



# Climate & Ecosystem Status Report

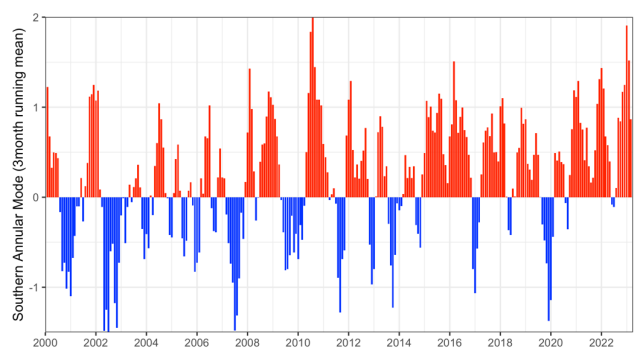
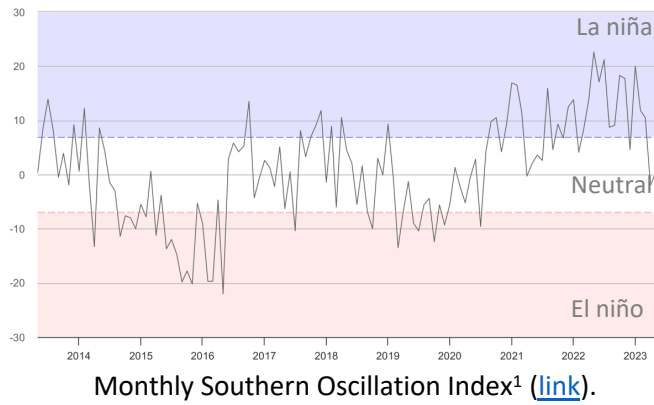
## Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery

June 2023

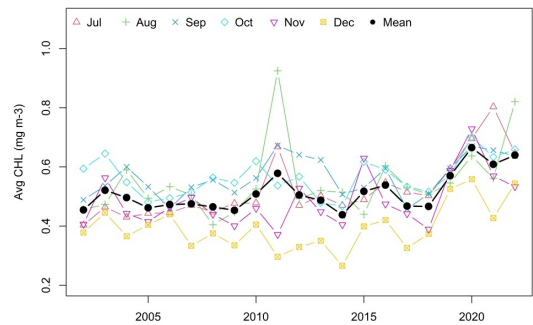
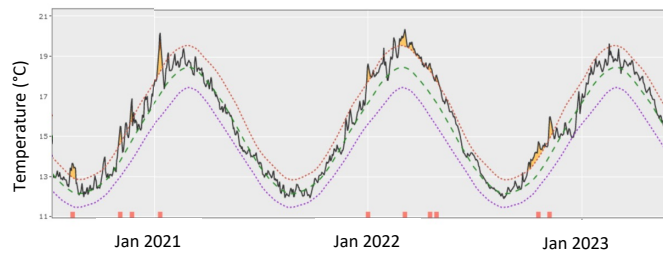


### Historical Period

#### Climate Drivers

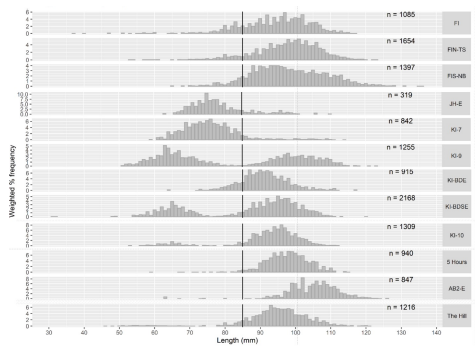


#### Temperature and Productivity for Bass Strait

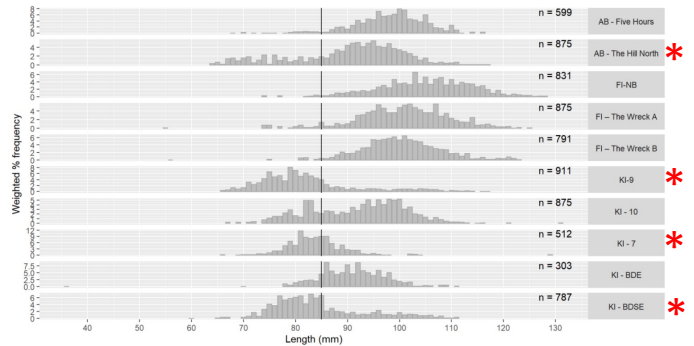


#### Ecosystem and Fishery

##### Weighted size frequency from 2021 survey<sup>4</sup>



##### Weighted size frequency from 2022 survey<sup>4</sup>

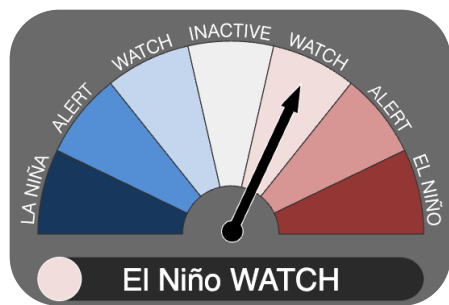


\* Beds where abundant but small scallops likely to reach legal size in 2023

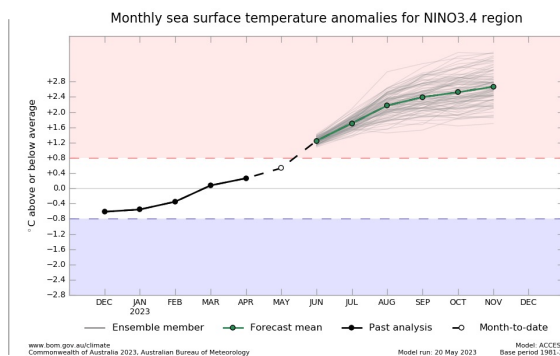


### Future Outlook for the 2023 Season

#### Climate Drivers

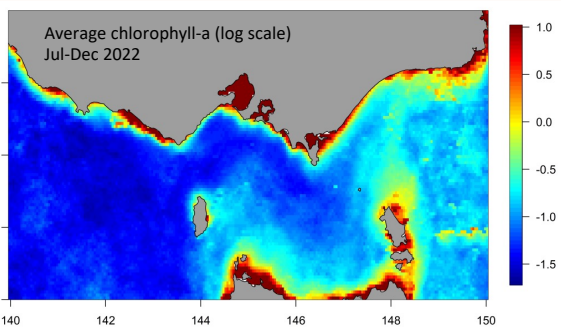


Currently in a Neutral phase ([link](#))

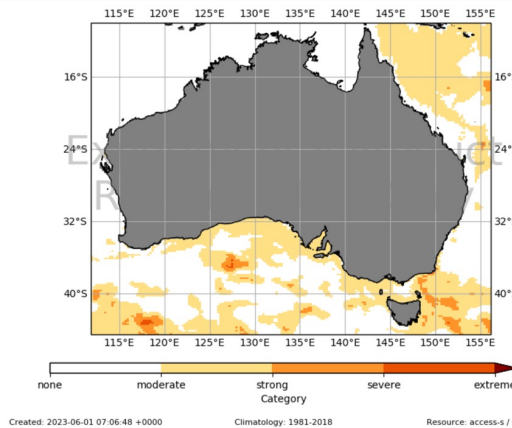


El Niño is predicted. These conditions favour a negative Southern Annular Mode, where westerly winds are further north and can affect recruitment<sup>1,5</sup>. ([link](#)).

#### Temperature and Productivity for Bass Strait

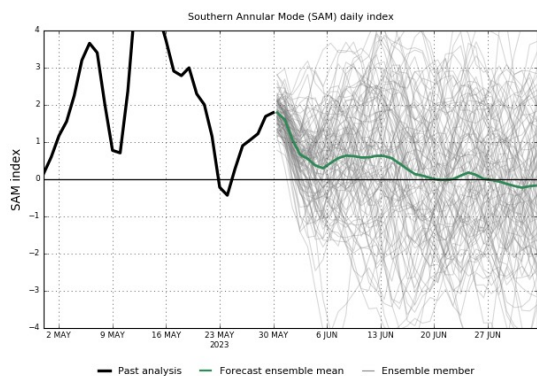


Elevated chlorophyll-a along the east Bass Strait may support improved growth and increased reproductive effort for Scallops in this region<sup>6</sup>.



A strong marine heatwave is forecast for August 2023<sup>3</sup>

#### 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](#))<sup>1</sup>. Negative conditions mean westerly winds are further north than normal, which can affect water flow and scallop recruitment in the Bass Strait.