



WESTERN REGION TECHNICAL ATTACHMENT
NO. 88-01
January 5, 1988

EL NIÑO SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO) DIAGNOSTIC ADVISORY 87/12
issued by
THE CLIMATE ANALYSIS CENTER/NMC
December 10, 1987

Most tropical Pacific atmospheric indices indicate a return towards normal. Sea level pressures at Tahiti and Darwin were normal during November. This resulted in a Southern Oscillation Index of 0.0 and a continuation of the upward trend in this index which began in July. Although there has been considerable month-to-month variability in the equatorial 850 mb zonal wind anomalies, a trend towards decreasing westerly and increasing easterly anomalies is evident, especially in the western and central Pacific. In association with these wind and pressure trends there has been a decrease in the convective activity in the equatorial central Pacific such that activity was near normal in November.

Upper tropospheric circulation and sea surface temperature anomaly patterns in the central and eastern Pacific for November are similar to those observed during the last several months. Sea surface temperature anomalies continued 1.0 to 2.0°C above normal in the equatorial Pacific from 160°E eastward to the South American coast.

In the western Pacific sea surface temperature anomalies have increased and the oceanic thermocline has deepened slightly during the last three months as the warmest equatorial water (>30°C) has shifted westward to near 165°E. These trends are opposite to those observed one year ago and are probably related to the decrease in low level westerly wind anomalies and convective activity near the date line.

Climate Analysis Center
National Meteorological Center
National Weather Service
World Weather Building
Washington, D.C. 20233