

## COMITÉ MULTISECTORIAL ENCARGADO DEL ESTUDIO NACIONAL DEL FENÓMENO EL NIÑO (ENFEN)



**IMARPE**



**SENAMHI**



**IGP**



**DHN**



**INDECI**



**ANA**

“DECENIO DE LAS PERSONAS CON DISCAPACIDAD EN EL PERU”

“AÑO DE LA INTEGRACION NACIONAL Y EL RECONOCIMIENTO DE NUESTRA DIVERSIDAD”

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### ENFEN COMMITTEE ADOPTS AN OPERATIONAL INDEX FOR THE DEFINITION OF “EL NIÑO” AND “LA NIÑA” IN THE PERUVIAN COAST

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The establishment of an index and the criteria for the definition of the occurrence and the magnitude of "El Niño" and "La Niña" events in the coastal region is an important milestone in climate monitoring and prediction in Peru. Although many scientific institutions worldwide already have operational definitions (e.g. NOAA/U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), all of these focus on the planetary-scale manifestations of phenomenon (e.g. monitored through sea water temperature in the Central Equatorial Pacific) but not on the signal in the coast of South America, which do not necessarily coincide and can even have opposite signs.

The Multisectorial Committee for the National Study of El Niño (ENFEN, in Spanish), composed by the Marine Research Institute of Peru (IMARPE), the National Service for Meteorology and Hidrology (SENAMHI), the Geophysical Institute of Peru (IGP), the Direction of Hidrografía and Navigation (DHN), the National Institute of Civil Defense (INDECI), and the Water National Authority (ANA), achieved consensus on the adoption of an operational index to define “El Niño” and “La Niña” in the coastal region of Peru.

"The phenomena, known as El Niño and La Niña are the components of a significant cycle in nature called El Niño-Southern Oscillation which, with an interannual frequency, determines relevant changes in climate and environment in Peru, with significant social and economical impacts", said the President of ENFEN, Calm. (r) German Vásquez Solis Vasquez.

As it is known, the ENFEN Committee is the multisectorial scientific and technical body commissioned by the Peruvian government to monitor, follow up, analyze and alert on anomalies of the ocean and atmosphere, in order to adopt appropriate prevention measures to reduce or take advantage of the impacts associated with El Niño and La Niña.

The so-called El Niño Coastal Index (ICEN, in Spanish) is based on a three month running mean of averaged sea surface temperature anomalies in the region known as Niño 1+2.

Currently, the ENFEN Committee is monitoring the coastal conditions that qualify as "neutral" according to ICEN. ENFEN began applying this index for monitoring and predicting El Niño and La Niña since February 2012 and its usefulness will be assessed one year from now.

ENFEN - Perú Committee

Callao, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Graphical representation of the Niño regions in the Pacific Ocean.

The Niño 1 +2 region (0-10 ° S, 90 ° W-80 ° W) is located in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean off the coast of Ecuador and Peru. Source: CPC / NCEP / NOAA

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/ensostuff/nino\\_regions.shtml](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensostuff/nino_regions.shtml)

