

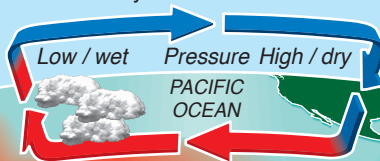
El Niño weather system makes a comeback

El Niño, an abnormal warming of equatorial waters in the Pacific Ocean that wreaks havoc with world weather, is developing again. Drier-than-average 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

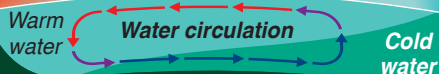
Western Pacific

Sea becomes several degrees warmer and one metre higher than on east side



Eastern Pacific

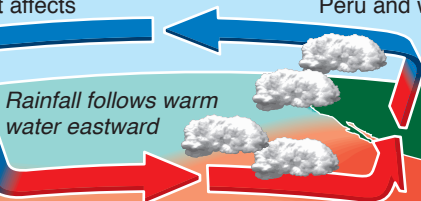
Cold nutrient-rich water from *Humboldt current* rises to replace surface water



EL NIÑO

Trade winds weaken every two to seven years, allowing warm waters to wash back eastward – drought affects Indonesia and Australia

Warm water halts upwelling. Rainfall increases across Peru and western Americas. Regional fisheries seriously affected



EL NIÑO SIGNS

Pacific: Ocean temperatures around equator increase noticeably in early Sep. 2006

Atlantic: Hurricane activity reduced – El Niño fuels high altitude wind currents that shear tops off storms before they develop into hurricanes

Typical regional impacts (Dec-Feb)

