

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD) TYPE: Official Product DATE: January 28, 2003

TROPICAL PACIFIC MEAN SEA-SURFACE TEMPERATURE (SST) OUTLOOK

Part 1 -Mission Connection

1 Product/Service Description: The Climate Prediction Centers (CPC) climate outlook techniques rely significantly upon the slowly varying global SST field and do have useable accuracy at long lead times. These SST outlooks make tangible the results of research activities by many scientists over several decades on the subjects of El Nio, ocean-atmosphere interaction, etc.

2 Purpose/Intended Use:

This discussion provides technical insight to further assist decision makers.

3 Audience: The audience is primarily decision makers with some technical background in weather and climate sensitive activities sensitive to inter-seasonal and inter-annual climate variation (e.g. weather risk management, energy/utilities, agriculture, hydrology, etc.).

4 Presentation Format: CPC presents the product in text sent over NWS dissemination systems and on the CPC web site.

5 Feedback Method: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/comment-form.html>

Part 2 -Technical

1. Format and Science Basis: CPC issues 13 three-month mean SST outlooks for the Nio 3.4 area of the central Pacific (5 °N to 5 °S and 120 °W to 170 °W) for each valid three-month period. CPC provides the outlooks in departure from the climatological normal SST in tenths of a degree Celsius. See NWS Instruction 10-1004 (Climate Means) for details on SST normals. The official outlook is labeled as "consolidated." CPC considers the SST predictions from various guidance tools, which may be plotted and labeled, as well. CPC provides the 68 and 95 percent confidence intervals for the official outlook and defines the range within which 68 and 95 percent of the possible outlook outcomes are expected to lie. A lesser interval generally means higher expected skill. Below is an example of the text product, also available on the web at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/data/WNC/PMDSST>

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FXUS23 KWNC 211622

PMDSST

TROPICAL PACIFIC MEAN SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE/SST/ OUTLOOK

NWS CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER CAMP SPRINGS MD

300 PM EST FRI MAR 14 2008

MEAN TEMPERATURE ANOMALY SST OUTLOOKS ARE IN TENTH OF A DEGREE
CELSIUS FOR THE NINO 3.4 AREA OF THE TROPICAL PACIFIC /5N-5S AND
120W-170W/. ANOMALIES ARE FROM 1971-2000 NINO 3.4 CLIMATOLOGICAL
SST /CLM/.

THREE MONTH OUTLOOK PERIODS

EG. JFM IS JANUARY THROUGH MARCH - FMA FOR FEB. THROUGH APR. ETC.

SEE NOTES BELOW ON TYPES OF OUTLOOKS

TYPE	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ
CONS	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.7	-0.8	-0.7	-0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4
U68	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.0
L68	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.3	-1.4	-1.7	-1.8	-1.7	-0.9	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2
U95	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6
L95	-1.4	-1.5	-1.7	-1.7	-1.9	-2.2	-2.6	-2.8	-2.7	-1.7	-1.0	-0.7	-0.8
CCA	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.6	-0.5	-0.4	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.0
CA	-0.7	-0.6	-0.5	-0.4	-0.5	-0.6	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7	-0.5	-0.3	-0.1	0.2
CFS	-1.3	-1.2	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3					
CLM	27.6	27.5	27.1	26.8	26.6	26.6	26.6	26.5	26.5	26.8	27.2	27.5	27.6

CONS - OFFICIAL CONSOLIDATED OUTLOOK
 U68 - THE UPPER LIMIT OF 68 PERCENT CONFIDENCE INTERVAL FOR CONS
 L68 - THE LOWER LIMIT OF 68 PERCENT CONFIDENCE INTERVAL FOR CONS
 U95 - THE UPPER LIMIT OF 95 PERCENT CONFIDENCE INTERVAL FOR CONS
 L95 - THE LOWER LIMIT OF 95 PERCENT CONFIDENCE INTERVAL FOR CONS
 CCA - CANONICAL CORRELATION ANALYSIS OUTLOOK
 CA - CONSTRUCTED ANALOG OUTLOOK
 CFS - NCEP CFS DYNAMIC MODEL OUTLOOK
 CLM - CLIMATOLOGICAL MEAN NINO 3.4 SST
 THIS PRODUCT IS AVAILABLE IN A GRAPHICAL FORMAT ON THE INTERNET AT
[HTTP://WWW.CPC.NCEP.NOAA.GOV /LOWER CASE/](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/LOWER_CASE/)

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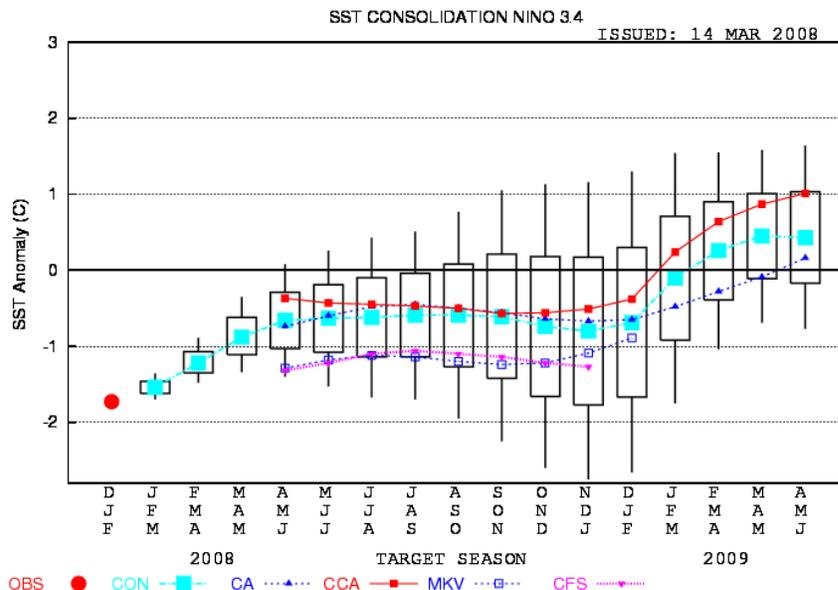
2. Availability: CPC issues the product once a month on the Friday from the 9th to the 15th of the month at around 3:00 p.m. Eastern local time. They do not issue updates or amendments. They will issue corrections as needed. CPC issues the product on NWS dissemination systems under the following product IDs:

WMO heading FXUS23 KWNC -

AWIPS ID PMDSST

They are also issued on the CPC web site (in graphical format)

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/SSTs/.](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/SSTs/)



3. Additional Information:

- Valid Time: CPC issues 13 SST outlooks with lead times from 0.5 months to 12.5 months. For example, in mid-January, CPC will issue three-month outlooks for February through April, March through May, April through June, and so on to February through April of the following year.
- Product Expiration Time: The 0.5 month lead time outlook expires at the beginning of the valid time of that outlook. The other outlooks expire when the next set of outlooks are issued (i.e. the Friday from the 9th to the 15th of the following month).
- Creation Software: CPC uses a text editor.