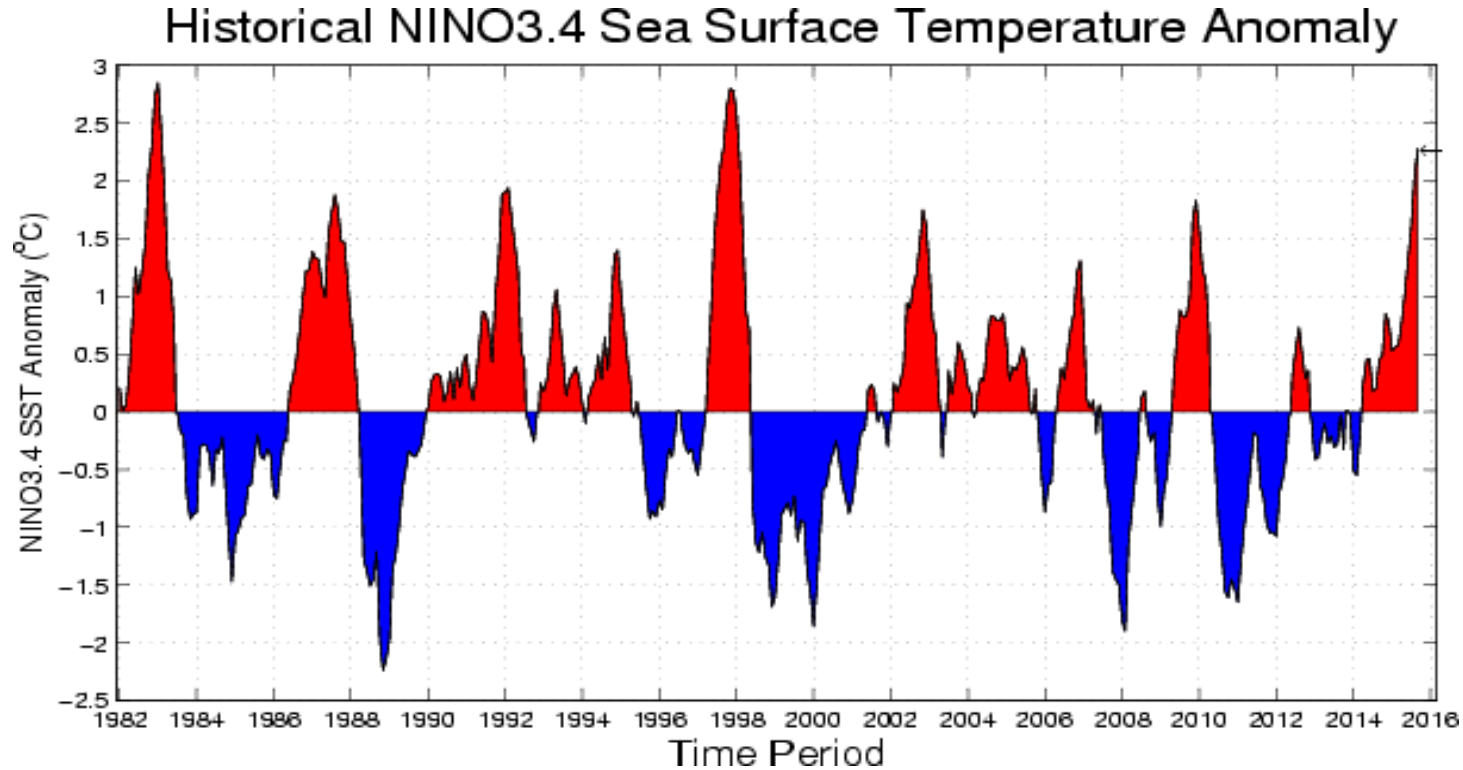


What is El Niño?

El Niño is simply an abnormal warming of the sea surface temperature in the eastern tropical Pacific



- ❑ El Niño events occur irregularly but frequently.
- ❑ Their magnitude depends on how warm Pacific ocean waters get.
- ❑ The last two “**very strong**” events were 82-83 and 97-98.
- ❑ 2015/16 El Niño projected to be at the record levels of 1997/98.

El Niño Timeline for Southern Africa 2015-2016

2015							2016					
May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May

Coverage of Current Seasonal Forecasts



Growing Season



El Niño Evolution (Started March 2015)



Timing of Growing Seasons and El Niño development

Timing of the southern African growing season along with the temporal coverage of seasonal forecasts. The growing season in 2015/16 will develop fully under one of the **strongest events of the past 35 years**.

Cropping conditions at the end of the cropping season in 2003 and 2015

