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**GET AN UPDATED EL NIÑO FORECAST, AND FIND OUT WHAT IMPACT EL NIÑO
MAY HAVE ON OUR NATION WITH NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE,
NASA'S JET PROPULSION LABORATORY, AND AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC**

The Aquarium of the Pacific in California, NOAA Headquarters in Maryland, and the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry debut a new El Niño program

November 13, 2014, Long Beach, CA—In some places El Niño may bring beneficial rain, while in others droughts and dangerous heat waves. The Aquarium of the Pacific in Southern California presented the latest El Niño forecast and the potential impacts during its webcast featuring NOAA's National Weather Service Science and Operations Officer John Dumas; Dr. Bill Patzert, climatologist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL); and Aquarium President Dr. Jerry Schubel. During the live interactive webcast the Aquarium projected current satellite images and other data on its high-tech Science on a Sphere® (SOS) to illustrate the potential impact of El Niño on our nation and the world. The full webcast video is available on the [Aquarium's website](#).

Dumas reported that the National Weather Service is currently reporting a 53 percent likelihood for an El Niño to develop this winter. And if it does develop, it will be weak, he said. An El Niño event occurs when trade winds that normally blow from east to west slow or reverse, and the sea surface temperature in the Pacific is at least 4 degrees higher than normal for three consecutive months. "Currently, temperatures are measuring at 0.8 degrees above normal," Dumas said. When asked if an El Niño would help counteract the Southern California drought, Dumas said even if we had a strong El Niño, it would not be enough to put Southern California back to pre-drought conditions. "Since this has been a three-year drought, we would need at least three years of above-average rainfall," he said.

Weather experts had predicted a stronger El Niño earlier this year, but as summer progressed, the warm patch of water that held promise for a developing El Niño started to disappear, Patzert said. However, he pointed out that El Niño is not Southern California's only hope for rain this winter. "Other weather systems can deliver rain from the North Pacific," he said. "We've already had a late start to the rainy season. We are only at 35 percent of normal. We should keep our fingers crossed for a wet winter."

The Aquarium also created a new show about El Niño for the SOS platform, which will be shown daily in its Ocean Science Center starting November 15. You can view the *El Niño* trailer at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3N2G4jsJr-w> . The Aquarium creates SOS programming about environmental issues from extreme weather to sea level rise to share with its 1.5 million visitors and institutions around the world.

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