

WESTERN REGION TECHNICAL ATTACHMENT  
NO. 86-19  
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EL NIÑO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO) DIAGNOSTIC ADVISORY 86/4  
issued by  
THE CLIMATE ANALYSIS CENTER/NMC  
May 12, 1986

This is an update of Advisory 86/3 issued April 11 dealing with conditions in the equatorial Pacific.

The CAC El Niño Watch covering the period February through April has now expired. During this period, a weak warming has taken place in the eastern equatorial Pacific as illustrated by Fig. A18. However, the current pattern of sea surface temperature anomalies in the equatorial Pacific has not changed substantially from that observed in March. Above normal sea surface temperatures continue in the equatorial eastern Pacific from near the Galapagos Islands ( $90^{\circ}\text{W}$ ) westward to near  $140^{\circ}\text{W}$ . The downward trend in sea surface temperature anomalies observed in March along the immediate coast of South America continued during April. Negative sea surface temperature anomalies continue in the central equatorial Pacific although the anomalies are somewhat smaller than those observed one month ago.

Apparently, the weak warming in the eastern equatorial Pacific has run its course with very little effect on the immediate coast of South America. However, a report from the Galapagos Islands indicates that brief El Niño-like conditions occurred during late February and early March. There are as yet no significant developments outside the region of warming in the eastern Pacific. Low level easterlies continue to be stronger than normal throughout the equatorial Pacific. Sea level pressure has returned to near normal at Darwin, Australia and is near normal at Tahiti. During April significant rainfall was observed in some parts of eastern Australia although abnormally dry conditions continued in many sections of that country.

CAC will continue to monitor conditions in the equatorial Pacific. However, future advisories will be made only if there are signs of further warm episode development.

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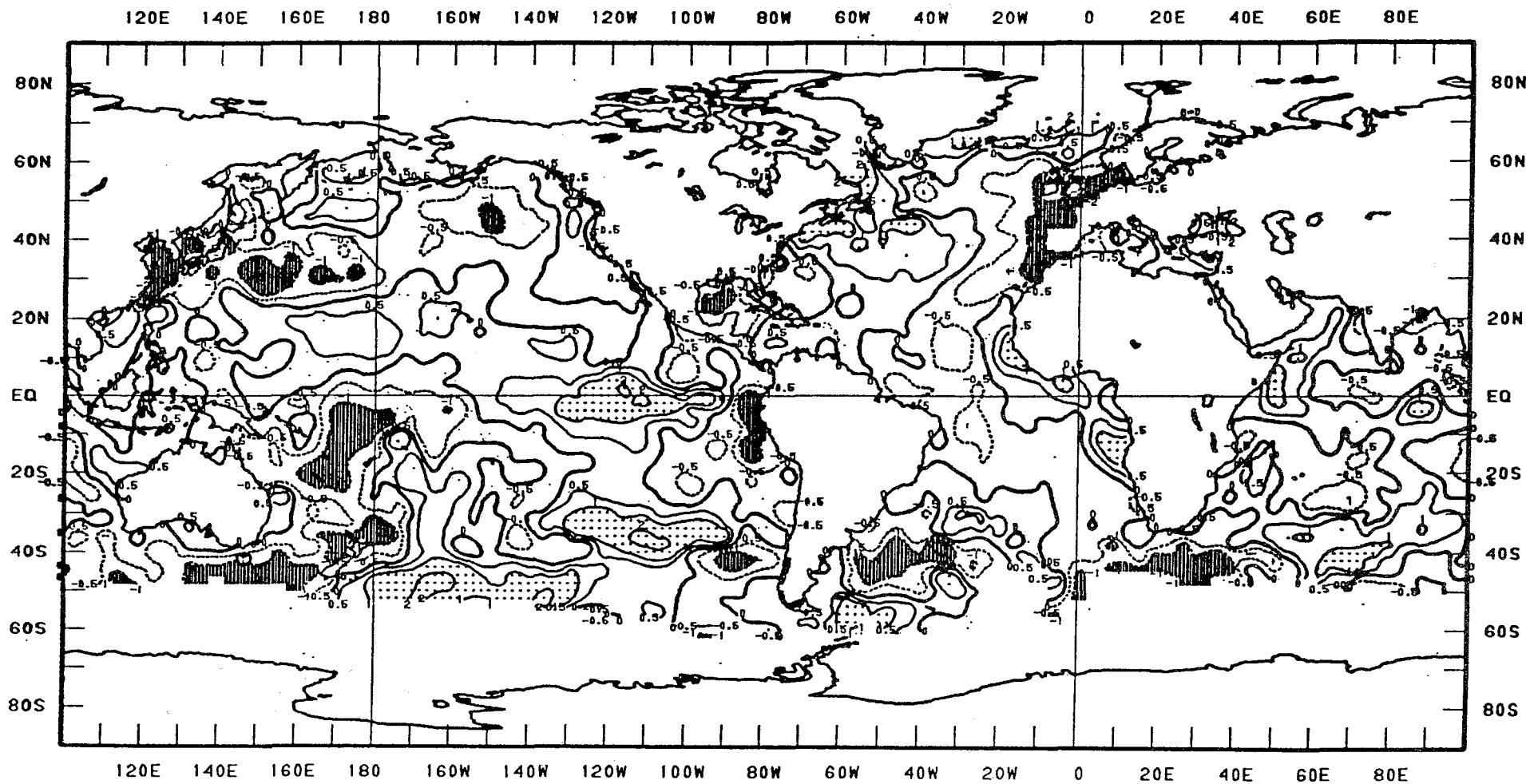


FIGURE A18- Sea surface temperature anomaly change (April 1986 minus January 1986). Stippling indicates values greater than  $1.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  and shading indicates values less than  $-1.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ .