Drought Status and Climate Outlook for Upcoming 12 Months
FWS SFESO – Vero Beach, FL
June 19, 2012

Short Term Drought Map:

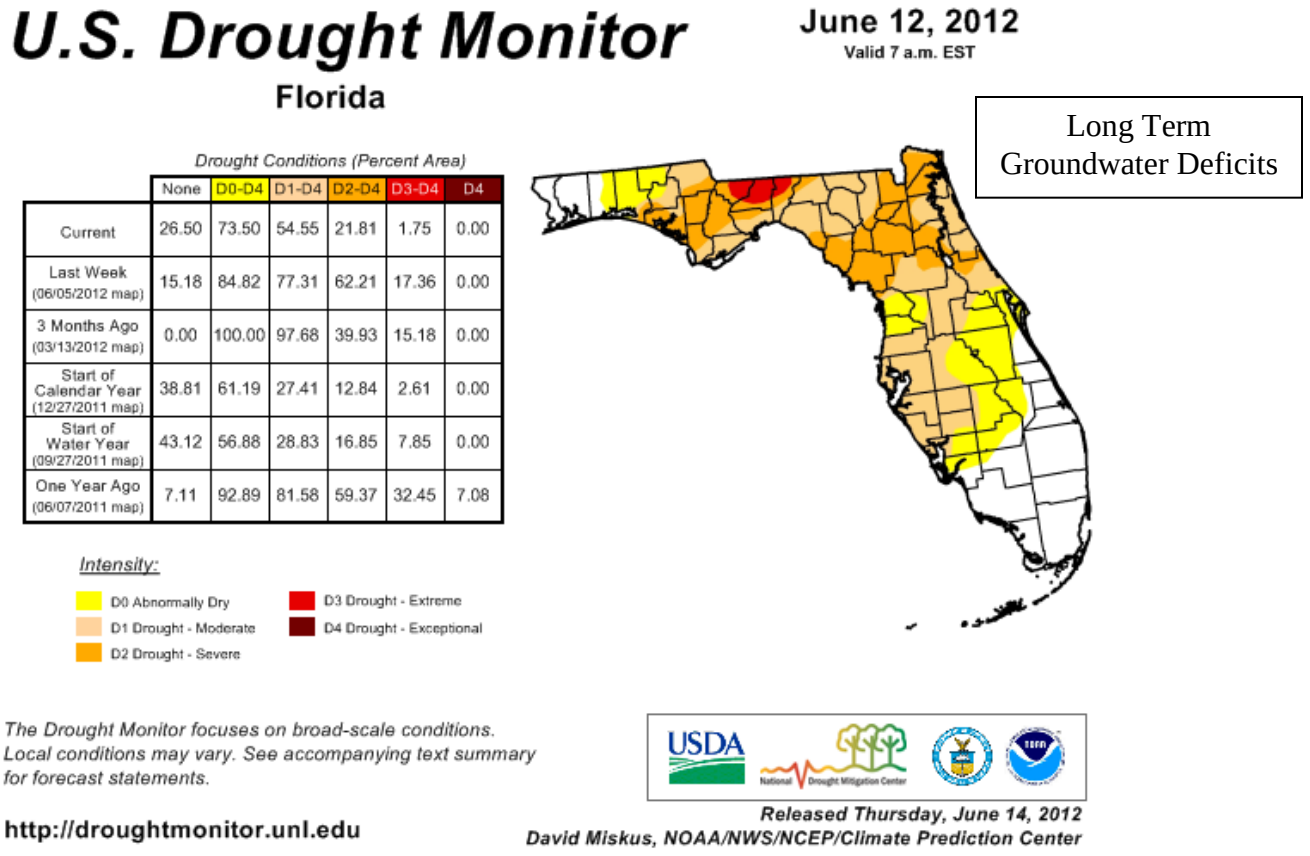


Figure 1 – U.S. Drought Monitor for the State of Florida.

Synopsis: Rainfall began to increase across South Florida in late April through mid-May. Two tropical storms, Alberto and Beryl, developed in May leading to an early arrival of the Wet Season, which is usually in late May or early June. The combination of tropical Gulf moisture and a stalled front with waves of low pressure along it produced heavy rain in northern and central Florida during May. With increased rainfall, a general 1-category

improvement was made to most areas in Florida. Although nearly all 30-day shortages were alleviated, 60- and 90-day and longer shortages remain. The 7-day average USGS stream flows showed a large rebound in the volume, with most gauges in Florida at or above normal levels.

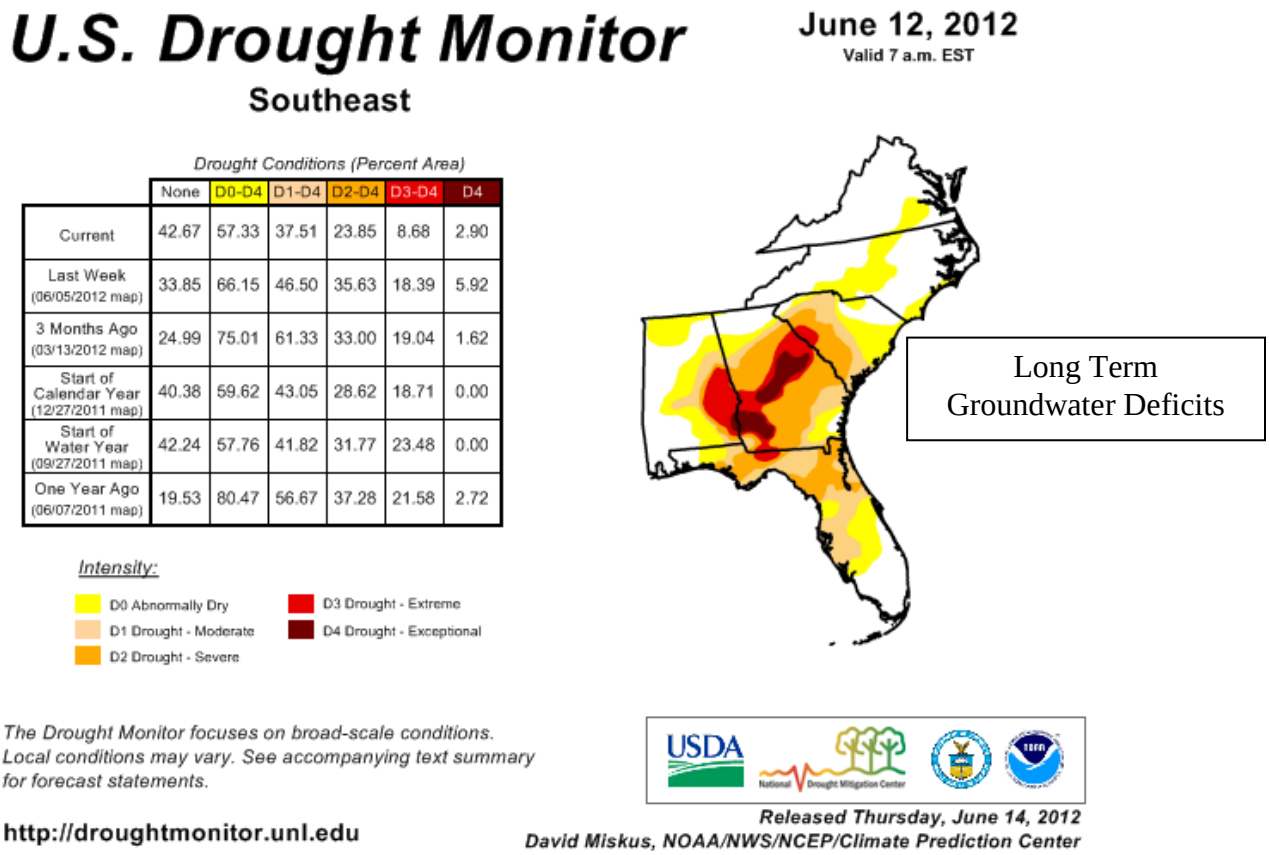
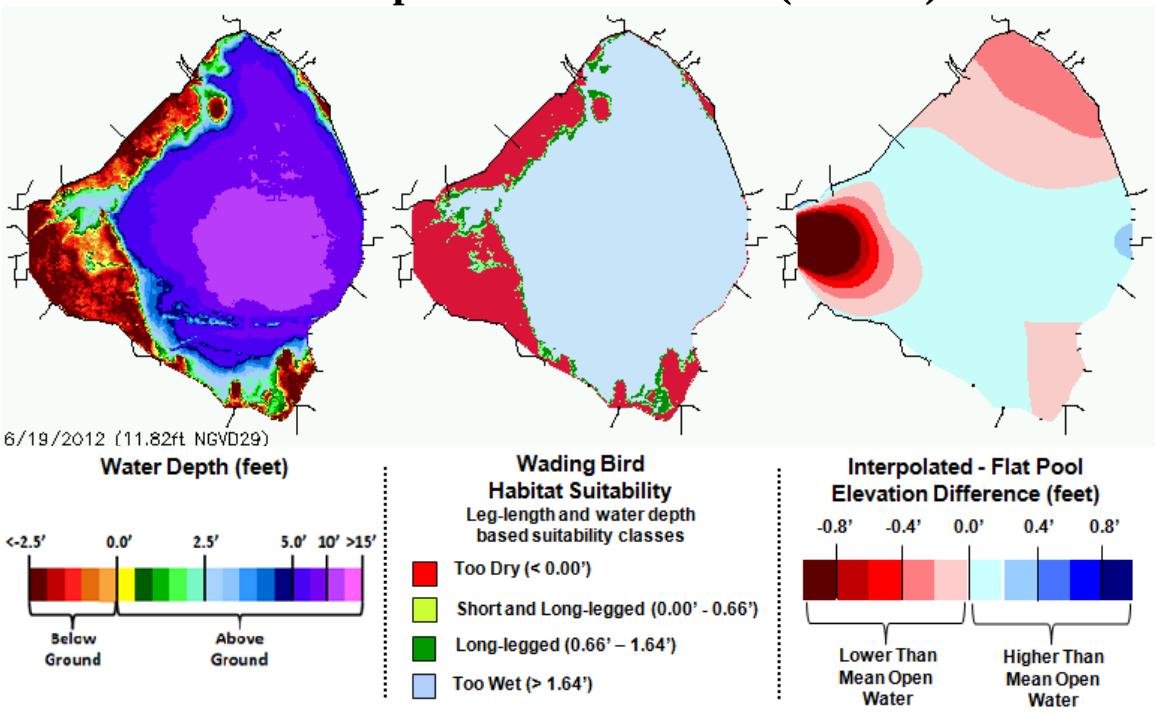


Figure 2 – U.S. Drought Monitor for the Southeast Region.

Lake Okeechobee
Water Depth Assessment Tool (WDAT)



Everglades
South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT)

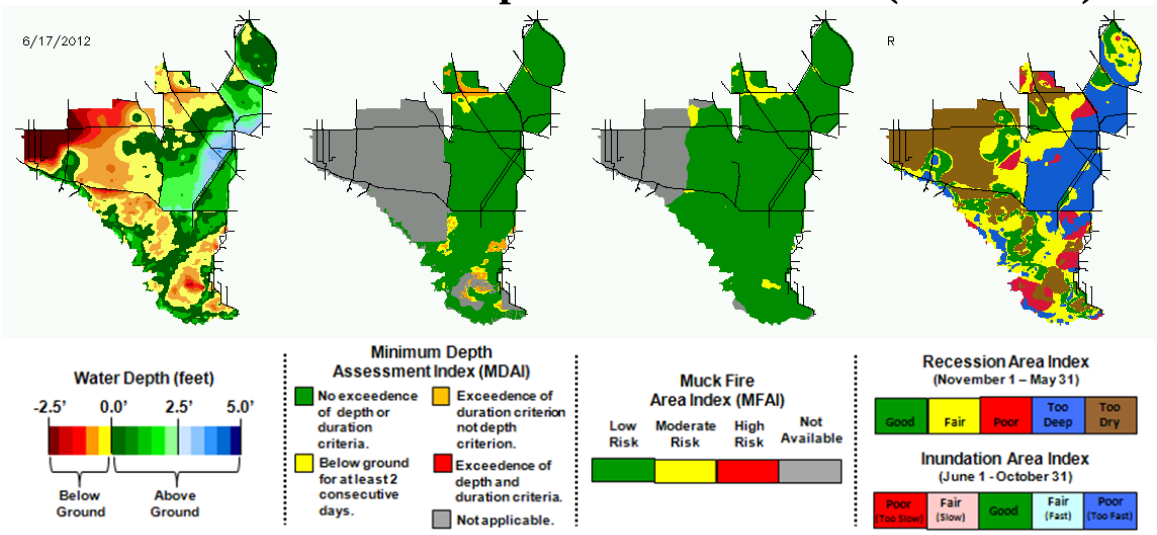


Figure 3 – SFWMD South Florida Water Depth Assessment Tool (SFWDAT) current water depths and wading bird habitat suitability for Lake Okeechobee. Current water depths, muck fire hazards and wading bird recession rates for the South Florida Everglades.

The littoral zone around Lake Okeechobee continues to be dry with only a thin rim of vegetation remaining. Surface and groundwater conditions have improved over much of central and southern Florida due to an early tropical storm induced early start to the Wet Season. Dry conditions continue in northern WCA-3A and in most of the marl prairies of ENP.

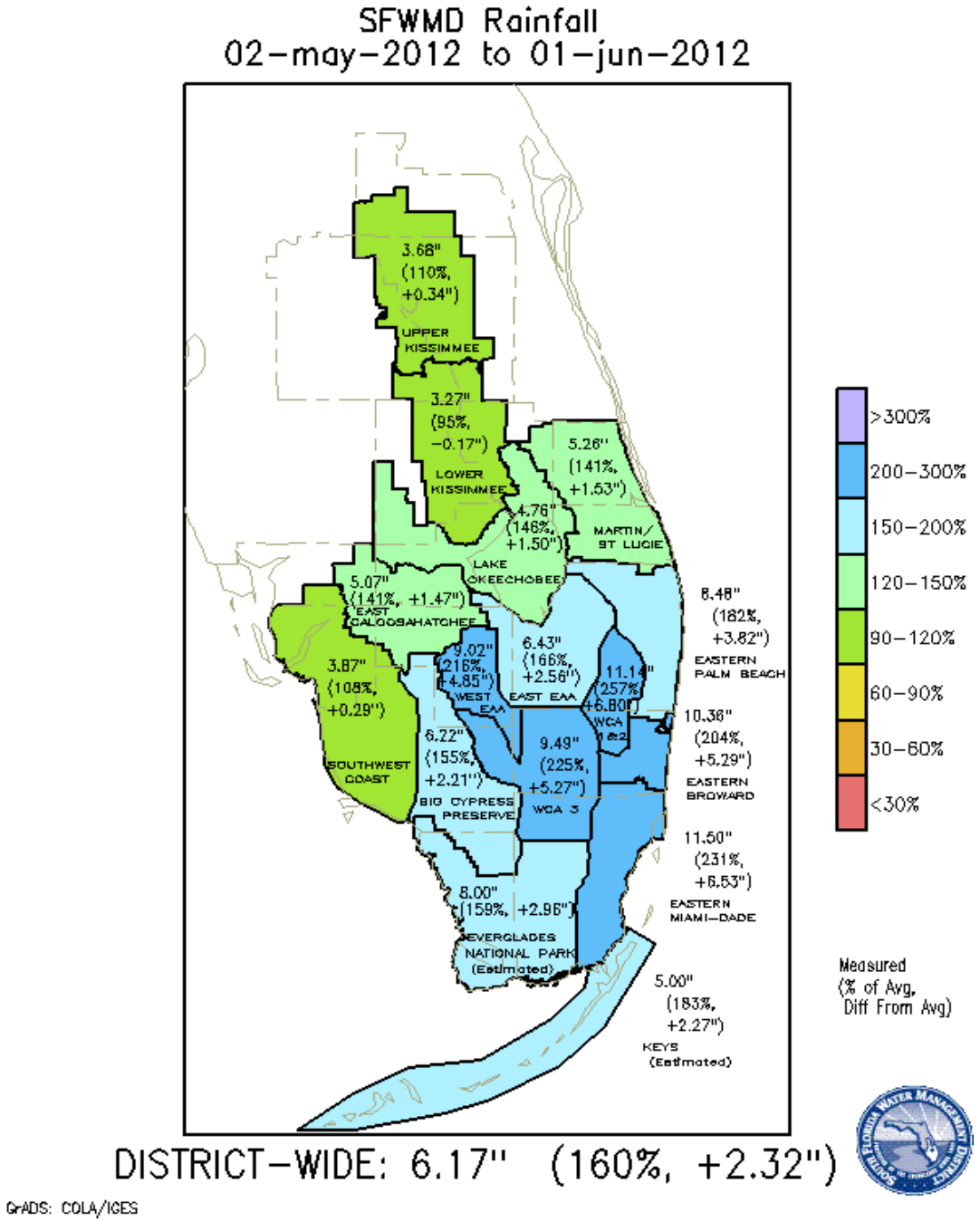


Figure 4 – South Florida Water Management District rain totals for the month of May 2012. Above average rainfall fell across central and south Florida in late April and May.

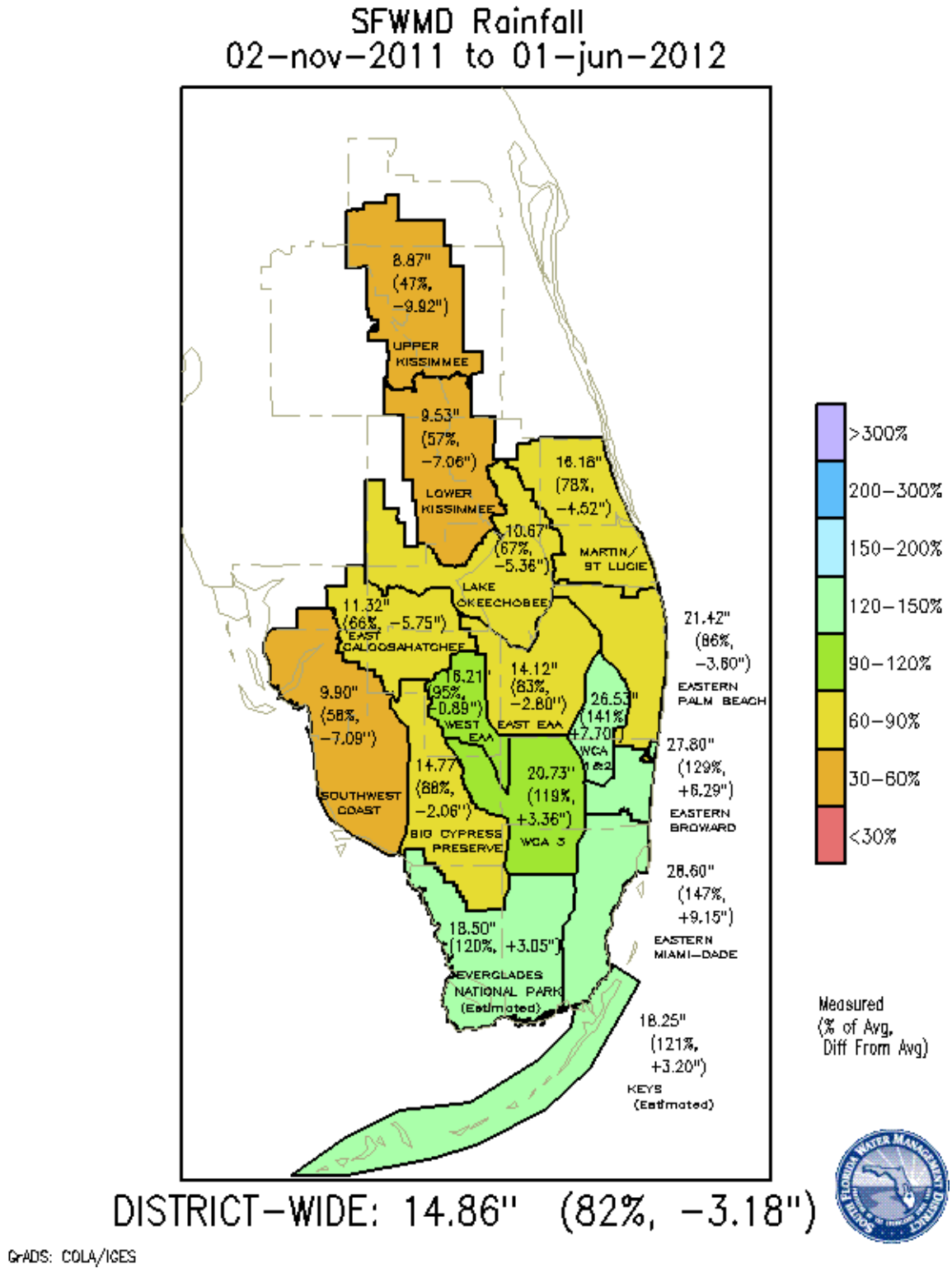


Figure 5 – South Florida Water Management District Dry Season rainfall totals from November 2011 through May 2012. Only 50 - 80% of normal rainfall during this La Nina Dry Season. The exception is South Florida where early tropical moisture in late April and early May contriubuted to below average water levels.

Drought Outlook for the Next 3 Months:

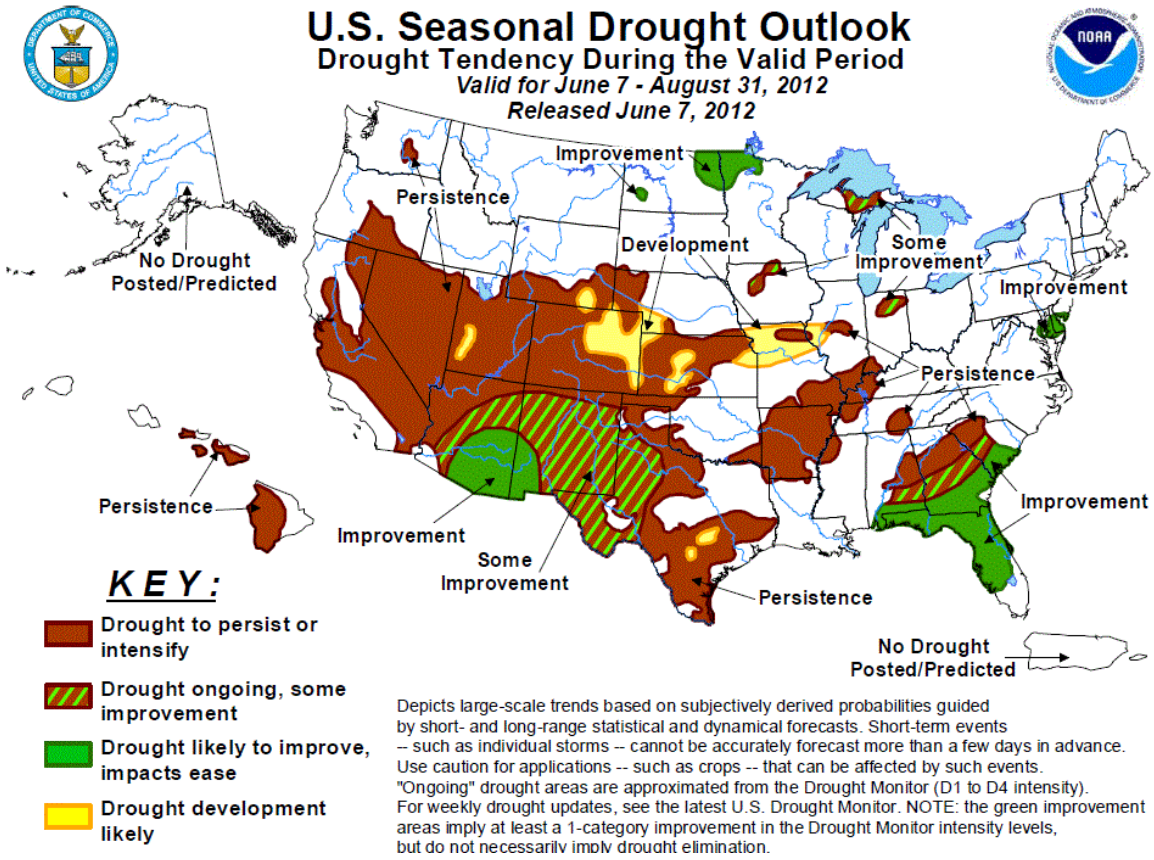


Figure 6 – Drought improvement is expected for Florida with the onset of the Wet Season.

El Nino / La Nina (ENSO) Status – El Nino Watch is in effect for remainder of 2012. (Climate Prediction Center)

ENSO-neutral conditions continued through the month of May. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are currently near average across most of the equatorial Pacific Ocean, and above-average in the far eastern Pacific. The average temperature in the upper 300m of the ocean became more strongly positive or warm in May. This combination of temperatures indicates ENSO-neutral conditions. However, with ocean temperatures this warm, continued warming is likely through the summer. This would indicate a strong potential of an El Nino developing in the fall.

A majority of models predict ENSO-neutral to continue through the summer months. Afterwards, most of the dynamic climate models predict El Niño to develop during August or September, while the statistical climate models tend to favor the continuation

of ENSO-neutral. Thus, there remains uncertainty as to whether ENSO-neutral or El Niño will prevail during the second half of the year. The evolving conditions, combined with model forecasts, suggest that ENSO-neutral and El Niño are equally likely during the late summer and fall months.

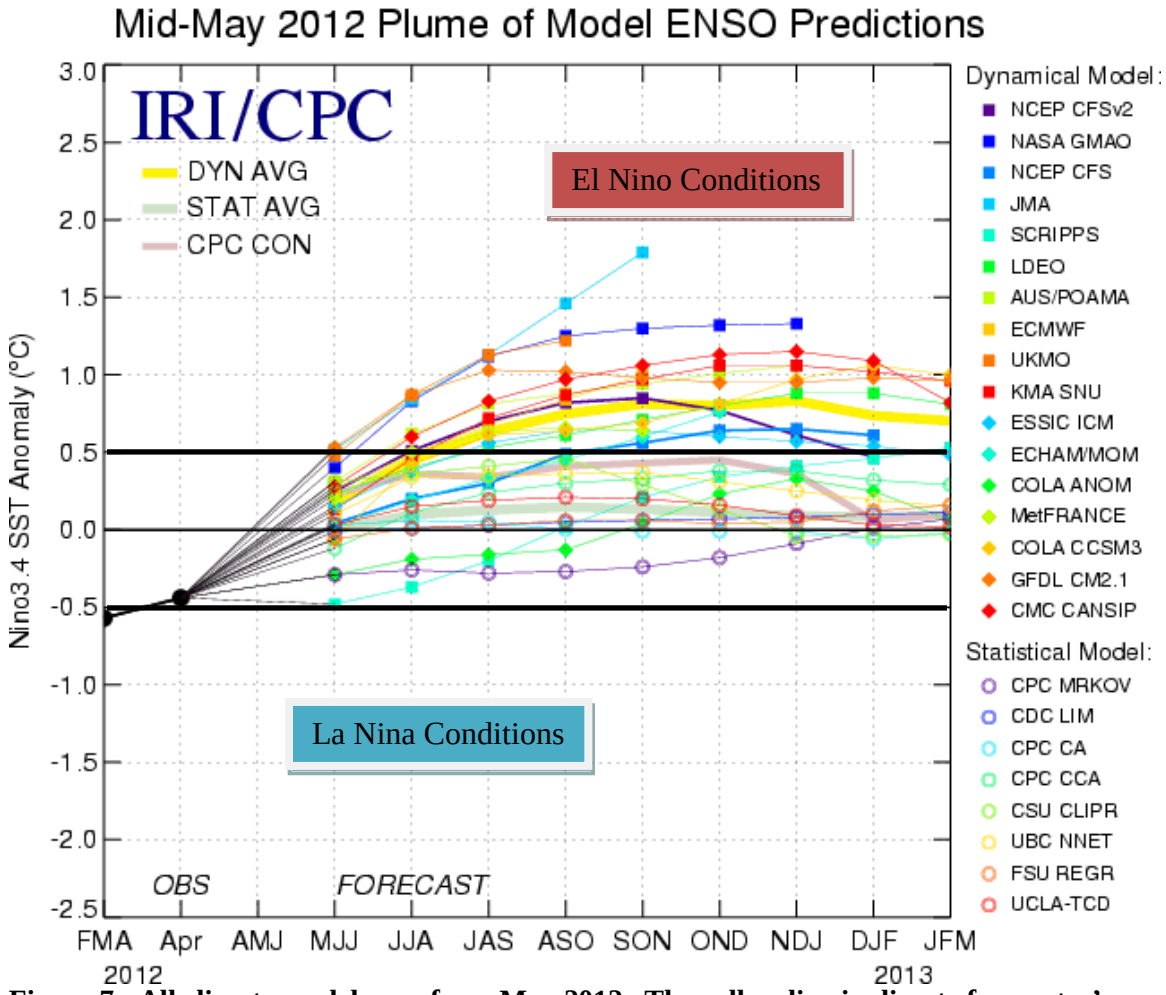


Figure 7 - All climate model runs from May 2012. The yellow line is climate forecaster's preferred dynamical model average indicating a continuation of ENSO-Neutral conditions this summer and a possible El Nino event developing in the fall months.

2012 Hurricane Season

On June 1, 2012, Dr. Kotzbach and Dr. Gray prepared their next quantitative forecast for this upcoming hurricane season:

Tropical Storms = 13
Hurricanes = 5
Major Hurricanes = 2
Hurricane Strike on eastern Florida = 28% chance

Central & South Florida Temperature Outlook:
(Uncertainty exists beyond the summer months due to mixed climate model predictions of an El Nino development).
June – Warmer than Average
July thru August –Much warmer than Average
September – Warmer than Average
October thru May 2013 - Average

Central & South Florida Rainfall Outlook:
(Uncertainty exists beyond the summer months due to mixed climate model predictions of an El Nino development).
June – Wetter than Average
July thru September – Much Wetter than Average
October – Wetter than Average
November thru May 2013 - Average

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