



El Niño and Climate Prediction

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Cover: Sea-surface temperature map for May 31, 1988. The warmest water is indicated by the dark red and progressively cooler water by yellow and green. For further details see p. 15.

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El Niño: a disruption in the normal flow of life in the Pacific. It is second only to the march of the seasons in its impact on world climate and a much greater challenge to predict.





Marine Life



Floods

Subtle changes in the interplay of wind and water in the tropical Pacific can affect local ecosystems and human lives in far flung regions of the globe. Some of the documented environmental impacts of the 1982-83 El Niño event, the strongest thus far this century, are indicated by symbols on this global map.



Christmas Island



Tahiti

