



**CAPITAL WEATHER**  
DC'S TRUSTED WEATHER TEAM



**EESI**  
Environmental and  
Energy Study Institute



# Super El Niño 2026-27

**1997-98 Super El Niño**



(Here We Go Again)

Matt Rogers

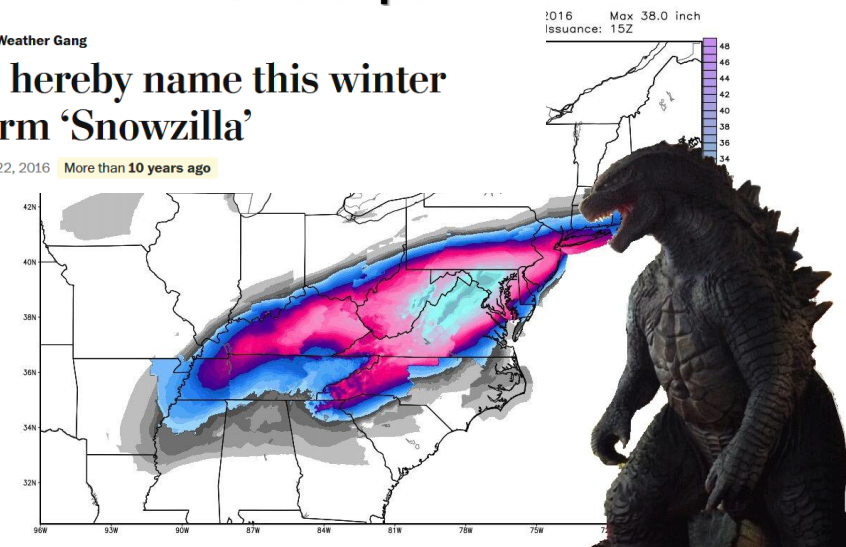
9/25/26

**2015-16 Super El Niño**

Capital Weather Gang

We hereby name this winter  
storm 'Snowzilla'

January 22, 2016 More than 10 years ago

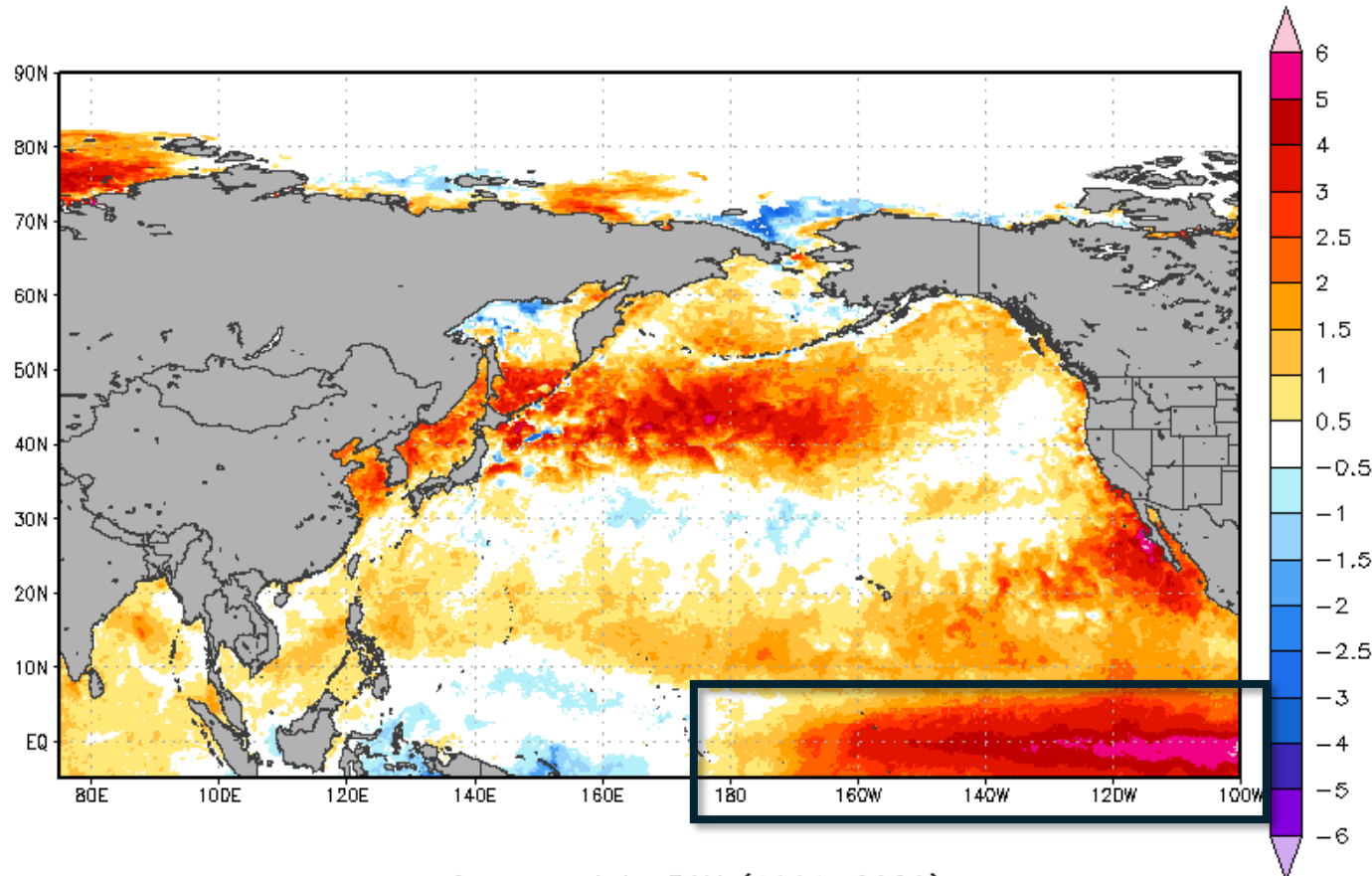


# El Niño Defined

- **Abnormally warm surface waters in the central/eastern Tropical Pacific**

SST Anomaly (C)  
Valid: 00z Tue 22 Sep 2026

UKMO-OSTIA  
Hour: 0



**“Super” when  
SSTs reach  
+2C or warmer**

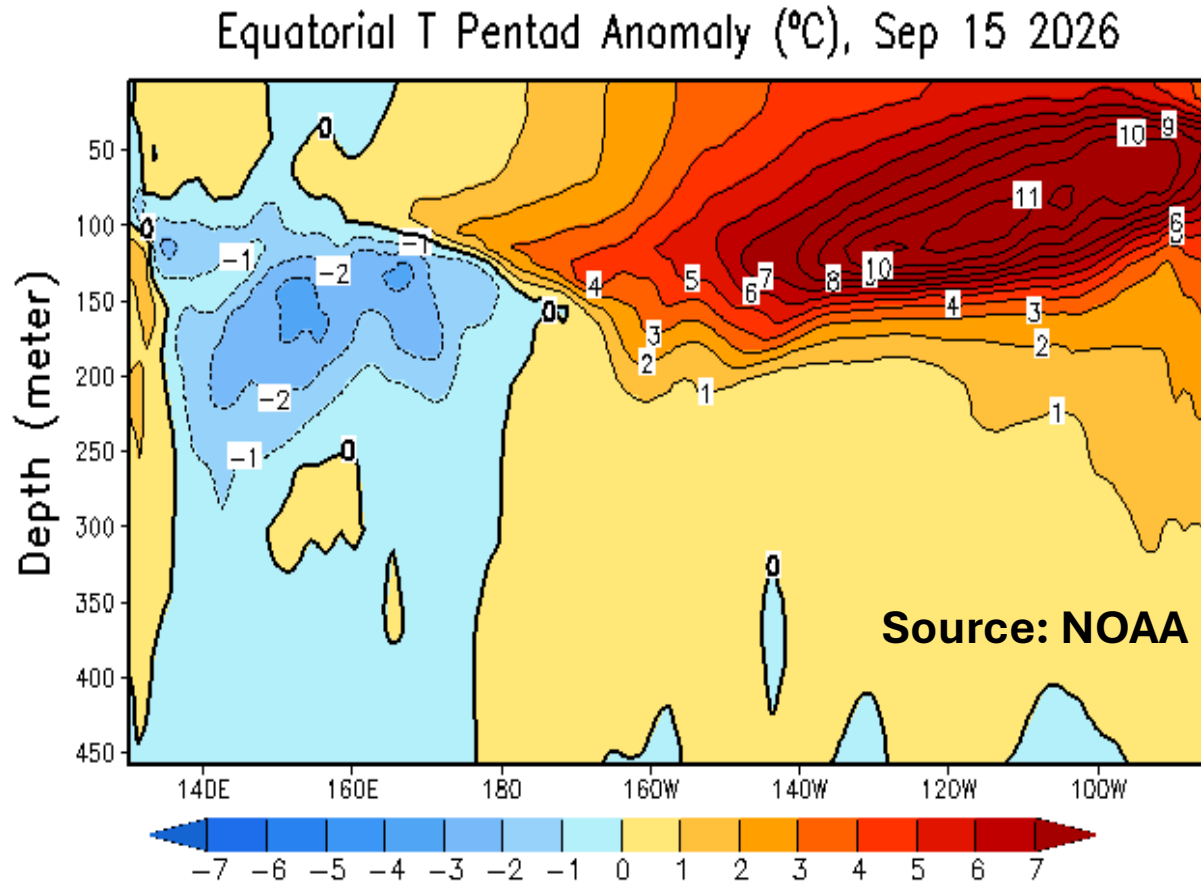
**1982-83  
1997-98  
2015-16  
2026-27**

Area Average: 1.04 C

Compared to 30Y (1991–2020)  
StormVistaWxModels.com

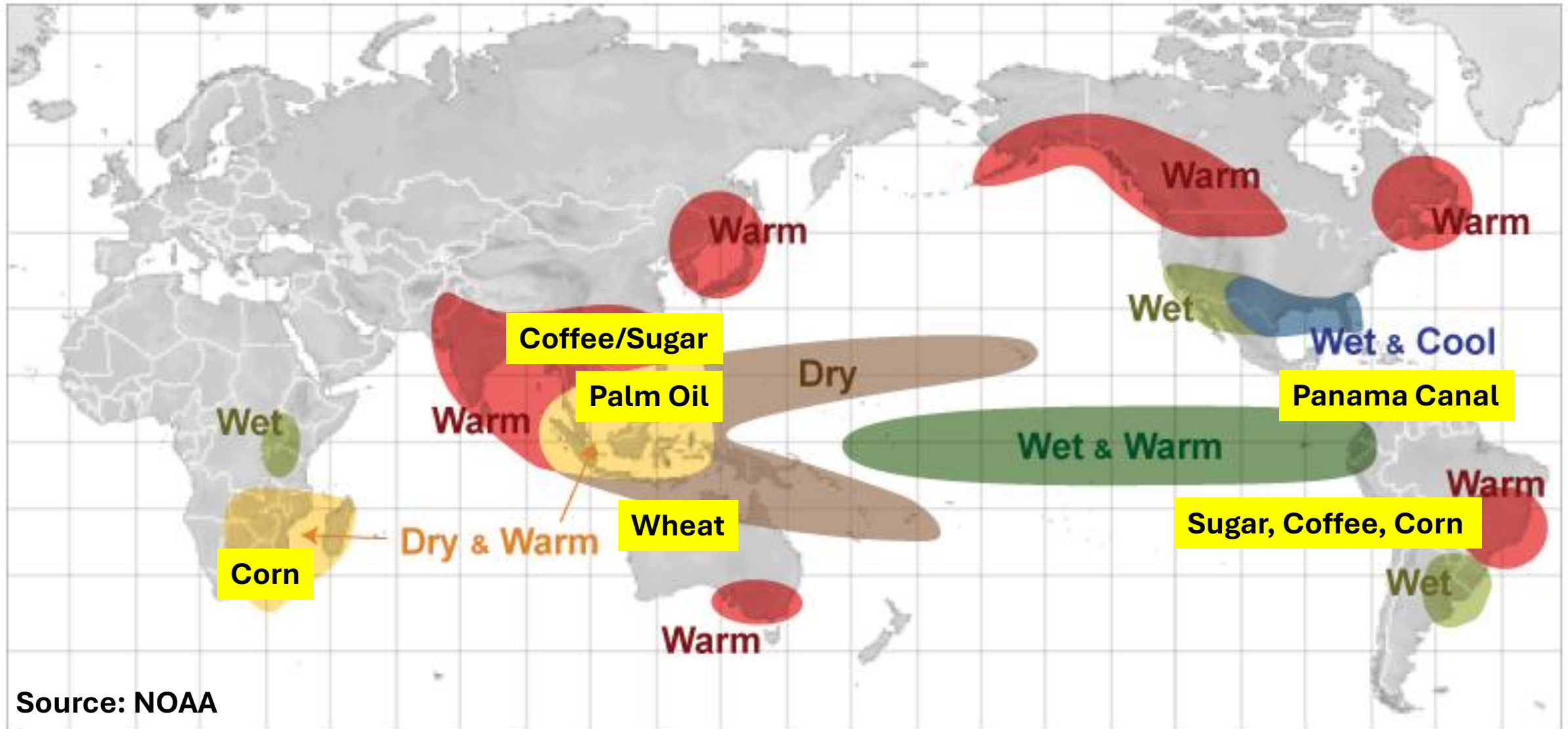
Init: 00z Tue 22 Sep 2026  
2026-09-23-03:30 ET

# How to Forecast it



- Global climate models
  - Starting showing this in early spring 2026
- Measuring surface and subsurface waters
- Measuring trade winds
- Analogous behavior

# Global Impacts\*

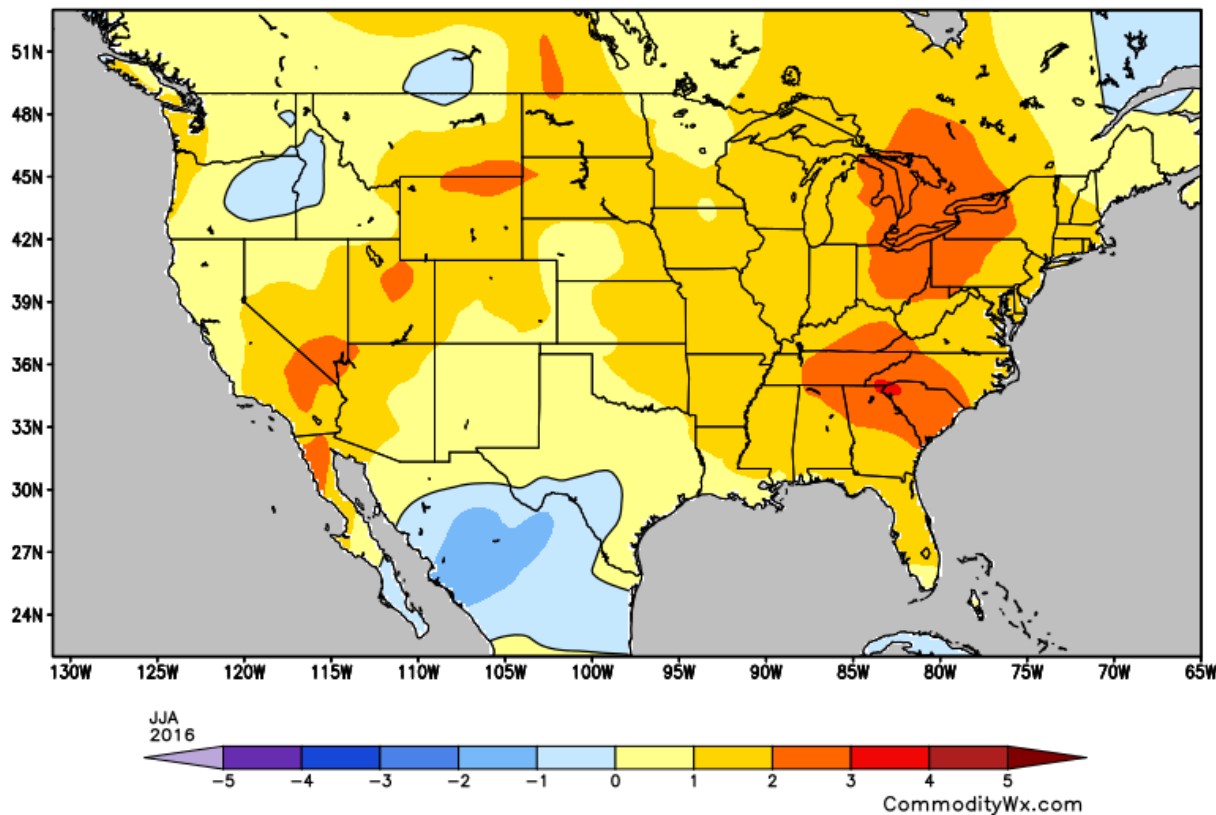


Source: NOAA

\*Not Always the Same

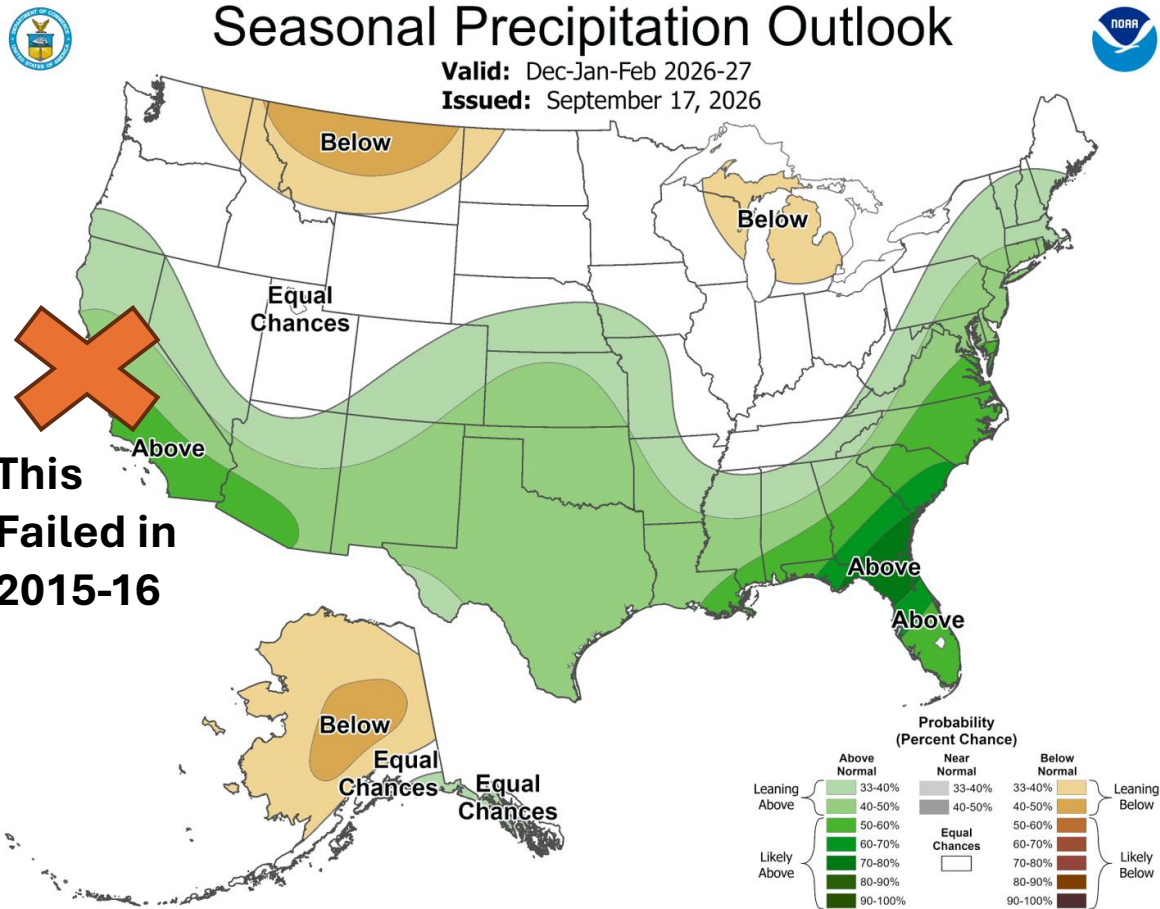
# North American Impacts

U.S. Station Surface Temperature (°F) anomaly  
(1991–2020 Climatology) Gas HDD: 21 Pop CDD: 1046 Elec CDD: 1124



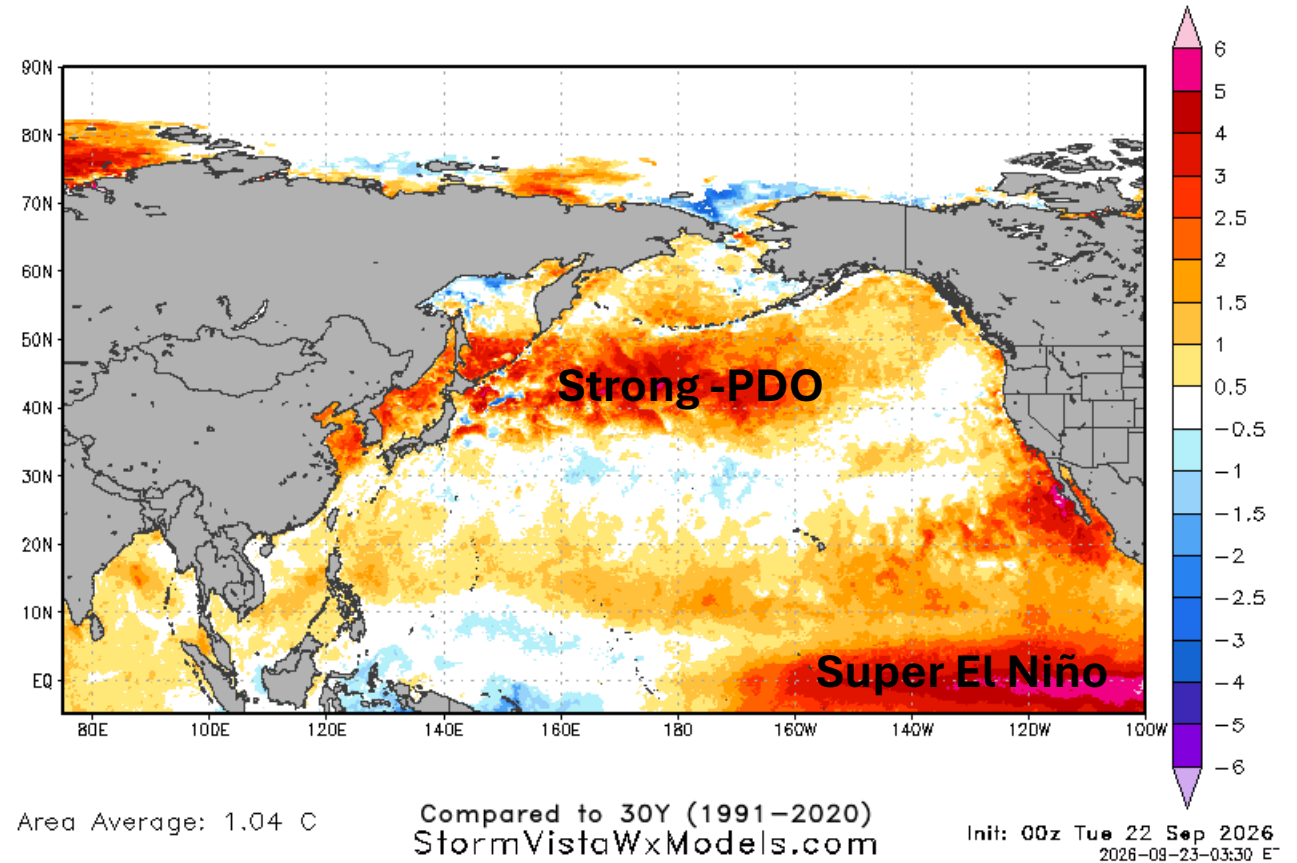
- Hyperactive Pacific hurricane season
- Very quiet Atlantic hurricane season
- East Coast storms (Nor'easters)
- Super/record warm U.S. winter
- Active West to South storm track
- Hot and dry U.S. summer with very active hurricane\* season (2027)

# Areas of Uncertainty



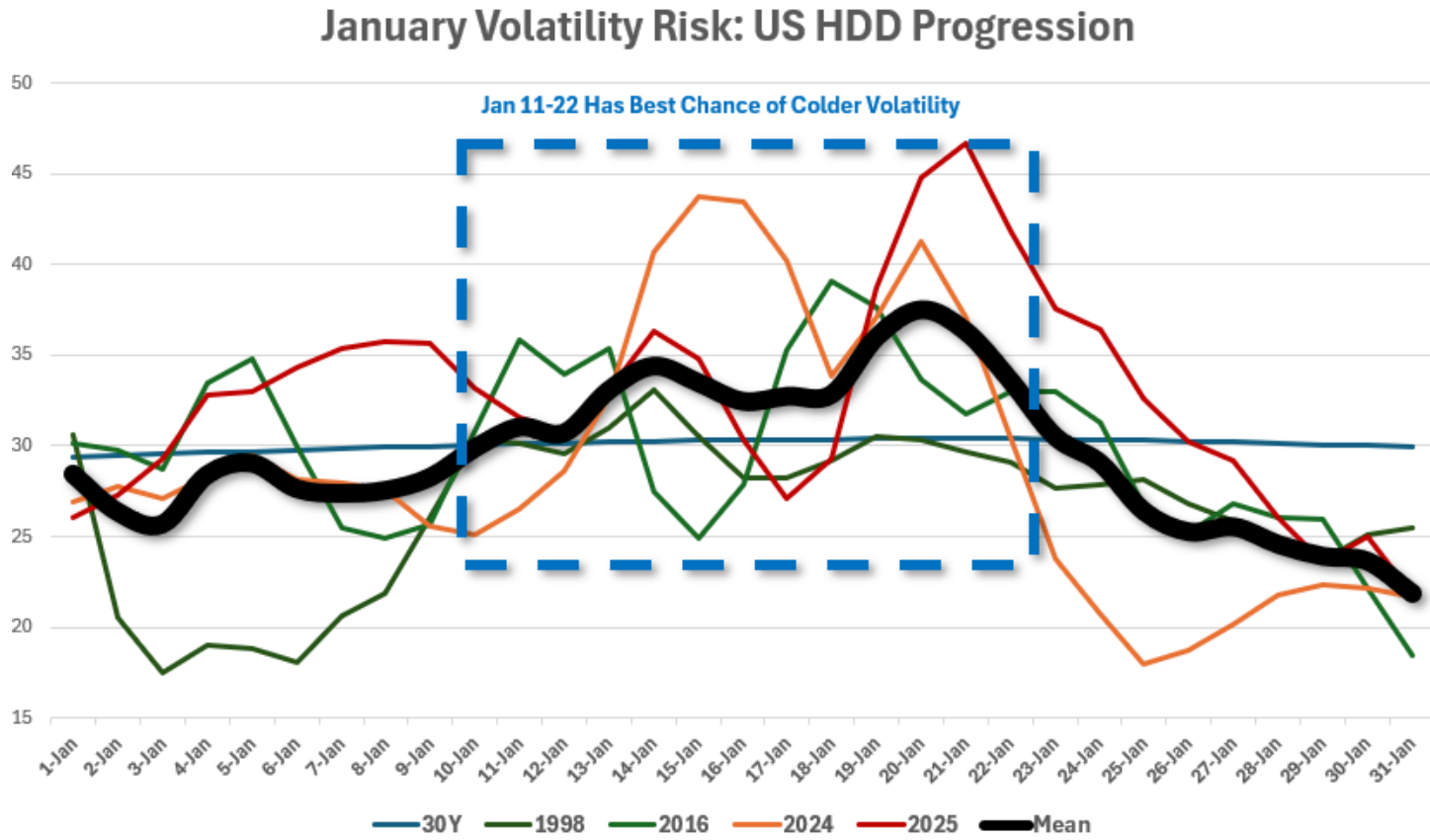
SST Anomaly (C)  
 Valid: 00z Tue 22 Sep 2026

UKMO-OSTIA  
 Hour: 0



**Never Recorded Super Niño with Strong -PDO in Modern History; But 2023-24 Came Close**

# Areas of Uncertainty



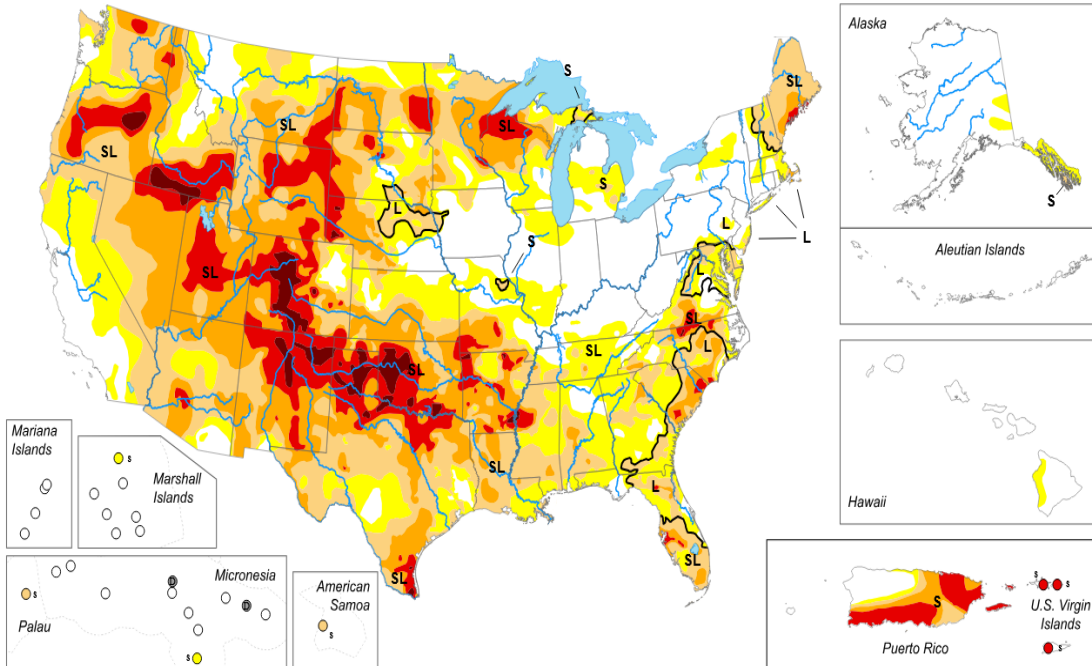
- Middle January may see colder volatility
- Similar to Jan 2016 “Snowzilla”
- Similar to Jan 2024 Winter Storm “Heather”

# Benefits

Map released: September 17, 2026

Data valid: September 15, 2026

☐ View grayscale version of the map



## Intensity and Impacts

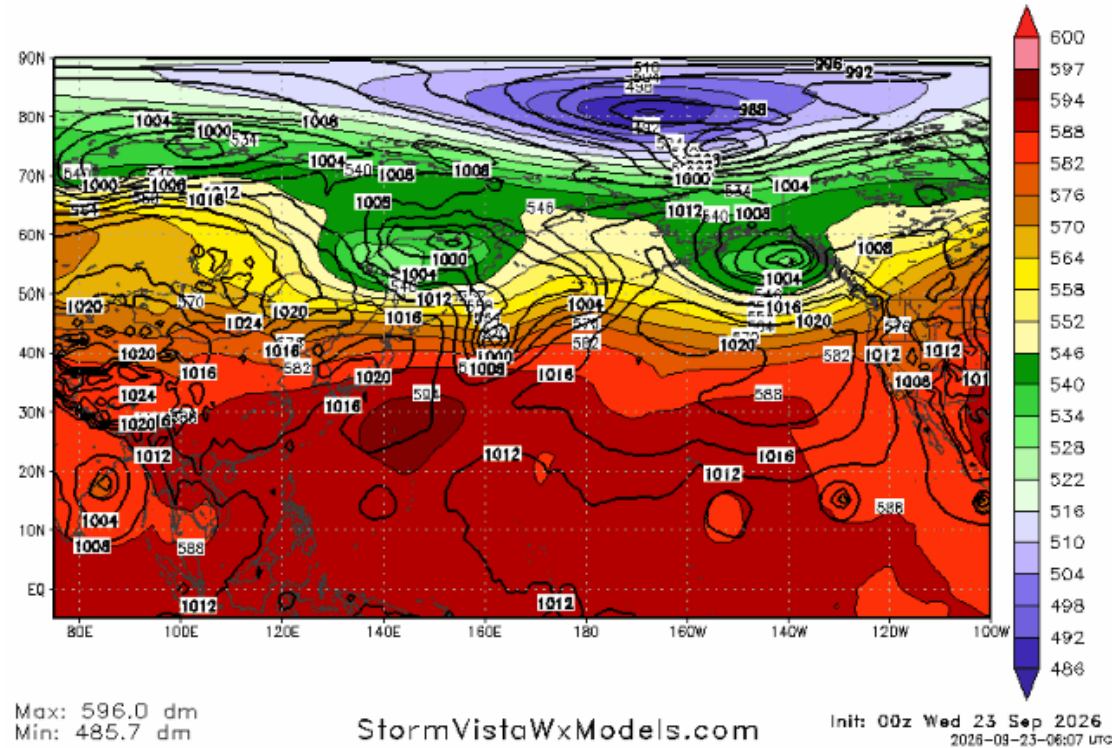
|                                              |                                                |                                                   |                                  |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None                | <input type="checkbox"/> D1 (Moderate Drought) | <input type="checkbox"/> D3 (Extreme Drought)     | <input type="checkbox"/> No Data |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D0 (Abnormally Dry) | <input type="checkbox"/> D2 (Severe Drought)   | <input type="checkbox"/> D4 (Exceptional Drought) |                                  |

- Drought relief for West Coast, South
- Hydro boost for Western reservoirs
- Very low U.S. energy demand/prices
- Quiet Atlantic hurricane season

# Downsides

500 mb Height & MSLP  
Valid: 00z Wed 23 Sep 2026

ECMWF-EPS  
Hour: 0



- Stormy winter pattern
  - Hyperactive Pacific jet stream
- Flooding risks
- Coastal erosion/flooding
- Usually sharp shift to very hot summer
  - But spring may not change as quickly