



The Evolution of the 2015-16 El Niño

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The 2015-16 El Niño is in an exclusive club, ranking among the strongest events over at least the past half century. In contrast to 2014, the event was generally well predicted by operational climate services. Alerts were issued within the first half of 2015, and by mid-year, there was clearer evidence that the event would be potentially historical. The evolution of several oceanic and atmospheric measures will be presented to put this event in context and compare it with the 1982-83 and 1997-98 El Niños. While the 2015-16 El Niño was comparable to these previous events in certain ways, in other aspects it was a unique beast.