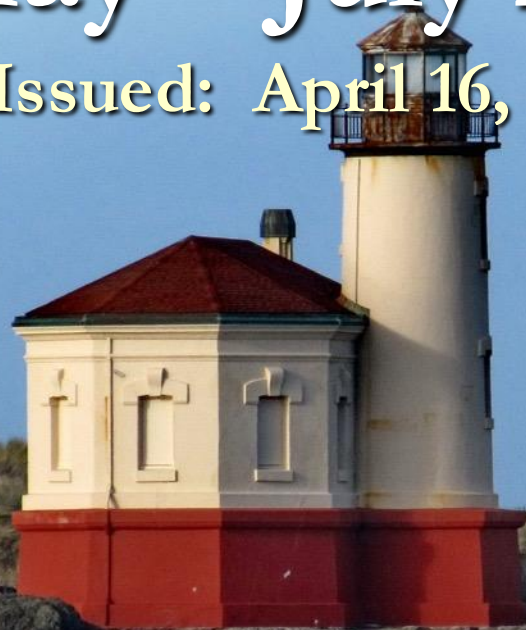


Seasonal Climate Forecast

May – July 2026

Issued: April 16, 2026



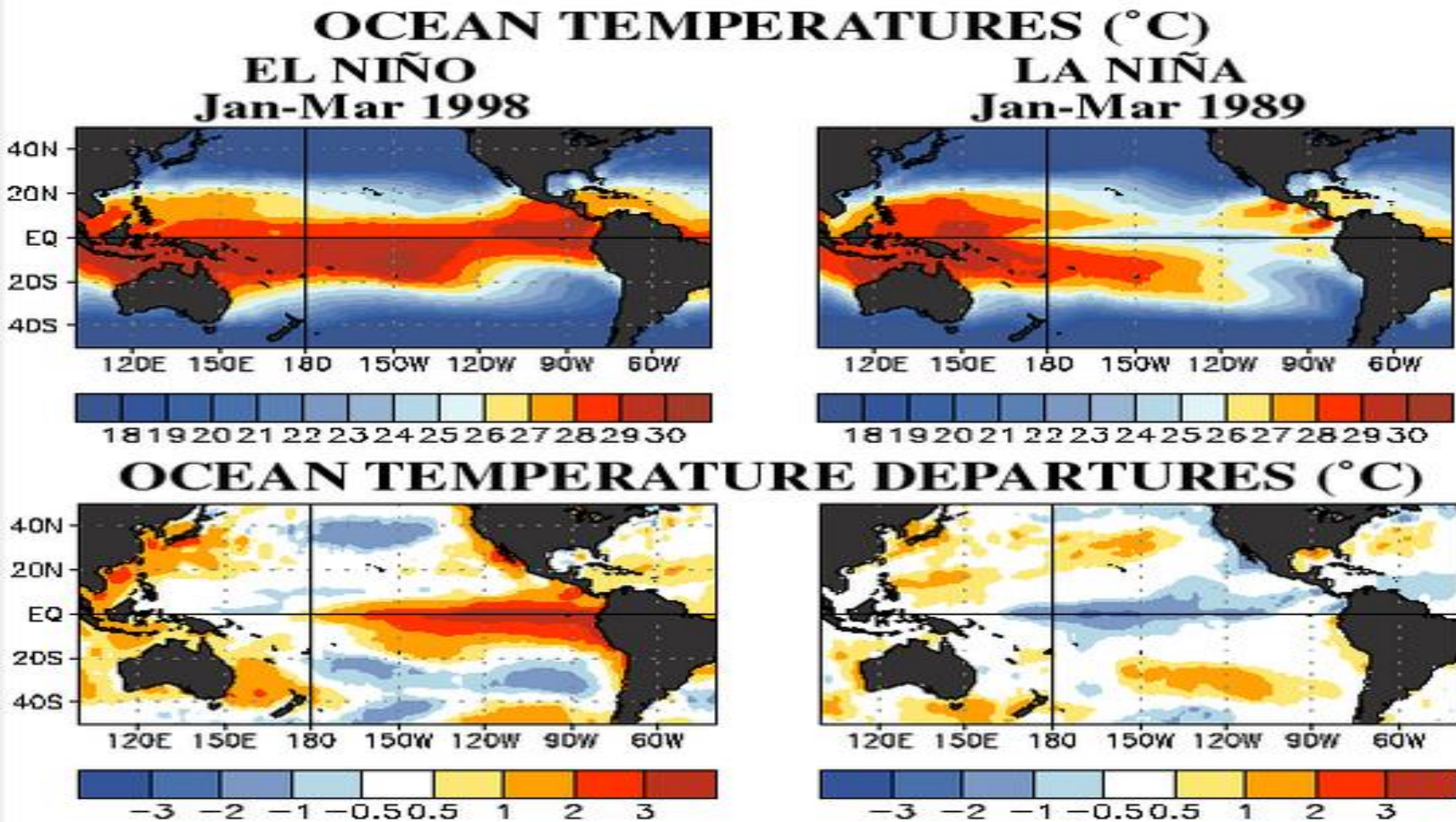
Contact: ODF Lead Meteorologist Pete Parsons
503-945-7448 or peter.qj.parsons@odf.oregon.gov

ODA Team: Andy Zimmerman; Jenn Ambrose; Laura Passage; Weston Hustace
ODF Team: Julie Vondrachek; Kristin Cody; Sherri Pugh; Gary Votaw

Reeves-Cress

El Niño vs La Niña

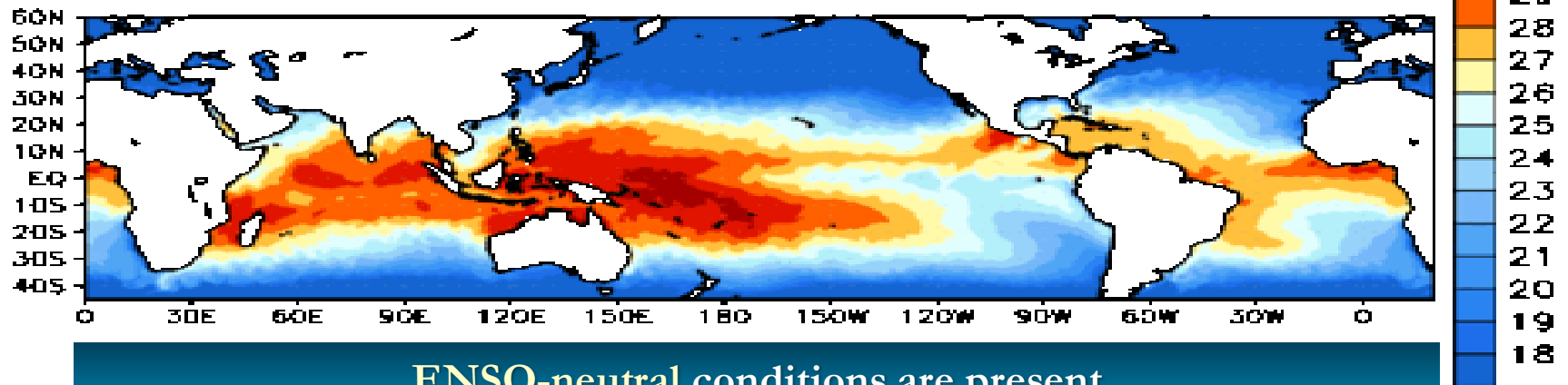
(SST Patterns in the Tropical Pacific Ocean)



Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs)

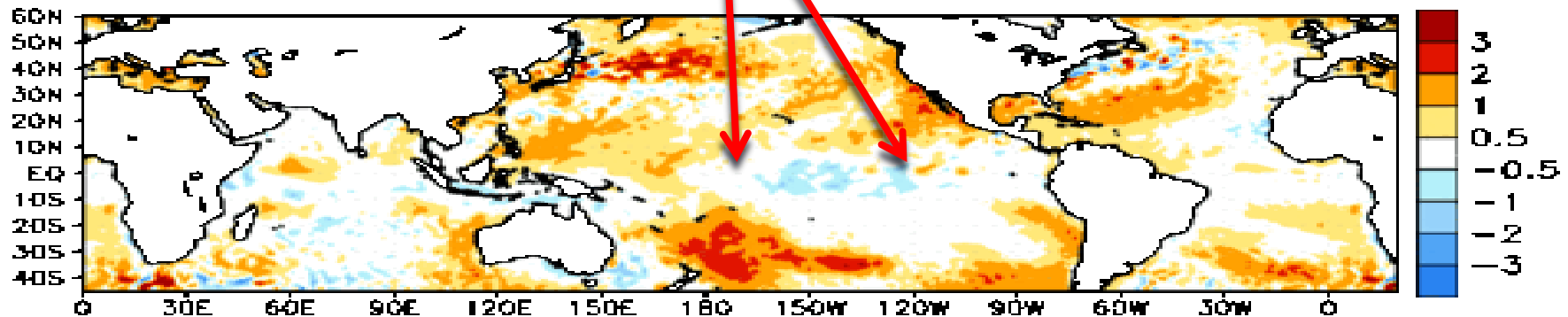
Animated (PowerPoint only) SSTs (top) / Anomalies (bottom)

Week centered on 21 JAN 2026
SST ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)



ENSO-neutral conditions are present

Anomalies ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)



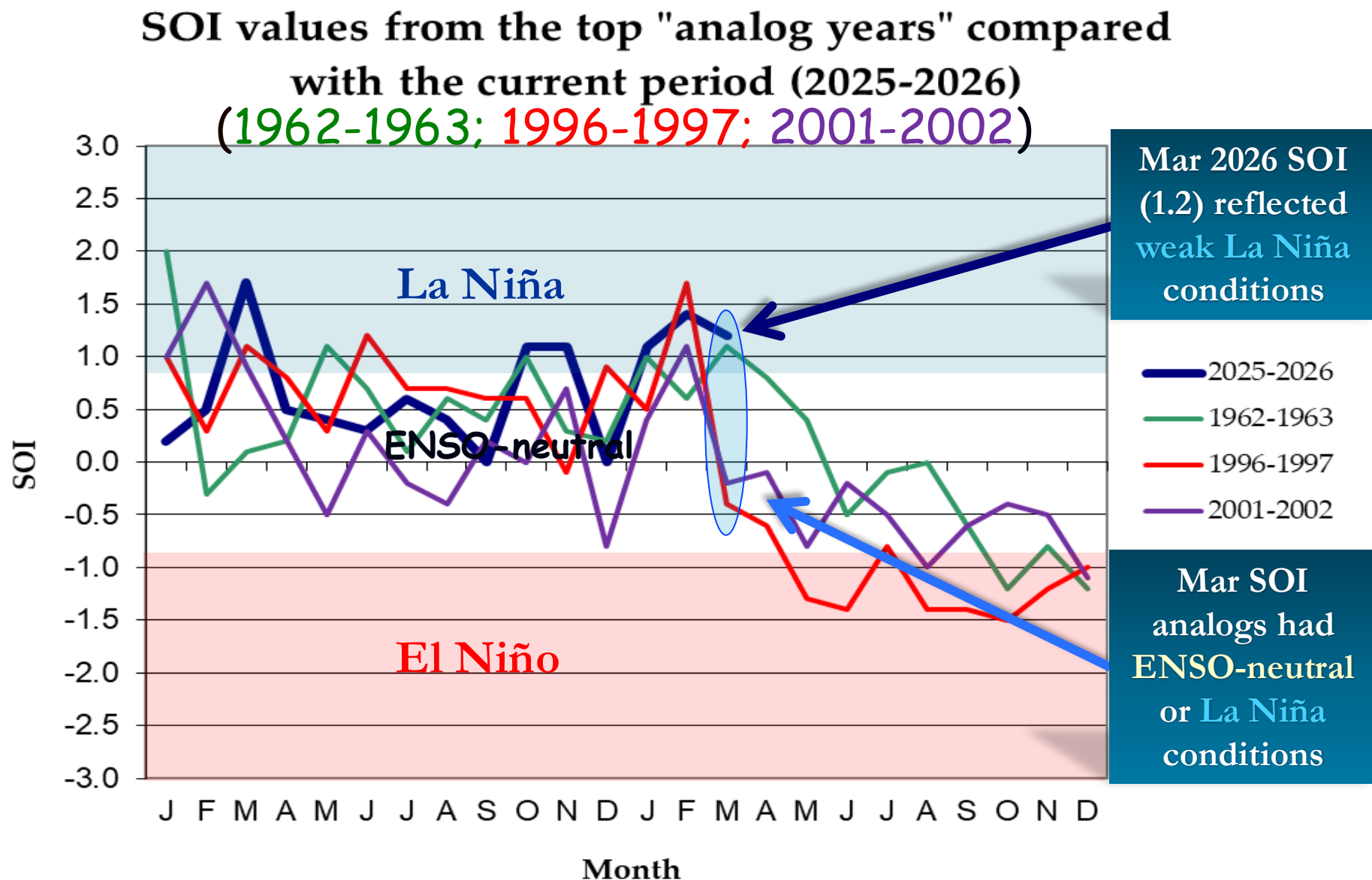
El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

Current Status and Forecast

- There were multiple changes in analog years this month. 1963 remained, but 1968 & 2018 were replaced by 1997 & 2002.
- The Jan. – Mar. 2026 Oceanic Niño Index (ONI) rose (warmed) to -0.2°C , marking a transition from **La Niña** to ENSO-neutral conditions.
- NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) expects SSTs in the central Tropical Pacific to continue warming, with a transition to **El Niño** likely during the May – July 2026 period and lasting through year's end.

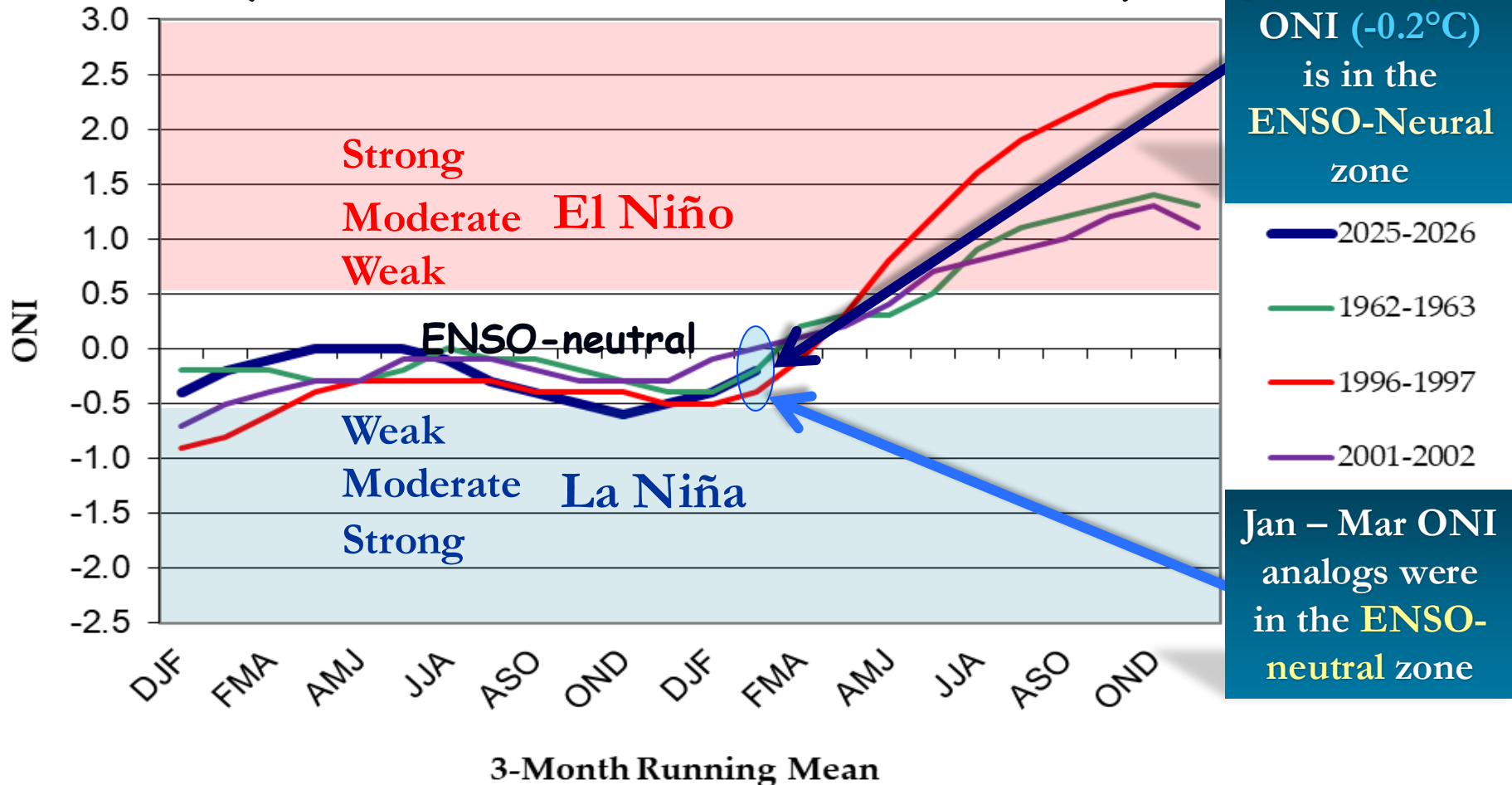
Note: This “Seasonal Climate Forecast” does not consider NOAA’s ENSO forecast. It uses only historical and current ENSO conditions to find “analog years” that most-closely match the recent evolution of the ENSO state.

Southern Oscillation Index (SOI)



Oceanic Niño Index (ONI)

ONI values from the top "analog years"
compared with the current period (2025-2026)
(1962-1963; 1996-1997; 2001-2002)

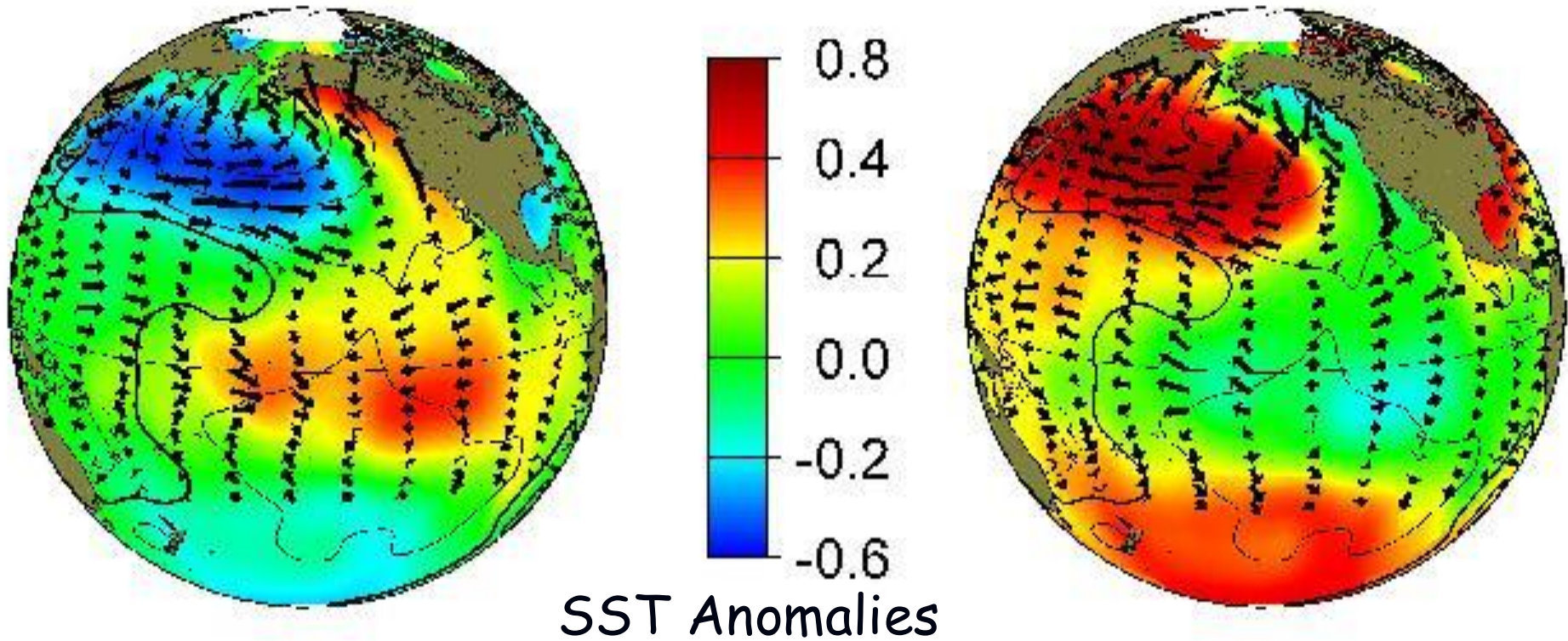


The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)

(Reflects SST “Phase” in the North Pacific Ocean)

Positive (Warm)
“Phase”

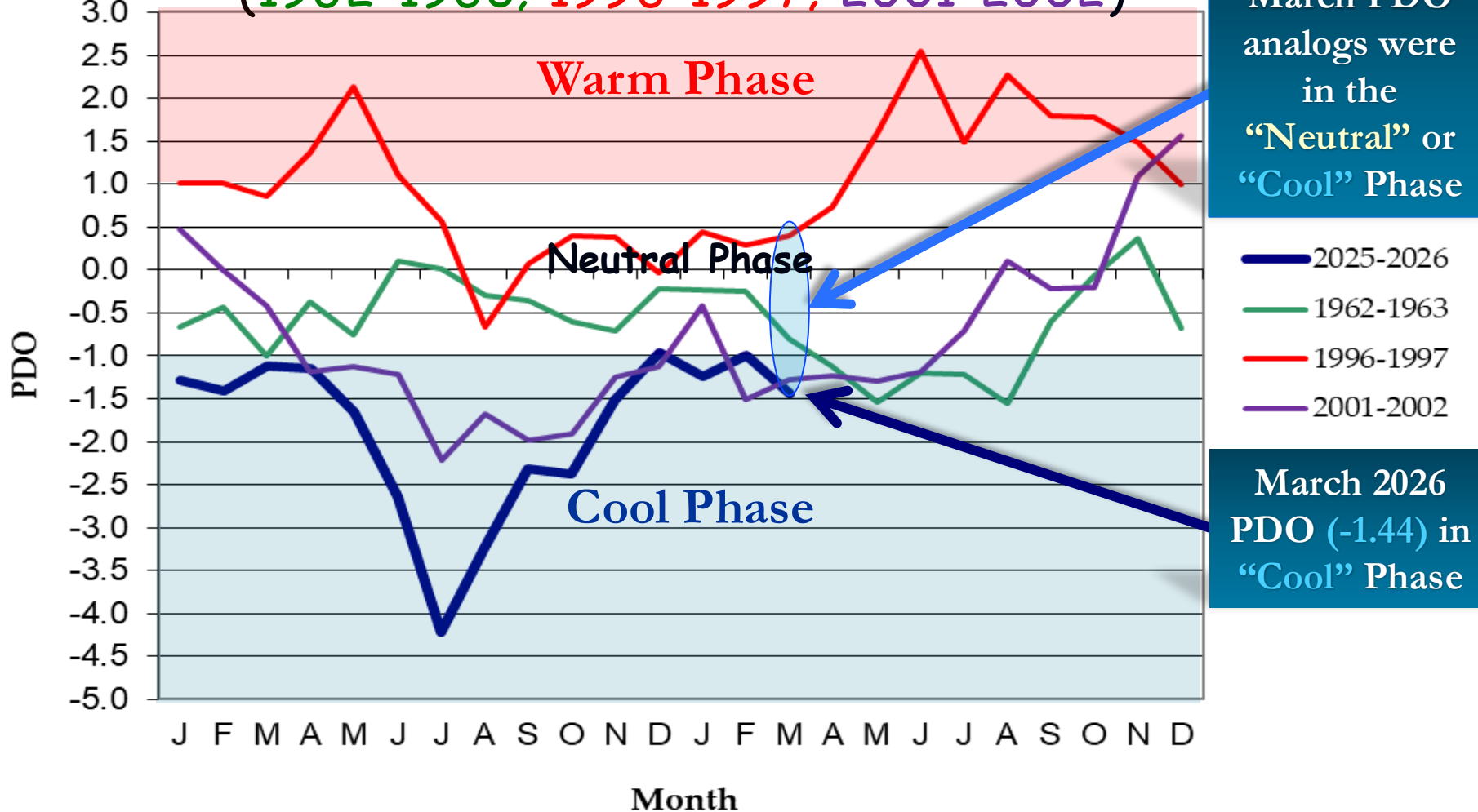
Negative (Cool)
“Phase”



North Pacific Ocean

(Poleward of 20°N Latitude)

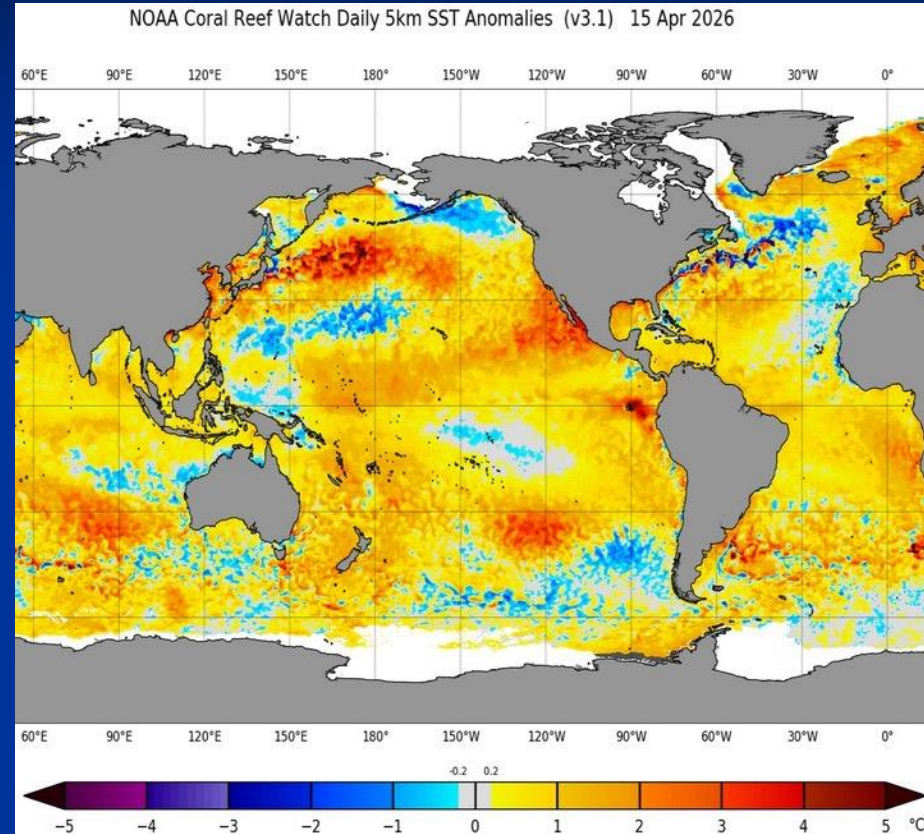
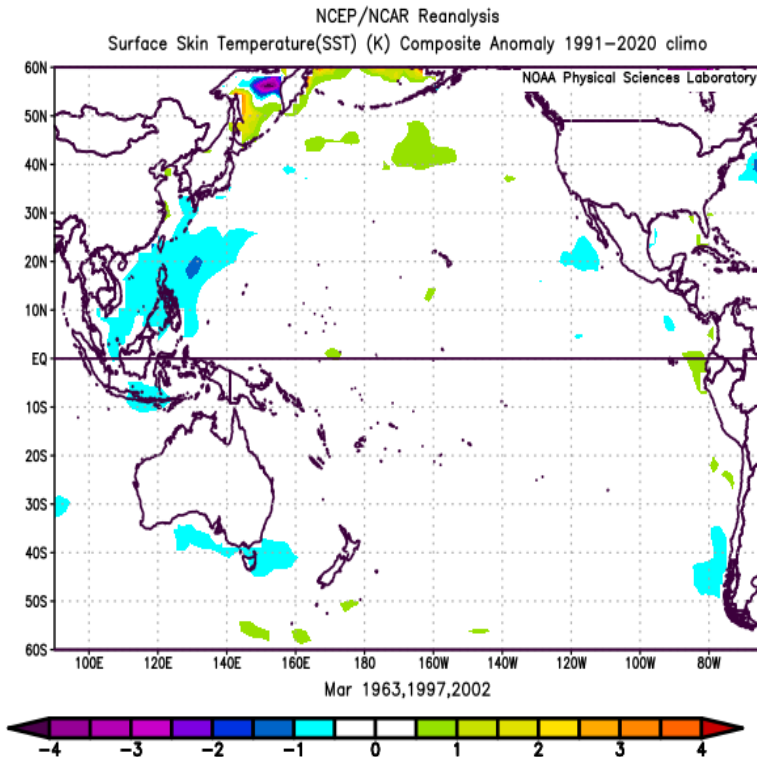
PDO values from the top "analog years" compared
with the current period (2025-2026)
(1962-1963; 1996-1997; 2001-2002)



SST Anomalies Comparison

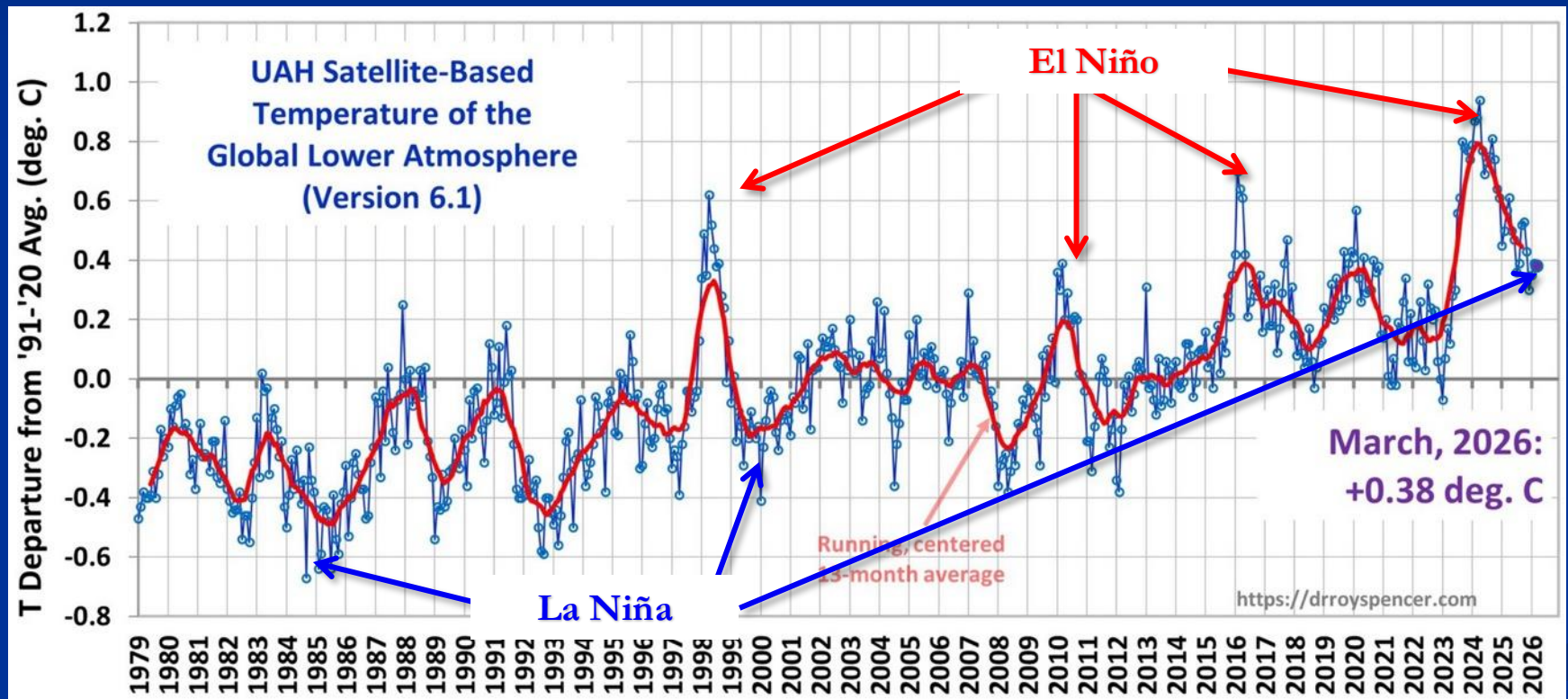
March Analogs

April 14, 2026



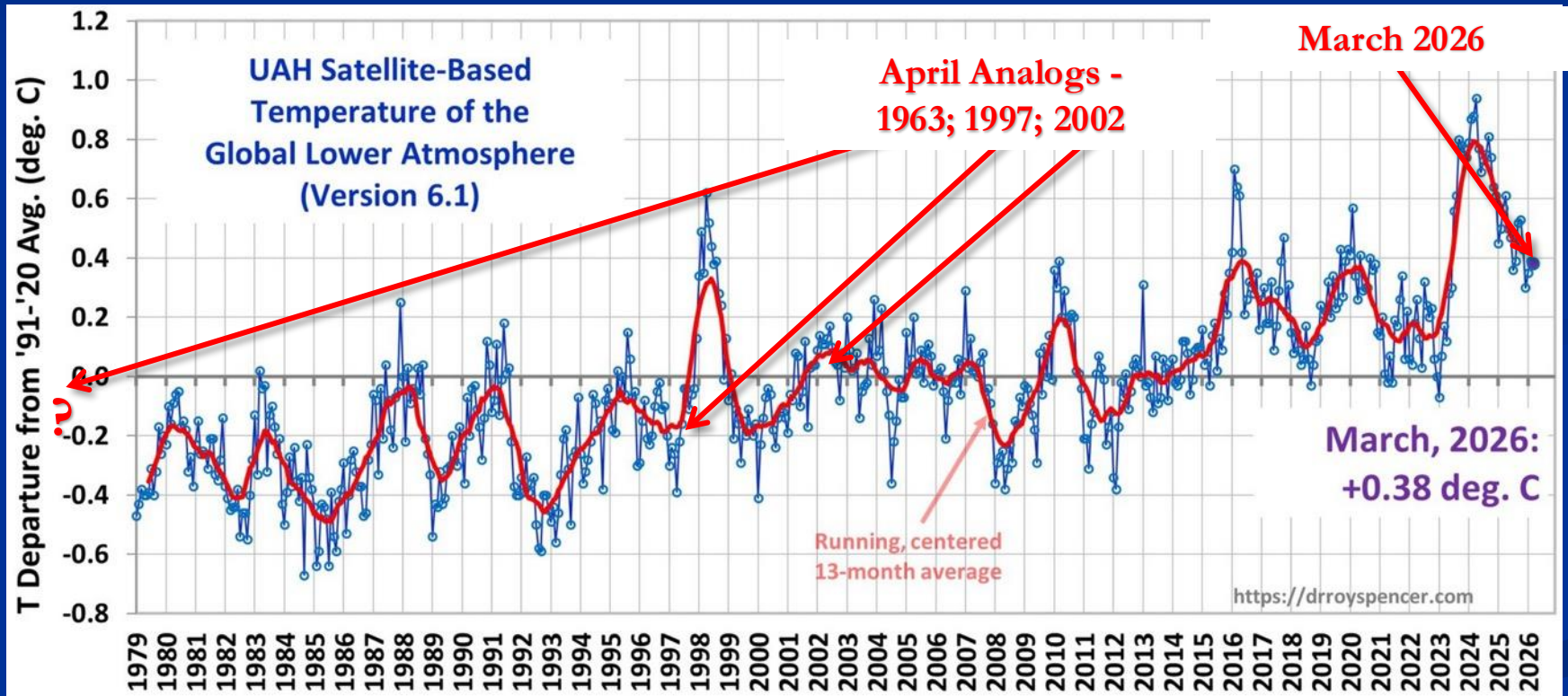
- The analog composite of March SST anomalies (left) and the recent SST anomaly pattern (right) both reflect ENSO-neutral conditions.
- The March 2026 SST anomaly map, normally obtained from NOAA's Physical Sciences Laboratory (PSL) is not currently available.

The ENSO Signal is Reflected in Global Temperatures



Courtesy: <http://www.drroyspencer.com/latest-global-temperatures/>

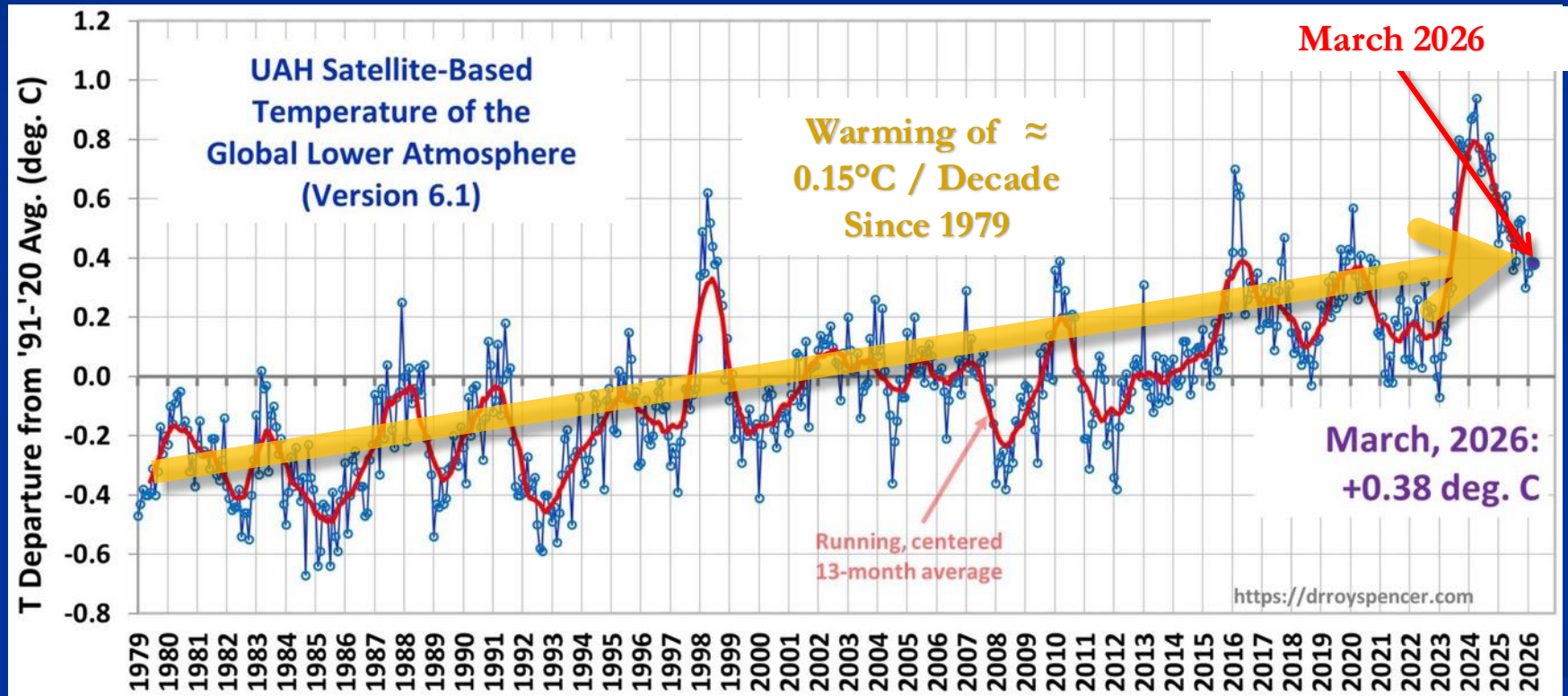
How Do **Analog Years** Align With Global Temperature Fluctuations?



Courtesy: <http://www.drroyspencer.com/latest-global-temperatures/>

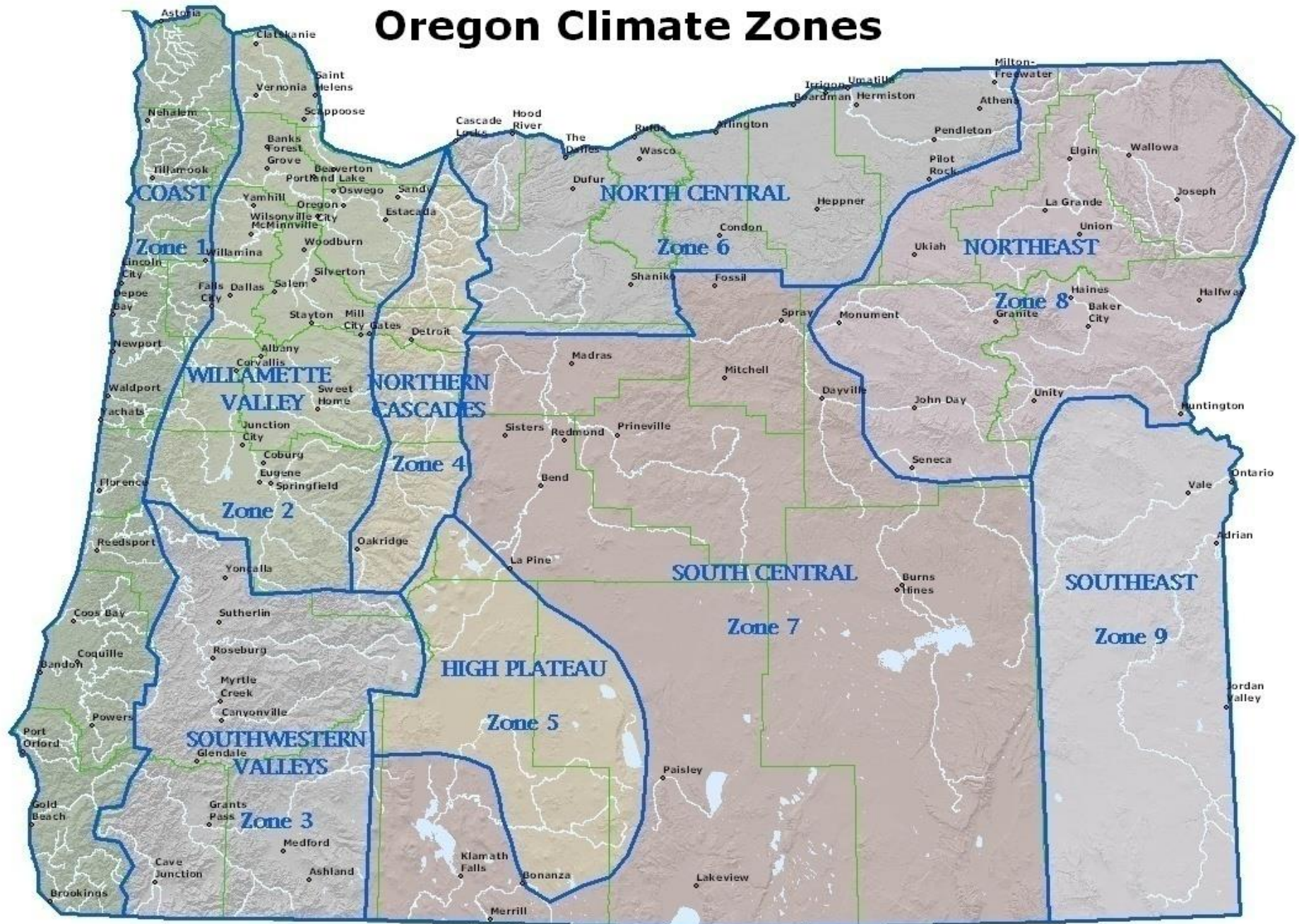
Global Temperature Changes

Increase Error in Analog Forecasts!



Courtesy: <http://www.drroyspencer.com/latest-global-temperatures/>

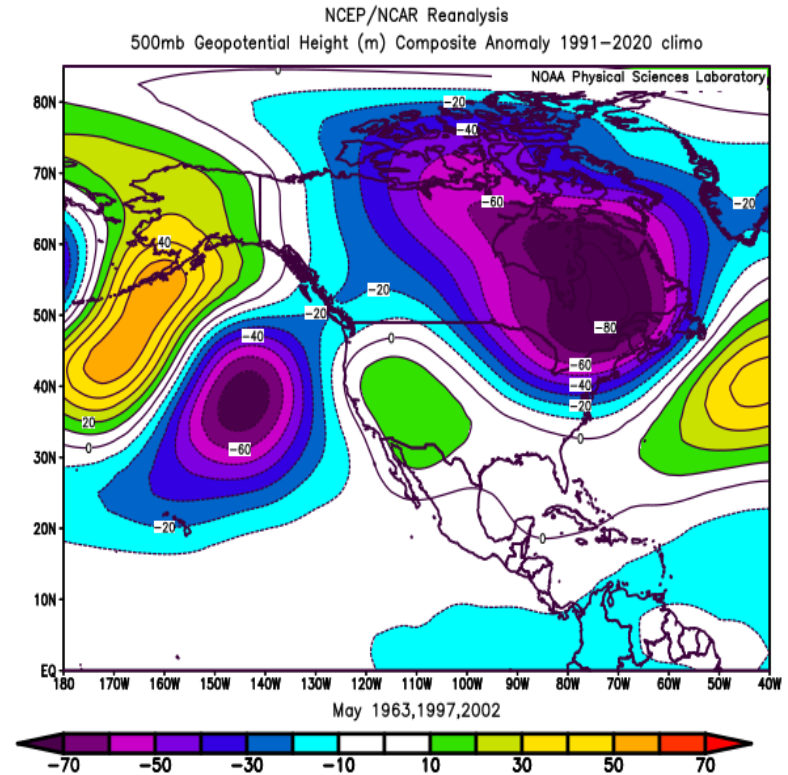
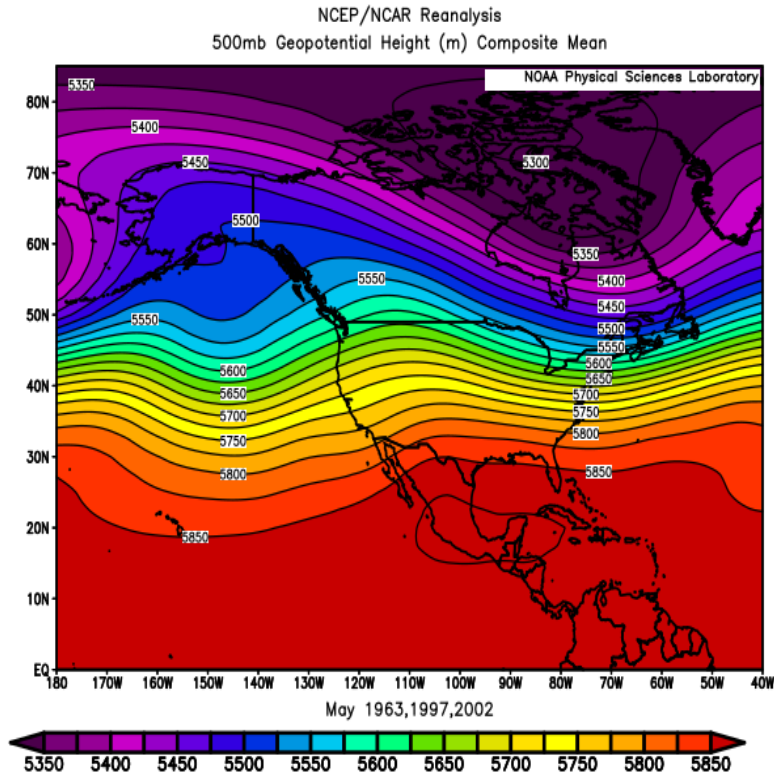
Oregon Climate Zones



May 2026 Forecast

Mean Upper-Air Pattern

Upper-Air Anomalies

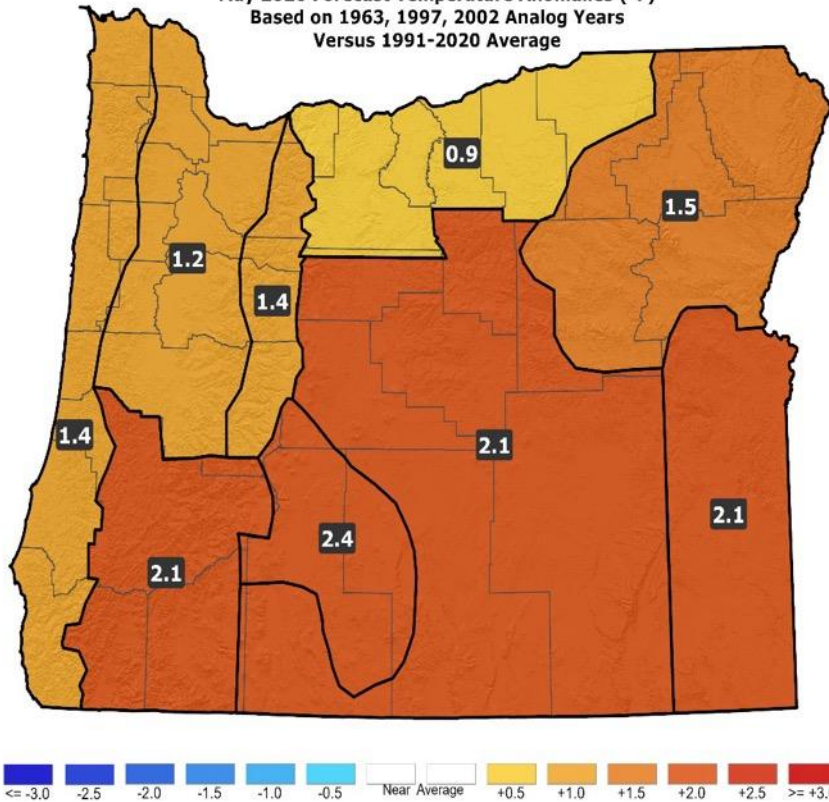


- 1963 & 2002 had slightly more troughing than normal, but 1997 had anomalous ridging centered over the SW US extending over Oregon.
- Slightly enhanced SW-W flow aloft over Oregon favors conditions not deviating far from average.

May 2026 Forecast

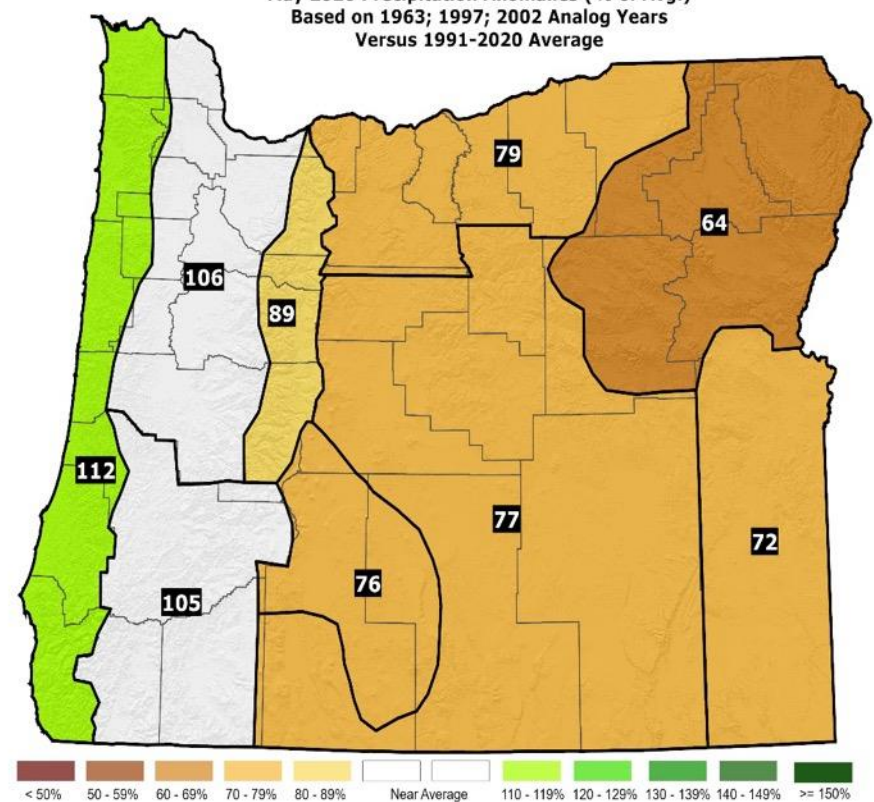
Temperatures

May 2026 Forecast Temperature Anomalies ($^{\circ}\text{F}$)
Based on 1963, 1997, 2002 Analog Years
Versus 1991-2020 Average



Precipitation

May 2026 Forecast Precipitation Anomalies (% of Avg.)
Based on 1963, 1997, 2002 Analog Years
Versus 1991-2020 Average

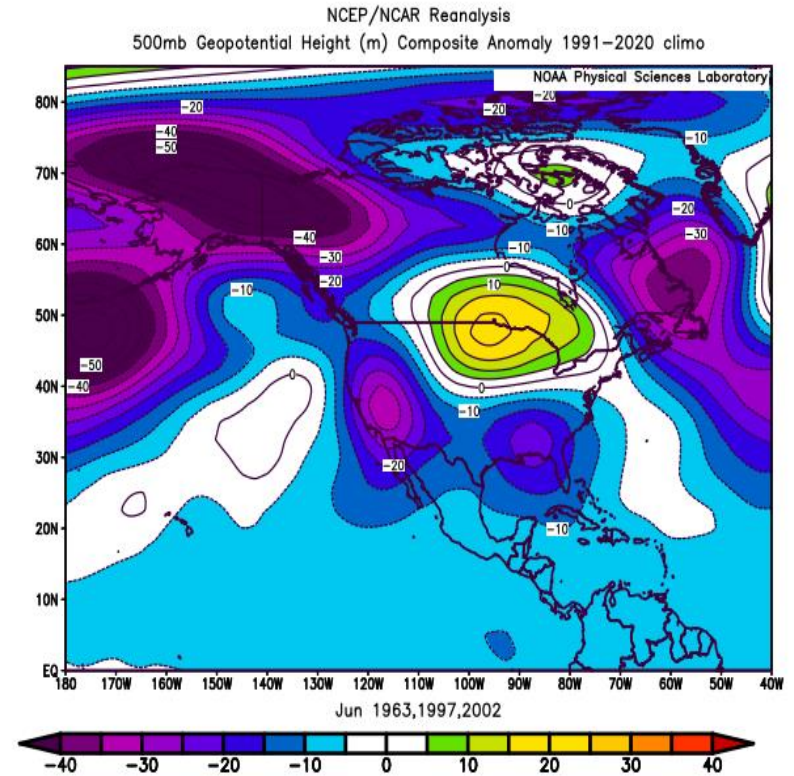
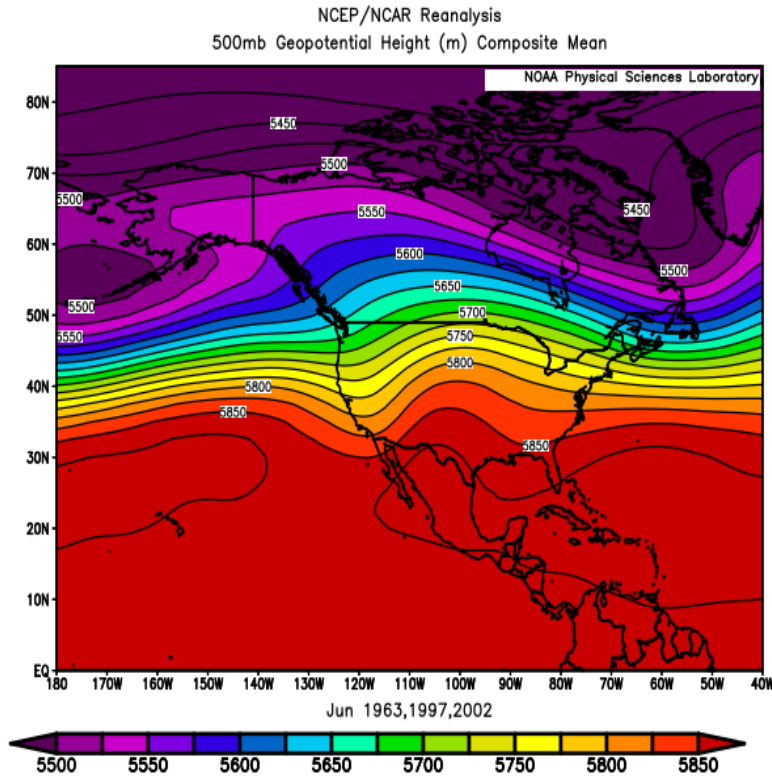


- A relatively warm 1997 more than countered near-average temperatures in 1963 and a slightly cooler-than-average 2002.
- Analogs favor near or below average rainfall with the best chances for above-average rainfall along the coast.

June 2026 Forecast

Mean Upper-Air Pattern

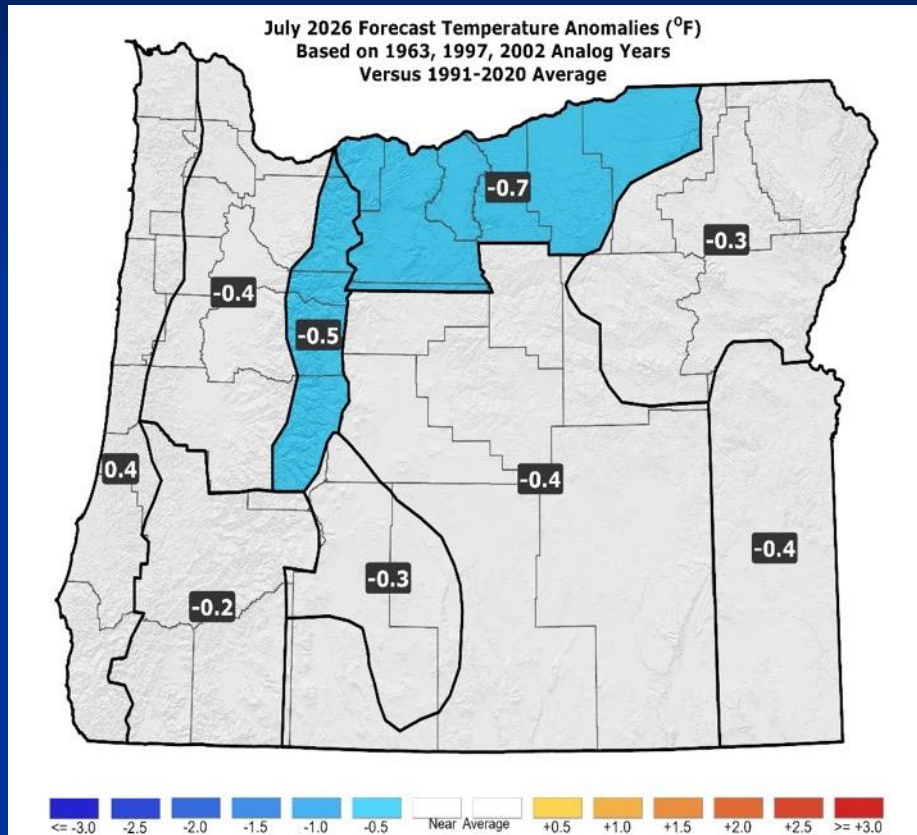
Upper-Air Anomalies



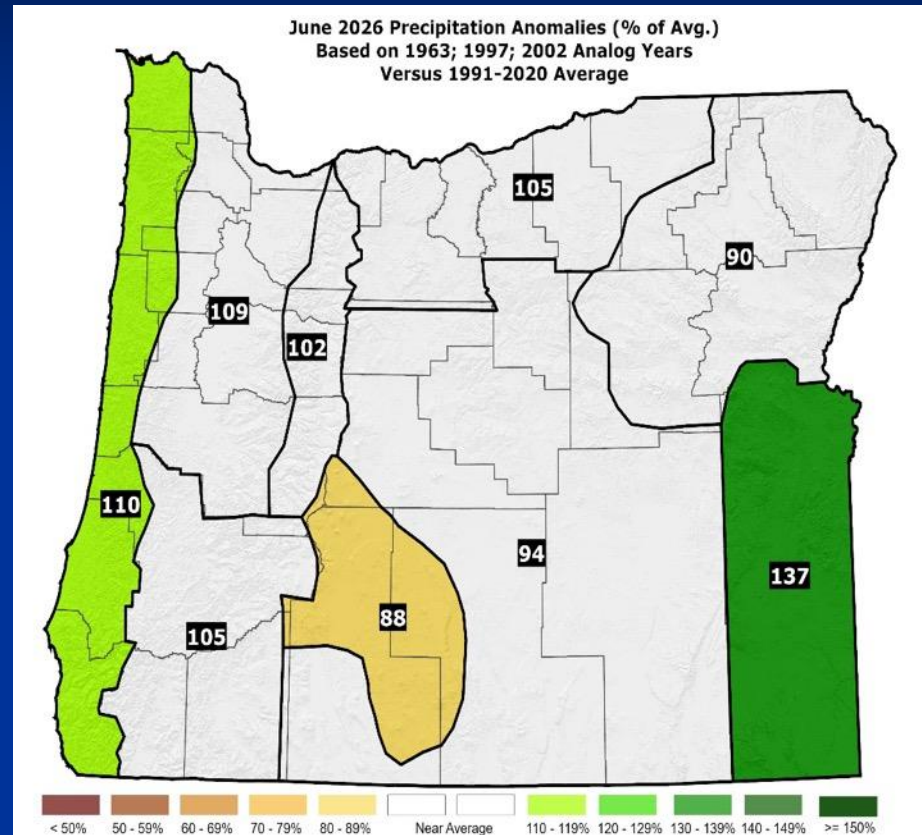
- The anomalous troughing over Oregon 1963 & 1997 more than countered the anomalous ridging in 2002 (mean shown above right).
- None of the analog years had prolonged periods of strong ridging or excessive heat.

June 2026 Forecast

Temperatures



Precipitation

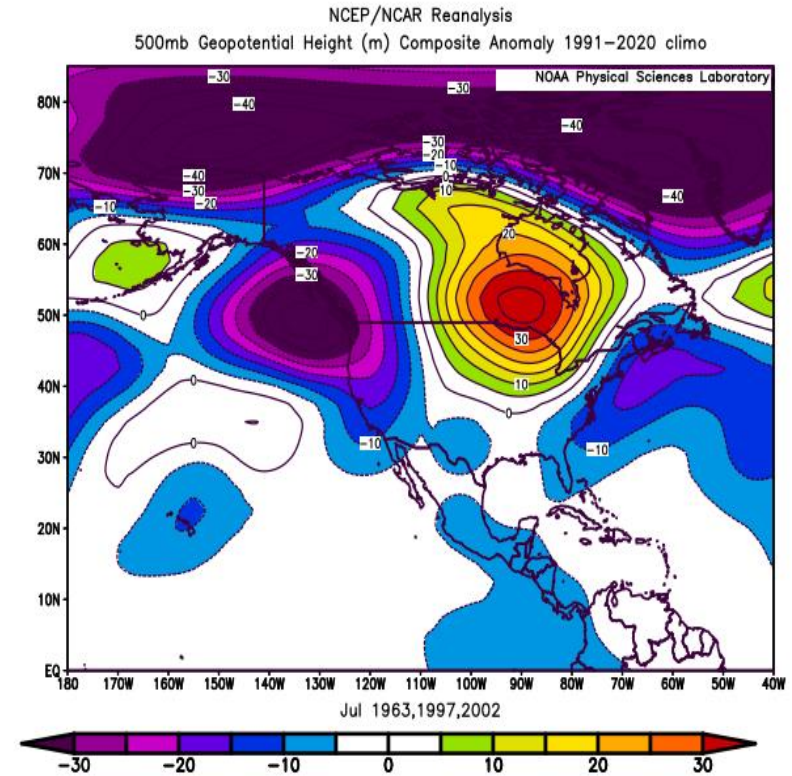
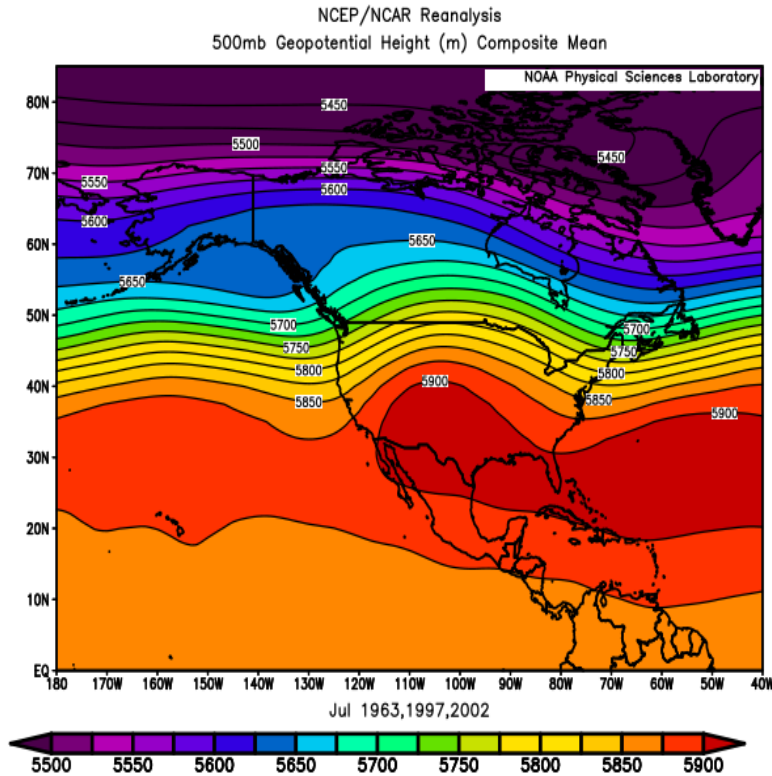


- Although the 2002 analog was slightly warmer than average, cooler years of 1963 & 1997 skewed the forecast slightly cool.
- Rainfall close to 30-year averages. Nothing “extreme” highlighted by the analogs.

July 2026 Forecast

Mean Upper-Air Pattern

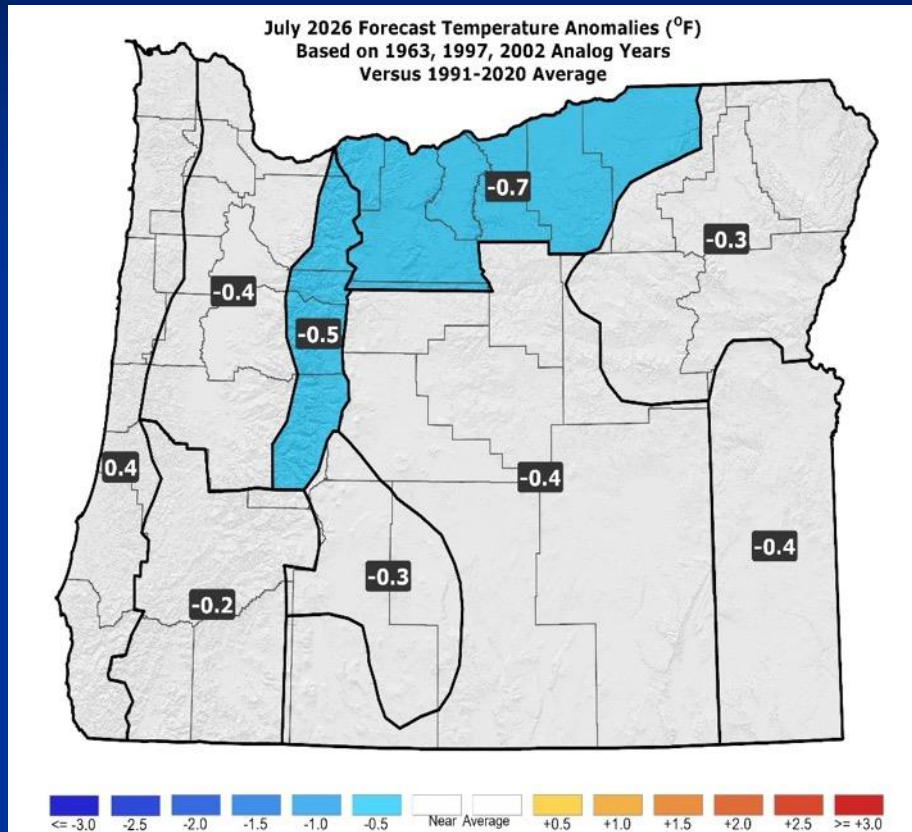
Upper-Air Anomalies



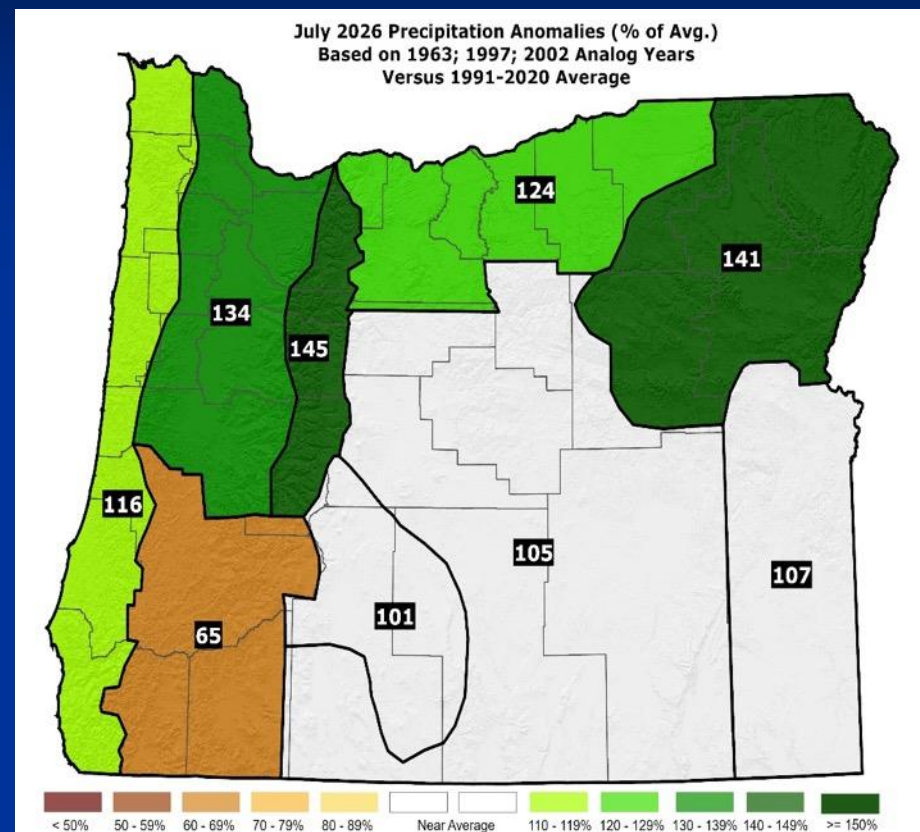
- Analog's upper-air patterns have huge variation, ranging from strongly anomalous troughing in 1963 to anomalous ridging in 2002.
- 2002 stood out as significantly warmer and drier than 1963 & 1997, but except for a few days at mid-month, even it was not excessively hot.

July 2026 Forecast

Temperatures



Precipitation

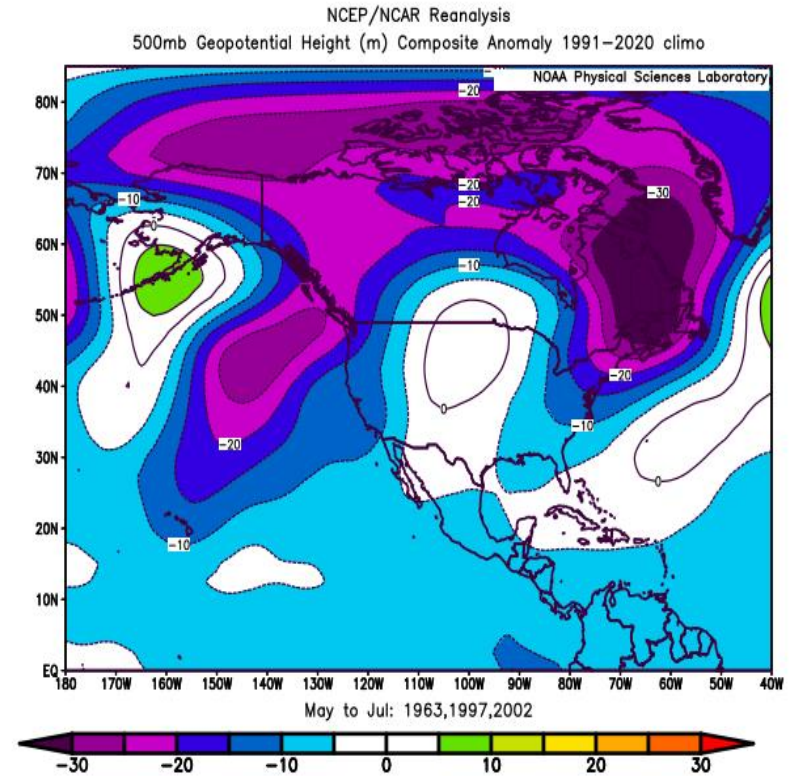
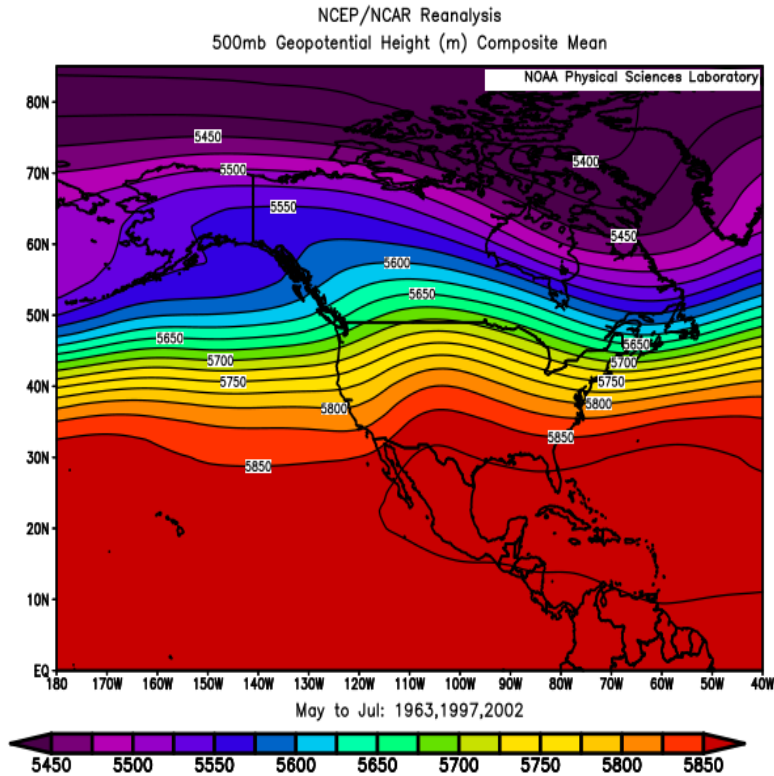


- A cold 1963 & cool 1997 counter a warmer-than-average 2002 in the blend shown above, which lowers forecast confidence.
- Rainfall was near or above average in 1963 & 1997 but below average in 2002, which also lowers forecast confidence.

May – July 2026 Forecast

Mean Upper-Air Pattern

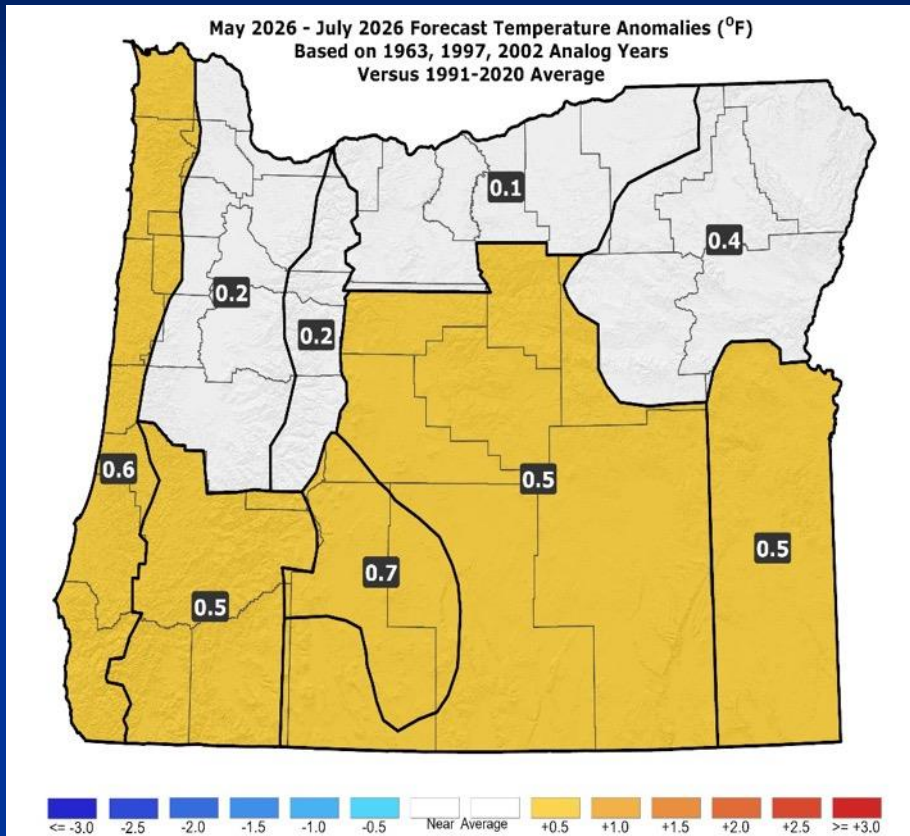
Upper-Air Anomalies



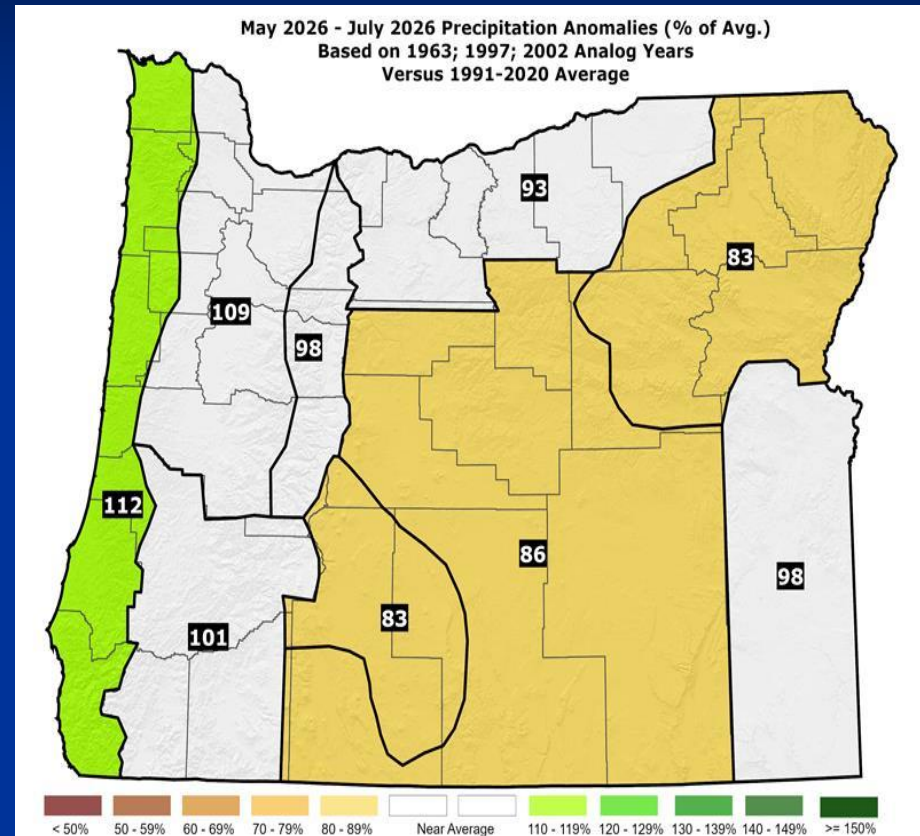
- The analog blend (shown above), favors more troughing than normal over Oregon, especially near the coast.
- However, inconsistencies among the analogs lowers forecast confidence.

May – July 2026 Forecast

Temperatures



Precipitation



- The 3-month analog blend (above) does not show large departures from average in either temperatures or precipitation.
- However, individual monthly analogs did vary significantly from average, in both directions, especially with temperatures.

Forecast Highlights

- This forecast is based on the 1963, 1997, & 2002 analog years. The 1968 & 2018 analogs (used last month) were dropped.
- 3-month signals show near-average temperatures & precipitation. However, significant monthly and/or 3-monthly departures from average were evident in the analogs. They just balanced each other out.
- Forecast confidence is lowered because of large variations, in both temperatures and precipitation, among the top analog years.
- The chances for anomalously cool weather appear just as great as those for anomalously warm weather, which may sound surprising, after such a mild winter!

Disclaimer: This forecast is not associated with NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC). See "Forecasting Methods..." at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/natural-resources/pages/weather.aspx>.

Forecast Resources

- ODA Seasonal Climate Forecast Home:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/natural-resources/pages/weather.aspx>

- CPC Official US Three-Month Forecasts (Graphics):

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=01

- CPC US 30-Day & 90-Day Forecasts (Discussions):

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/fxus07.html

- CPC Weekly & Monthly ENSO Discussions:

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory

- Australian Government Climate Model Summary:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/model-summary/#region=NINO34&tabs=Overview>

- Australian Government ENSO Wrap-Up:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso>

- IRI ENSO Quick Look:

<https://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/enso/current/>

Water Supply / Fire-Potential Outlook

- CPC U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook:

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/season_drought.png

- NRCS Snow Water Equivalent Oregon Map:

https://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ftpref/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/or_swepctnormal_update.pdf

- NRCS/USDA Snow Water Equivalent Products:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/snowClimateMonitoring/snowpack/>

- NDMC U.S. Drought Monitor:

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

- NIDIS North American Drought Portal:

<https://www.drought.gov/nadm/content/percent-average-precipitation>

- WRCC WestWideDroughtTracker:

<https://www.wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/>

- NWCC Northwest Interagency Coordination Center (video)

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/predict/outlook.aspx>



Updated Monthly

Your Feedback is Welcome!

Sign-up for Email Notification of Updates at:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORODA/subscriber/new?topic_id=ORODA_14

Contact: Pete Parsons, ODF Lead Meteorologist
at 503-945-7448 or peter.gj.parsons@odf.oregon.gov

R Gress