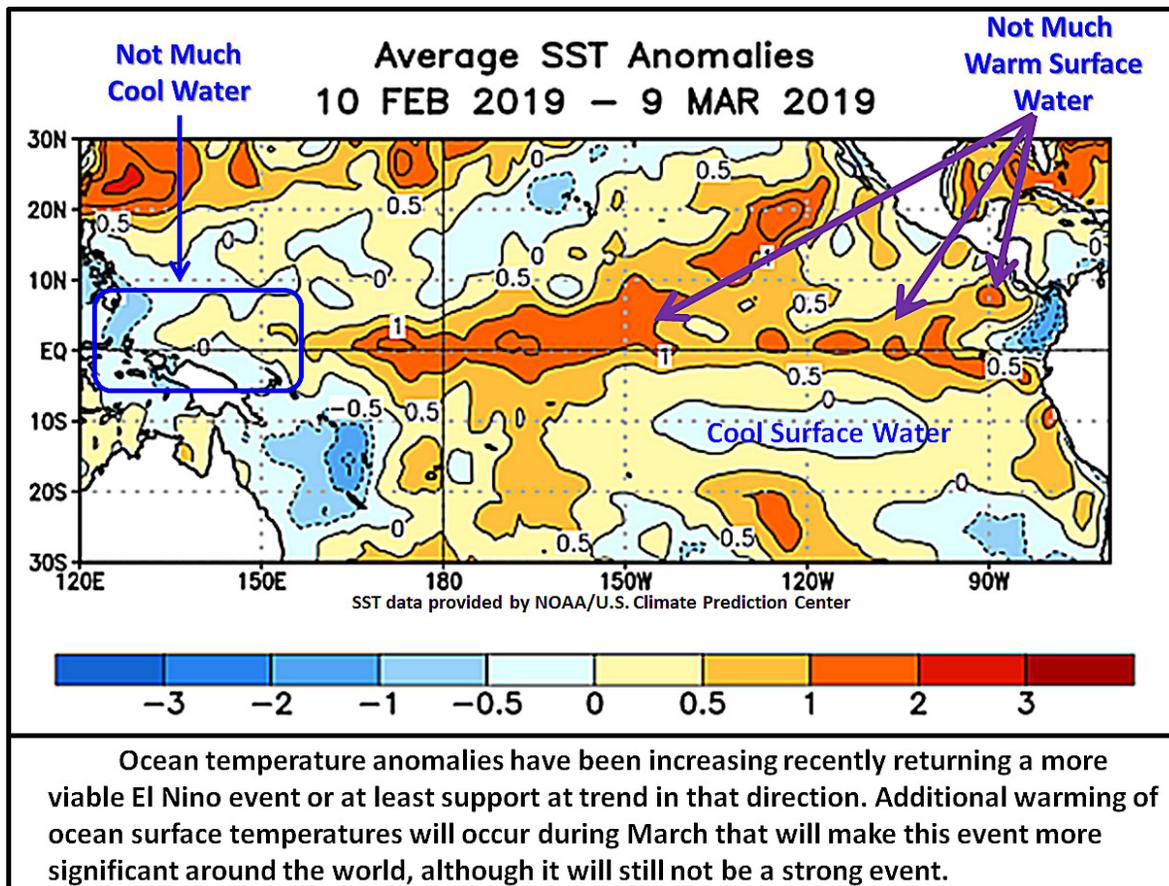


El Nino's New Legs Help Expand Dryness In Parts Of World

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, March 11 (World Weather Inc.) – *El Nino has become better organized and has potential for additional strengthening over the next few weeks. The phenomenon was considered to be teetering on dissipation for a while in late January and early February, but it seems to have come a long way in revitalizing itself in recent weeks. The “new legs” that this El Nino event has attained will likely help expand dryness in many tropical areas of the World over the next few months, although it is still not considered to be a very strong event.*



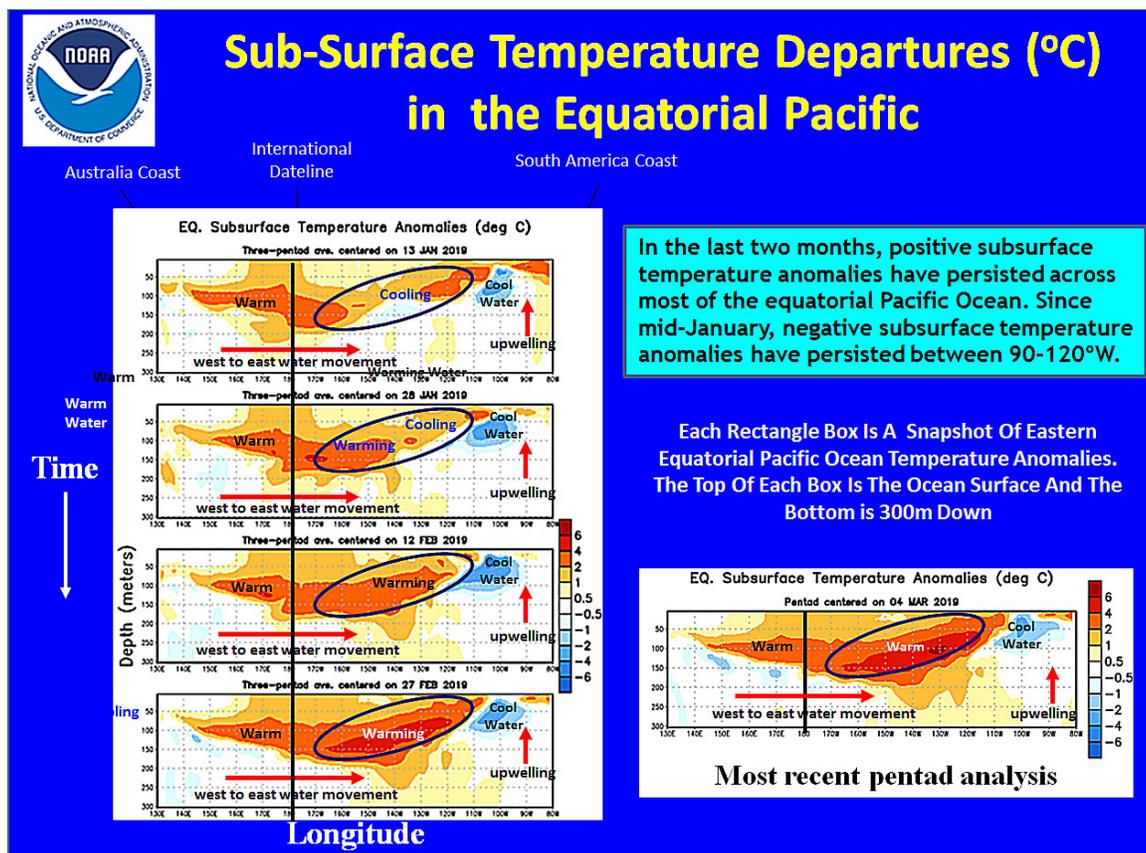
Warming has been expanding across the equatorial eastern Pacific Ocean over the past few weeks and the Southern Oscillation Index took a dive in late February to its lowest values in this particular event over the past week. These two changes speak volumes in the expansion of El Nino conditions from a very weak borderline event in January to a more moderate event today. Additional warming of ocean surface temperatures are expected in the next few weeks and that should help take today's anomalous weather trends around the world and perpetuate them for a while longer.

Additional warming is expected across the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean through the balance of March and possibly into early April. The additional warming will give this El Nino a little more robust profile – at least as far as weak to moderate events are concerned.

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Recent changes in weather around the world toward a more El Nino biased pattern include the following;

- Philippines drying has become more persistent
- Dryness is expanding in mainland Southeast Asia
- Eastern Australia drought is prevailing
- New Zealand has experience some drier biased weather recently
- West-central Africa rainfall has been more sporadic than usual
- Central America through Venezuela to Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana are extremely dry and have been for a few months
- Brazil and Argentina weather has been plenty moist recently
- North Africa and southeastern Spain are drying out



As we have noted many times in the past, ocean surface temperatures in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean warm and cool from beneath the surface of the ocean. The chart above is a cross-sectional image of the eastern Pacific Ocean Basin showing ocean temperature anomalies below the surface of the ocean. The top of each box is the surface of the ocean and bottom is 300 meters below the surface. There are two primary currents of ocean water movement in the equatorial region of the Pacific Ocean. One of those currents tends to transport ocean water from the western Pacific to the eastern Pacific and the other current is an upwelling current that exists in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Warm or cool water that is transported across the Pacific Ocean from west to east will eventually feel the effects

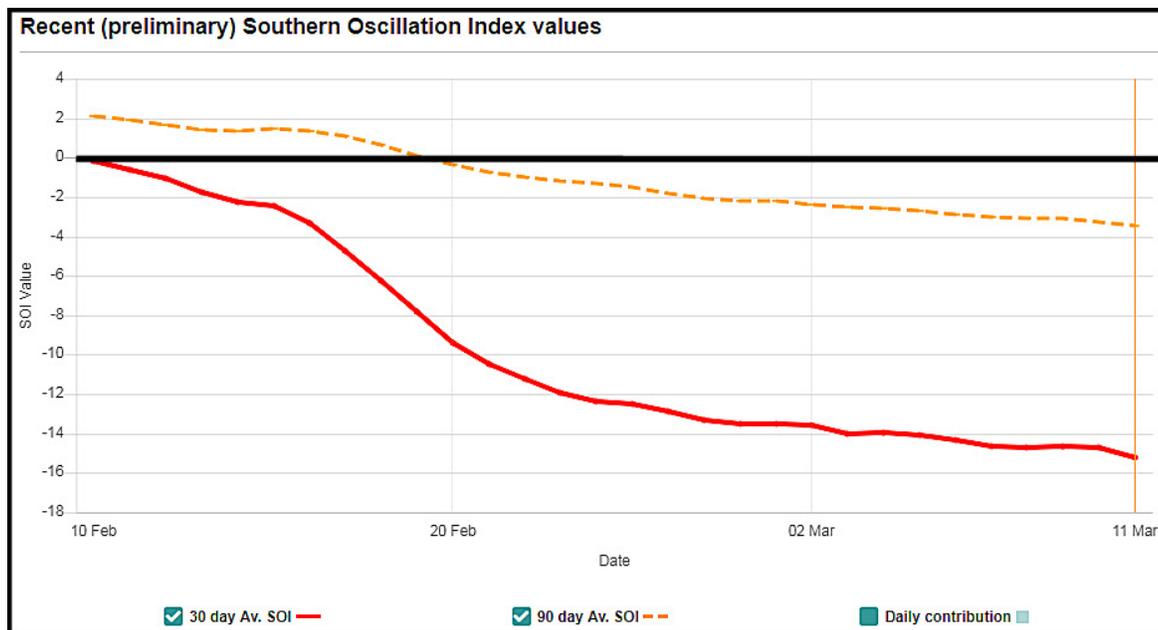
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of an upwelling current that will push the anomalously warm or cool water to the surface of the ocean over time.

Each of the boxes in the above graphic represent a time period in the past. The top left box is for January 13. The second box on the left is from January 28 and third is from February 12 while the last box on the left is from February 27. The most recent snapshot of subsurface ocean temperatures is in the lower right corner of the above graphic and that was dated March 4. The heavy black line going through the boxes represents the International Dateline and the far right of each box is where South America and Central America are located while the far left of each box would be where eastern parts of Indonesia and northeastern Australia are located.

Now take a look at the graphic above and let your eyes follow the color in the image from the upper left to the bottom left and then to the bottom right. The orange color is warmer than usual water and the red color is well above average ocean water temperature anomalies. Blue coloring is cooler than usual ocean water temperature. Use the blue circle on the images above as a reference point and notice how ocean temperature changes have occurred in that encircled region over the past couple of months. It should be obvious that subsurface ocean temperatures in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean have been warming since mid-January. The warm water is now far enough to the east in the Pacific Ocean that the upwelling current should begin lifting the warmer than usual ocean water toward the surface of the ocean. As the surface of the ocean trends warmer El Nino will strengthen.

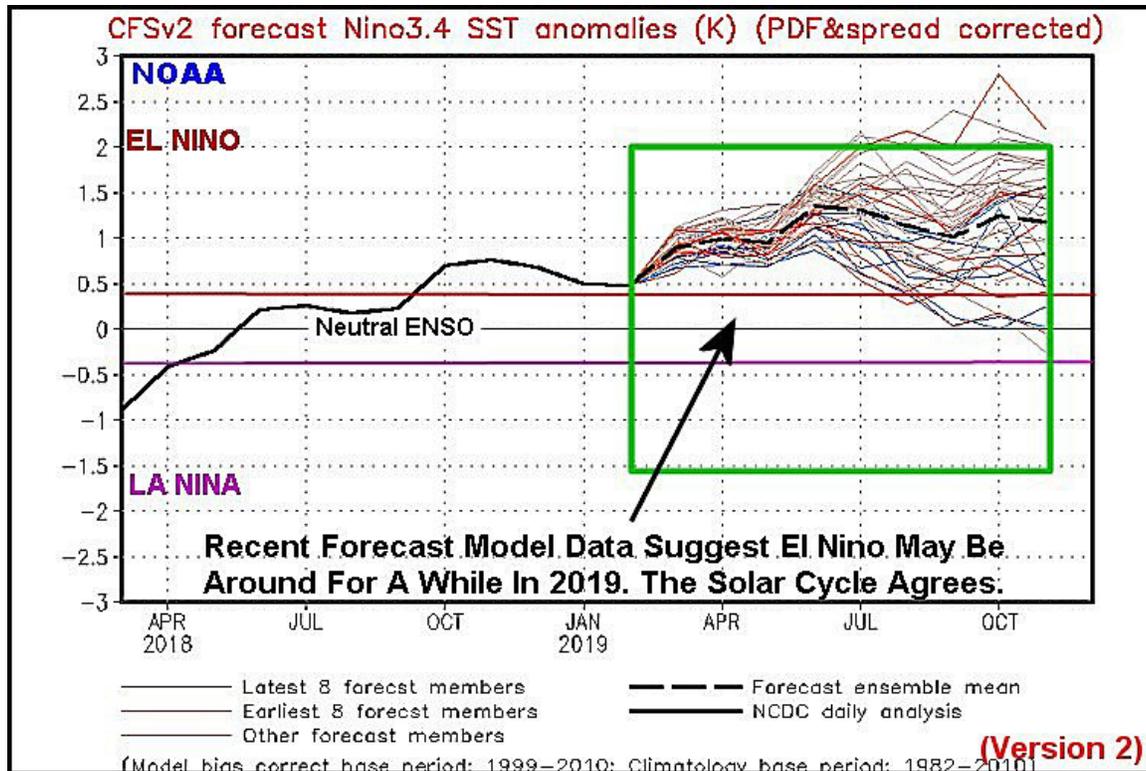
Because of the obvious changes in ocean temperatures over the past few weeks and the significant fall in the Southern Oscillation Index there is good reason to expect El Nino to strengthen over the next few weeks. However, it may be a short intensification and there will be some debate as to what may evolve later in April and May.



World Weather, Inc. reiterates its previous comments about El Nino events near solar minimums always tend to occur for at least several months once the solar minimum has been reached and that is the case this year. For that reason and the other reasons noted above the El Nino event is expected to prevail for at least a few more months – if

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not longer – with some variation in intensity expected from time to time. We expect this El Nino event to last into early summer without much difficulty, but its staying power beyond that period will be determined by whether or not there are some additional waves of warming water or not.



In the meantime, there is plenty of support for the weather anomalies noted above to prevail over the next few weeks. A close watch on dryness in Southeast Asia and eastern Australia is warranted since those areas are normally the first to be impacted by El Nino conditions. Indonesia and Malaysia rainfall has been well timed so far this year, but if that trend changes it might be another clue about the intensity of this year's El Nino event.

The next few weeks will maintain a drier than usual bias from Thailand to Philippines and it would not be surprising to see a decline in Indonesia and Malaysia rainfall. South Africa weather will trend drier while Brazil and Argentina rainfall stays beneficial for development of late season and second season crops. North Africa and Spain will continue dry down and rainfall in central Africa, Central America, northern South America and Mexico will be erratic and lighter than usual at times.

U.S. weather will be wetter biased into next month from the southern Plains into the lower Mississippi River Basin and the Tennessee River Basin with some bouts of wet weather in the lower Midwest. Southern California, northwestern Mexico and the southwestern U.S. desert areas will experience more frequent precipitation while the northern Plains and upper Midwest see less rain until the second half of April and May at which time a boost in precipitation will be possible.

Canada's Prairies may attempt to trend a little warmer biased in the next few weeks, but the central and southwestern Prairies will be drier biased for a few more weeks.

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