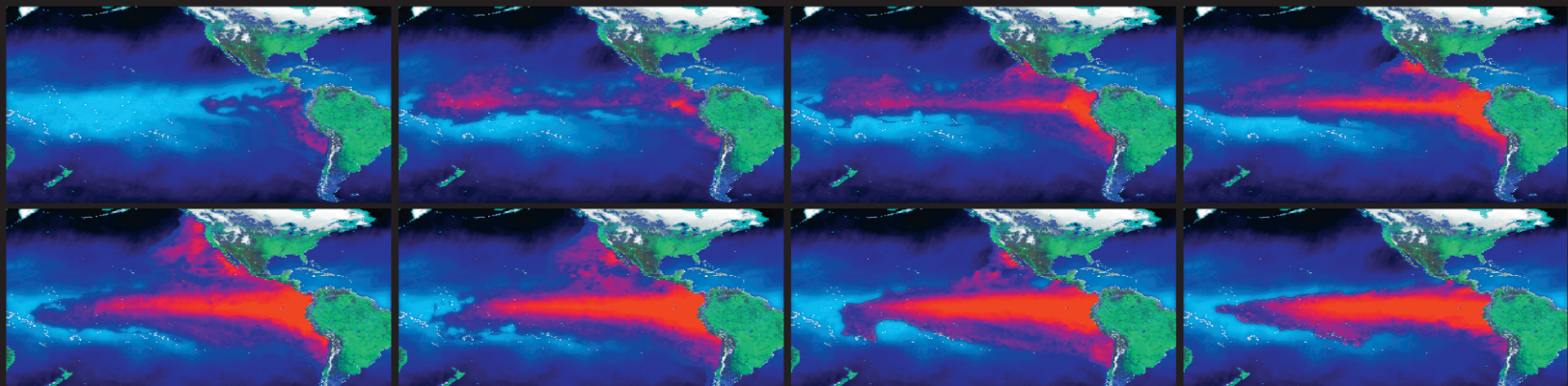


NOAA'S SATELLITE VIEWS EL NIÑO





National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

NOAA'S SATELLITE VIEWS

EL NIÑO

These sea-surface temperature (SST) Images were made from satellite-derived, high-resolution, sea-surface temperature anomalies using data from NOAA's polar-orbiting satellite, NOAA-14. The area depicted in red is the SST anomaly that corresponds to the El Niño "warm pool." Other regions where SSTs exceed normal levels are not highlighted in red, nor are regions shown that might be below normal.

The sequence of eight images in the lower portion of this plate show the development of the El Niño from March 10, 1997 through February 10, 1998 (at approximately 6-week intervals). Shown at the top is the October 10, 1997 image (fifth in the sequence), enlarged onto the Earth's disc of the western hemisphere. At this time, the SST anomaly is roughly twice the size of the United States, extending from the South American shoreline of Chile, northward to the west coast of the United States, and westward to the International Date Line in the mid-Pacific Ocean. At times the SSTs were as much as +9°C above normal. These extremely high temperatures during the early development of the 1997/98 El Niño are the highest ever recorded during any April-July time period.