

NOAA Climate Science & Services

Monthly Climate Update

A look back at April and a preview for the next 3 months

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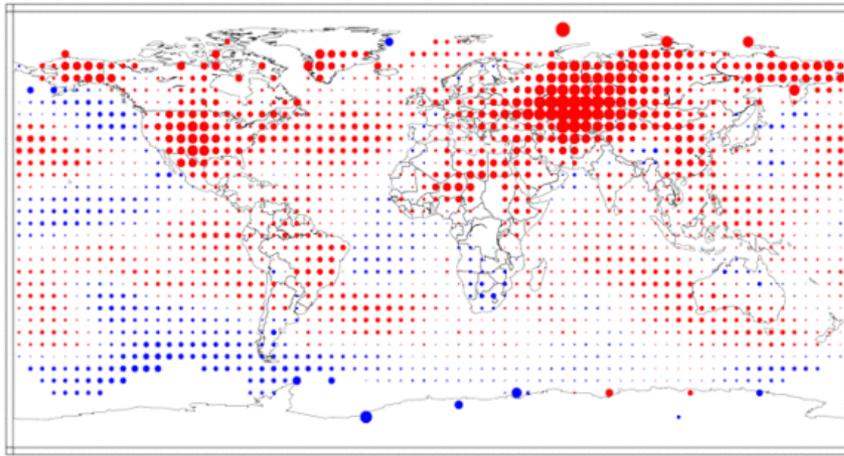


Global Climate Highlights

Temperature Anomalies April 2012

(with respect to a 1971-2000 base period)

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



April 2012 Temperatures:

- 5th warmest April globally
- Land: 2nd warmest; Ocean: 11th warmest
- N. Hemisphere warmest April
- La Niña ends

Regional Analysis:

- North America much warmer than average
- Warm across western Asia
- Western Europe cooler than average

April 2012 Precipitation:

Dry: Australia, eastern Brazil, western Asia

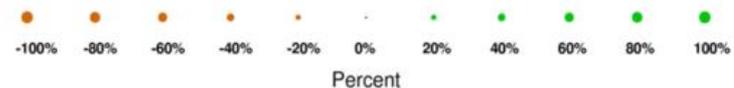
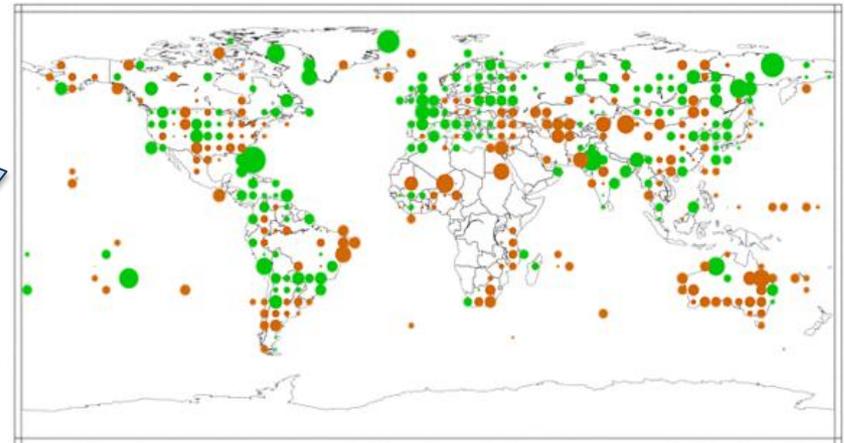
Wet: Much of Europe, Caribbean, eastern Asia

Snow: North American snow cover was 8th smallest for April, while Eurasian snow cover was 7th smallest. Northern Hemisphere snow cover 4th smallest.

Precipitation Anomalies April 2012

(percent departures with respect to a 1961-1990 base period)

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



Global Climate Highlights

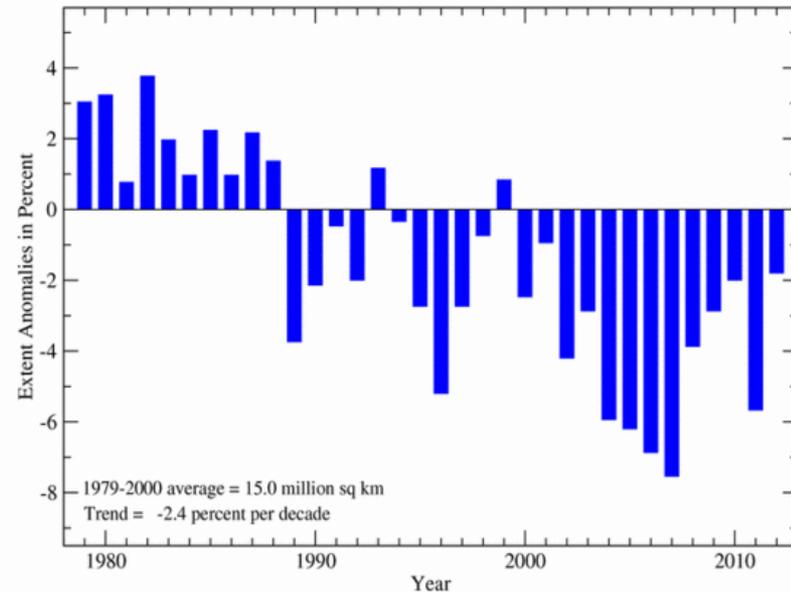
Sea Ice Extent
Apr 2012



Total extent = 14.7 million sq km

- Arctic sea ice 17th smallest (18th largest) on record.
- Largest April Arctic sea ice extent since 2001.
- Much-above-average sea ice in the Bering Sea.
- Slow start to the annual melt season.
- April 2012 is the 13th consecutive April and the 131st consecutive month with below-average Arctic ice extent.

Northern Hemisphere Sea Ice Extent
April Anomalies, 1979-2012

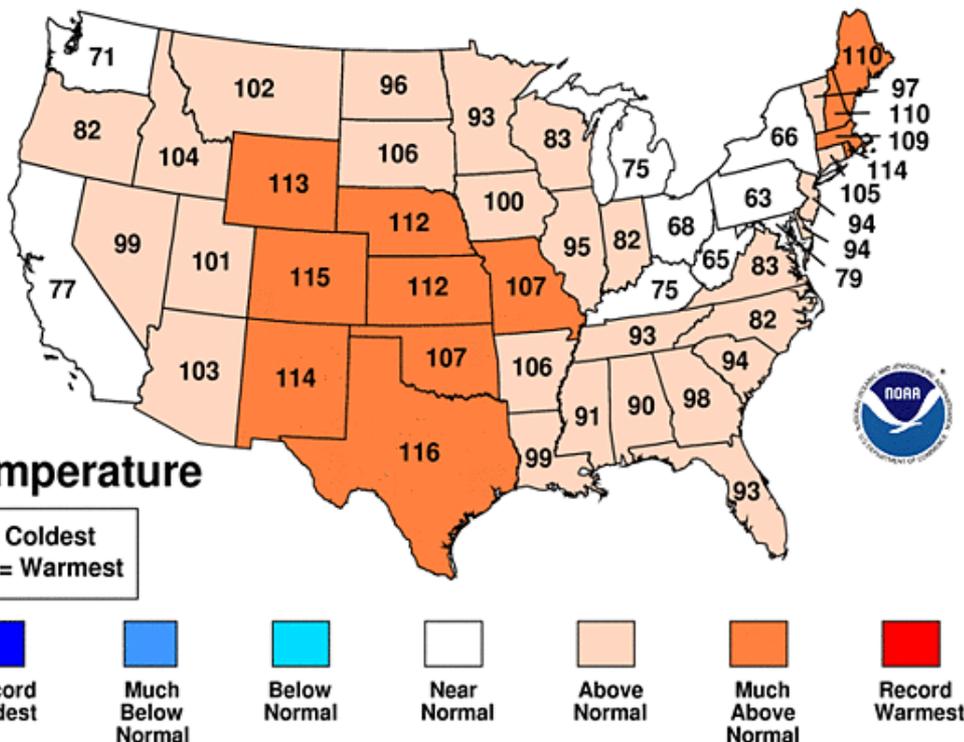


Data provided by the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC)

U.S. Climate Highlights

April 2012 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



Nationally: 3rd Warmest April

- **Widespread Warmth:** Nearly all parts of the country were warmer than average.
 - No state had monthly temperatures below average, while no state was record warm.
- **Records Fall:** About 6,700 “warm” daily records were tied or broken, compared to about 1,200 “cool” daily records. Over 300 new all-time warm April temperature records.
- Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia — had April temperatures which were, despite being warmer than normal, were still not as warm as their March temperatures.

U.S. Climate Highlights

Ten Warmest 12-month consecutive periods of the CONUS Record

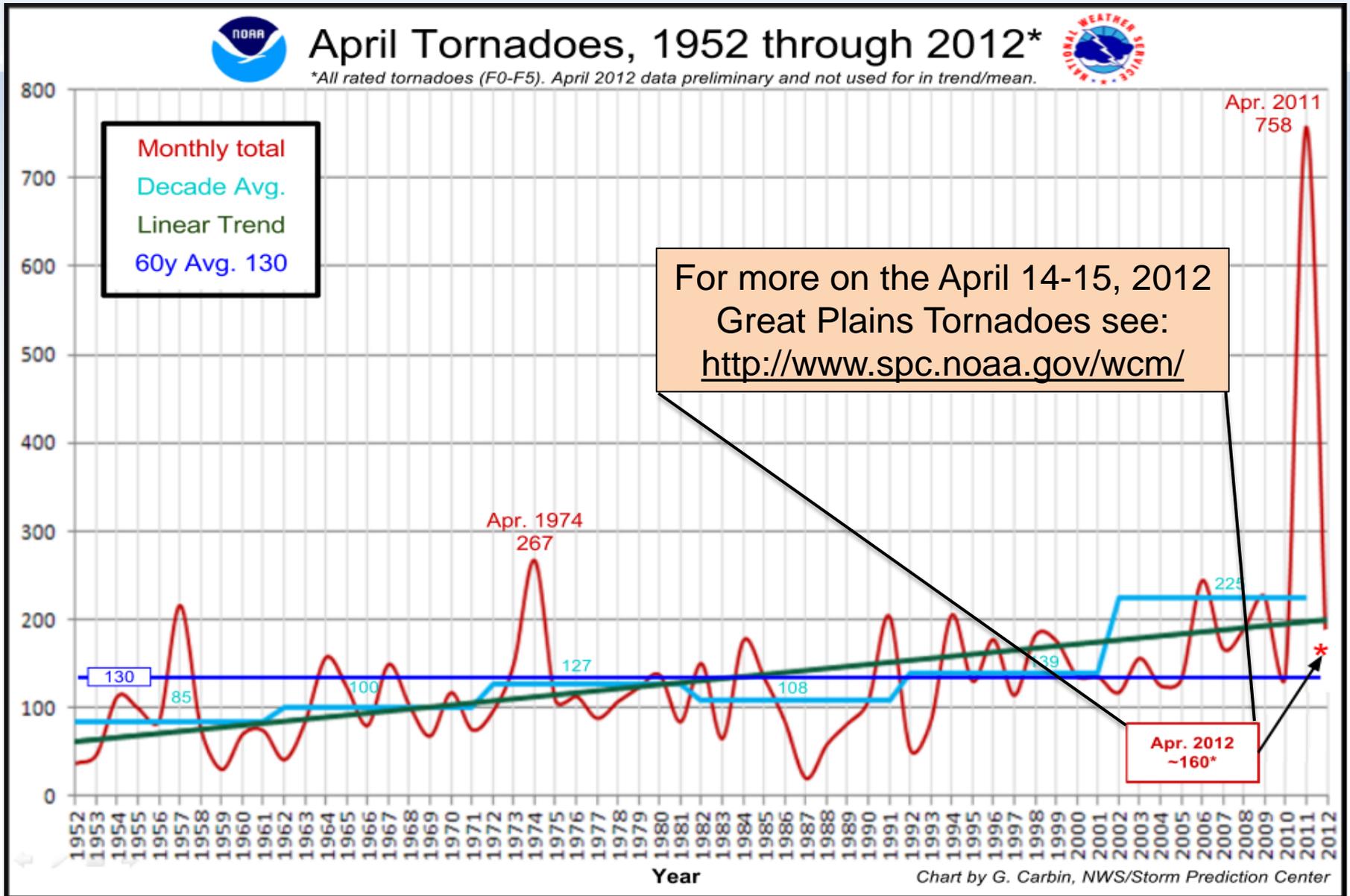
These are the warmest 12-month periods on record for the contiguous United States. The record begins January 1895.

Rank	Consecutive 12-month Period	Temperature Departure (from 20th Century Average)
Warmest	May 2011 – April 2012*	+2.80°F
2 nd Warmest	November 1999 – October 2000	+2.70°F
3 rd Warmest	October 1999 – September 2000	+2.65°F
4 th Warmest	April 2011 – March 2012*	+2.61°F
5 th Warmest	September 2005 – August 2006	+2.56°F
6 th Warmest	August 2005 – July 2006	+2.54°F
	September 1999 – August 2000	+2.54°F
8 th Warmest	July 1999 – June 2000	+2.51°F
9 th Warmest	June 1999 – May 2000	+2.46°F
	August 1999 – July 2000	+2.46°F

* – Preliminary Data



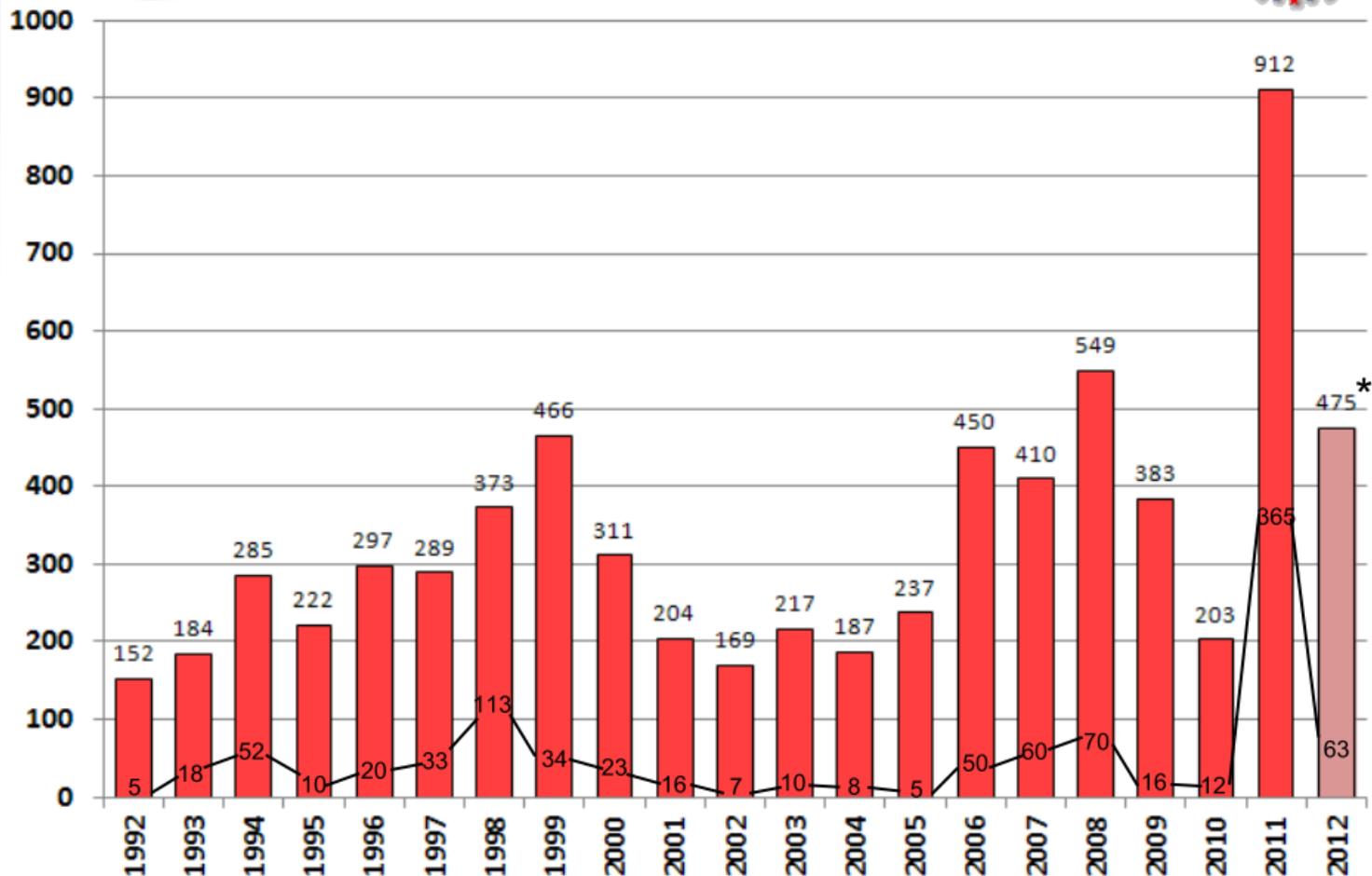
U.S. Tornadoes in April since 1952



U.S. Tornadoes through April since 1992



U.S. Tornadoes and Tornado Fatalities through April (1992-2012*)



* 2012 data remains preliminary pending review.



SPC Watch Counts through May 15 since 2000



SPC Watches Issued Jan-Apr and May 1-15

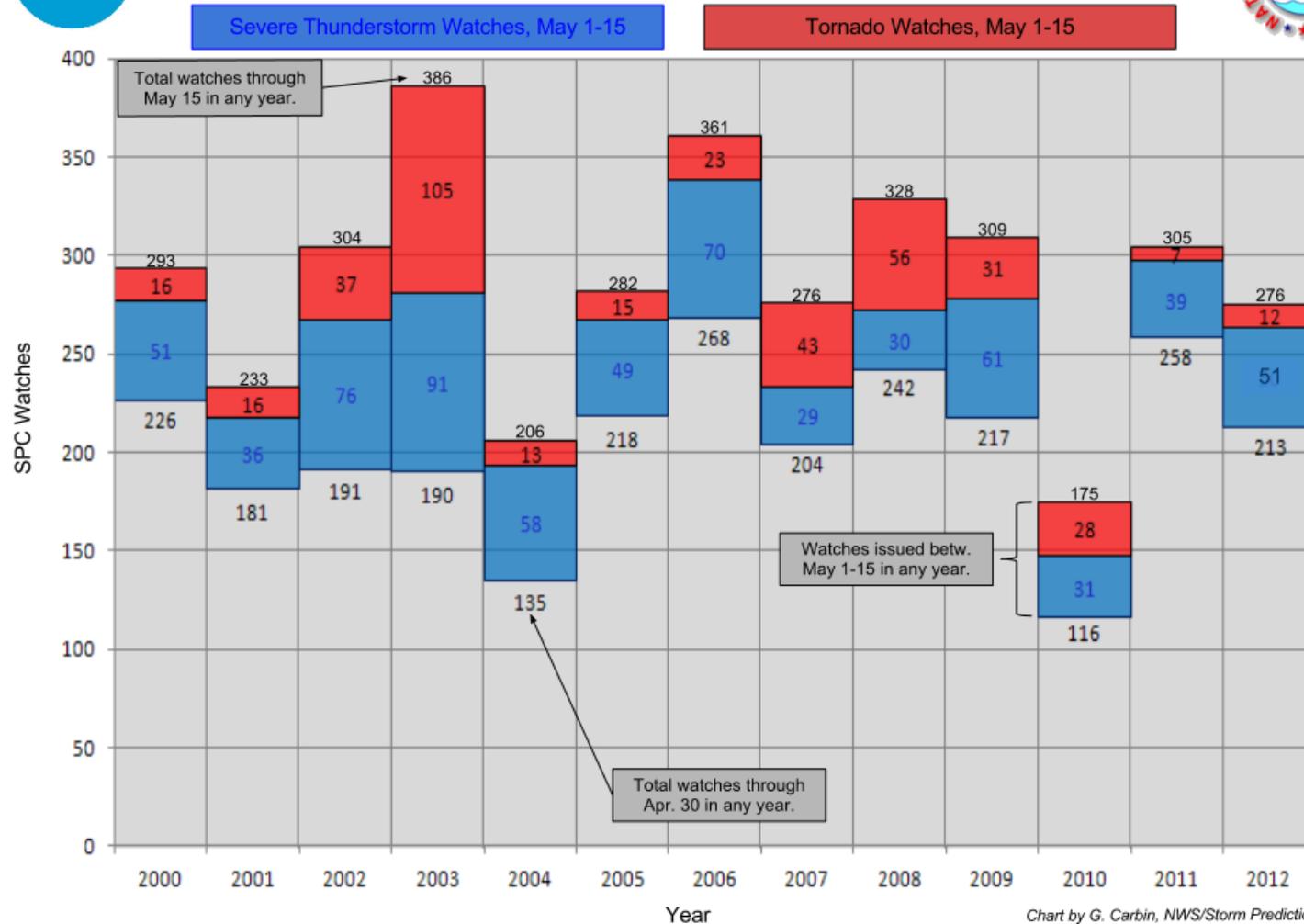
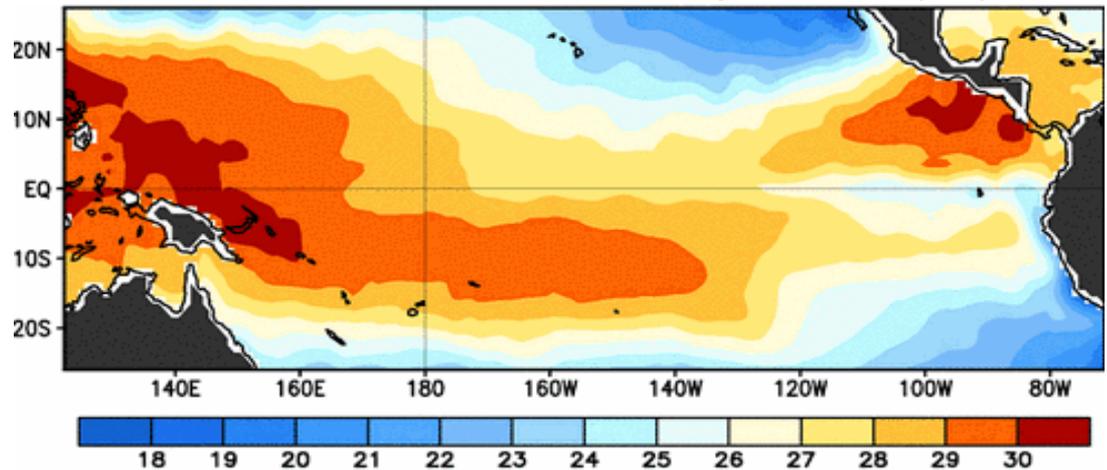


Chart by G. Carbin, NWS/Storm Prediction Center

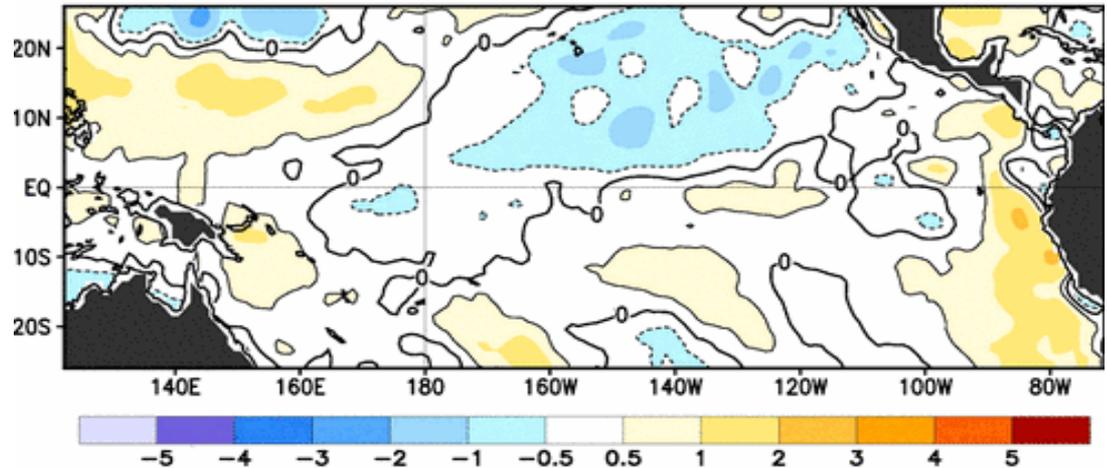
Latest Sea Surface Temperatures

**La Niña Has
Dissipated -- ENSO
Neutral
Conditions**

Observed Sea Surface Temperature (°C)



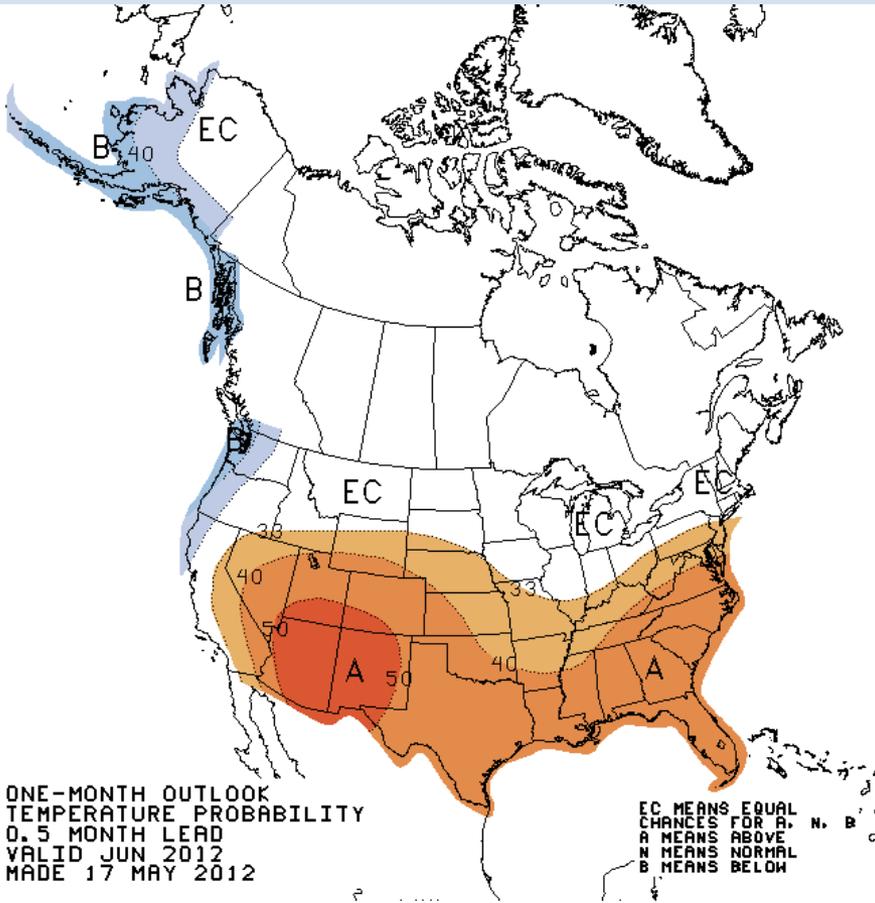
Observed Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies (°C)



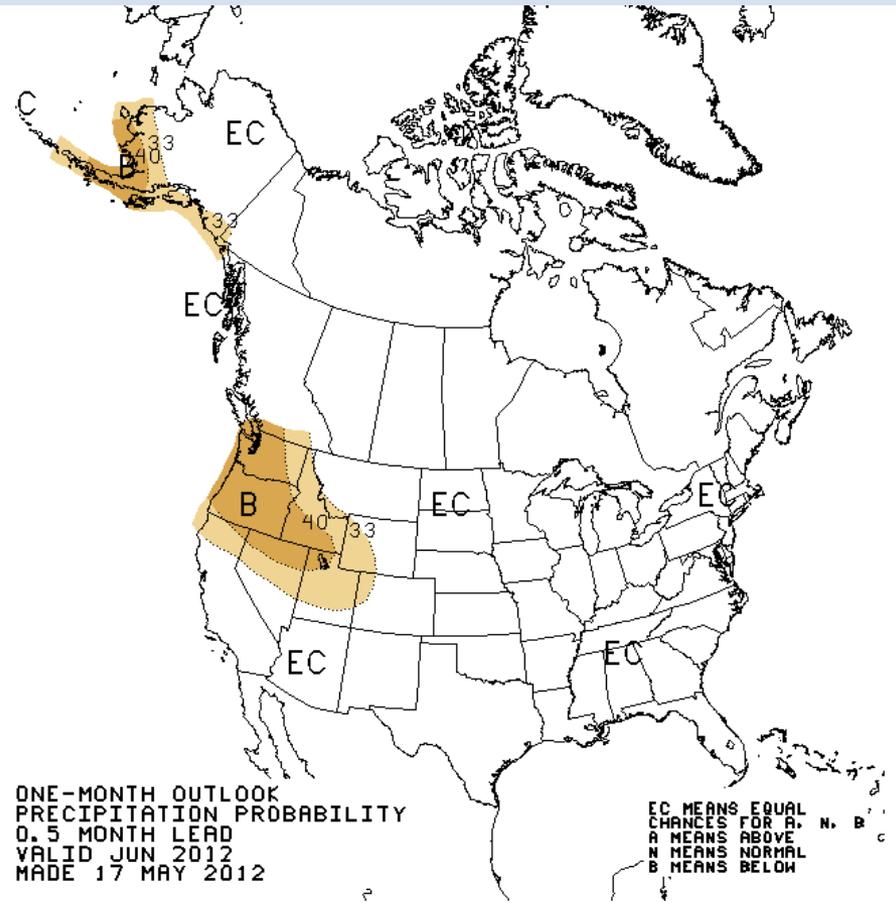
7-day Average Centered on 09 May 2012

1-Month Temperature and Precipitation Forecast

JUNE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY

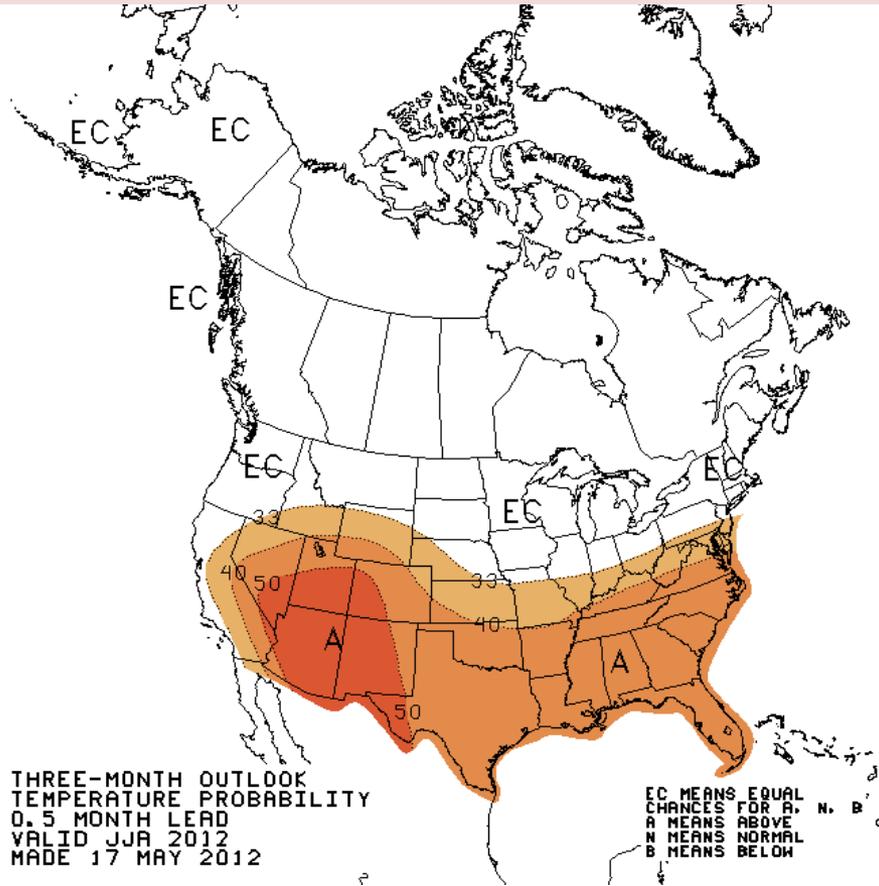


JUNE TOTAL PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY

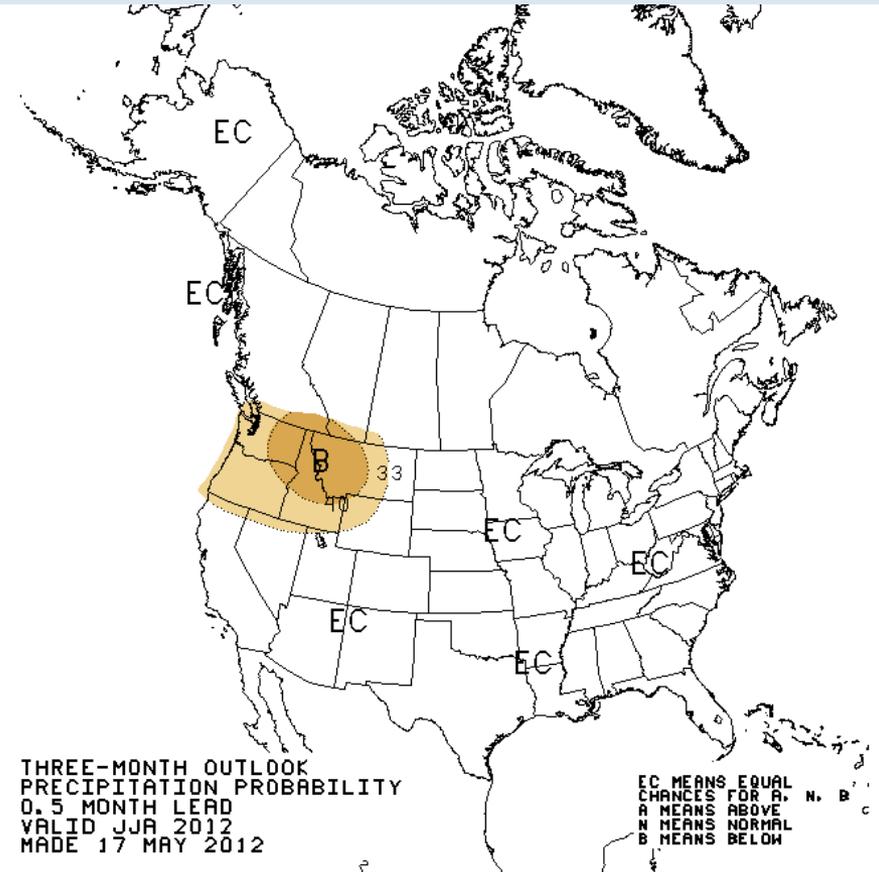


3-Month Temperature and Precipitation Forecast

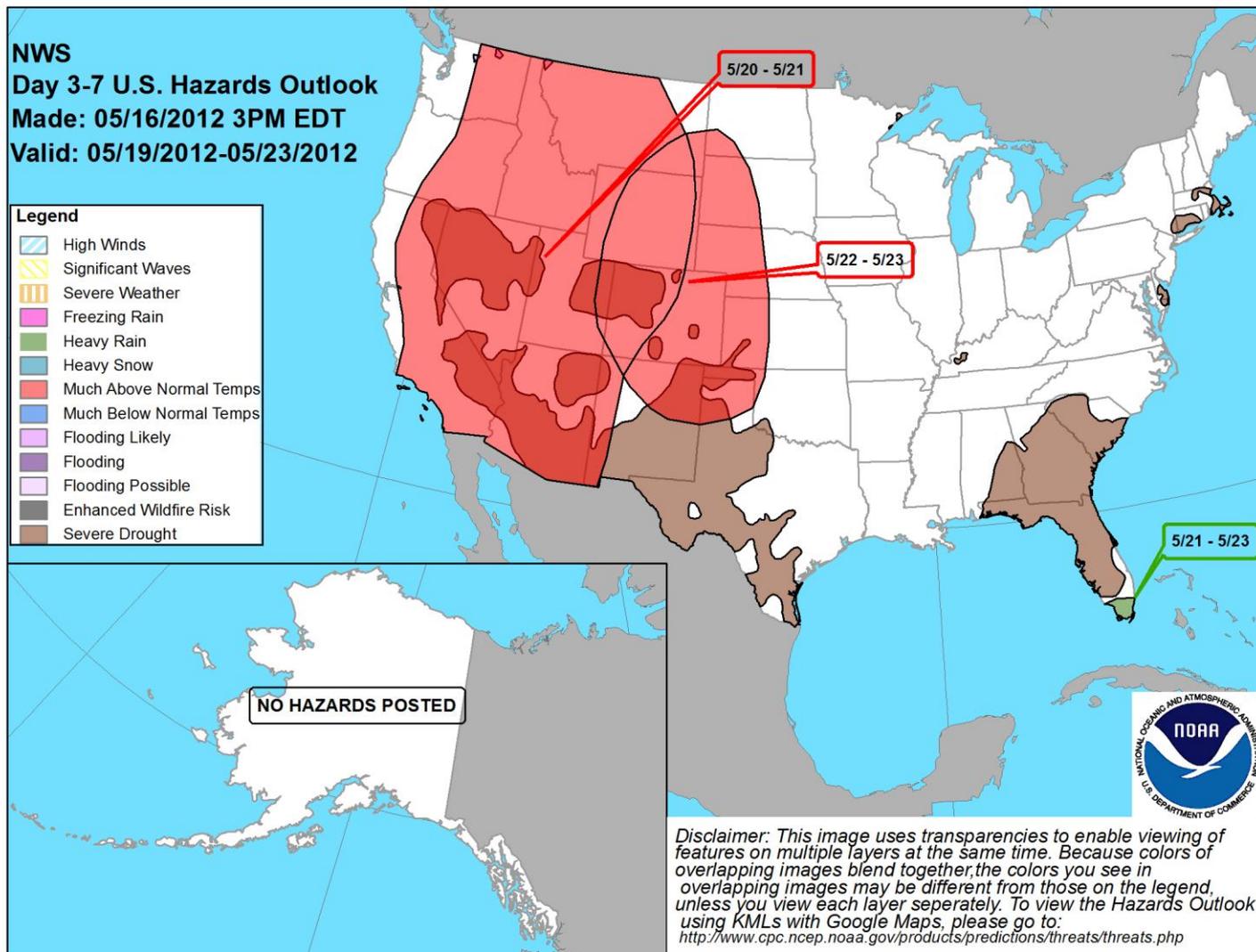
JUN-JUL-AUG AVERAGE TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY



JUN-JUL-AUG TOTAL PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY



Latest U.S. Hazards Outlook for Days 3-7



For More Information



- Today's Presentation: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/briefings>
- NOAA's National Climatic Data Center: www.ncdc.noaa.gov
 - Monthly climate reports (U.S. & Global): www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/
- NOAA's Climate Prediction Center: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov
- NOAA's Storm Prediction Center: www.spc.noaa.gov/
- U.S. Drought Monitor: www.drought.gov
- Climate Portal: www.climate.gov
- Regional Climate Centers: <http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/rccs.php>