

New NAME activities...

- NAM regional climate observing system design
- NAM Forecast Forum
- NAME SWG-9 Meeting: Acapulco, MX, May 24 in conjunction with Joint AGU/UGM assembly
- 3 Special sessions on NAME planned at AGU/UGM Joint assembly with over 30 talks and 15 posters
- CLIVAR Exchanges Special Issue
- NAME SWG-10 to be focused on progress in NAME predictions research

The NAME Forecast Forum: Tracking skill in N. American warm season precipitation forecasts

Purpose:

To provide an accessible, online forum, for the posting, distribution, monitoring and synthesis of intra-seasonal and seasonal forecasts of the North American Monsoon.

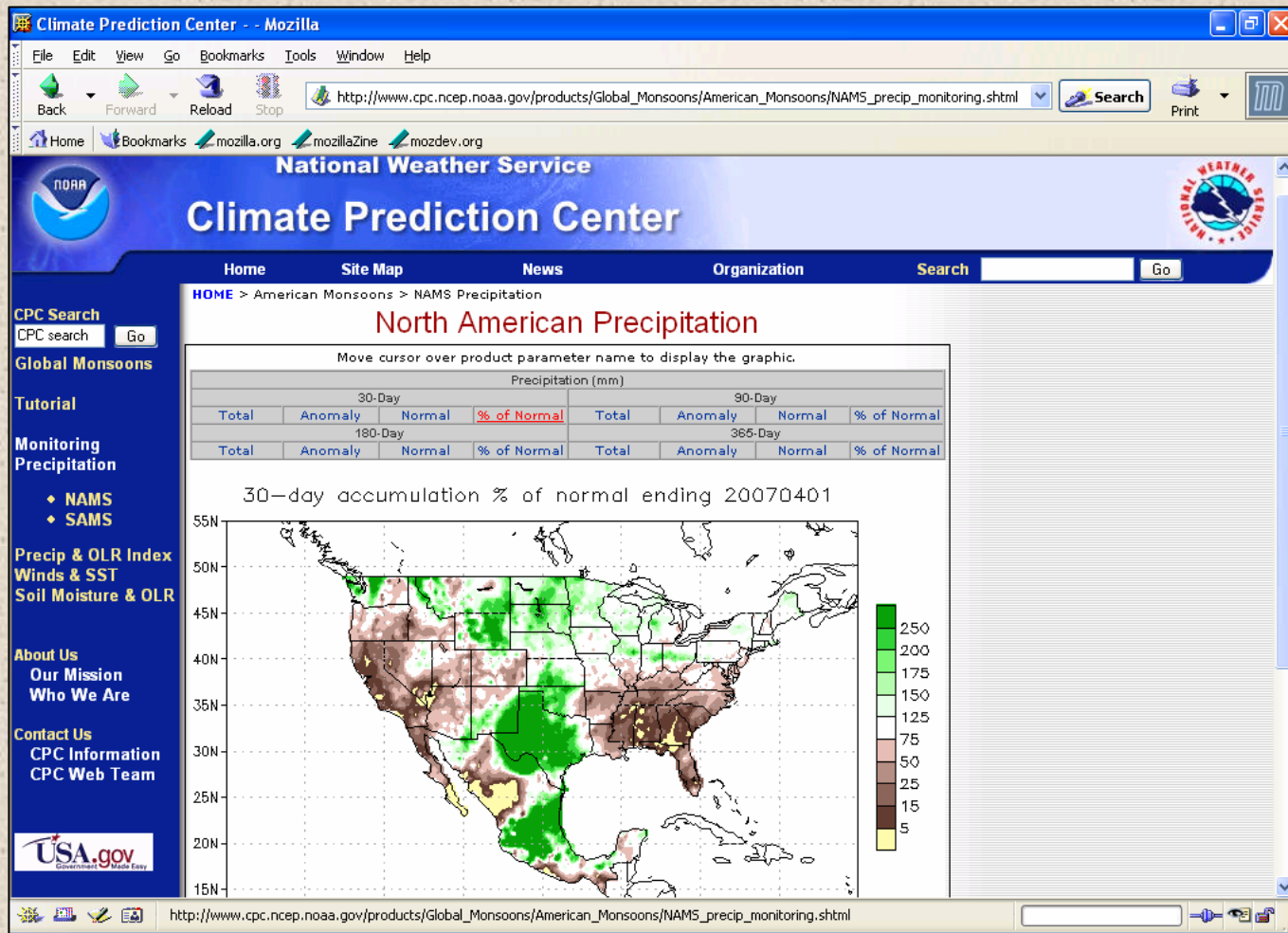
Principal Activities:

- Monitor key indices of monsoon behavior
- Monitor forecast skill of intra-seasonal to seasonal predictions of the North American Monsoon
- Disseminate to the community a range of NAM intra-seasonal and seasonal forecast products
- Synthesize NAM forecast products into periodic consolidated NAM outlooks
- Link NAM monitoring activities with other monsoon monitoring activities such as that currently under development by NOAA/CPC, IRI and others



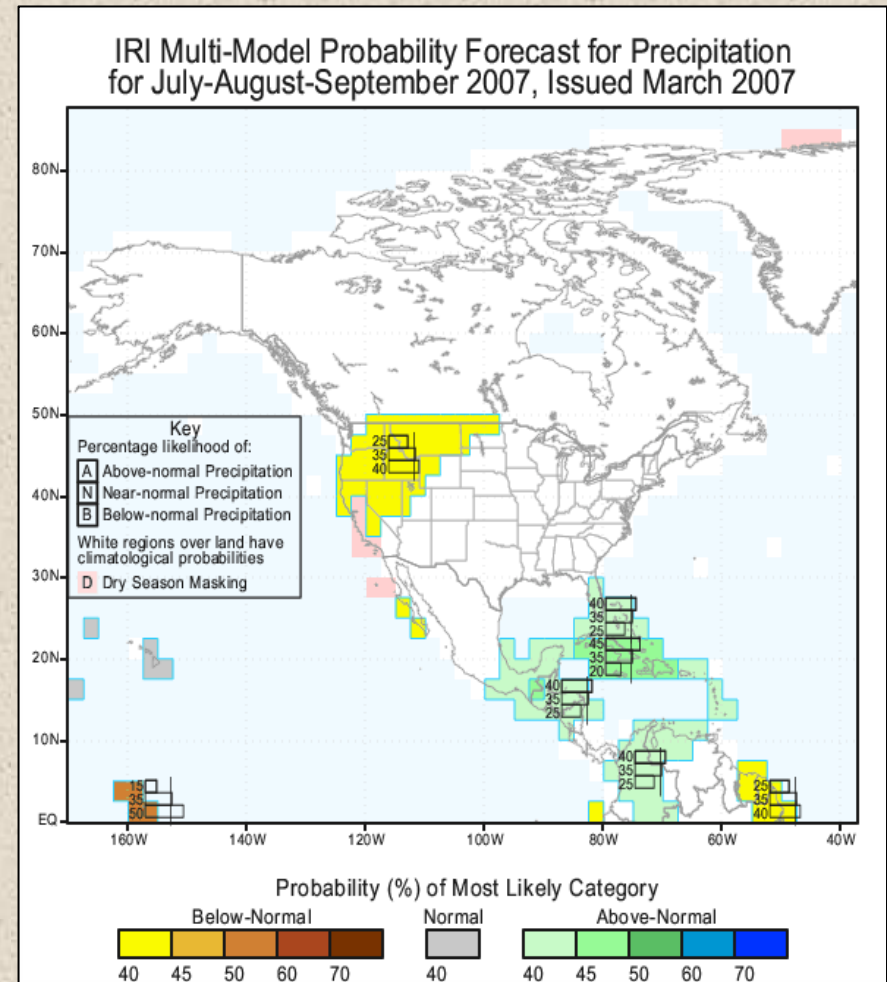
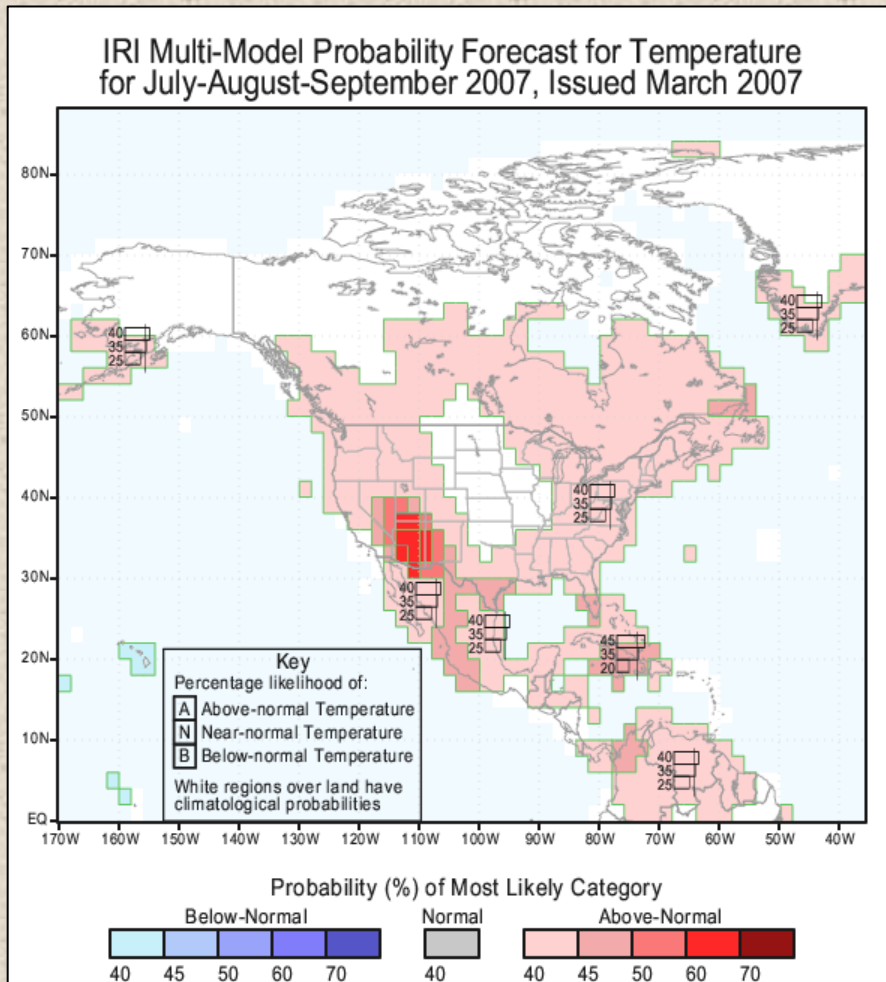
The NAME Forecast Forum:

- Consolidated monsoon monitoring at CPC:



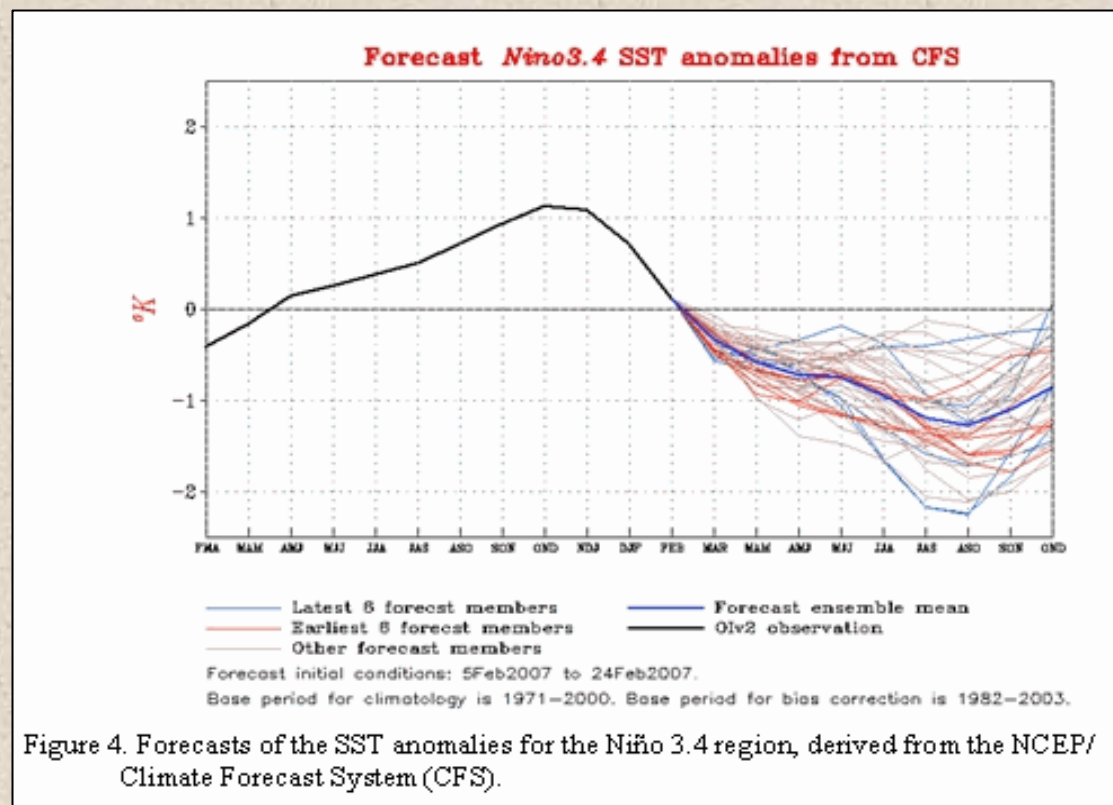
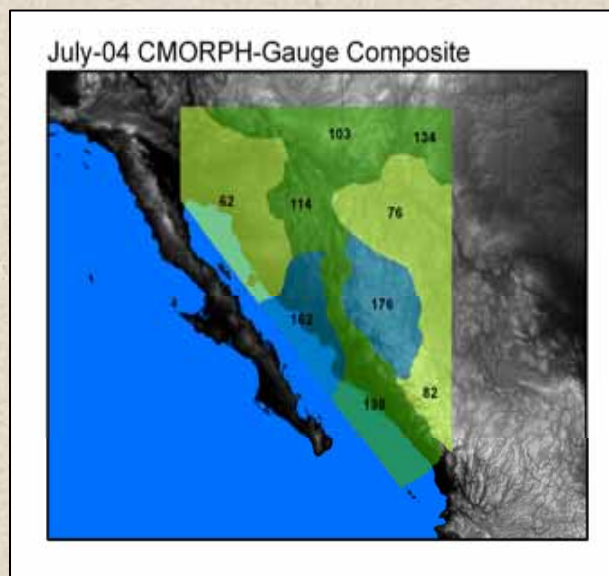
The NAME Forecast Forum:

- Consolidated global forecasting at IRI:



The NAME Forecast Forum:

- Defining monsoon indices and metrics of performance:
 - EOF/climate based regionalization vs. user-based criteria?
 - Combination of monitored and forecasted indices...



The NAME Forecast Forum:

- Action items:
 - Initiate discussion and solicit participation from NAME SWG and beyond (SWG-9)
 - Develop a limited suite of regional metrics of observable monsoon activity
 - Generate climatologies of metrics
 - Engage prediction groups to submit forecasts of indices and provide links to host group prediction sites
 - NCEP, NASA, Scripps, CPPA investigators...
 - Develop protocols for periodic monsoon summary and outlooks

The NAME Forecast Forum:

Rationale:

Since completion of the 2004 NAME Enhanced Observing Period NAME has entered into its principal modeling and prediction phase, there is a clear need to demonstrate and assess warm season forecast skill, particularly as it relates to precipitation and streamflow. As a logical follow-on to NAM modeling activities coordinated under the NAME Model Assessment Program (NAMAP), there is an opportunity to provide a forum which consolidates and assesses, in real-time, the skill of intra-seasonal and seasonal monsoon forecasts. The NAMAP effort was formulated and executed by the NAME Climate Process Team (CPT) whose input along with that of the NAME Science Working Group is in the process of being solicited with regard to the proposed NAME Forecast Forum. NOAA/CPC has already initiated a 'global monsoons monitoring' web site which is now under development. They presently plan to develop (and monitor) key indices / metrics for monsoon systems of Asia-Australia, Africa, and North and South America. At present they are compiling basic set of monitoring fields, with specific metrics expected to soon follow. It is presently envisioned that the NAME Forecaster Forum will be explicitly linked to CPC's monsoon monitoring effort. While it might be difficult or, at times, impossible to obtain complete retrospective forecasts from CPC and other prediction groups, the forum will plan on tracking skill moving forward over the next few monsoon seasons.

