



TRANSCRIPT

NOAA U.S./Global Climate Media Briefing

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Media advisory about briefing :

<https://www.noaa.gov/media-advisory/noaa-monthly-us-global-climate-report-call-thursday-sept-15>

Operator (Michelle):

Morning, and thank you for standing by and welcome to the climate conference. Your lines are in a listen-only mode until the question and answer session of today's conference.

Operator (Michelle):

At that time, you may press star followed by the number one to ask a question. Please unmute your phones and state your name when prompted. Today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. It is now my pleasure to turn the call over to Mr. John Bateman. Sir, you may begin.

John Jones-Bateman:

Thank you Michelle. Good morning everyone. And thank you for joining this monthly climate update call. Part of the suite of climate services that NOAA provides the government, business, academia and the public to support informed decision making.

John Jones-Bateman:

I'm John Bateman of Vanilla Communications, and I'll be facilitating the call today. If you have any additional questions after the conclusion of today's call my colleague, John Leslie, and I can both be reached by email at...Now we'll spell it n e s d i s dot p a at n o a a dot g o v. And that's nesdis.pa@noaa.gov.

John Jones-Bateman:

Today's update will feature two short presentations followed by an operator assisted question and answer session. A copy of the presentation our speakers will follow, can be downloaded from the link in the media advisory. And with that, I'll introduce our speakers. The first speaker is Ahira Sanchez-Lugo, a climatologist with NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information who will provide a summary of the August and June through August 2022, U.S. and Global Climate Report, as well as the latest drought monitor update. And our second presenter is Scott Handel, a meteorologist at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, who will provide the latest El Nino La Nina update as well as the U.S. temperature,

precipitation and drought outlook for October, November, and December. Our first speaker will be Ahira from Noah MCEI.

Ahira Sanchez-Lugo:

Thank you, John. And thanks to everyone who joined in today. I'm going to go ahead and start on slide two to look at the global temperatures for the month of August. So during the month of August, we saw warmer than average conditions across much of the world's land and ocean surfaces. Record warm August temperatures were present across parts of Western North America, Western and Southern Asia, Europe, and the Atlantic and Pacific ocean. Cooler than average conditions were present across parts of the north Atlantic, specifically south a Greenland, Central Asia, and across parts of central and eastern tropical Pacific oceans. However, no land or ocean areas had a record cold August temperature. Averaged as a whole, this was the sixth warmest August on record at point 90 degrees Celsius, or 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit above average, and the northern hemisphere as a whole had an August temperature that tied with 2020 as the highest for the month of August on record. Regionally North America and Europe had their warmest August on record while Asia had its fourth warmest on record.

Ahira Sanchez-Lugo:

The month of August marks the end of the meteorological summer for the Northern hemisphere and winter for the Southern hemisphere. During this three month period, we saw that warmer than average temperatures were present across much of the globe with record warm June through August temperatures across parts of Europe, Asia, northern and North America, and the Pacific ocean. Cooler than average temperatures were limited to parts of the central and eastern Pacific ocean and in small areas in central and southern Asia. However, once again, no land or ocean areas had a record cold June through August period. As a whole, the June through August temperature for the globe tied with 2015 and 2017 as the fifth highest fresh period on record. The northern hemisphere of summer was the second warmest summer since global records it stems back to 1880 and only the summer of 2020 was warmer. Meanwhile, the southern hemisphere had its 10th warmest winter on record.

Ahira Sanchez-Lugo:

Regionally, Europe had its warmest summer on record, according to our data records while North America and Asia had their second warmest June through April period. Moving now to slide number three, to look at the year to date temperatures for the globe. The global surface temperature for the first eight months of the year was also the sixth highest on record at .86 degrees Celsius or 1.55 degrees Fahrenheit above average. And during this year to date period much warmer than average conditions will present across much of the globe with record high temperatures across parts of Europe, Asia, and the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Ahira Sanchez-Lugo:

Cooler than average temperatures were present across parts of the central and eastern tropical Pacific, as well as the southeastern Pacific ocean. However, no land or ocean areas had a record cold January through August period. Europe had its second warmest January through August period behind the record that was set in 2020 and Asia had its third warmest such period while Oceania had its ninth warmest on record. South America and Africa did have an above average year to date temperature. However, this was your coolest such period since 2011 and 2012 respectively.

Ahira Sanchez-Lugo:

And according to a statistical analysis, the year is very likely to rank among the 10 warmest years on record, but only has less than 11% chance to rank among the five warmest years on record. Moving now to slide number four, to look at the U.S. So during the month of August, March of the continuous U.S. had above average temperatures. There were eight

states across the northwest and the northeast that had a record warm August. There were several other states across these regions that had a top five warm August. And this was mainly due to a high pressure system that was near the west and the northeast that helped bring warm temperatures to the region. However, no state had a statewide average temperature that was below average during the month of August. Average as a whole, the continuous U.S. had an August temperature of 74.6 degrees Fahrenheit, which is 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit above average.

Ahira Sanchez-Lugo:

And this was the eighth warmest August for the nation and the national data records extend back to 1895. In terms of precipitation, the nation's August precipitation total was 3.04 inches, which is .42 inch above average. And this tied as the 19th wettest August on record. As you see from the map, precipitation was above average across parts of the west, the Midwest, the Southern Mississippi valley and the plains. The state of Mississippi had its wettest August on record while Nevada and Louisiana had their third wettest on record. And the very wet conditions across this region were mainly due to a strong cold front that help bring heavy rain from Mississippi, from Texas, excuse me, to Mississippi during the month. Meanwhile, drivers and average conditions were observed across parts of the central and Northern Plains, the Northwest and parts of the Atlantic, Northern Atlantic coastline. The state of Nebraska had a near record dry August while Kansas had its seventh driest August on record.

Ahira Sanchez-Lugo:

Moving now to slide number five, to look at the summer conditions across the U.S. The summer temperature for the continuous U.S. was 73.9 degrees Fahrenheit, which is 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit above average. And this was the nation's third warmest summer on record. This was only .08 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than the record summer that took place first in 1936, and then tied in the summer of 2021. Only one state had a statewide average temperature that was near average. All the other states had an above average summer temperature. However, no state had a record warm summer temperature. There were about 20 states that had a top 10 warmest summer on record with Texas, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, having a near record warm summer. In terms of precipitation, it was wetter than average across parts of the west coast, the Southwest, Midwest, the lower Mississippi valley and the state of Maine while drier than average conditions were present across the Great Plains and the parts of the Eastern coast.

Ahira Sanchez-Lugo:

There were several states that had a top 10 wet or dry summer, but no state had a record wet or record dry summer. Averaged as a whole, the U.S. had a summer precipitation total of 8.18 inches, which is .14 inch below average. And it's ranked in the middle third of the summer record.

Ahira Sanchez-Lugo:

Moving now to slide number six, looking at drought across the continuous U.S. This map was released today, so as of today, about 45% of the continuous U.S. was in some type of drought. This is about four percentage points less than a month ago. Regionally about 71% of the western U.S., 48% of the south, and about 52% of the high Plains were in some type of drought. Compared to about a month ago, droughted across parts of the Northwest and the high Plains and small areas across the Midwest, the Northeast and the Mid-Atlantic region. While drought improved across parts of the south, especially across much of Texas due to the recent rains that they've received. Outside of the continuous U.S., Hawaii continued to be entrenched and moderate to extreme drought. Meanwhile, beneficial rains fell across parts of Puerto Rico, which helped bring, which helped lead to some drought improvement in the region. That is all that I have for this for today. I will now turn it over to Scott Handel.

Scott Handel:

Thank you. And good morning everybody. This is Scott Handel, meteorologist from the National Weather Service Client Prediction Center. I'm going to start off by bringing your attention to slide seven of the presentation with the current observations and forecast of the El Nino Southern oscillation. The figure on the left shows the current sea surface temperature anomalies in the tropical Pacific. The blue shading represents areas where sea surface temperatures are below normal and the orange and red areas correspond to areas where sea surface temperatures are above normal. As you could see, there's lots of blue near the center of the map. Indicating that on average sea surface temperatures are currently below normal near the equator. Sea surface temperatures and what is called El Nino 3.4 region of the tropical Pacific are roughly one degree Celsius below normal, which puts us firmly in La Nina territory, which starts when sea surface temperatures fall to half a degrees Celsius below normal.

Scott Handel:

Looking to the future. A continuation of La Nina is the most likely scenario as we head into the winter. The chart on the right indicates that there's around a 90% chance of La Nina this fall and a greater than 50% chance through the winter. Thereafter, a transition to the neutral phase of the El Nino cellular oscillation is the most likely outcome as we progress through next spring. Now moving from the tropics to closer to home, I'd like to draw your attention to slide eight, slide eight, which represents our monthly outlooks for the month of October. These outlooks represent the probabilities of the mean temperature or total precipitation for the month will be below normal or below, near, or above normal. The red and orange shading on the map to the left indicates areas where above normal temperature are the most likely outcome while the blue shading indicates areas where below normal temperatures are more likely.

Scott Handel:

Looking at the map on the left the first thing that stands out is that there's a lot of red and orange on the map indicating that most of the country is favored to have warmer than normal temperatures in October. This is especially true for the central Rockies through the central Plains and into the middle Mississippi Valley. Where there's greater than a 50% chance of above normal temperatures. This anticipated warmth is due a variety of factors, such as La Nina impacts, model guidance trends, influences from the Madden-Julian oscillation. On the flip side, parts of south central Alaska are favor to have the below normal temperatures were the ongoing La Nina tends to have the opposite impact. Looking at precipitation in the areas of green on the map, on the right indicates regions where the total precipitation is favored to be above normal for October. And the brown areas represent regions where below normal precipitation is the most likely scenario. Below normal monthly total precipitation mounts are favored from north central California eastward across the central Rockies, the central and Southern Plains, in parts of the central Mississippi and Ohio valley.

Scott Handel:

The La Nina base state dynamic model guidance and long term trends contribute to this outlook. A slight tilt toward above normal precipitation is shown for parts of Washington and the elastic panhandle associated with model guidance and potential La Nina impacts. Probabilities in all locations are modest due to low predictability common during this time of year. Looking further ahead to the three month period from October, November, and December, I'd like to bring your chance to slide nine. During this period, the potential impacts from La Nina become more apparent, but generally warmer and drier than normal weather favored across the Southern part of the country. And the wet patterns favored for the Northwest. Increased chances for warmer than normal conditions that extend north across the Eastern continuous United States consistent with recent trends. Guidance have generally trended colder across much of Alaska and the Northern contiguous United States, but colder than normal conditions are the most likely outcome across Southeastern Alaska and probability of above normal temperatures are relatively low for the Northwest and Northern planes compared to the rest of the continuous United States.

Scott Handel:

Despite the trend toward a colder solution, model guidance continues to favor milder than normal conditions for Northwestern parts of Alaska. Above normal precipitations favored for the Southwestern mainland through model guidance and potential La Nina influences. Wrapping things up that the drought outlook I'd like to bring your attention to slide 10. Brown areas on the map indicate where drought is currently ongoing and expected to continue. This includes much of the Southwestern United States eastward across the Southern central Plains, the Northward to the Northern high Plains. Additionally, with the dry pattern favor for the central and Southern Plains drought expansion is likely for these areas represented by the yellow shading. On the flip side, drought improvement or removal is likely for the Northwest parts of new England and the middle Atlantic, much of Hawaii, and parts of Puerto Rico, especially from the Client Prediction Center back to you, John.

John Jones-Bateman:

All right, thanks so much, Scott. We will now take specific questions from the call participants. Please be sure to identify who you'd like to answer the question if possible, and Michelle, could you please remind the call participants how they can ask a question and then please queue up the first question.

Operator (Michelle):

Thank you. At this time, if you would like to ask a question, you may press star one. To withdraw your questions you may press star two. Our first caller is Craig Miller. You may go ahead, sir.

Craig Miller:

Hi, thanks for doing this guys. I'm not sure who wants to take this, but I've been hearing talk of projections for some particularly brutal visitations by the polar vortex here in the Northeast and Great Lakes and middle Atlantic region this winter. Can you shed any light on that? Is there any way to know how that's going to play out?

Scott Handel:

Yes. This is Scott Handel from the Climate Prediction Center. I could take this. So right now the light La Nina is very likely to happen this winter. As I mentioned before, probably is around 90% for this fall and greater than 50% for this winter and this high likelihood of La Nina makes cold air outbreaks more likely across much of the Northern tier of the continuous United States, particularly for the Northern Plains in the Northwest, as well as Southeastern parts of Alaska. In addition, model guidance is training colder for these areas relative to last months suggesting that cold air outbreak could be more frequent or longer lasting during the winter months this year.

Craig Miller:

Okay. I have a second question if it's okay. Or I can come back around, get in line again.

John Jones-Bateman:

I think it's okay Craig, I don't see any other questions in the queue right now.

Craig Miller:

Oh, okay. And that is, I know the Atlantic hurricane season was projected to be pretty active and yet it seems like it's off to a really slow start or am I just rushing the season? And if it is off to a slow start, what do you think is accounting for that? Is that another La Nina byproduct?

Scott Handel:

Good morning. This is Scott Handel again. I could take this question. Yeah, actually this is not a La Nina byproduct. La Ninas actually tend to increase Atlantic hurricane activity. So we did, we have had a slow start, but given the ongoing La Nina conditions, we're actually continuing, even despite the slow start, we're still favoring and above normal season for the Atlantic. Right now we have, we're favoring about a 60% chance of above normal season or below normal season. Still, it's only about 10%, but also should be noted that we're still well within the hurricane season and in September is a peak month. So we should still be vigilant and keep abreast of the latest forecast since we still have a lot of the hurricane season left to go.

Craig Miller:

Oh yeah. Okay. Thanks. And yeah, go ahead please. Ahira.

Ahira Sanchez-Lugo:

I was just going to say, climatological speaking, putting it into historical perspective for the Atlantic there were no storms, as you mentioned during the month of August. And according to our data records, this has happened only three times since 1950, the other two years were 1961 and 1997.

Craig Miller:

Interesting. And pardon my lapse there. I should have known that the projection for an active season was, was actually because of La Nina. I'm a little rusty on that.

John Jones-Bateman:

No problem, Craig. And Hey, this is John Bateman. I wanted to mention that when we're done with the q and a stick around because we, NOAA is doing its winter outlook media briefing next month. And I'll have the details on that for you.

Craig Miller:

All right. Thank you.

Operator (Michelle):

Thank you. Our next caller is Rebecca Herscher. You may go ahead.

Rebecca Herscher:

Hi, thanks so much for doing this. I want to follow up about Atlanta hurricane season. Can you just say more about what would be required for an above normal season to actually happen at this point? In terms of preparedness or we need to bring the right message to people obviously. So would we see a glut of storms quite late in the season in order to get to that threshold of above average?

Scott Handel:

Yes, good morning. This is Scott Handel. I could take this again. So generally there's two important requirements that you'd want to see for more activity. One is above normal sea surface temperatures it provides the fuel for the storms. Another is a reduction of what's called wind shear, which is a change of wind direction with height. And the reason why we still have to keep our guard up for the remainder of the hurricane season is La Ninas tend to reduce this wind shear, which gives these storms more opportunity to grow and less chance of being ripped apart by this change of wind

direction of height. So what I can tell you right now is that we should still keep our guard up, continuing that we're still in this La Nina state which tends to favor increase Atlantic hurricane activity.

Rebecca Herscher:

Great. Thanks so much.

Operator (Michelle):

Thank you. And as a reminder, if you would like to ask a question, you may press star one. At this time I'm showing no further questions. Again that is star one if you would like to ask a question. I am showing no further questions.

John Jones-Bateman:

All right. Well, thanks so much, Michelle. If we have no further questions, I will wrap up the call. First I'd like to thank all of our speakers for their time and to everyone else for participating this conference call. I will end by reminding you to mark your calendar for a few upcoming events. First, the release of the September 2022 U.S. Climate Report is scheduled for October 10th. The release of the September 2022 Global Climate Report is scheduled for October 14th, and in lieu of next month's media climate call, NOAA will host it's 2022-23 U.S. Winter outlook media briefing and that will be on October 20th at 11:00 AM eastern time. Again, that is the U.S. winter outlook media briefing on October 20th at 11:00 AM eastern time. Lastly, an audio file of this call will be posted on the noaa.gov media advisory site later today. And if you have any further informational needs, please feel free to email me and John Leslie, our contact information is available at the top of immediate advisory. Thank you.

Operator (Michelle):

And thank you. This concludes today's conference call. You may go ahead and disconnect at this time.

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