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El Niño Still Hanging Around



The Climate Prediction Center in the U.S. recently raised its forecast for the chance of El Niño conditions during the Northern Hemisphere summer to 70 percent, up from a 60 percent prediction last month.

Noting that there is an approximately 70 percent chance that El Niño will continue through the Northern Hemisphere summer of 2015, and a greater than 60 percent chance it will last through autumn, the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center kept open the hopes that above-average rainfall might be in store for the drought-stricken West.

This latest forecast was 10 percentage points above the center's last prediction.

“By the end of March 2015, weak El Niño conditions were reflected by above-average sea surface temperatures across the equatorial Pacific,” stated the report.

This along with many other measurements point to a traditional El Niño event though the report adds that the ability to accurately forecast the conditions “tends to be lower during the Northern Hemisphere spring.”

“At this time, there is also considerable uncertainty as to how strong this event may become,” concludes the report.

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