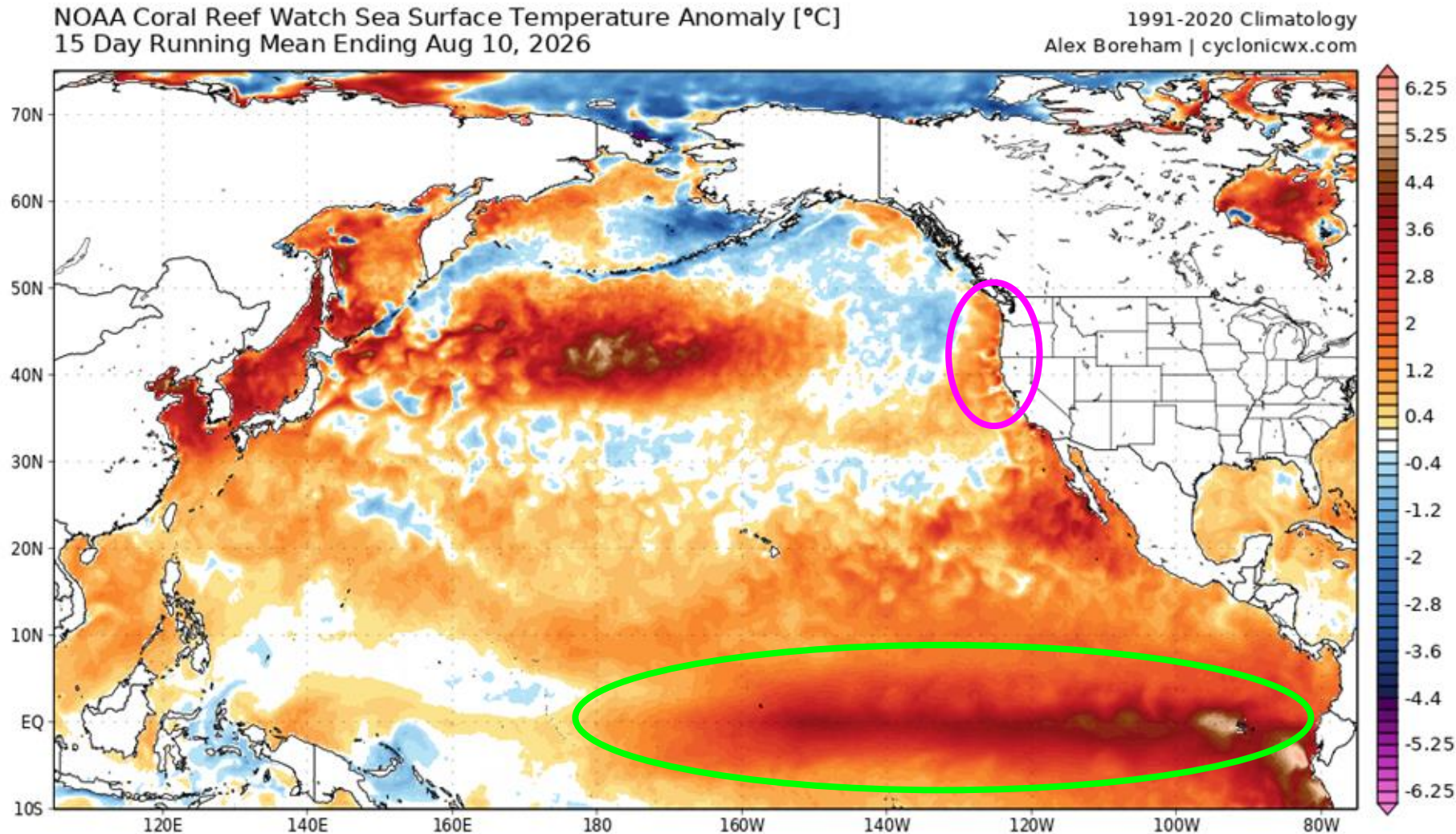


El Niño in the Pacific Northwest

Current Status: El Niño is present and strengthening rapidly

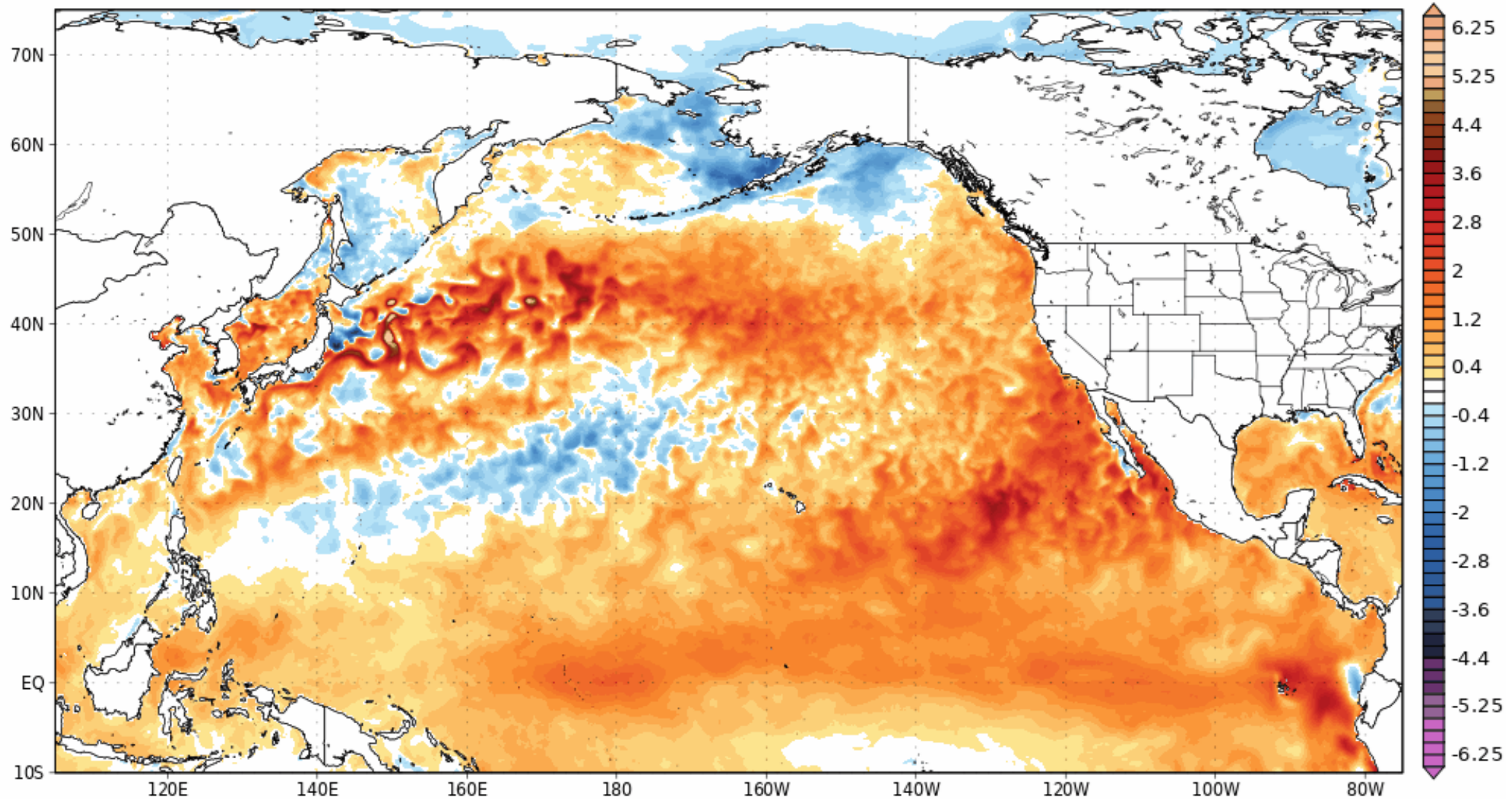


- Very little influence on *terrestrial* conditions in summer.
- “Loads the dice” for warmer and possibly drier winter conditions.

Sea surface temperature anomalies May 15-August 10

NOAA Coral Reef Watch Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly [°C]
15 Day Running Mean Ending May 15, 2026

1991-2020 Climatology
Alex Boreham | cyclonicwx.com

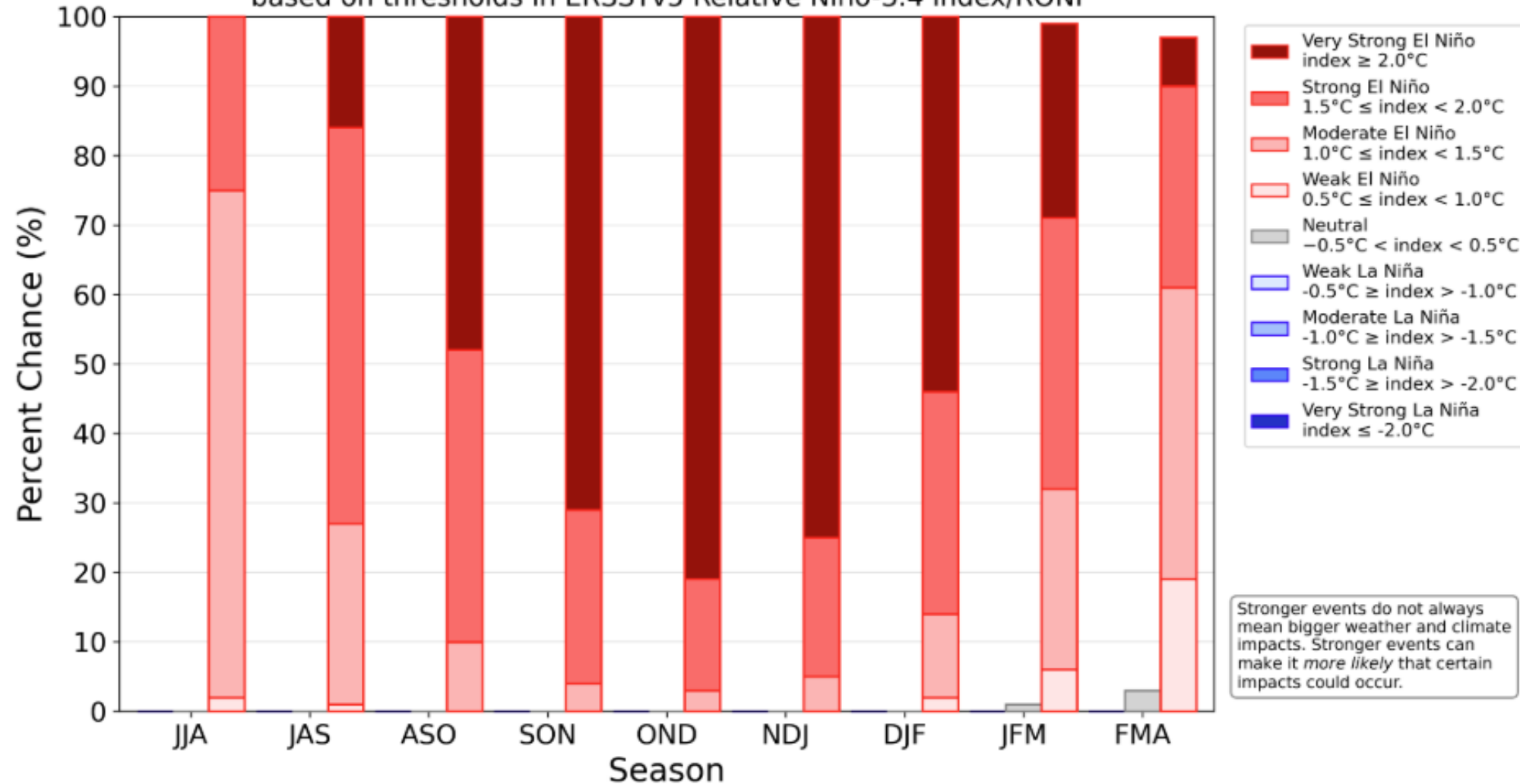


source: <https://cyclonicwx.com/sst/>

Likely to be a very strong El Niño next fall

NOAA CPC ENSO Strength Probabilities (issued July 2026)

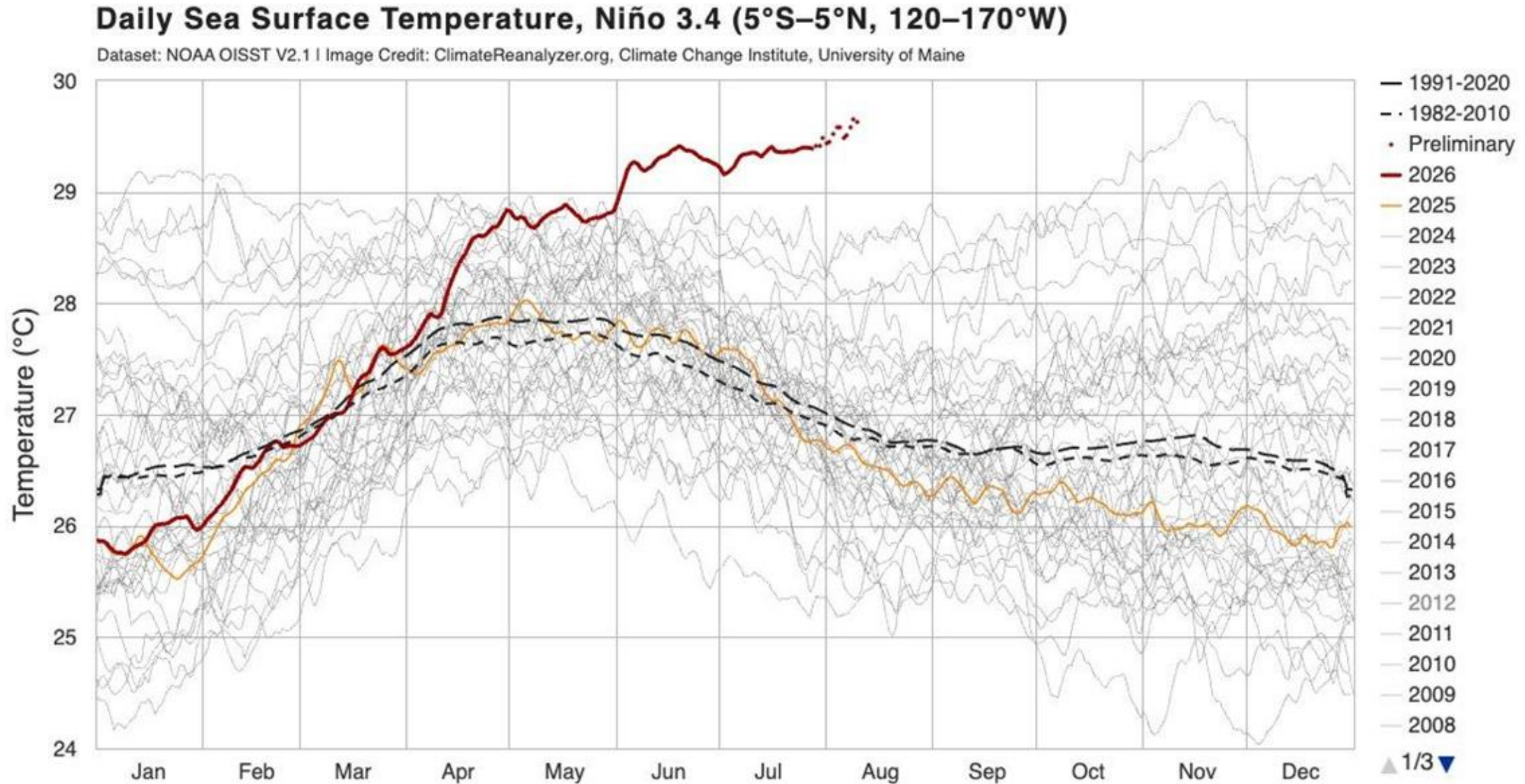
based on thresholds in ERSSTv5 Relative Niño-3.4 index/RONI



A “strong” or “very strong” event is very likely (>95% chance).

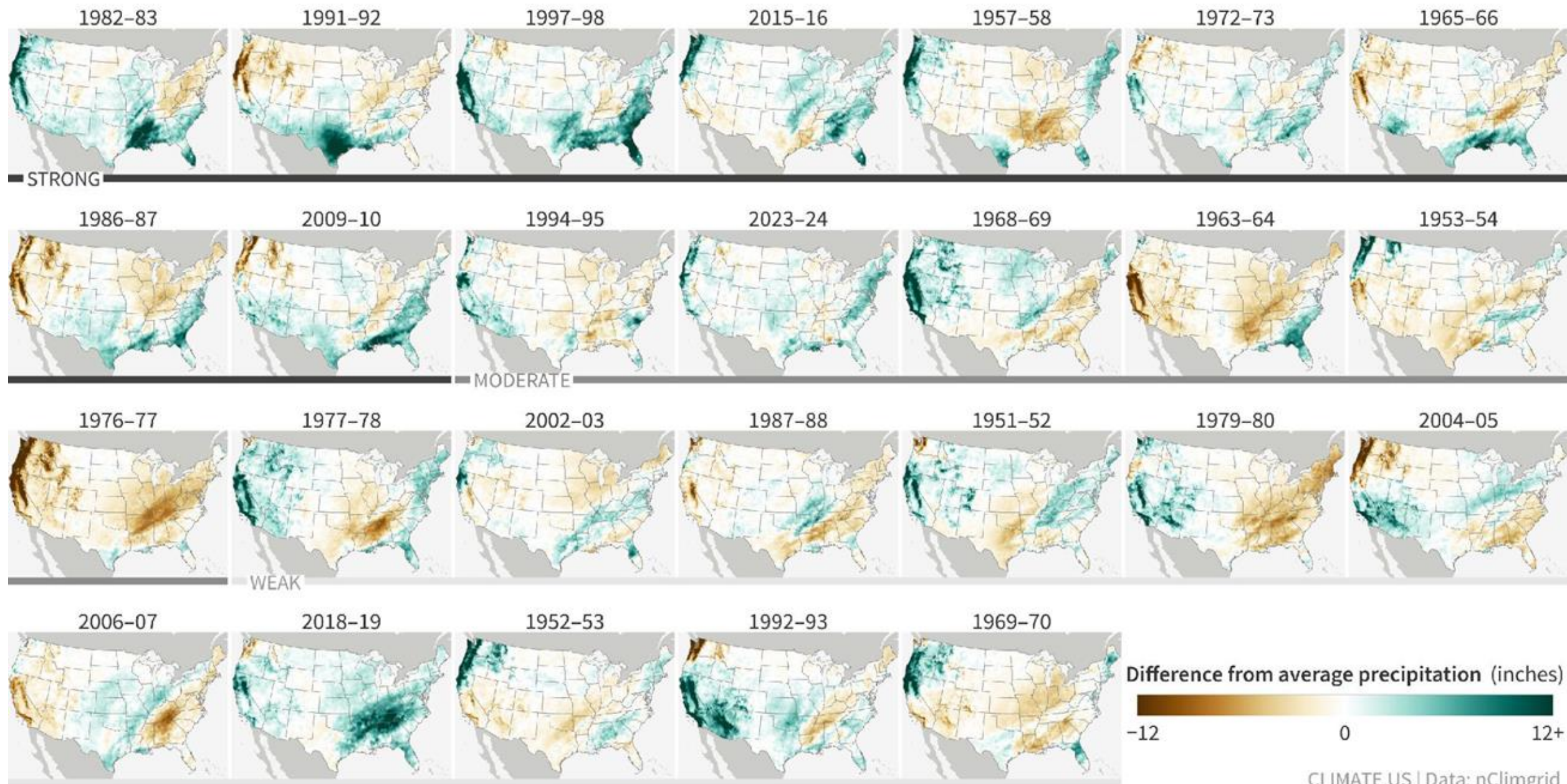
Strength of SSTs, not necessarily of impacts.

We are in uncharted territory

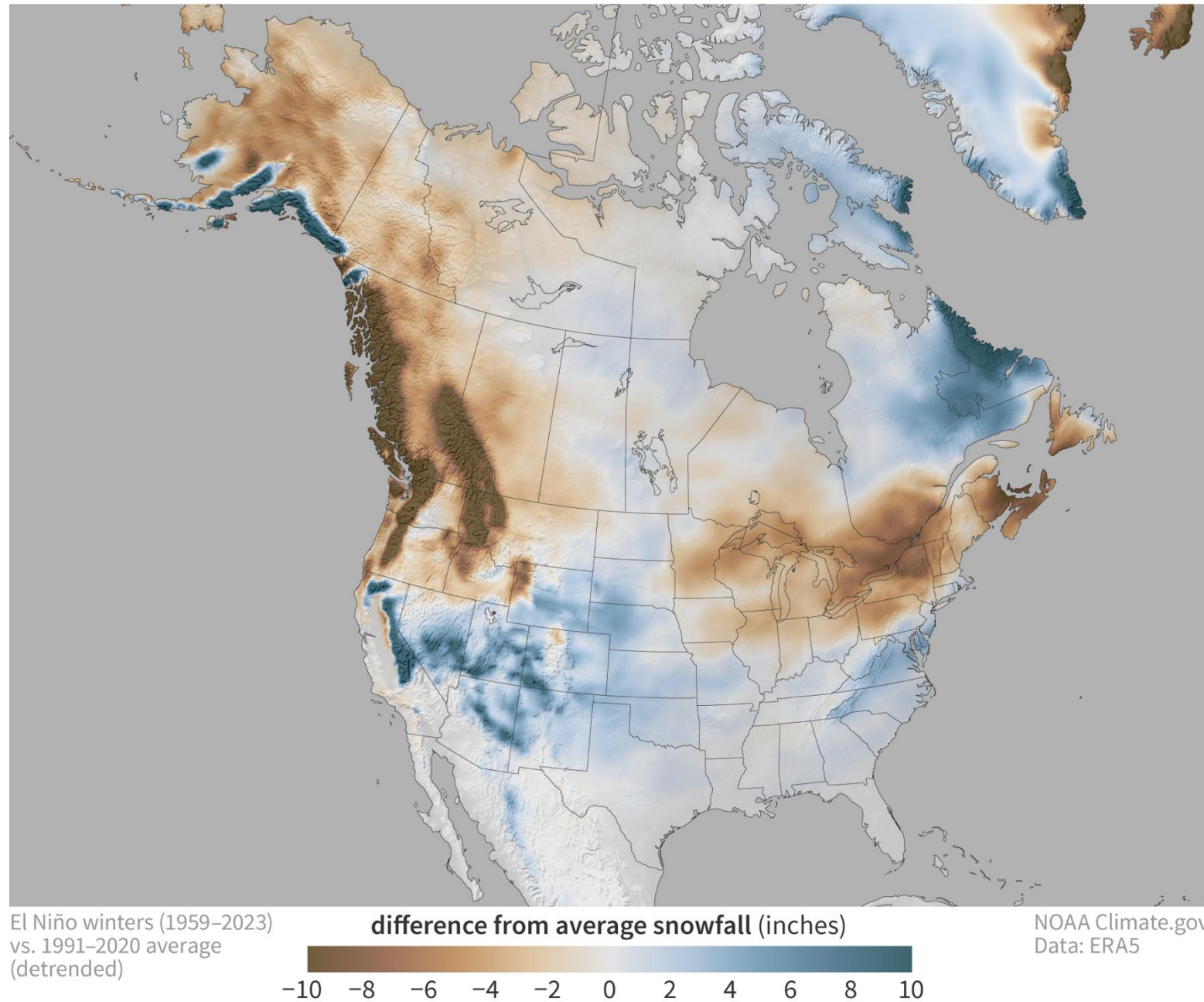


Precipitation during all El Niño winters since 1950, sorted by strength

December–February compared to 1991–2020 average



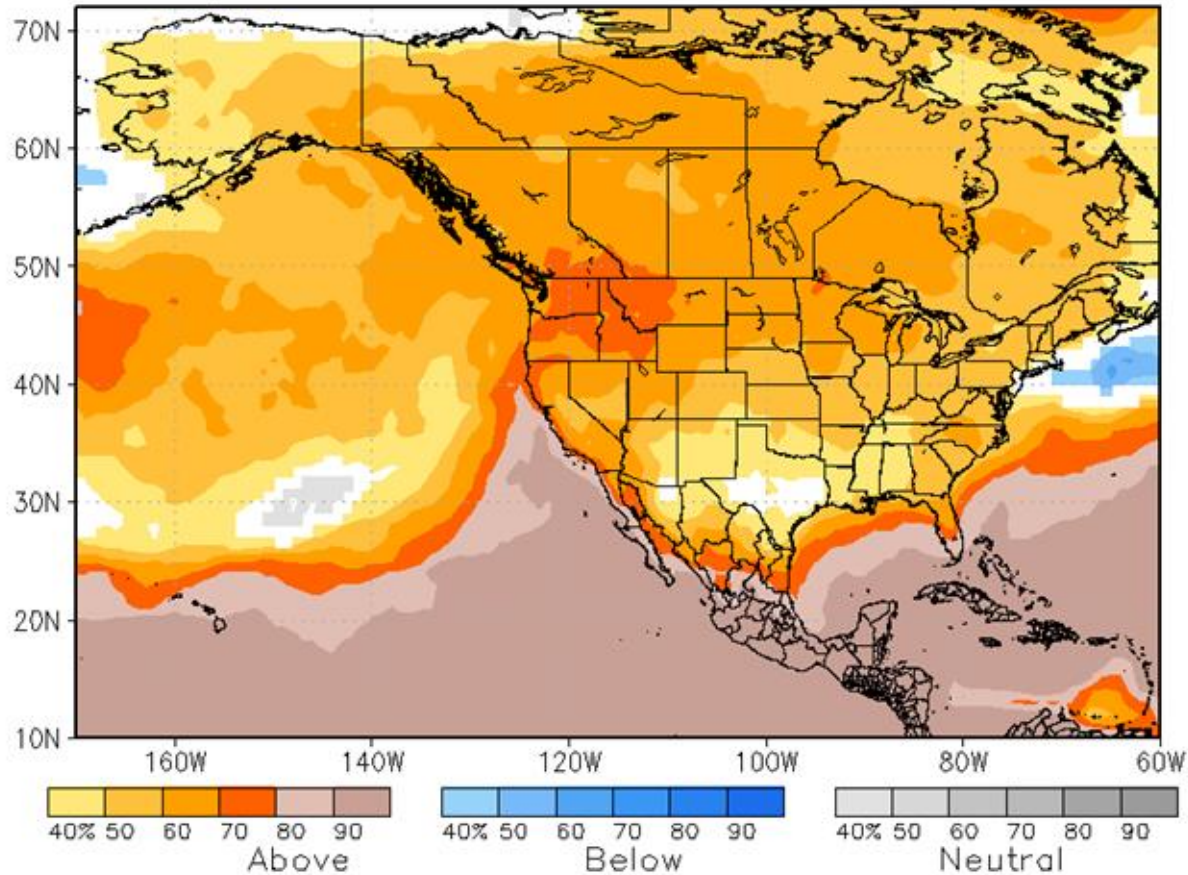
Snowfall during all El Niño winters (Jan–Mar)



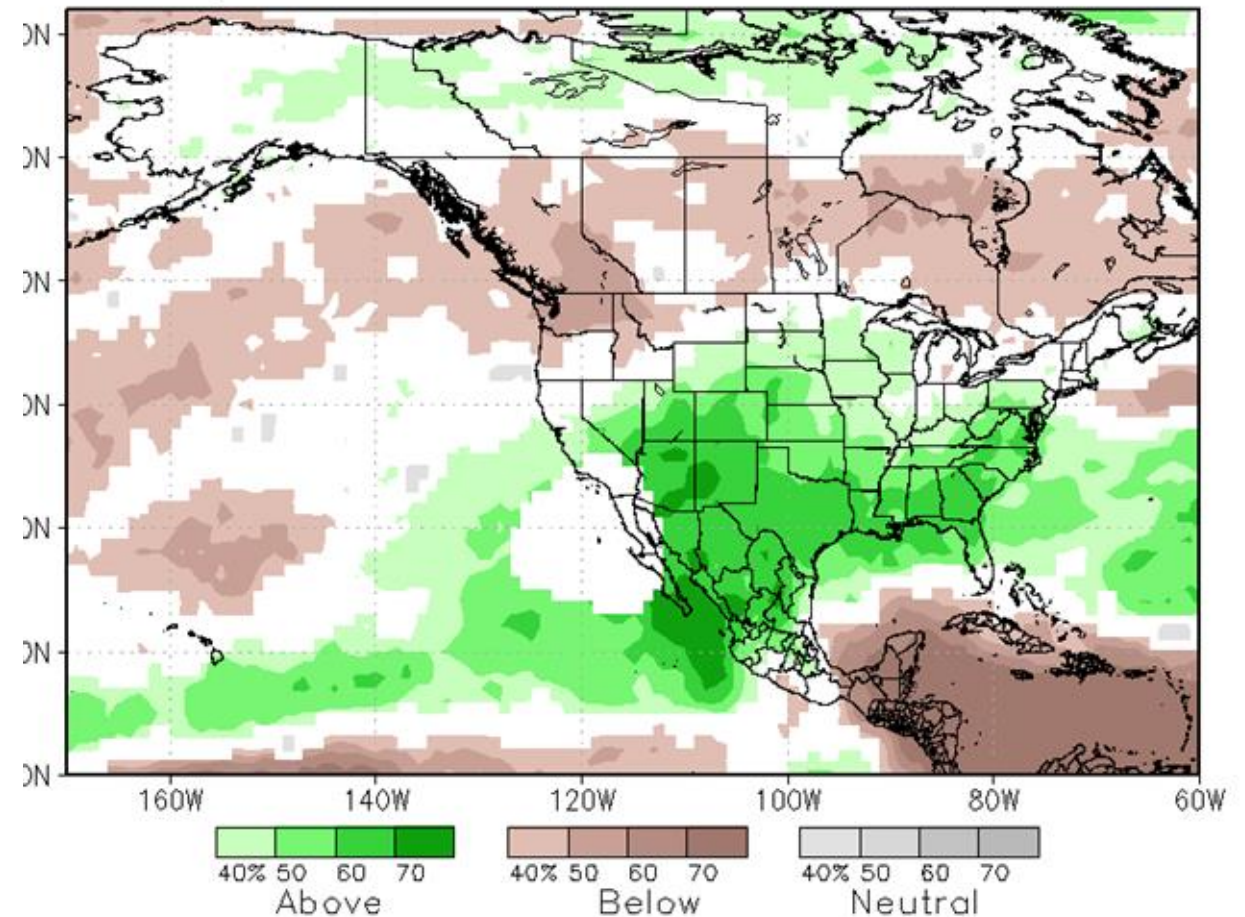
Source: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/snow-pain-snow-gain-how-does-el-nino-affect-snowfall-over-north-america>

National Multi-Model Ensemble: **SON** Temperature & Precipitation

NMME prob fcst TMP2m IC=202608 for lead 1 2026 SON

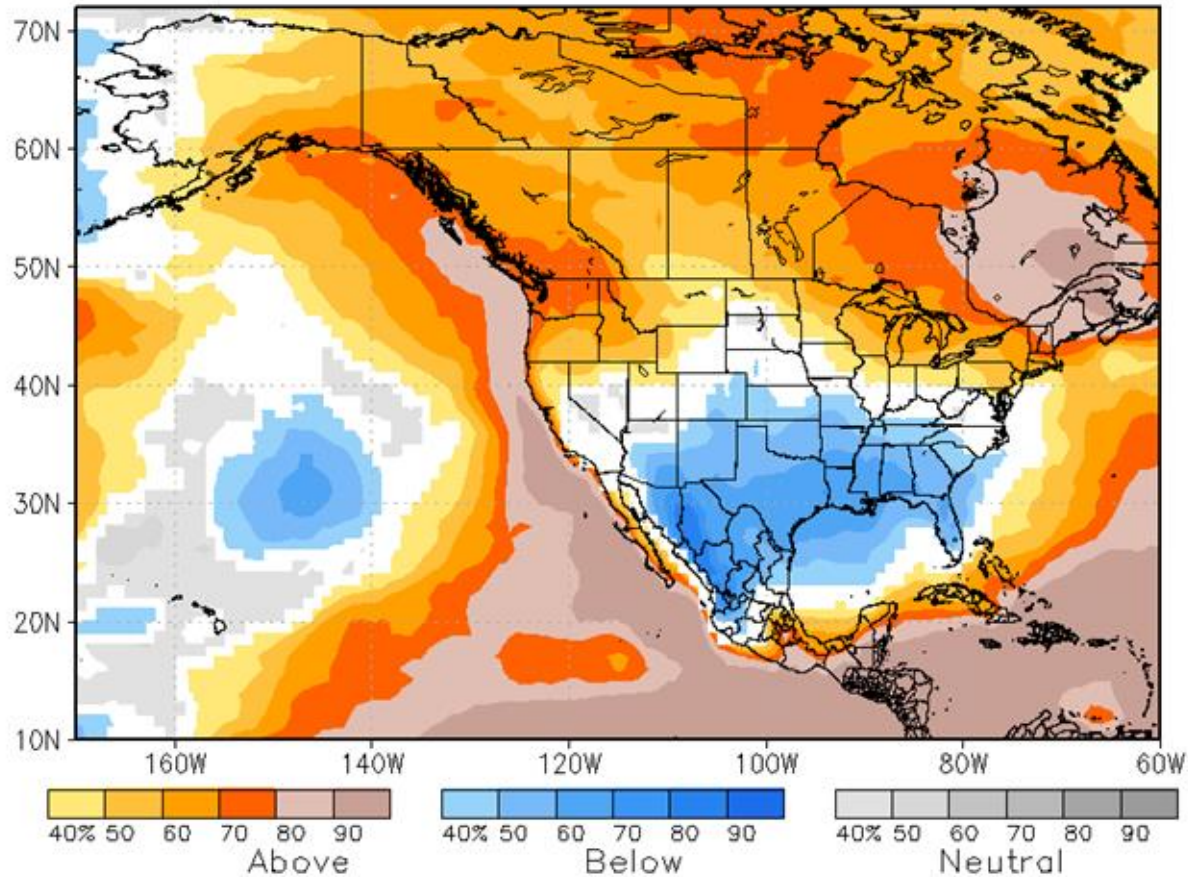


NMME prob fcst Prate IC=202608 for lead 1 2026 SON

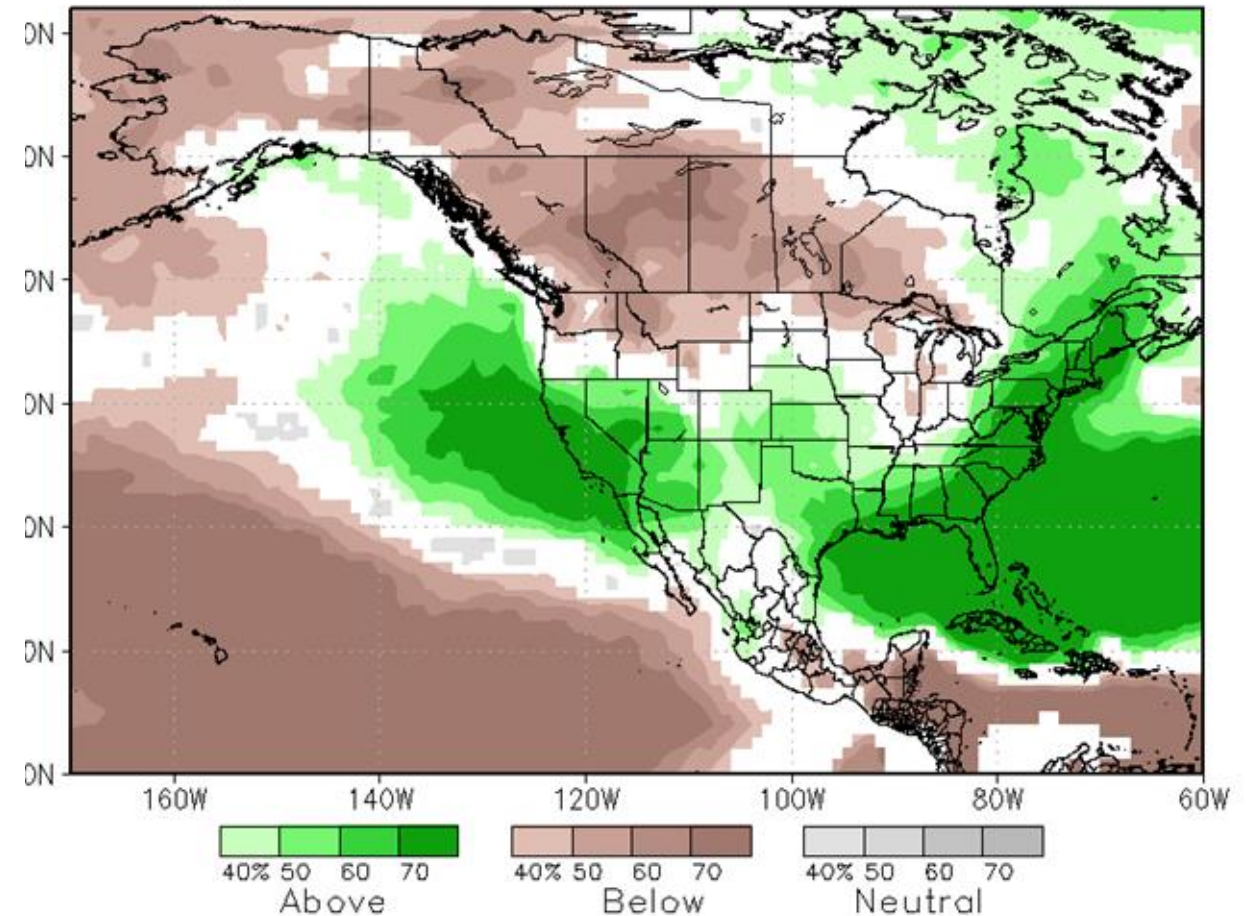


National Multi-Model Ensemble: DJF Temperature & Precipitation

NMME prob fcst TMP2m IC=202608 for lead 4 2026 DJF

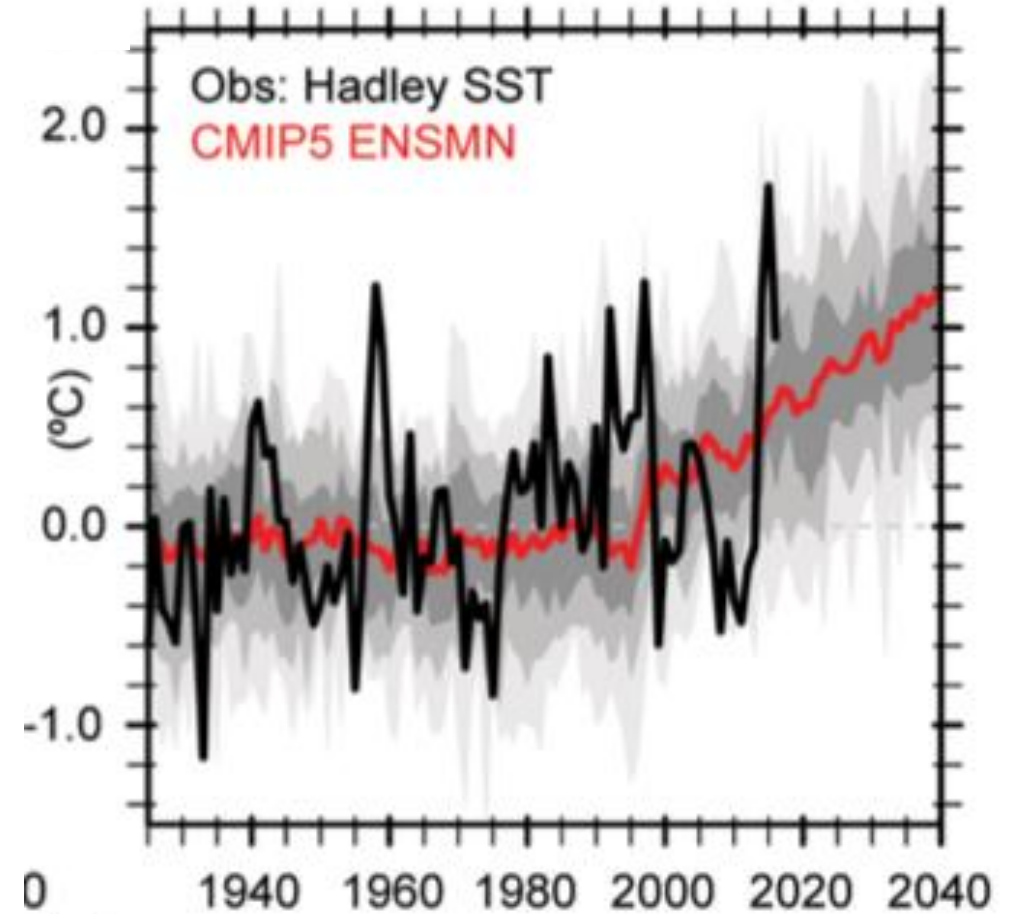
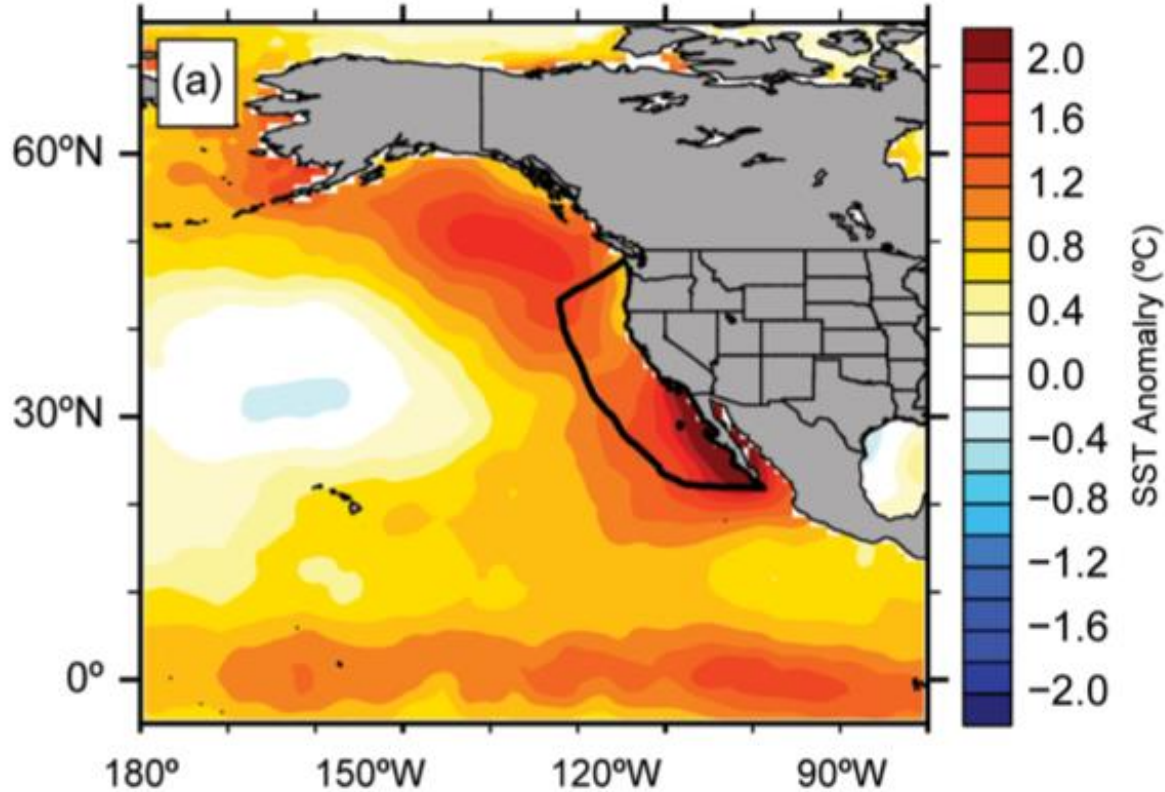


NMME prob fcst Prate IC=202608 for lead 4 2026 DJF

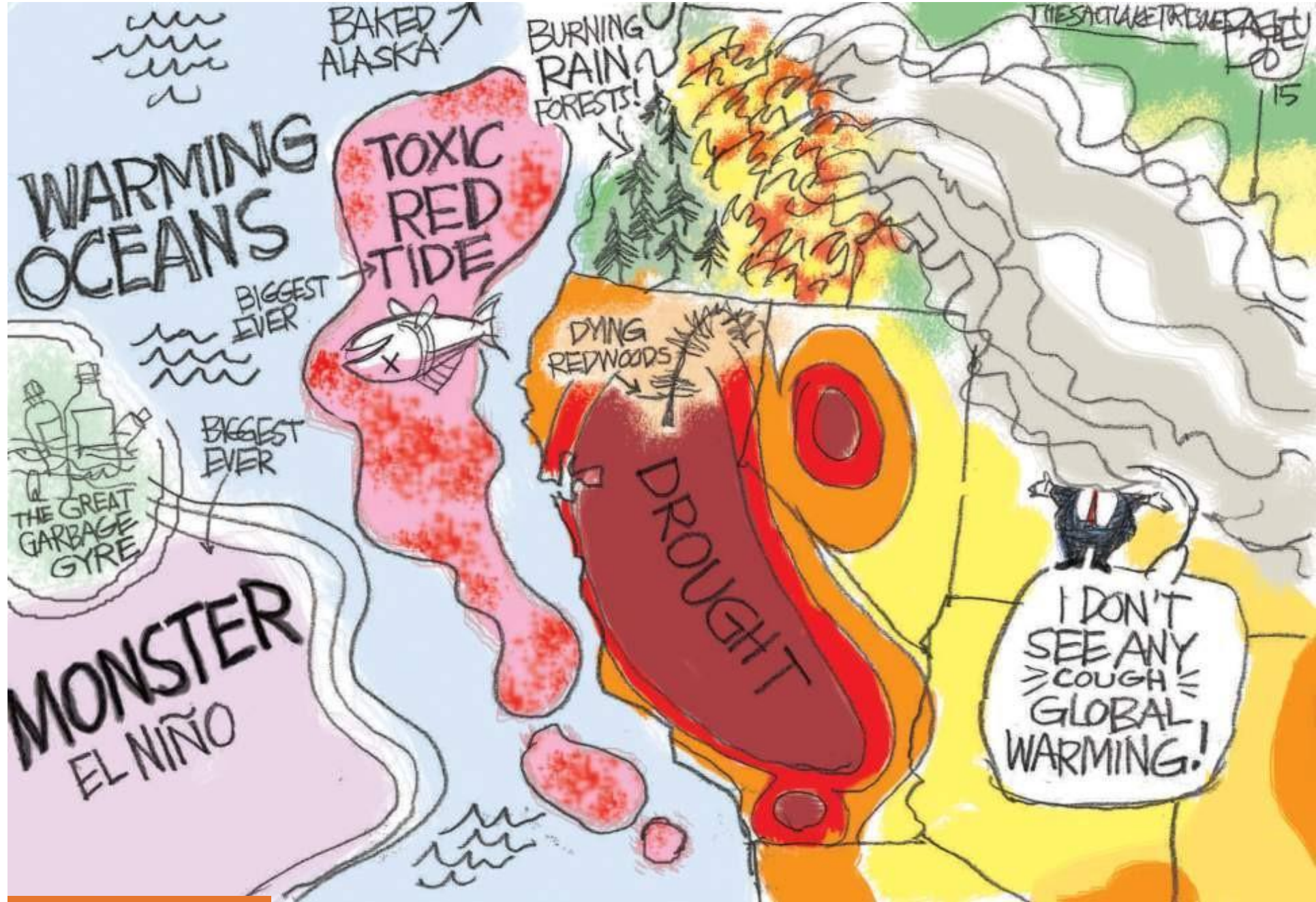


What about Marine Heat Waves??

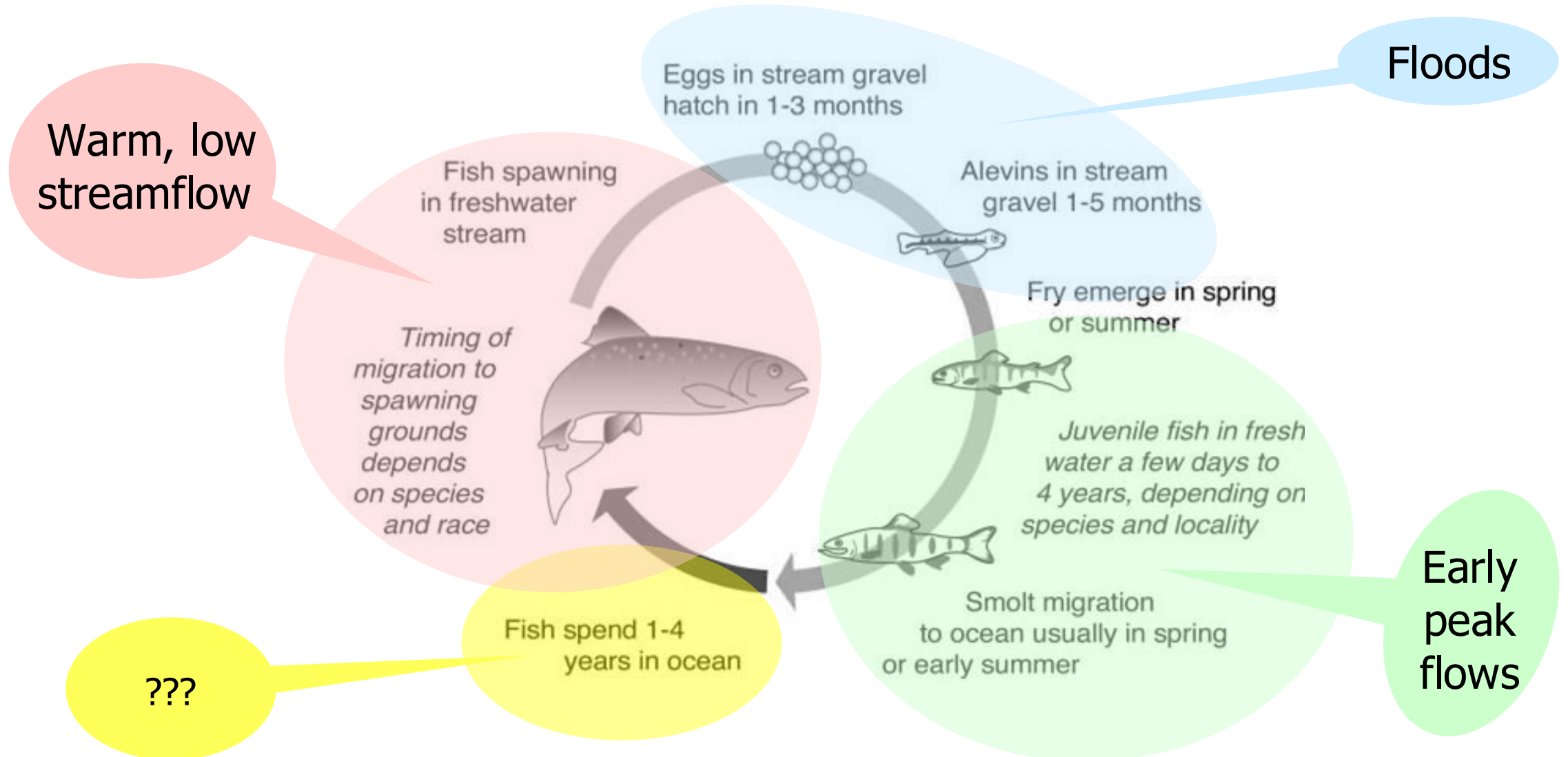
2014-16 SST Anomaly



The 2015 “marine heat wave”, AKA the Blob, was so extreme in large part due to the background warming trend.



Salmon Impacted Across Full Life-Cycle



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Image Credit: Kendra Kaiser, Boise State University