Seasonal forecasting at ECMWF

L. Ferranti

The operational forecasting system

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

Coupled atmosphere-ocean system

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

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

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

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

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

to 7 months ahead

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

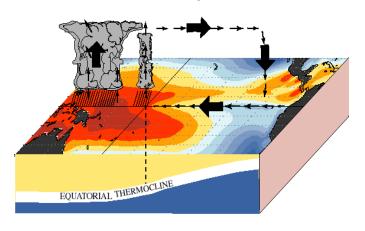
Despite the chaotic nature of the atmosphere, long term predictions rely on a number of components which themselves show variations on long time scales (seasons and years) and, to a certain extent, are predictable.

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

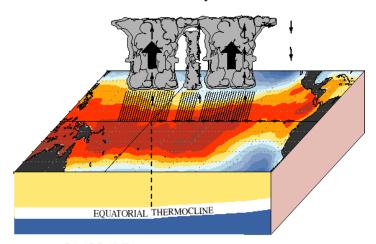
- **ENSO** variability
- Other tropical ocean SST
- **Climate change** long term trends
- **Land surface conditions** e.g. soil moisture in 2003, sea-ice

THE EL NIÑO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO) CYCLE

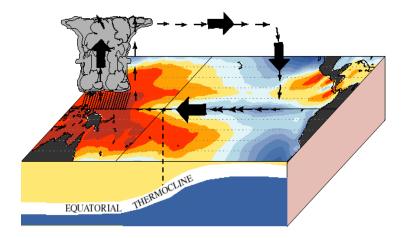
December - February Normal Conditions



December - February El Niño Conditions



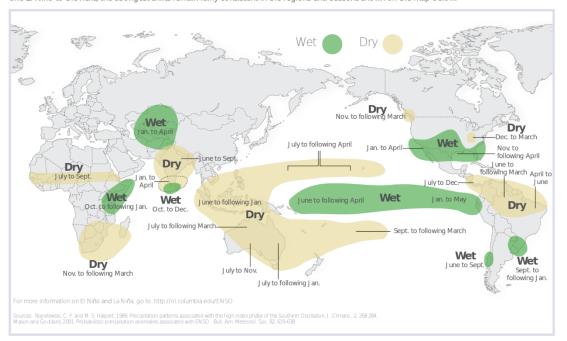
December - February La Niña Conditions

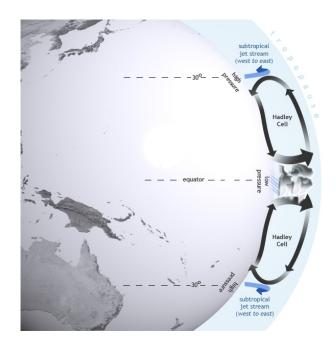


ENSO global impacts:

El Niño and Rainfall

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





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

ECMWF Seasonal Forecasting System

Observations

| Cloud | Polar-orbiting eatellites | Polar-orbiting eatel

Data Assimilation

Current state of the atmosphere

Current state
of the
ocean

Coupled model

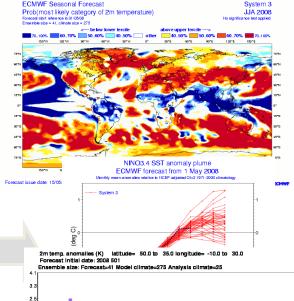
Atmospheric model

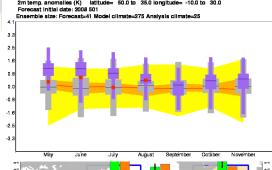
Coupler

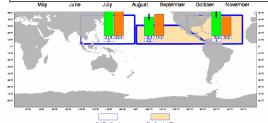
1

Ocean Model

Forecast Products



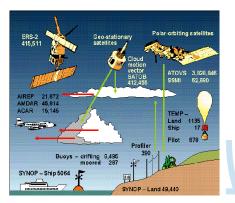




Initialization:

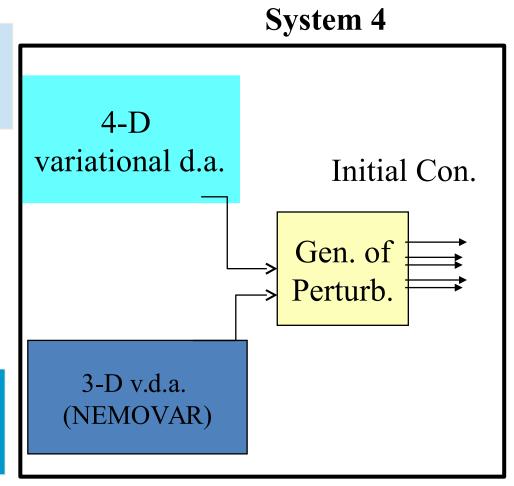
Data Assimilation

Observations



Current state of the atmosphere

Current state of the ocean



Ocean Observing System

Data coverage for June 1982

Changing observing system is a challenge for consistent reanalysis

Data coverage for Nov 2005

Today's Observations will be used in years to come

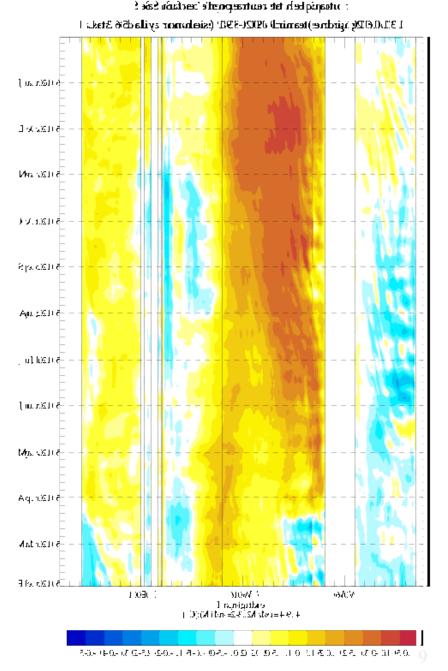
▲ Moorings: Subsurface Temperature

- **♦ ARGO floats: Subsurface Temperature and Salinity**
- + XBT : Subsurface Temperature

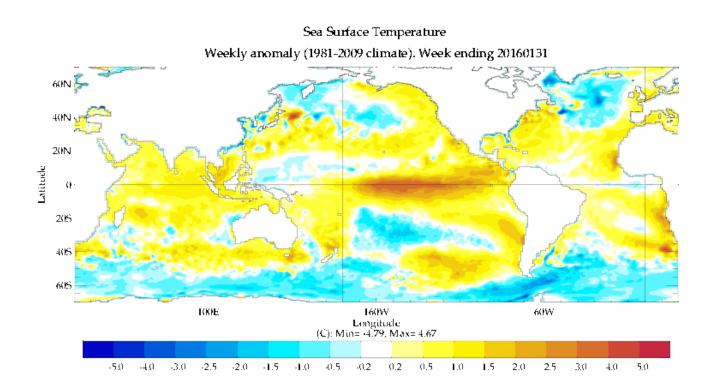
Current ocean conditions from ECMWF ocean data assimilation:

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

From June through September, the largest positive SST anomalies shifted westward. Generally, positive SST anomalies greater than 2°C remain east of the Date Line.

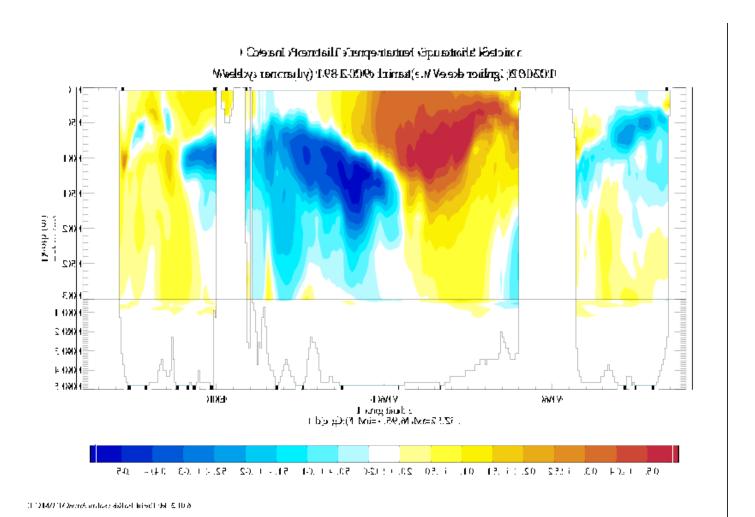


Current ocean conditions from ECMWF ocean data assimilation :



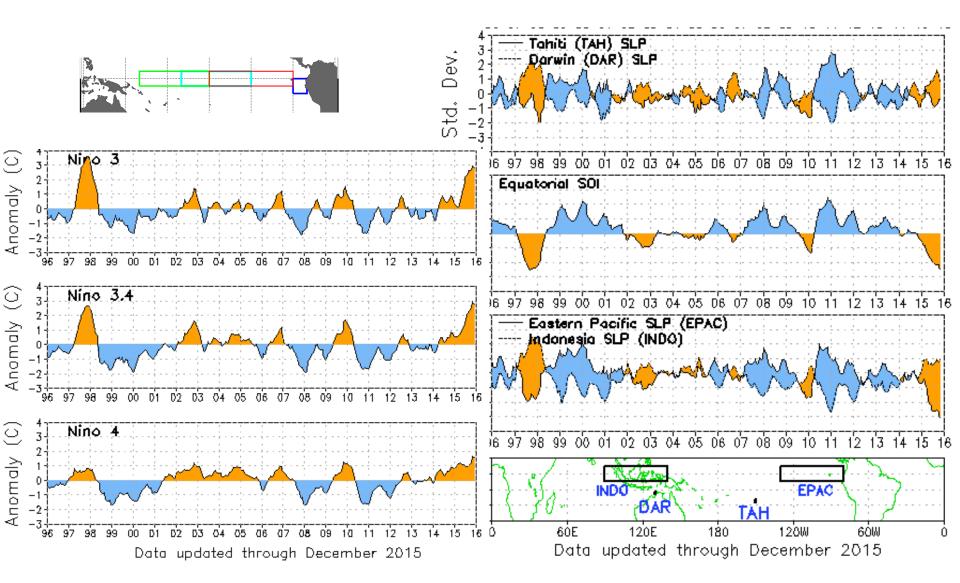
ECMINT Overn Analysis Real Time Jan 31 2016.

Current ocean conditions from ECMWF ocean data assimilation :



SST anomalies

Southern Oscillation Index (SOI):



ECMWF System 4: main features

Operational forecasts

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

Re-forecast set

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

Experimental ENSO outlook

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

Products:

- Ocean Analysis
- Seasonal outlook:

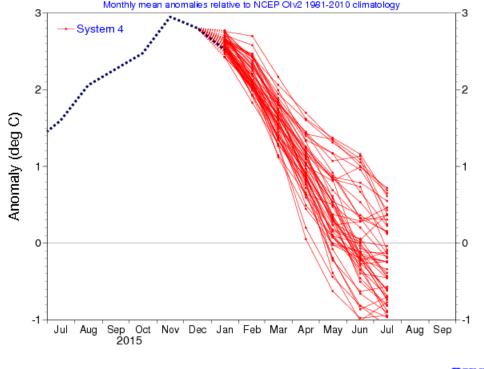
(up to 7 months ahead

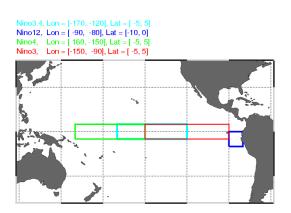
- Forecasts for Nino3, Nino3.4 and Nino4
- Spatial plots (ens.mean anomaly, terciles ..)
- Climagrams (similar to Epsgrams, teleconenction patterns)
 - Tropical storms

NINO3.4 plumes

NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume





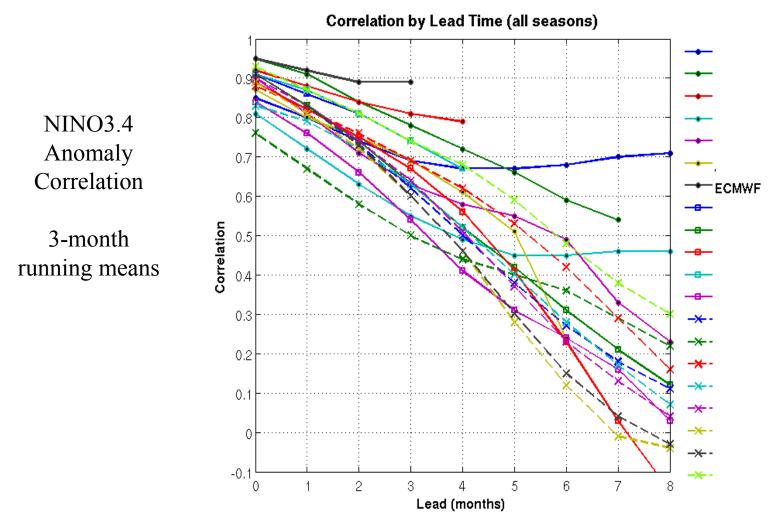


CECMWF

Forecast is made available on the 8h of each month

Footer-text Slide 1:

ENSO skill: comparison with other seasonal fc. systems



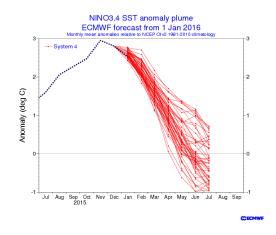
From: Barnston et al. 2011: Skill of Real-time Seasonal ENSO Model Predictions during 2002-2011—Is Our Capability Increasing? BAMS

EUROSIP multi-model system:

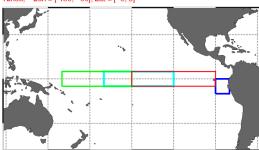
4 Coupled Systems: ECMWF, Météo France, Met Office, NCEP

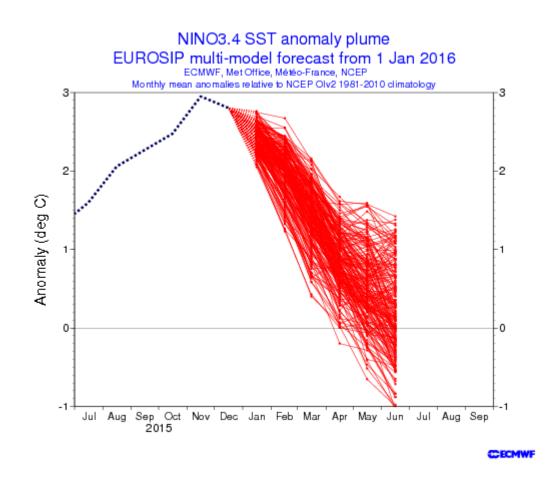
- Ensemble generation for the 4 systems is different
- Development of multi-model products is ongoing
- •EUROSIP products are available to WMO users

EUROSIP multi-model system:





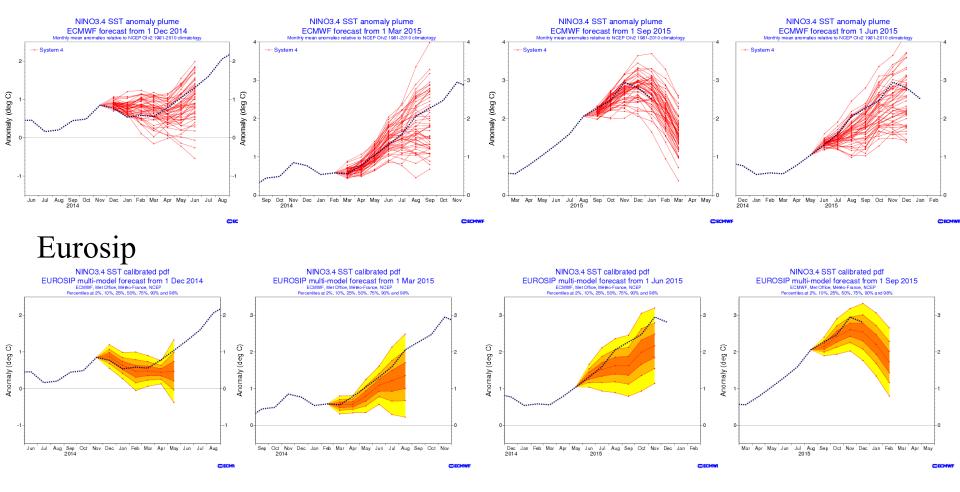




Eurosip is issued on the 15th of the month

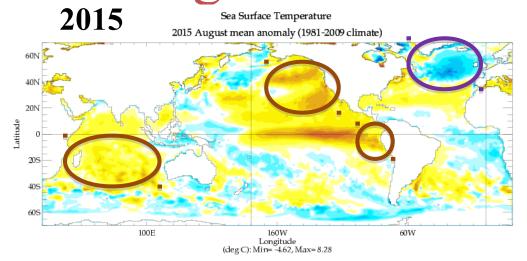
Plumes for Nino 3.4

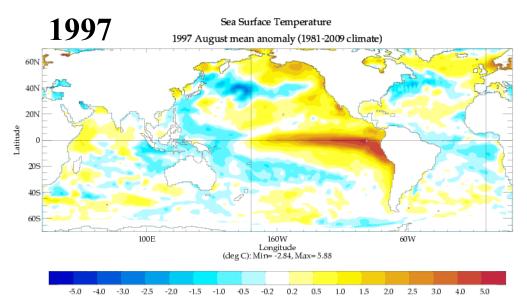
System 4



Global SST anomalies for

August: 2015 versus 1997

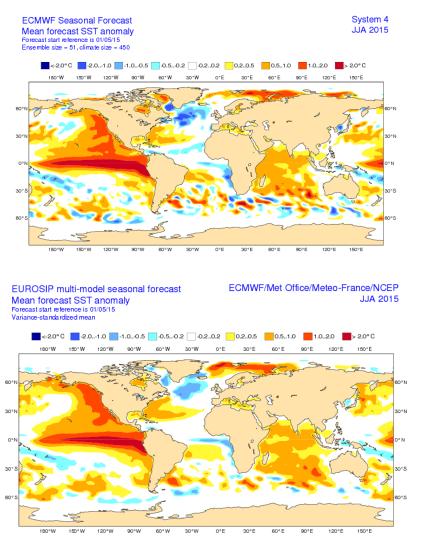




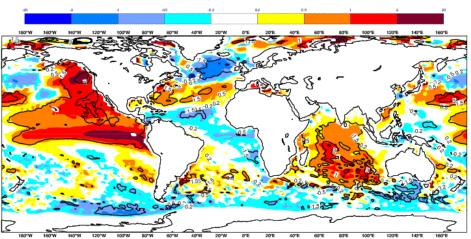
- Smaller anomalies over the pacific East coast (Nino1+2)
- Warm SST over the Pacific (40-15N)
 Eastern Pacific.
- Cold SST anomalies over the mid-lat.
 Atlantic likely to affect the ENSO teleconnection over Europe.

. 1 1' 0 1 1 11

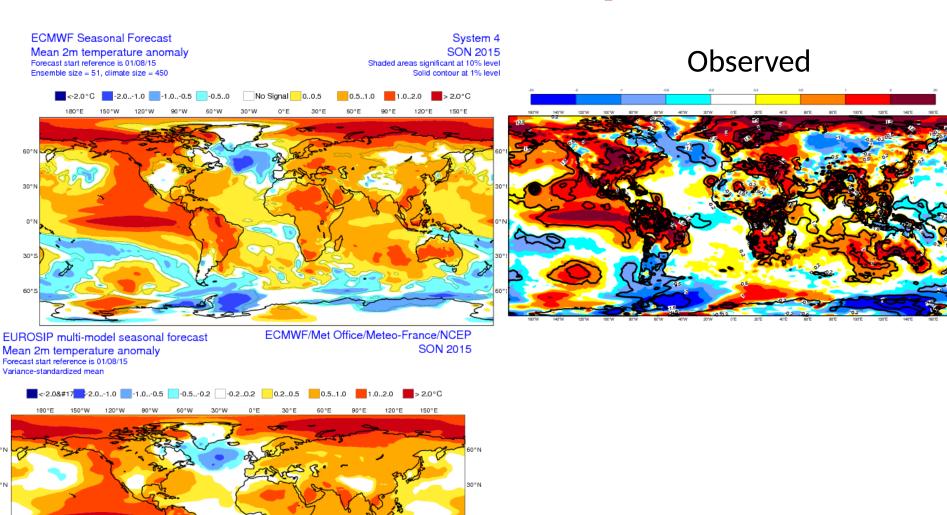
Extended forecasts range performance for JJA 2015:



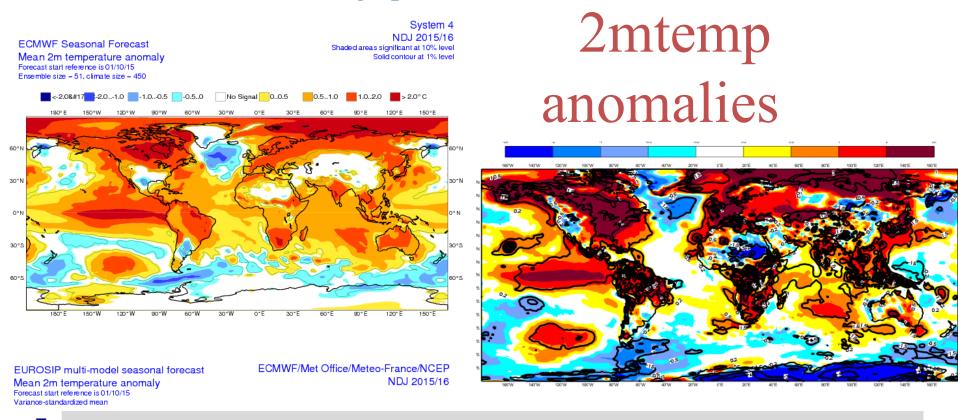
SST anomalies



Seasonal forecast SON: 2-metre temperature anomalies

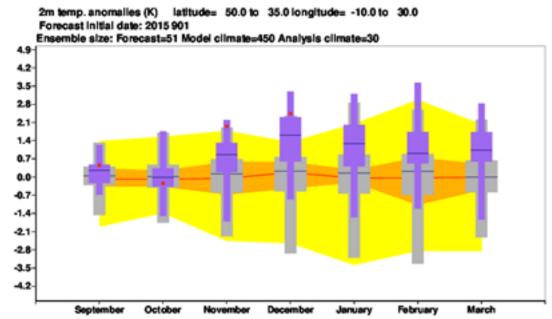


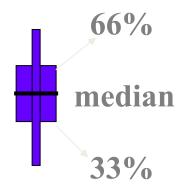
Extended forecasts range performance for NDJ 2016:

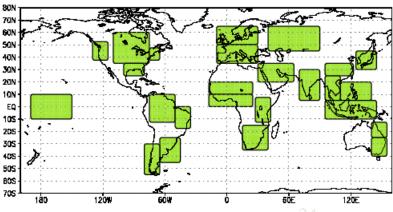


2015 was the hottest year in the modern record, global temperature was well over 0.4 OC warmer than the 1981-2010 average, and almost 0.1 OC warmer than the previous warmest year. To what extent El Niño contributed to the record-breaking warmth is still a matter of debate.

2m temp anomalies for Europe







01/02/17

24

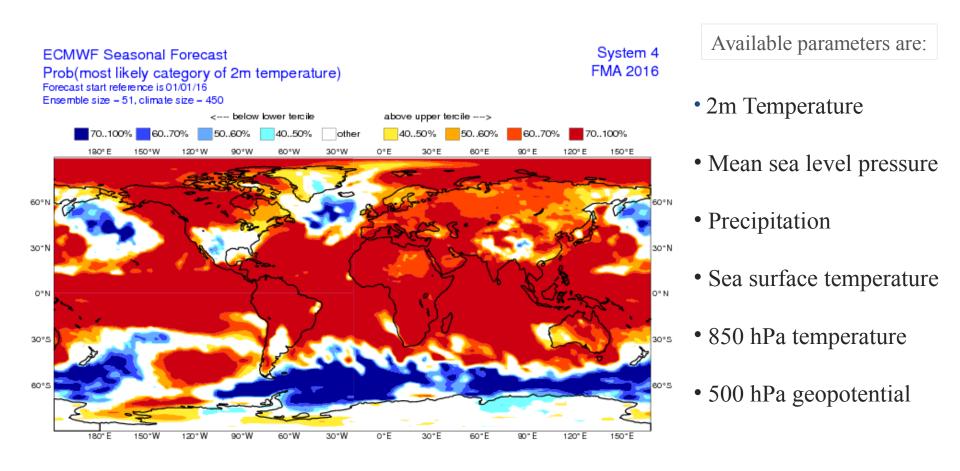
Outlook for Europe

Long-term predictions over Europe are particularly difficult:

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

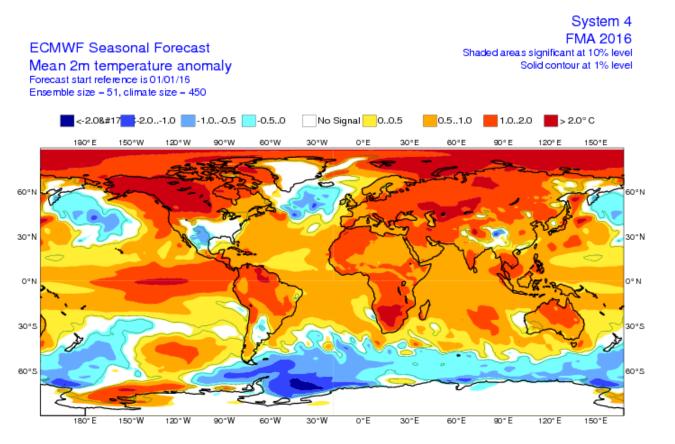
Seasonal forecast charts:

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



Seasonal forecast charts:

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



Available parameters are:

- 2m Temperature
- Mean sea level pressure
- Precipitation
- Sea surface temperature
- 850 hPa temperature
- 500 hPa geopotential

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

Sys 4

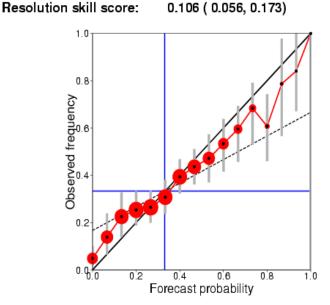
Reliability diagram for ECMWF with 15 ensemble members

Near-surface air temperature anomalies above the upper tercile

Accumulated over Europe (land and sea points)

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

Brier skill score: 0.092 (0.007, 0.162)
Reliability skill score: 0.986 (0.950, 0.994)



Sys 3

Reliability diagram for ECMWF with 11 ensemble members

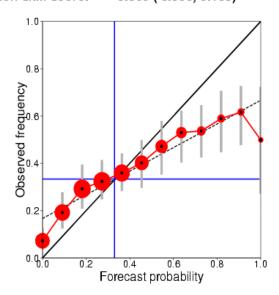
Near-surface air temperature anomalies above the upper tercile

Accumulated over Europe (land and sea points)

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

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

Brier skill score: 0.031 (-0.045, 0.094)
Reliability skill score: 0.943 (0.891, 0.965)
Resolution skill score: 0.089 (0.056, 0.133)

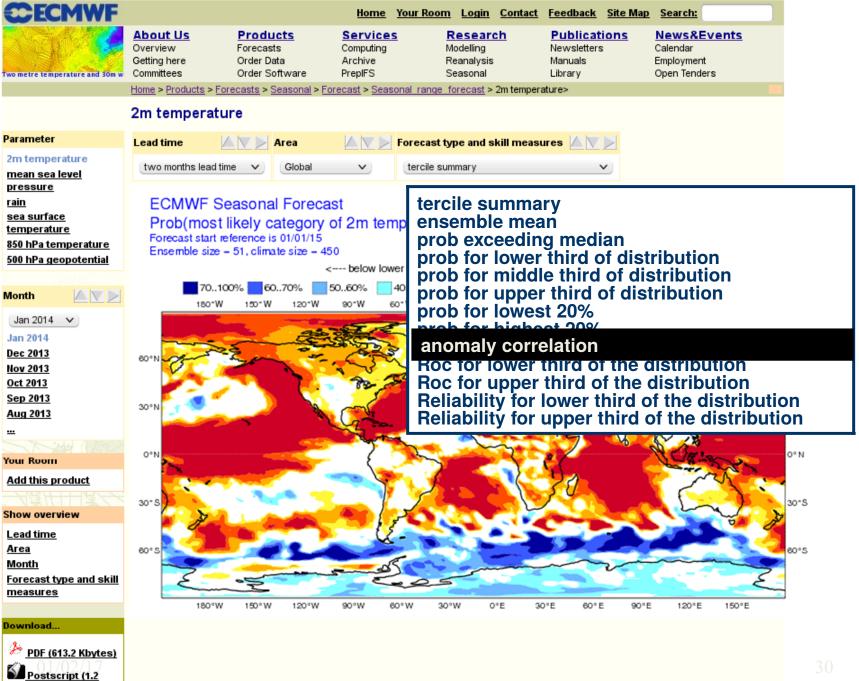


Validation:

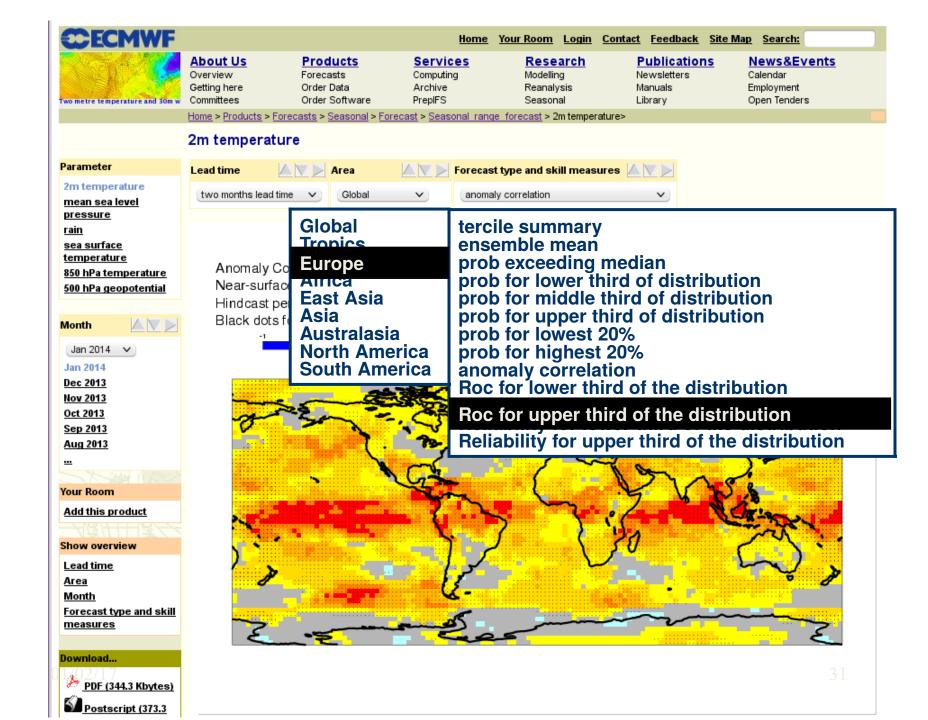
• Documentation of skill levels is provided to the users:

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

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



Mbytes)



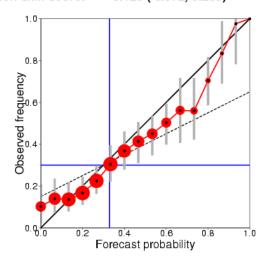
Reliability for summer predictions: warm events

Europe

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

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

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



Tropics

Reliability diagram for ECMWF with 15 ensemble members

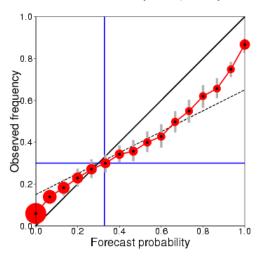
Near-surface air temperature anomalies below the lower tercile

Accumulated over tropical band (land and sea points)

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

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

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



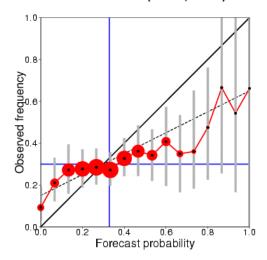
Reliability for winter predictions: cold event

Europe

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

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

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



Tropics

Reliability diagram for ECMWF with 15 ensemble members

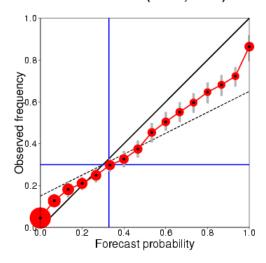
Near-surface air temperature anomalies below the lower tercile

Accumulated over tropical band (land and sea points)

Hindoset period 1981-2010 with start in November average over mon

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

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

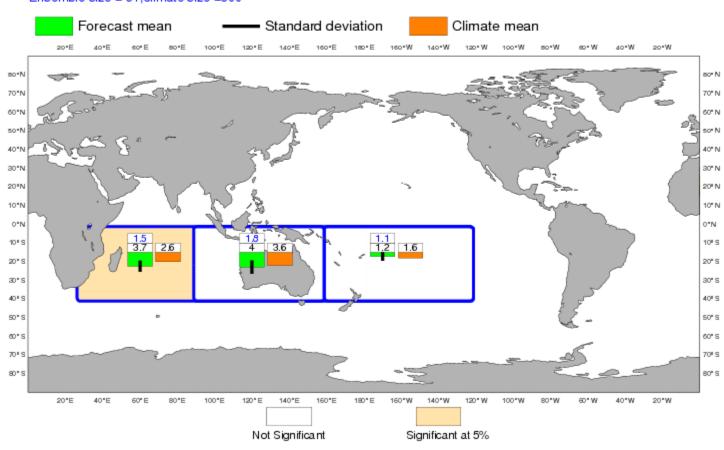


ECMWF Seasonal Forecast Hurricane or typhoon Frequency Forecast start reference is 01/01/2015

FMAMJJ 2015 Climate (initial dates) = 1990-2009

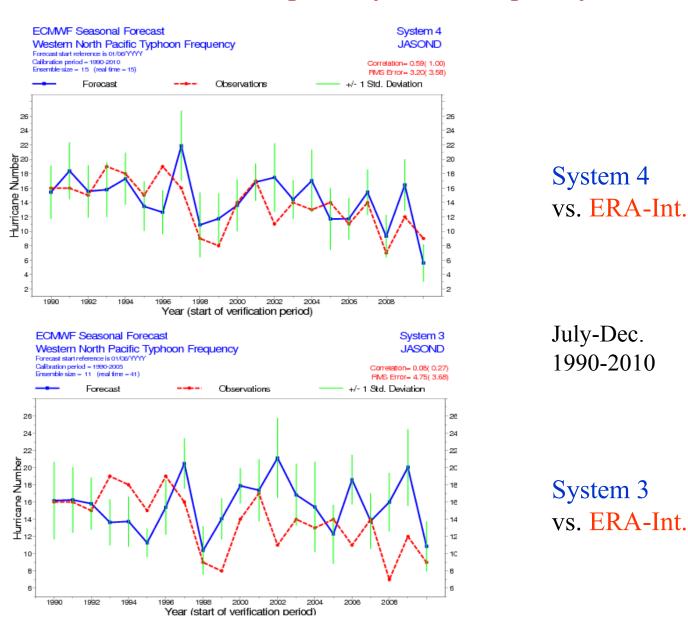
System 4

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



Footer-text Slide 34

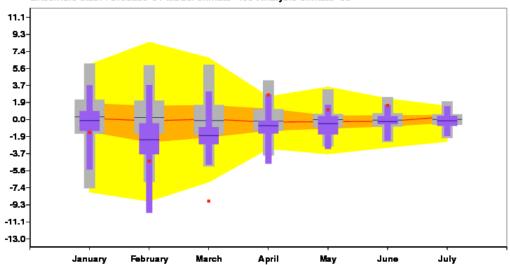
Prediction of tropical cyclone frequency: NW Pacific

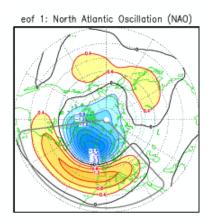


Climagrams: teleconnections indices NAO

North Atlantic Oscillation Forecast initial date: 2013 101

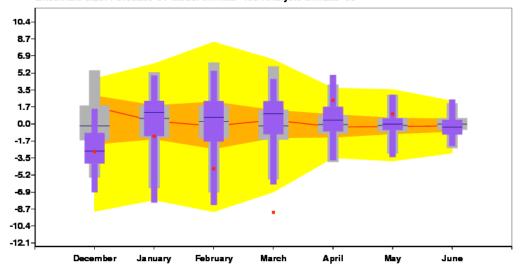
Ensemble size: Forecast=51 Model climate=450 Analysis climate=30

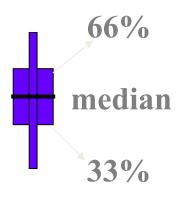




North Atlantic Oscillation Forecast initial date: 20121201

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





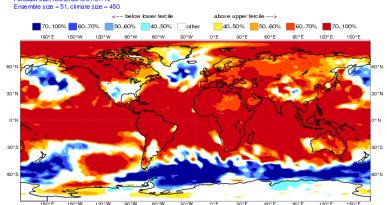
Summary (2)

- The current operational seasonal forecast system provides a set graphic products on the web and digital data set to the users.
- The ECMWF seasonal forecast is a good system for El Nino predictions.
- Seasonal forecast predictions, particularly over mid-latitudes, should be used in combination with some estimate of the forecast skill.
 Various skill estimates are available to the users.
- Multi-model approach: a way to deal with model error (model calibration) and to enhance forecast reliability.

For further reading see ECMWF Tech Memo N.656, available at http://www.ecmwf.int/publications

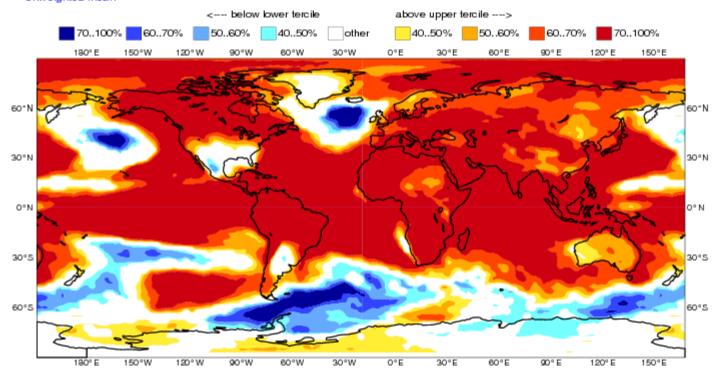
01/02/17



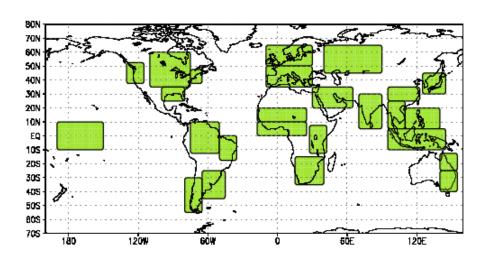


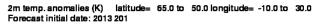
EUROSIP 2mt predictions:

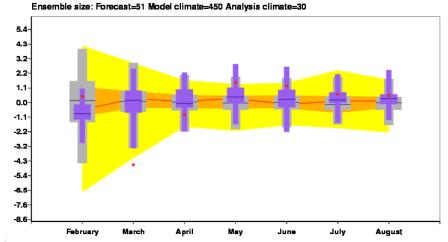
EUROSIP multi-model seasonal forecast Prob(most likely category of 2m temperature) Forecast start reference is 01/01/16 Unweighted mean ECMWF/Met Office/Meteo-France/NCEP FMA 2016

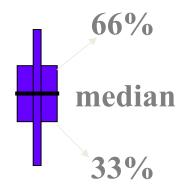


Climagrams: temp. area averages



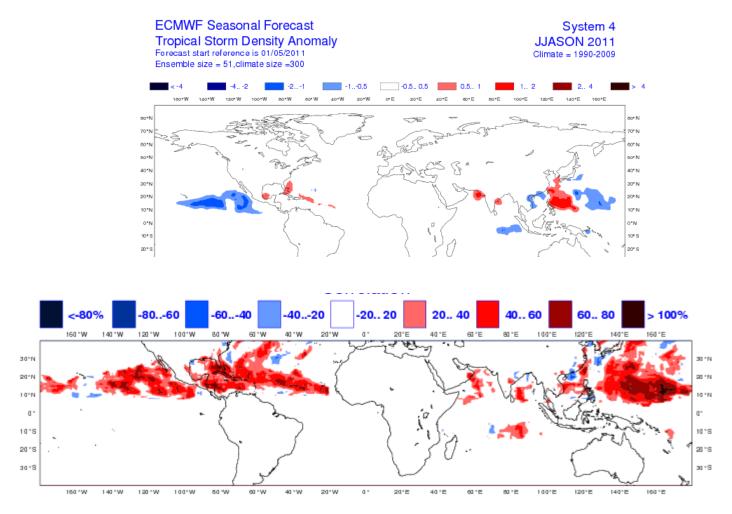






39

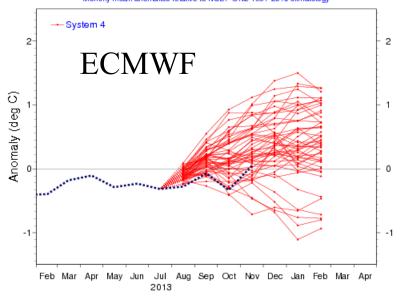
Cyclone track density new product from S4 and its verification



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

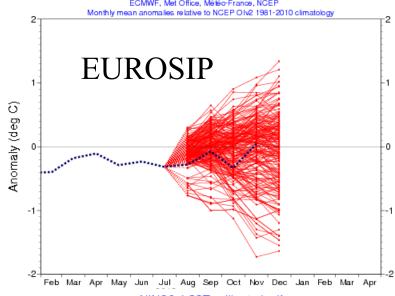
NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume CMWF forecast from 1 Aug 201

ECMWF forecast from 1 Aug 2013
Monthly mean anomalies relative to NCEP OIv2 1981-2010 climatology



NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume

EUROSIP multi-model forecast from 1 Aug 2013 ECMWF, Met Office, Météo-France, NCEP



NINO3.4 SST calibrated pdf

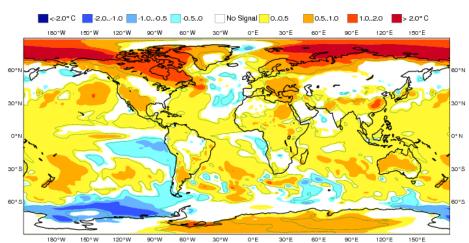
2m temperature anomalies 50N

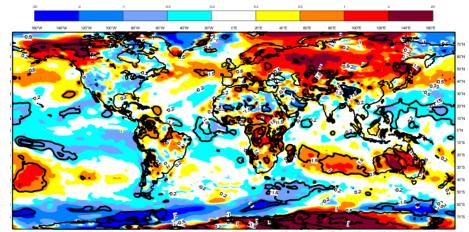
2013



System 4 SON 2013

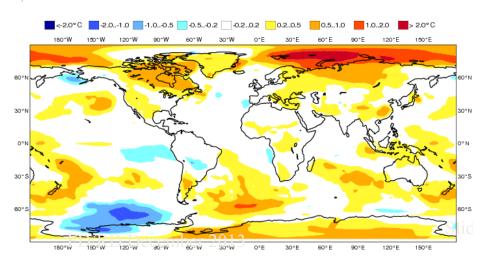
ANALYSIS Solid contour at 1% level





EUROSIP

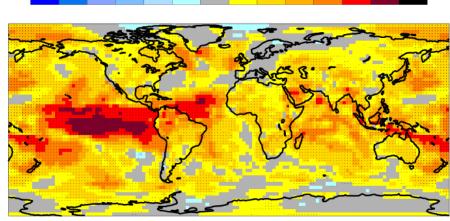
ECMWF/Met Office/Meteo-France/NCEP SON 2013



ECMWF skill

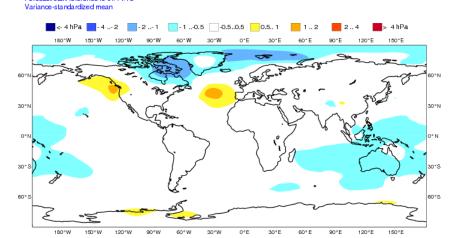
with 15 ensemble members

.....erage over months 2 to 4 Black dots for values significantly different from zero with 95% confidence (1000 samples)



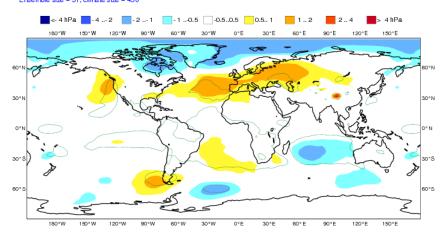
EUROSIP multi-model seasonal forecast

ECMWF/Met Office/Meteo-France/NCEP DJF 2013/14 Mean MSLP anomaly Forecast start reference is 01/11/13



ECMWF Seasonal Forecast Mean MSLP anomaly Forecast start reference is 01/11/13

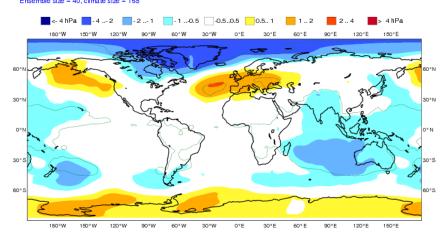
System 4 DJF 2013/14 Solid contour at 1% significance level Ensemble size - 51, climate size - 450

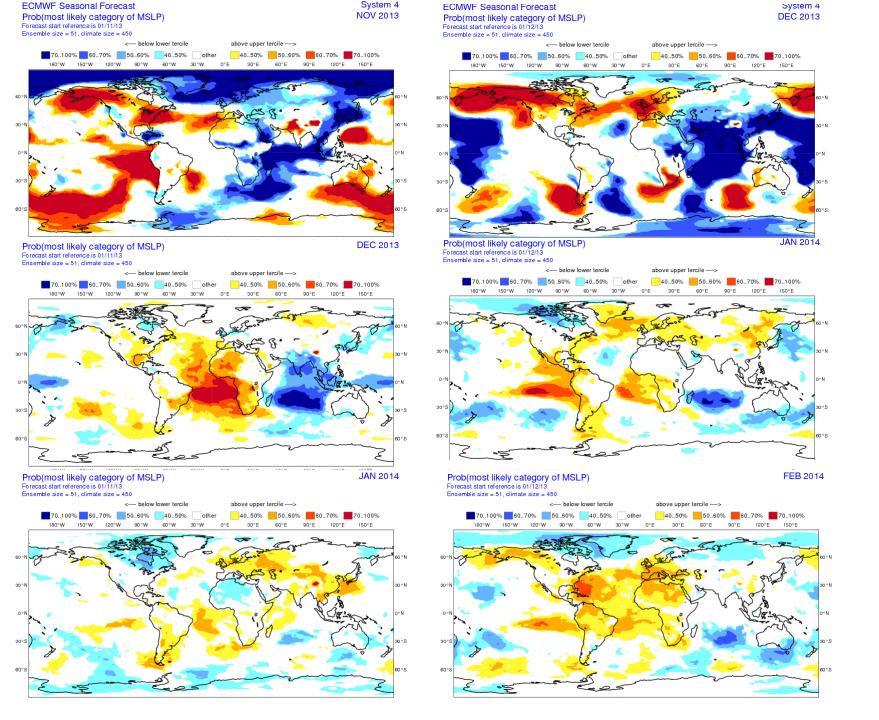


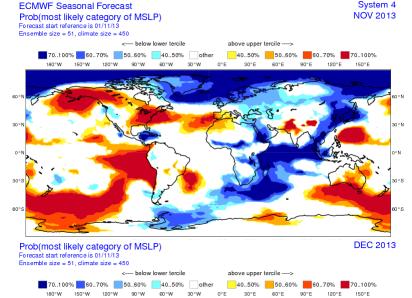
EUROSIP: Met Office contribution

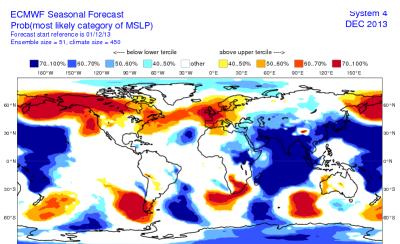
Mean MSLP anomaly Forecast start reference is 01/11/13 Ensemble size - 40, climate size - 168

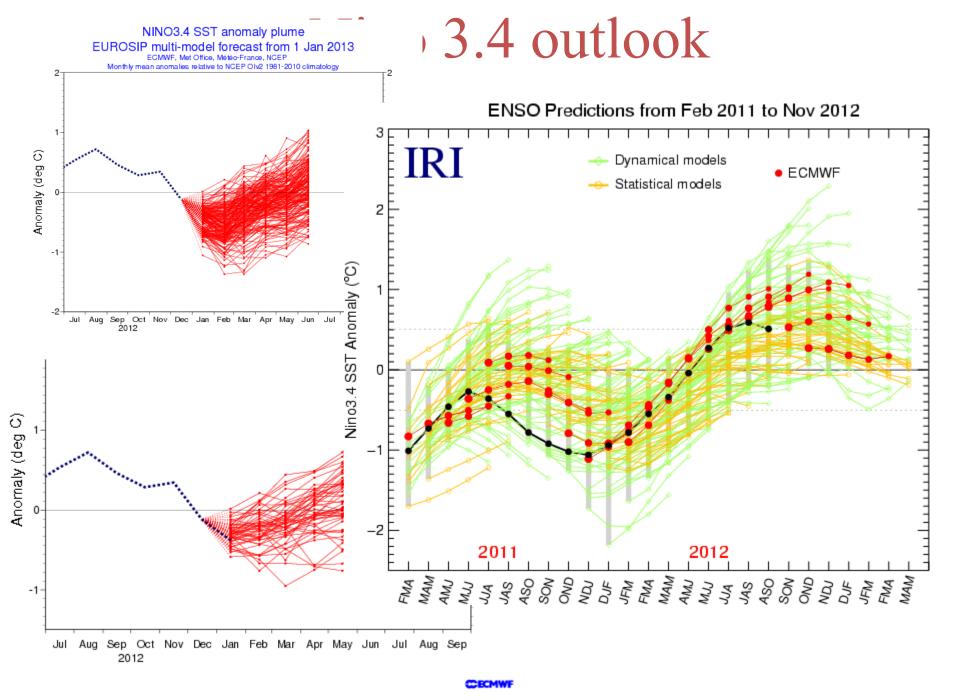
System 9 DJF 2013/14 Solid contour at 1% significance level

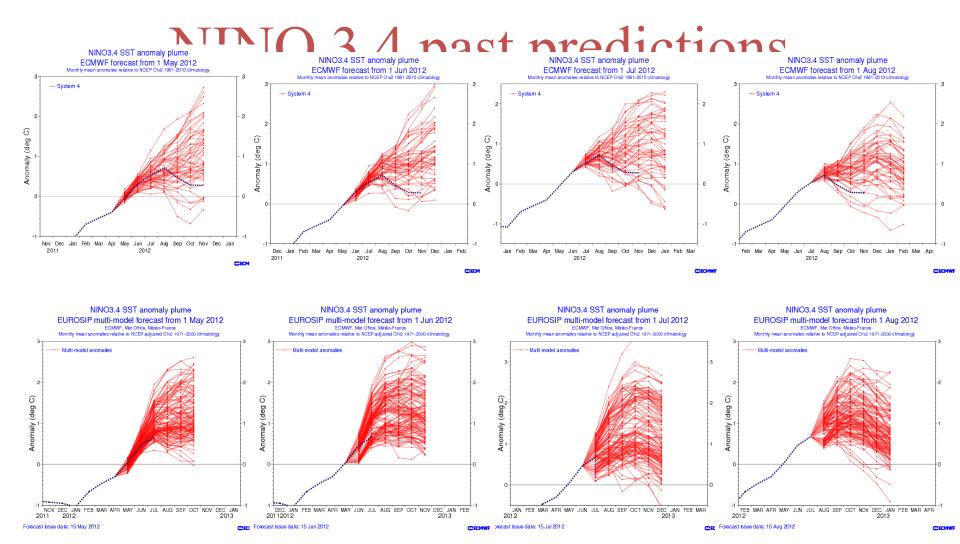












Extended range predictions

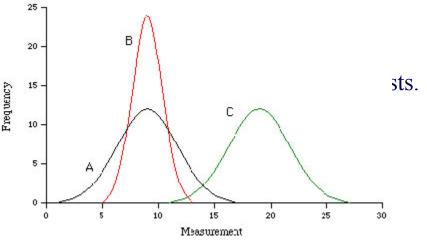
• Products from Extended range predictions are generally defined with reference to the model

climate estimated by the re-forecast data.

• Post-processing/calibration of model data is in Angular in Angular in the Post-processing of the Post-processing

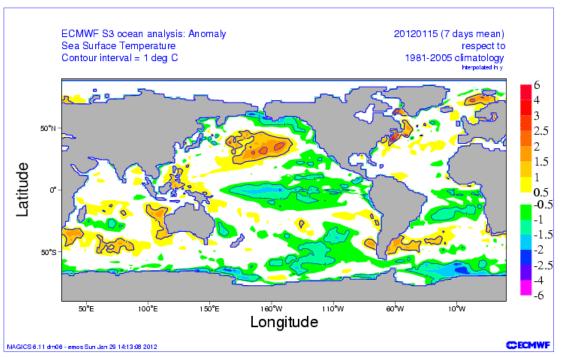
• For each member of the ensemble we define the

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

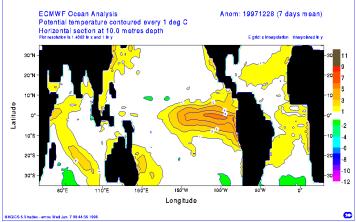


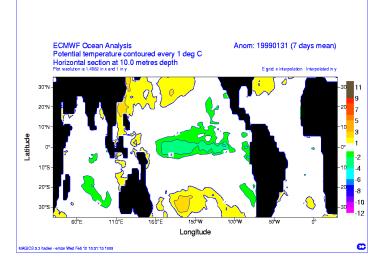
Model climate distribution					
		Re-forecast	Seasonal		
		Period	30 years	ca	
		Ens. Size	15		
			Frequency	monthly	

Ocean analysis:

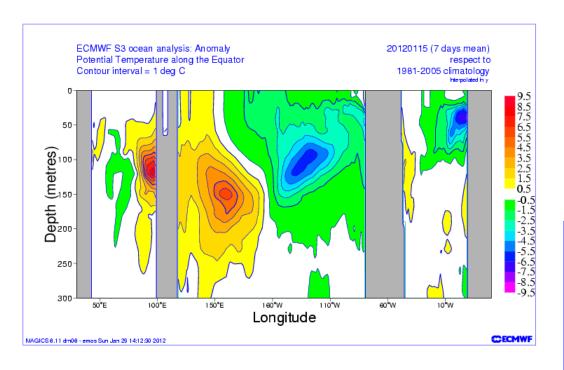


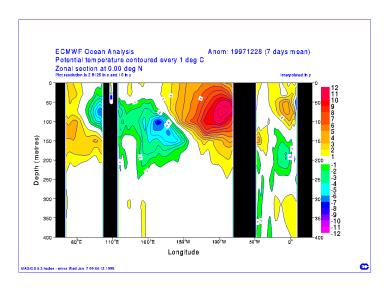
Daily weekly and monthly products are available on the web

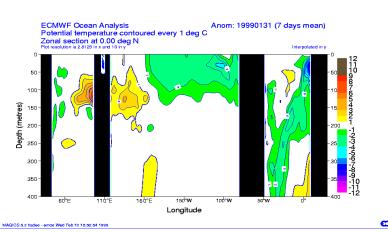




Ocean analysis:







01/02/17

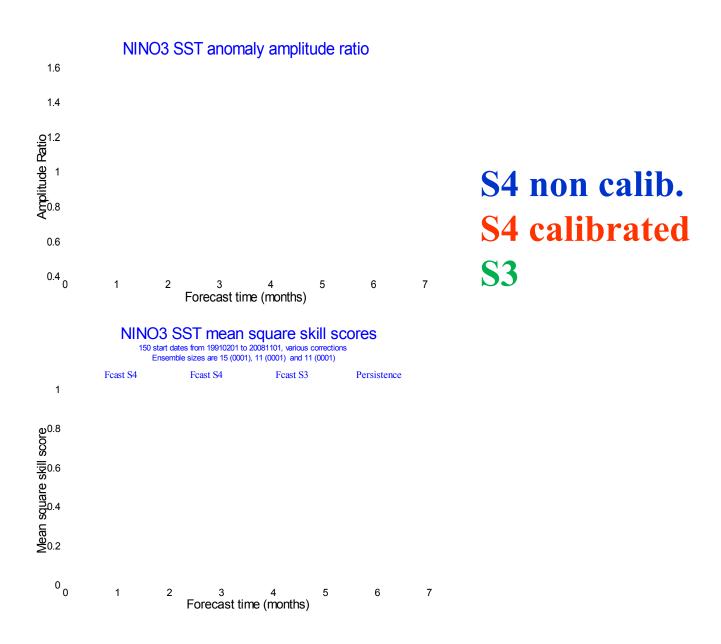
Chaotic nature of the atmosphere:

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

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

01/02/17

Calibration of ENSO SST indices



SST scores: Nino 3.4 and Ed



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

1

0.8

Rms error (deg C)

0.2

1

0.9

Fcast S4 Fcast S3 Ensemble sd Persistence

0 2 5 6 Forecast time (months)

NINO3.4 SST anomaly correlation

wrt NCEP adjusted Olv2 1971-2000 climatology

Anomaly correlation 0.5 0.4 0 6 5 Forecast time (months)

Atlantic

Solid:

S4 error

S3 error

Rms error (deg (Dashed:

O0.4

0

Anomaly correlation

0.5

S4

spread

S3

spread

S4 ACC S3 ACC

Pers.

ACC

7

360 start dates from 19810101 to 20101201, various corrections

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

Fcast S4 Fcast S3 Ensemble sd Persistence

5 6 Forecast time (months)

7

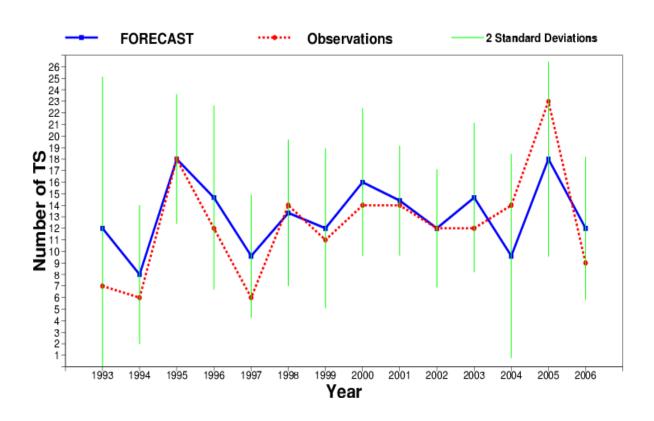
7

EQATL SST anomaly correlation

wrt NCEP adjusted OIv2 1971-2000 climatology

0.4 5 6 Forecast time (months)

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



01/02/17

Bias in S4 re-forecasts: SST (DJF)

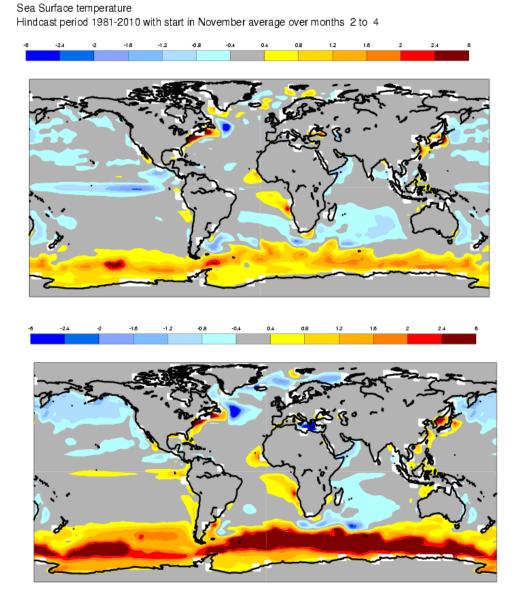
Start: 1 Nov.

1981/2010

Verify: Dec-Feb

System 4

System 3



Bias in S4 re-forecasts: rainfall (JJA)

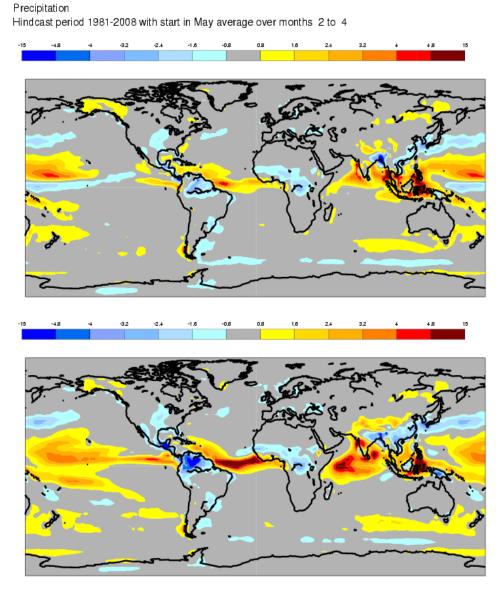
Start: 1 May

1981/2010

Verify: Jun-Aug

System 4

System 3



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

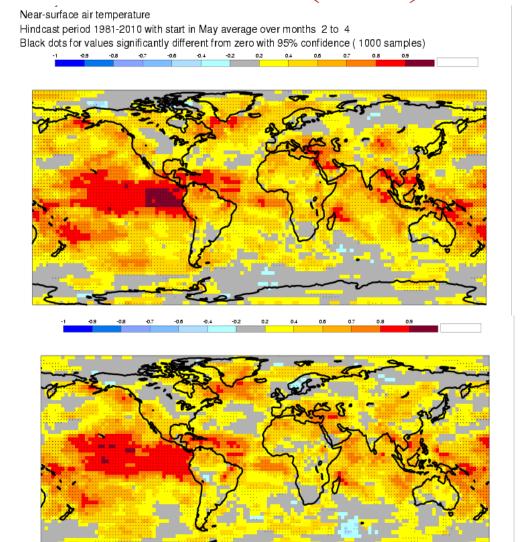
Start: 1 May

1981/2010

Verify: Jun-Aug

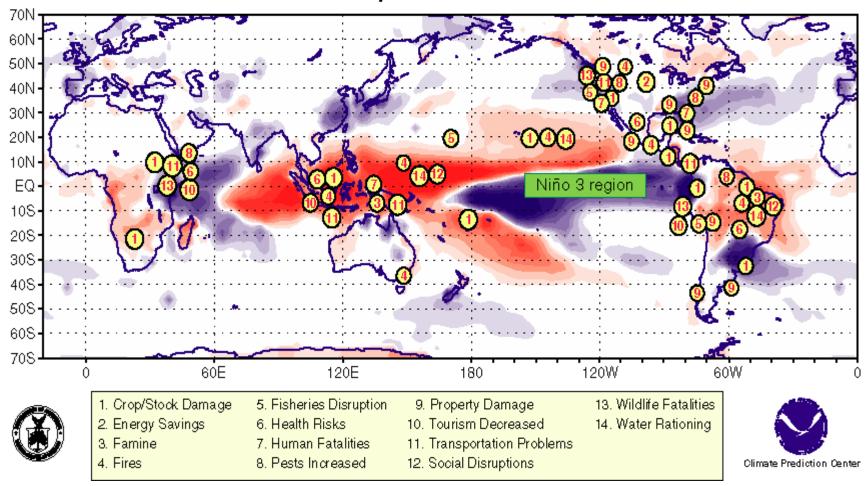
System 4

System 3



Weather-related natural disasters

Societal Impacts from 1997/98 El Niño

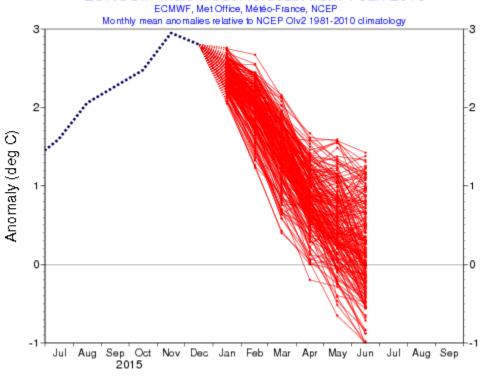


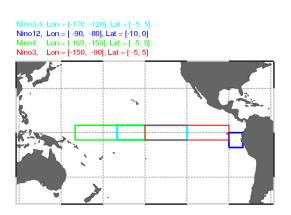
01/02/17

NINO3.4 plumes

NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume

EUROSIP multi-model forecast from 1 Jan 2016

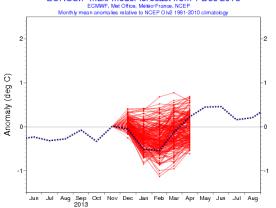




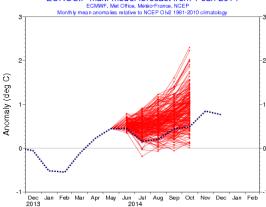
Forecast is made available on the 8h of each month

Footer-text Slide 65

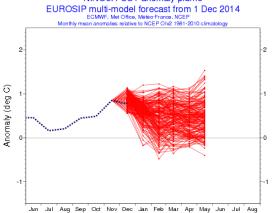
NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume EUROSIP multi-model forecast from 1 Dec 2013



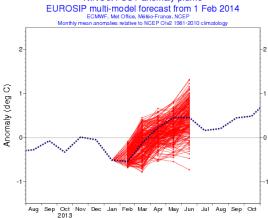




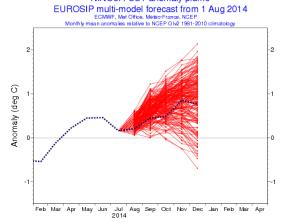
NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume



NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume

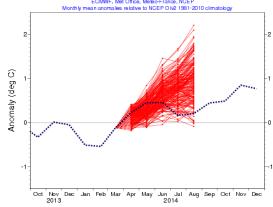


NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume

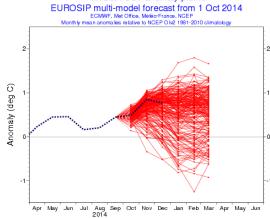


NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume

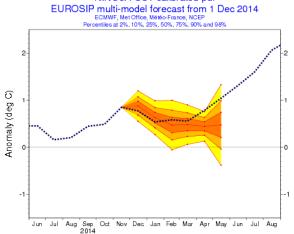
EUROSIP multi-model forecast from 1 Apr 2014



NINO3.4 SST anomaly plume

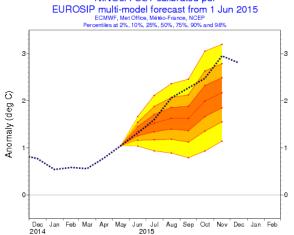


NINO3.4 SST calibrated pdf



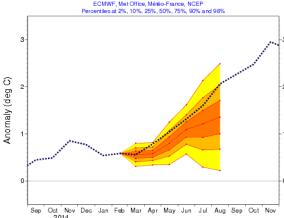
CECMWF

NINO3.4 SST calibrated pdf

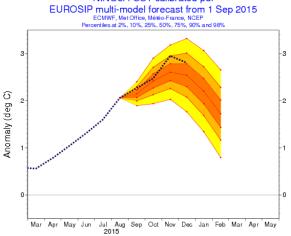


NINO3.4 SST calibrated pdf

EUROSIP multi-model forecast from 1 Mar 2015 ECMWF, Met Office, Météo-France, NCEP Percentiles at 2%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 90% and 98%



NINO3.4 SST calibrated pdf

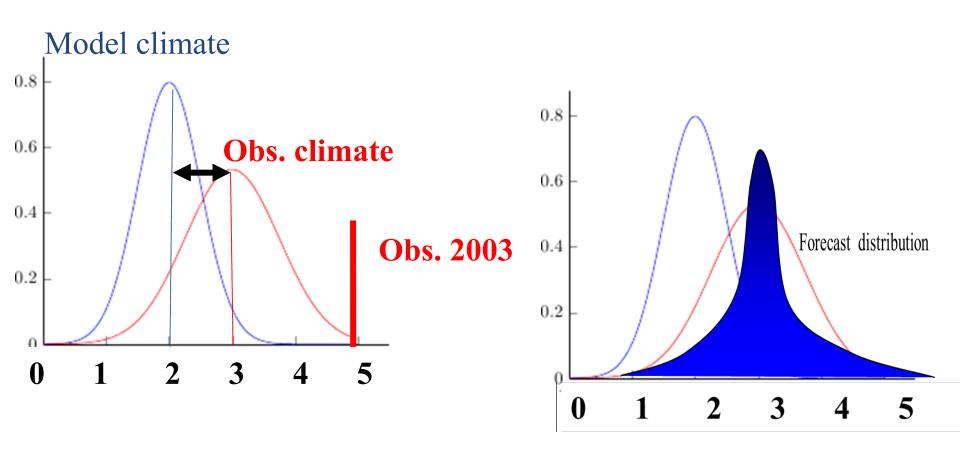


CECMWF

Extended range predictions

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

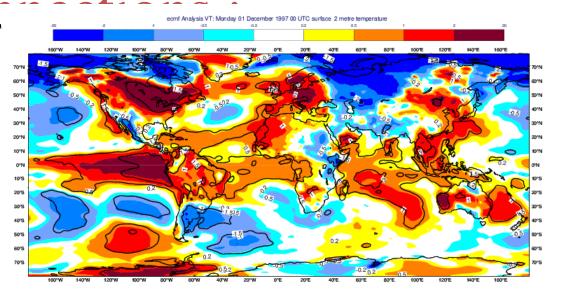
In this way we remove the systematic biases from the forecast

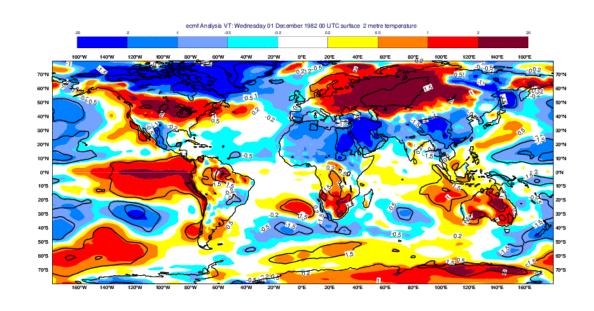


Implication for ENSO

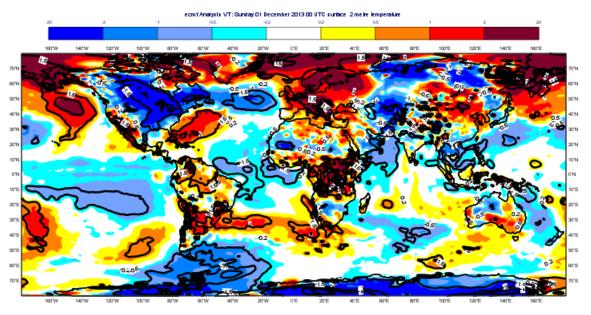
2m temp anomalies in DJF

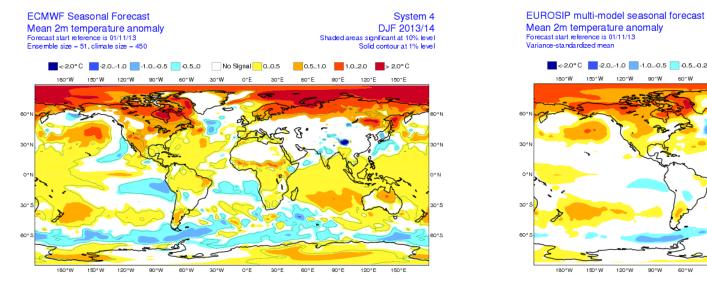
El Nino 1997/98

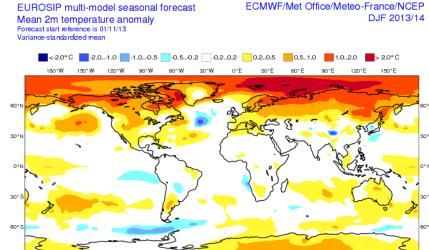




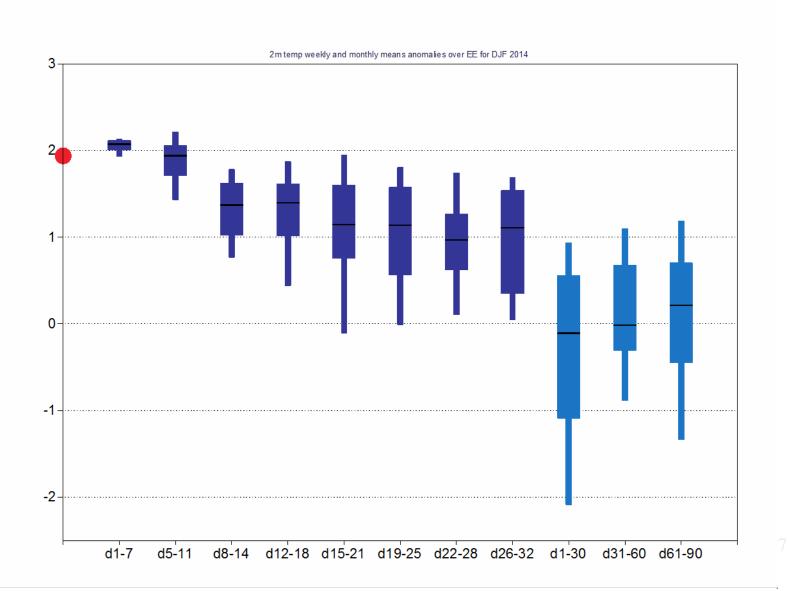
DJF 2014 : 2m temp anomalies







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



Predictability of seasonal mean anomalies:

Monthly system versus Seasonal system

2m temp. anomalies for DJF 2014 averaged over:

