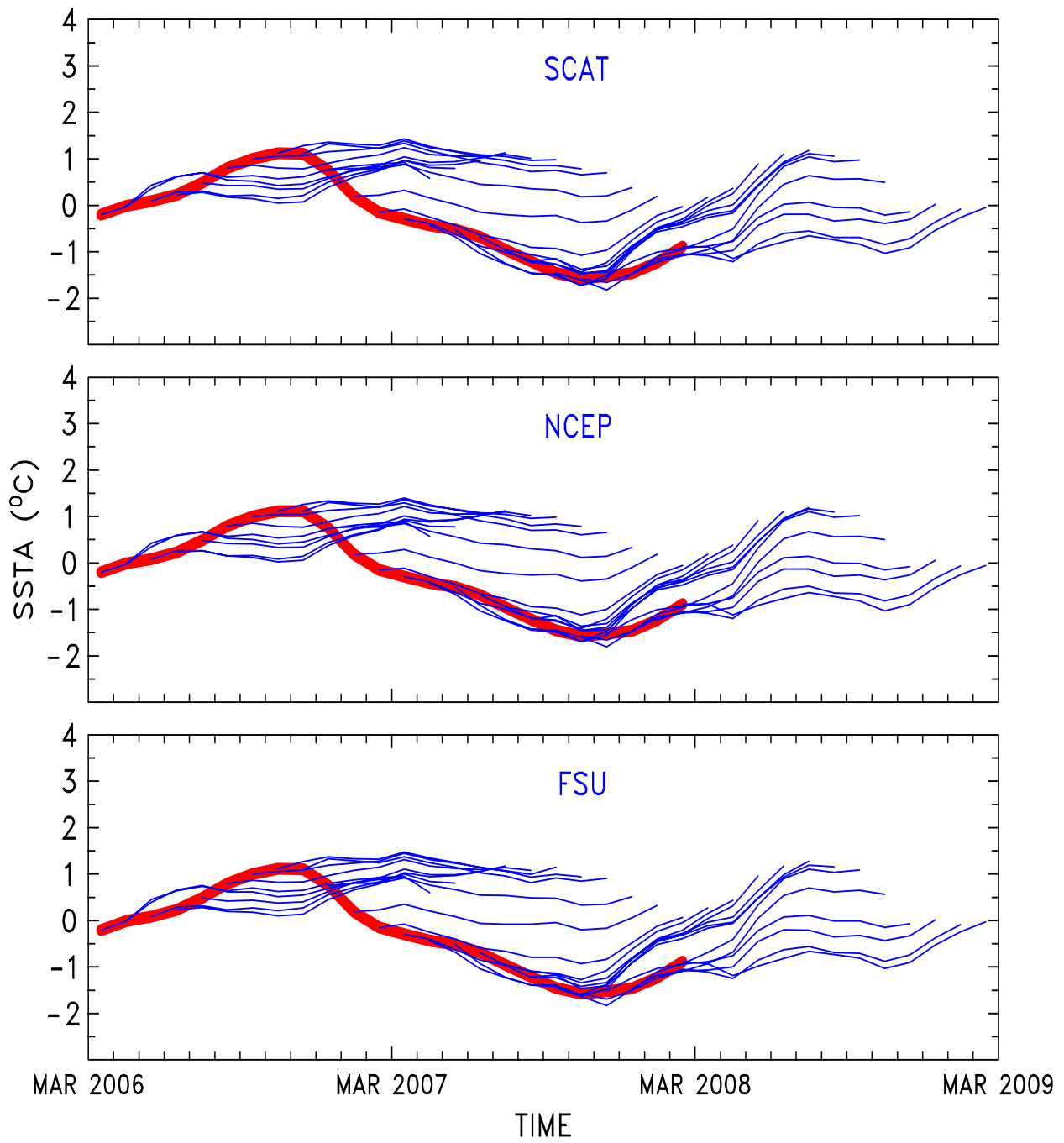
FIGURE F6. Time evolution of observed and predicted SST anomalies in the Niño 3.4 region (up to 12 lead months) by the NCEP/CPC Markov model (Xue et al. 2000, *J. Climate*, **13**, 849-871). Anomalies are calculated relative to the 1971-2000 climatology. Shown in each panel are the forecasts grouped 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 Niño 3.4 SST anomalies are indicated by the black dashed lines. The Niño 3.4 region spans the east-central equatorial Pacific between 5N-5S, 170W-120W.

## LDEO FORECASTS OF SST AND WIND STRESS ANOMALIES



**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).

## LDEO FORECASTS OF NINO3



**FIGURE F8.** LDEO forecasts of SST anomalies for the Nino 3 region using wind stresses obtained from (top) QuikSCAT, (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.



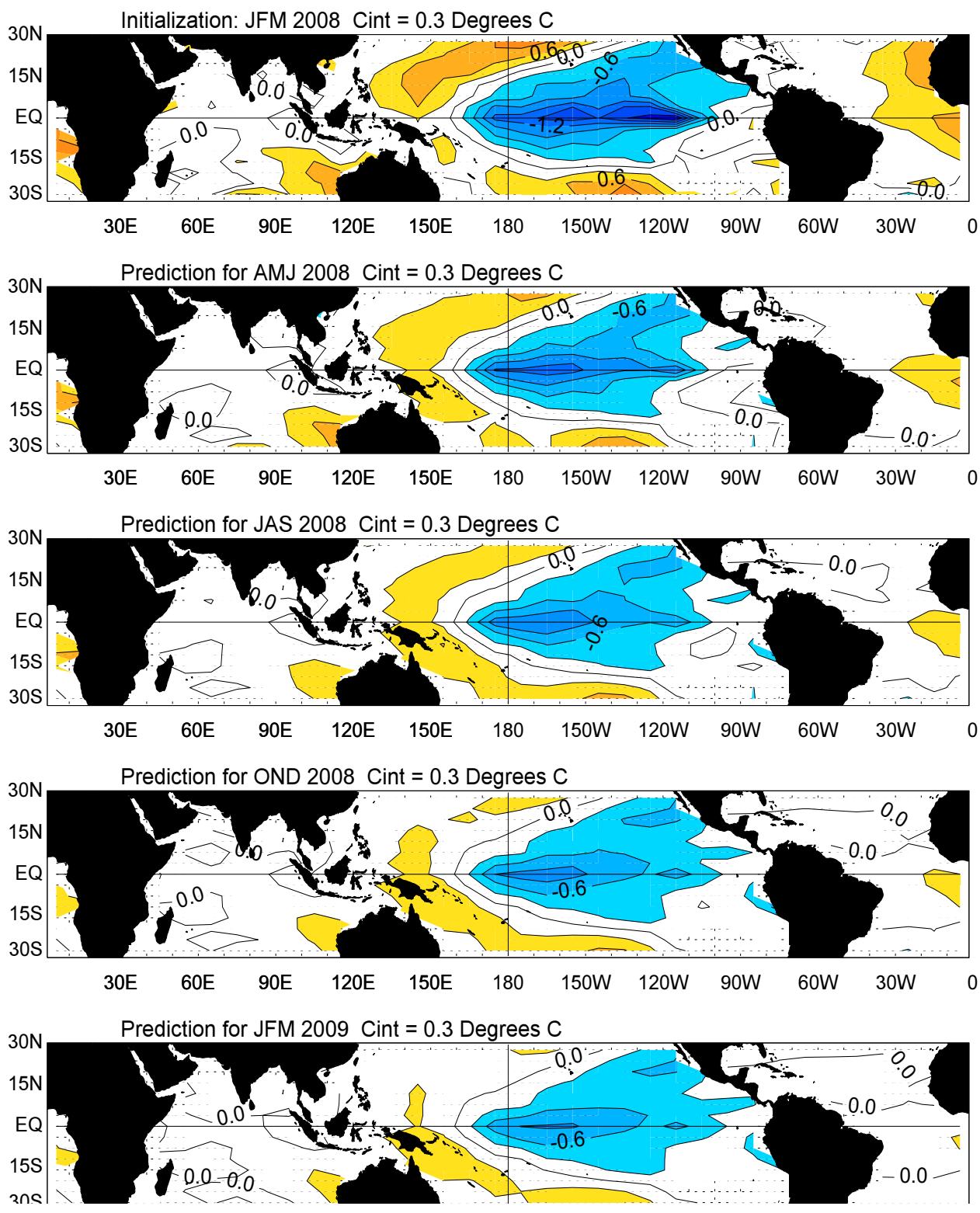


FIGURE F9. Forecast of tropical SST anomalies from the Linear Inverse Modeling technique of Penland and Magorian (1993: *J. Climate*, 6, 1067-1076). The contour interval is 0.3C. Anomalies are calculated relative to the 1951-2000 climatology and are projected onto 20 leading EOFs.

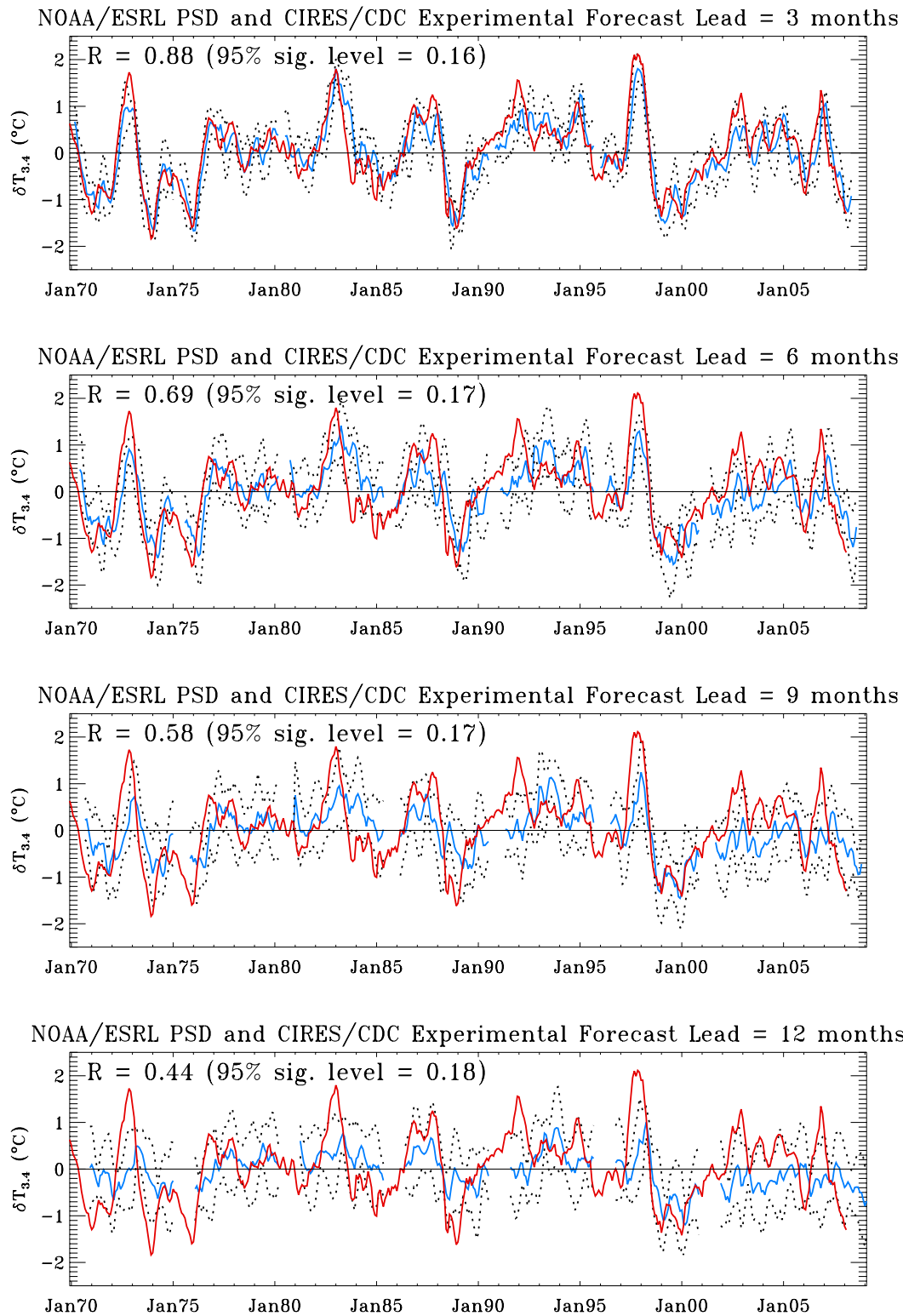


FIGURE F10. Predictions of SST anomalies in the Niño 3.4 region (blue line) for leads of three months (top) to 12 months (bottom), from the Linear Inverse Modeling technique of Penland and Magorian (1993: *J. Climate*, **6**, 1067-1076). Observed SST anomalies are indicated by the red line. Anomalies are calculated relative to the 1951-2000 climatology and are projected onto 20 leading EOFs. The Niño 3.4 region spans the east-central equatorial Pacific between 5N-5S, 170W-120W.

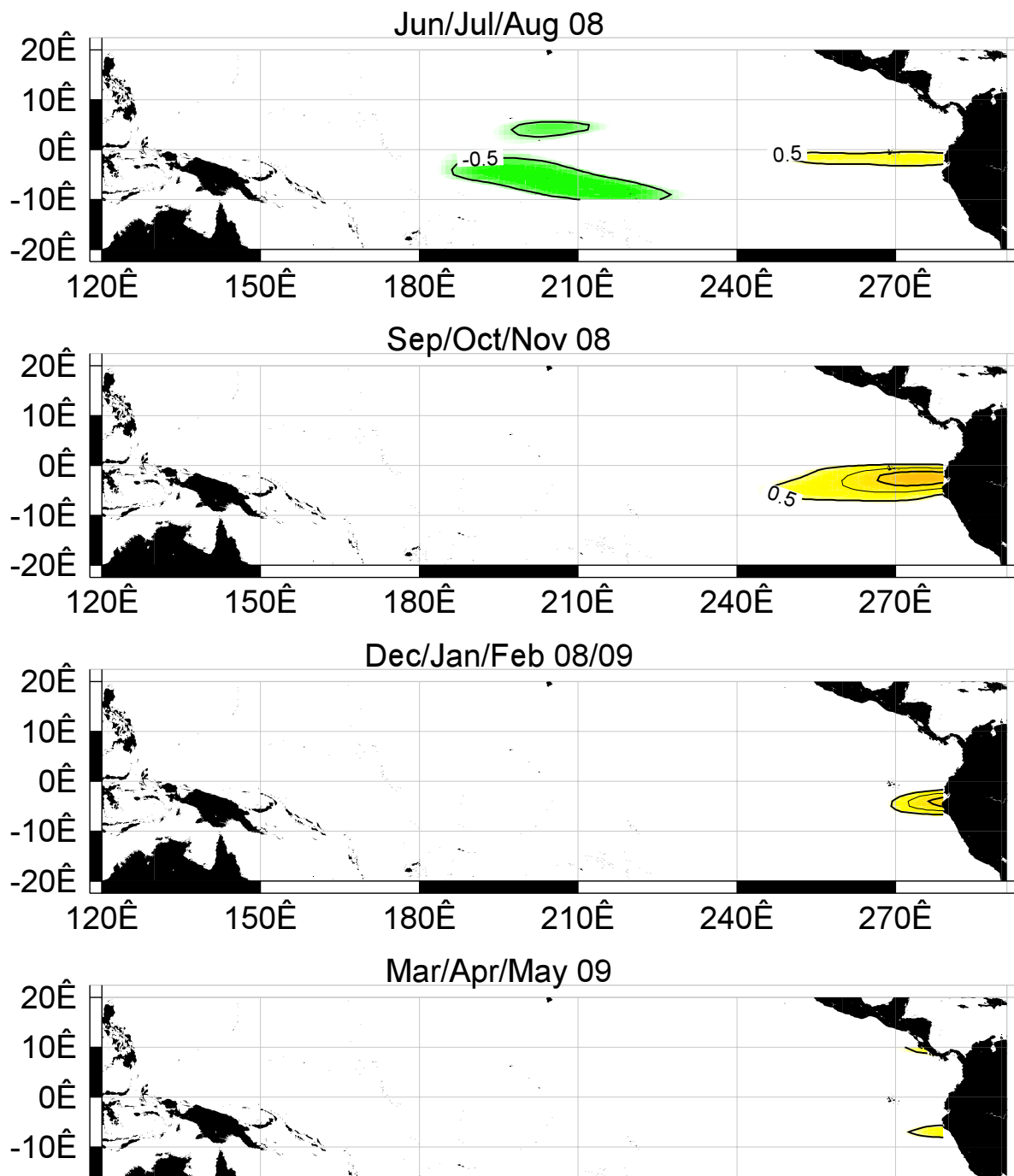


FIGURE F11. SST anomaly forecast for the equatorial Pacific from the Hybrid Coupled Model (HCM) developed by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Max-Planck Institut fuer Meteorologie.

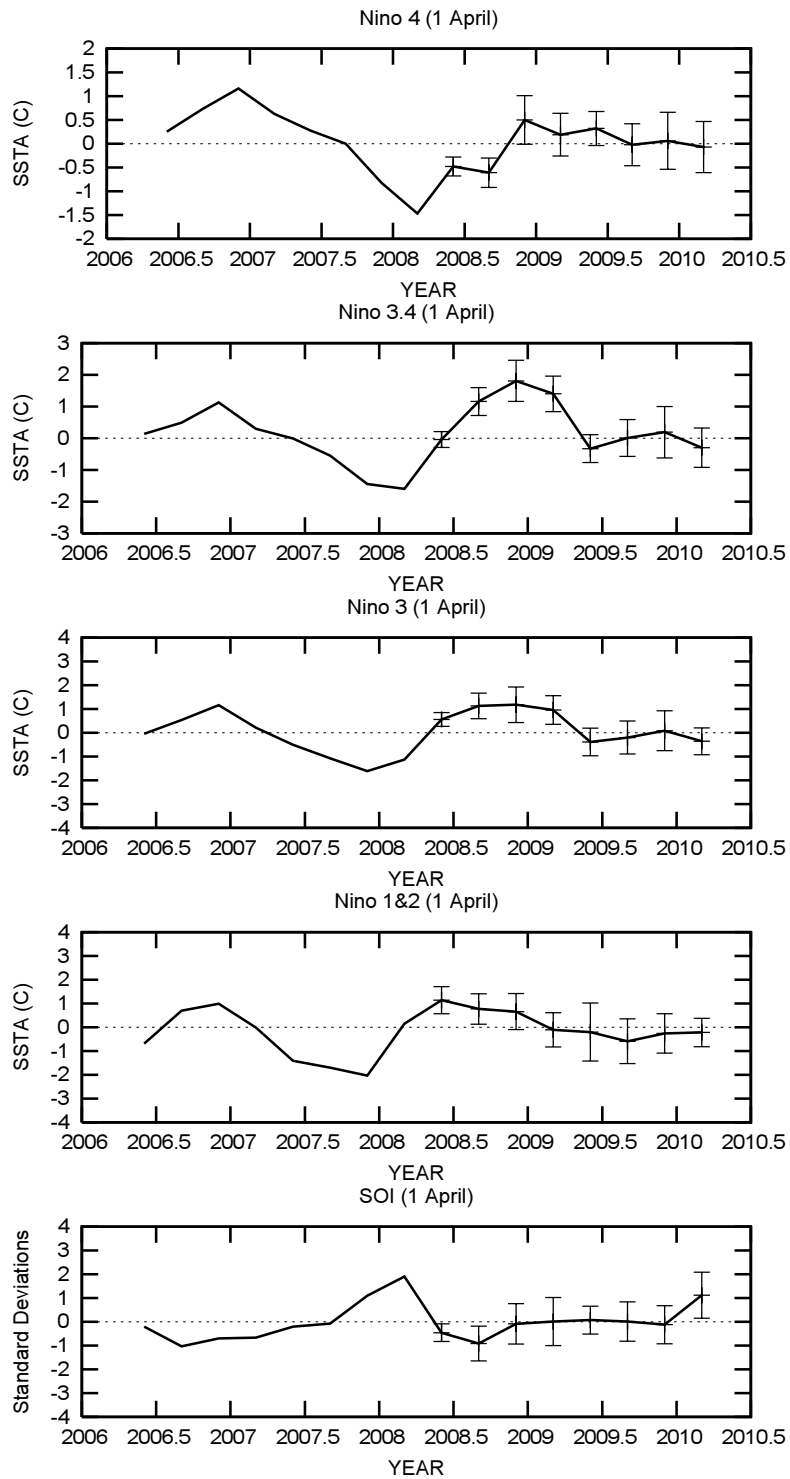


FIGURE F12. ENSO-CLIPER statistical model forecasts of three-month average sea surface temperature anomalies (green lines, deg. C) in (top panel) the Nino 4 region (5N-5S, 160E-150W), (second panel) the Nino 3.4 region (5N-5S, 170W-120W), (third panel) the Nino 3 region (5N-5S, 150W-90W), and (fourth 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 1971-2000 base period means, and the SOI is calculated from the 1951-1980 base period means.

### Model Forecasts of ENSO from Mar 2008

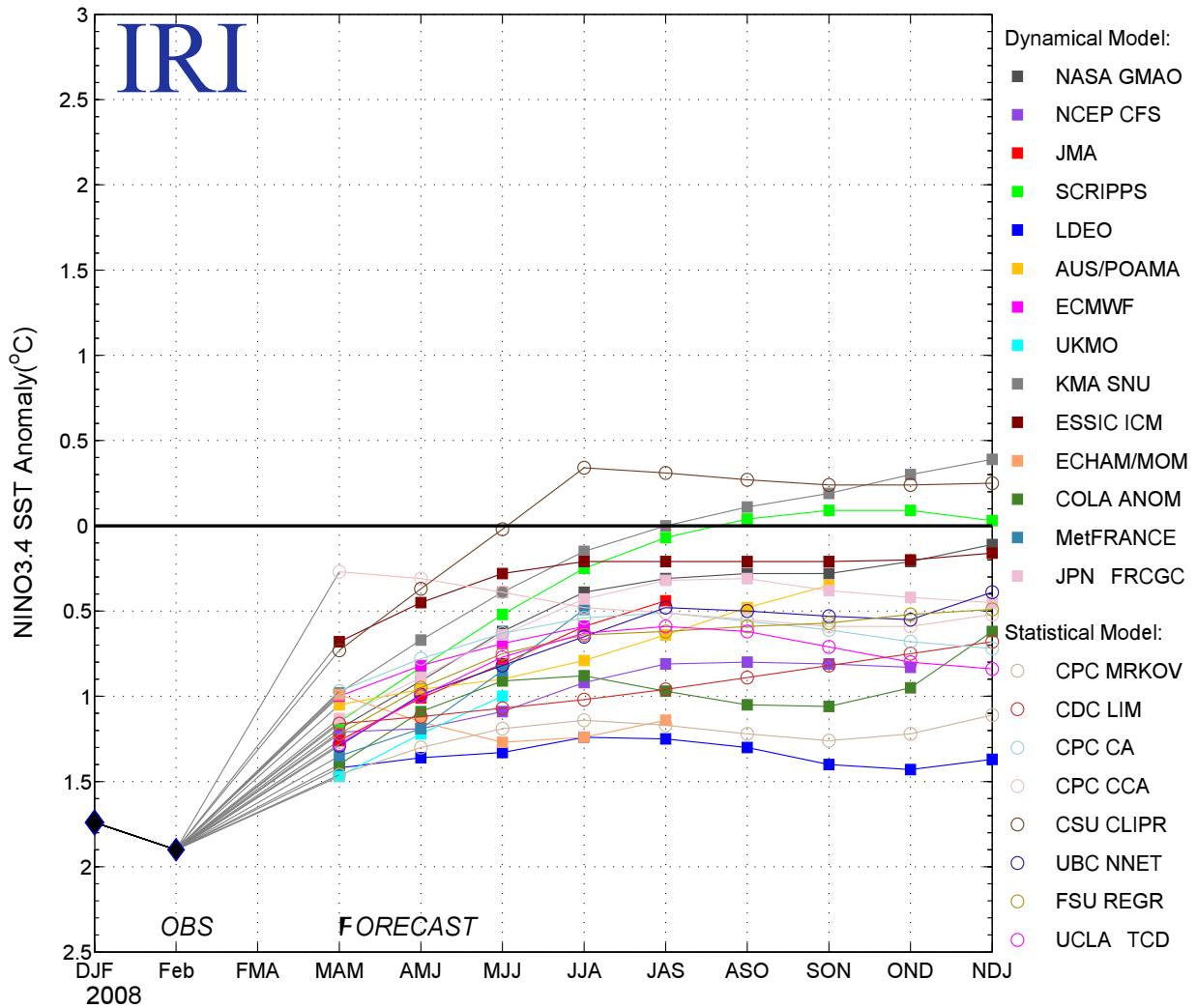


FIGURE F13. Time series of predicted sea surface temperature anomalies for the Nino 3.4 region (deg. C) from various dynamical and statistical models for nine overlapping 3-month periods. The Nino 3.4 region spans the east-central equatorial Pacific between 5N-5S, 170W-120W. Figure provided by the International Research Institute (IRI).

# Extratropical Highlights – March 2008

## 1. Northern Hemisphere

The 500-hPa height pattern during March 2008 featured positive anomalies over the northwestern and eastern North Pacific, and over much of Asia, and negative anomalies over Canada and Europe (**Fig. E9**). The circulation over the western North Pacific was associated with a weakening and westward retraction of the east Asian jet stream (**Fig. T21**). The circulation across the eastern North Pacific remained consistent with La Niña. The subtropical circulation at 200-hPa was also consistent with La Niña, with enhanced mid-Pacific troughs in both hemispheres flanking the suppressed convection over the central equatorial Pacific, and enhanced ridges over the western Pacific and Australasia flanking the region of enhanced equatorial convection (**Fig. T22**).

The main surface temperature departures during March reflected significantly warmer than average conditions across Asia, and below-average temperatures over Canada (**Fig. E1**). The main precipitation anomalies included above average totals from the upper Midwest to New England, and across much of Europe, and below-average totals in the southwestern and southeastern US and in the Middle East (**Fig. E3**).

### a. North Pacific/ North America

The La Niña signal was again prominent across the Pacific Ocean during March. La Niña is associated with a westward retraction of deep tropical convection toward Indonesia, and a complete disappearance of tropical convection from the central equatorial Pacific (**Fig. T25**). These conditions result in a westward retraction of deep tropospheric heating, and hence a westward retraction of the 200-hPa subtropical ridge toward Indonesia (**Fig. T22**). Over the central equatorial Pacific, the reduction in convective heating contributes to an increased strength of the mid-Pacific trough.

The strength, structure, and position of the East Asian jet stream are strongly linked to conditions in the tropics and subtropics. For example, the jet core coincides with the strongest north-south height gradient at 200-hPa, which is heavily influenced by the height anomalies in the subtropics. The jet exit region coincides with the area of strong diffluence between the subtropical ridge and trough axes. During La Niña, the core of the East Asian jet stream is often retracted westward toward Asia and the heart of the jet exit region is shifted westward to west of the date line (**Fig. T21**). During March, an extensive area of above-average heights extending across eastern Asia and the northwestern North Pacific also contributed to this jet structure (**Fig. E9**).

In North America, the circulation during March featured above-average heights extending into the southwestern US, and below-average heights (and temperatures) across Canada. This pattern contributed to above-average precipitation from the Great Lakes to New England, and to below-average precipitation in both the southwestern and southeastern US (**Figs. E3**). For the Gulf Coast region, this marks the fifth consecutive month with below-average precipitation (**Fig. E5**).

### b. Eurasia

The 500-hPa circulation during March featured a large-scale pattern of negative height anomalies across Europe and positive height anomalies from the Caspian Sea to eastern Siberia (**Fig. E9**). This pattern was associated with significantly above-average temperatures across most of Asia, with departures in many areas ( $> 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) exceeding the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of occurrences (**Fig. E1**). It was also associated with above-average precipitation across northern Europe and northwestern Russia, and below-average precipitation in the Middle East.

## 2. Southern Hemisphere

The 500-hPa circulation pattern during March generally featured above-average heights over the central ocean basins and below-average heights in the higher extratropics (**Fig. E15**). In the subtropics, the ongoing pattern of negative 200-hPa streamfunction anomalies over the central Indian Ocean and positive streamfunction anomalies over the central Pacific was consistent with La Niña (**Fig. T22**). In eastern Australia, a persistent upper-level trough led to a continuation of cooler than average temperatures and below-average precipitation (**Fig. E3**).

The South African rainy season extends from October to April, and is often stronger than average during La Niña. The region received near-normal precipitation during March, which followed below-average totals in February (**Fig. E4**). Overall the 2007-08 rainy season has been above average, with significant surpluses recorded from October through January.



**TELECONNECTION INDICES**

**NORTH ATLANTIC      NORTH PACIFIC      EURASIA**

MONTH	NAO	EA	WP	EP-NP	PNA	TNH	EATL/ WRUS	SCAND	POLEUR
<b>MAR 08</b>	0.1	0.4	-1.4	-1.4	-0.3	---	-0.4	-2.0	-0.3
<b>FEB 08</b>	0.7	0.6	0.5	-0.1	0.5	1.0	0.4	-0.3	-0.2
<b>JAN 08</b>	0.9	0.3	1.2	-1.4	-0.3	0.2	-0.7	0.4	-0.5
<b>DEC 07</b>	0.3	0.3	0.5	---	0.1	1.3	0.4	0.2	-0.5
<b>NOV 07</b>	0.6	-1.7	-0.1	0.8	0.7	---	-0.3	-1.1	-0.7
<b>OCT 07</b>	0.4	0.1	0.1	-2.3	0.6	---	-1.4	-0.4	-1.2
<b>SEP 07</b>	0.7	-0.3	1.3	-2.0	1.9	---	-0.9	-0.5	1.4
<b>AUG 07</b>	-0.1	0.7	-0.3	-1.5	2.0	---	-1.6	-0.4	2.0
<b>JUL 07</b>	-0.6	0.6	-0.7	0.4	2.2	---	-0.5	-0.2	-0.3
<b>JUN 07</b>	-1.3	0.7	-0.4	0.2	-0.4	---	-0.3	0.8	-0.4
<b>MAY 07</b>	0.7	1.3	-1.2	-0.6	-0.1	---	0.0	0.3	-0.2
<b>APR 07</b>	0.2	-0.6	-1.9	0.0	1.2	---	1.7	-1.5	-0.3
<b>MAR 07</b>	1.4	0.5	-1.1	-1.1	0.2	---	-0.1	0.4	-0.4

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 North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO); East Atlantic pattern (EA); West Pacific pattern (WP); East Pacific - North Pacific pattern (EP-NP); Pacific/North American pattern (PNA); Tropical/Northern Hemisphere pattern (TNH); East Atlantic/Western Russia pattern (EATL/WRUS)-called Eurasia-2 pattern by Barnston and Livezey, 1987, *Mon. Wea. Rev.*, **115**, 1083-1126); Scandinavia pattern (SCAND)-called Eurasia-1 pattern by Barnston and Livezey (1987); and Polar Eurasia pattern (POLEUR). No value is plotted for calendar months in which the pattern does not appear as a leading mode.

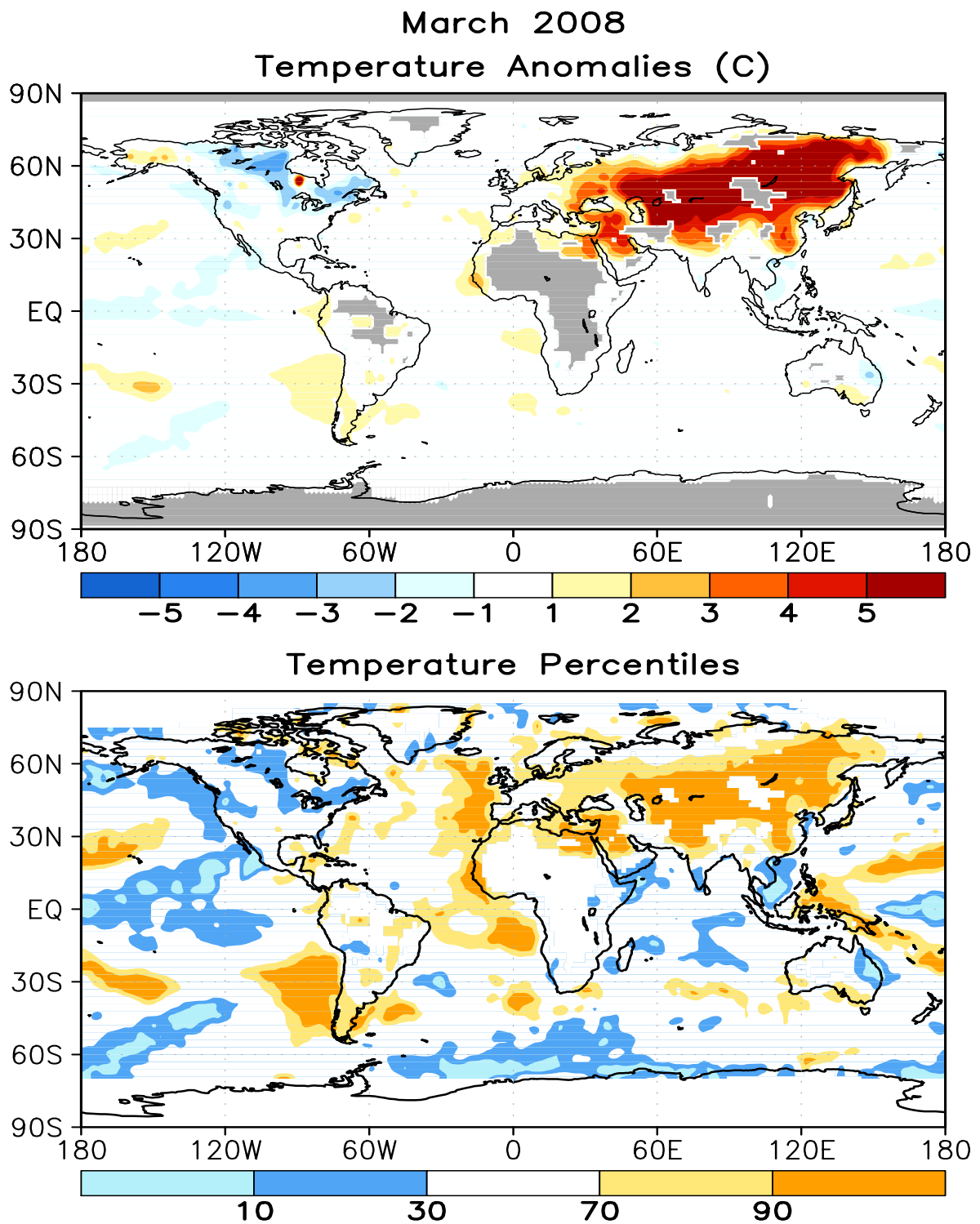


FIGURE E1. Surface temperature anomalies ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , top) and surface temperature expressed as percentiles of the normal (Gaussian) distribution fit to the 1971–2000 base period data (bottom) for MAR 2008. Analysis is based on station data over land and on SST data over the oceans (top). Anomalies for station data are departures from the 1971–2000 base period means, while SST anomalies are departures from the 1971–2000 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.

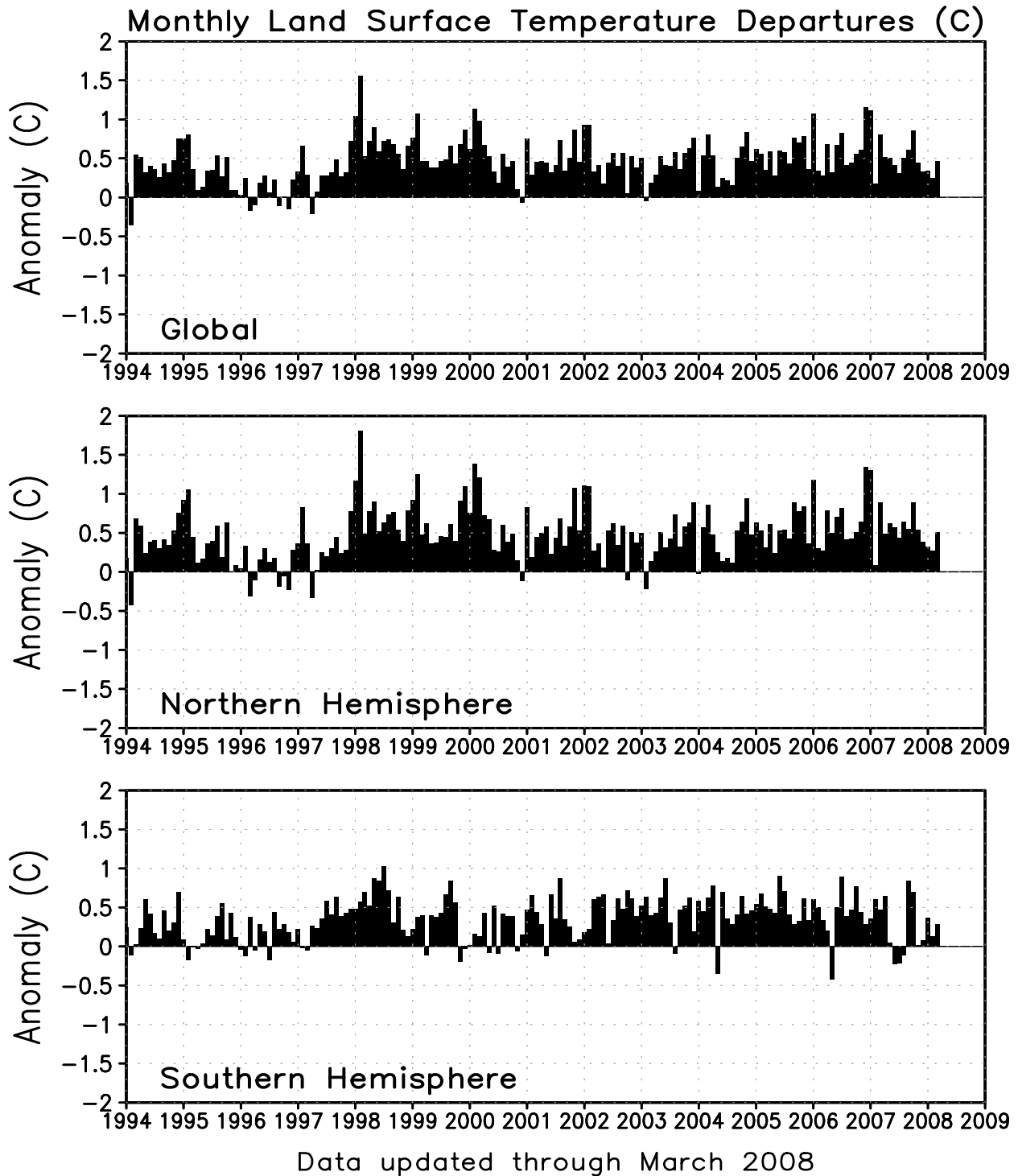


FIGURE E2. Monthly global (top), Northern Hemisphere (middle), and Southern Hemisphere (bottom) surface temperature anomalies (land only, °C) from January 1990 - present, computed as departures from the 1971–2000 base period means.

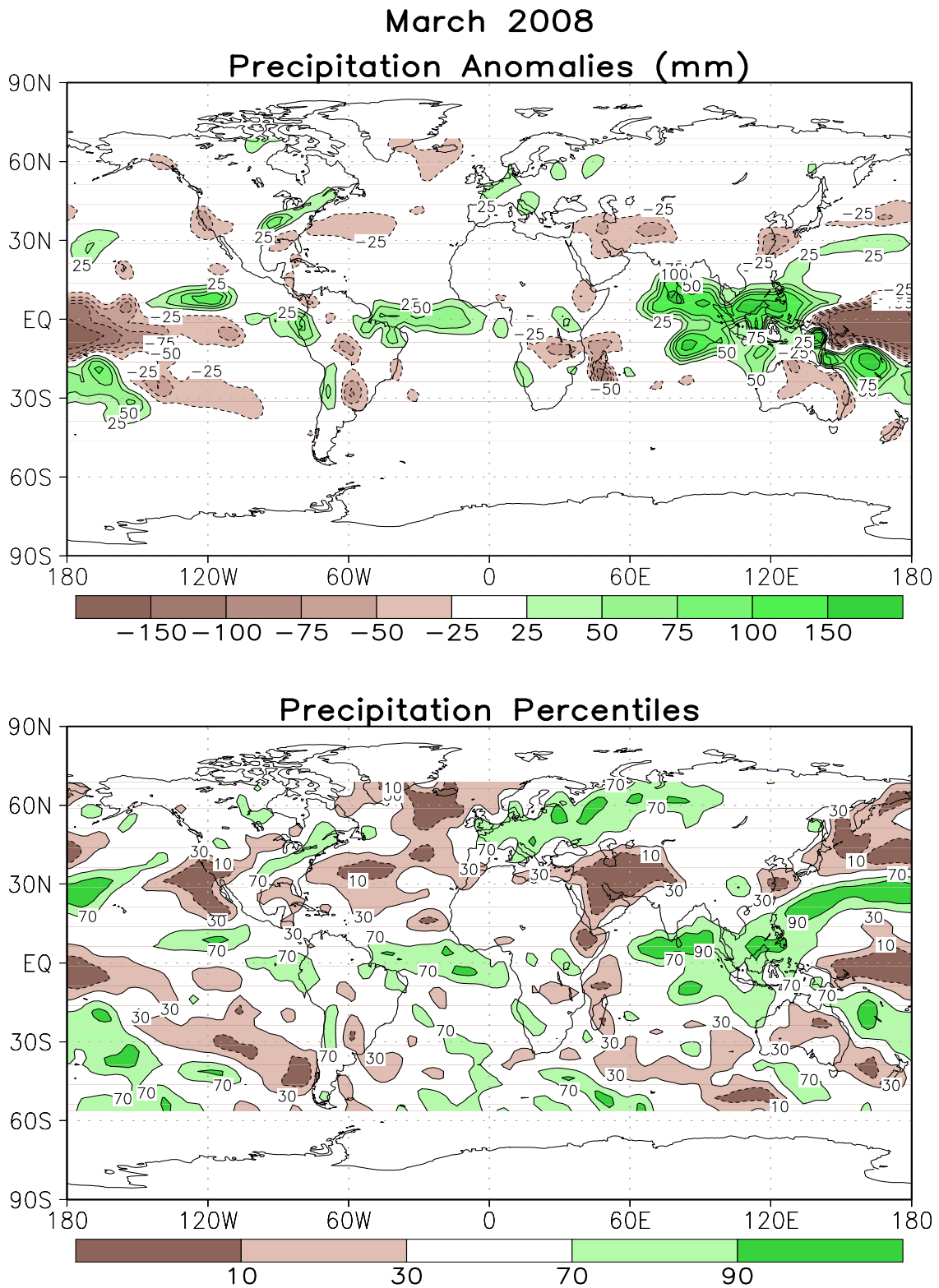


FIGURE E3. Anomalous precipitation (mm, top) and precipitation percentiles based on a Gamma distribution fit to the 1979–2000 base period data (bottom) for MAR 2008. Data are obtained from a merge of raingauge observations and satellite-derived precipitation estimates (Janowiak and Xie 1999, *J. Climate*, **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 <5mm/month.

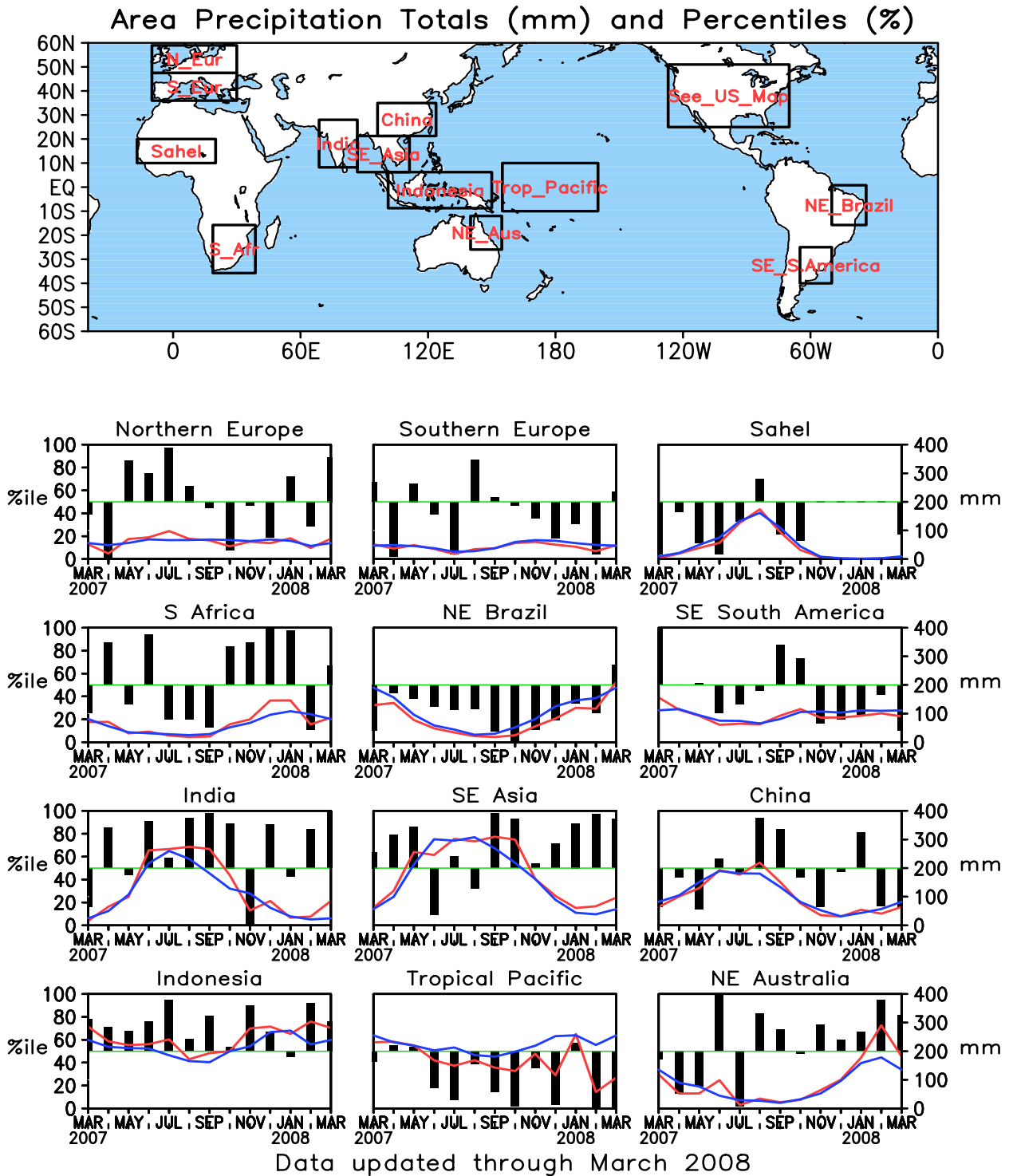


FIGURE E4. Areal estimates of monthly mean precipitation amounts (mm, solid lines) and precipitation percentiles (% , bars) for the most recent 13 months obtained from a merge of raingauge observations and satellite-derived precipitation estimates (Janowiak and Xie 1999, *J. Climate*, **12**, 3335–3342). The monthly precipitation climatology (mm, dashed lines) is from the 1979–2000 base period monthly means. Monthly percentiles are not shown if the monthly mean is less than 5 mm.

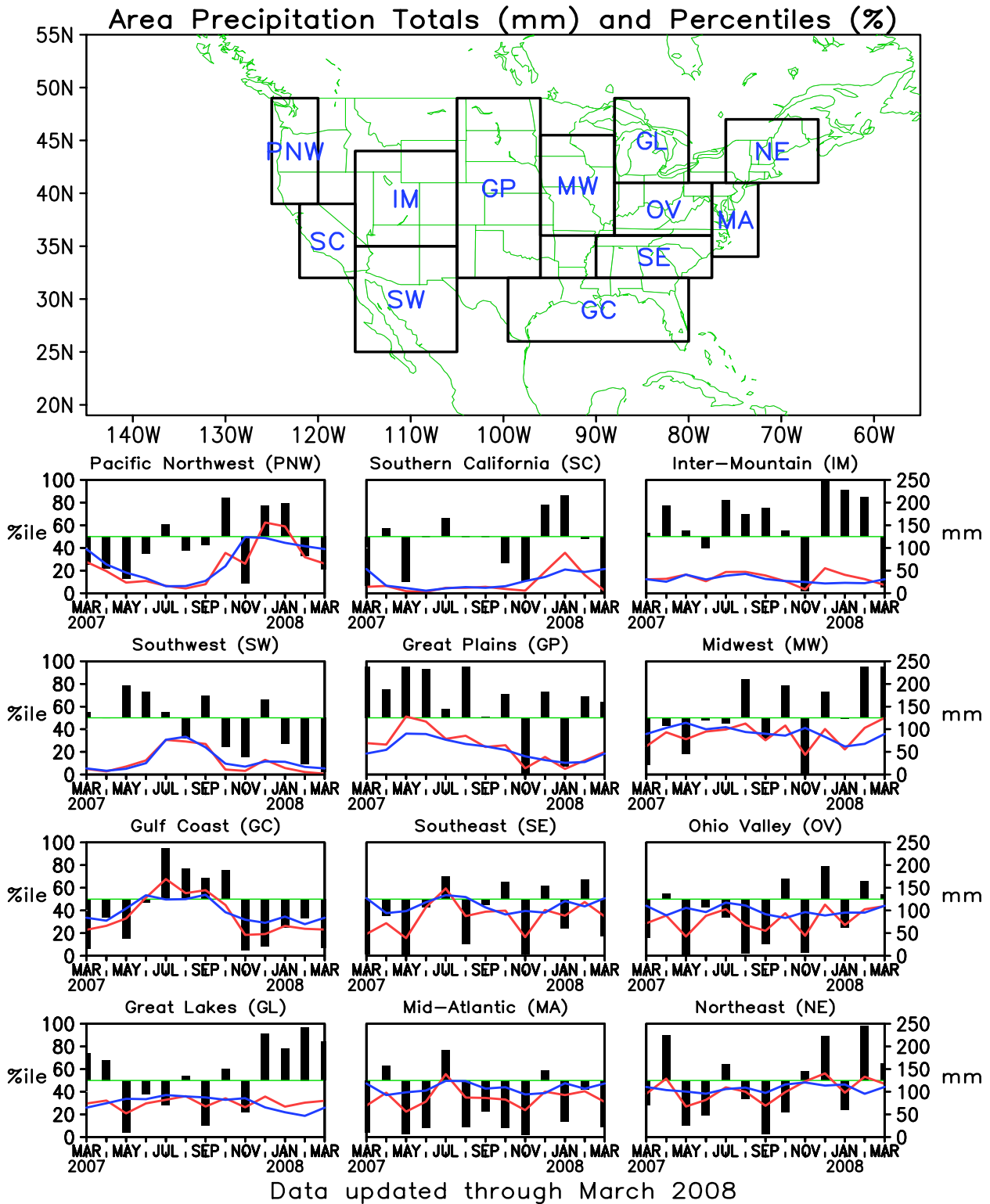


FIGURE E5. Areal estimates of monthly mean precipitation amounts (mm, solid lines) and precipitation percentiles (% , bars) for the most recent 13 months obtained from a merge of raingauge observations and satellite-derived precipitation estimates (Janowiak and Xie 1999, *J. Climate*, **12**, 3335–3342). The monthly precipitation climatology (mm, dashed lines) is from the 1979–2000 base period monthly means. Monthly percentiles are not shown if the monthly mean is less than 5 mm.

Monthly Accumulation — March, 2008

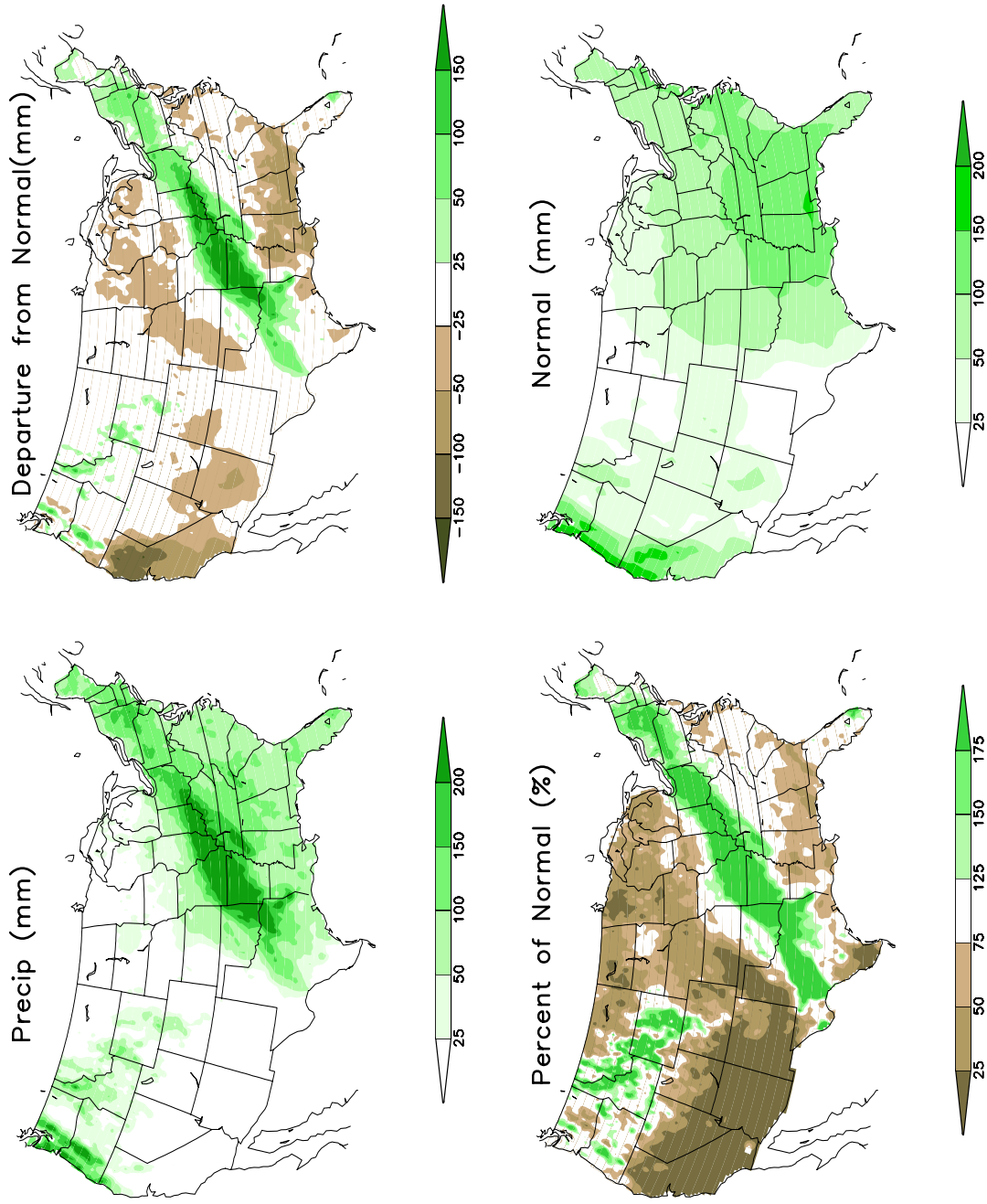


FIGURE E6. Observed precipitation (upper left), departure from average (upper right), percent of average (lower left), and average precipitation (lower right) for MAR 2008. The units are given on each panel. Base period for averages is 1971–2000. Results are based on CPC’s U. S. daily precipitation analysis, which is available at <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/realtime>.



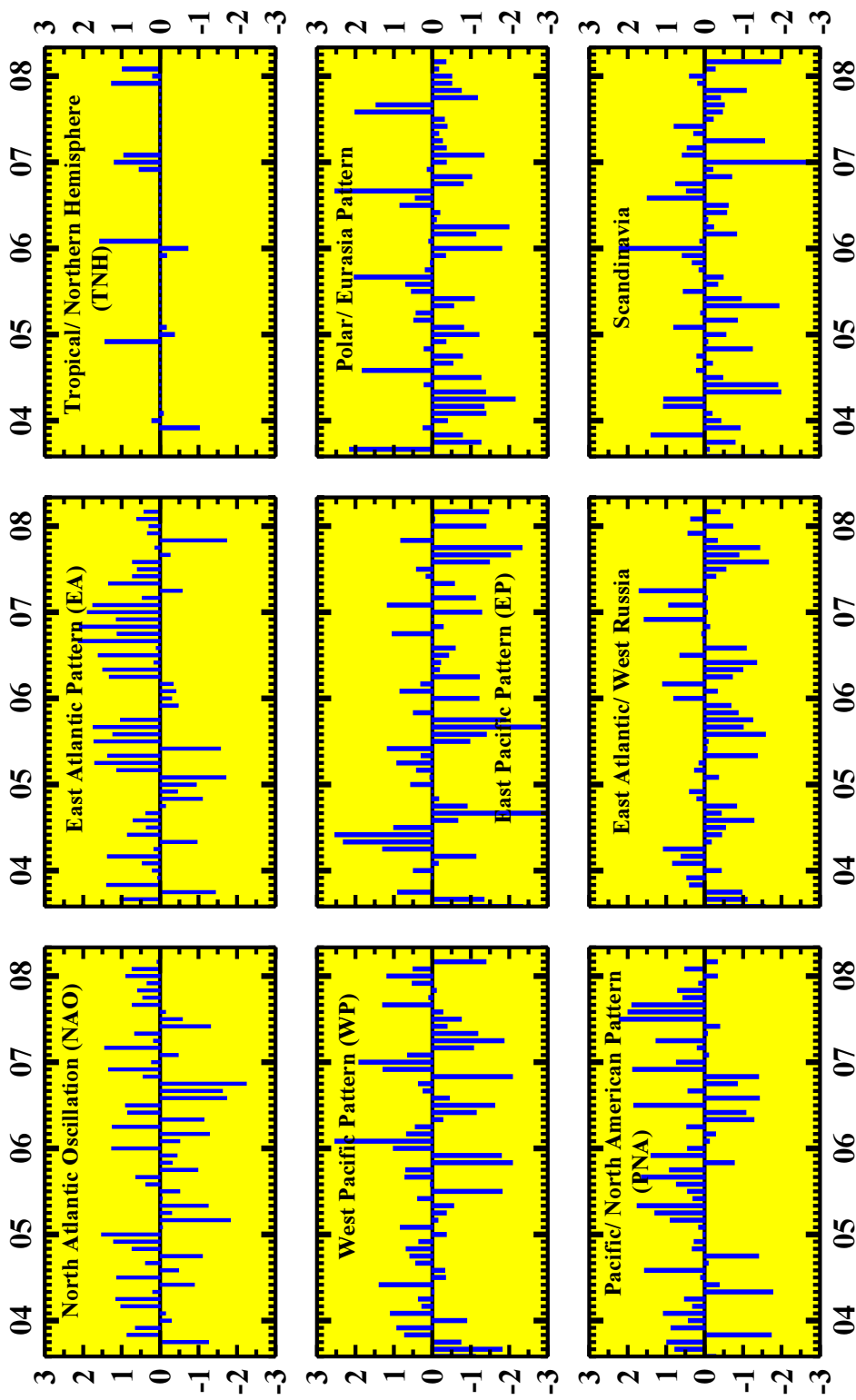


FIGURE E7. Standardized monthly Northern Hemisphere teleconnection indices. The teleconnection patterns are calculated from a Rotated Principal Component Analysis (RPCA) applied to monthly standardized 500-hPa height anomalies during January 1950 – December 2000. To obtain these patterns, ten leading 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.

March 2008  
Sea-Level Pressure and Anomaly

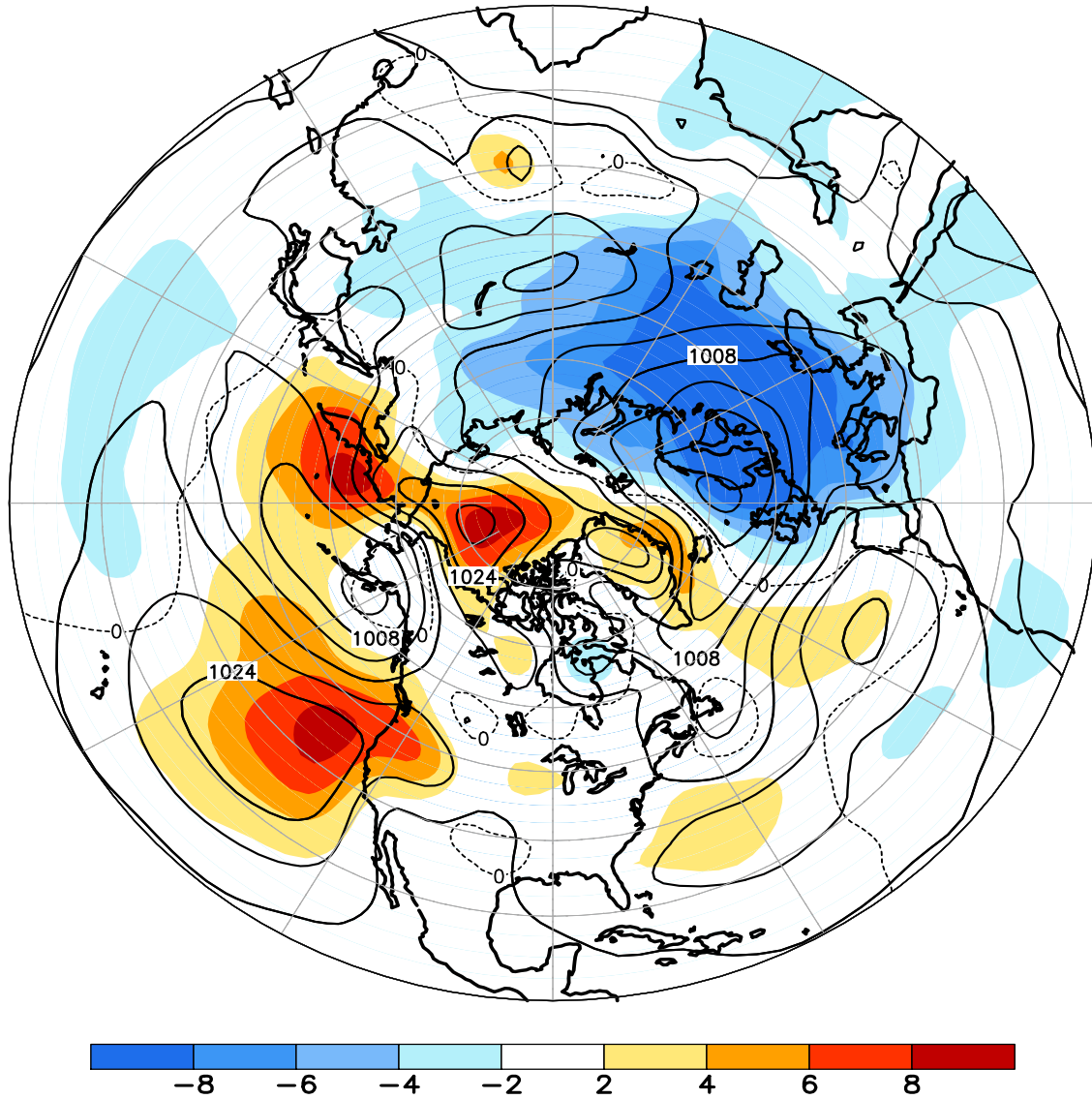


FIGURE E8. Northern Hemisphere mean and anomalous sea level pressure (CDAS/Reanalysis) for MAR 2008. Mean values are denoted by solid contours drawn at an interval of 4 hPa. Anomaly contour interval is 2 hPa with values less (greater) than -2 hPa (2 hPa) indicated by dark (light) shading. Anomalies are calculated as departures from the 1979-95 base period monthly means.

March 2008  
500-hPa Height and Anomaly

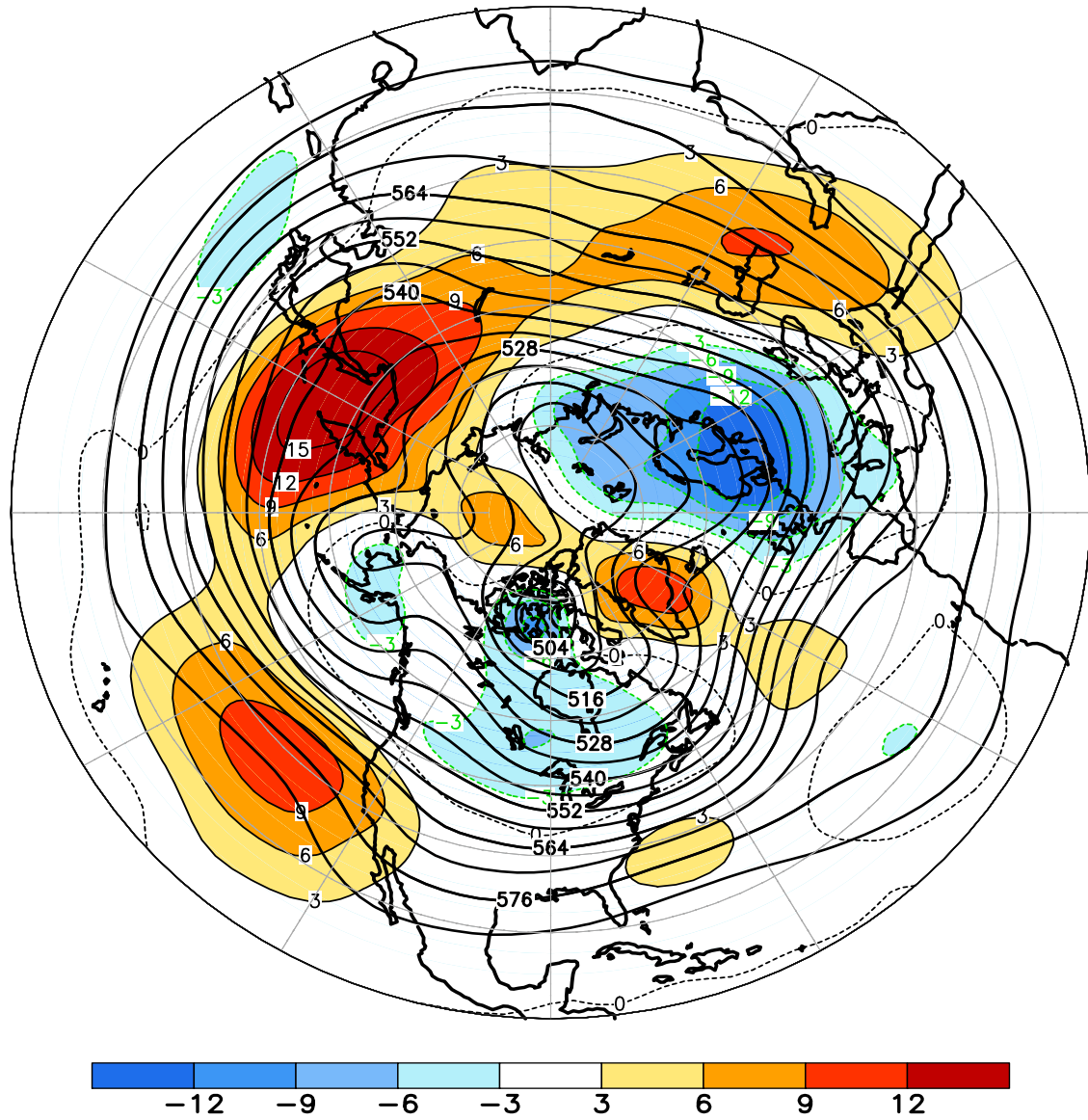
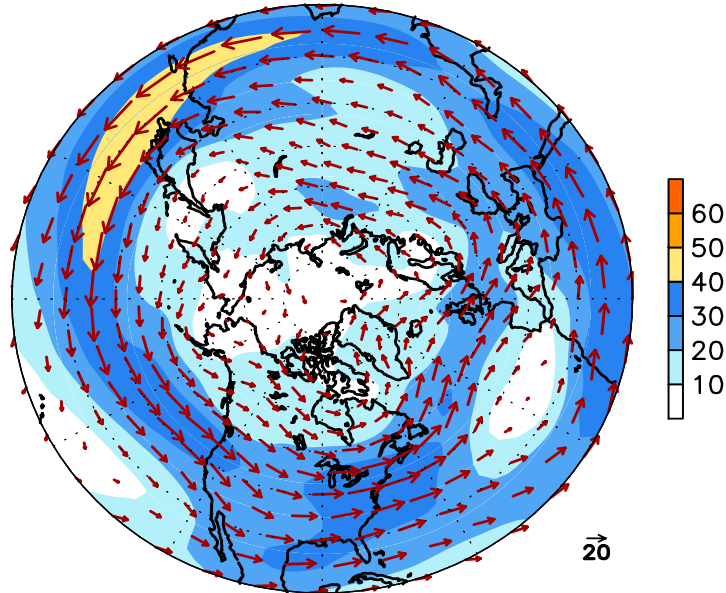


FIGURE E9. Northern Hemisphere mean and anomalous 500-hPa geopotential height (CDAS/Reanalysis) for MAR 2008. Mean heights are denoted by solid contours drawn at an interval of 8 dam. Anomaly contour interval is 3 dam with values less (greater) than -3 dam (3 dam) indicated by dark (light) shading. Anomalies are calculated as departures from the 1979-95 base period monthly means.

March 2008  
300-hPa Wind



300-hPa Wind Anomaly

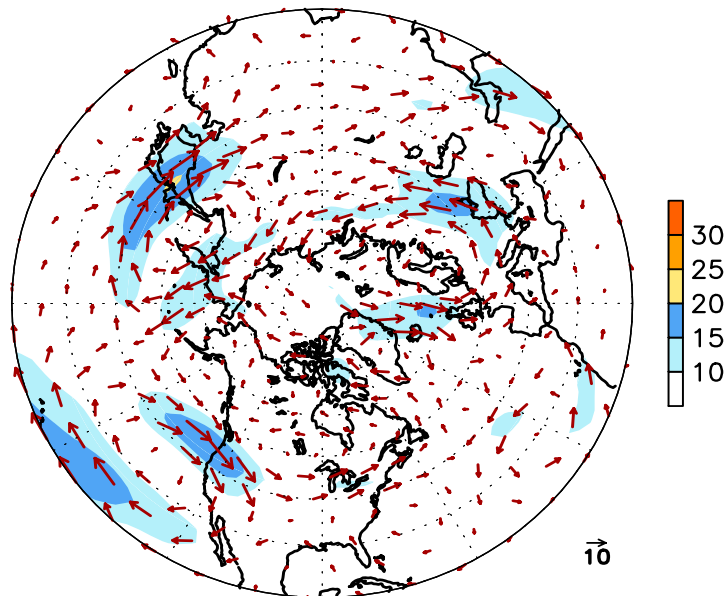


FIGURE E10. Northern Hemisphere mean (left) and anomalous (right) 300-hPa vector wind (CDAS/Reanalysis) for MAR 2008. Mean (anomaly) isotach contour interval is 10 (5)  $\text{ms}^{-1}$ . Values greater than 30  $\text{ms}^{-1}$  (left) and 10  $\text{ms}^{-1}$  (rights) are shaded. Anomalies are departures from the 1979-95 base period monthly means.

March 2008  
500-hPa: Percentage of Anomaly Days

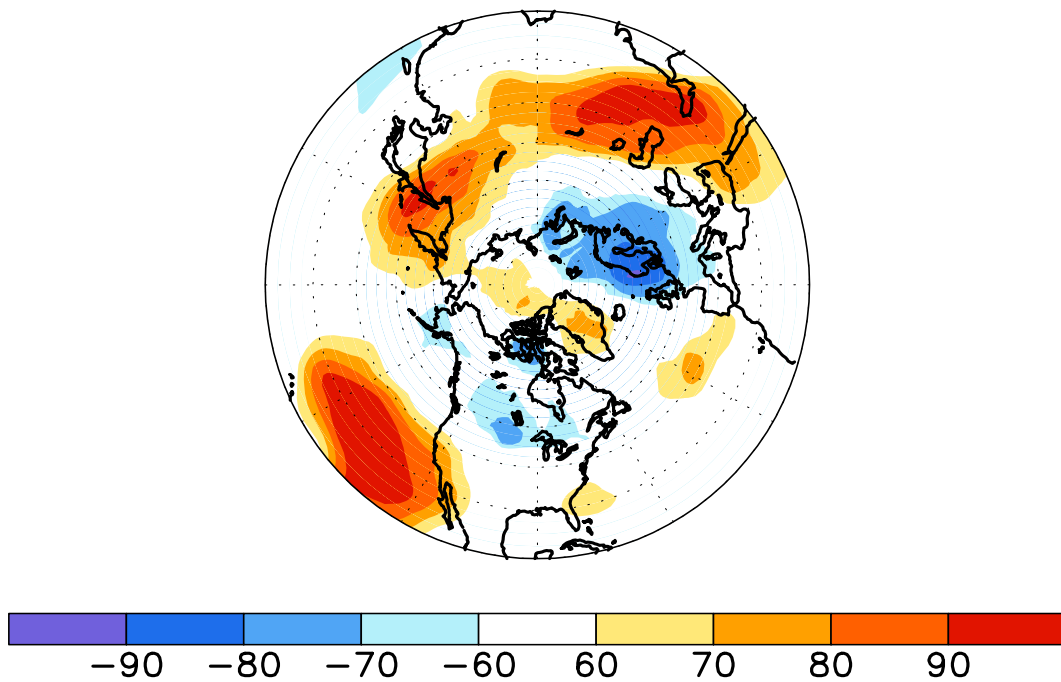


FIGURE E11. Northern Hemisphere percentage of days during MAR 2008 in which 500-hPa height anomalies greater than 15 m (red) and less than -15 m (blue) were observed. Values greater than 70% are shaded and contour interval is 20%.

March 2008  
500-hPa Height Anomalies: 40.0N

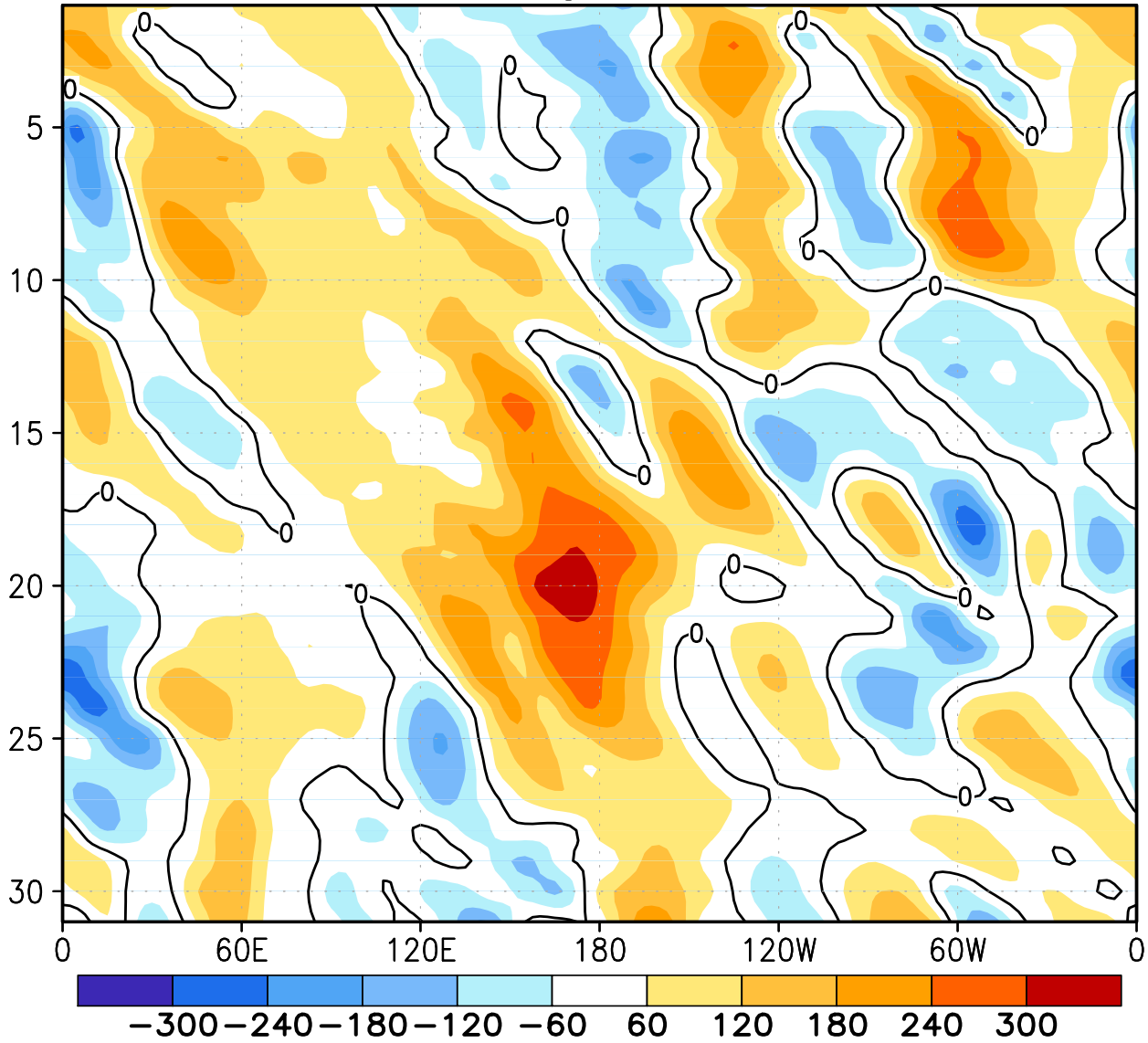
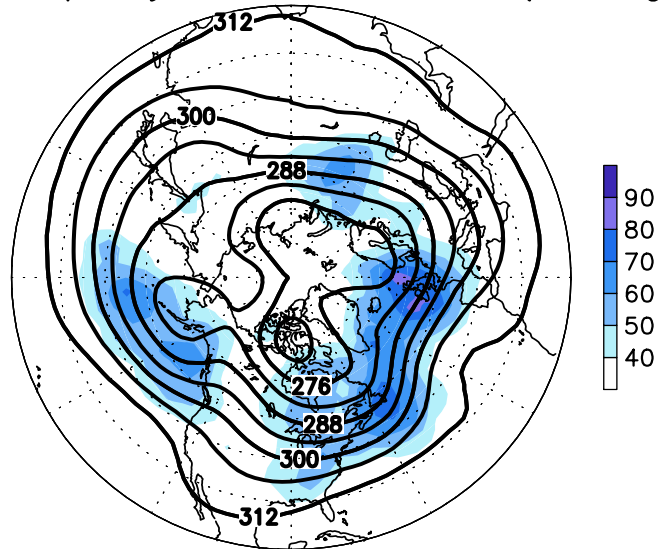


FIGURE E12. Northern Hemisphere: Daily 500-hPa height anomalies for MAR 2008 averaged over the 5° latitude band centered on 40°N. Positive values are indicated by solid contours and dark shading. Negative values are indicated by dashed contours and light shading. Contour interval is 60 m. Anomalies are departures from the 1979-95 base period daily means.



March 2008  
 700-hPa Heights (Contours, m)  
 High Frequency Standard Deviation (Shading, m)



700-hPa Heights (Contours, m)  
 High Frequency Normalized Variance (Shading)

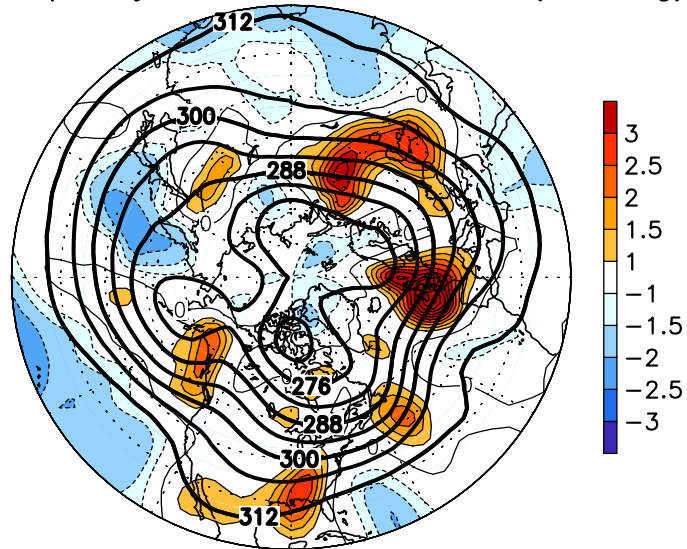


FIGURE E13. Northern Hemisphere: 700-hPa heights for MAR 2008 overlaid with standard deviation of high-pass filtered height (left) and normalized anomalous variance of high-pass filtered height (right). Heights are indicated by thick solid contours in both panels (interval is 60 m). High-pass filtered fields reflect fluctuations having periods less than 10 days, and are indicated by thin contours and shading. Contour interval for standard deviation is 15 m with values > 45 m shaded. Contour interval for normalized variance is 1 standard deviation, with positive values shown by solid contours and dark shading and negative values shown by dashed contours and light shading. Anomalies are departures from the 1964-93 base period monthly means.



March 2008  
Sea-Level Pressure and Anomaly

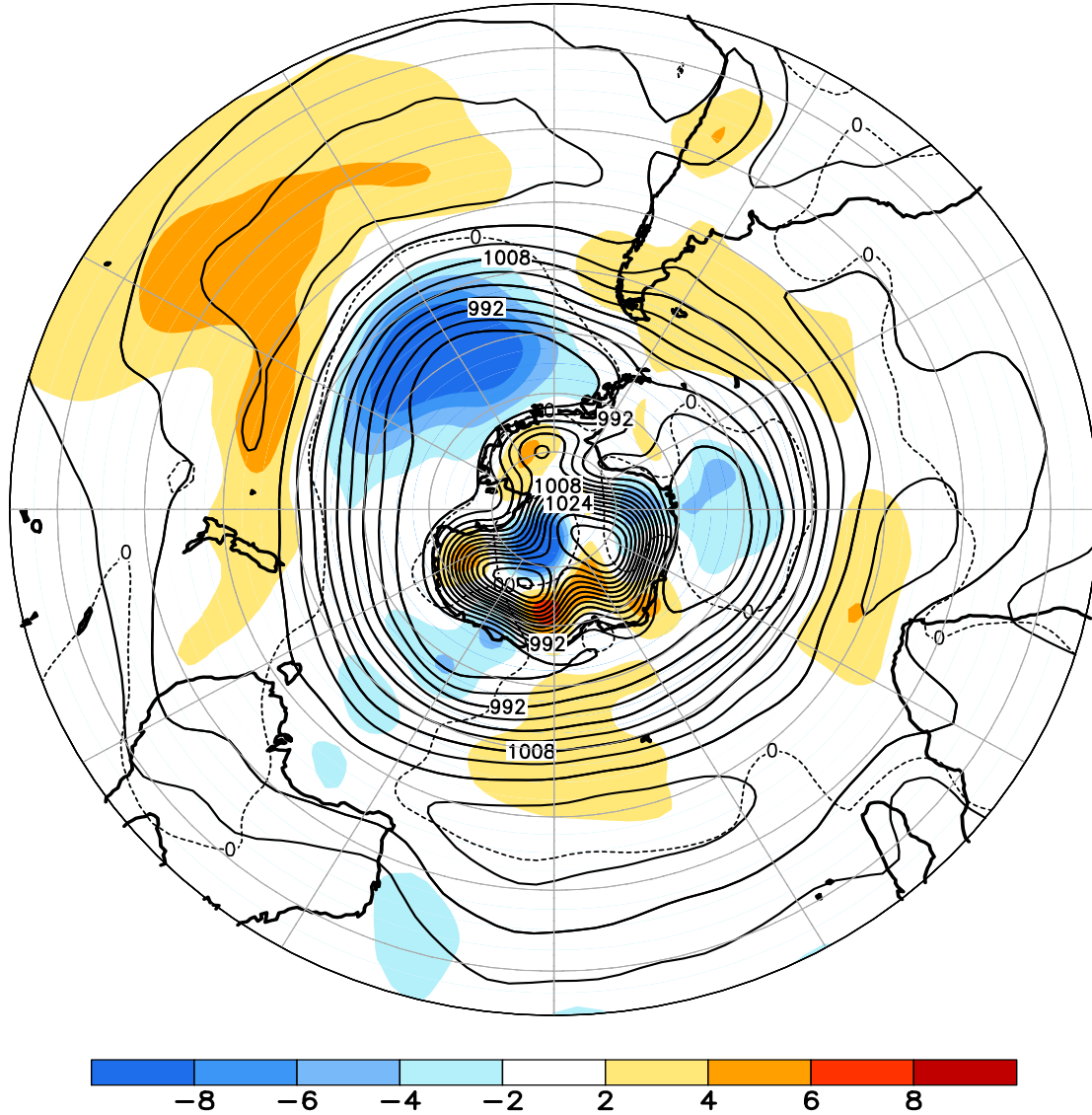


FIGURE E14. Southern Hemisphere mean and anomalous sea level pressure(CDAS/Reanalysis) for MAR 2008. Mean values are denoted by solid contours drawn at an interval of 4 hPa. Anomaly contour interval is 2 hPa with values less (greater) than -2 hPa (2 hPa) indicated by dark (light) shading. Anomalies are calculated as departures from the 1979-95 base period monthly means.

March 2008  
500-hPa Height and Anomaly

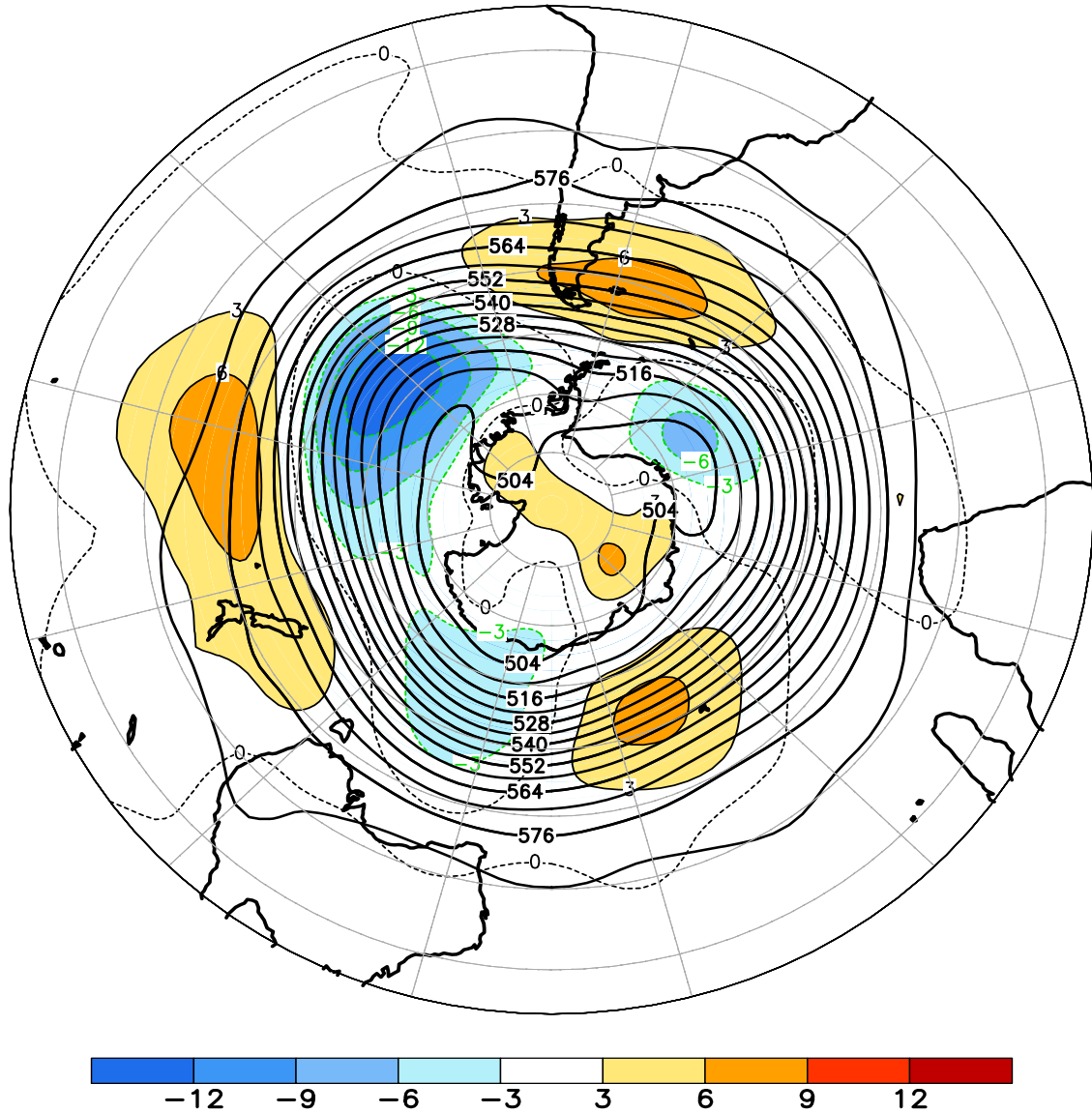
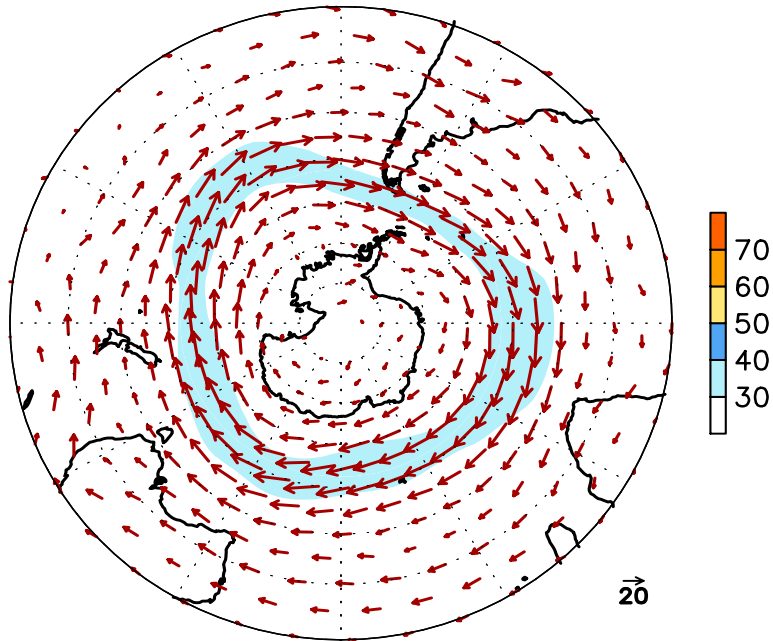


FIGURE E15. Southern Hemisphere mean and anomalous 500-hPa geopotential height (CDAS/Reanalysis) for MAR 2008. Mean heights are denoted by solid contours drawn at an interval of 8 dam. Anomaly contour interval is 3 dam with values less (greater) than -3 dam (3 dam) indicated by dark (light) shading. Anomalies are calculated as departures from the 1979-95 base period monthly means.

March 2008  
300-hPa Wind



300-hPa Wind Anomaly

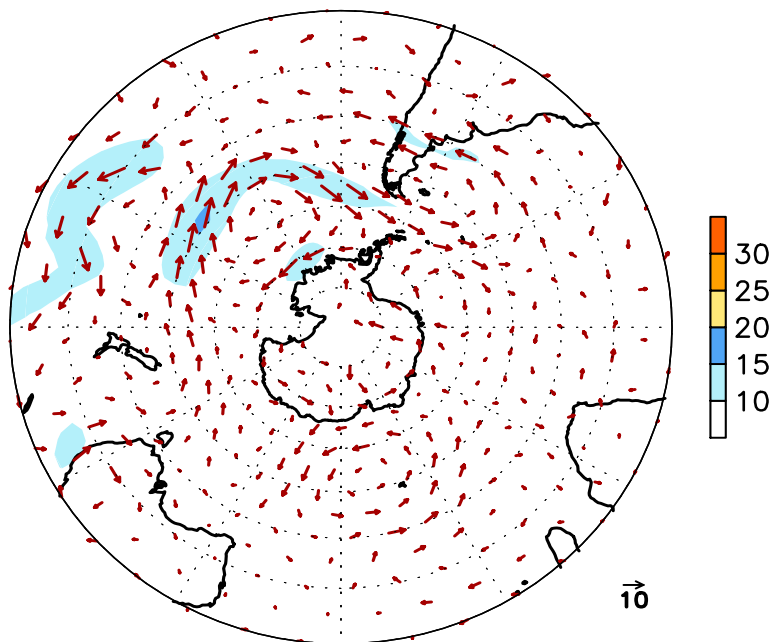


FIGURE E16. Southern Hemisphere mean (left) and anomalous (right) 300-hPa vector wind (CDAS/Reanalysis) for MAR 2008. Mean (anomaly) isotach contour interval is 10 (5)  $\text{ms}^{-1}$ . Values greater than 30  $\text{ms}^{-1}$  (left) and 10  $\text{ms}^{-1}$  (rights) are shaded. Anomalies are departures from the 1979-95 base period monthly means.

March 2008  
500-hPa: Percentage of Anomaly Days

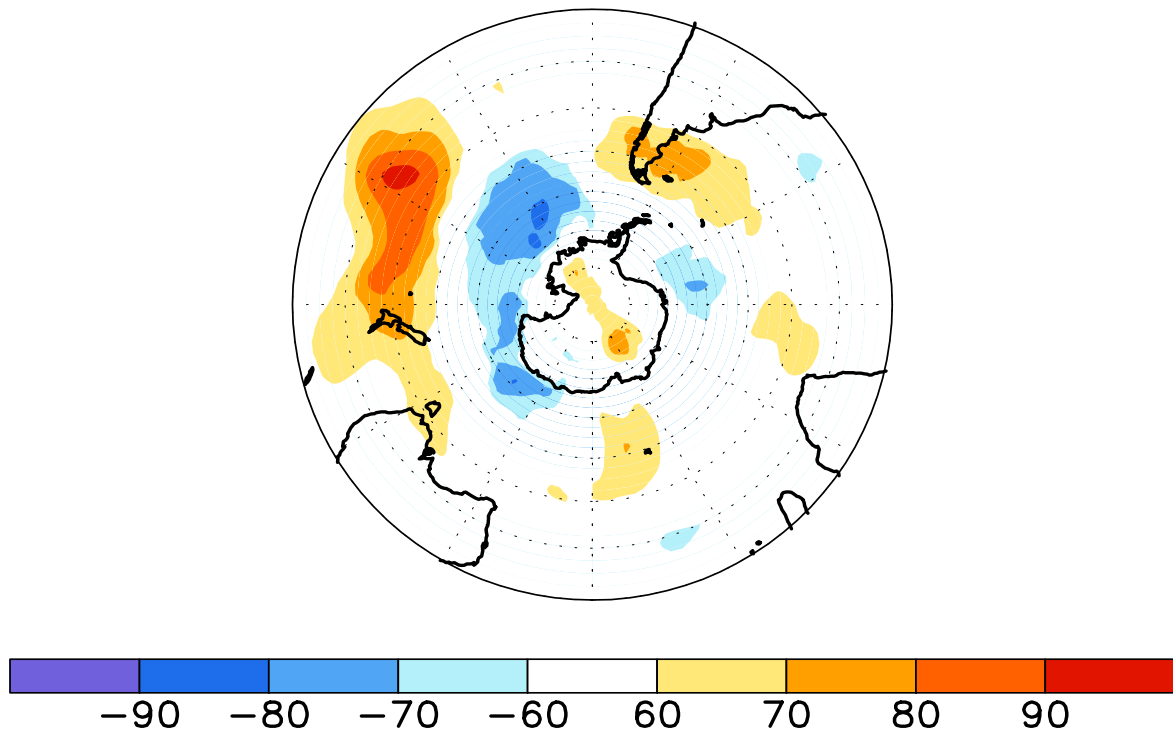


FIGURE E17. Southern Hemisphere percentage of days during MAR 2008 in which 500-hPa height anomalies greater than 15 m (red) and less than -15 m (blue) were observed. Values greater than 70% are shaded and contour interval is 20%.

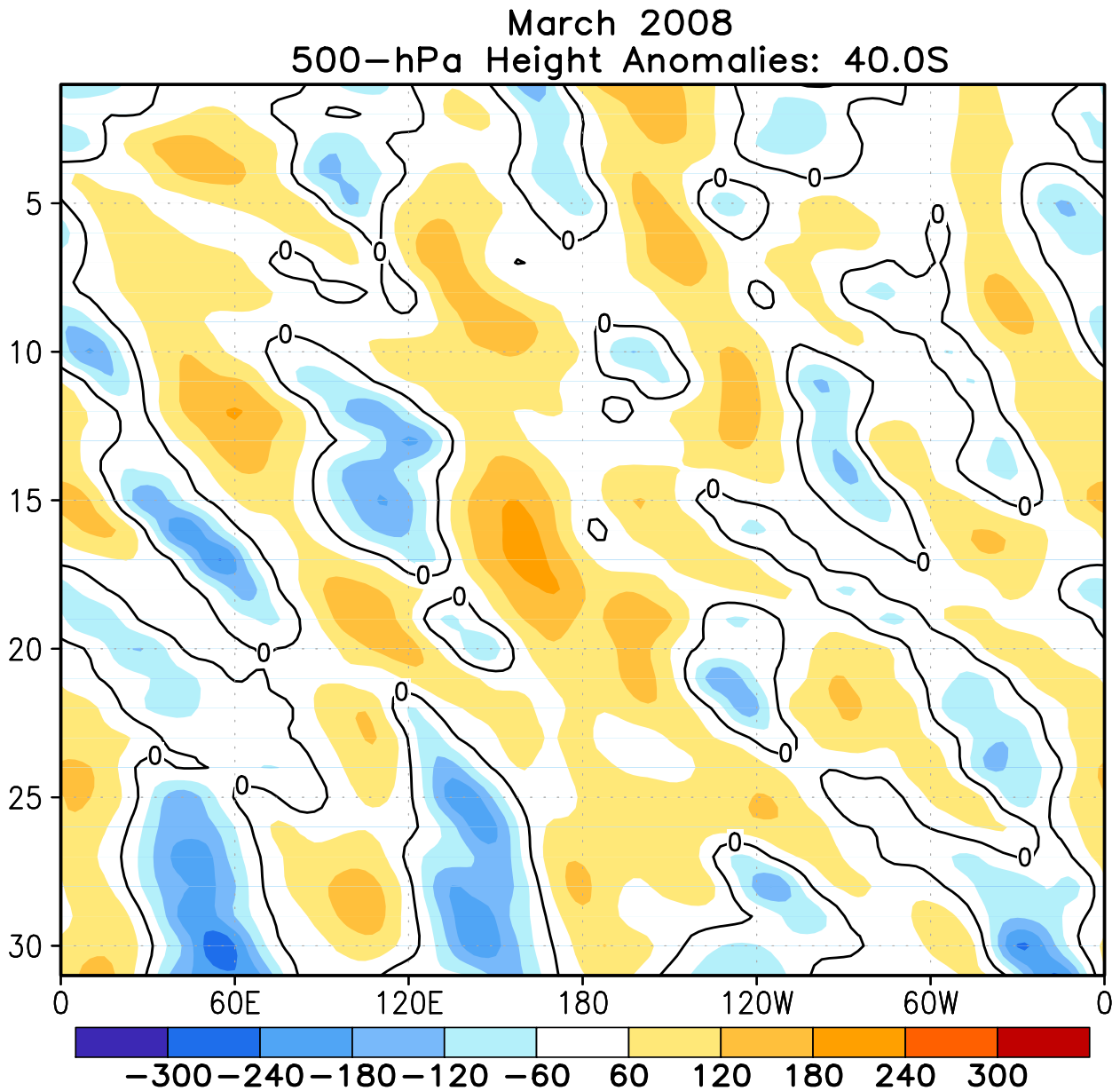


FIGURE E18. Southern Hemisphere: Daily 500-hPa height anomalies for MAR 2008 averaged over the 5° latitude band centered on 40°S. Positive values are indicated by solid contours and dark shading. Negative values are indicated by dashed contours and light shading. Contour interval is 60 m. Anomalies are departures from the 1979-95 base period daily means.

March 2008  
Height Anomalies

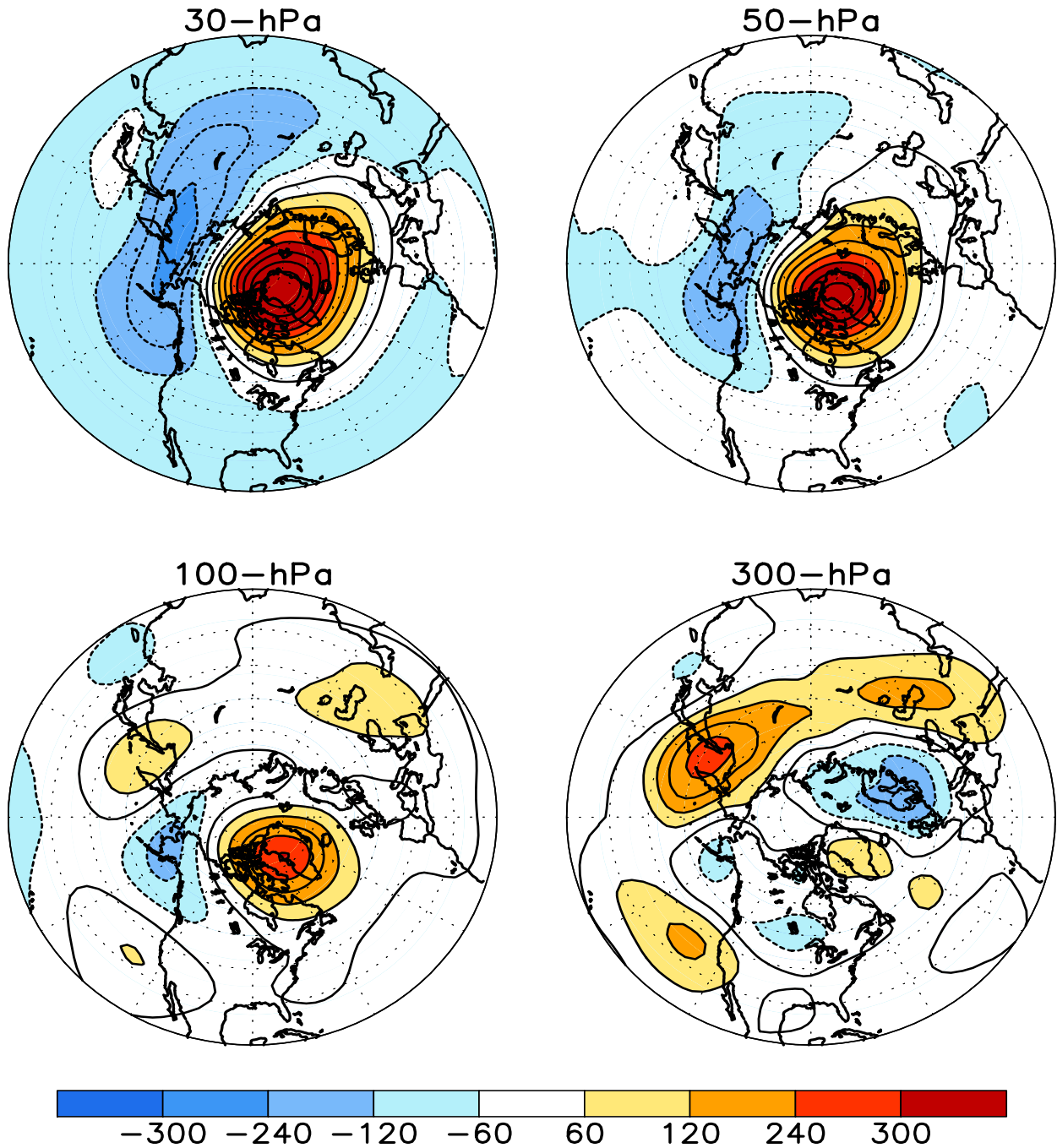


FIGURE S1. Stratospheric height anomalies (m) at selected levels for MAR 2008. Positive values are indicated by solid contours and dark shading. Negative values are indicated by dashed contours and light shading. Contour interval is 60 m. Anomalies are calculated from the 1979–95 base period means. Winter Hemisphere is shown.

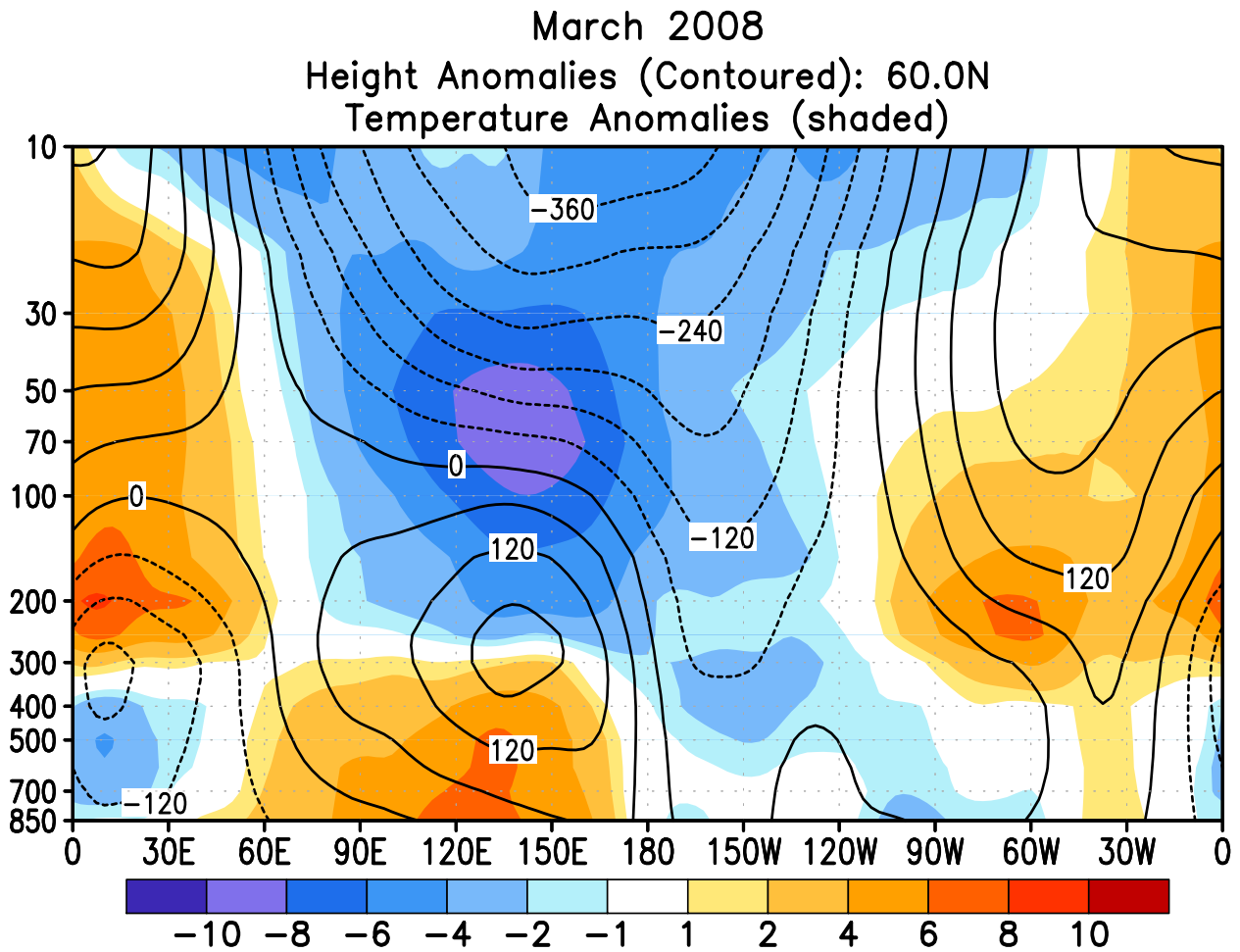


FIGURE S2. Height-longitude sections during MAR 2008 for height anomalies (contour) and temperature anomalies (shaded). In both panels, positive values are indicated by solid contours and dark shading, while negative anomalies are indicated by dashed contours and light shading. Contour interval for height anomalies is 60 m and for temperature anomalies is 2°C. Anomalies are calculated from the 1979–95 base period monthly means. Winter Hemisphere is shown.



### 50hPa JFM Mean Temperature Anomalies

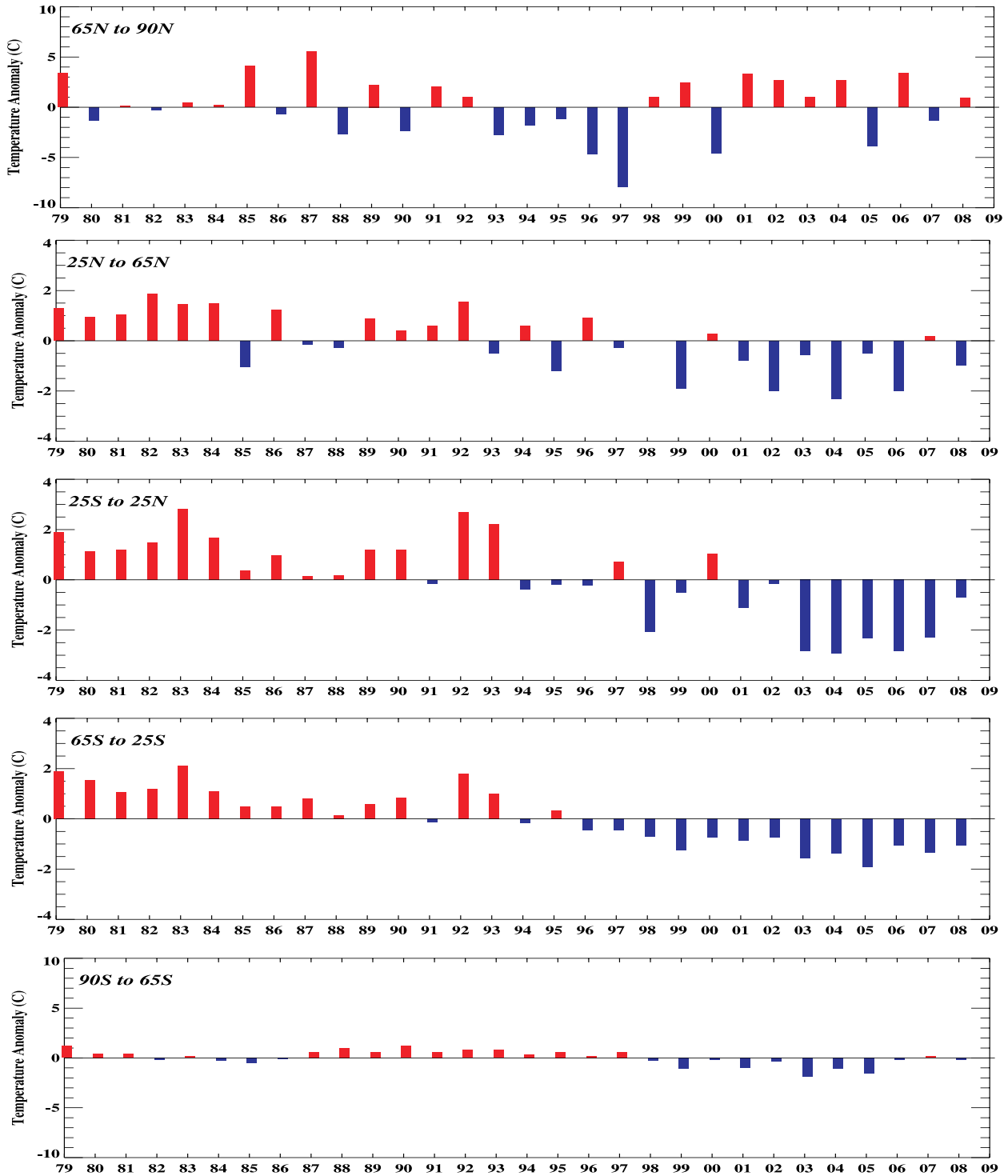


FIGURE S3. Seasonal mean temperature anomalies at 50-hPa for the latitude bands 65°–90°N, 25°–65°N, 25°N–25°S, 25°–65°S, 65°–90°S. The seasonal mean is comprised of the most recent three months. Zonal anomalies are taken from the mean of the entire data set.

### Zonal Mean Temperature for 2007 & 2008

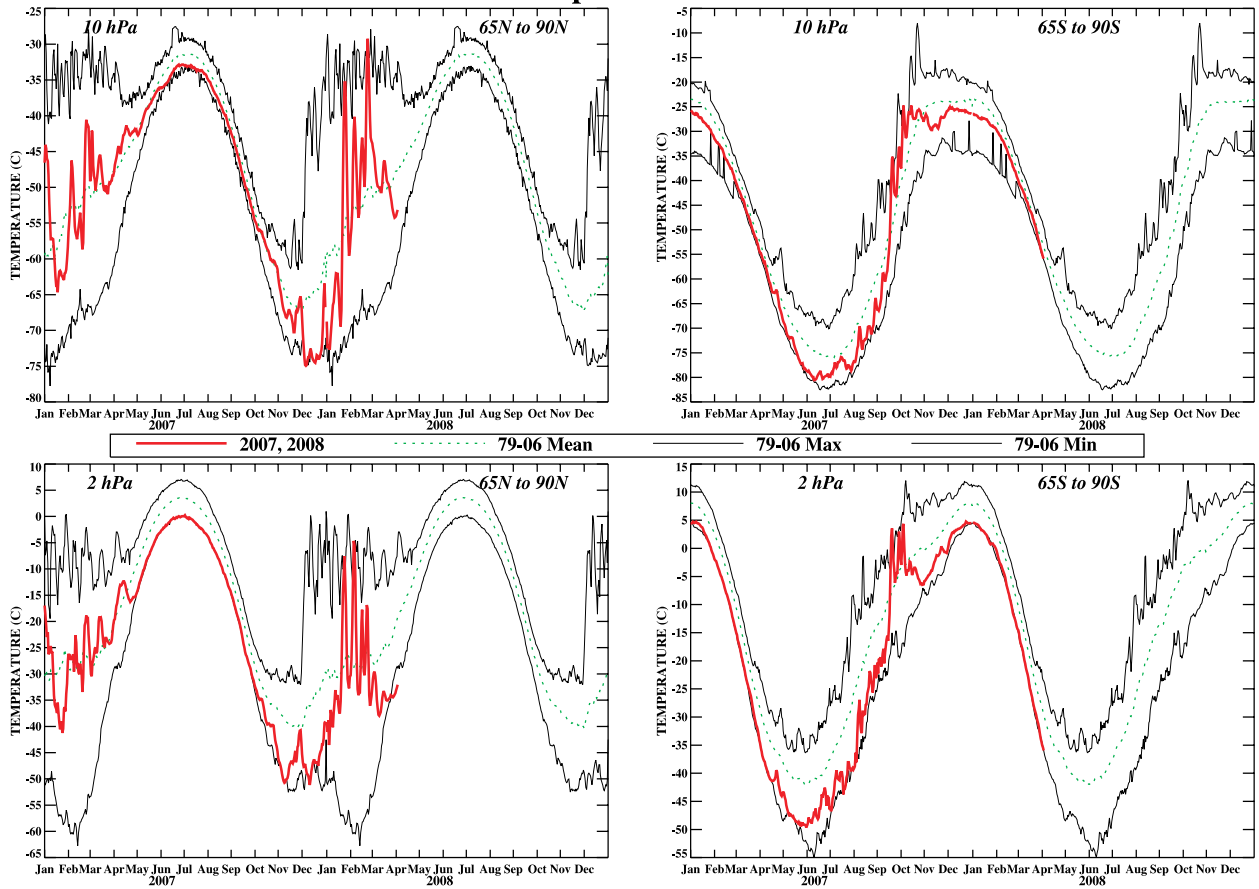


FIGURE S4. Daily mean temperatures at 10-hPa and 2-hPa (thick line) in the region 65°–90°N and 65°–90°S for the past two years. Dashed line depicts the 1979–99 base period daily mean. Thin solid lines depict the daily extreme maximum and minimum temperatures.

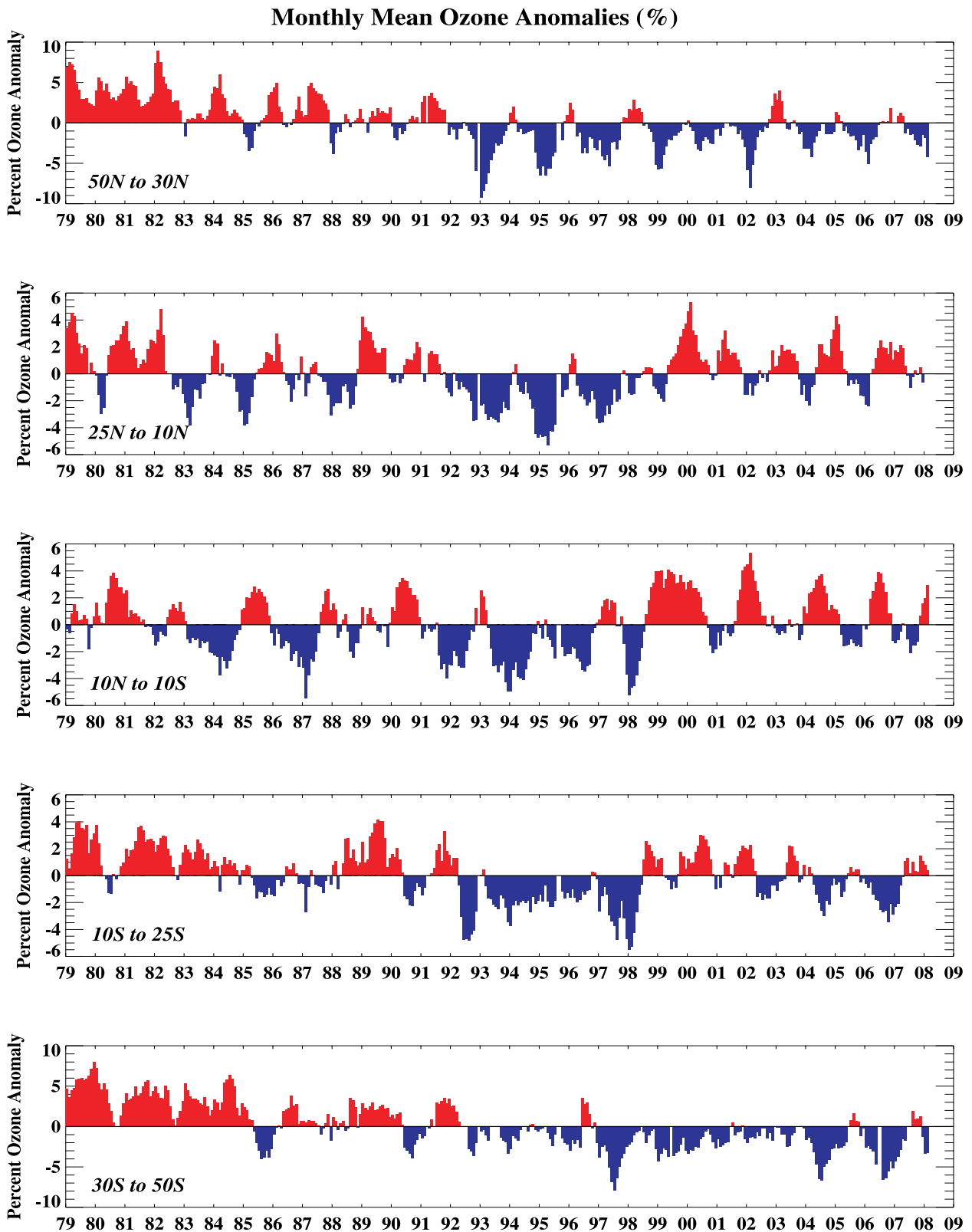


FIGURE S5. Monthly ozone anomalies (percent) from the long term monthly means for five zones: 50N-30N (NH mid-latitudes), 25N-10N (NH tropical surf zone), 10N-10S (Equatorial-QBO zone), 10S-25S (SH tropical surf zone), and 30S-50S (SH mid-latitudes). The long term monthly means are determined from the entire data set beginning in 1979.

### MARCH PERCENT DIFF (2008 - AVG(79-86))

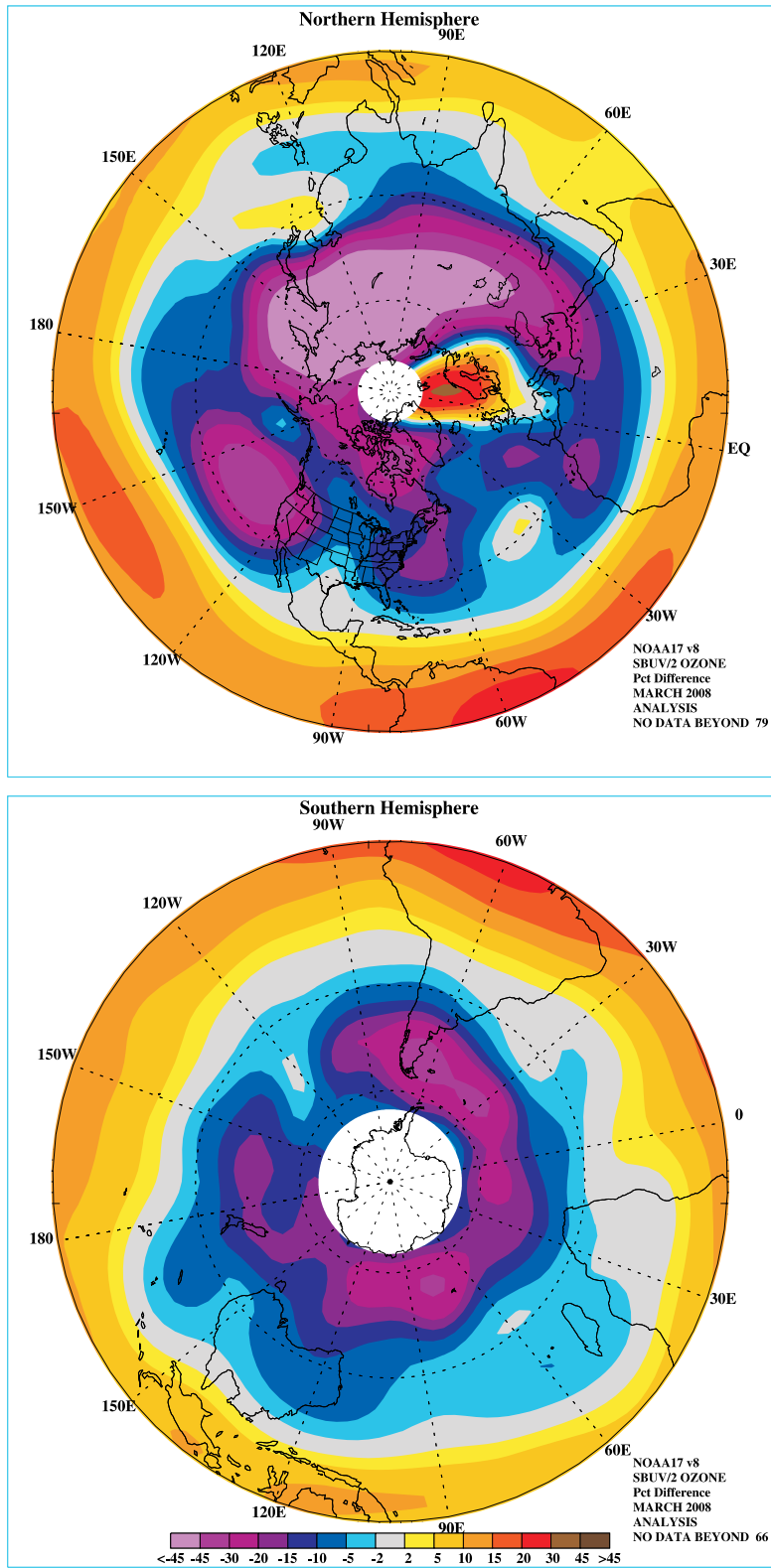


FIGURE S6. Northern (top) and Southern (bottom) Hemisphere total ozone anomaly (percent difference from monthly mean for the period 1979–86). The region near the winter pole has no SBUV/2 data.

# Fz at 100 hPa (Mar. 2008)

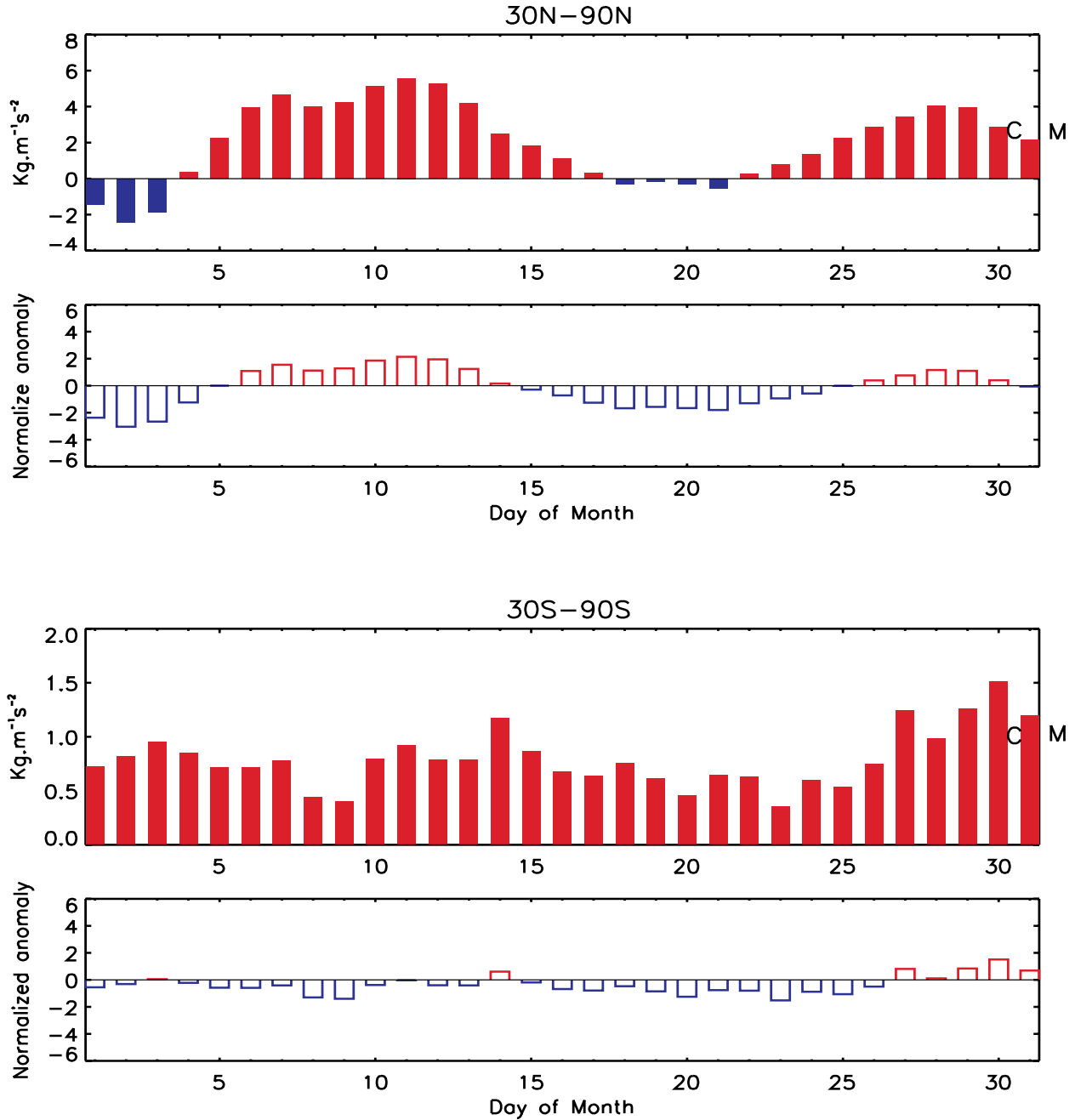


FIGURE S7. Daily vertical component of EP flux (which is proportional to the poleward transport of heat or upward transport of potential energy by planetary wave) at 100 hPa averaged over (top) 30°N-90°N and (bottom) 30°S-90°S for MAR 2008. The EP flux unit ( $\text{kg m}^{-1} \text{s}^{-2}$ ) has been 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.

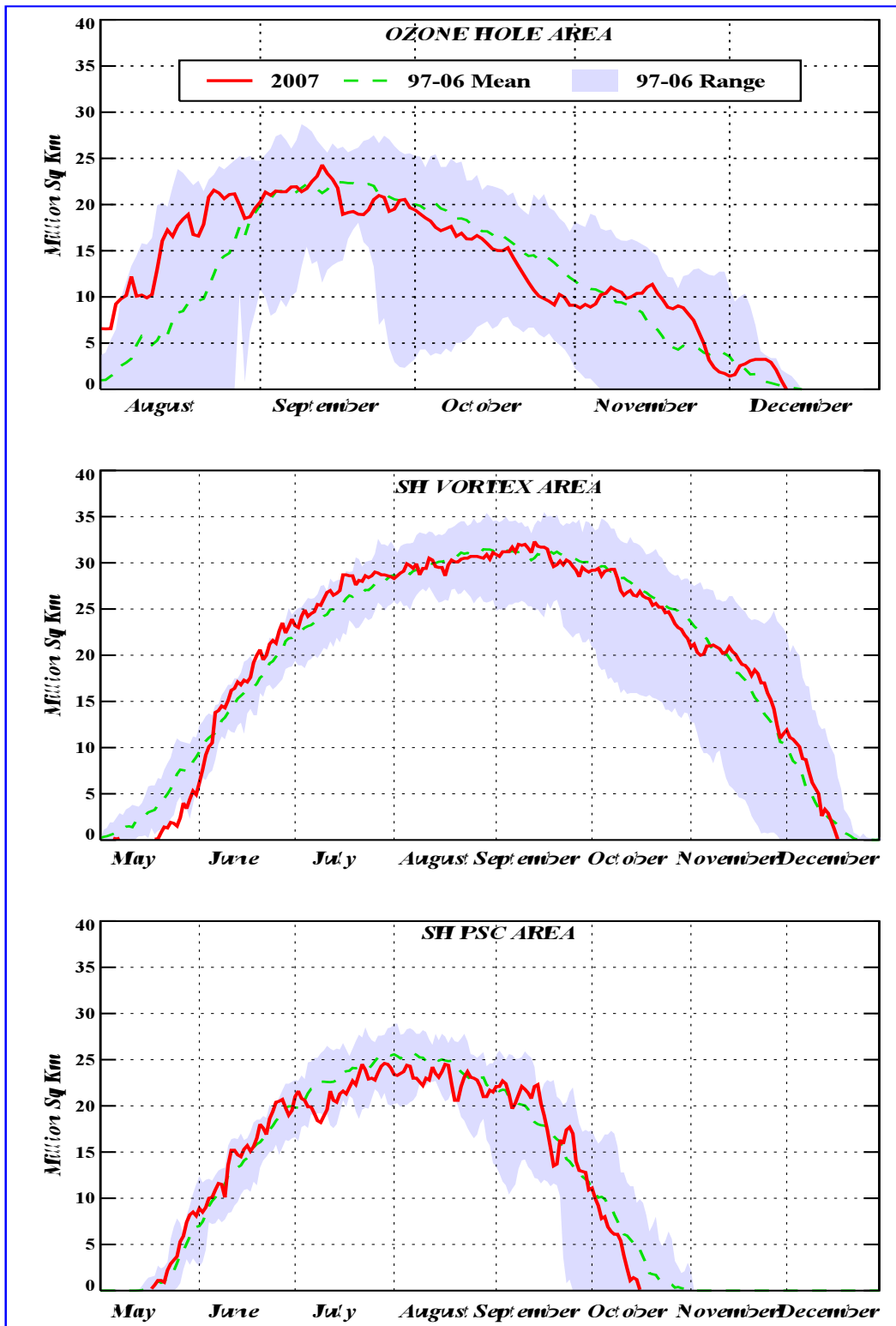
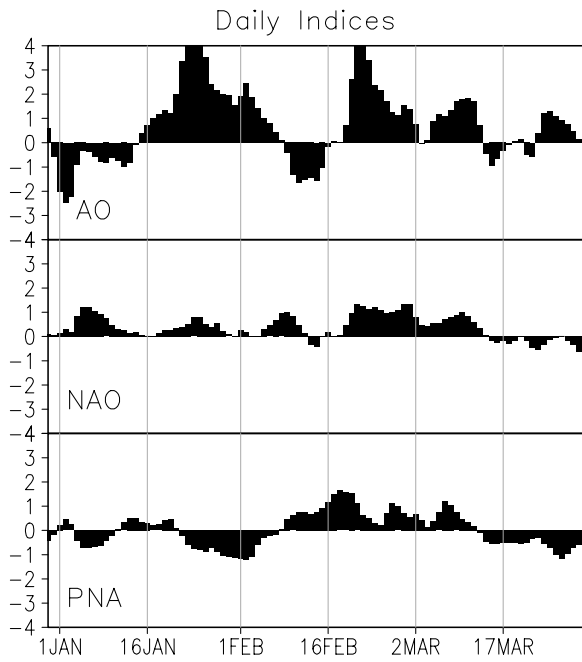
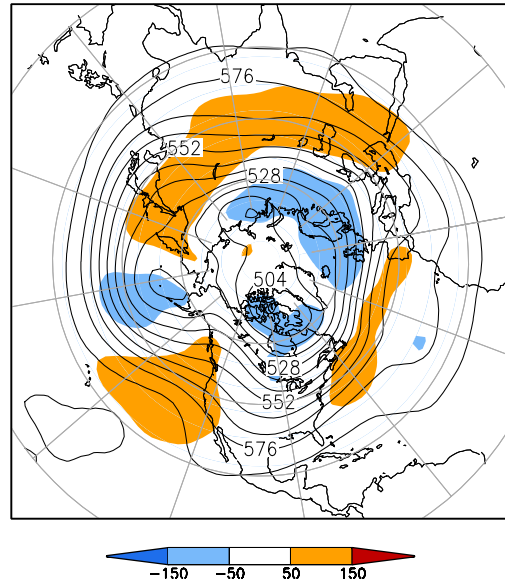


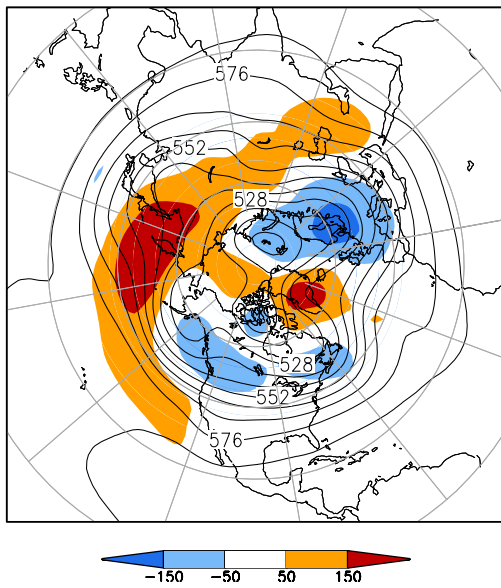
FIGURE S8. Daily time series showing the size of the NH polar vortex (representing the area enclosed by the 32 PVU contour on the 450K isentropic surface), and the areal coverage of temperatures <-78C on the 450K isentropic surface.



500-hPa Height (dm) & Anomalies (m)  
(Mar 1–15, 2008)



500-hPa Height (dm) & Anomalies (m)  
(Mar 16–31, 2008)



500-hPa Height (dm) & Anomalies (m)  
(Mar 1–31, 2008)

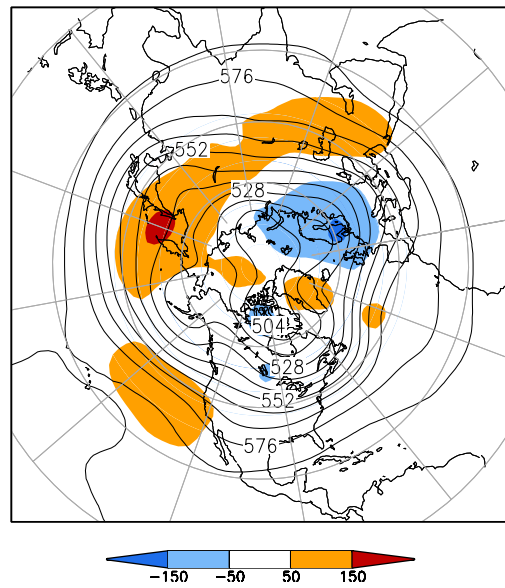


FIGURE A2.1. (a) Daily amplitudes of the Arctic Oscillation (AO) the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), and the Pacific-North American (PNA) pattern. The pattern amplitudes for the AO, (NAO, PNA) are calculated by projecting the daily 1000-hPa (500-hPa) height anomaly field onto the leading EOF obtained from standardized time-series of daily 1000-hPa (500-hPa) height for all months of the year. The base period is 1979–2000.

(b-d) Northern Hemisphere mean and anomalous 500-hPa geopotential height (CDAS/Reanalysis) for selected periods during MAR 2008 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 1979–95 base period daily means.



**SSM/I Snow Cover for Mar 2008  
anomaly based on departure from 1987–2007 baseline**

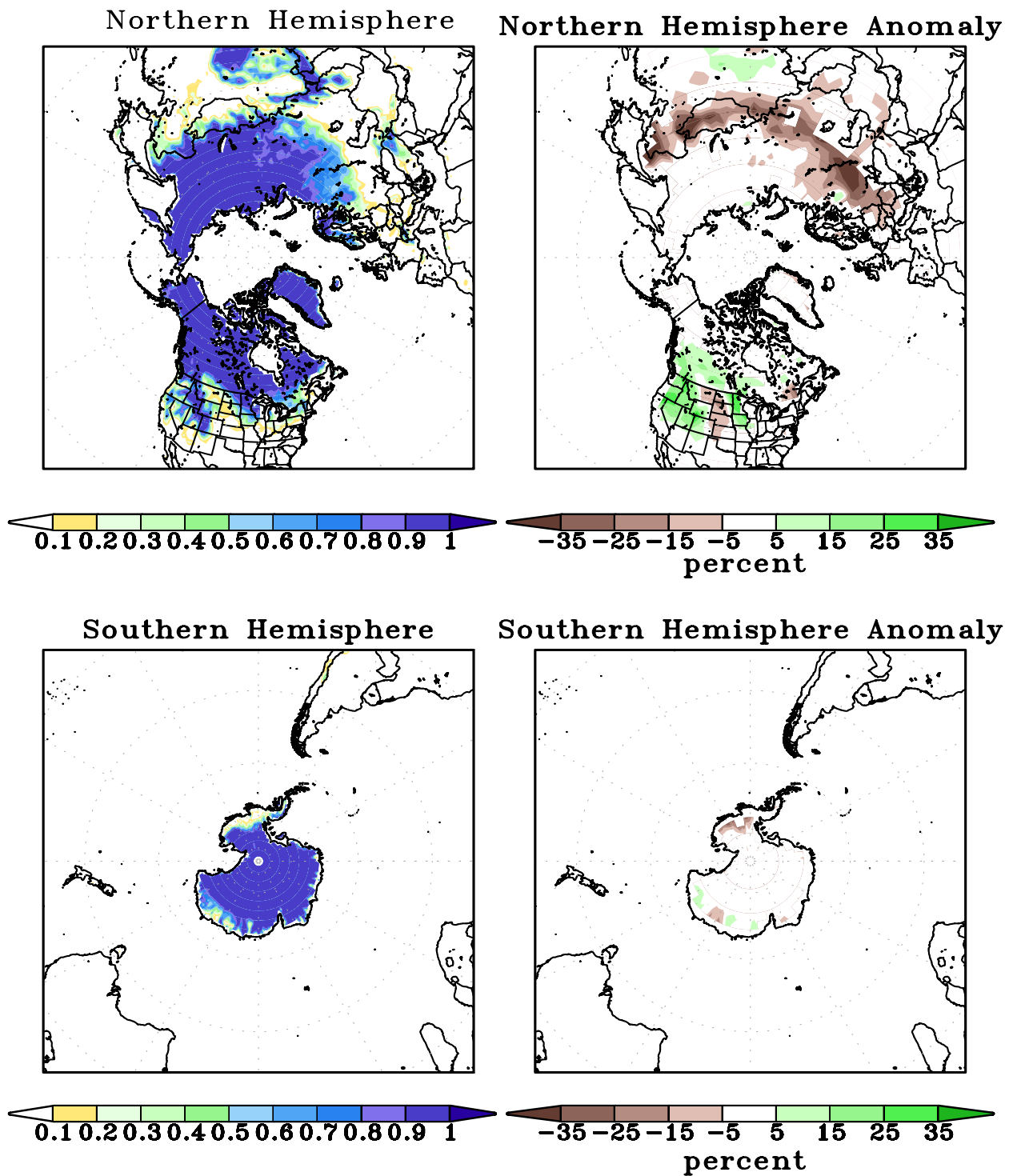


FIGURE A2.2. SSM/I derived snow cover frequency (%) (left) and snow cover anomaly (%) (right) for the month of MAR 2008 based on 1987 - 2006 base period for the Northern Hemisphere (top) and Southern Hemisphere (bottom). It is generated using the algorithm described by Ferraro et. al, 1996, Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc., vol 77, 891-905.