



Climate & Ecosystem Status Report

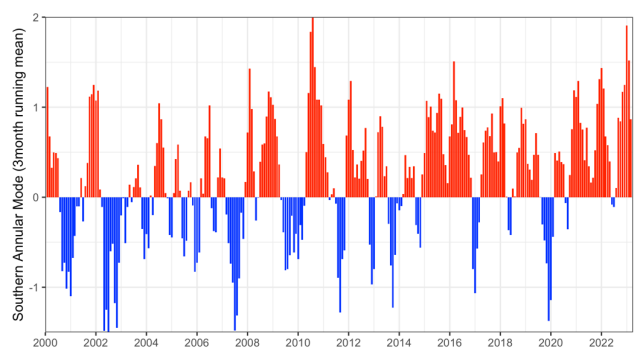
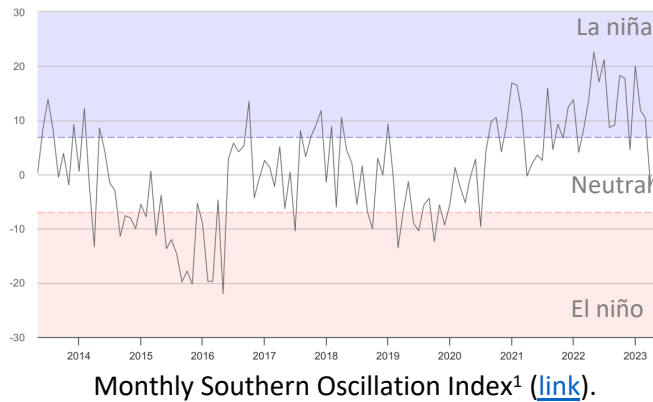
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery

June 2023

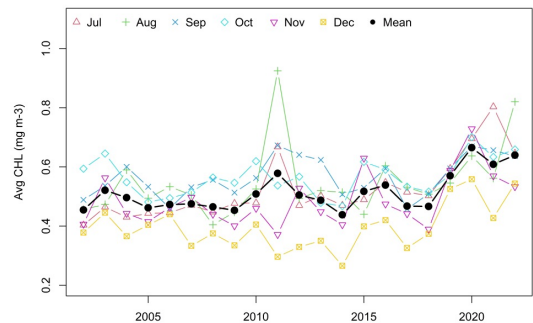
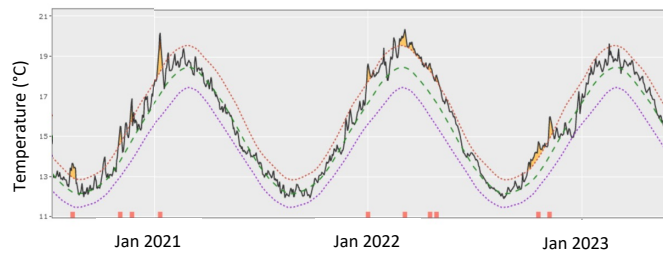


Historical Period

Climate Drivers

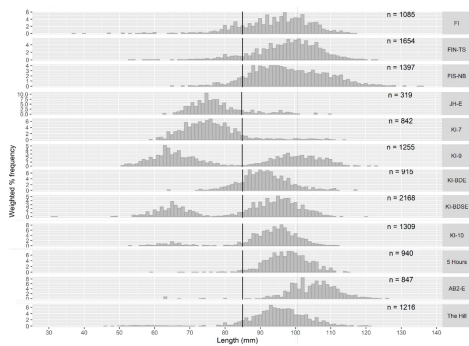


Temperature and Productivity for Bass Strait

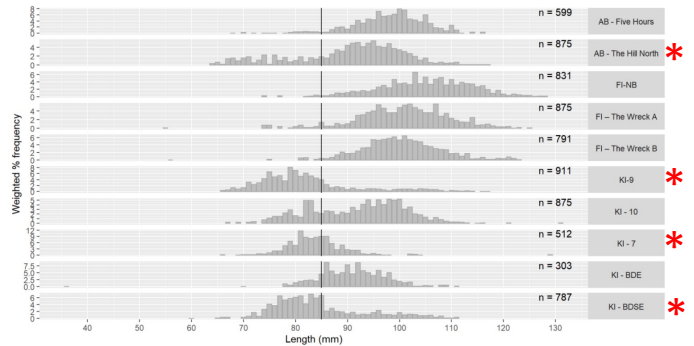


Ecosystem and Fishery

Weighted size frequency from 2021 survey⁴



Weighted size frequency from 2022 survey⁴

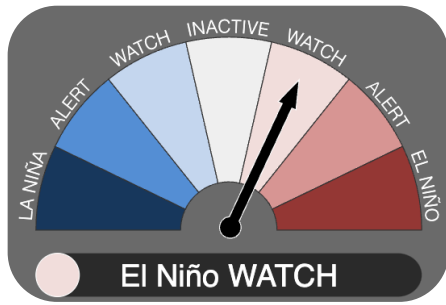


* Beds where abundant but small scallops likely to reach legal size in 2023

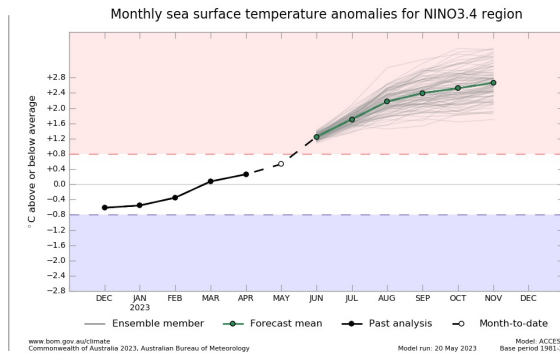


Future Outlook for the 2023 Season

Climate Drivers

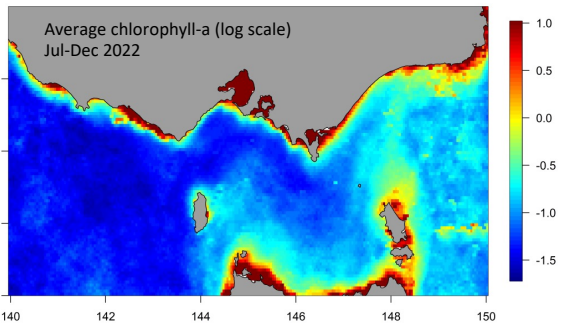


Currently in a Neutral phase ([link](#))

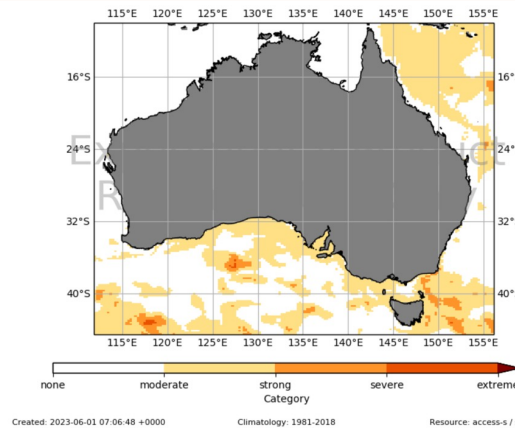


El Niño is predicted. These conditions favour a negative Southern Annular Mode, where westerly winds are further north and can affect recruitment^{1,5}. ([link](#)).

Temperature and Productivity for Bass Strait

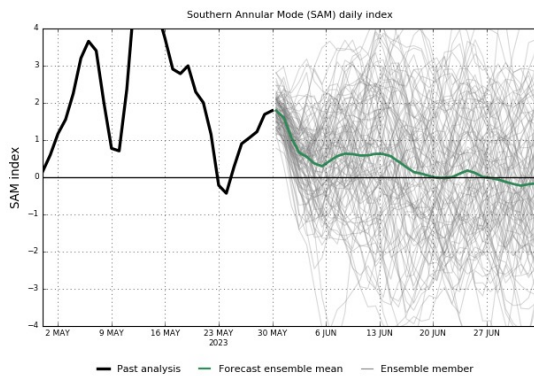


Elevated chlorophyll-a along the east Bass Strait may support improved growth and increased reproductive effort for Scallops in this region⁶.



A strong marine heatwave is forecast for August 2023³

Ecosystem and Fishery



Southern Annular Mode can vary from weeks to months. Forecasts suggest a decreasing trend towards neutral and negative conditions during June 2023 ([link](#))¹. Negative conditions mean westerly winds are further north than normal, which can affect water flow and scallop recruitment in the Bass Strait.