



**WESTERN REGION TECHNICAL ATTACHMENT  
NO. 88-17  
April 19, 1988**

EL NINO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO) DIAGNOSTIC ADVISORY 88/4  
issued by  
THE CLIMATE ANALYSIS CENTER/NMC  
April 8, 1988

Low-level tropospheric winds, sea surface temperatures (SST), sea level pressure and central Pacific atmospheric convection indicate a return to non-ENSO conditions in the equatorial Pacific. Equatorial SST anomalies have decreased to near normal in the central and far eastern Pacific, and remain near  $+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the region near  $130^{\circ}\text{W}$ . These anomalies are approximately  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$  less than those observed three to four months ago.

For the third consecutive month, 850 mb easterly anomalies have prevailed throughout the equatorial Pacific. For the first time since August 1986 positive outgoing longwave radiation anomalies, indicative of weaker than normal atmospheric convection, were observed near the date line, and sea level pressure at Darwin, Australia, was below normal. Also, the Southern Oscillation Index was slightly positive for the first time since October 1986.

The ocean general circulation model, being run in a near real-time diagnostic mode at the CAC, shows that the equatorial thermocline has been steadily shoaling in the eastern equatorial Pacific over the last several months. Thermocline depths near the date line have remained about constant. This has resulted in a greater west-east slope of the thermocline between  $120$  and  $160^{\circ}\text{W}$ .

Since atmospheric and oceanic conditions indicate that the warm phase of the Southern Oscillation is abating, this will be the last advisory on the state of the 1986-87 ENSO episode.

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