## El Niño weather system makes a comeback El Niño, an abnormal warming of equatorial waters in the Pacific Ocean that wreaks havoc with world weather, is developing again. Drier-thanaverage conditions have been observed across Indonesia. Malaysia and the Philippines, usually the first areas to experience El Niño's effects NORMAL CONDITIONS: Trade winds push warm surface water westward away from South American coast Western Pacific **Eastern Pacific** Sea becomes Cold nutrient-rich Low / wet Pressure High / dry water from several degrees PACIFIC Humboldt warmer **OCEAN** and one current metre rises to higher replace than on surface Warm water east Water circulation Cold water side water **EL NIÑO** Trade winds weaken every two to seven Warm water halts upwelling. vears, allowing warm waters to wash back Rainfall increases across eastward - drought affects Peru and western Americas. Indonesia and Regional fisheries Australia seriously affected Rainfall follows warm water eastward Water circulation **EL NIÑO SIGNS** Pacific: Ocean temperatures Atlantic: Hurricane activity reduced around equator increase El Niño fuels high altitude wind noticeably in early Sep. 2006 currents that shear tops off storms before they develop into hurricanes Typical regional impacts (Dec-Feb) Warm Wet / cold Drv Wet Dry Wet / Warm Drv / warm warm Warm Source: NOAA © GRAPHIC NEWS