

# Monitoring the El Niño - Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

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and Karimar Ledesma<sup>1</sup>**

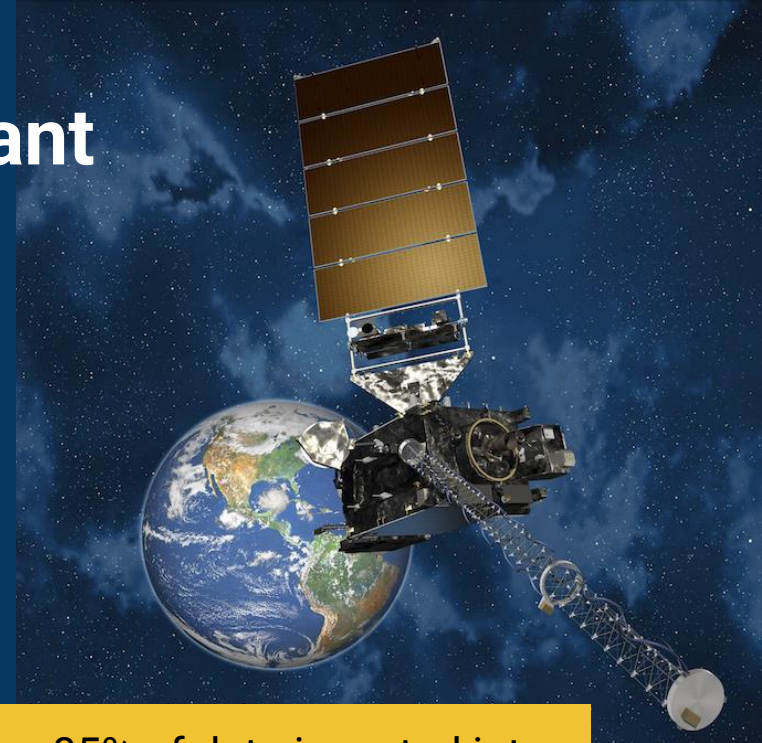
(1) Axiom for the NOAA/WPC International Desks

June 18, 2024

**Adapted on 24 June 2024**

# Why are satellite tools important for ENSO monitoring?

- Satellite tools are key for the monitoring of the ocean-atmospheric system.
- The key advantage is their high resolution in space and time.
- Disadvantage: potential biases in comparison with in situ observations from ships, buoys and Argo Floats.



...also 85% of data ingested into numerical models comes from satellites! Models would be terrible without satellite data.

# Outline of Today's Presentation

- This session will focus on a general overview of the El Nino - Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the teleconnections, regional trends, and effects, including drought, flooding, etc.
- We will present different satellite tools that can be used for the monitoring and forecasting of ENSO. This includes a description of the tool, access and application methods.
- We will look into some exercises that consider evaluating some satellite product fields to discuss what might happen with evolution of SST that might affect the ENSO system.

**NOAA-WMO Training program on weather analysis and forecasting to support capacity building in National Weather Services in the Americas, since 1988.**

- ❖ Providing onsite training to forecasters from institutions of the Americas via the Tropical and South American Desks
- ❖ Workshops and virtual training sessions.
- ❖ Providing IDSS before and during extreme events, including Tropical Cyclone Emergencies.
- ❖ Developing and facilitating forecasting tools (R20)
- ❖ Strengthening ties in the international weather community.
- ❖ Collecting feedback from international partners to improve US NWS Services such as NWP and satellite product improvements.



**Contact us at [wpc.international@noaa.gov](mailto:wpc.international@noaa.gov)**



# Workshops and Training

## What makes a workshop spectacular ?

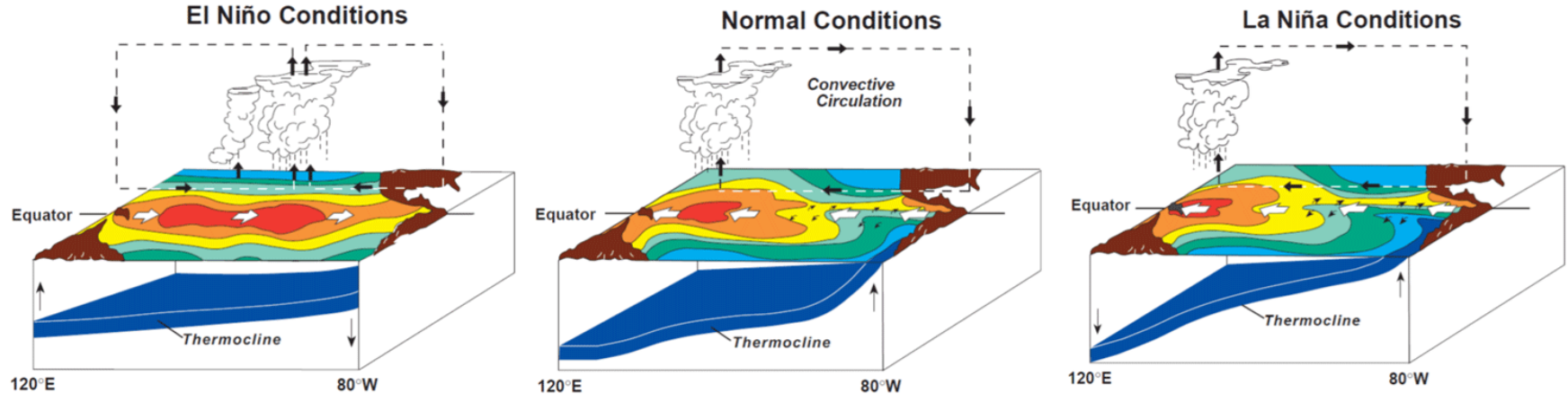
- Considering it as an open shared discussion, where anyone can contribute equally. Lets converse because every comment is a contribution.
- In Geoscience there are no rights and wrongs. We are far from knowing 100% and probably never will. There is no such thing as a bad or unnecessary question or comment.
- The more we share and discuss, the more we learn as a group.

# **Part I**

## **Overview of the El Nino - Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Global Impacts**

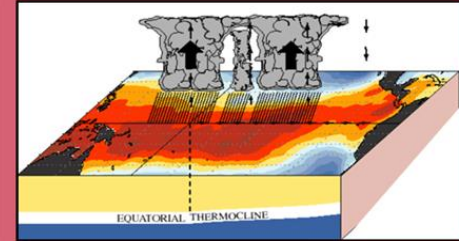
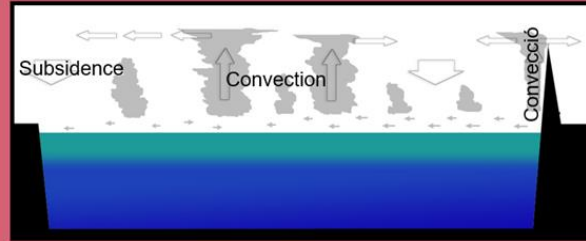
# El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

- ENSO is the dominant interannual variability of Earth's climate system.
- It is an oscillation of warming (**El Niño**) and cooling (**La Niña**) changes in the sea surface temperature (SST) in the central and eastern tropical Pacific ocean, which associate with changes in atmospheric circulations and climate.

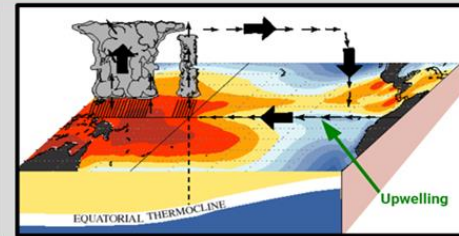
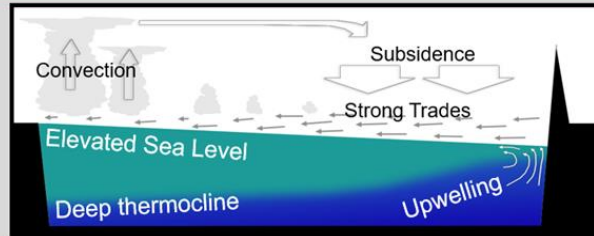


# Phases of ENSO

**El Niño**

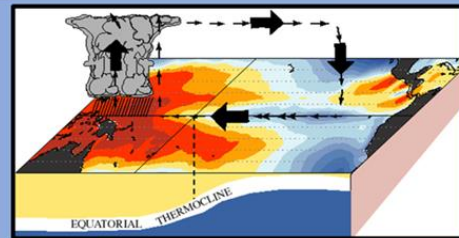


**Normal  
or Neutral**



**La Niña**

... is an exacerbation of the asymmetries seen in normal conditions.



# Why the name? El Niño Southern Oscillation

## El Niño (EN)

Peruvian fishermen in Spanish Viceroyalty times (1600-1800's), used the term **"El Niño current"** to describe an annual warming of the ocean that occurred near Christmas time ("Jesus child" or "El Niño Jesús").

They used the term **"El Niño Phenomenon"** when on occasions, the warming was extreme and caused heavy rainfall, floods and changes in the fisheries.

## Southern Oscillation (SO)

Severe droughts in India in 1877 and 1888 prompted research. After several contributors, Sir Gilbert Walker made the most coherent analysis and named the oscillation. The SO Refers to a 'seesaw' of the atmospheric pressure between the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

S. Hastenrath, in Encyclopedia of Atmospheric Sciences, 2003

## ENSO

Jakob Bjerknes is who made the first link between El Niño and the Southern Oscillation in the 1960's

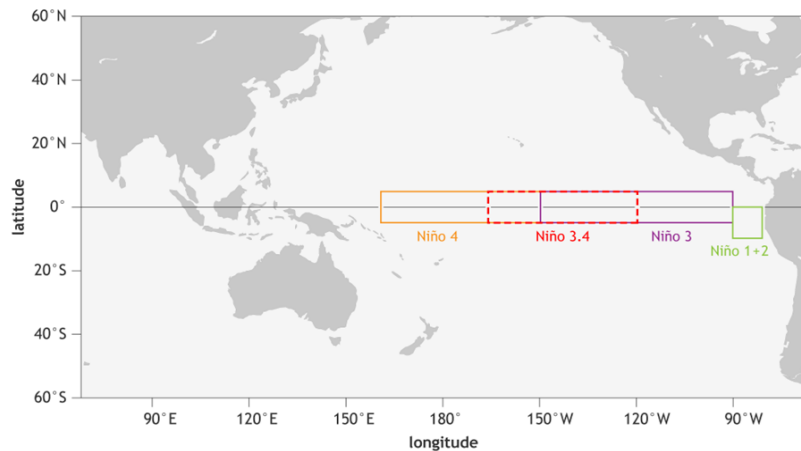
# ENSO Monitoring

ENSO is complex. Not easily measured with one index.

Regardless Niño-3.4/ONI CPC's official index because:

- Highly correlated with other components of ENSO (pressure, winds, convection).
- Computational simplicity.
- Considerable development effort went into creating long, quality-controlled records of SST (ERSST, HadSST, COBE) that increase sample size and enable comparisons with previous ENSO events.
- The  $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  threshold enables NOAA to declare the occurrence of El Niño and La Niña (*user requested definition*)

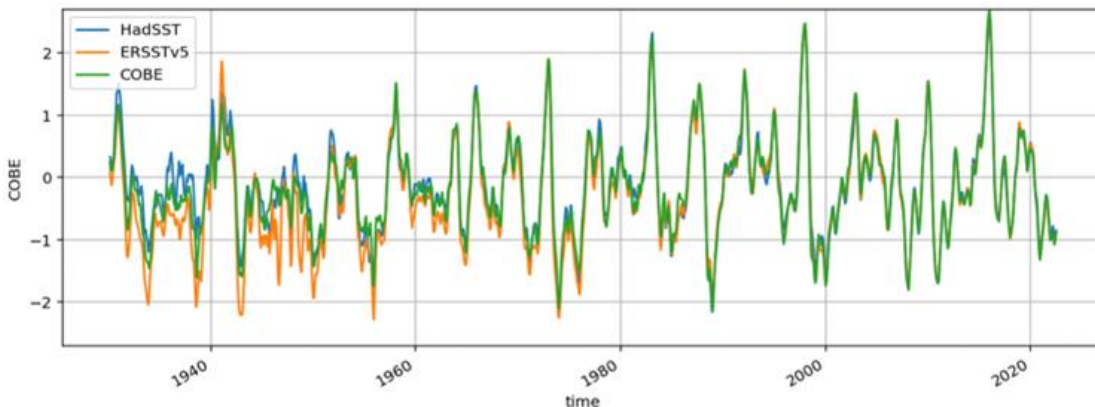
Sea surface temperature



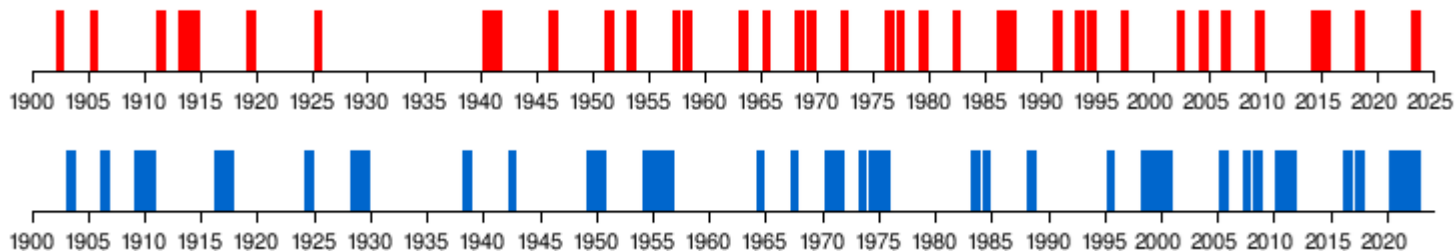
# ENSO Recurrence

ENSO warm or cold conditions occur every few years and last for about a year, but they are non-periodic.

Oceanic Niño Index (ONI)



Courtesy of Michelle L'Heureux (CPC)



**But WHY do we care so much about ENSO?**

**Because ENSO Impacts the weather and climate globally, and these impacts can be significant.**

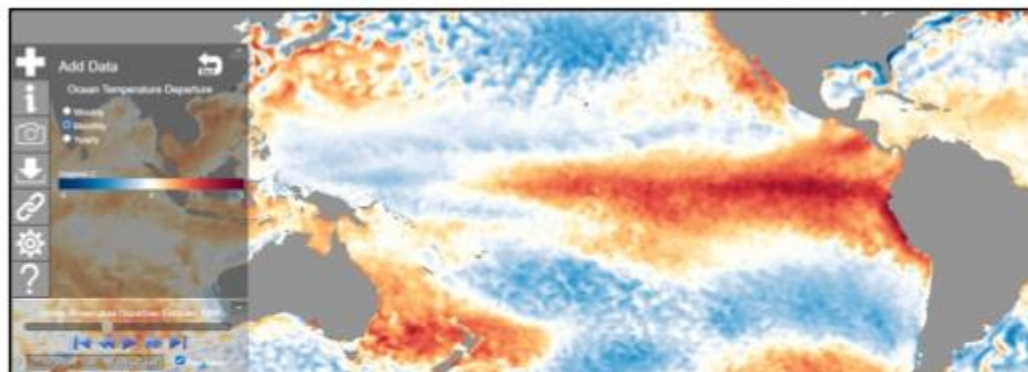
But these impacts depend as well on interactions with other components of the climate system. We cannot blame a weather event JUST on ENSO



# ENSO Impacts

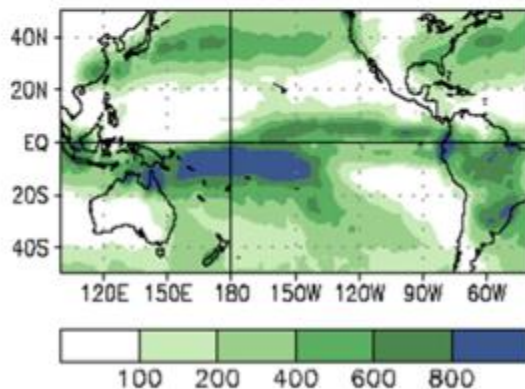
# 1998 El Niño

## Feb 1998 SST Anomalies

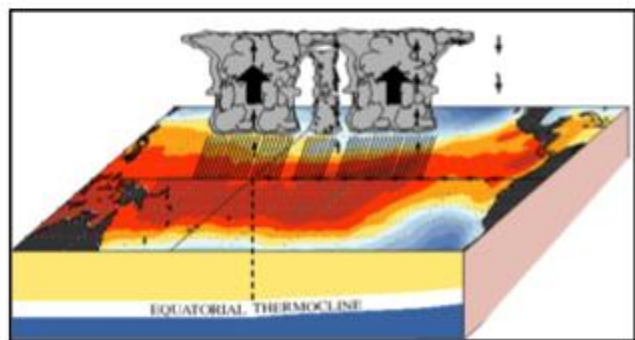
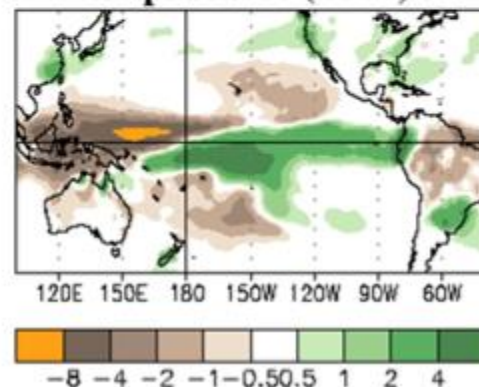


## Jan-Mar 1998 Precipitation (mm)

### Total

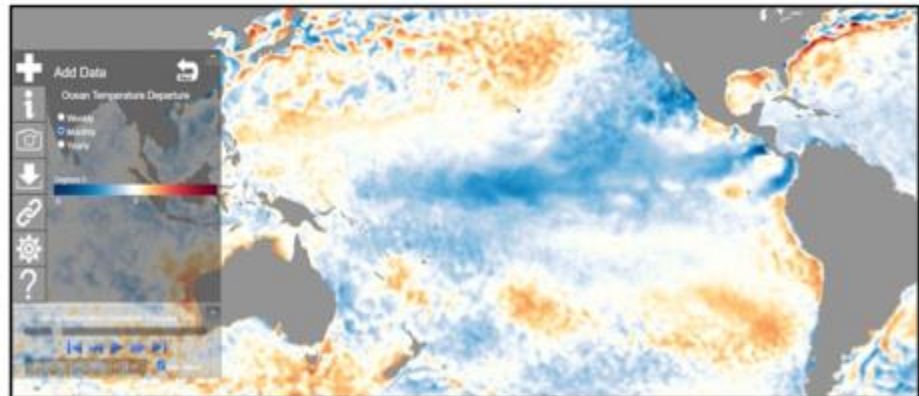


### Departures (x100)



# 1989 La Niña

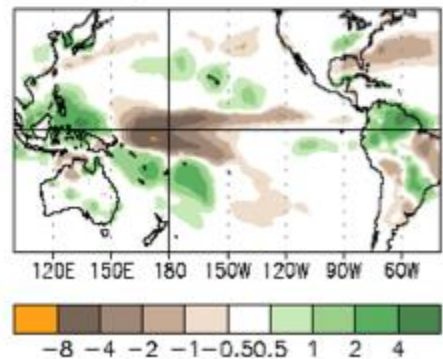
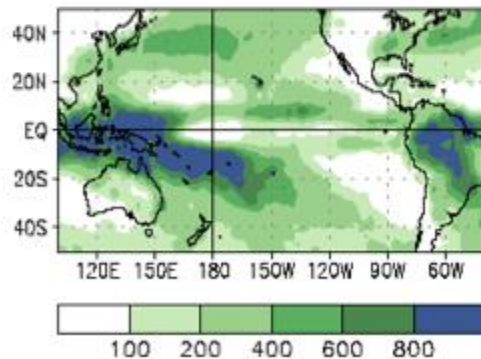
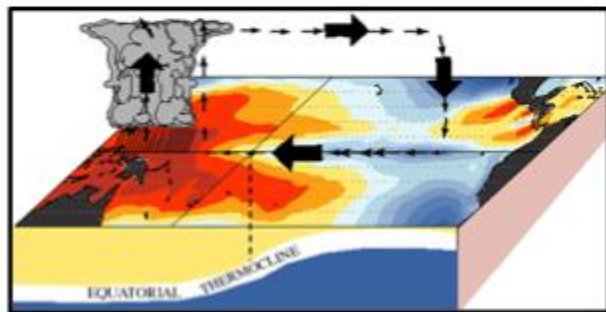
## Feb 1989 SST Anomalies



## Jan-Mar 1989 Precipitation (mm)

Total

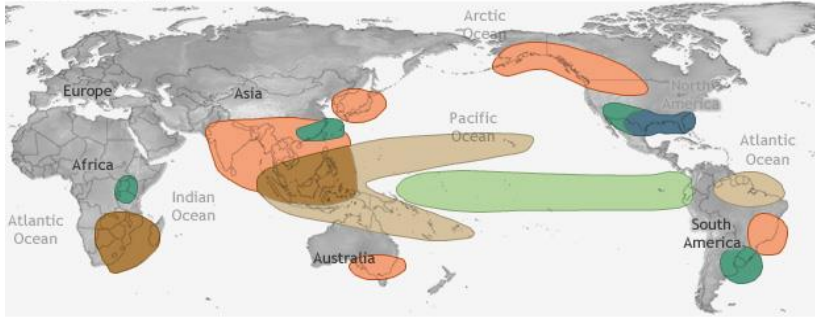
Departures (x100)



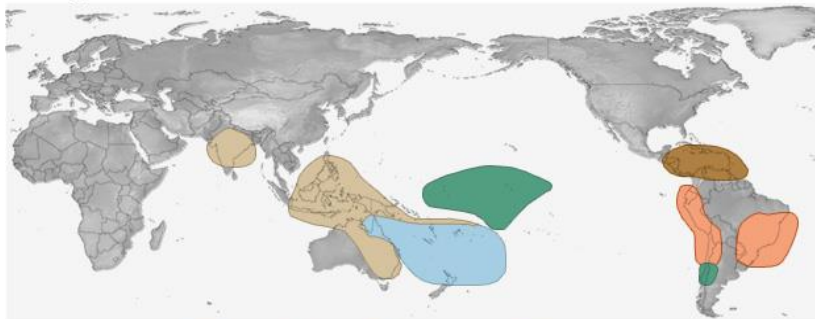
# Impacts occur Globally

## EL NIÑO CLIMATE IMPACTS

December-February



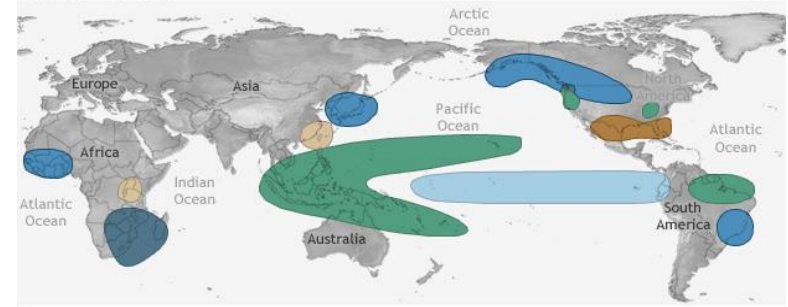
June-August



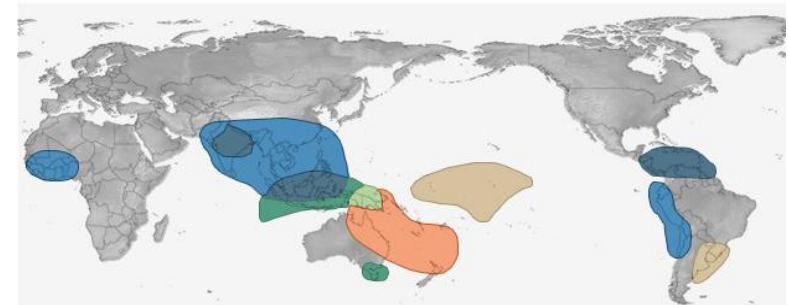
■ Cool ■ Wet ■ Cool and dry ■ Cool and Wet  
■ Warm ■ Dry ■ Warm and dry ■ Warm and wet

## LA NIÑA CLIMATE IMPACTS

December-February



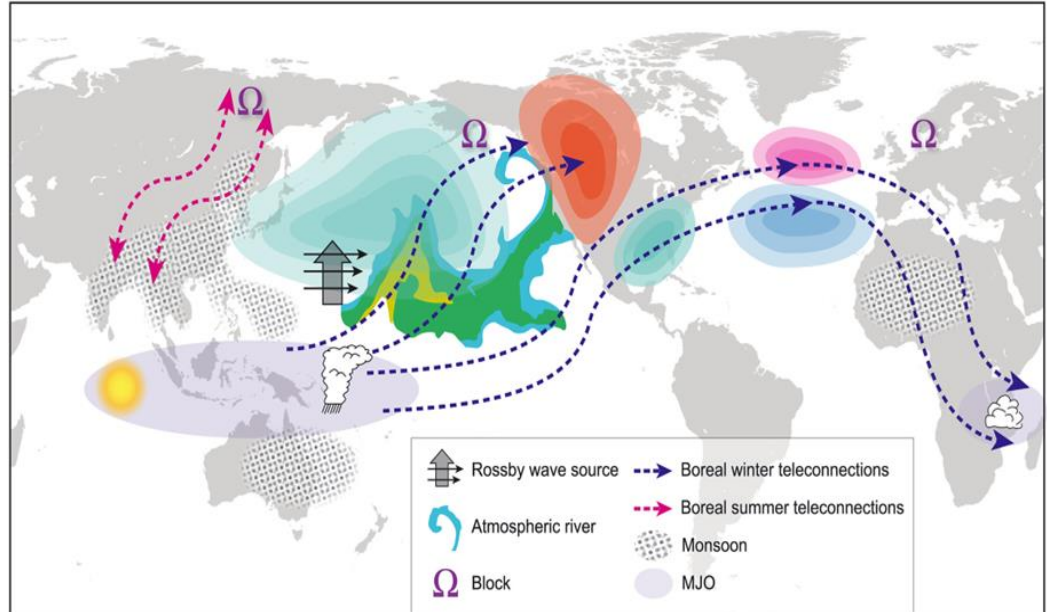
June-August



# Teleconnection

“Relationship between changes in the climate in areas separated by very long distances.”

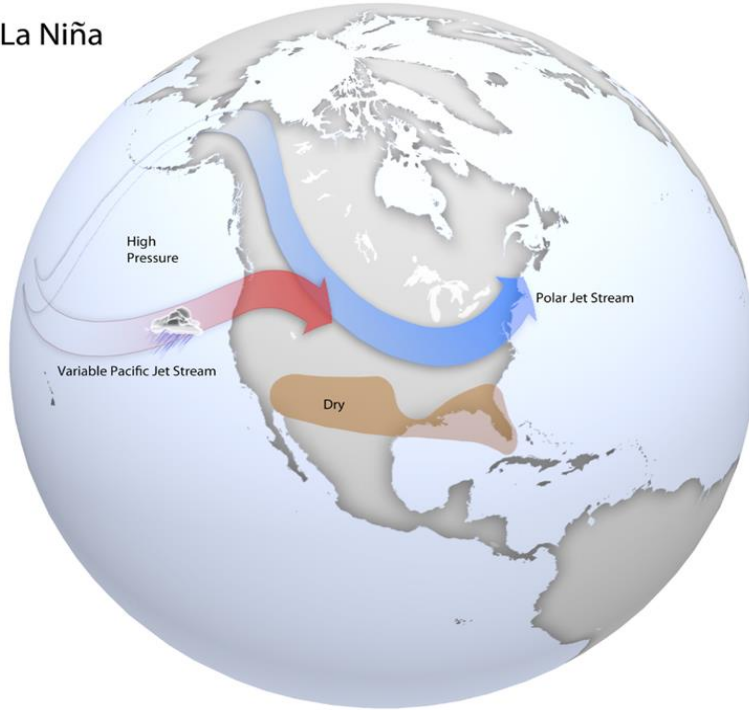
Meteorological processes (such as deep convection) can alter circulations which, in turn, propagate downstream.



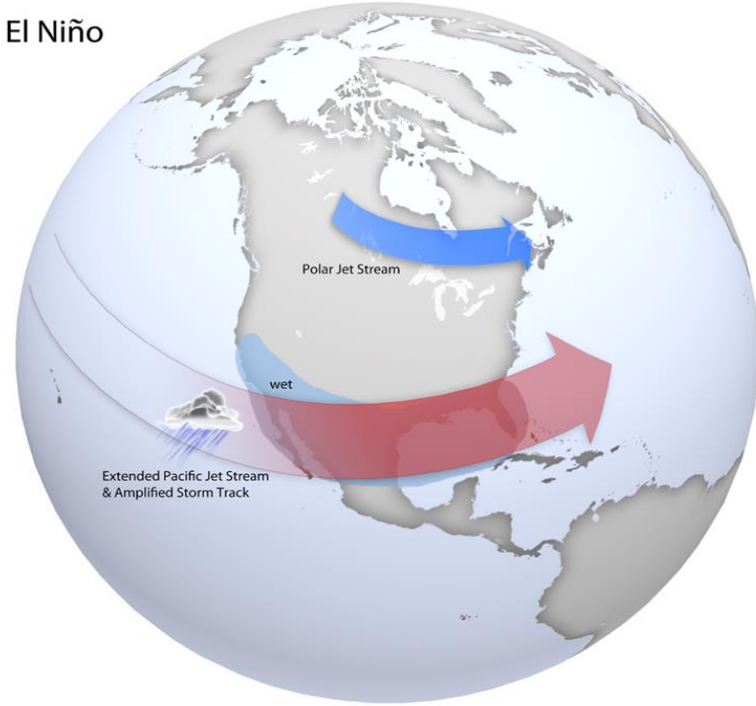


# Teleconnection

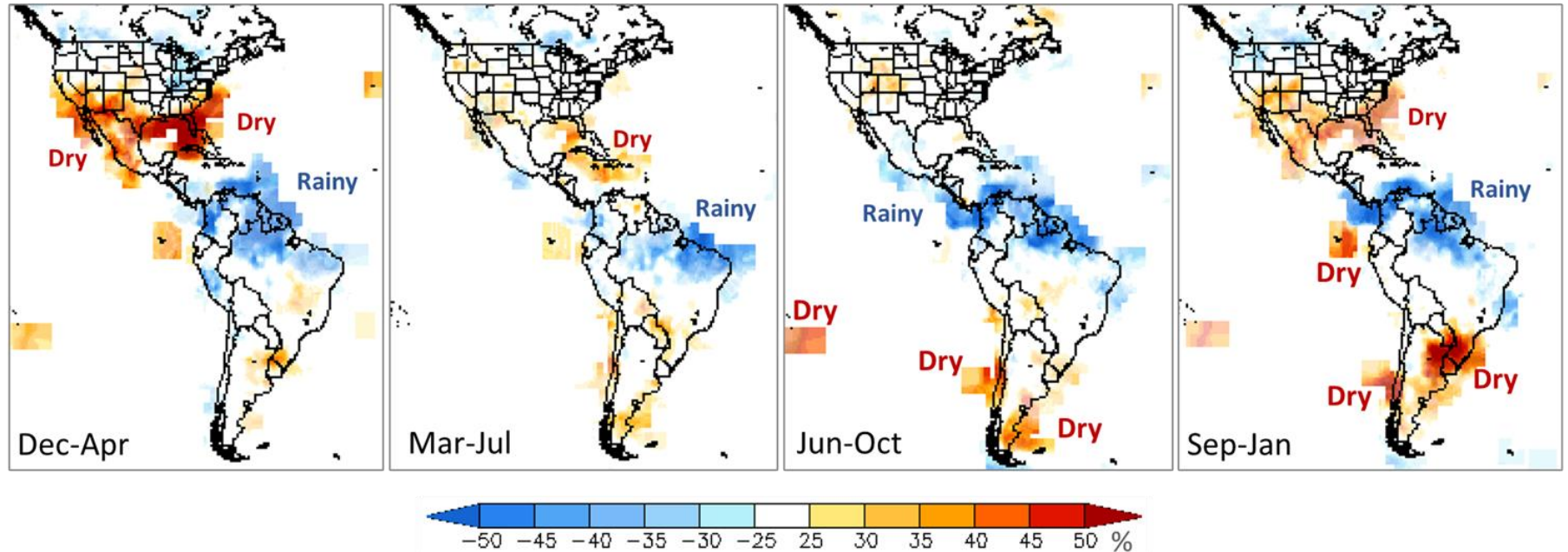
La Niña



El Niño



# Impacts: Rainfall during La Niña

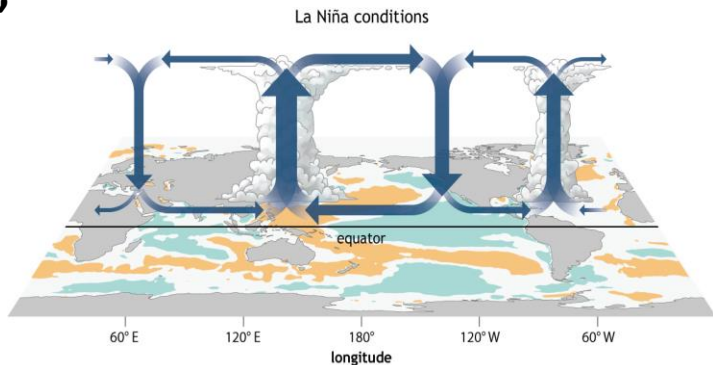


# Tropical Americas: Changes in the Walker Circulation

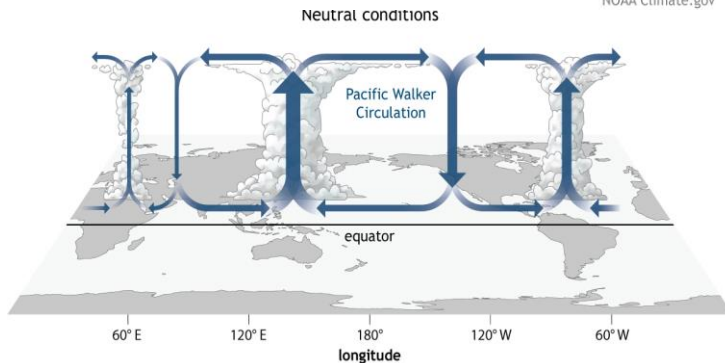
## Very rainy in the Caribbean, Central America and northern South America

- Stronger Walker Circulation.
- Ascending Branch of the Walker Circulation favors more rain.

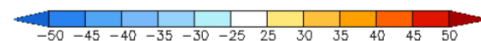
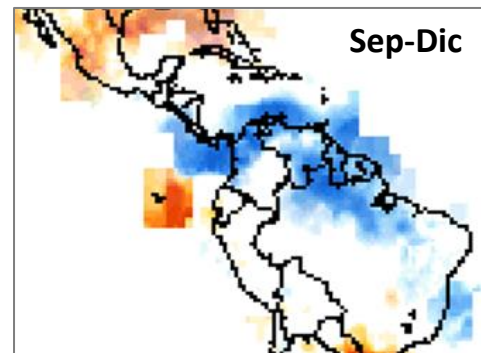
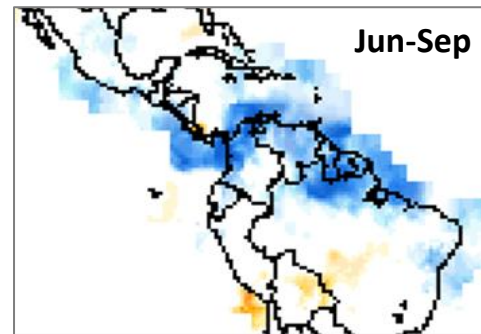
Intense rainy season → Correlación TSM Niño 3.4 - Lluvias



NOAA Climate.gov



NOAA Climate.gov



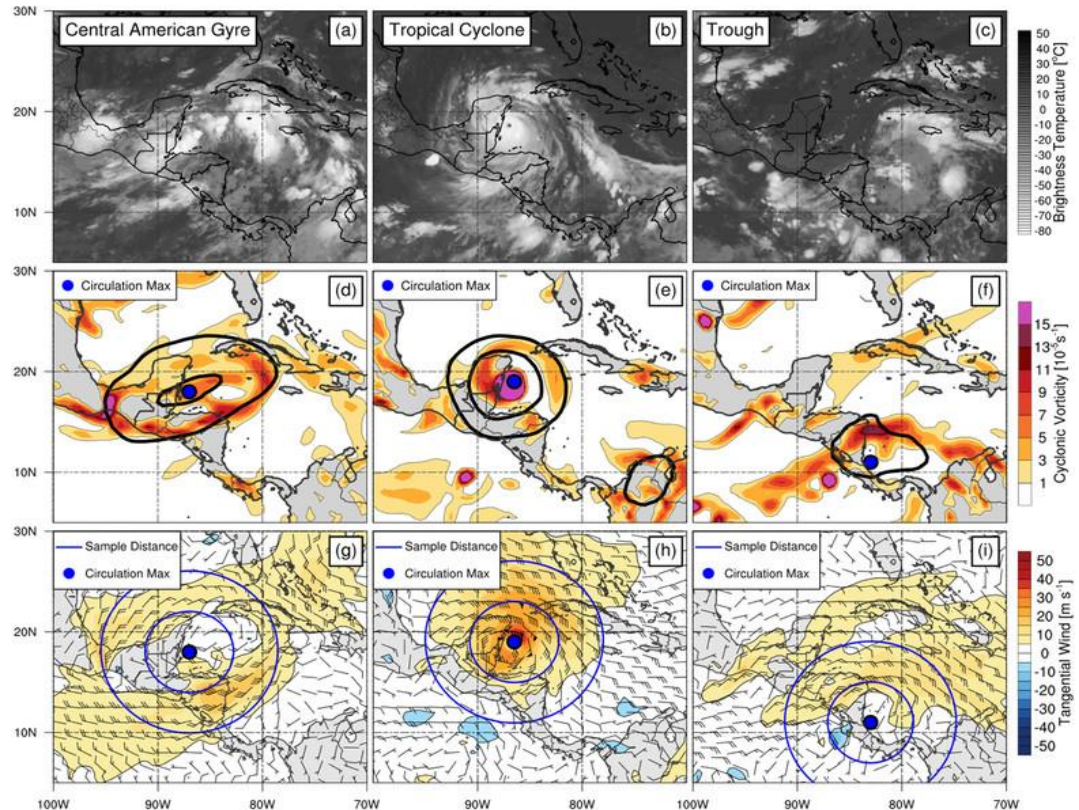


# Central American Gyre - CAG

May to October

- Low pressures that form in Central America. They extend thousands of km, can generate extreme Rainfall and they can spin tropical ciclones.
- Convergence of long-fetch moist onshore winds can produce extreme Rainfall once interacting with the mountains of Central America.
- La Niña associates with more frequent and intense CAG events

Reference: Papin, Bosart and Torn, 2017: "A Climatology of Central American Gyres".  
<https://doi.org/10.1175/MWR-D-16-0411.1>



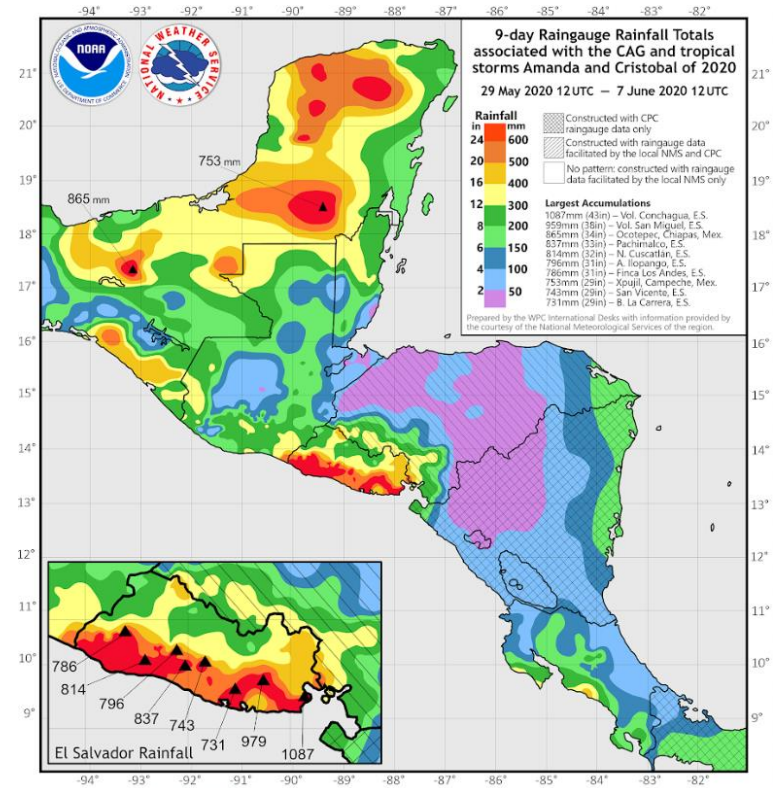
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Evento de Giro  
Centroamericano  
(CAG, "Central  
American Gyre")  
durante La Niña  
de 2020.

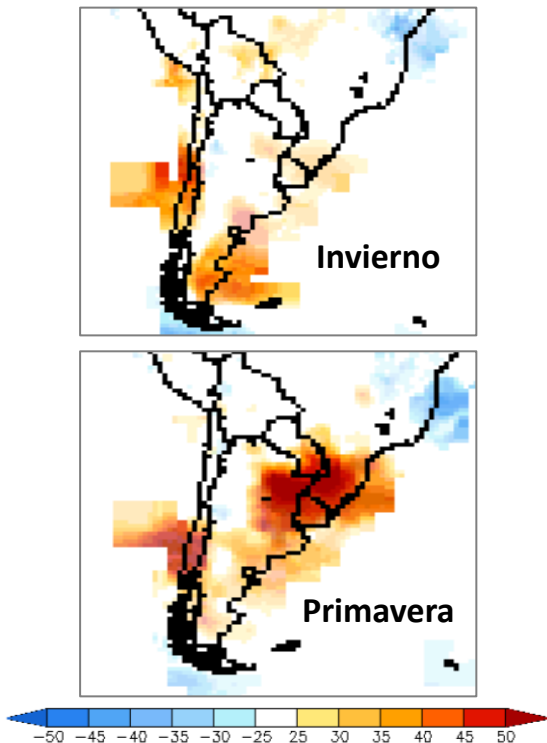


# Spring drought in southeast South America

Junio a Noviembre

- Se debilita el chorro subtropical y desplaza muy al sur la trayectoria de ciclones extra tropicales.
- Esto debilita el SALJJ (chorro de capas bajas Amazonía-Argentina) limitando la fuente de humedad.
- Las tormentas pasan muy al sur y produciendo menos precipitación en el centro de Chile y en la mayor parte de Argentina.
- Primavera: Sequías extremas en Argentina/sur de Brasil/Uruguay, donde usualmente suelen darse muchos sistemas convectivos con lluvias intensas.

Correlación TSM Niño 3.4 - Lluvias



Sequía en Argentina

Impactos especialmente en cultivos de soya y maíz ocurren entre setiembre y noviembre, durante la primavera.





# Central Chile is generally drier during La Niña

Mayo a Octubre

- Central and southern Chile generally receive less rain during La Niña and more during El Niño winters.
- La Niña dryness: Storm tracks usually develop further south and atmospheric rivers tend to be weaker, drier.

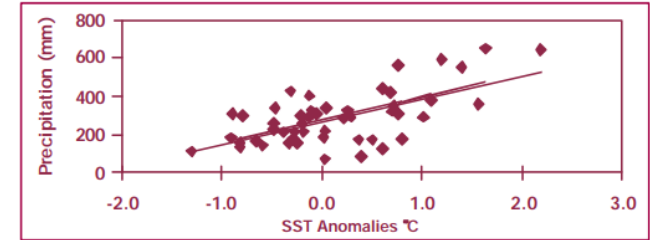


Figure 2. Precipitation for Santiago correlated with anomalies of the SST (Niño 3), April–September 1950–98.

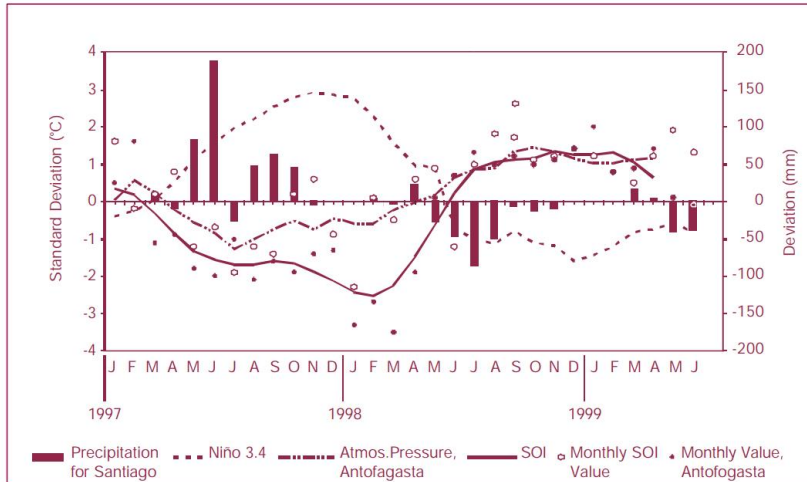
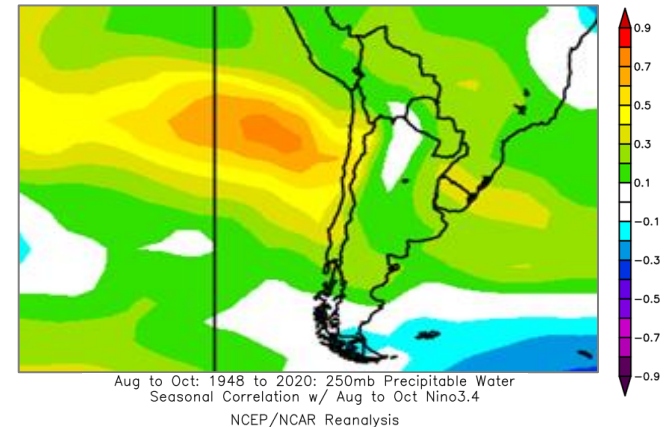


Figure 4. Sea surface temperature in the central equatorial Pacific, atmospheric pressure in Antofagasta, and precipitation in Santiago, January 1997–July 1999.

## Correlación TSM Niño 3.4 – Agua Precipitable



# La Niña: Rainy Summer in Brasil with South Atlantic Convergence Zone (SACZ)

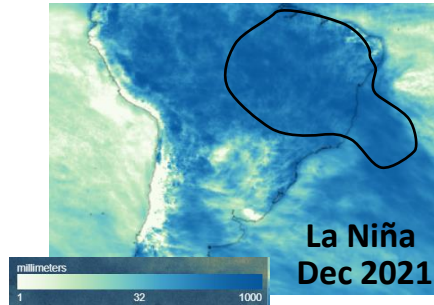
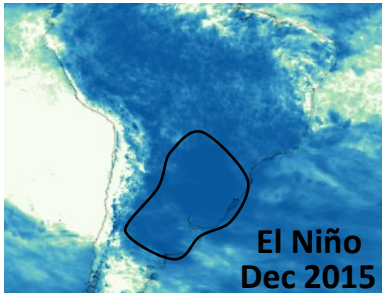
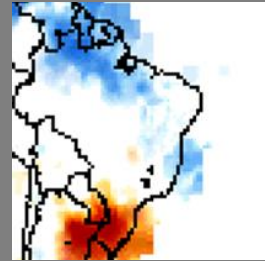
November-March

**During La Niña, South Atlantic Convergence Zone and an ascending branch of the Walker Circulation favor more precipitation in eastern Brasil.**

- Descending air and drought in northeast Argentina/south Brasil compensate with ascending air and rainy conditions in central and Eastern Brasil.
- SACZ more prominent and recurrent.

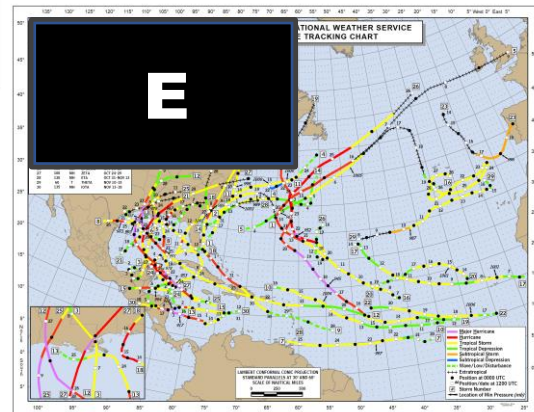
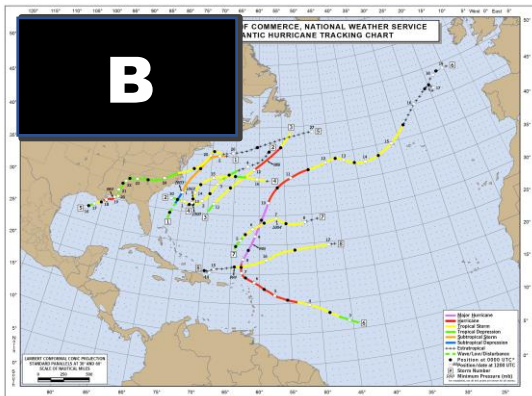
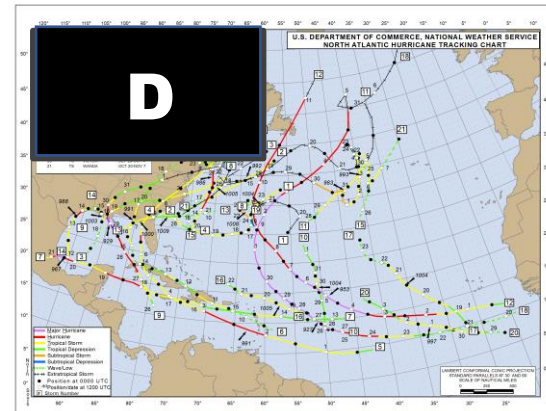
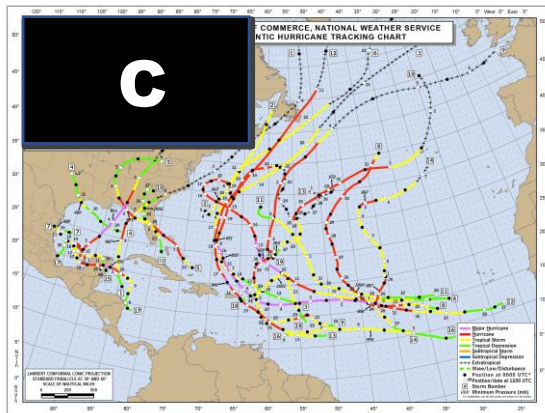
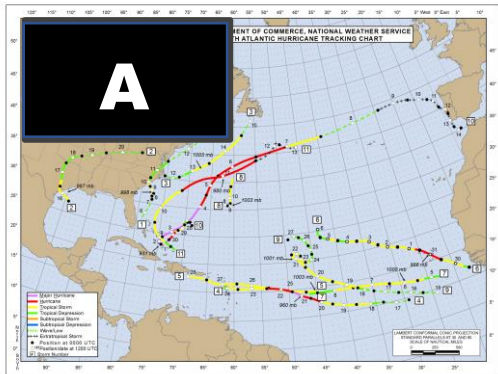


Flooding in eastern and central Brazil becomes more frequent during La Niña. The converse situation occurs in southern Brazil during El Niño.



# ENSO and Hurricane Season in the Caribbean

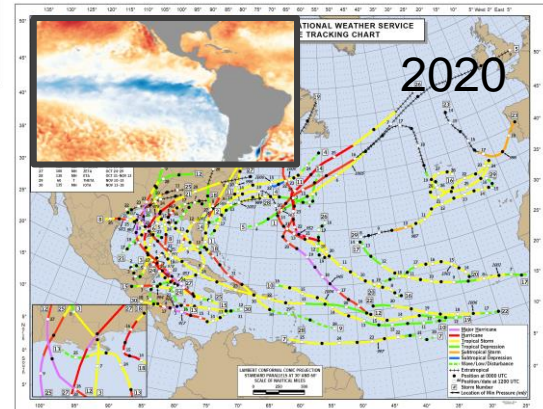
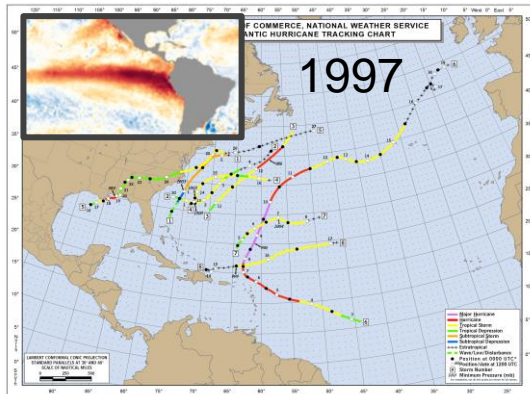
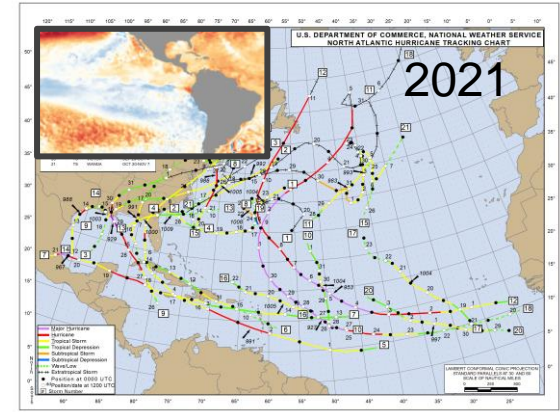
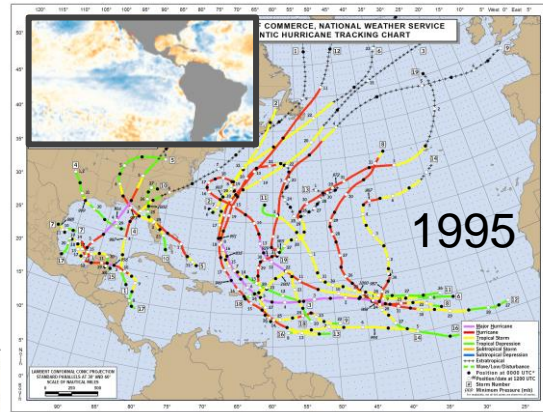
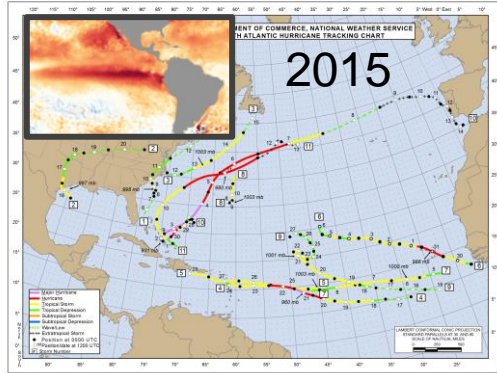
## Which years are La Niña and which El Niño?





# ENSO and Hurricane Season in the Caribbean

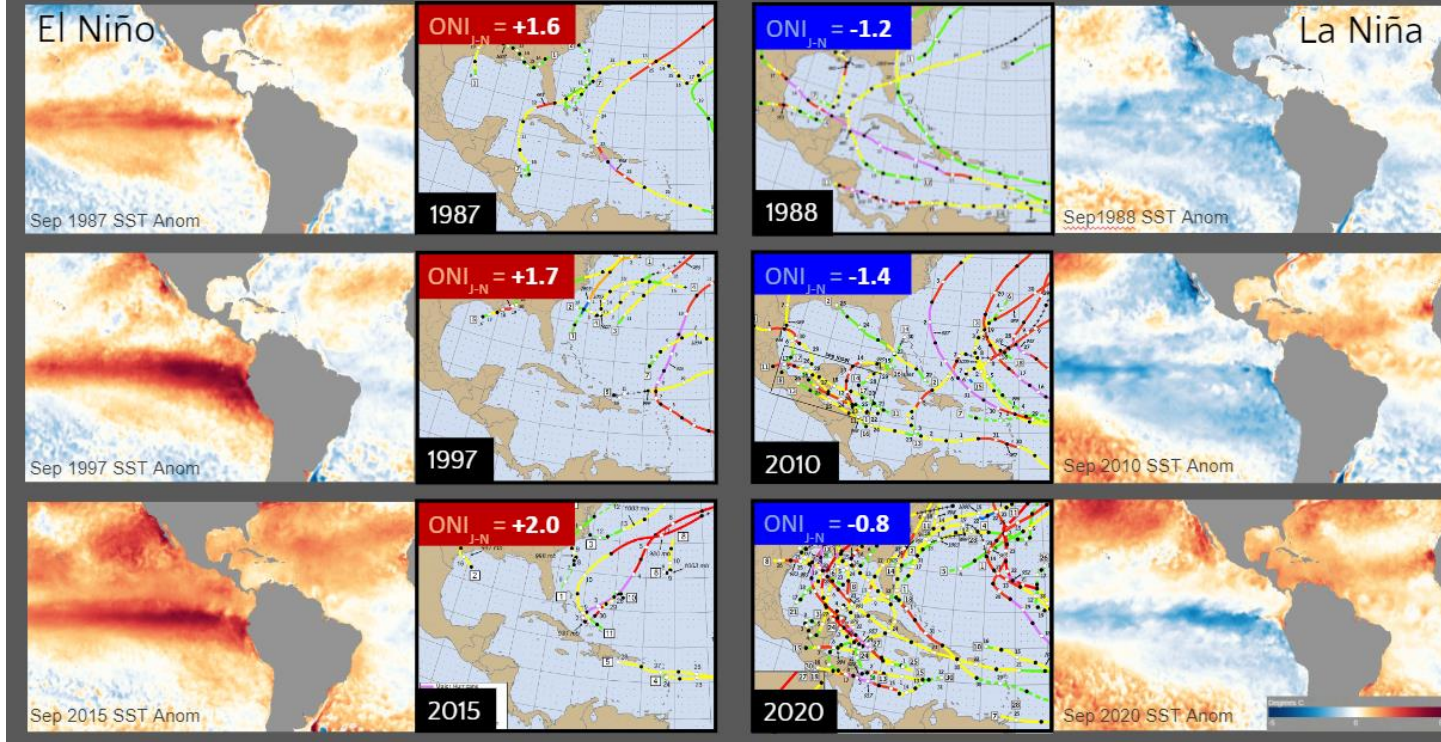
Which years are La Niña and which El Niño?



Atlántico más  
activo durante La  
Niña

# ENSO and the Hurricane Season in the Caribbean

El Niño = Menos huracanes en el Caribe (Jun–Nov)

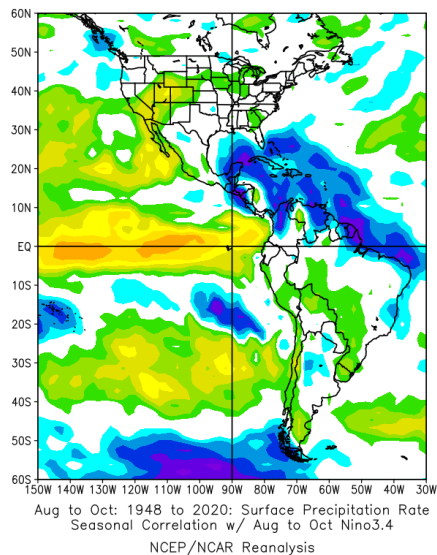




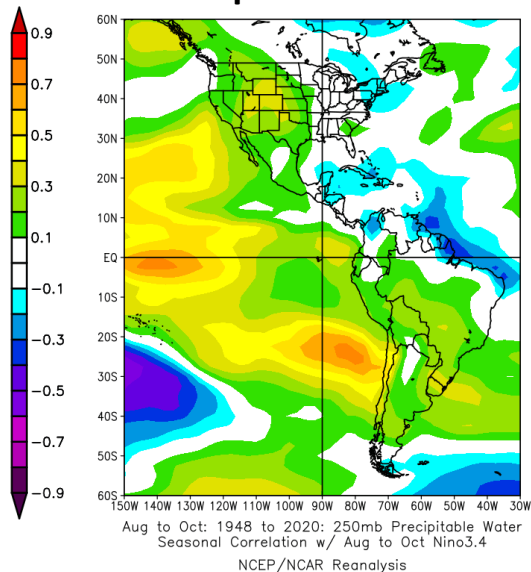
# ENSO and the Hurricane Season in the Caribbean

## Correlations with Niño 3.4 SST

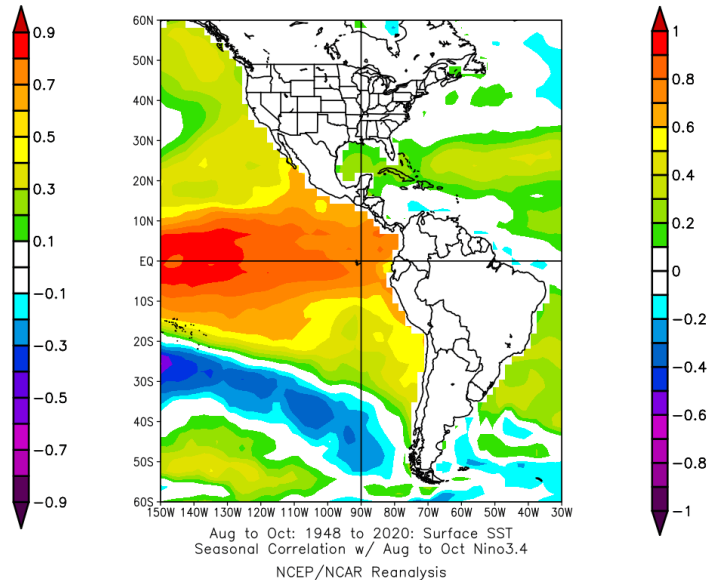
### Rainfall



### Precipitable Water



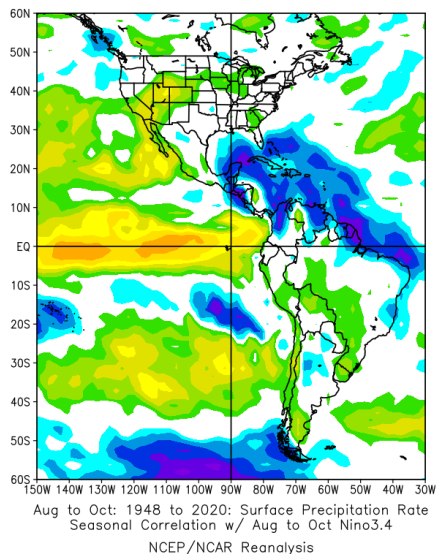
### SST



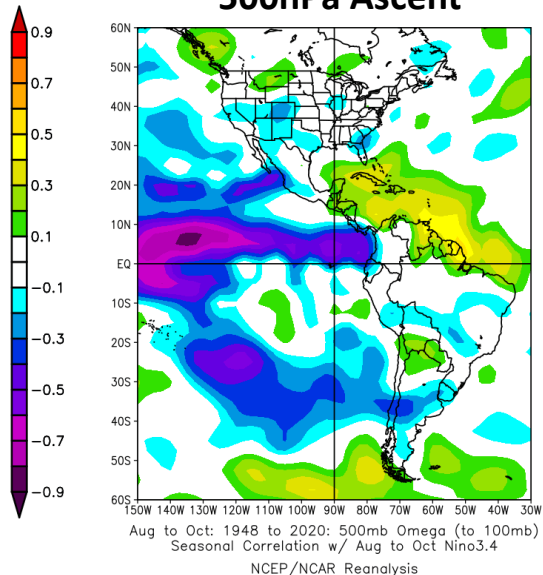
# ENSO and the Hurricane Season in the Caribbean

## Correlations with Niño 3.4 SST

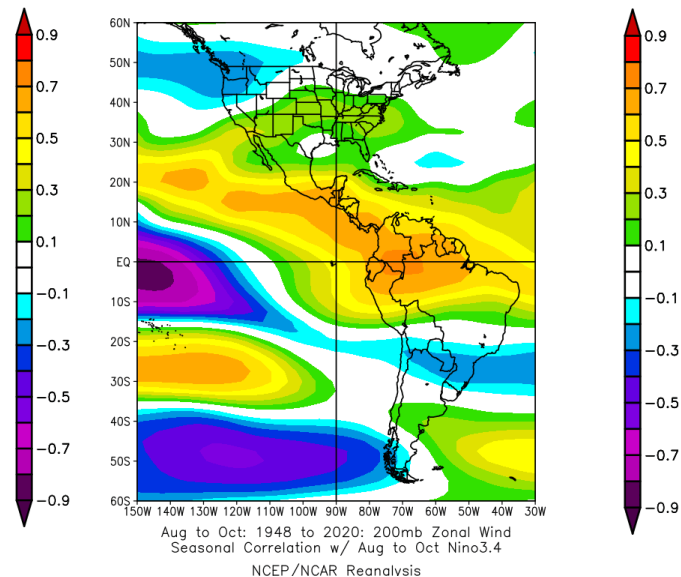
### Rainfall



### 500hPa Ascent



### Zonal Wind 200hPa



# Background Concepts

- Ocean coupling.
- Wind stress.
- Sea Surface temperatures and their role in atmospheric thermodynamics.

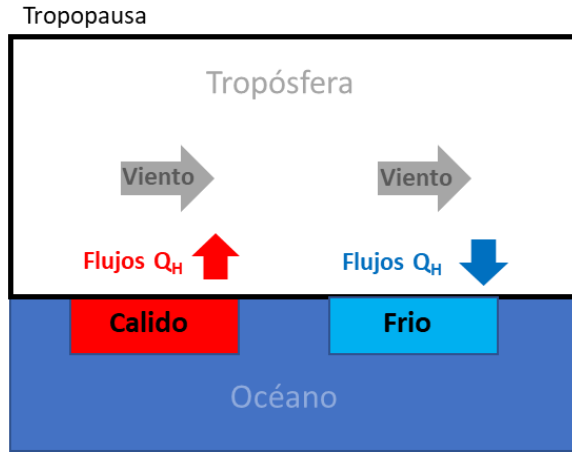
# Ocean Coupling

## How do the ocean and atmosphere communicate?

- The atmosphere “reads” the ocean by the impact of sea surface temperatures (SST)  
**SST modulate atmospheric stability and thermodynamics, eventually inducing changes in the winds**
- The ocean “reads” the atmosphere by the impact of surface winds “pushing” the ocean surface.  
**This is called wind stress ( $\tau$ ) and stirs superficial ocean currents.**

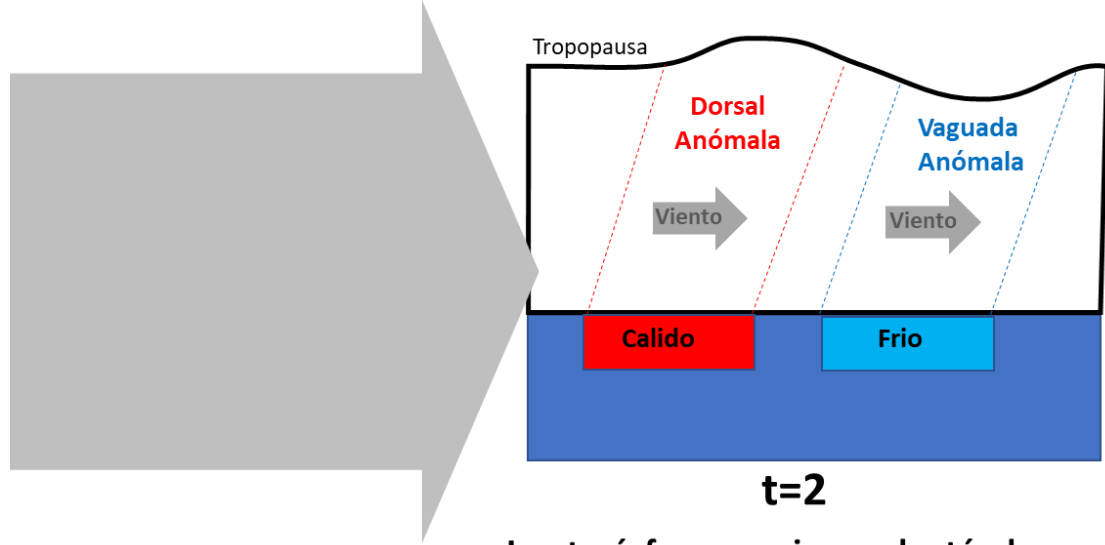
**Bjerkness Feedback:** “Atmospheric changes alter the sea temperatures that in turn alter the atmospheric winds in a positive feedback.”

# Role of fluxes and atmospheric reactions



**t=1**

Se desarrollan anomalías  
cálidas y frías de mar

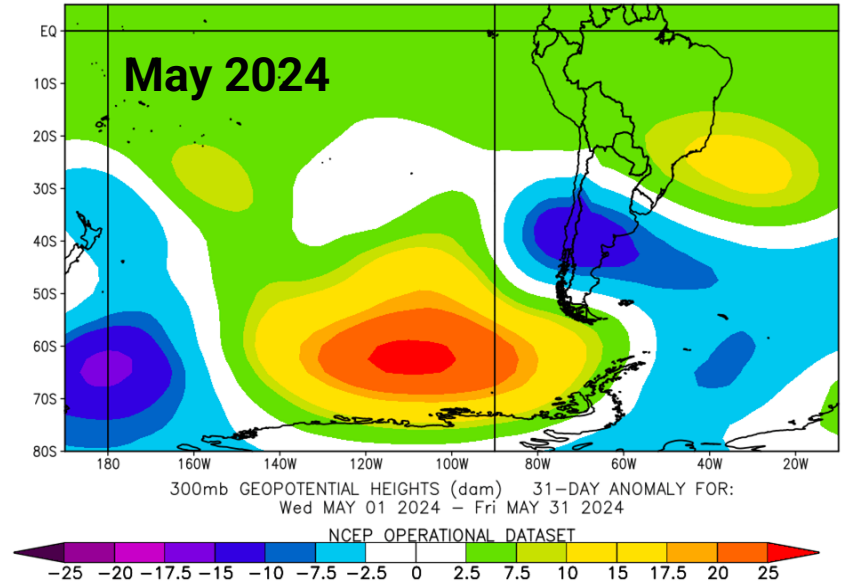
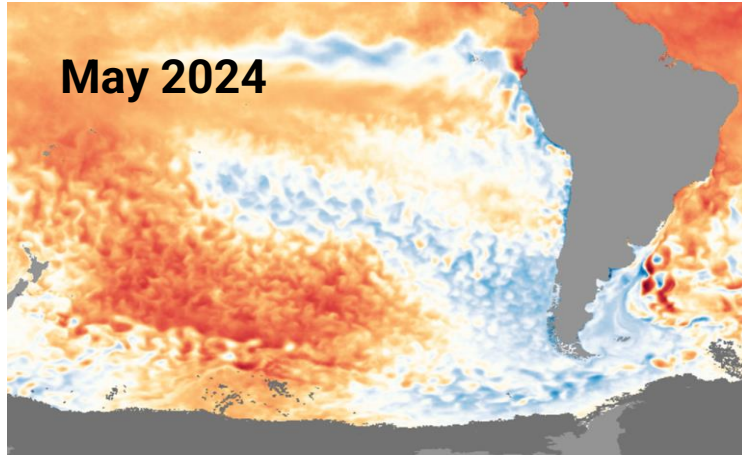


**t=2**

La atmósfera reacciona calentándose y  
enfriándose flujo abajo, desarrollando  
dorsales y vaguadas anómalas

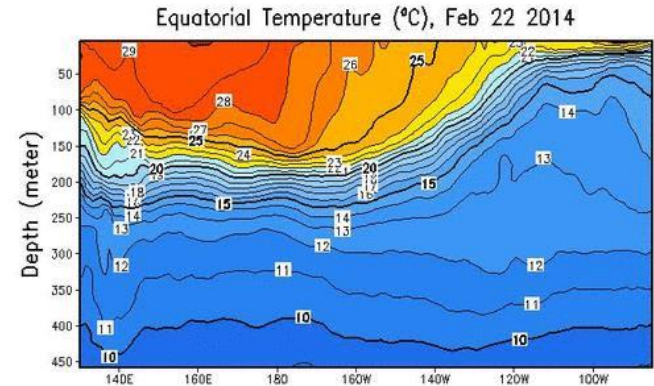
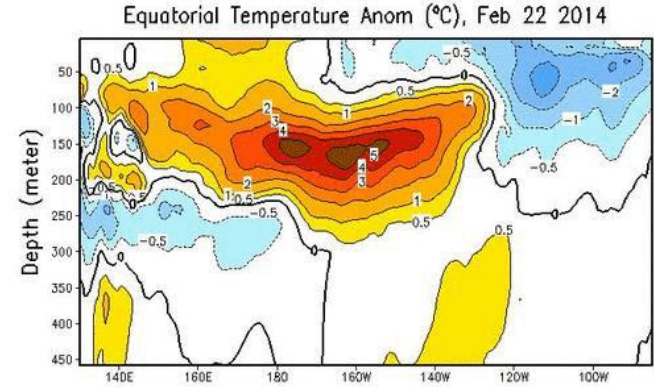
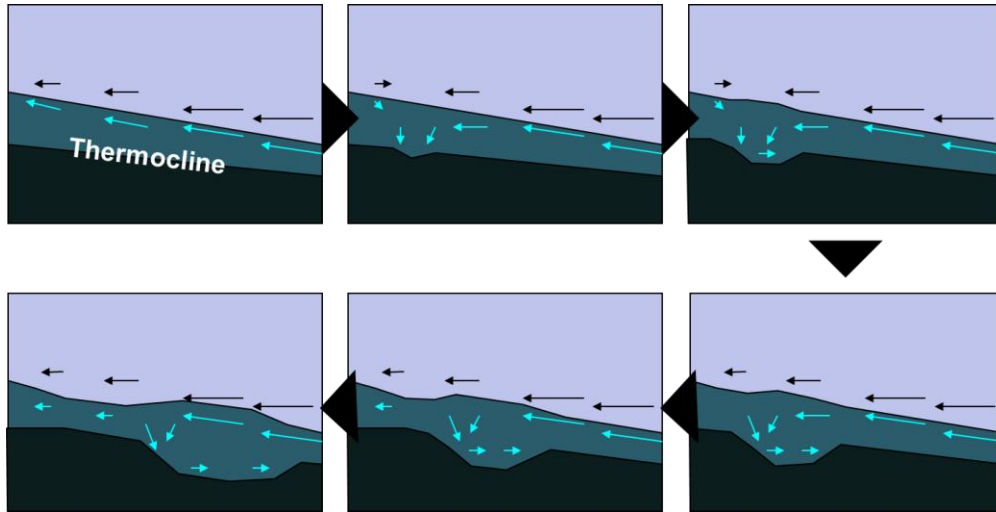
# Role of fluxes and atmospheric reactions

Rossby Train favored by extensive coherent SST Anomalies



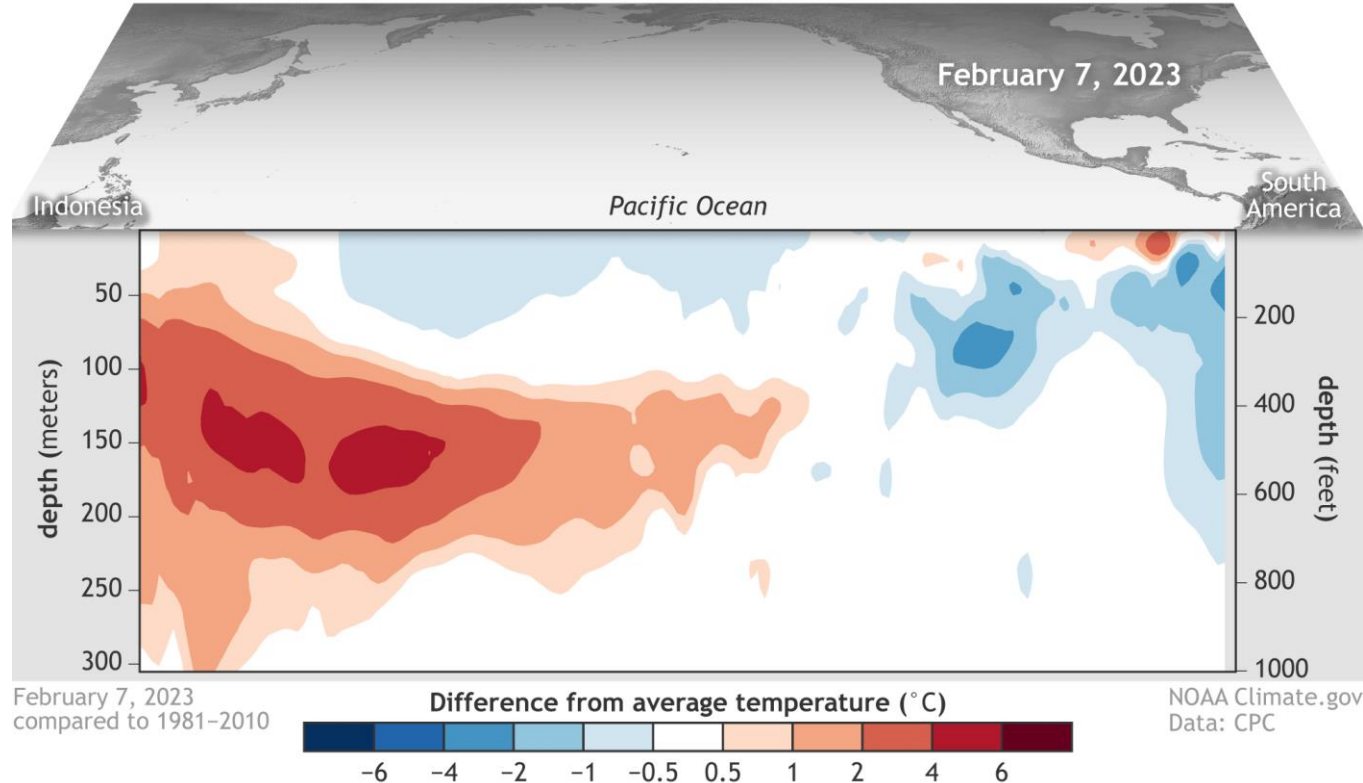
# Kelvin Wave Generation Mechanism

Westerly Wind Bursts can trigger an oceanic Kelvin Wave by inducing a bulging of the thermocline



# Kelvin Wave Generation Mechanism

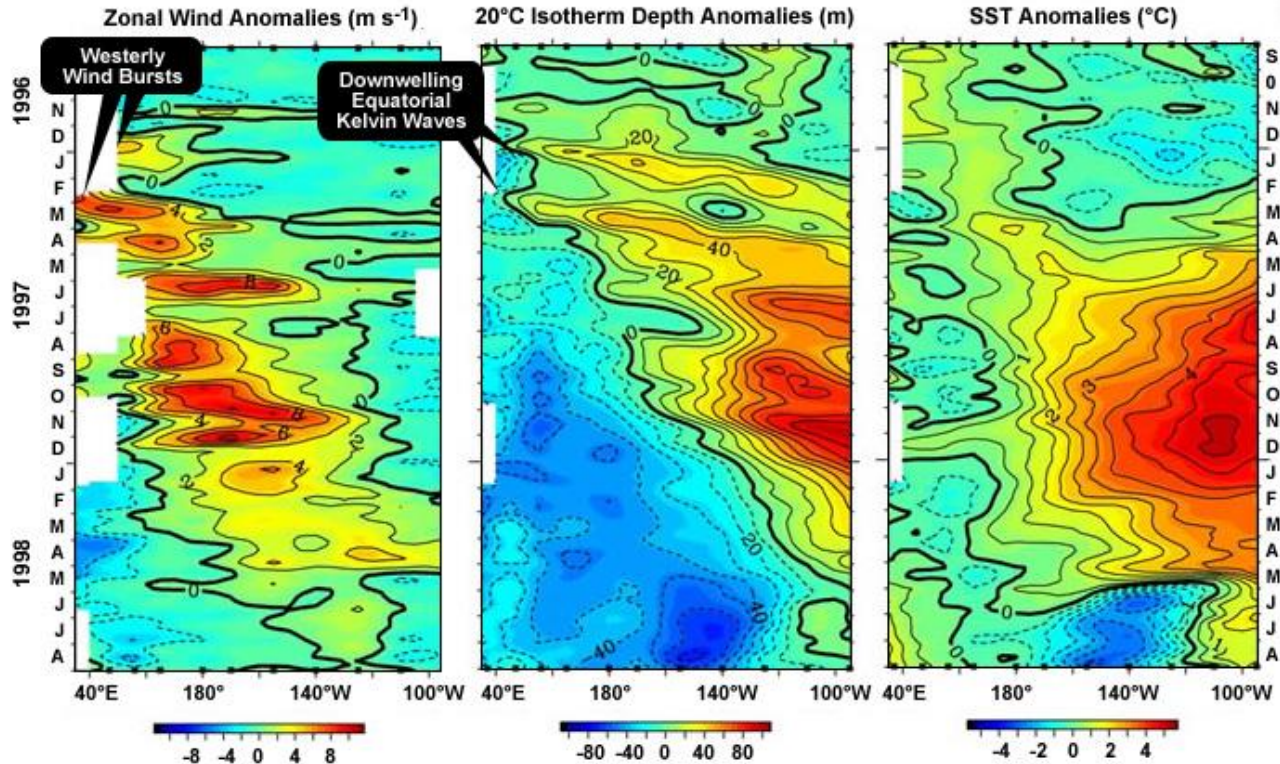
Below-surface warm pool in eastern Pacific growing larger





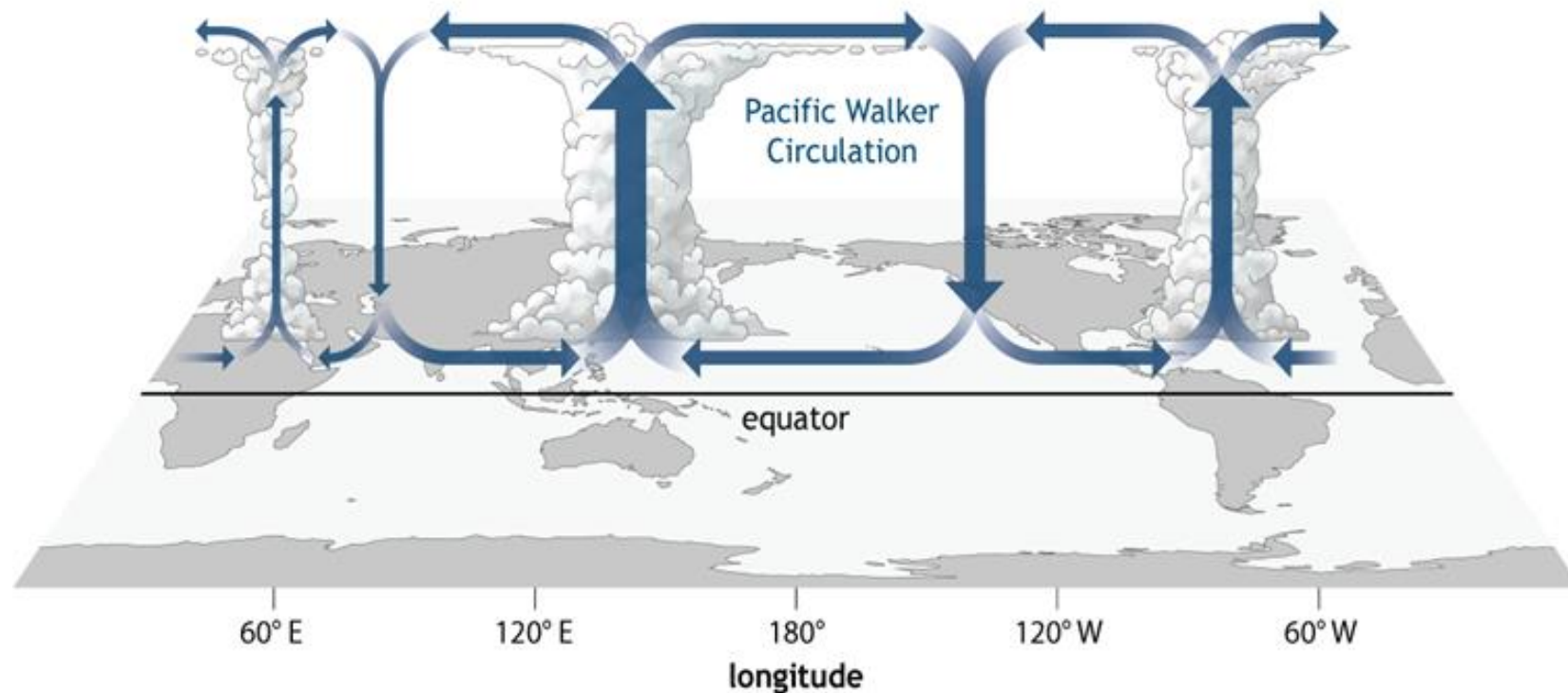
# Kelvin Wave Generation Mechanism

Evolution of the 1997-98 ENSO (2°S-2°N Averages)

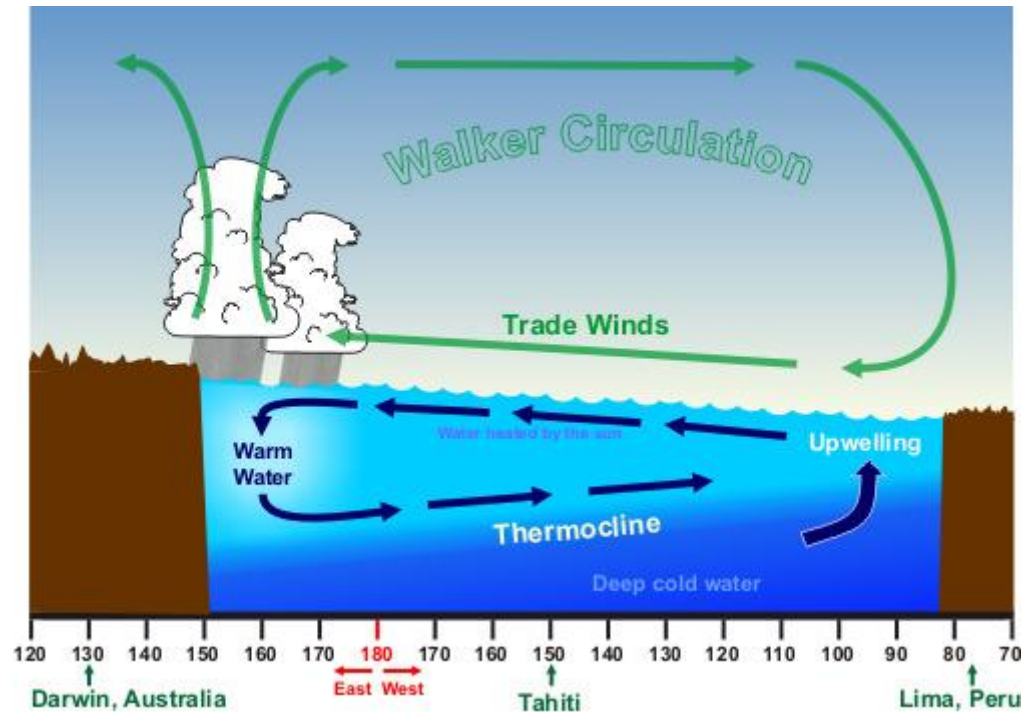


# The Walker Circulation

Neutral conditions

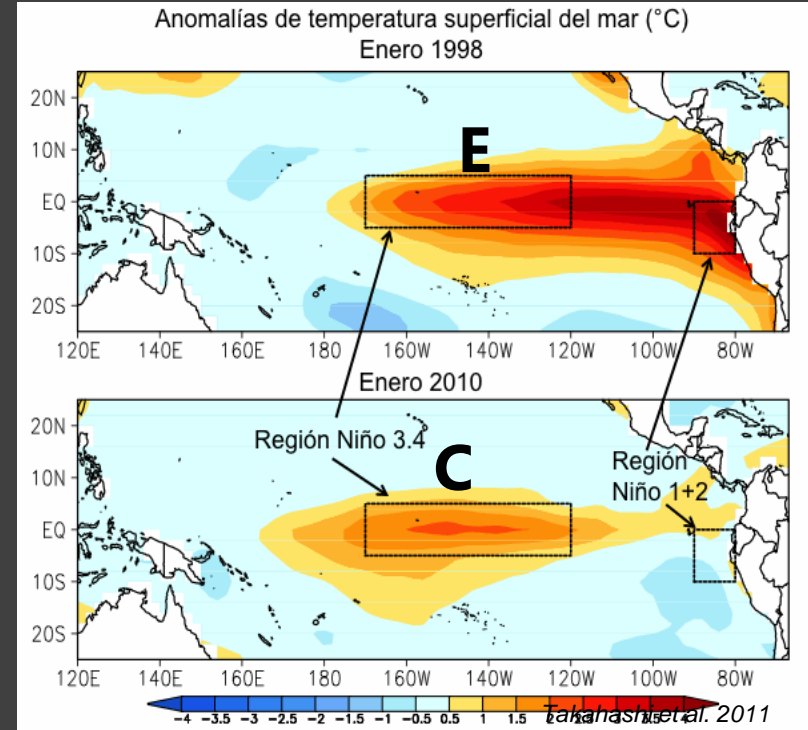


# The Walker Circulation



# ENSO Modes

- For an ENSO Warm or Cool Phase to be declared, SST in Niño 3.4 needs to be  $>0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  or  $<-0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  over three consecutive trimesters.
- All that matters is what happens in Niño 3.4.
- The two main modes (not types) of ENSO that result in Niño 3.4 warmings and coolings are:
  1. Niño for the entire basin, with a peak in the Eastern Pacific (Mode E)
  2. The Central Pacific (Mode C)



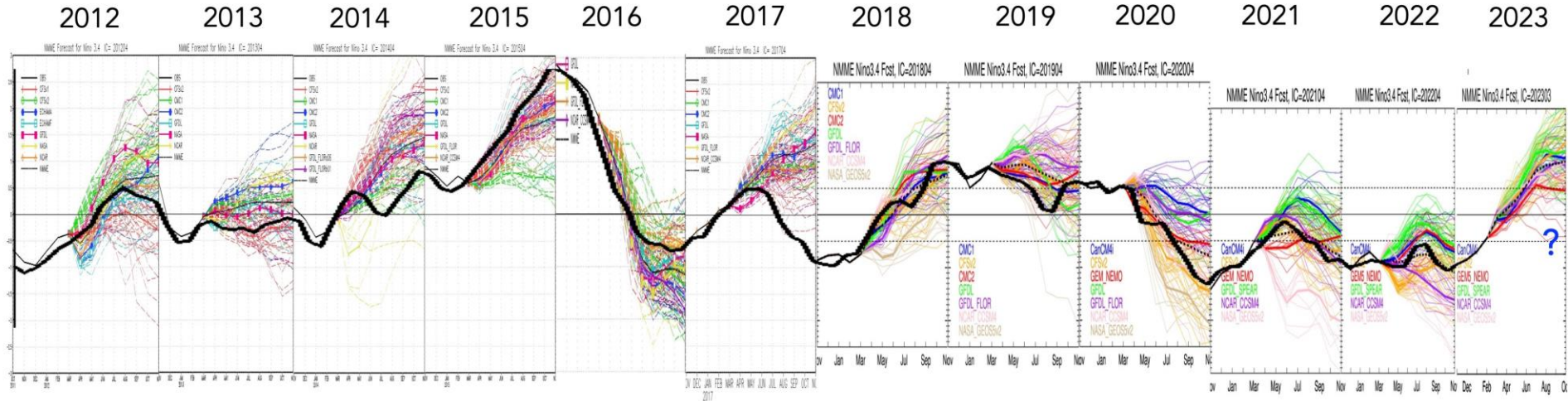


# ENSO Predictability

There are still struggles. Models tend to exaggerate the probability of warm phases (El Niños).

April is a low predictability month due weak SST gradients and hard-to-forecast non-linear processes generated by deep convection near the equator.

Pronósticos NMME de El Niño/La Niña en el Pacífico central (región Niño 3.4) inicializados en abril\*



\* inicializado en  
marzo 2023

# **Part II**

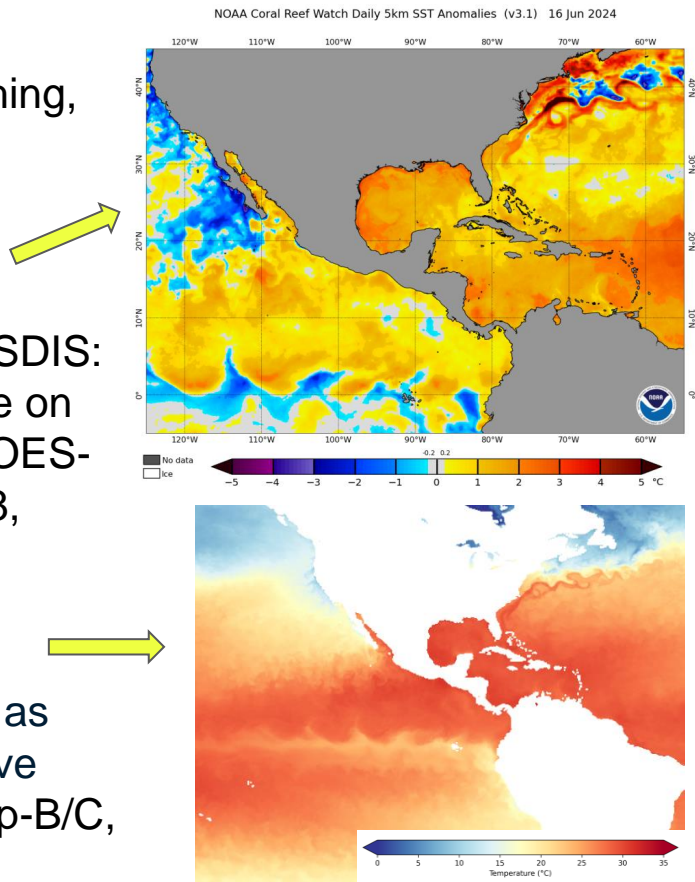
## **Satellite Products to Monitor ENSO**

# Satellite Products for Monitoring ENSO

- It is complicated to speak about each instrument and what they do
- In reality, products that we use are generated by a combination of different satellite fields
- We can start with the following question: **What are the main fields we can measure with satellite products?**
  - Sea Surface Temperatures
  - Sea Level Height (Altimetry) ←Do we have a Kelvin wave?
  - Surface Winds ←Mechanical forcing of the ocean surface
  - Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) / Precipitation products  
←Deep convection over the ocean

# Satellite Products: Sea Surface Temperatures

- Used to monitor SSTs, SST Anomalies, Coral Bleaching, Degree Heating Week
- **Products:**
  - [SST Contour Charts](#) and [CoralTemp SST](#) by NESDIS: obtained from Infrared radiometer and microwave on board of Sentinel-3a, Sentinel-3b, Metop-B/C, GOES-East/West, NOAA -18 & 19, GOES-16, GOES-18, Himawari-9, and Meteosat-10.
  - [OSTIA](#): obtained from 10 different sensors such as the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission Microwave Imager (TMI), on board GCOM-W AMSR2, Metop-B/C, Sentinel 3A & 3B.





# Satellite Products: Altimetry

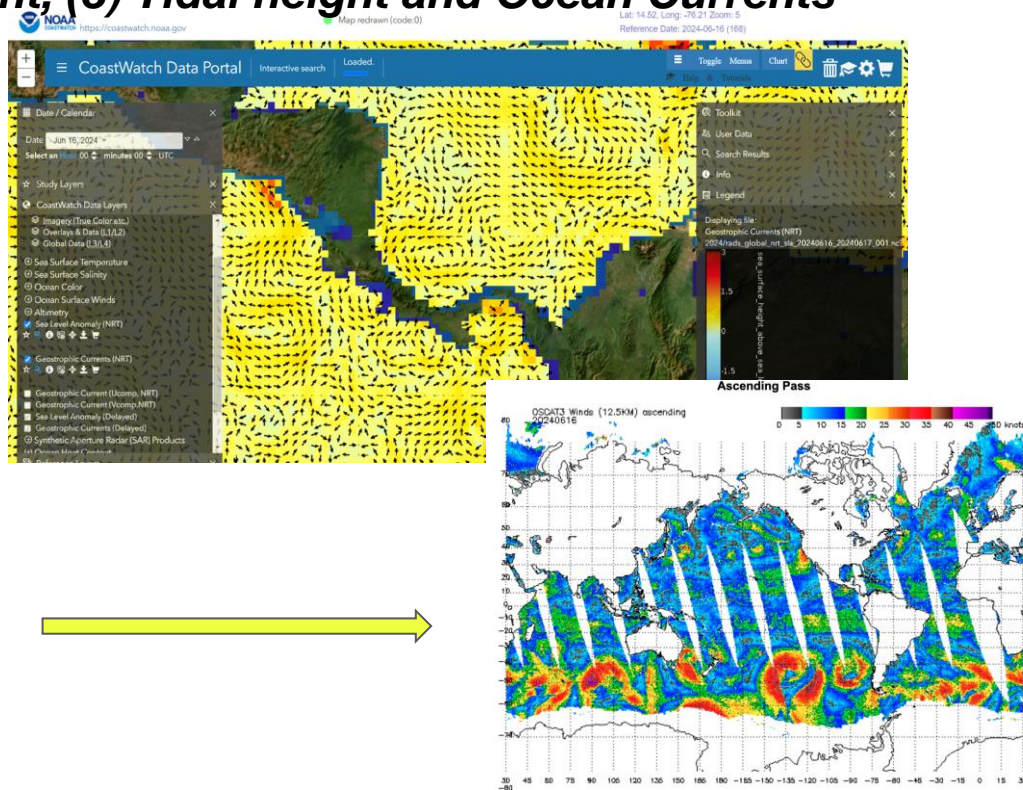
- The measure of the height of ocean features such as: **(1) Sea level height anomaly, (2) Significant wave height, (3) Tidal height and Ocean Currents**

- **Products:**

- [Radar Altimetry Database System \(RADS\) from NOAA Coast Watch Data Portal:](#)

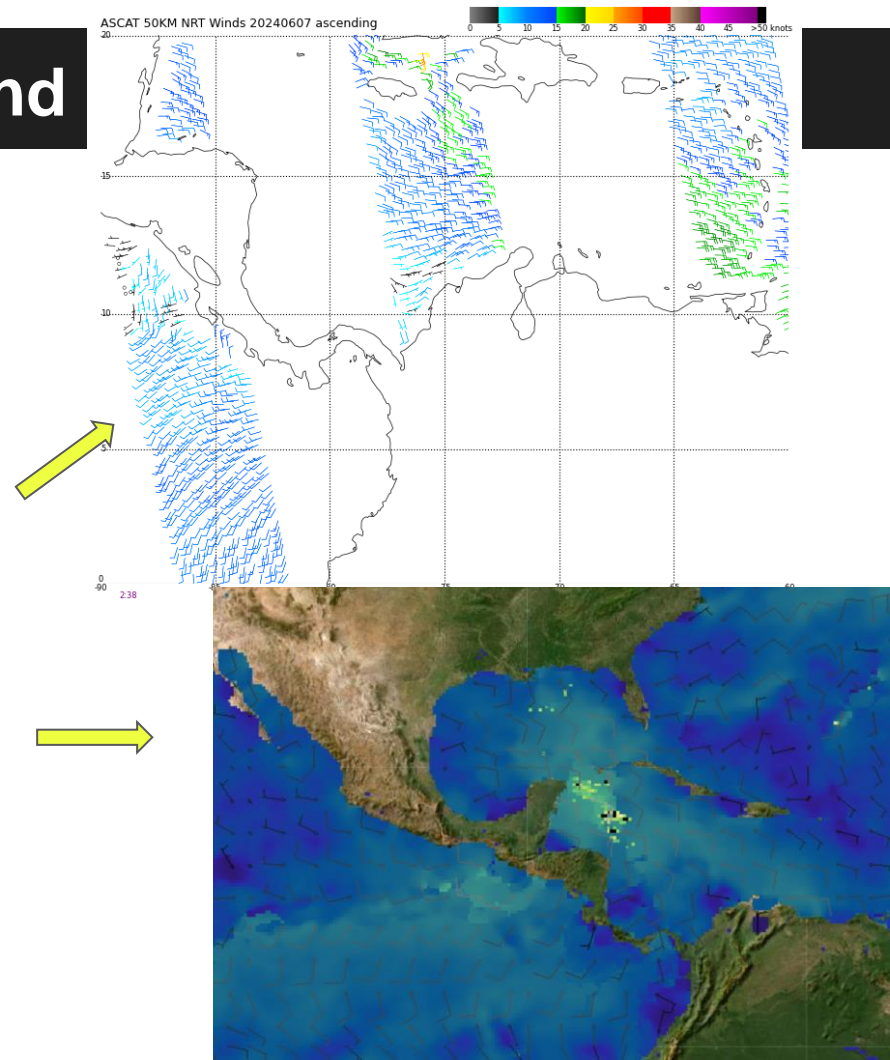
obtained from radars on board of Jason-3, AltiKa, Cryosat-2, Sentinel-3A, and Sentinel-3B

- [OSCAR-3](#): obtained from scatterometer on board of GPM and Metop-B/C, Aqua, GCOM-W, SMAP, DMSP, Oceansat-3 (coming very soon)



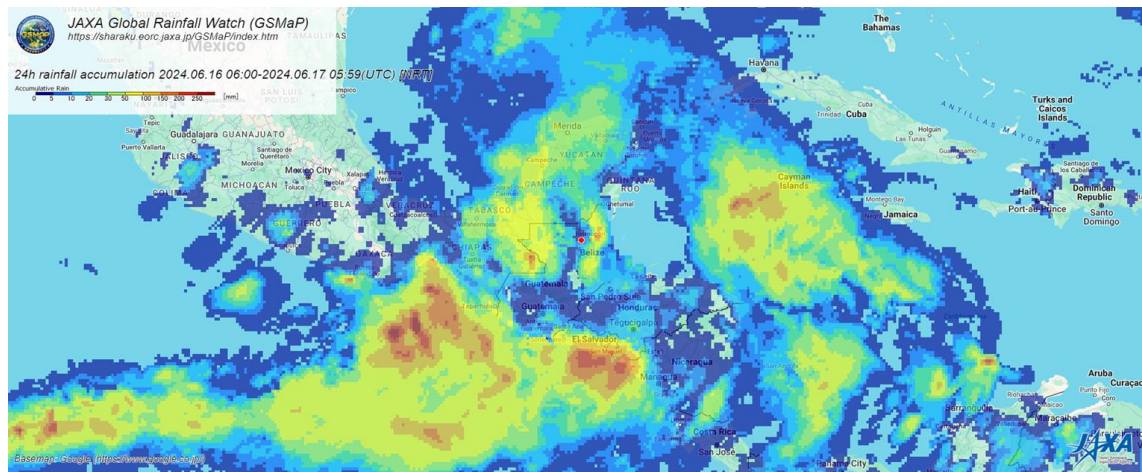
# Satellite Products: Surface Wind

- Monitors the movement of winds over the ocean surface
- **Products:**
  - [ASCAT - Advanced Scatterometer from NOAA/NESDIS](#): obtained from scatterometer on board of GPM and Metop-B/C, Aqua, GCOM-W, SMAP, DMSP, Oceansat-3 (coming very soon)
  - [NOAA NCEI Blended Seawinds \(NBS\)](#): obtained from the synthesization of observations from multiple satellites to create gridded wind speeds (10m, neutral)



# Satellite Products: Precipitation/Deep Convection

- To determine deep convection/heavy rainfall/ over the ocean
- **Products:**
  - [Hydro-Estimator Rainfall](https://sharaku.eorc.jaxa.jp/GSMaP/index.htm) by NOAA OSPO
    - Uses IR brightness temperatures from geostationary satellites (GOES, METEOSAT, MTSAT) while using NCEP model fields
  - [JAXA Global Rainfall Watch](https://www.jaxa.jp/en/research/technology/gsmap/)



# Exercises

# **Exercise**

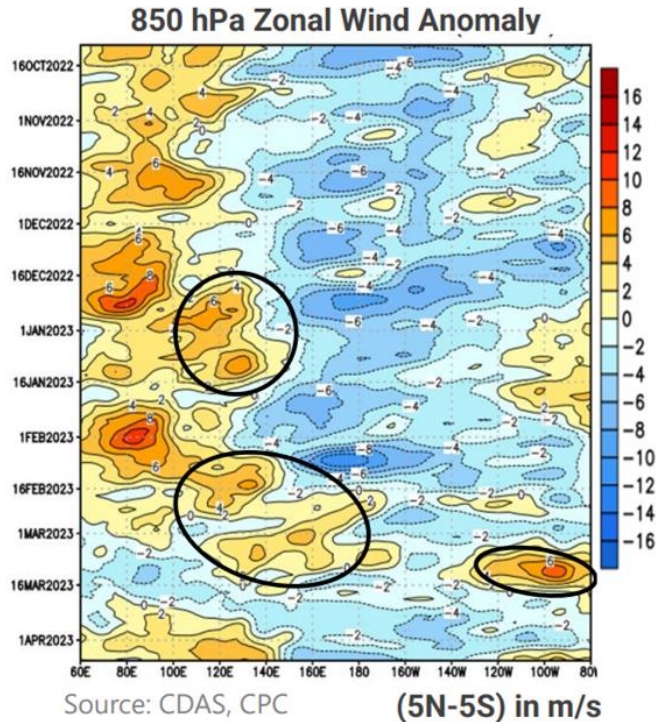
**Winds and their effects in triggering  
Kelvin Waves**



# **Ascat Winds in the Equatorial Pacific**

**Question to discuss: what could this situation cause in the ENSO system?**

# Kelvin Waves: Hovmöller of Winds and Heat Content



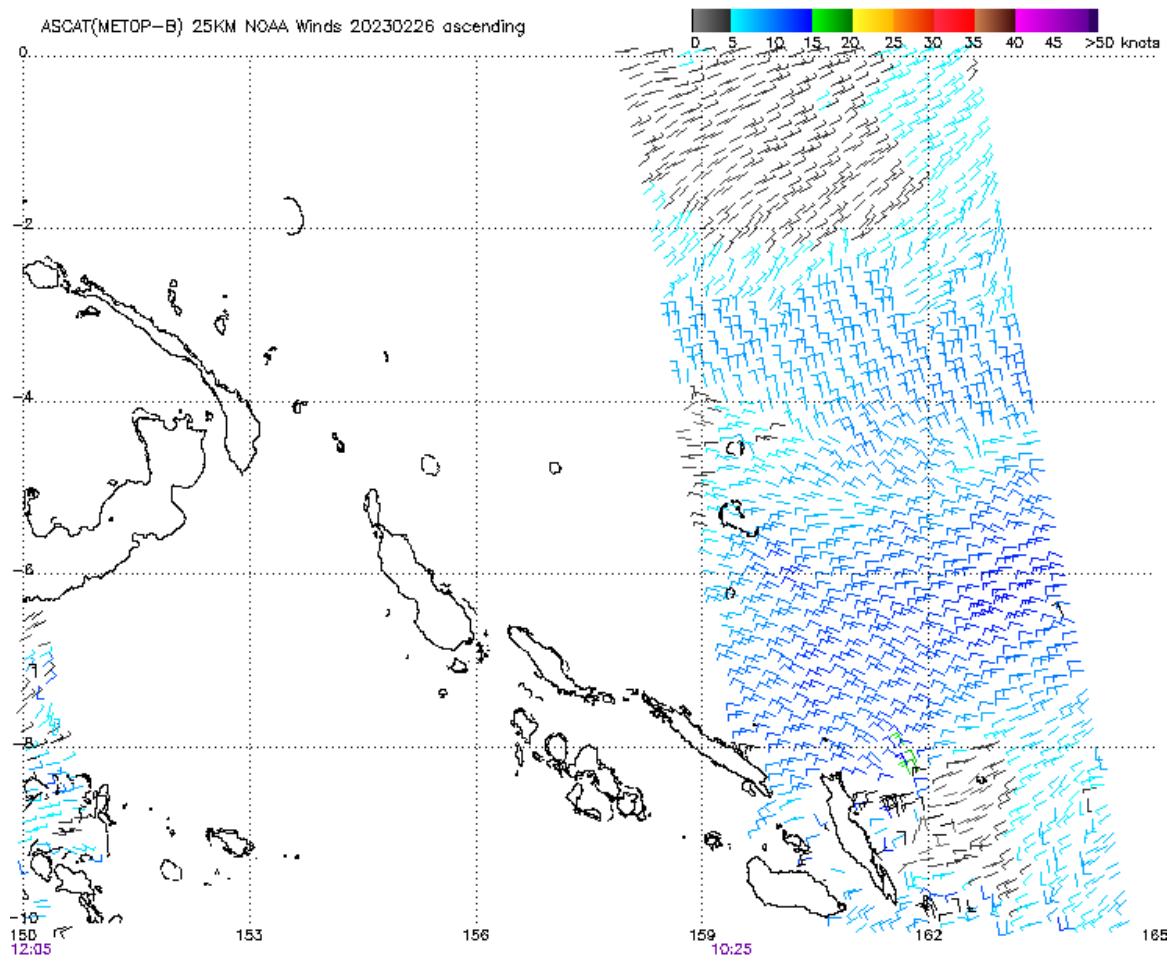
Westerly wind bursts sometimes trigger oceanic downwelling (warm) Kelvin Waves.

This happens especially when these bursts occur over the equatorial Pacific east of 140°E or east of Papua New Guinea

Anomalies are calibrated generally using 850 hPa winds, which are often related to surface winds but not always.

How do we analyze surface winds? Let's look at ASCAT...

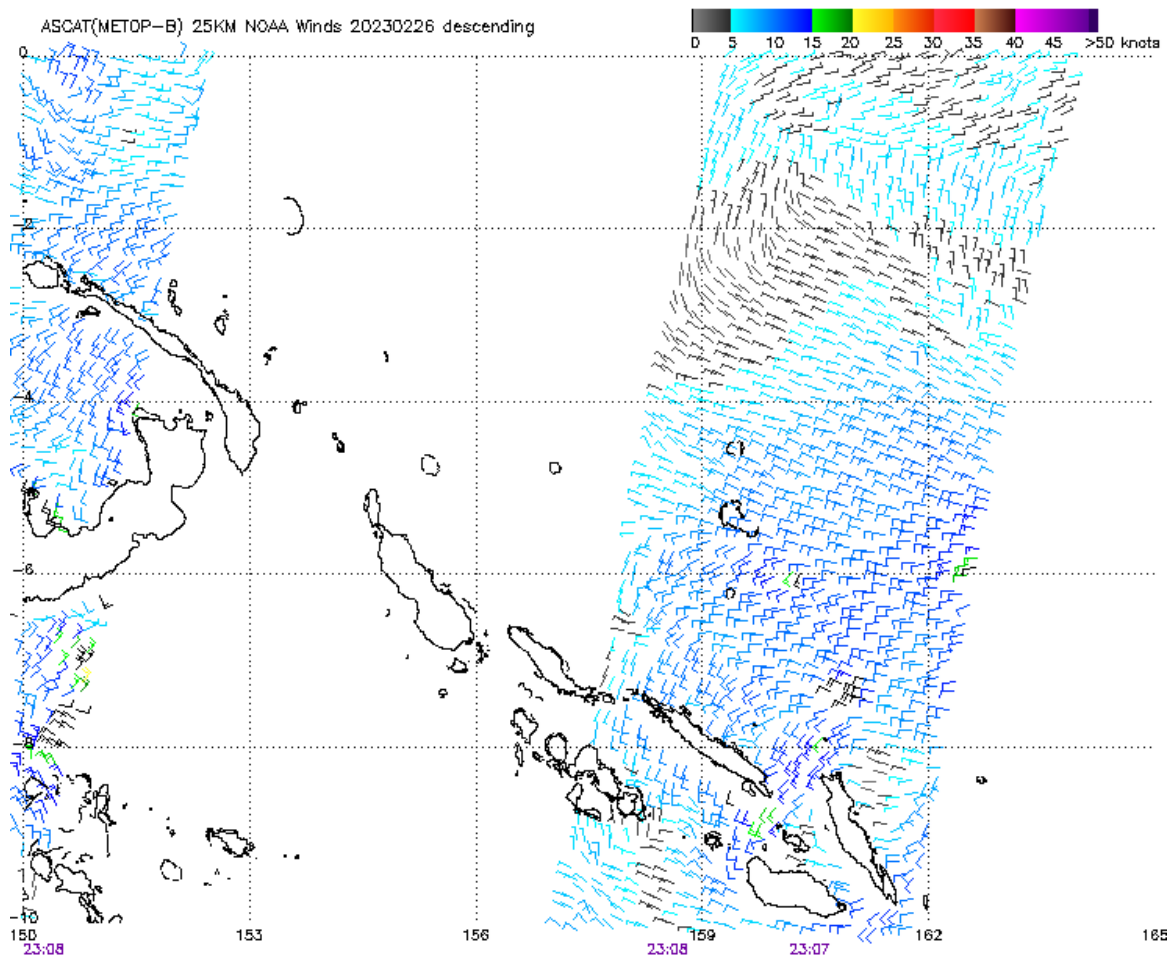
ASCAT(METOP-B) 25KM NOAA Winds 20230226 ascending



Feb 26, 2023  
Ascending

Note: 1) Times are GMT 2) Times along bottom correspond to measurement at -5S  
3) Data buffer is 24 hrs from 20230226 4) Black wind barbs indicate possible contamination  
NOAA/NESDIS/Center for Satellite Applications and Research

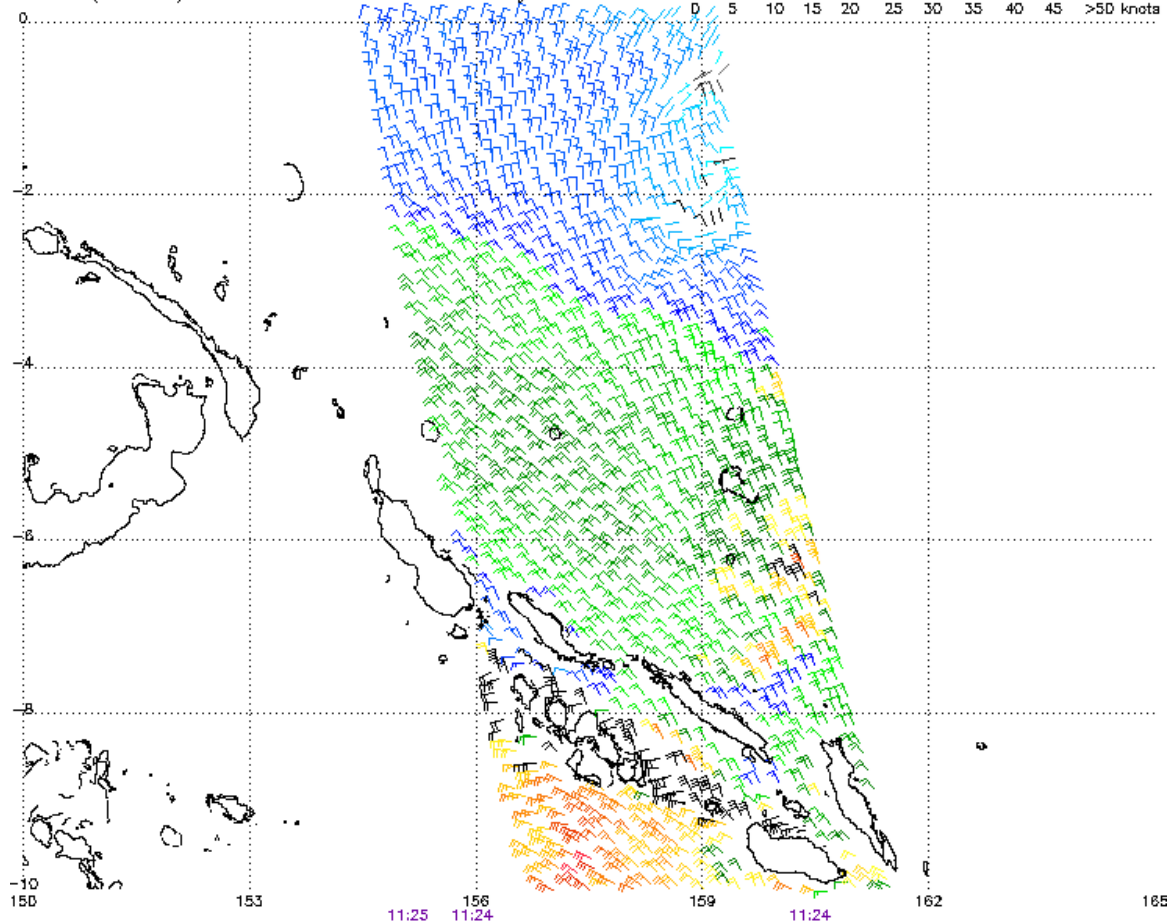
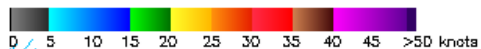
ASCAT(METOP-B) 25KM NOAA Winds 20230226 descending



Feb 26, 2023  
Descending

Note: 1) Times are GMT 2) Times along bottom correspond to measurement at -5S  
3) Data buffer is 24 hrs from 20230226 4) Black wind bars indicate possible contamination  
NOAA/NESDIS/Center for Satellite Applications and Research

ASCAT(METOP-B) 25KM NOAA Winds 20230228 ascending

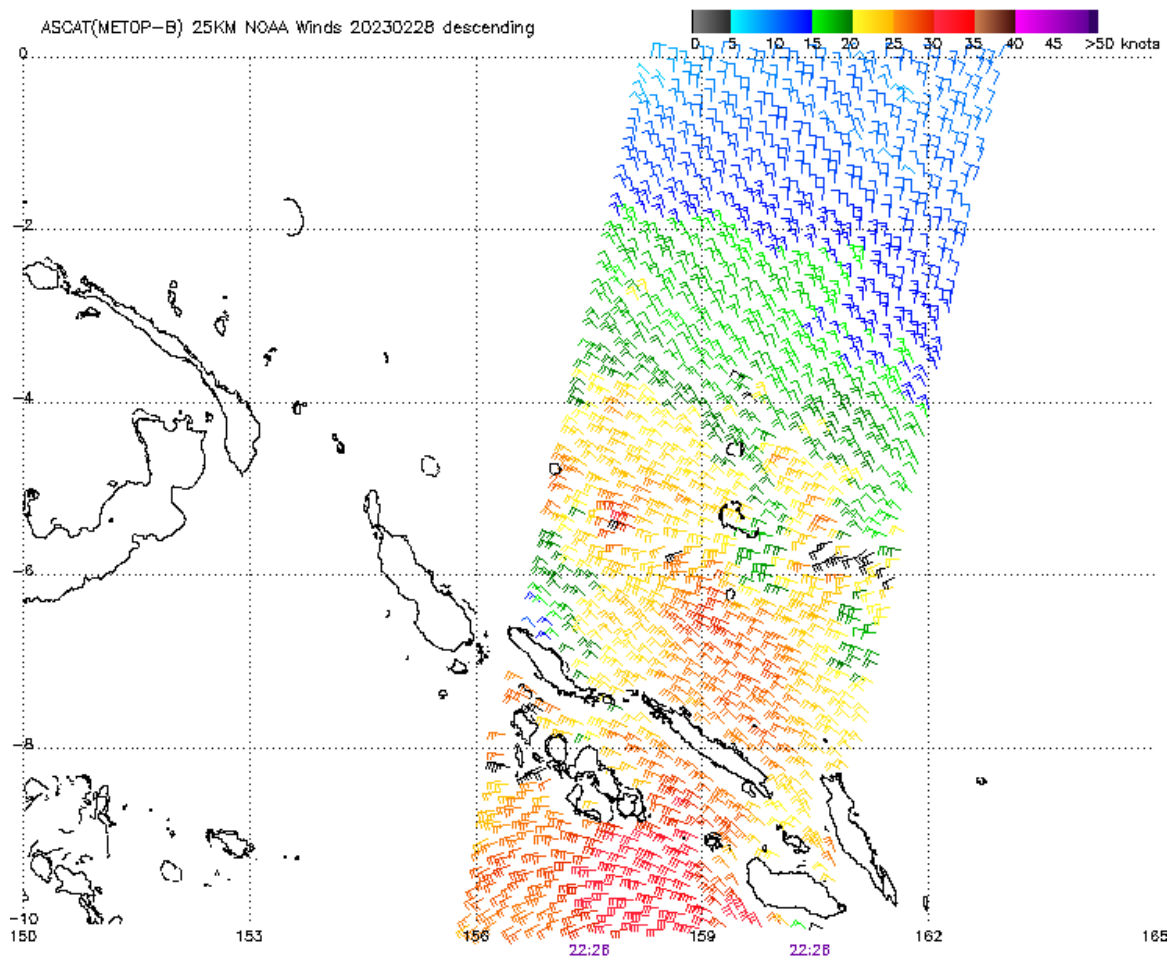


Feb 28, 2023  
Ascending

Note: 1) Times are GMT 2) Times along bottom correspond to measurement at -5S  
3) Data buffer is 24 hrs from 20230228 4) Black wind barbs indicate possible contamination  
NOAA/NESDIS/Center for Satellite Applications and Research



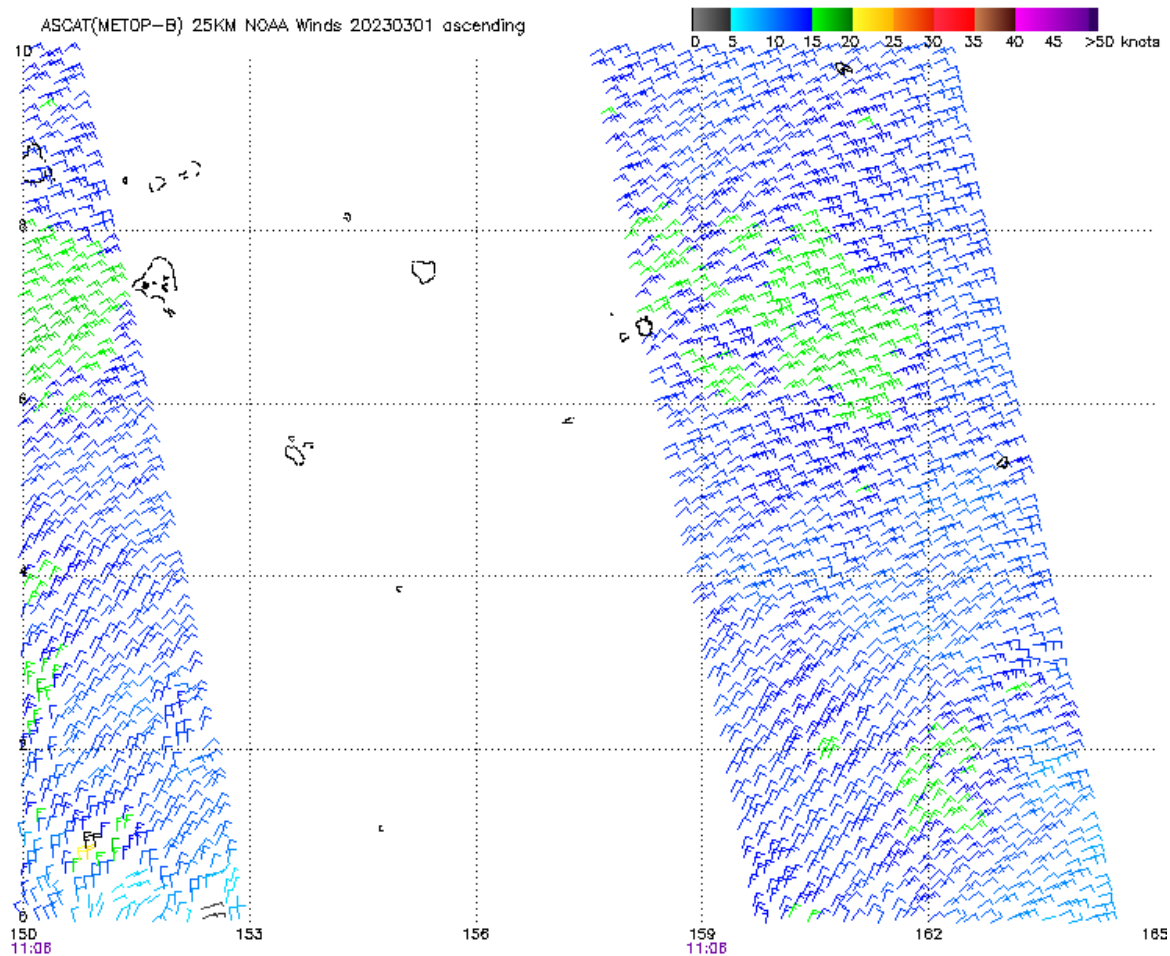
ASCAT(METOP-B) 25KM NOAA Winds 20230228 descending



Feb 26, 2023  
Descending

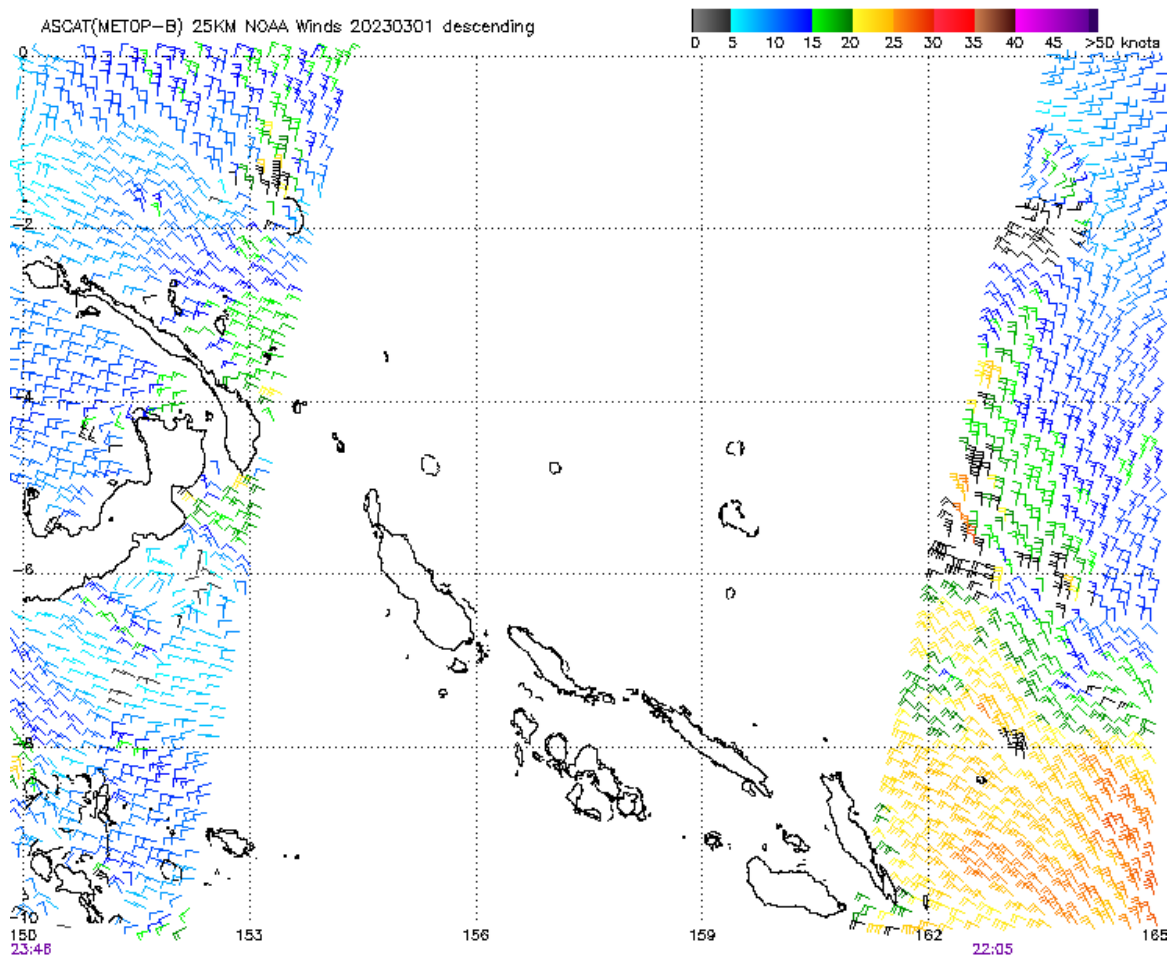
Note: 1) Times are GMT 2) Times along bottom correspond to measurement at -5S  
3) Data buffer is 24 hrs from 20230228 4) Black wind barbs indicate possible contamination  
NOAA/NESDIS/Center for Satellite Applications and Research

ASCAT(METOP-B) 25KM NOAA Winds 20230301 ascending



March 1, 2023  
Ascending

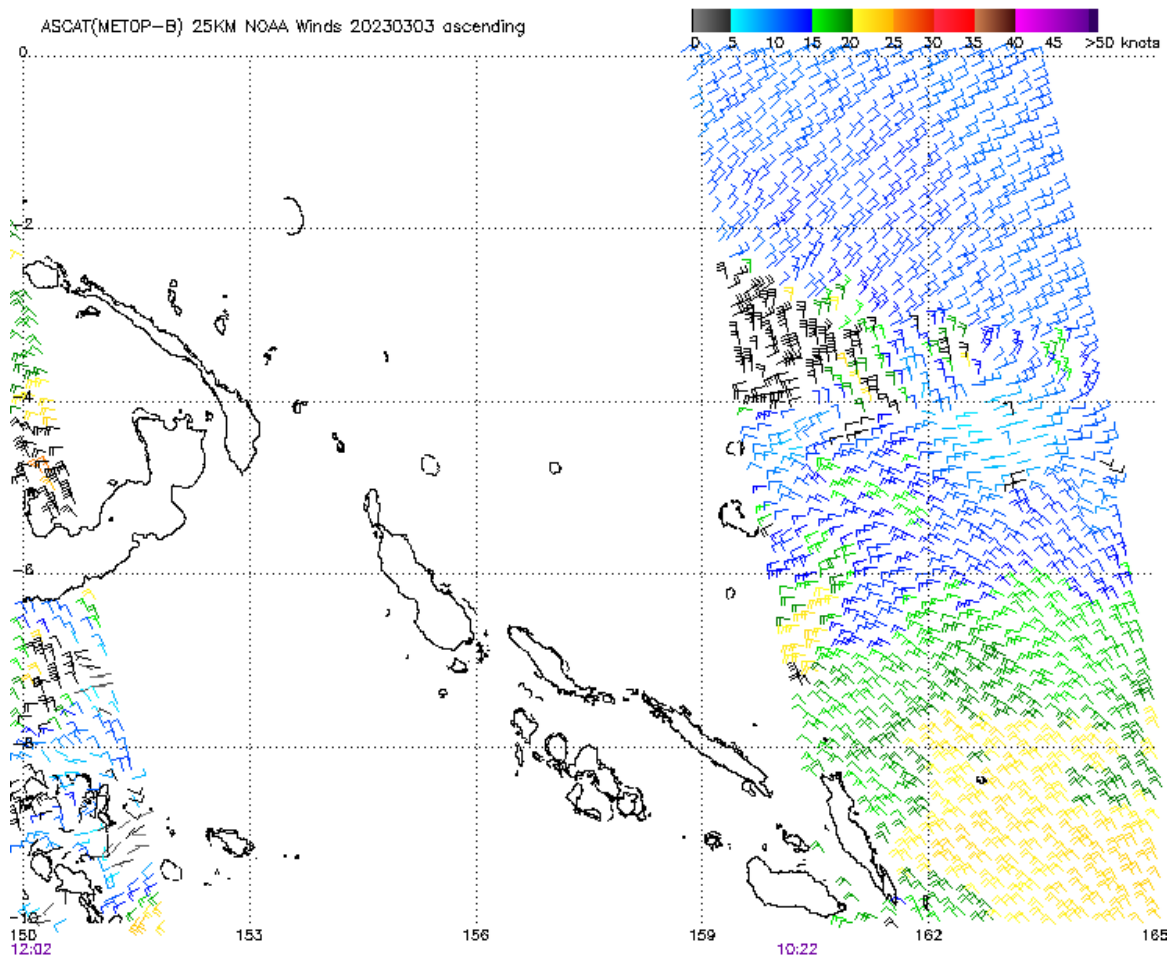
Note: 1) Times are GMT 2) Times along bottom correspond to measurement at 5N  
3) Data buffer is 24 hrs from 20230301 4) Black wind barbs indicate possible contamination  
NOAA/NESDIS/Center for Satellite Applications and Research



March 1, 2023  
Descending

Note: 1) Times are GMT 2) Times along bottom correspond to measurement at -5S  
3) Data buffer is 24 hrs from 20230301 4) Black wind bars indicate possible contamination  
NOAA/NESDIS/Center for Satellite Applications and Research

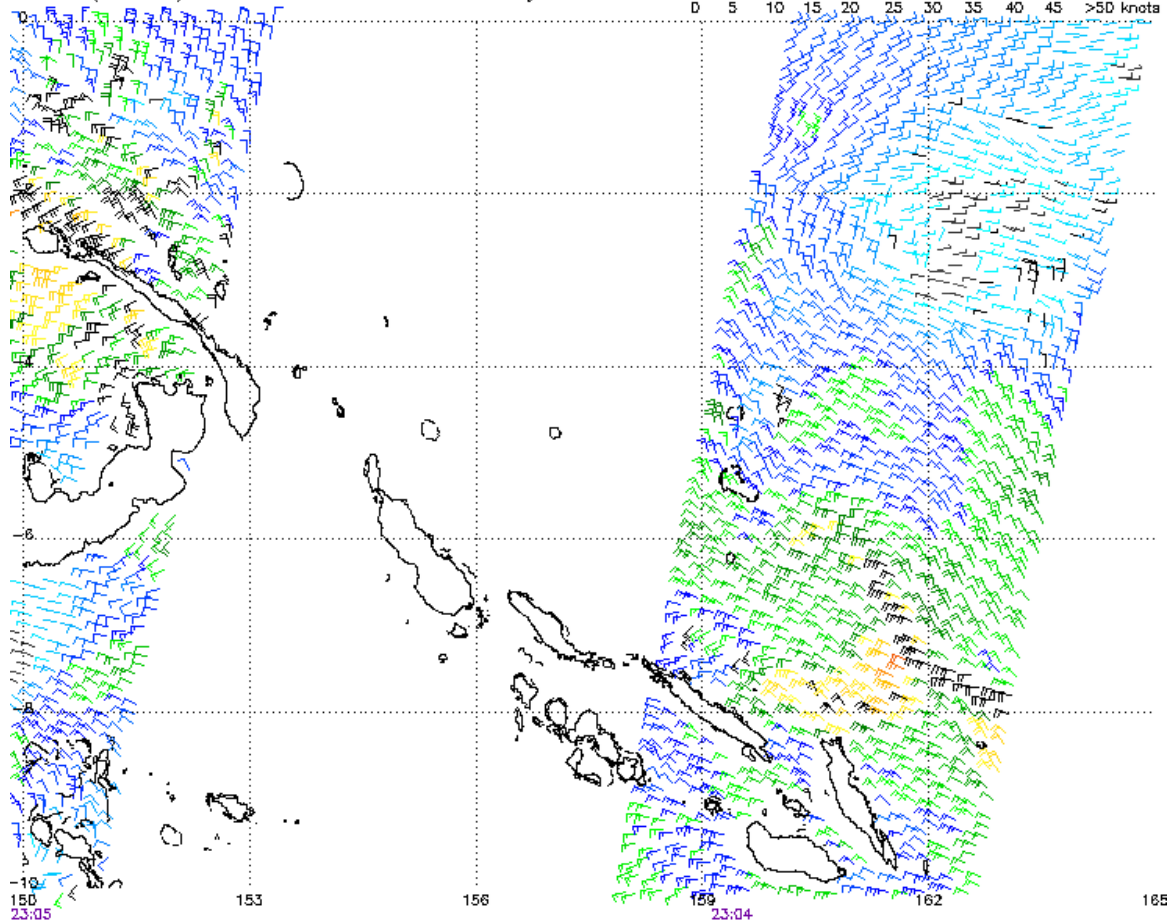
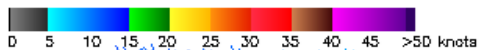
ASCAT(METOP-B) 25KM NOAA Winds 20230303 ascending



March 3, 2023  
Ascending

Note: 1) Times are GMT 2) Times along bottom correspond to measurement at -5S  
3) Data buffer is 24 hrs from 20230303 4) Black wind barbs indicate possible contamination  
NOAA/NESDIS/Center for Satellite Applications and Research

ASCAT(METOP-B) 25KM NOAA Winds 20230303 descending

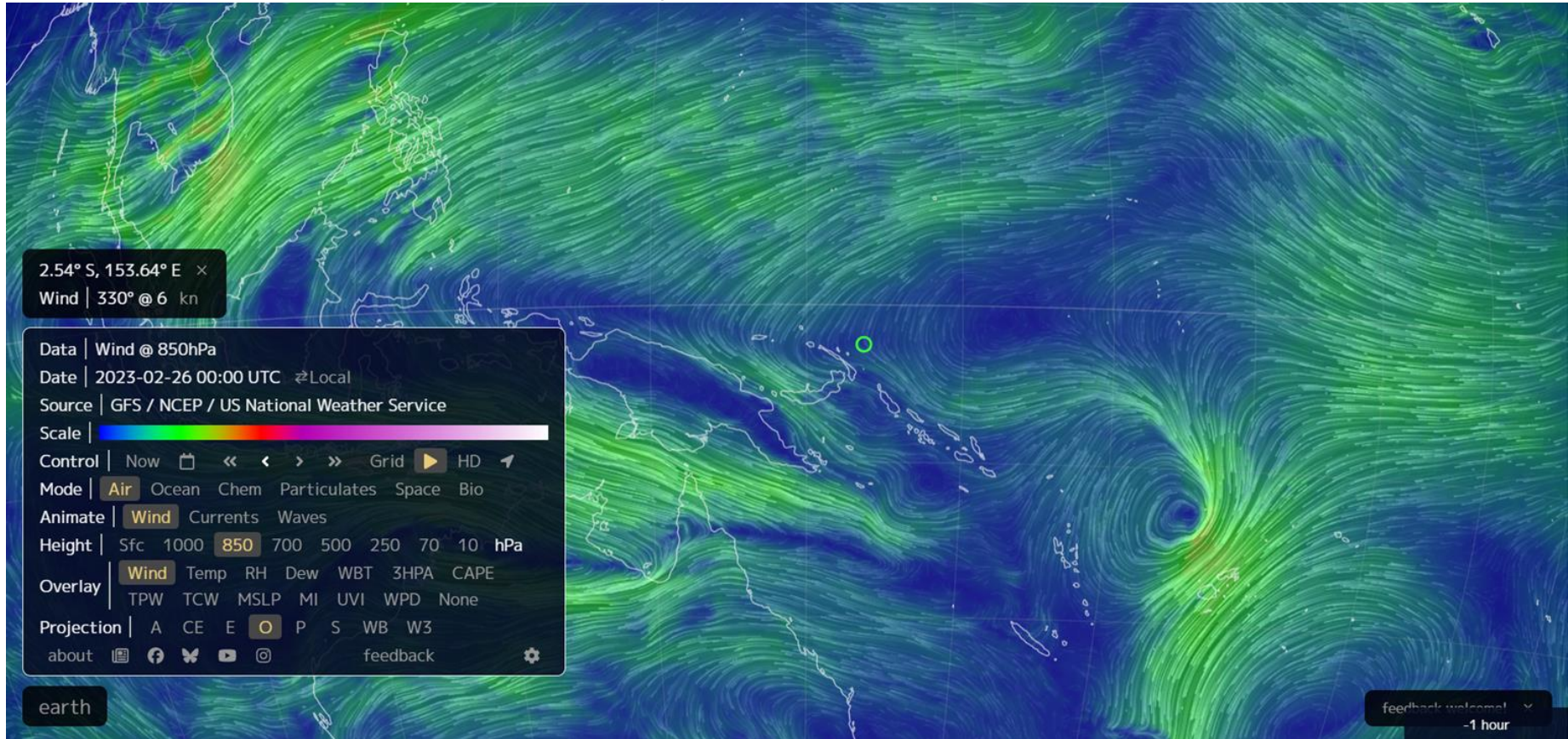


March 1, 2023  
Descending

Note: 1) Times are GMT 2) Times along bottom correspond to measurement at -5S  
3) Data buffer is 24 hrs from 20230303 4) Black wind barbs indicate possible contamination  
NOAA/NESDIS/Center for Satellite Applications and Research

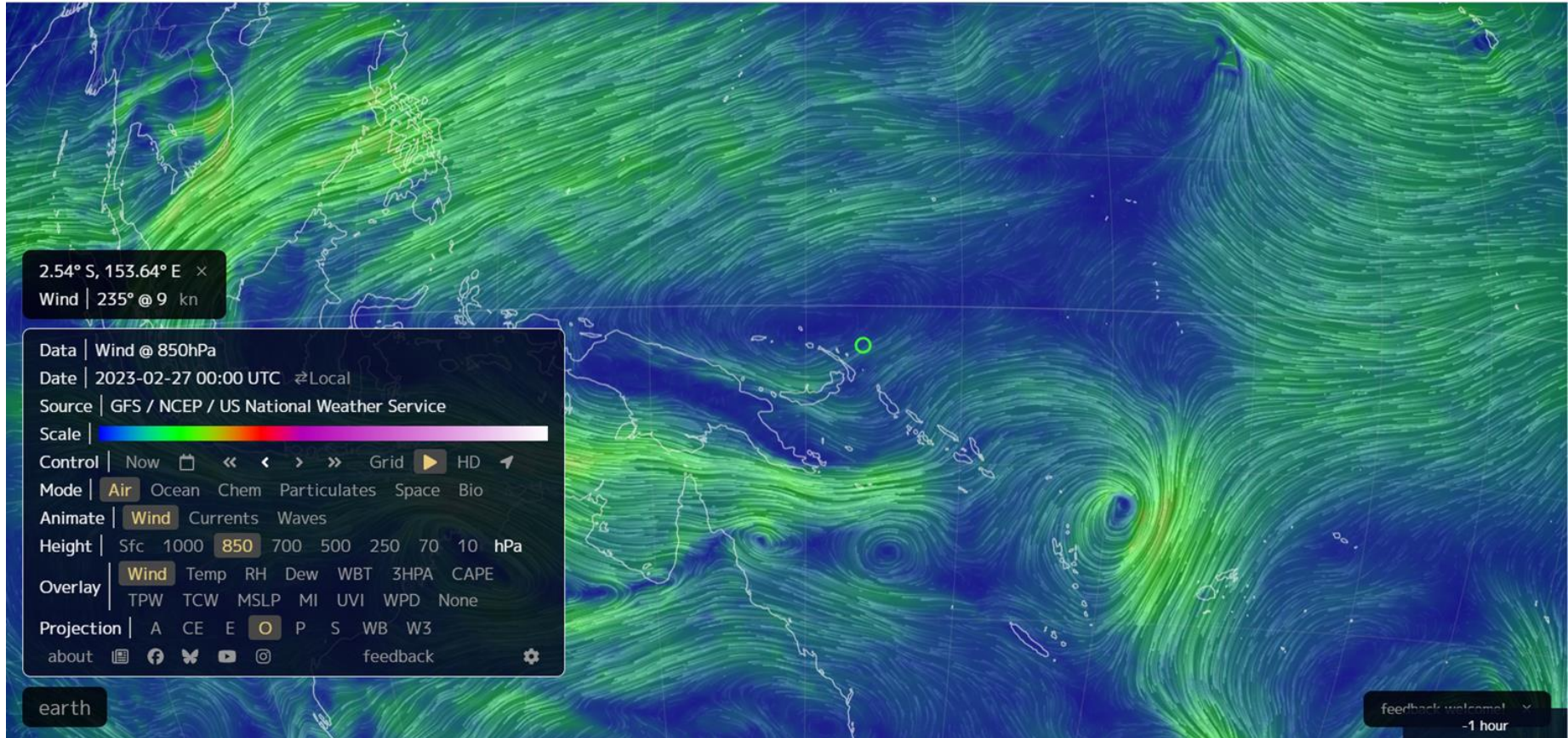


# February 26, 2023 - 850hPa



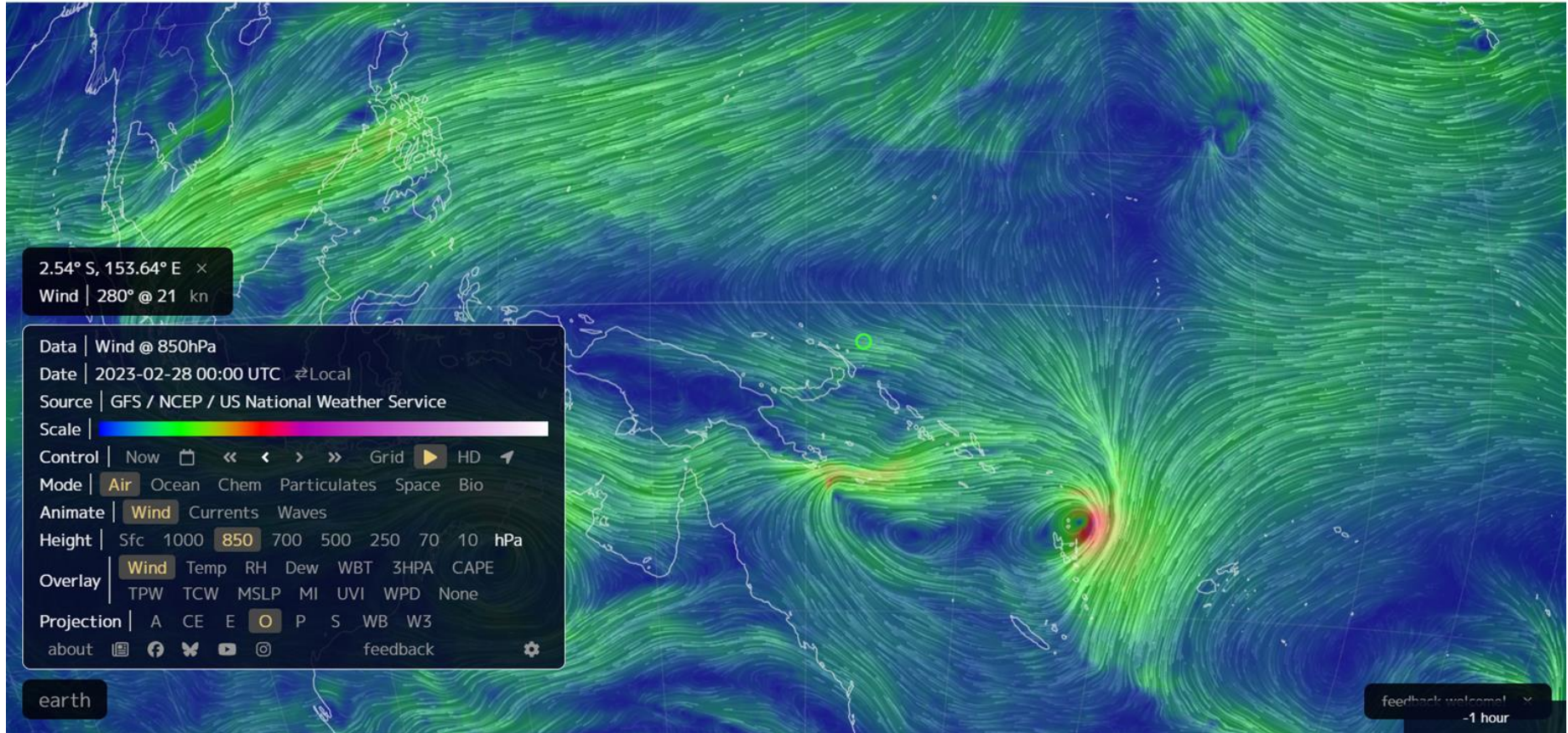


# February 27, 2023 - 850hPa



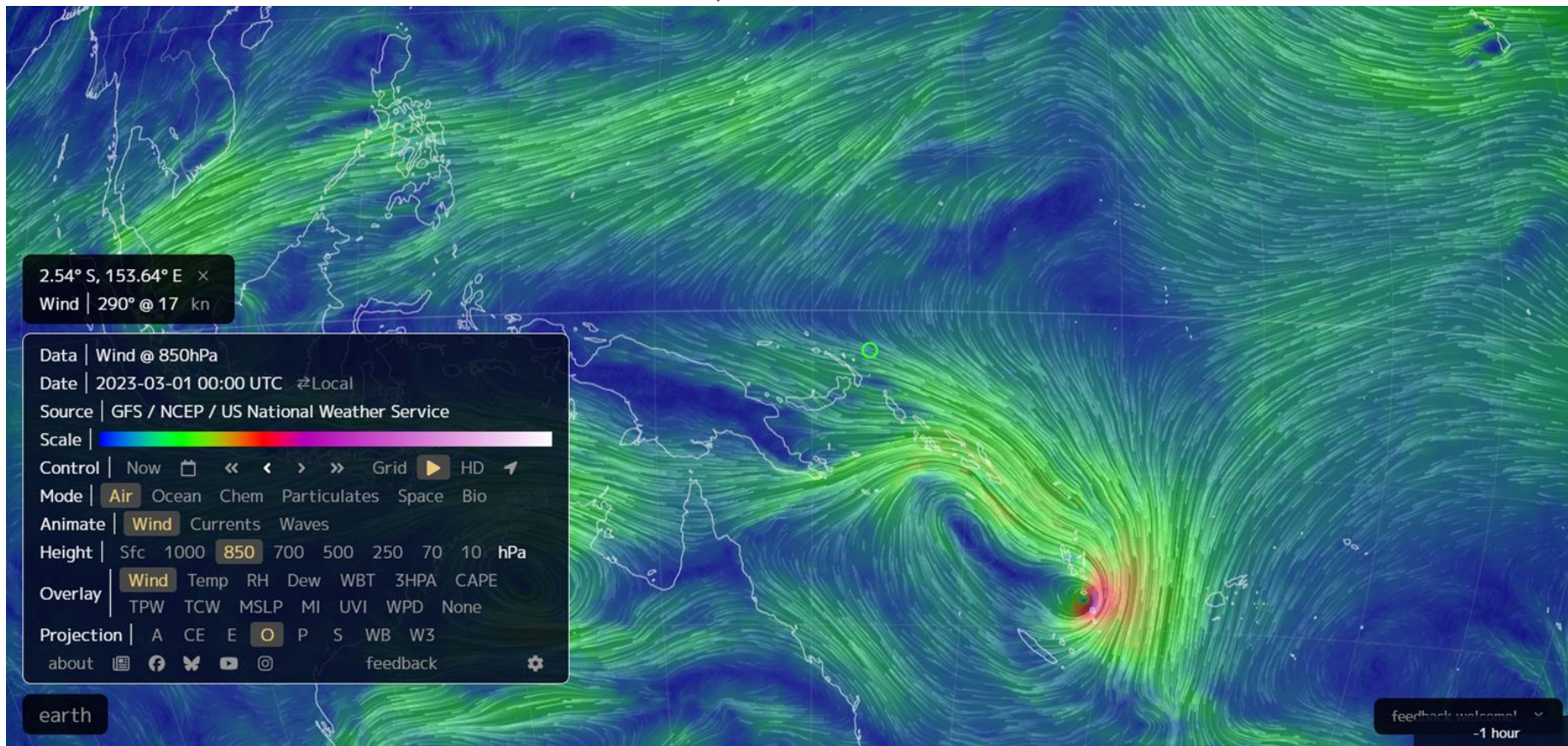


# February 28, 2023 - 850hPa



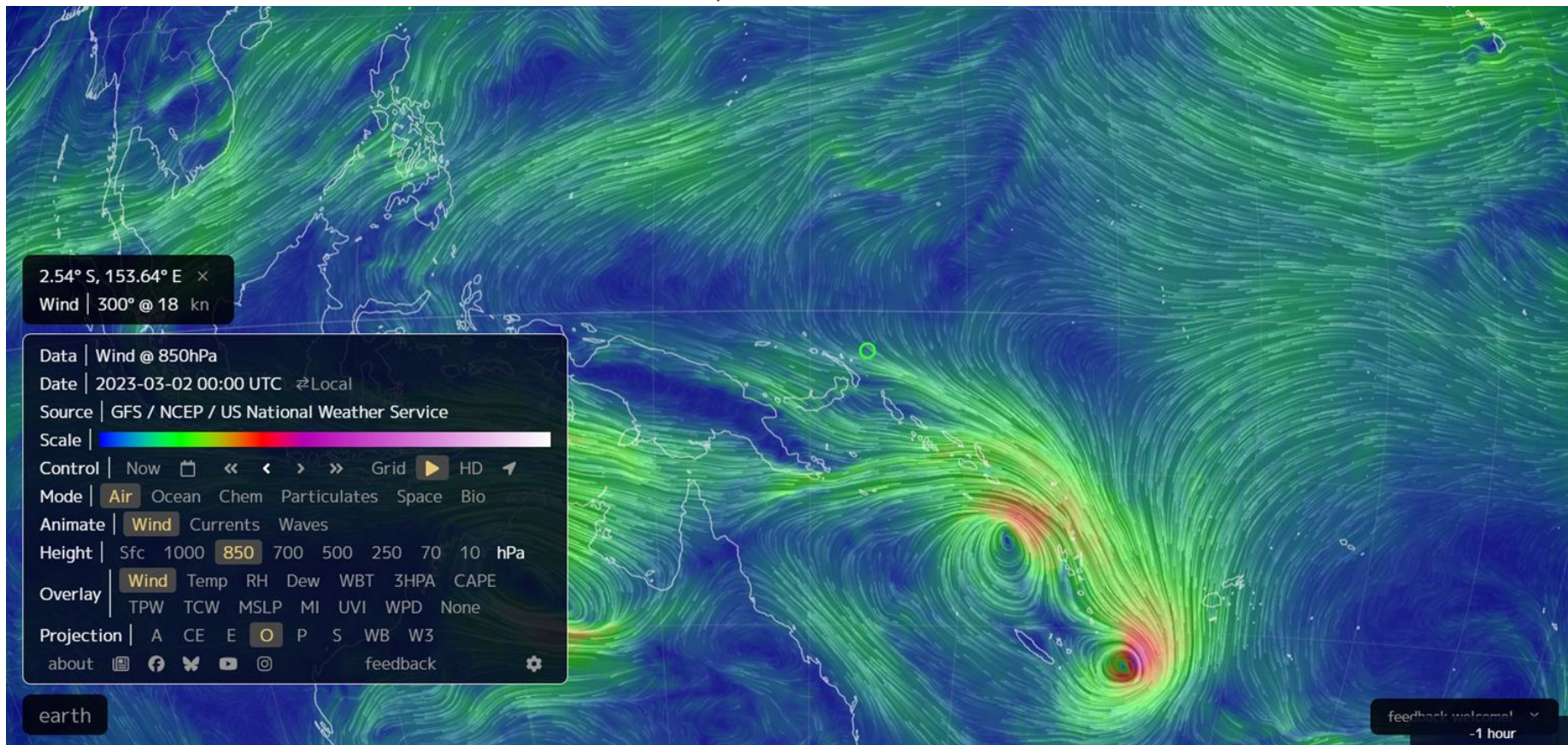


March 01, 2023 - 850hPa



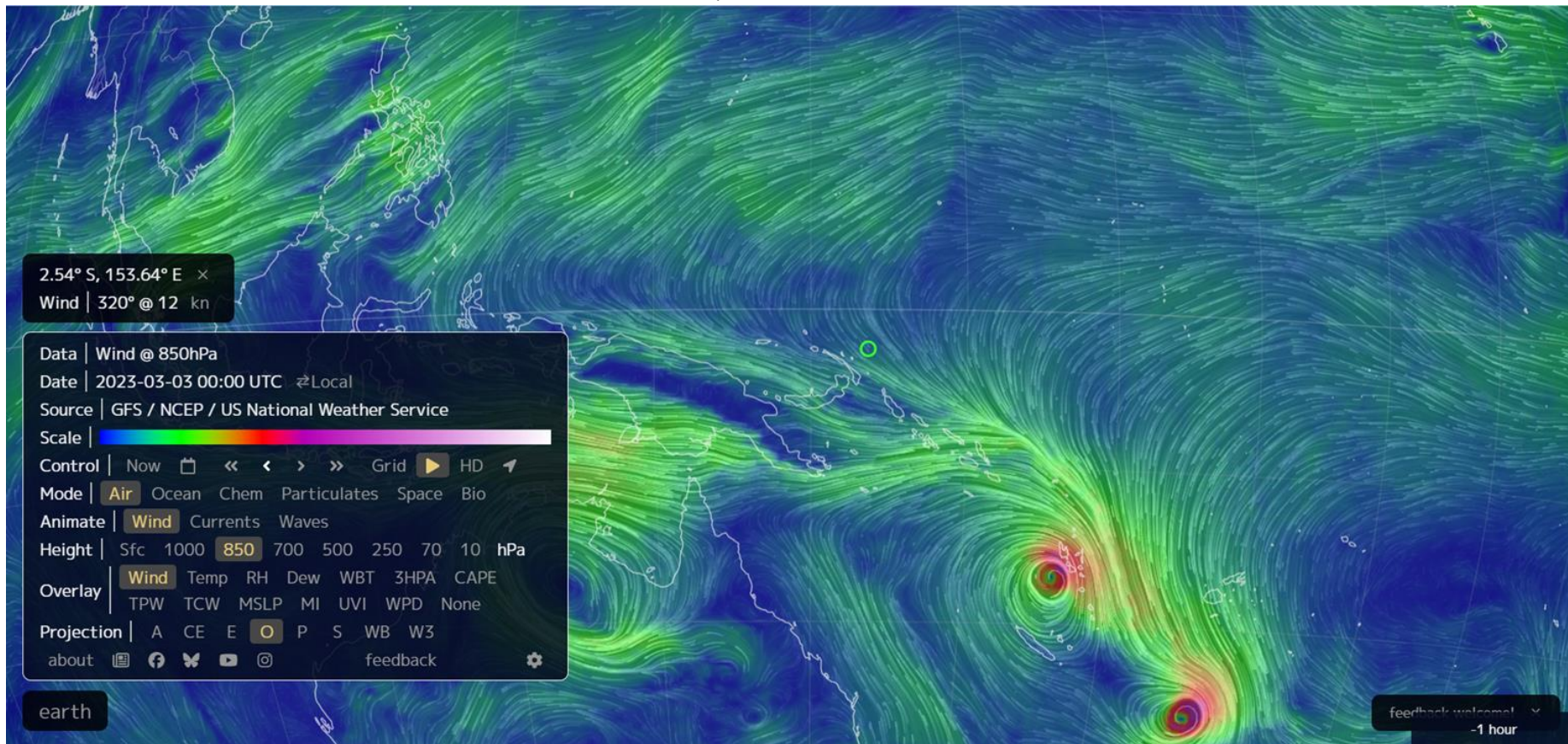


# March 02, 2023 - 850hPa



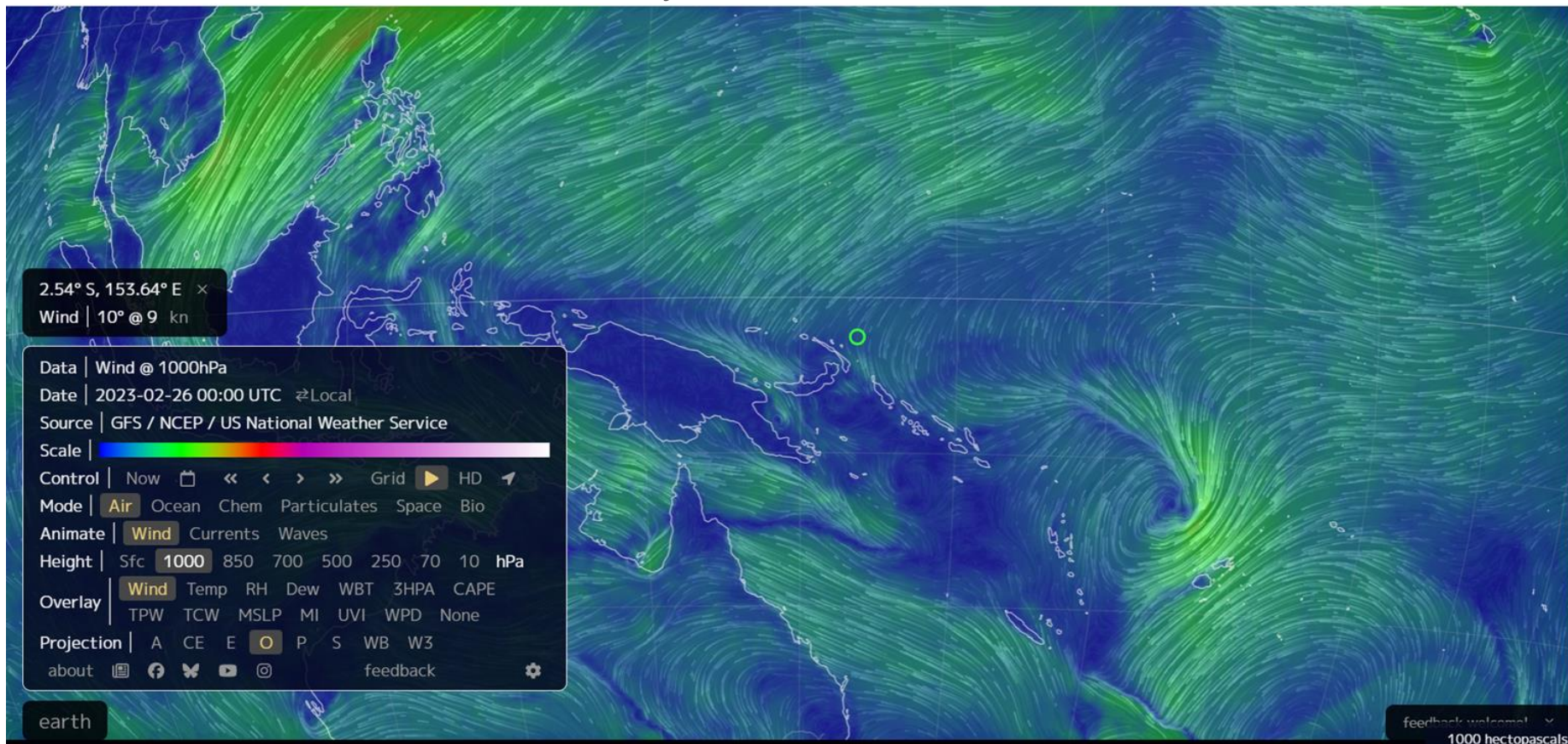


March 03, 2023 - 850hPa



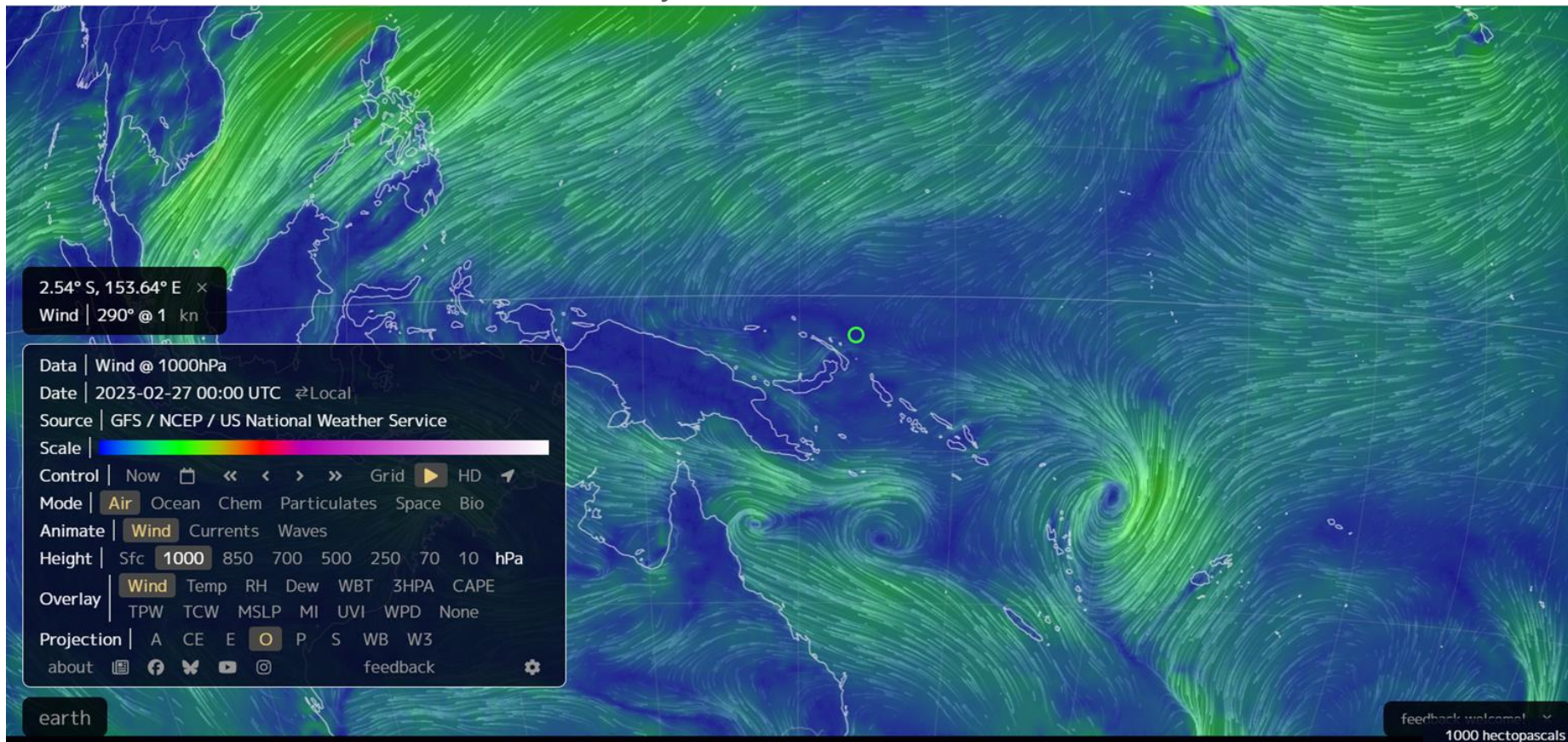


February 26, 2023 - 1000hPa



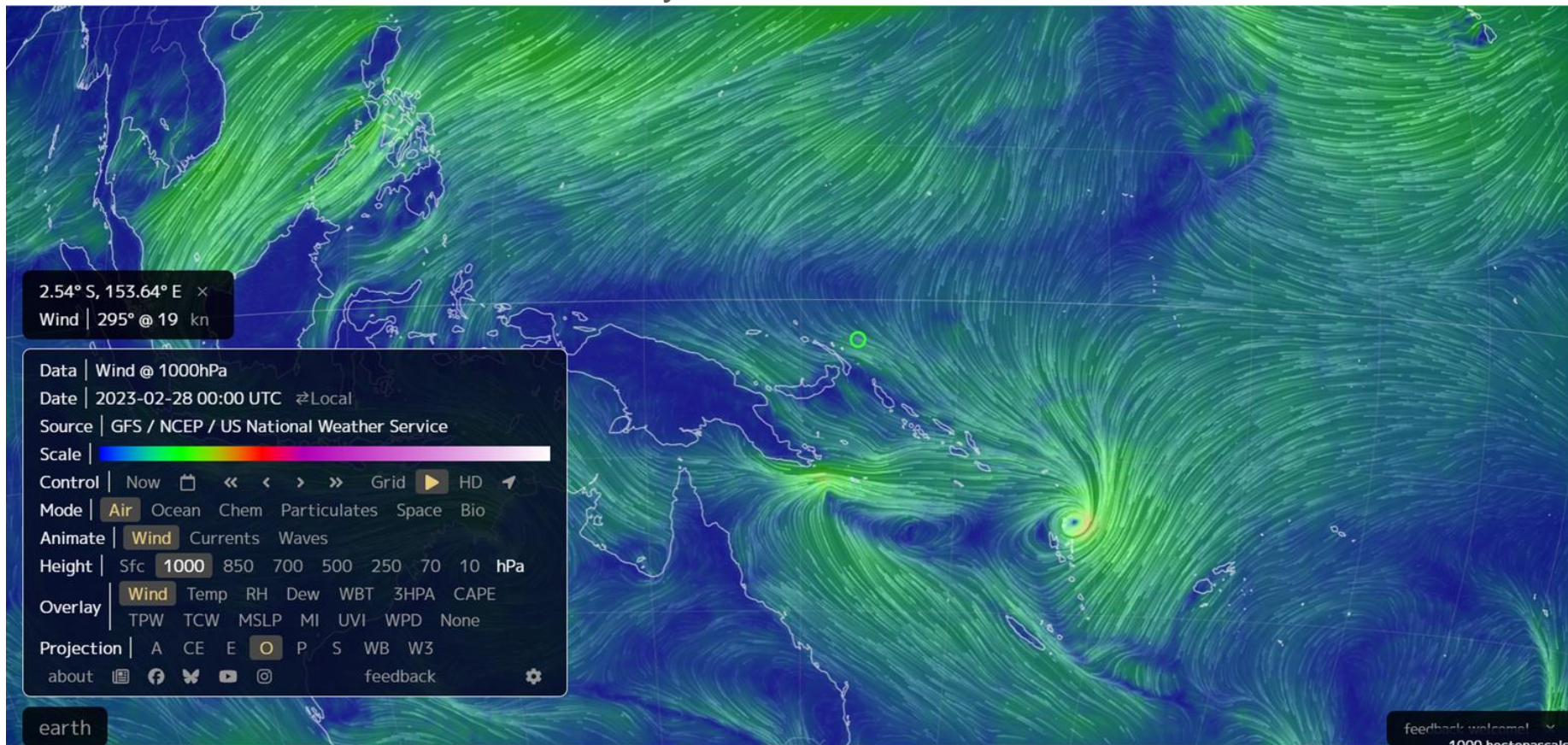


February 27, 2023 - 1000hPa



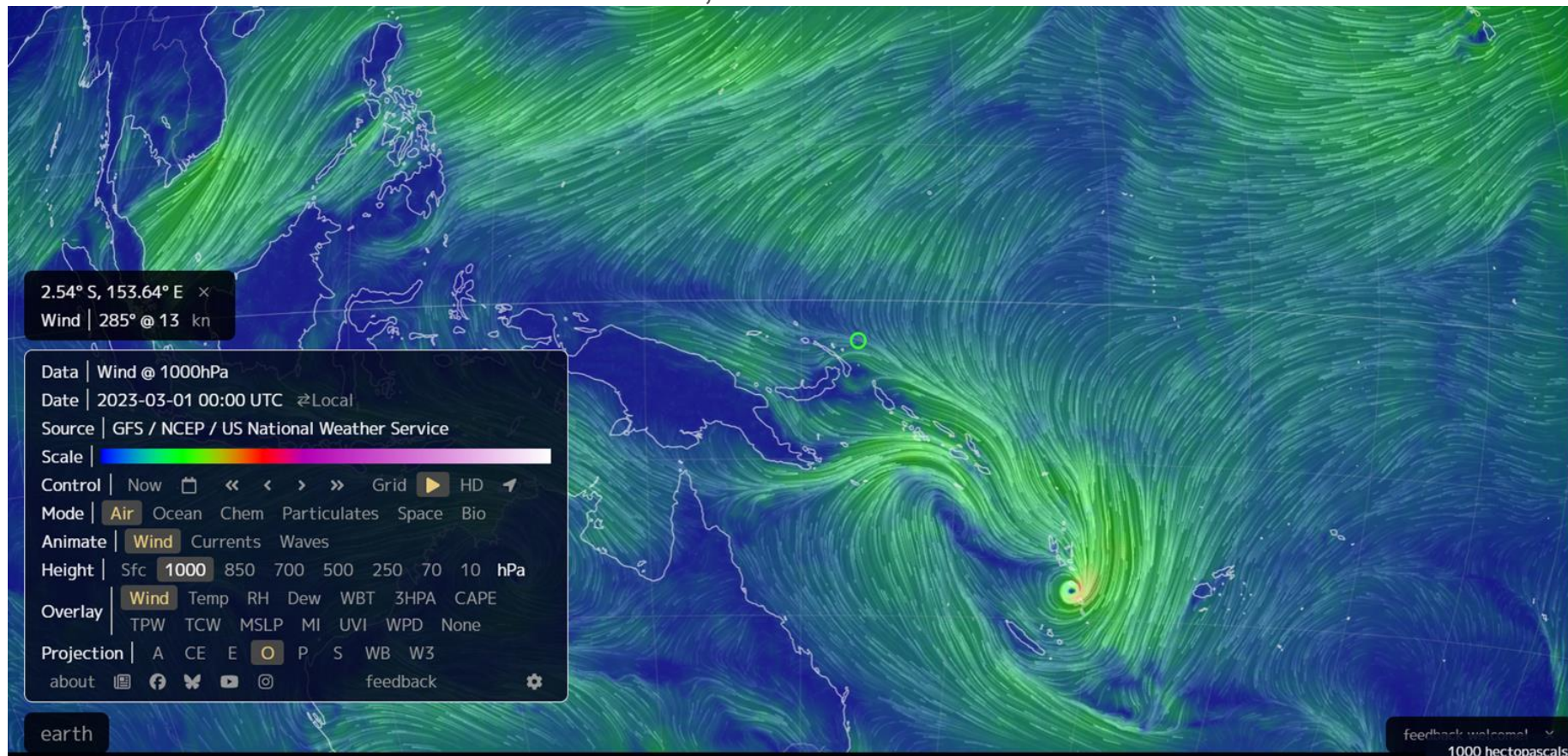


# February 28, 2023 - 1000hPa



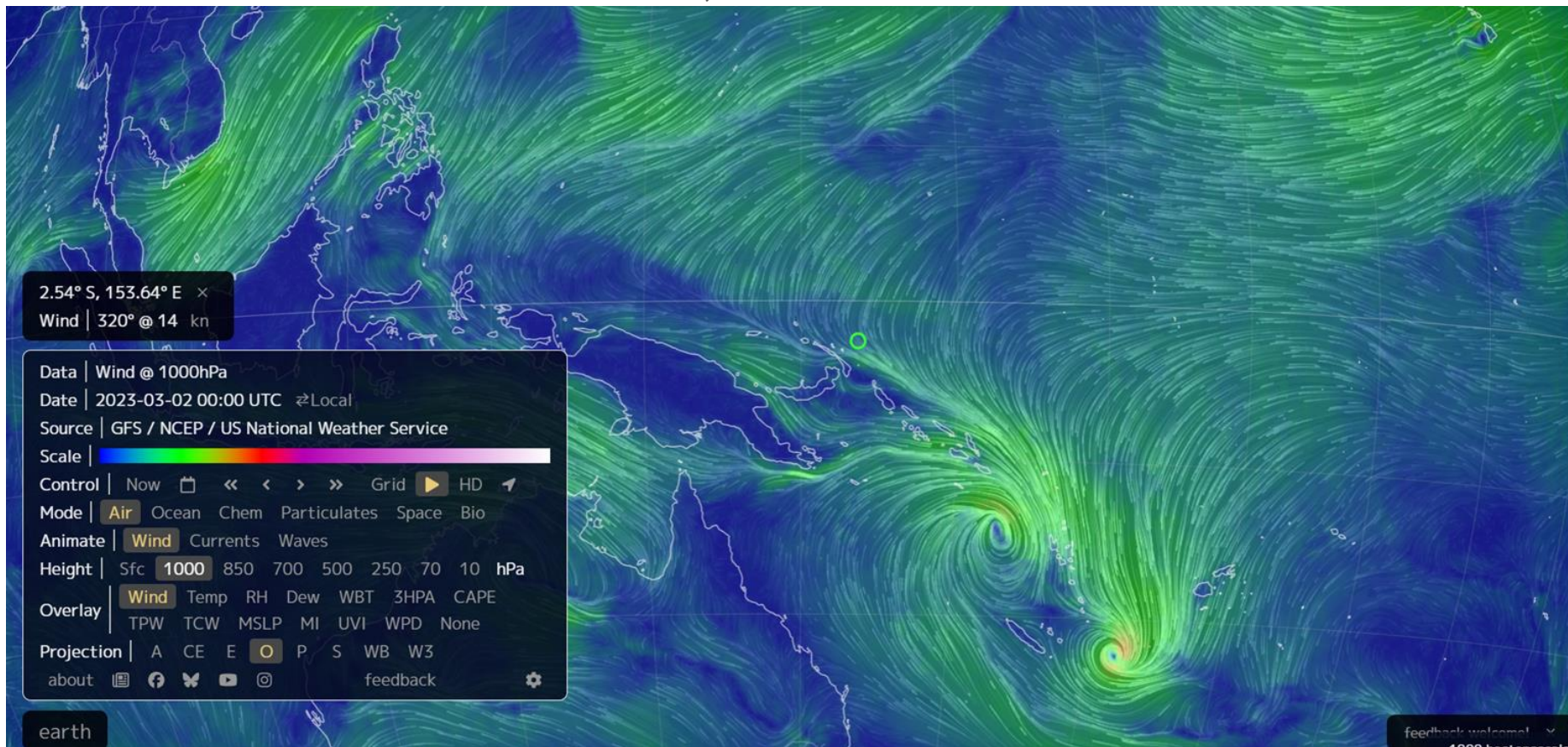


March 01, 2023 - 1000hPa



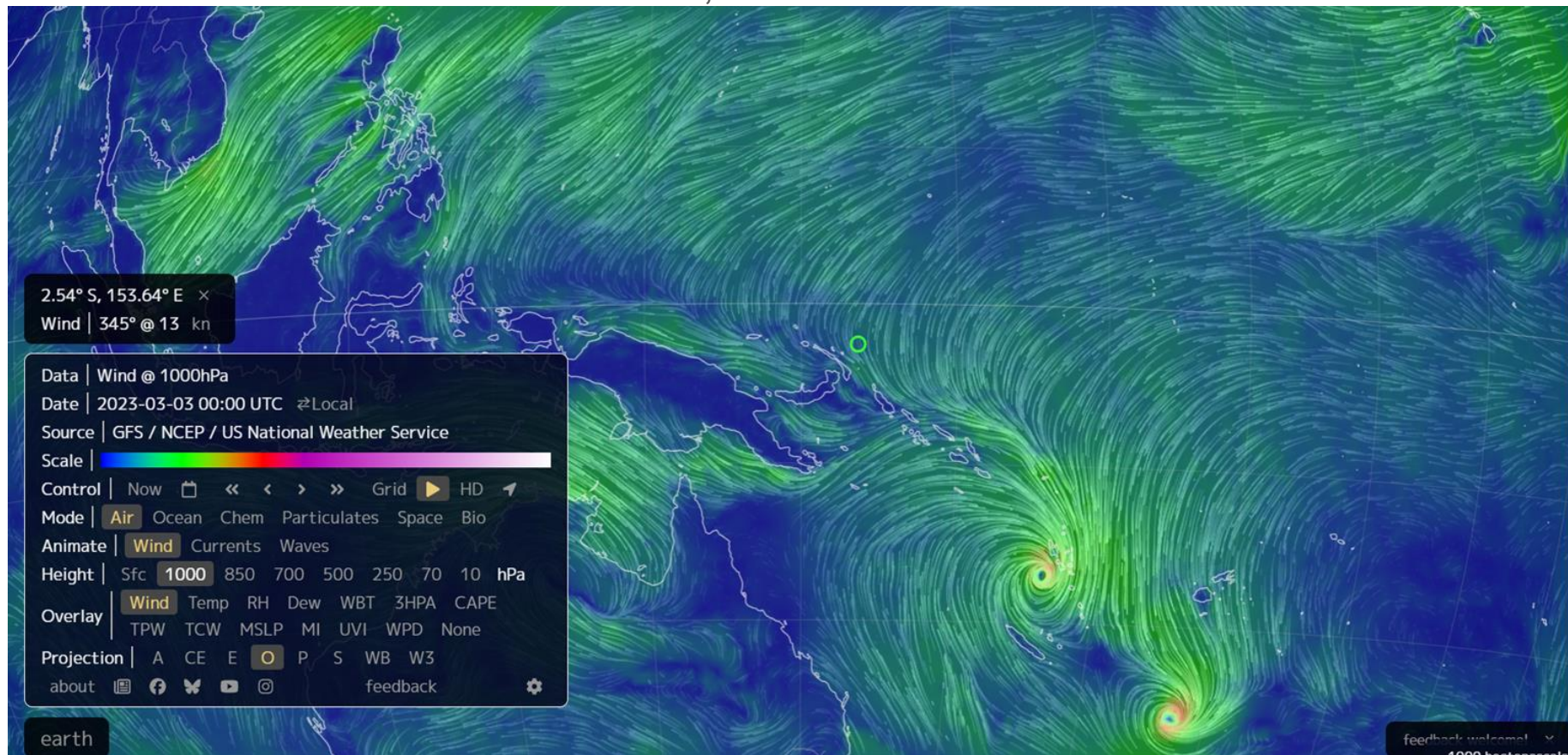


March 02, 2023 - 1000hPa





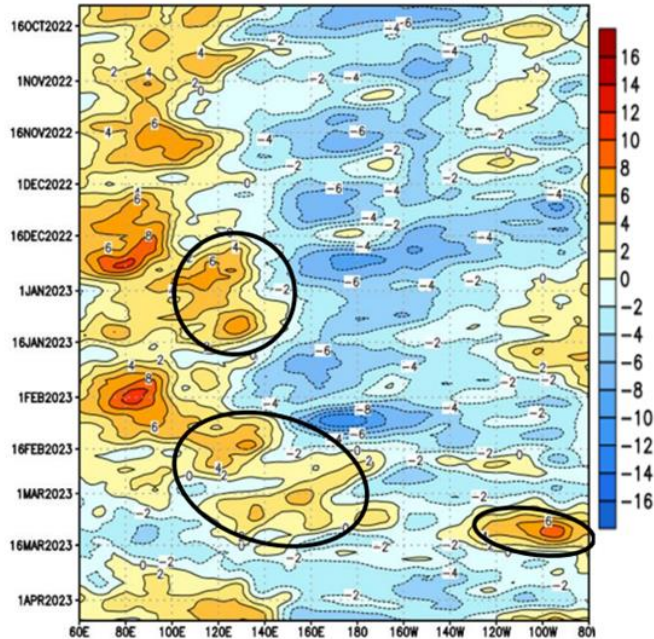
March 03, 2023 - 1000hPa





# Kelvin Waves: Hovmöller of Winds and Heat Content

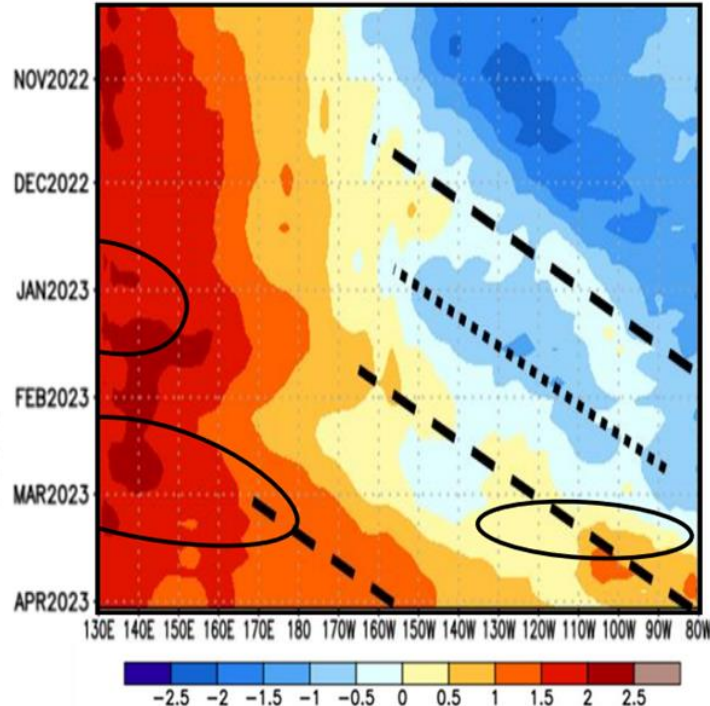
850 hPa Zonal Wind Anomaly



Source: CDAS, CPC

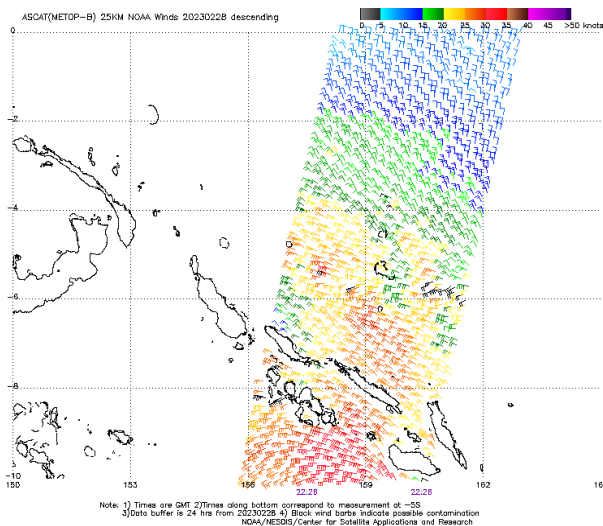
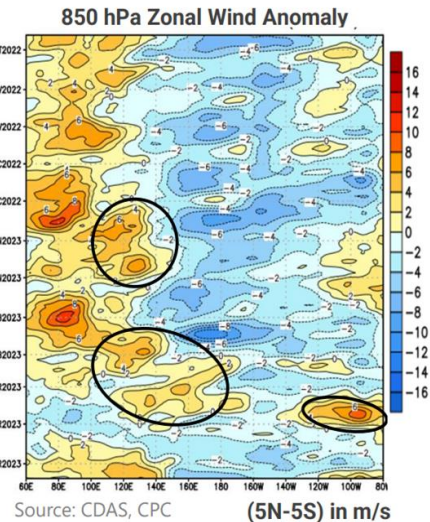
(5N-5S) in m/s

Heat Content Anomaly Hovmöller



- Westerly wind bursts (oranges) can trigger downwelling (warm) Kelvin Waves that propagate towards South America.
- Heat Content Anomalies suggest potentially 3 of these processes since January: The latest warm Kelvin is propagating already into 120°W.

# Exercise 1 Summary

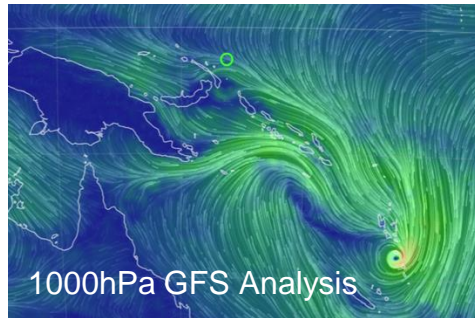
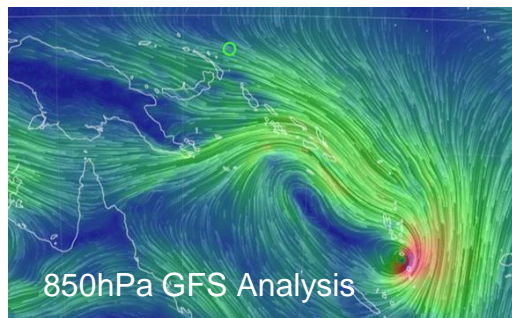


Westerly wind bursts that trigger Kelvin Waves do not need to occur ONLY in the equator, in the 5°N-5°S latitude belt or even 10°N-10°S latitude belt.

ASCAT winds from polar satellites are great tools to evaluate these westerly wind bursts.

It is best to compare to 850 hPa signals.

Tropical cyclones and/or an active South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ) can trigger these westerly wind bursts that, in turn, can trigger warm Kelvin Waves that propagate along the equator.



# **Exercise**

**Altimetry: What is going on in the  
Equatorial Pacific?**

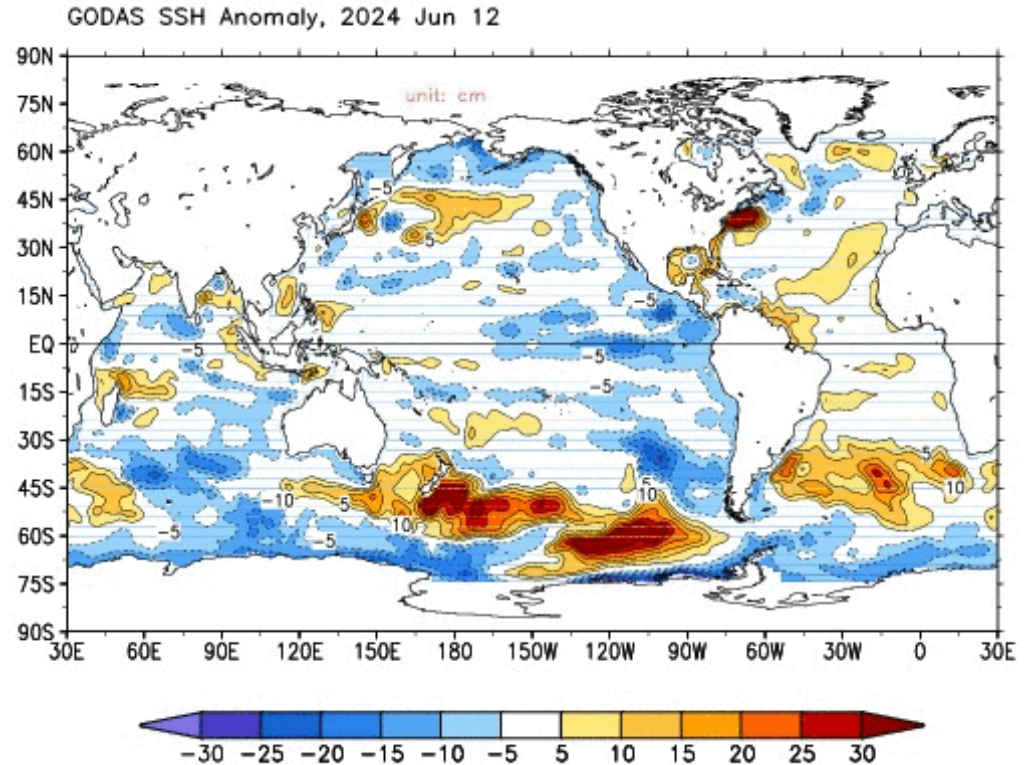


# What could the anomalously low sea level in the Eastern Pacific Mean?

When along the equator, a zonally-oriented region of below-normal sea level can indicate the presence of an Oceanic Upwelling (cold) Kelvin Wave, which sometimes relates to a developing La Niña.

Cold (warm) Kelvins do not always mean that a La Niña (El Niño) are developing.

Altimetry data, from polar satellites, is great to evaluate sea level anomalies that can relate to these cold (warm) waves and their potential impacts on the ENSO system. Evaluating propagation is important.



# **Exercise**

**Deep convection in Niño 1+2. What happens next?**

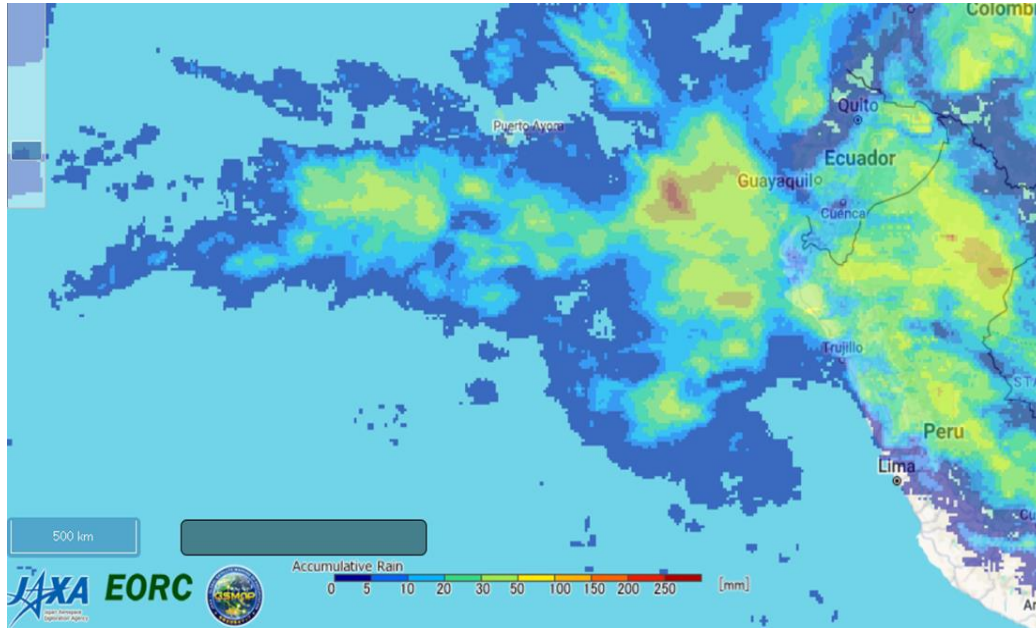
# **Cyclone Yaku forms in Niño 1+2, March 2023**

**Question to discuss: what could this cyclone do to SST along the South American coast?**



# Cyclone Yaku forms in Niño 1+2, March 2023

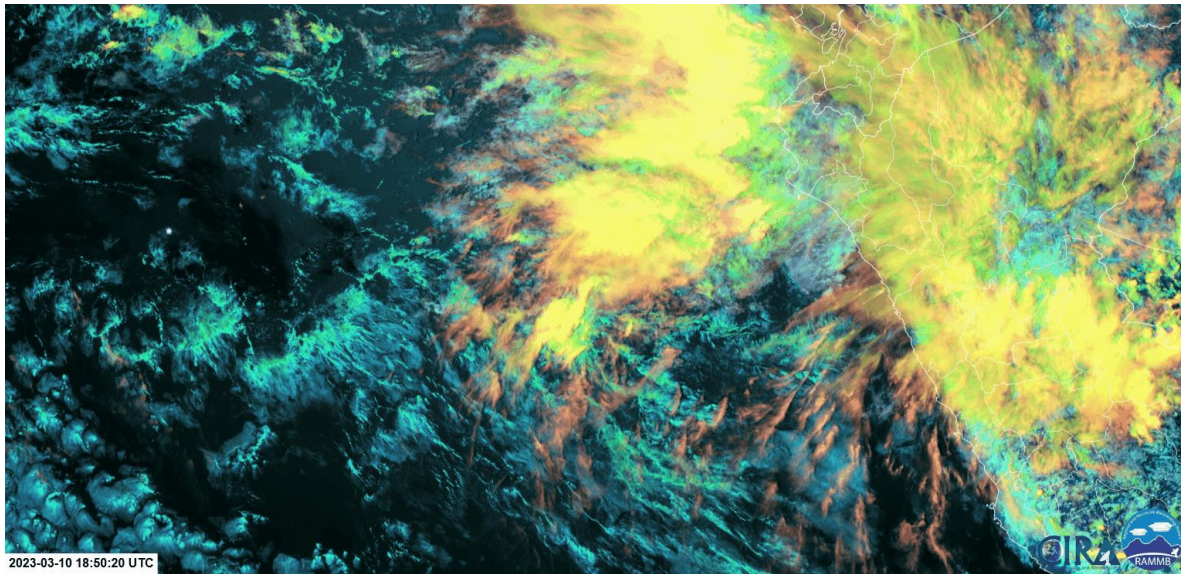
Satellite estimated rainfall (March 10)



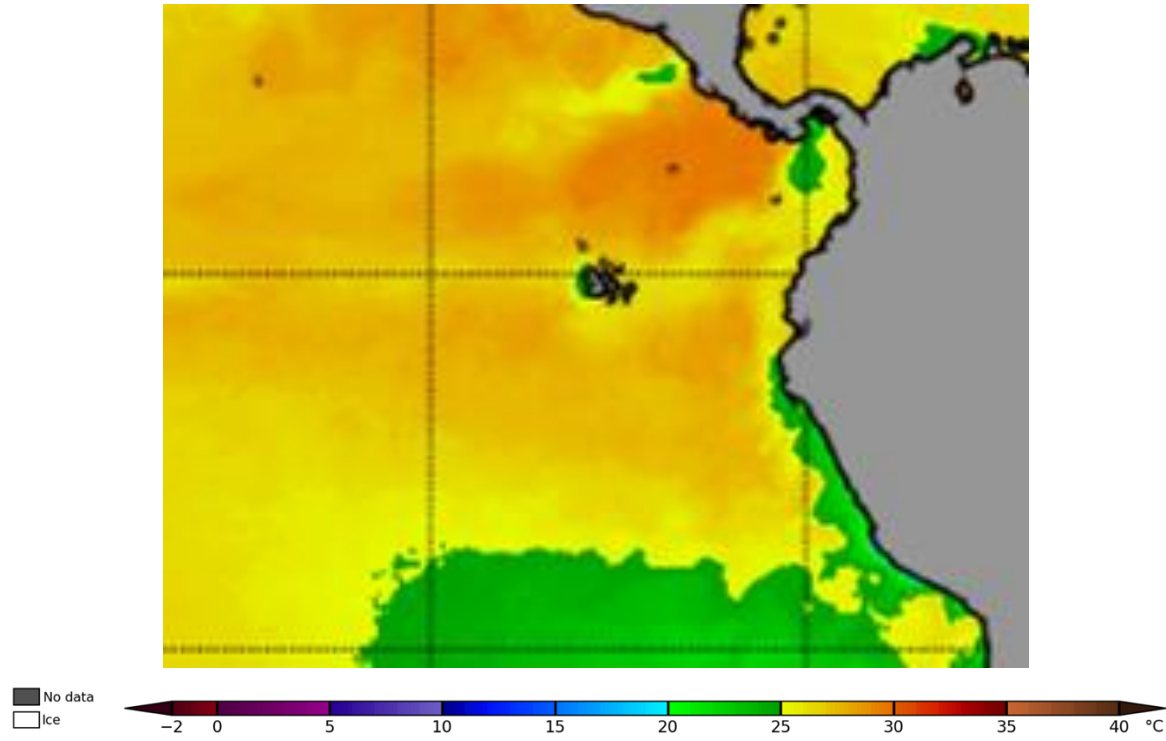
- What weather situation is occurring off the north coast of Perú?
- How could this affect surface winds?

# Cyclone Yaku forms in Niño 1+2, March 2023

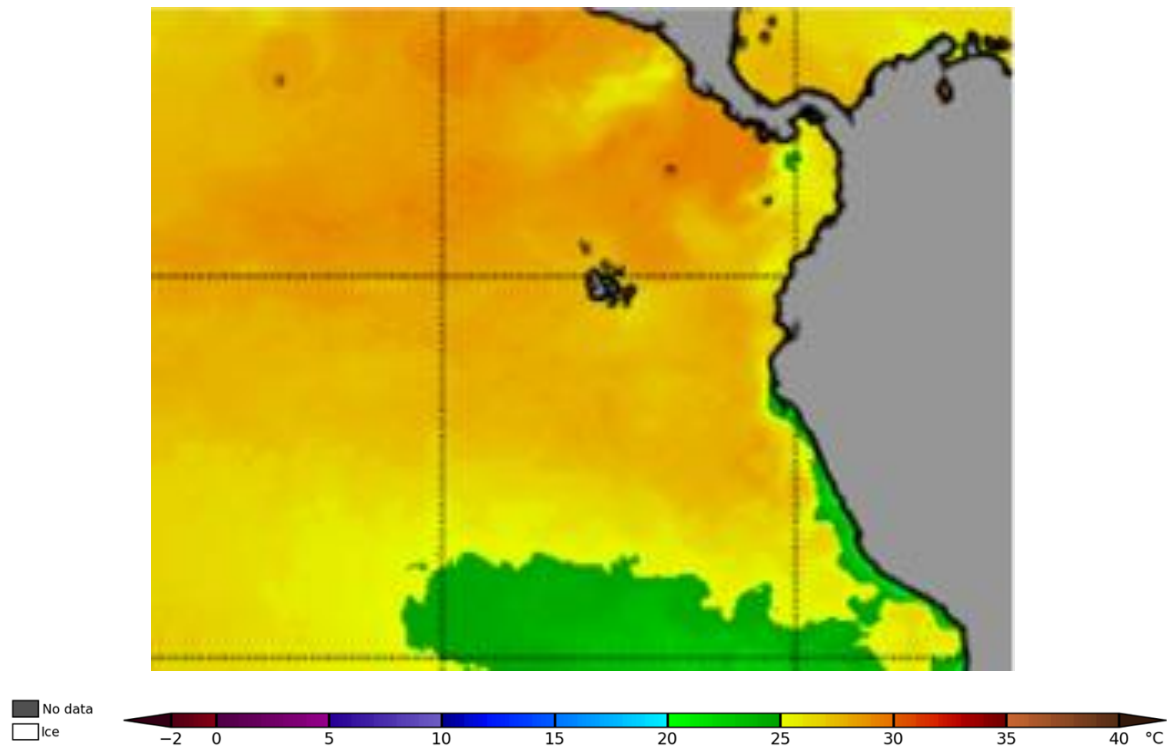
The Day-Cloud-Phase RGB shows ice clouds in yellows and reds and water clouds in light blues



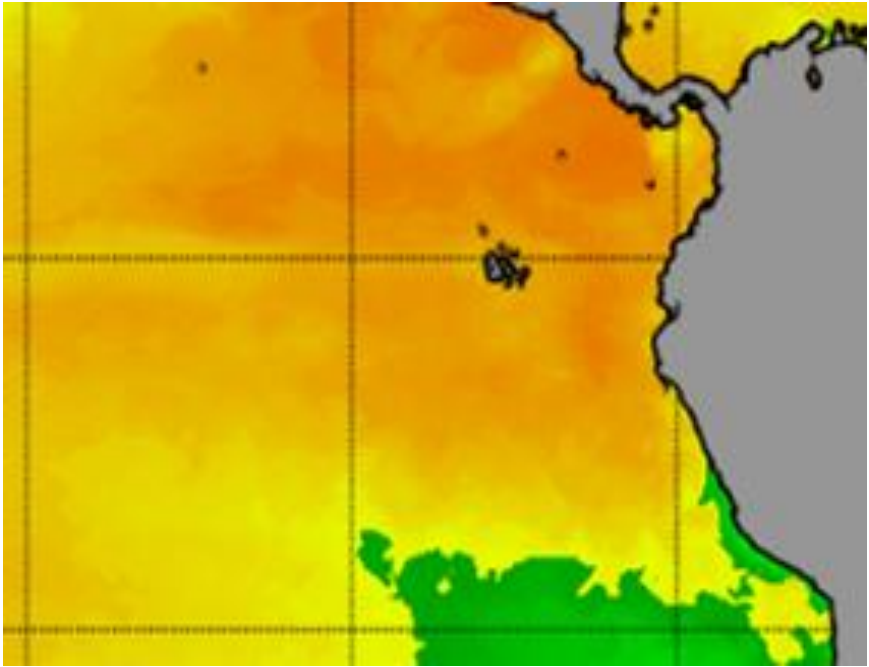
NOAA Coral Reef Watch Daily 5km Sea Surface Temperatures (v3.1) 7 Mar 2023



NOAA Coral Reef Watch Daily 5km Sea Surface Temperatures (v3.1) 13 Mar 2023

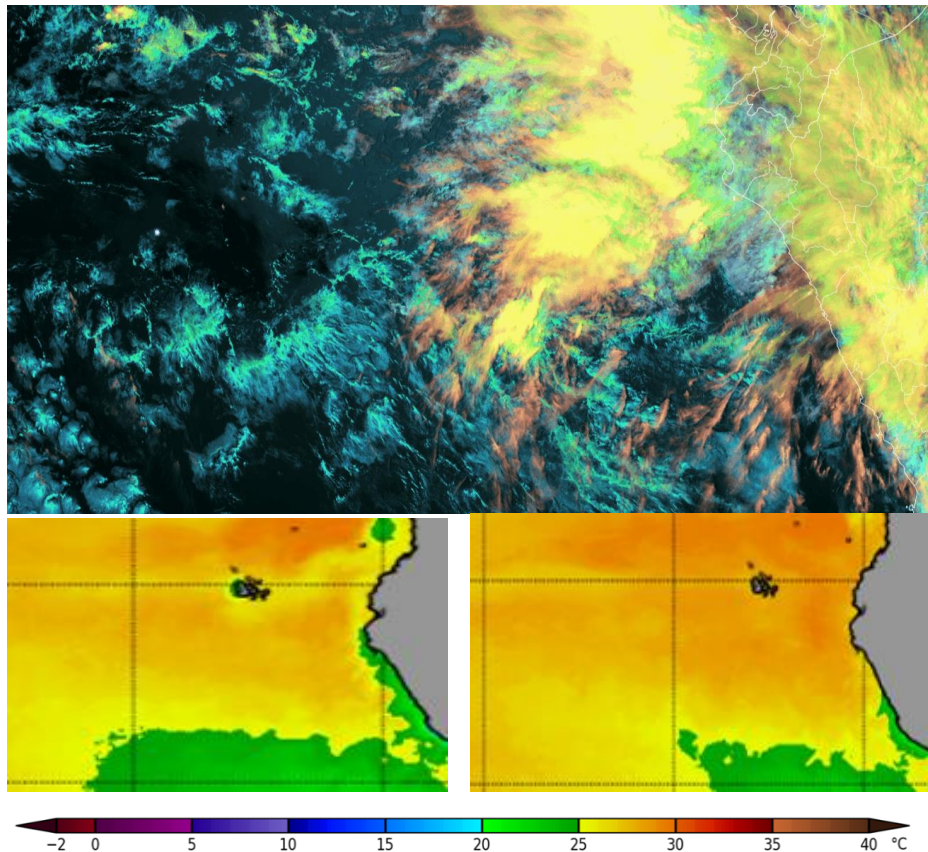


NOAA Coral Reef Watch Daily 5km Sea Surface Temperatures (v3.1) 20 Mar 2023





# Exercise 3 Summary



Westerly wind bursts associated with a weak tropical cyclone-like feature (“Yaku”) developed a local warming along the coasts of Peru and Ecuador in March 2023.

These winds can trigger Kelvin Wave-like features that catapult a deep-layer warming.

Since the sub-superficial layers were warmer than normal already, the warming was very strong and ended up triggering the beginning of the 2023-4 El Niño, in combination with other processes present in the western Pacific.

The Madden-Julian Oscillation and an active South Pacific Intertropical Convergence Zone played a role enhancing Yaku’s impact on exacerbating the warming.



# **Some New Developments**

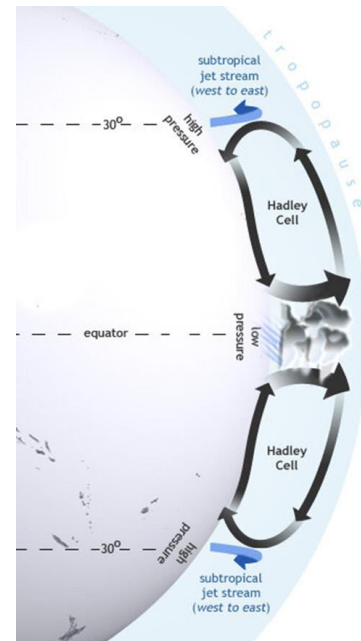
# CPC has worked on a new index, the RONI

Above the atmospheric boundary layer in the tropics, there is little horizontal variation in temperature (small Coriolis). Tropical atmosphere quickly smooths out temperature gradients.

Surface conditions throughout the entire tropical basin (by modifying deep convection) sets the tropical temperature in the free troposphere.

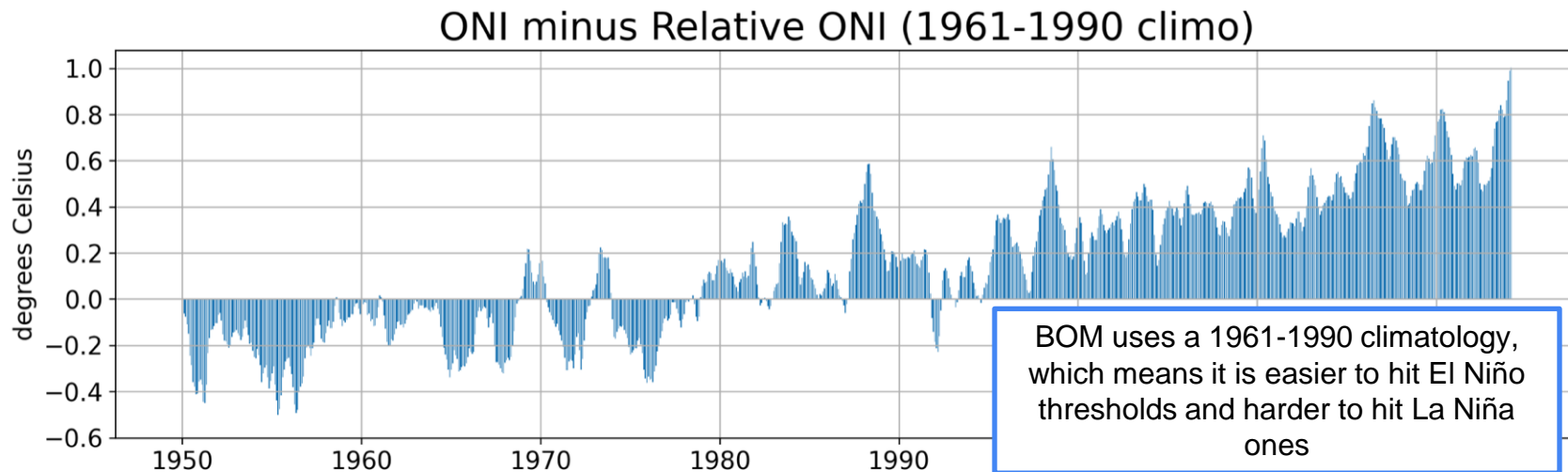
The free tropospheric temperature (or average SST across the entire tropics) is very important for the local instability, determining whether conditions are more/less conducive for rainfall.

Relative SSTs take in account the average conditions across the entire tropics and the local SSTs in a single measure.



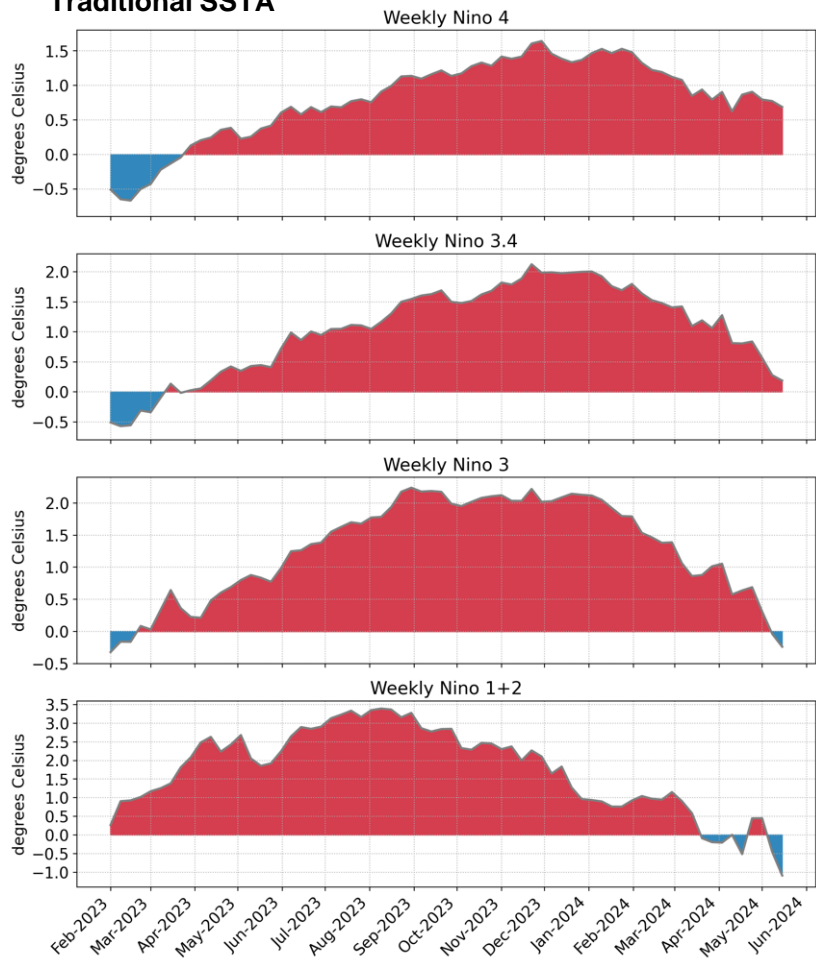
**BOM is currently transitioning to use a relative SST index.**

**Their public-facing sites will display the relative SST index as their official ENSO index.**



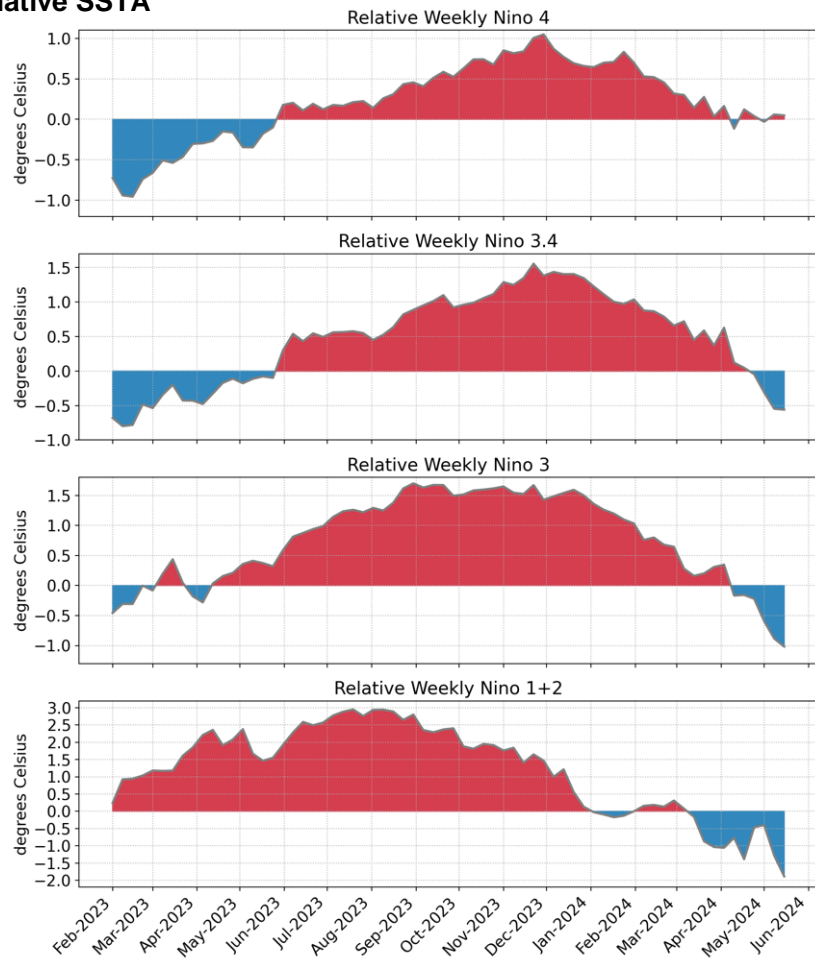
# Weekly OISSTv2.1 Differences Are Large As Well

## Traditional SSTA



~0.7°C difference  
in weekly  
Niño3.4  
centered on  
15 May 2024

## Relative SSTA



# Acknowledgements!

Special Thanks to:

- Karimar Ledesma-Maldonado, WPC International Desks
- Chris Smith, GOES-R Satellite Liaison
- Michelle L'Heureux, CPC
- Dr. Boyin Huang, NOAA NCEI

# Additional Slides

These slides are not organized, but contain information that could be of use to you for understanding ENSO.



# How ENSO impacts the weather and climate globally?

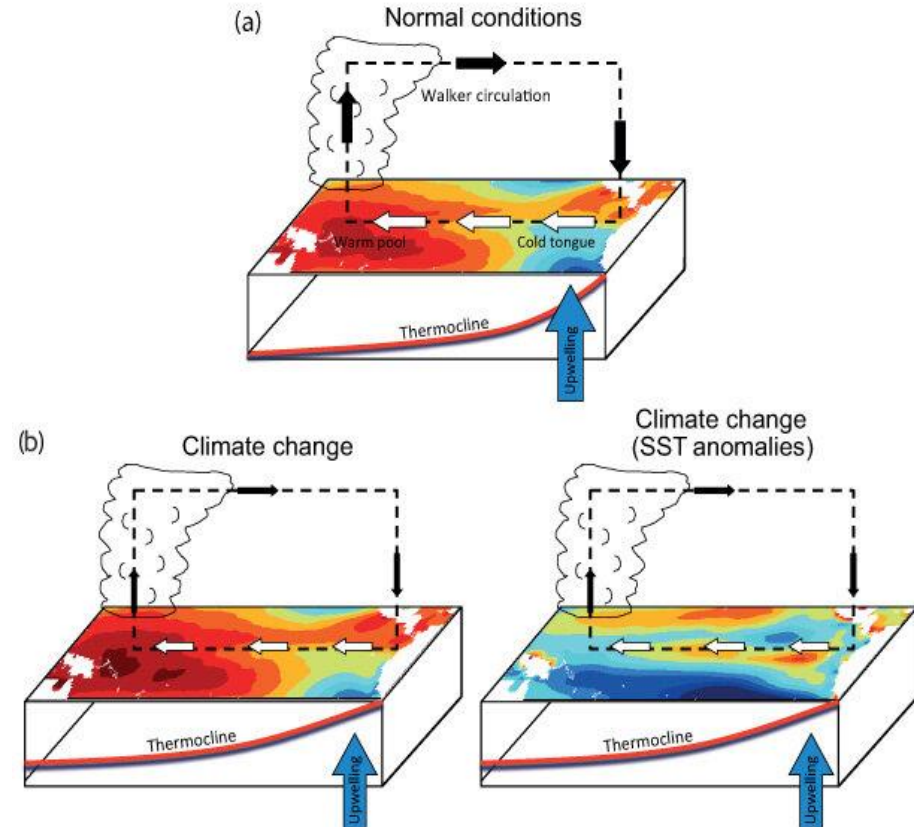
- The impact on the tropics, the Pacific, and the Indian Ocean and surrounding landmasses is well established. However the impact can many parts of the world.
- *Each phase can lead to severe droughts and devastating floods in different parts of the world.*

<b>Warm Phase</b>	Rainfall decrease in Indonesia	Rainfall decreases In Central and Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean	Easterly winds weakens or change to westerly winds	Increase zonal wind vertical shear in the Atlantic	Inhibits tropical cyclogenesis in Atlantic basin.
<b>Cold Phase</b>	Rainfall increases in Indonesia	Rainfall decreases in Central and Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean	Stronger easterly winds	Decrease zonal vertical shear in the Atlantic	Enhance tropical cyclogenesis in the Atlantic basin

- **Neutral phase** is been associated with strong SST anomalies in global oceans outside the tropical Pacific, and significant anomalies of land surface air temperature and precipitation over all the continents (Lin et al. 2019)

# El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

- The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is the dominant interannual variability of Earth's climate system.
- An oscillation of warming and cooling changes in the sea surface temperature (SST) in the central and eastern tropical Pacific ocean.
- There are two extreme phase called **El Niño the warming phase** and **La Niña the cooling phase** and between these two a *neutral or normal phase*.
- ENSO warm or cold conditions occur every few years and last for about a year.



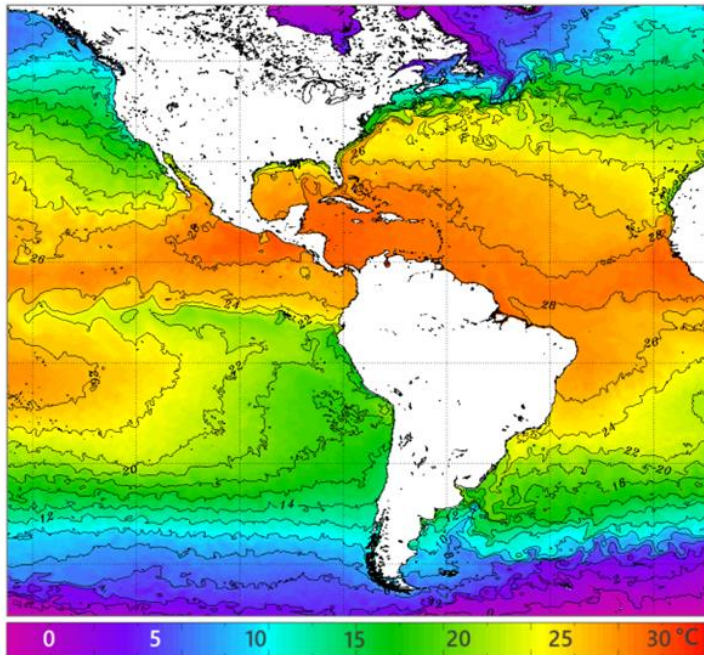
Adapted from Collins et al. (2010) and IPCC AR5 (2013).

# Example of Warming in the Pacific

## Sea Surface Temperatures (SST)

November 14<sup>th</sup>

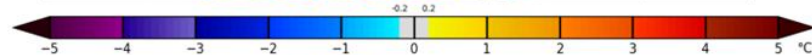
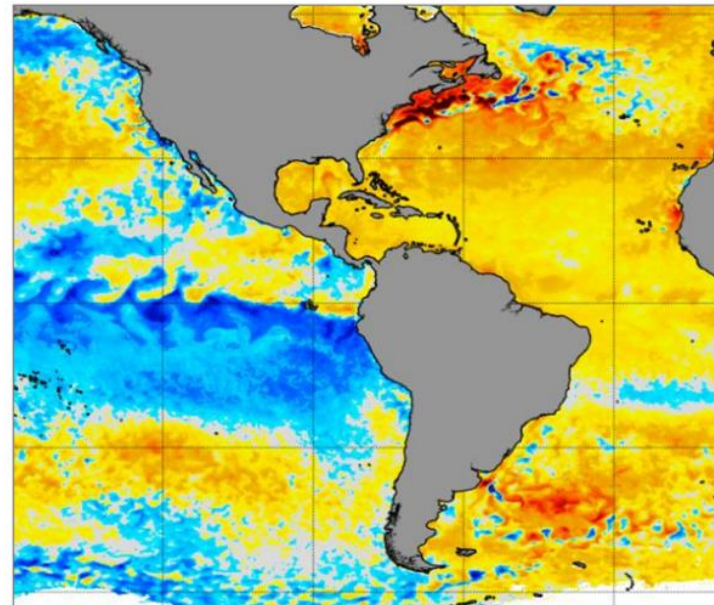
SST



NOAA OSPO

[https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/data/sst/contour/global\\_small.c.gif](https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/data/sst/contour/global_small.c.gif)

Anomaly



NOAA Coral Reef Watch

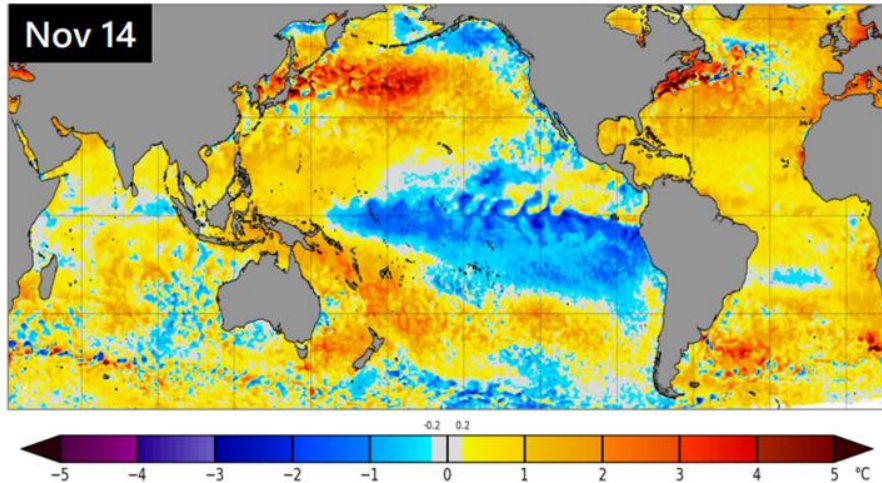
[https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/product/5km/index\\_5km\\_ssta.php](https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/product/5km/index_5km_ssta.php)



# Sea Temperature Anomalies in top layer

DEEP ANOMALIES LAST LONGER, THUS USEFUL FOR SUBSEASONAL FORECASTING

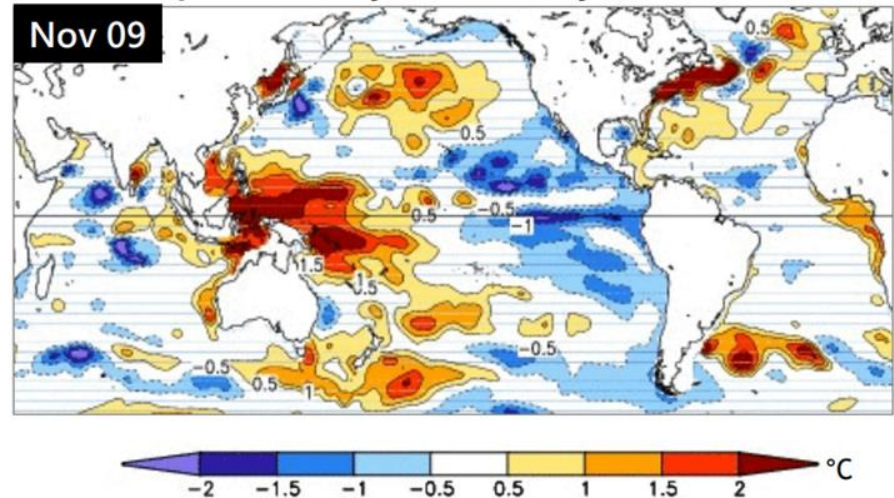
Surface Anomaly



NOAA Coral Reef Watch

[https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/product/5km/index\\_5km\\_ssta.php](https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/product/5km/index_5km_ssta.php)

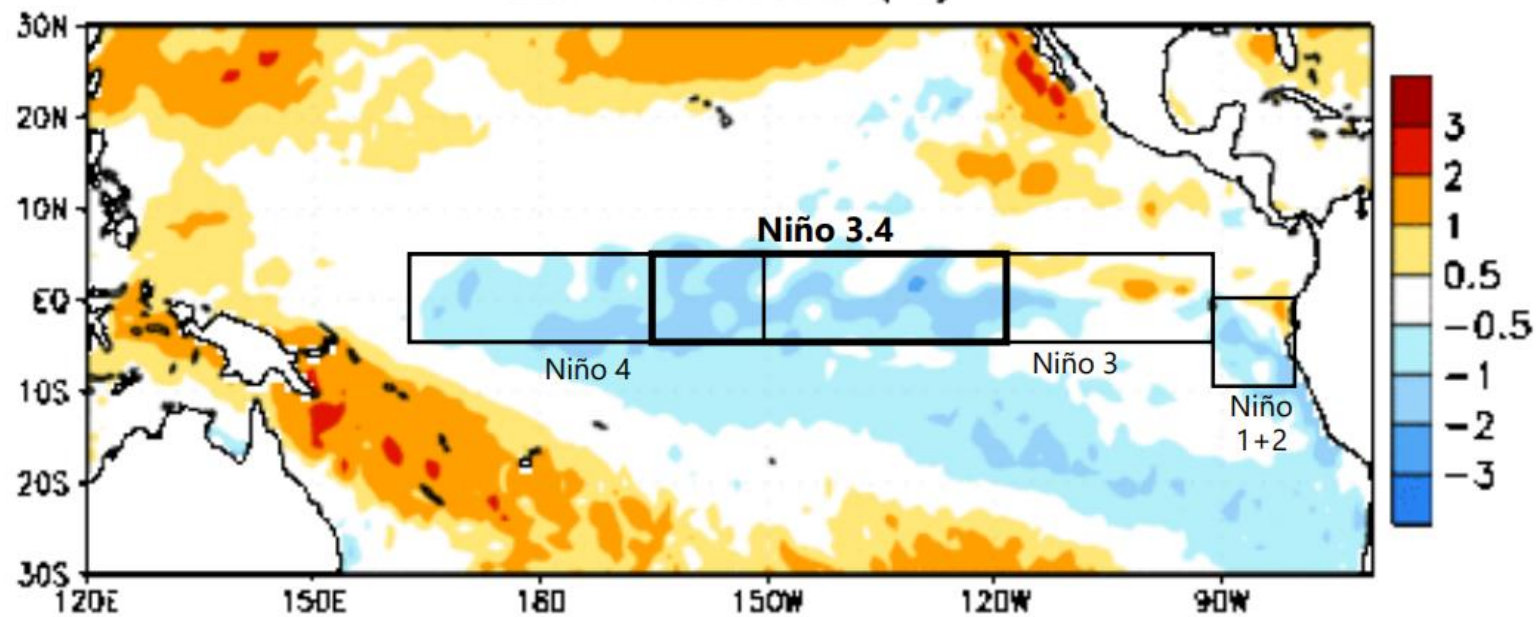
Top 300m-Layer Anomaly (GODAS)



NOAA CPC

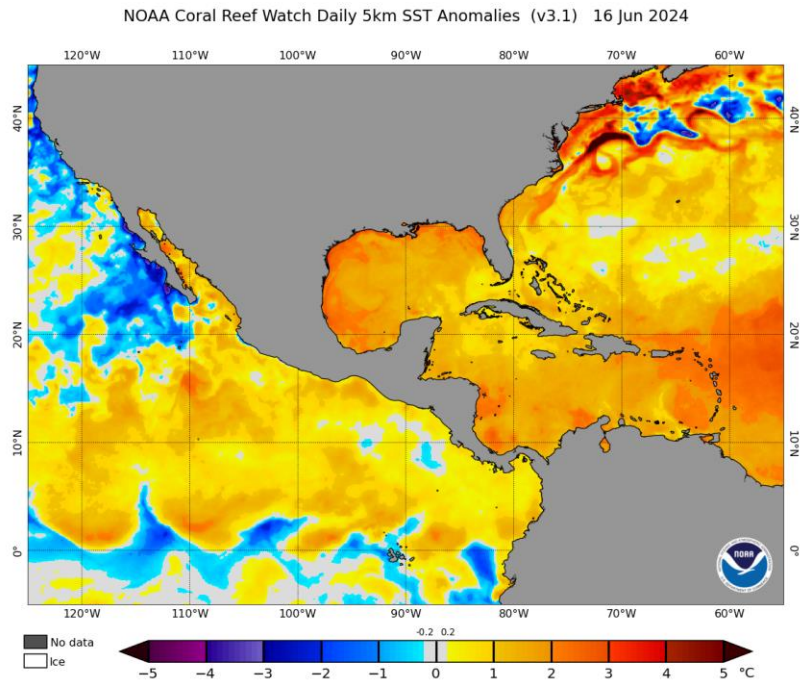
Source: CPC GODAS, <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/GODAS/>

Week centered on 24 AUG 2022  
SST Anomalies (°C)



# Satellite Products: Sea Surface Temperatures

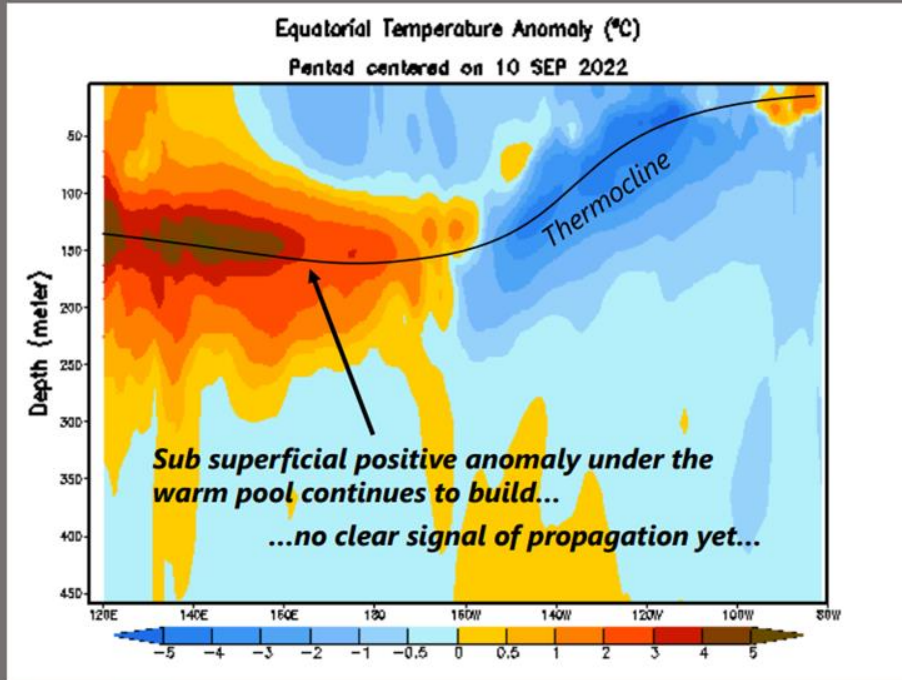
- Monitoring SSTs to see a shift in **cooler** or **warmer** temperatures in the four geographic regions of the equatorial Pacific over a period of time.
- Used to monitor SSTs, SST Anomalies, Coral Bleaching, Degree Heating Week
- Satellite products are helpful with in situ observations
- Products:
  - [CoralTemp SST](#) by NESDIS: obtained from Infrared radiometer and microwave on board of Sentinel-3a, Sentinel-3b, Metop-B/C, GOES-East/West, NOAA -18 & 19, GOES-16, GOES-18, Himawari-9, and Meteosat-10. It provides the nighttime ocean temperature at the sea surface
  - [SST Contour Charts](#) by NESDIS/OSPO





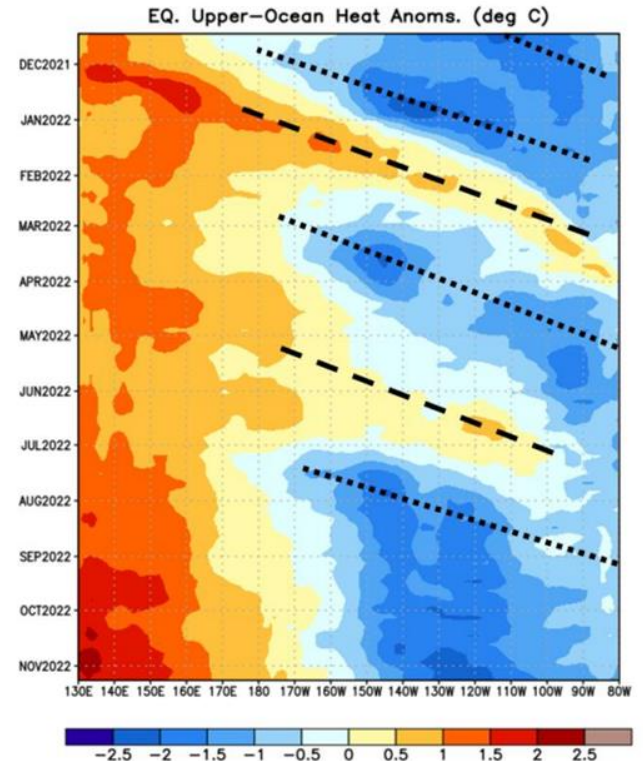
# ENSO: Oceanic Kelvin Waves

## Equatorial Pacific Temperature Anomaly Cross Section



Source: CPC

## Heat Content Anomaly Hovmöller

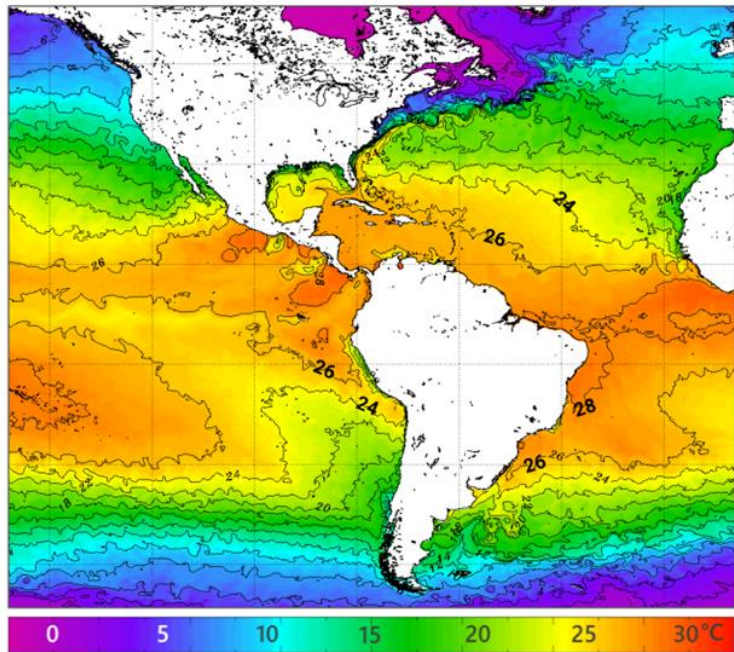


A few months later...

# Sea Surface Temperature (SST)

Monthly WMO Regional Focus Session

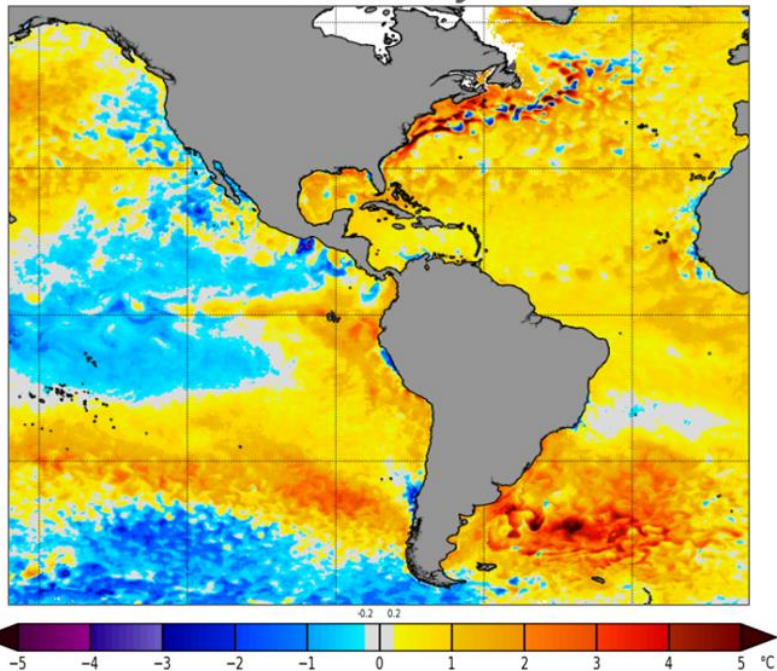
SST 06 February



NOAA OSPO

[https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/data/sst/contour/global\\_small.c.gif](https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/data/sst/contour/global_small.c.gif)

Anomaly



NOAA Coral Reef Watch

[https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/product/5km/index\\_5km\\_ssta.php](https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/product/5km/index_5km_ssta.php)

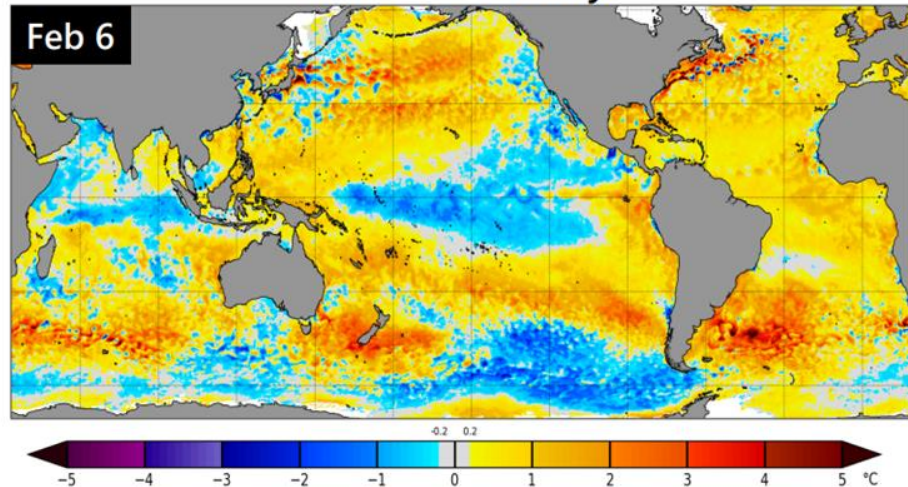


# Temperature Anomaly in Top Layer

Monthly WMO Regional Focus Session

DEEP ANOMALIES LAST LONGER, WHICH MAKES THEM USEFUL FOR SUBSEASONAL FORECASTING

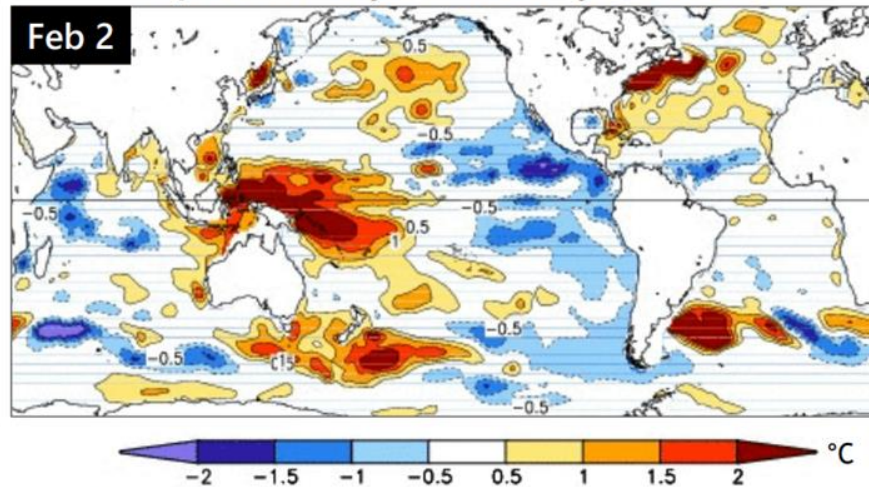
## Surface Anomaly



NOAA Coral Reef Watch

[https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/product/5km/index\\_5km\\_ssta.php](https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/product/5km/index_5km_ssta.php)

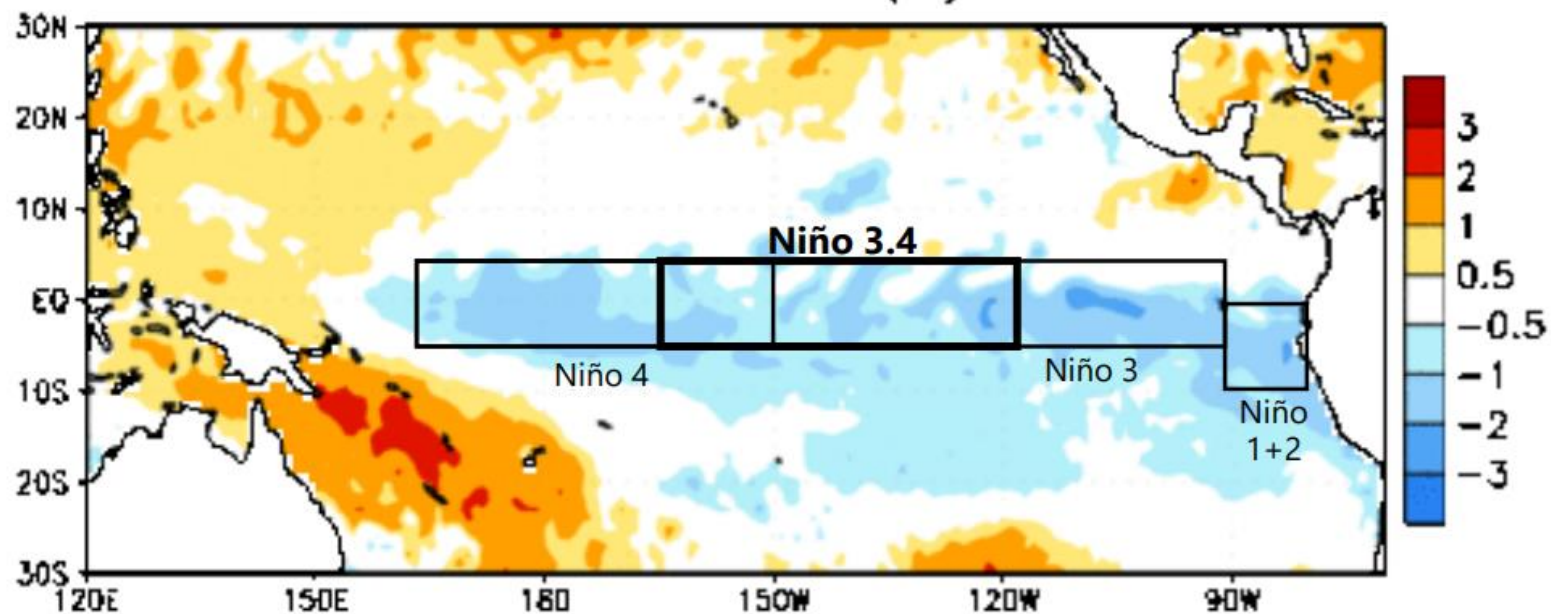
## Top 300m-Layer Anomaly (GODAS)



NOAA CPC

Source: CPC GODAS, <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/GODAS/>

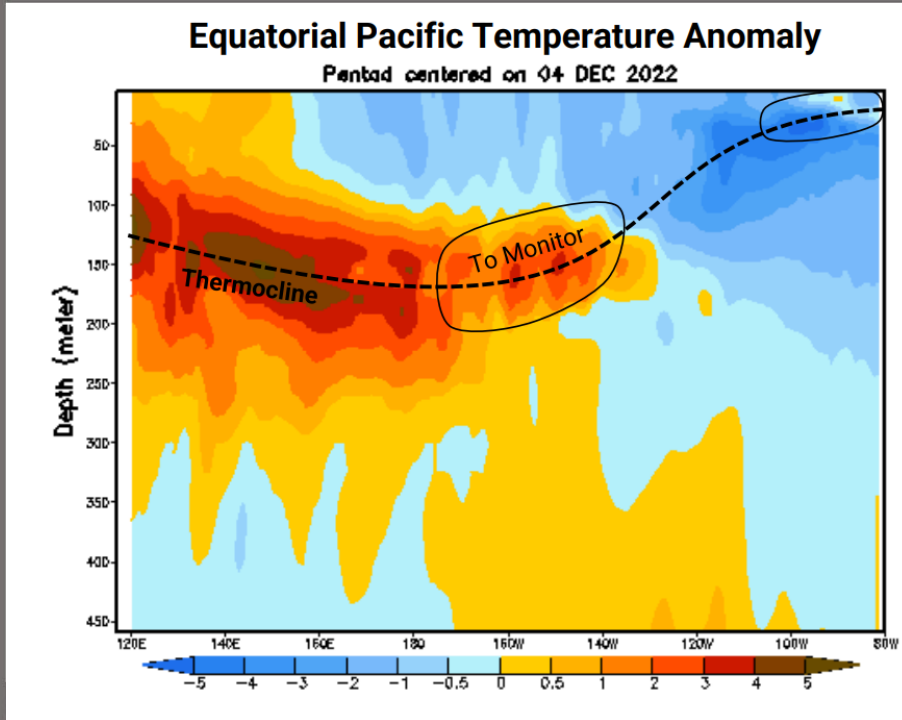
Week centered on 16 NOV 2022  
SST Anomalies (°C)



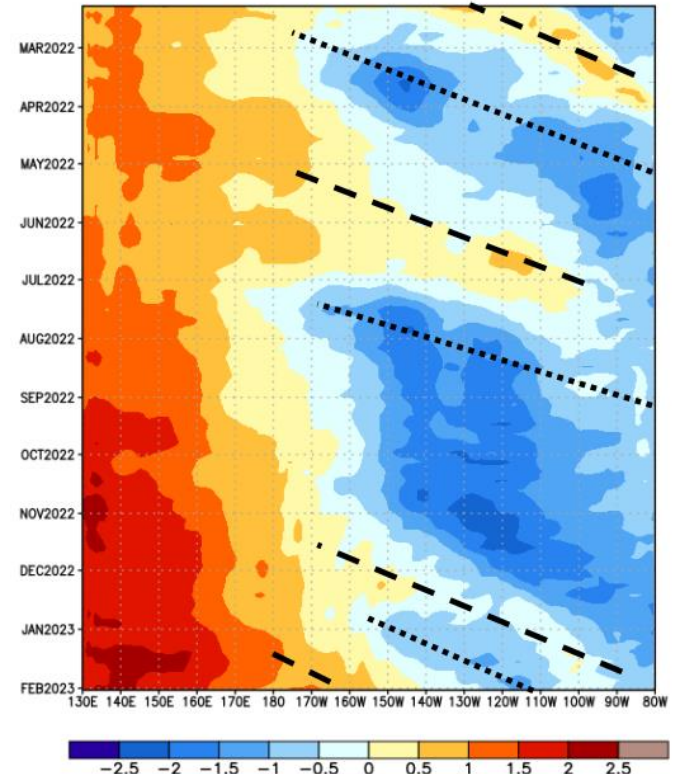


# ENSO: Oceanic Kelvin Waves

## Equatorial Pacific Temperature Anomaly Cross Section

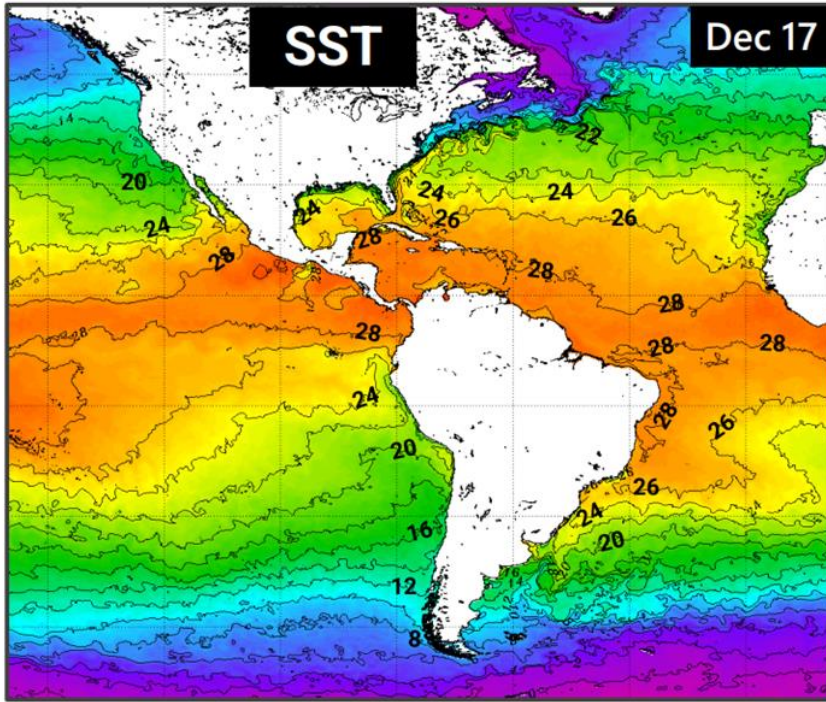


## Heat Content Anomaly Hovmöller



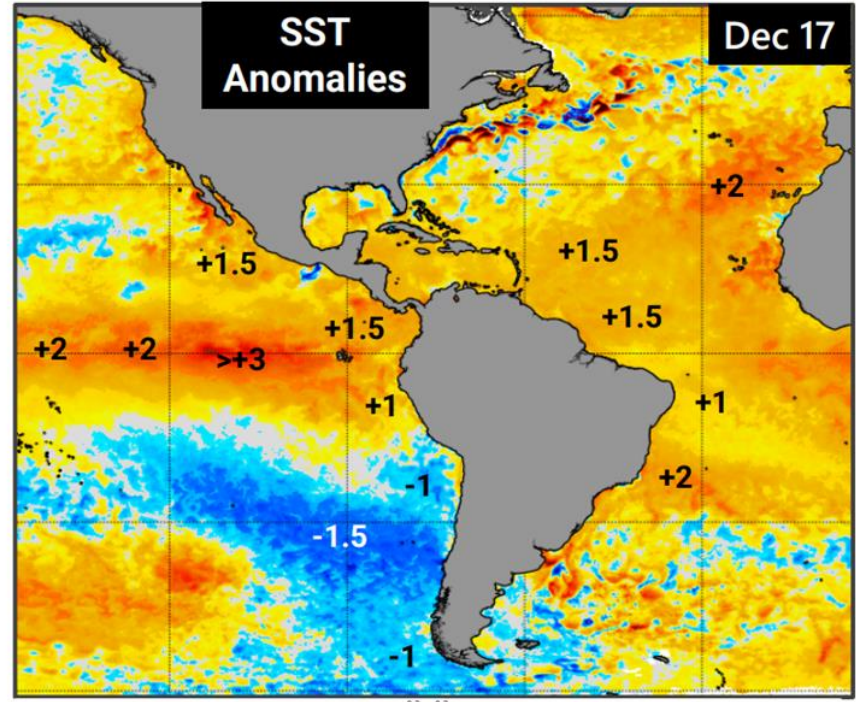
# Example of Cooling in the Pacific

## Sea Surface Temperature (SST)



NOAA OSPO

[https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/data/sst/contour/global\\_small.c.gif](https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/data/sst/contour/global_small.c.gif)



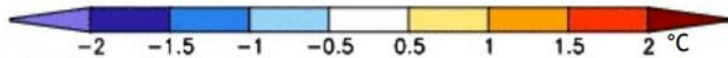
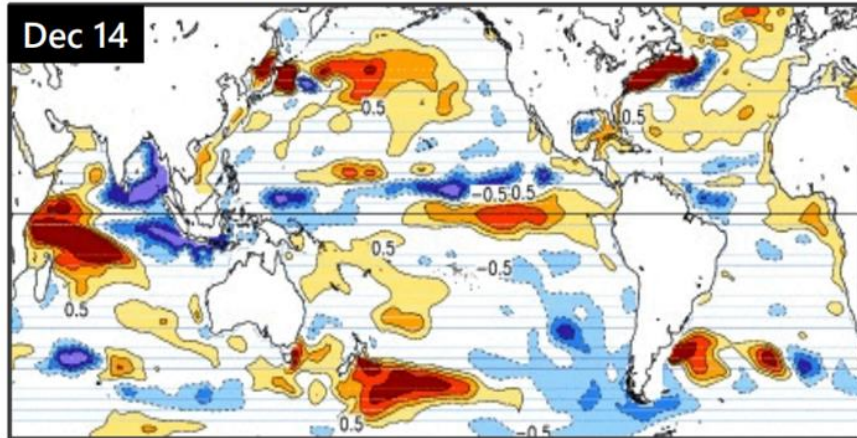
NOAA Coral Reef Watch [https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/product/5km/index\\_5km\\_ssta.php](https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/product/5km/index_5km_ssta.php)



# Top Layer Temperature Anomaly

Anomalies in a layer take longer to dissipate than superficial ones, and can last for weeks.

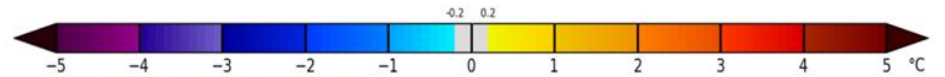
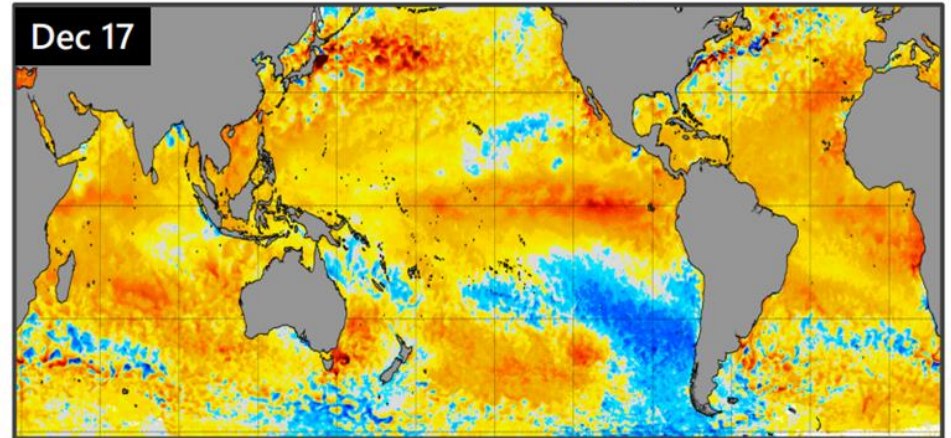
## Top 300m-Layer Anomaly



NOAA CPC

Source: CPC GODAS, <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/GODAS/>

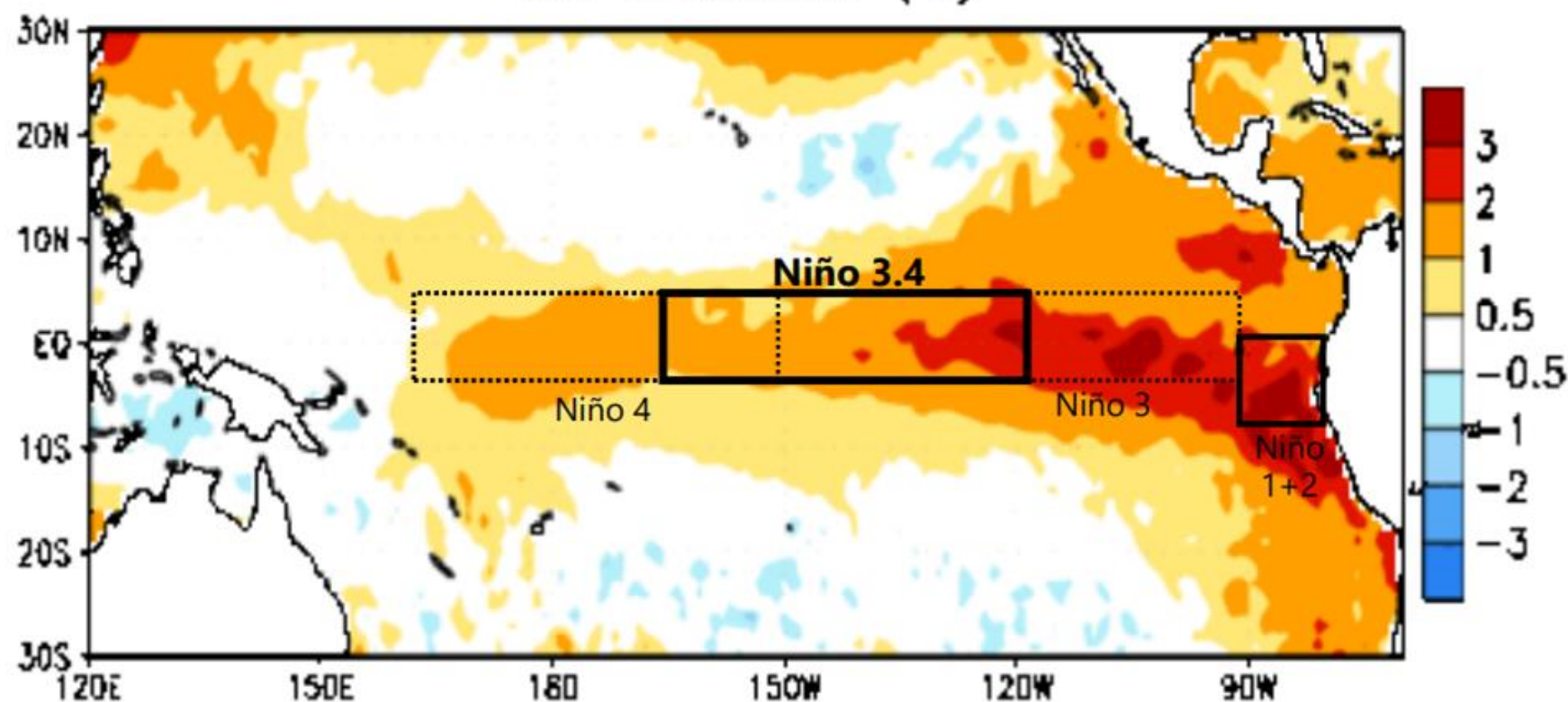
## Surface Anomaly



NOAA Coral Reef Watch

[https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/product/5km/index\\_5km\\_ssta.php](https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/product/5km/index_5km_ssta.php)

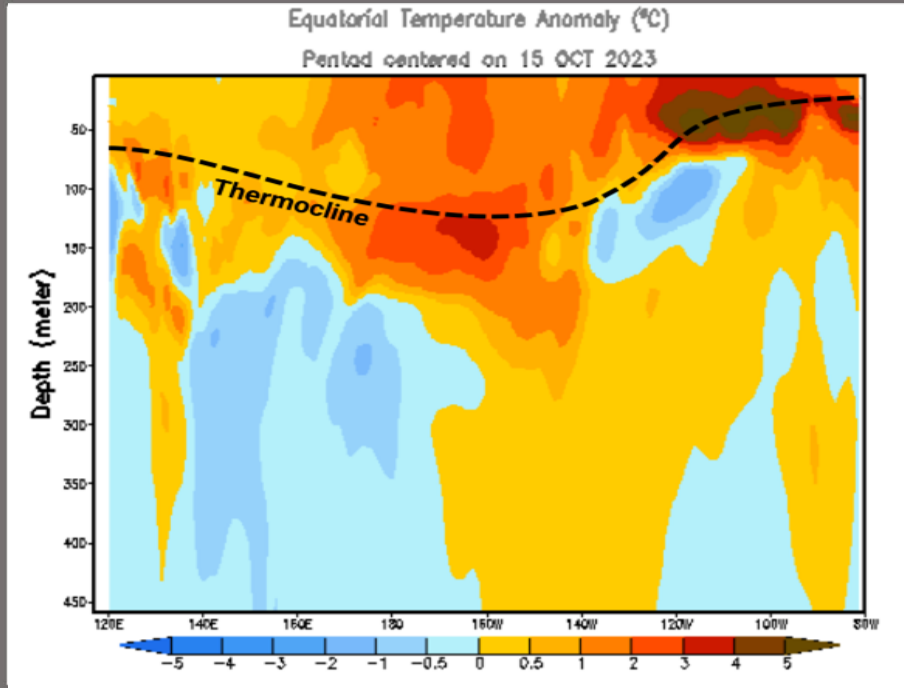
Week centered on 27 SEP 2023  
SST Anomalies (°C)



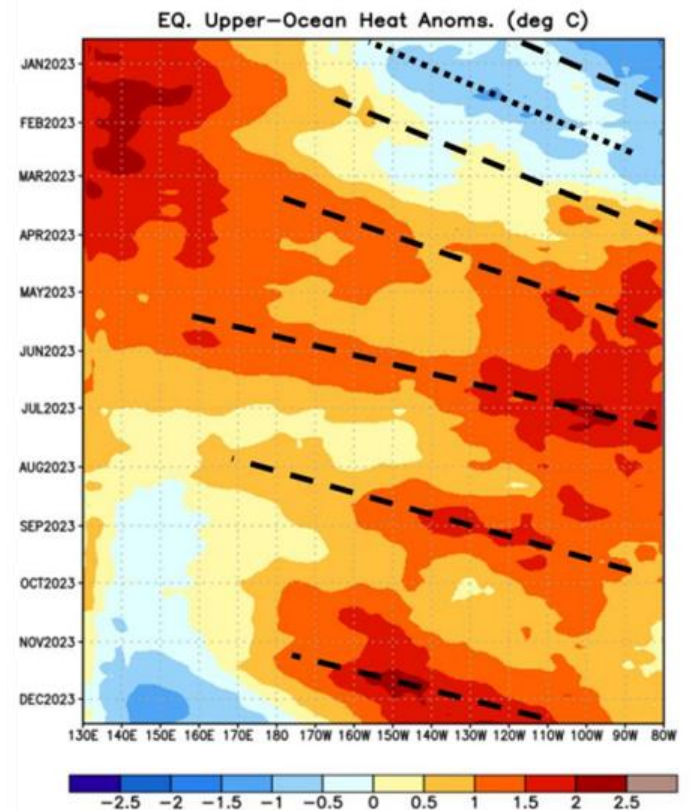


# ENSO: Oceanic Kelvin Waves

## Equatorial Pacific Temperature Anomaly Cross Section

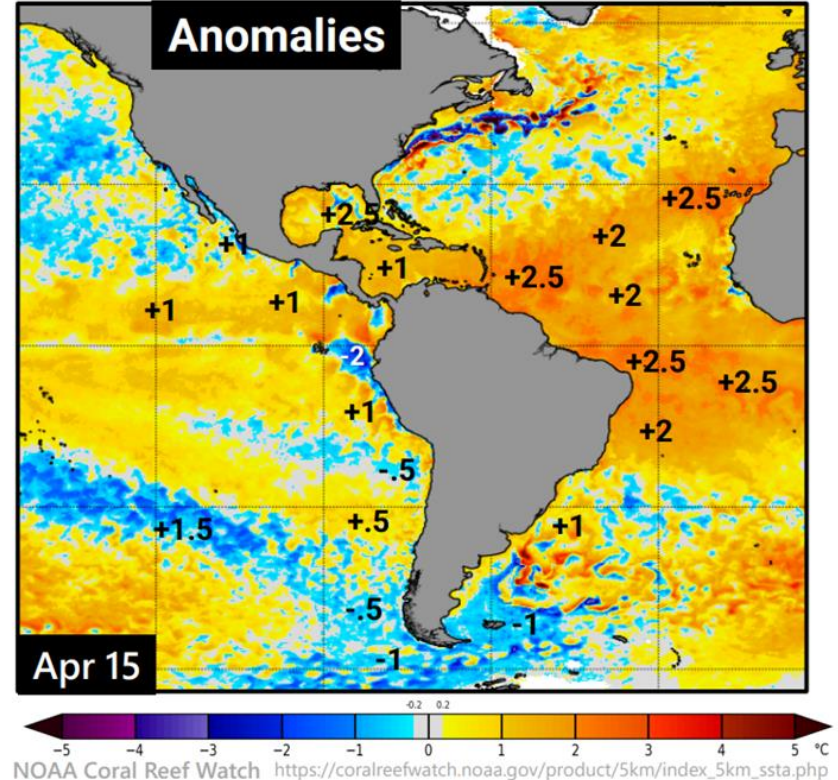
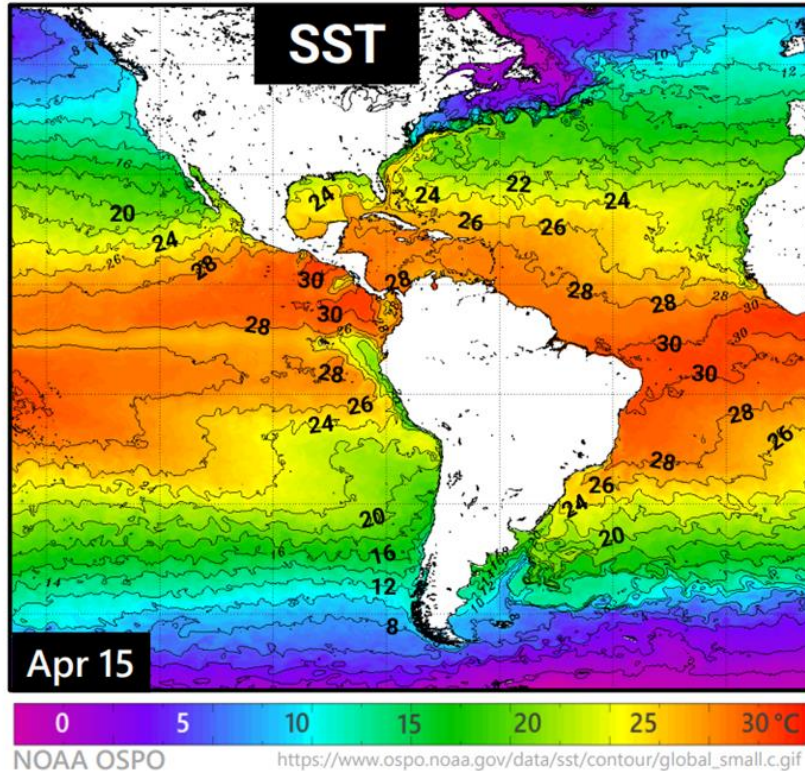


Source: CPC



A few months later...

## Sea Surface Temperature (SST)

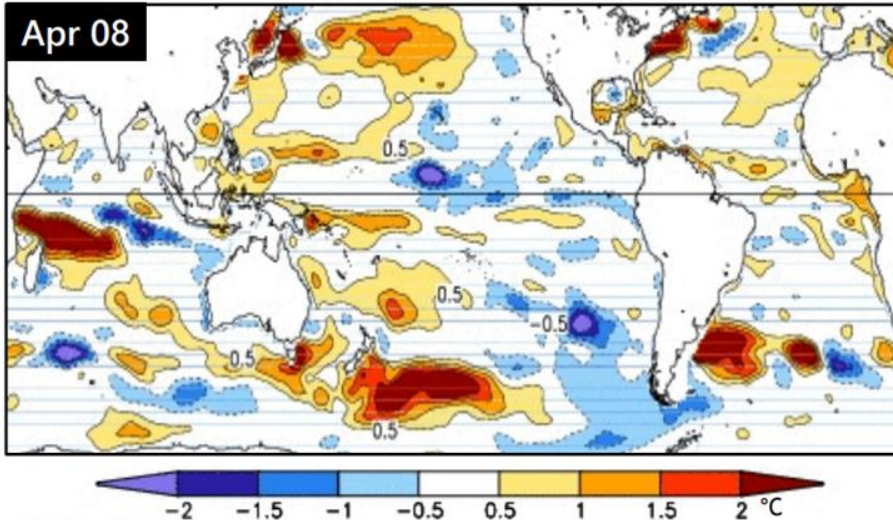




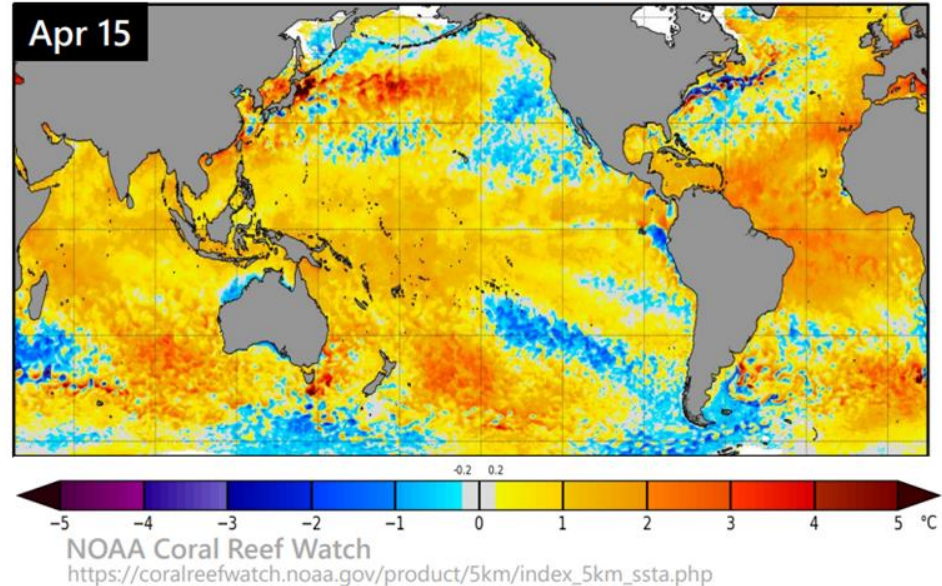
# Top Layer Temperature Anomaly

Anomalies in a layer take longer to dissipate than superficial ones, and can last for weeks.

## Top 300m-Layer Anomaly

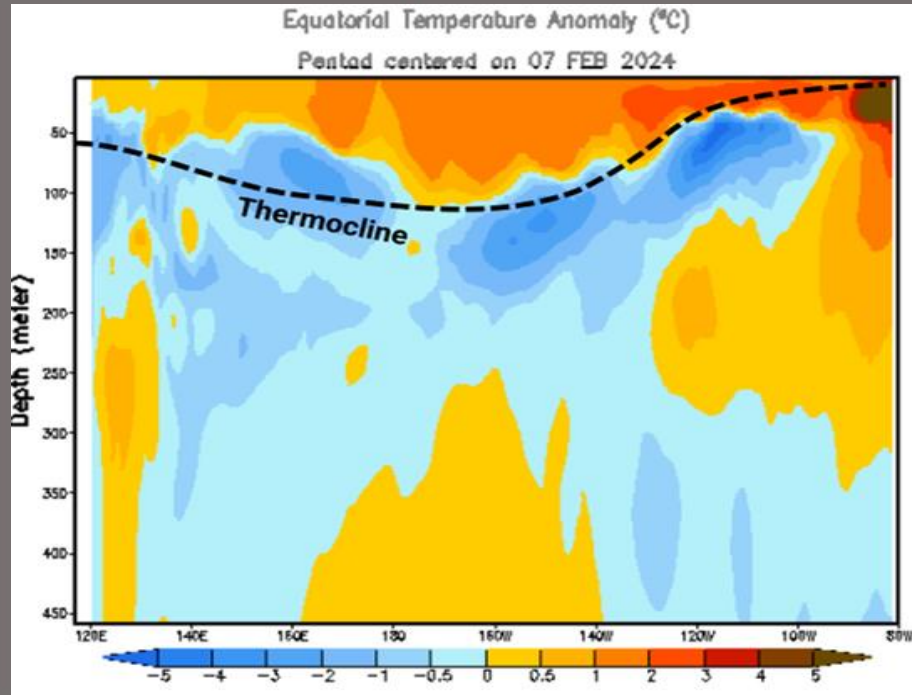


## Surface Anomaly

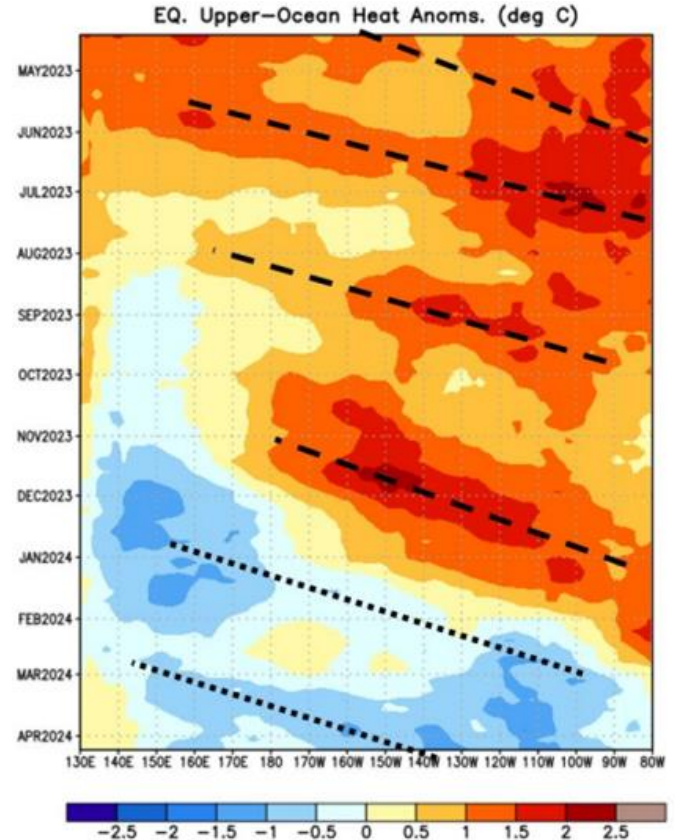


# ENSO: Oceanic Kelvin Waves

## Equatorial Pacific Temperature Anomaly Cross Section



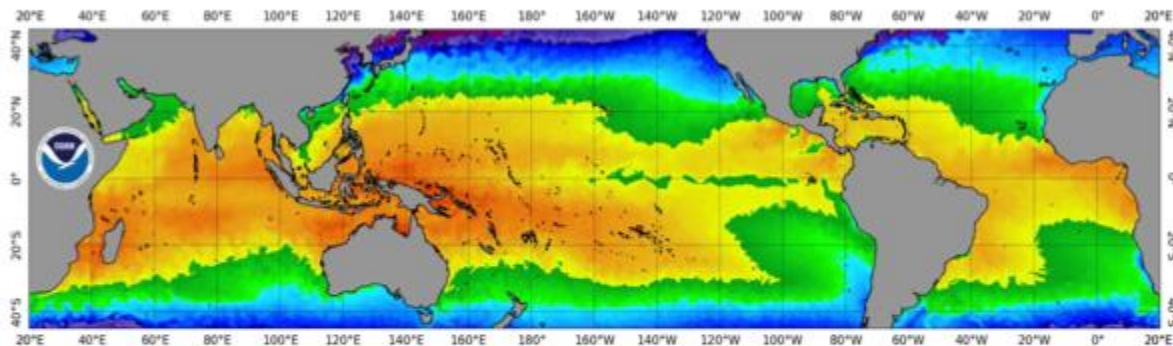
Source: CPC



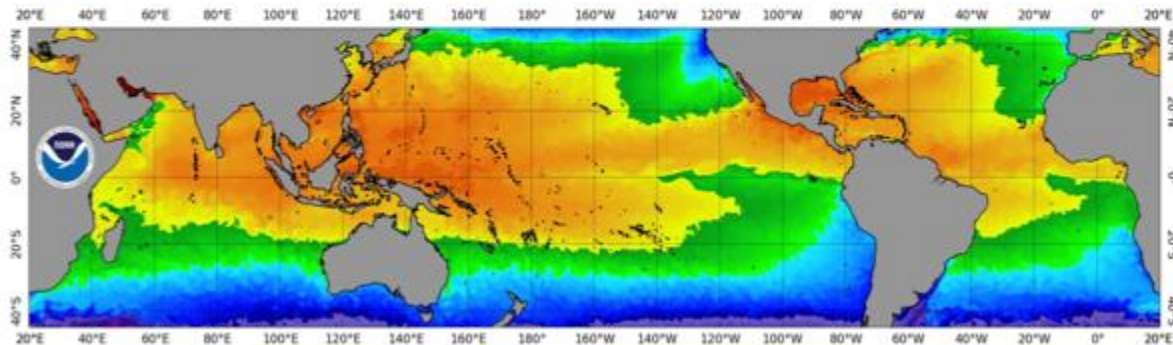


# Sea Surface Temperatures (°C)

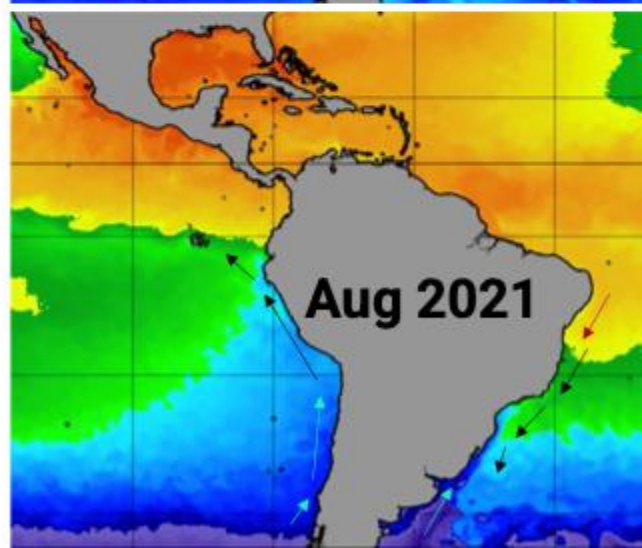
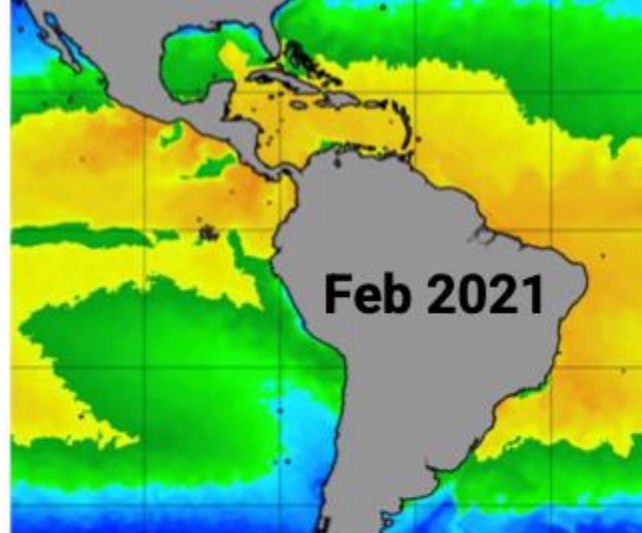
NOAA Coral Reef Watch Daily 5km Sea Surface Temperatures (v3.1) 1 Feb 2021



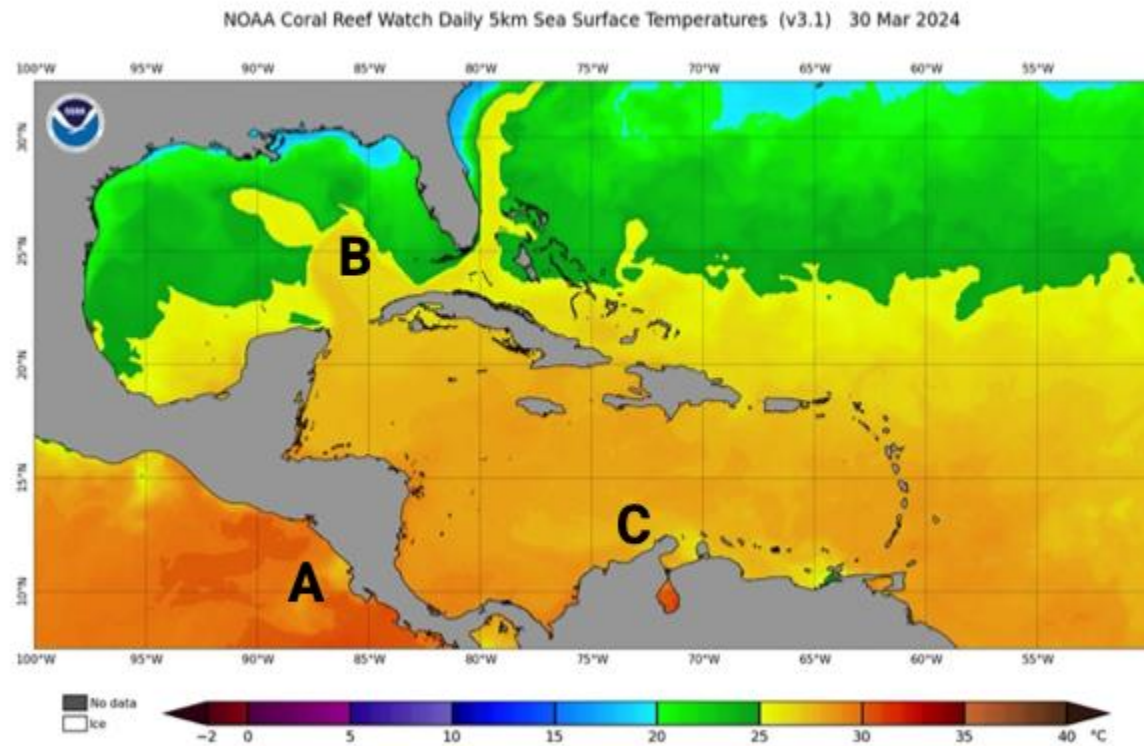
NOAA Coral Reef Watch Daily 5km Sea Surface Temperatures (v3.1) 1 Aug 2021



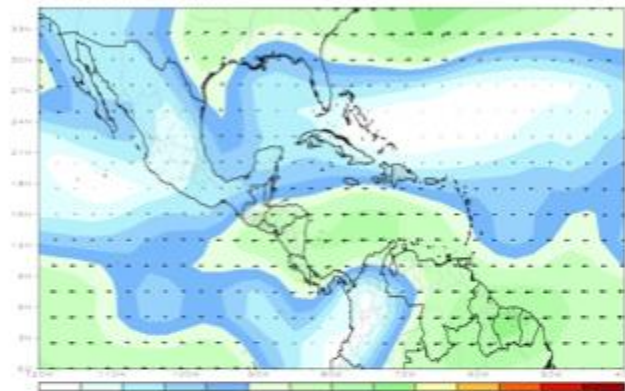
-2 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 °C



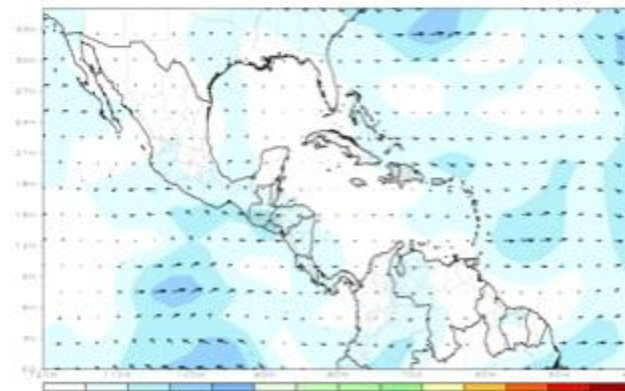
# What is happening in the different points?



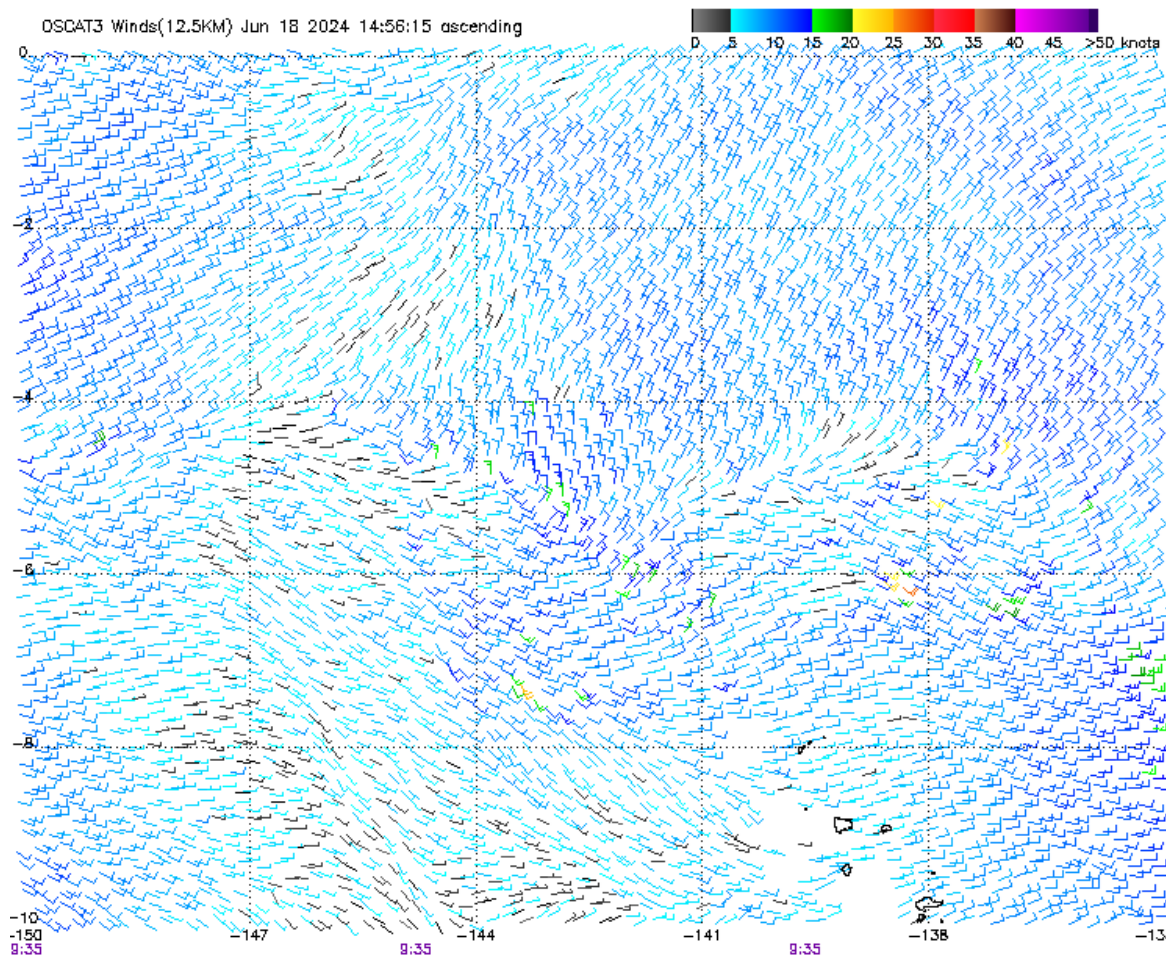
COAS 850mb 30-Day Mean Vector Wind Total (m/s)  
Period: 28Mar2024 - 26Apr2024



COAS 850mb 30-Day Mean Vector Wind Anomaly (m/s)  
Period: 28Mar2024 - 26Apr2024

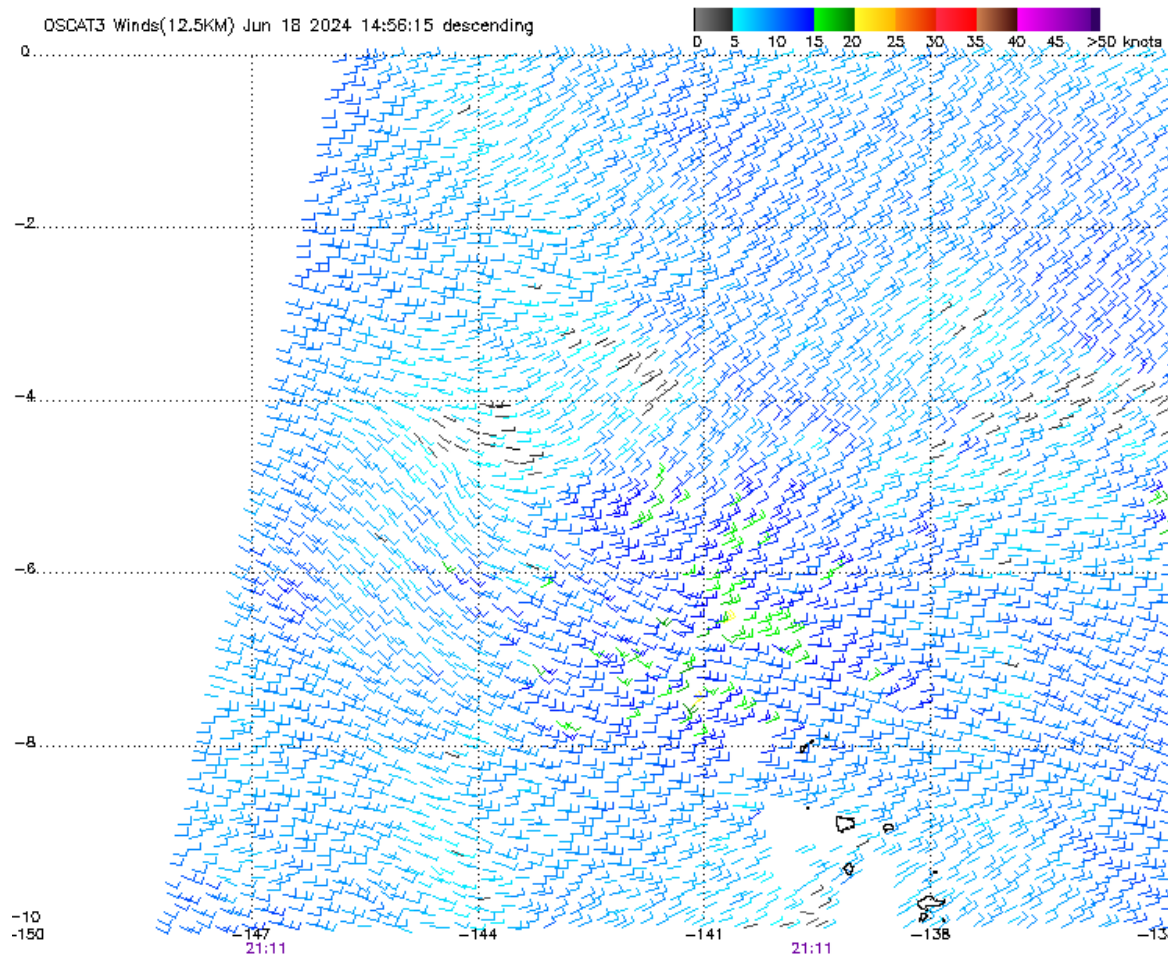






June 18, 2024  
Ascending  
OSCAT3  
From 0 to 10S  
From 150W to 135W

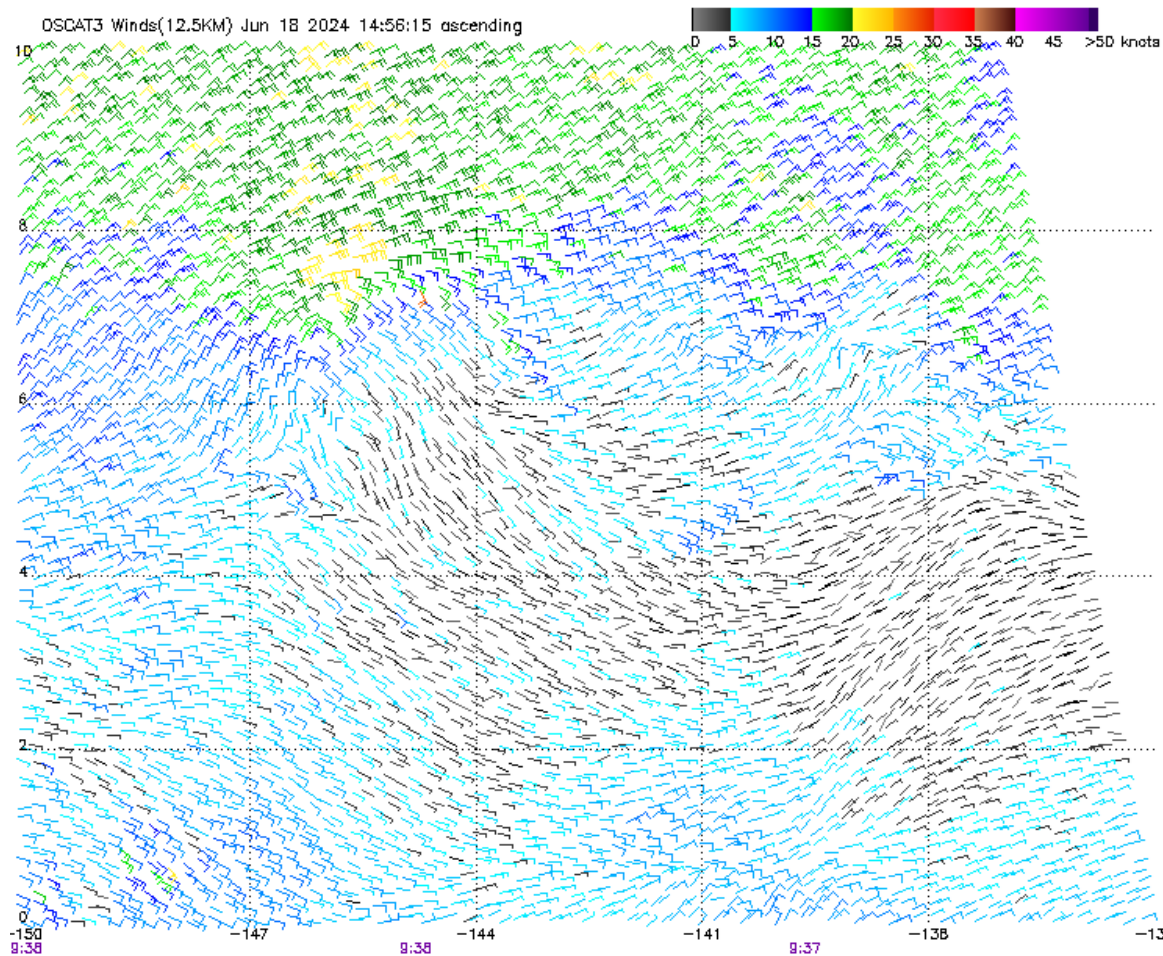
Note: 1) Times are GMT 2) Times along bottom correspond to measurement at -5S  
3) Data buffer is 22 hrs from Jun 18 2024 14:56:15 4) Black circles indicate possible contamination  
NOAA/NESDIS/Satellite Applications and Research



June 18, 2024  
Descending  
OSCAT3  
From 0 to 10S  
From 150W to 135W

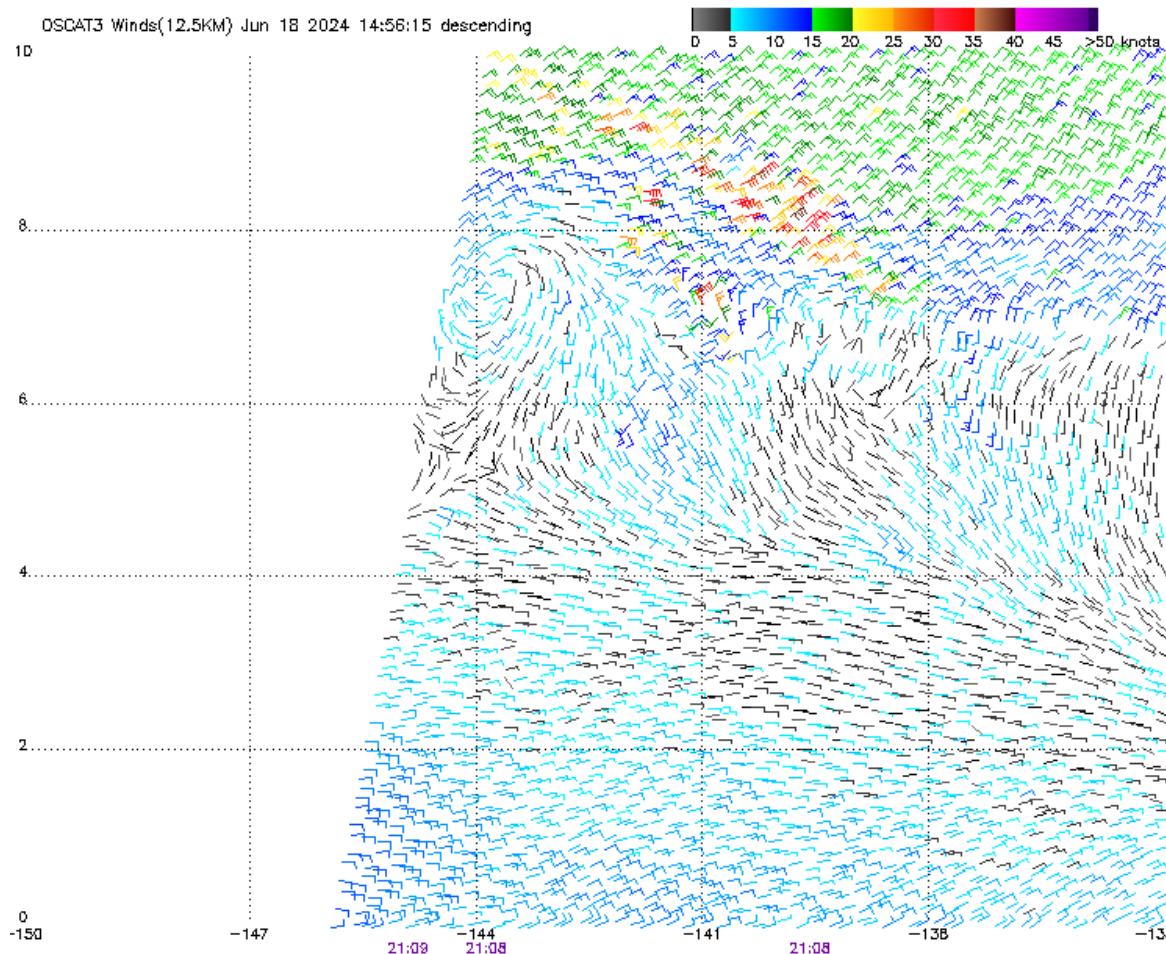
Note: 1) Times are GMT 2) Times along bottom correspond to measurement at -5S  
3) Data buffer is 22 hrs from Jun 18 2024 14:56:15 4) Black circles indicate possible contamination  
NOAA/NESDIS/Satellite Applications and Research





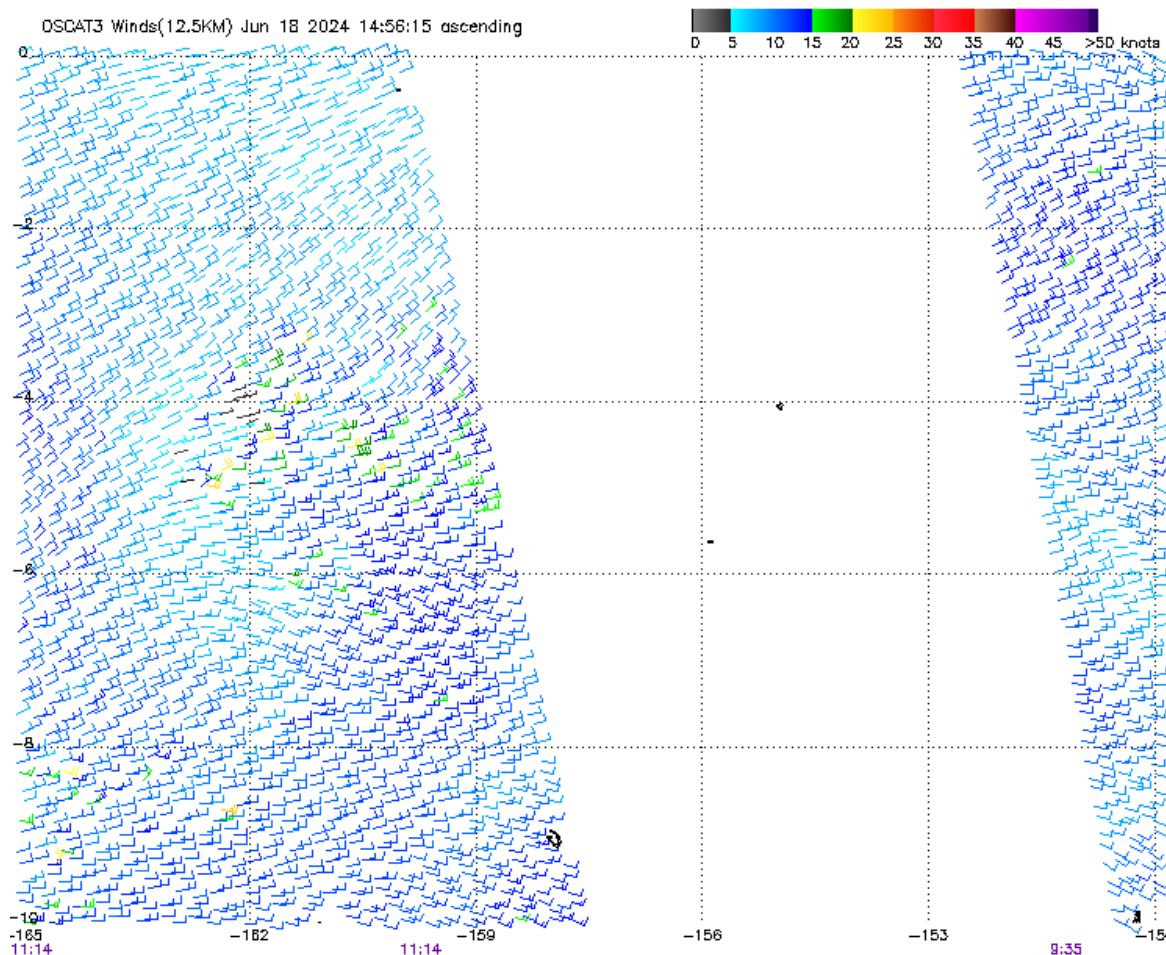
June 18, 2024  
Ascending  
OSCAT3  
From 10N to 0  
From 150W to 135W

Note: 1) Times are GMT 2) Times along bottom correspond to measurement at 5N  
3) Data buffer is 22 hrs from Jun 18 2024 14:56:15 4) Black circles indicate possible contamination  
NOAA/NESDIS/Satellite Applications and Research



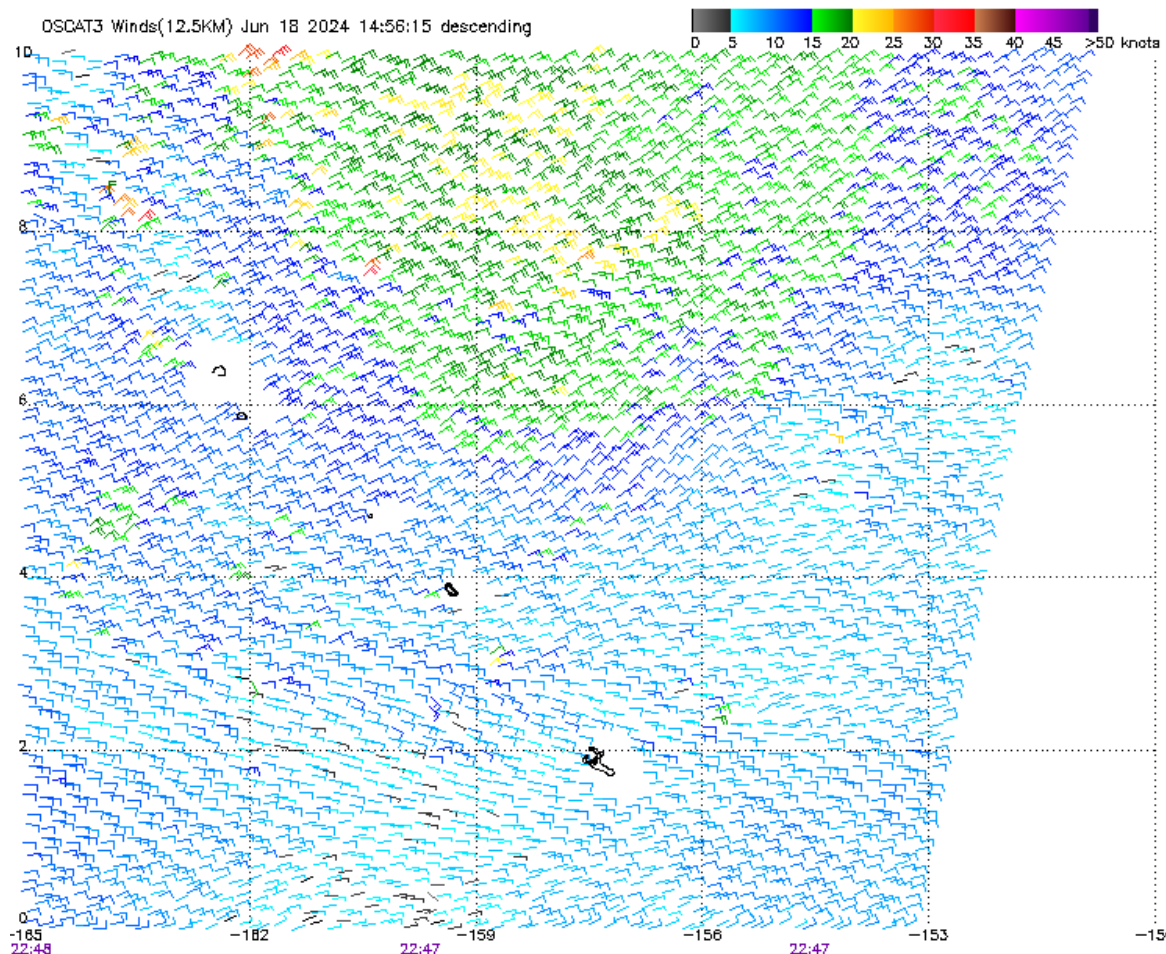
June 18, 2024  
Descending  
OSCAT3  
From 10N to 0  
From 150W to 135W

Note: 1) Times are GMT 2) Times along bottom correspond to measurement at 5N  
3) Data buffer is 22 hrs from Jun 18 2024 14:56:15 4) Black circles indicate possible contamination  
NOAA/NESDIS/Satellite Applications and Research



Note: 1) Times are GMT 2) Times along bottom correspond to measurement at -5S  
3) Data buffer is 22 hrs from Jun 18 2024 14:56:15 4) Black circles indicate possible contamination  
NOAA/NESDIS/Satellite Applications and Research

June 18, 2024  
Ascending  
OSCAT3  
From 0 to 10S  
From 165W to 150W



June 18, 2024  
Descending  
OSCAT3  
From 10N to 0  
From 165W to 150W

Note: 1) Times are GMT 2) Times along bottom correspond to measurement at 5N  
3) Data buffer is 22 hrs from Jun 18 2024 14:56:15 4) Black circles indicate possible contamination  
NOAA/NESDIS/Satellite Applications and Research