Winter 2018-2019 SWOP Conference Call

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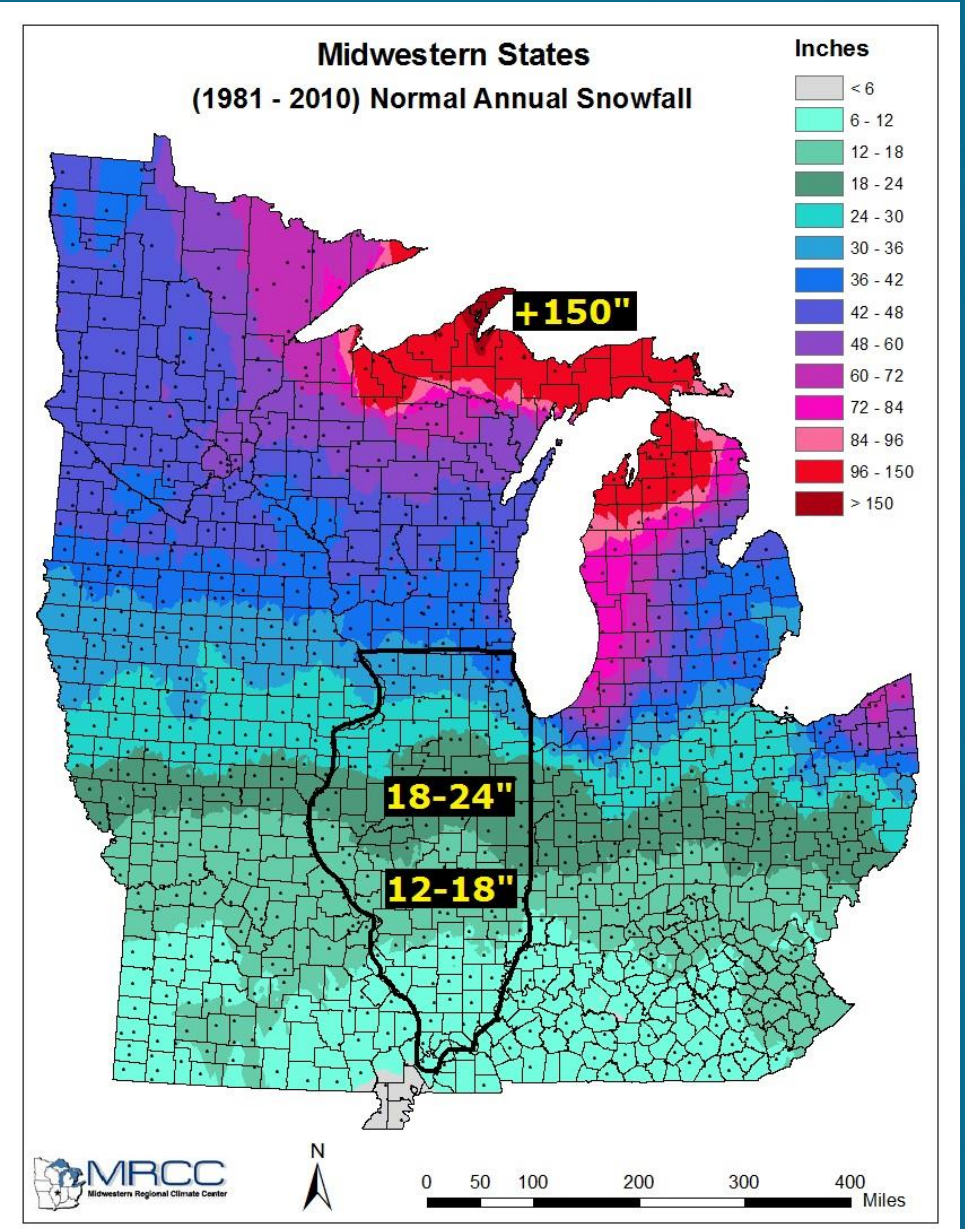
What exactly IS a “Normal” Central Illinois Winter?

Average Annual Snowfall



Peoria: 24.6

Champaign-Urbana: 23.2

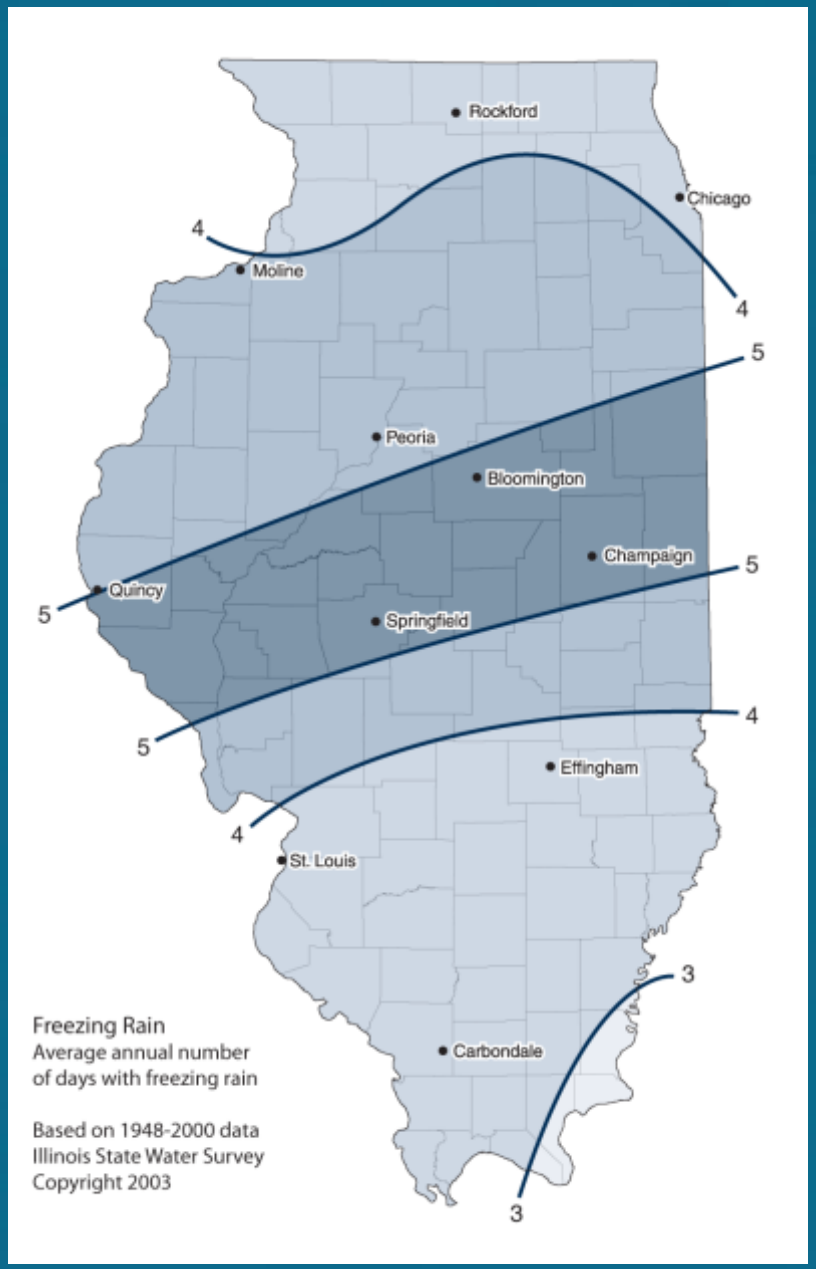
Springfield: 20.9

Bloomington-Normal: 19.9

Charleston: 17.2

Olney: 11.6

Average Freezing Rain Days

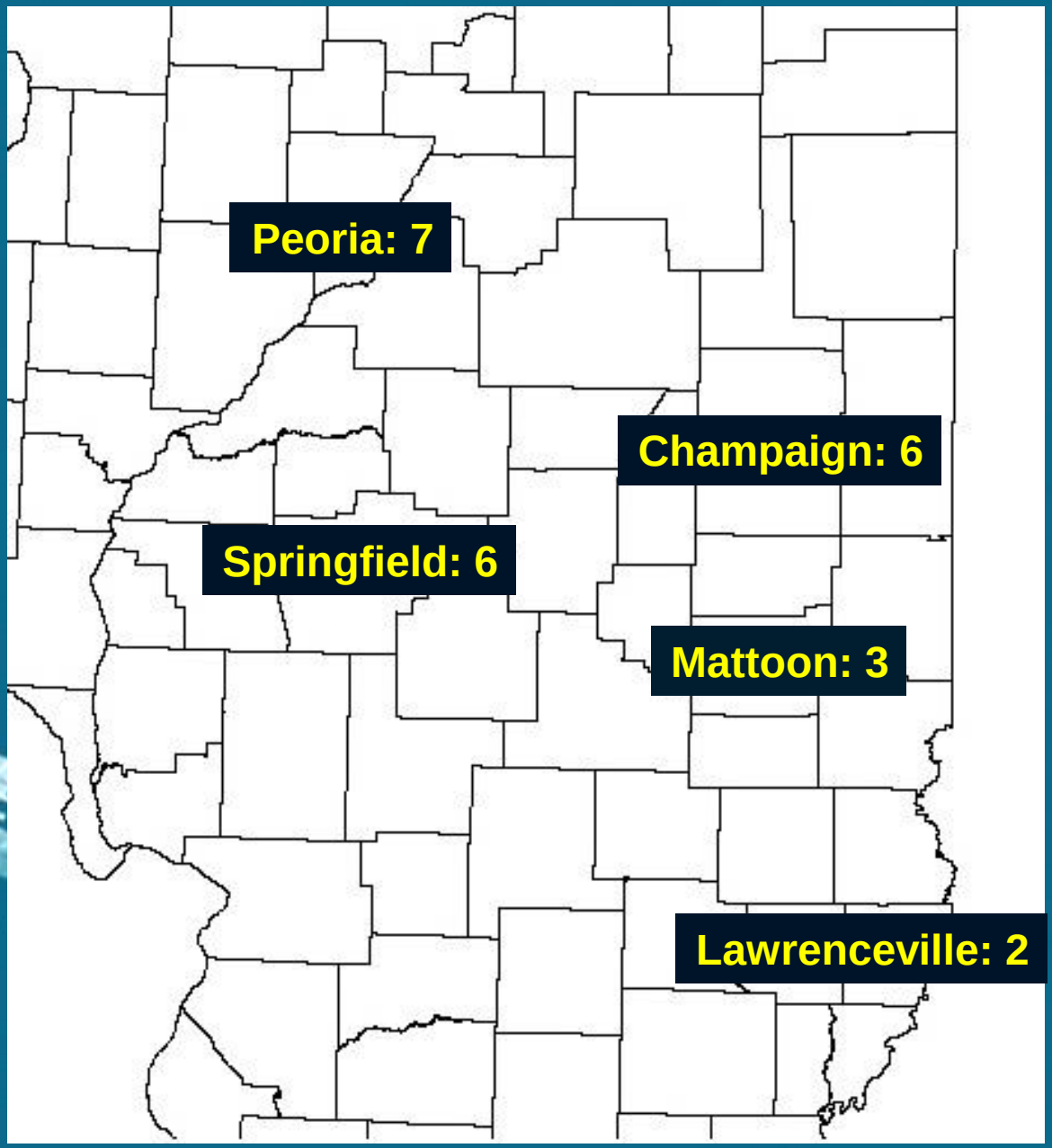


UNIQUE GEOGRAPHY

Cold source region to the north (CANADA)

Warm/Moist source region to the south (GULF OF MEXICO)

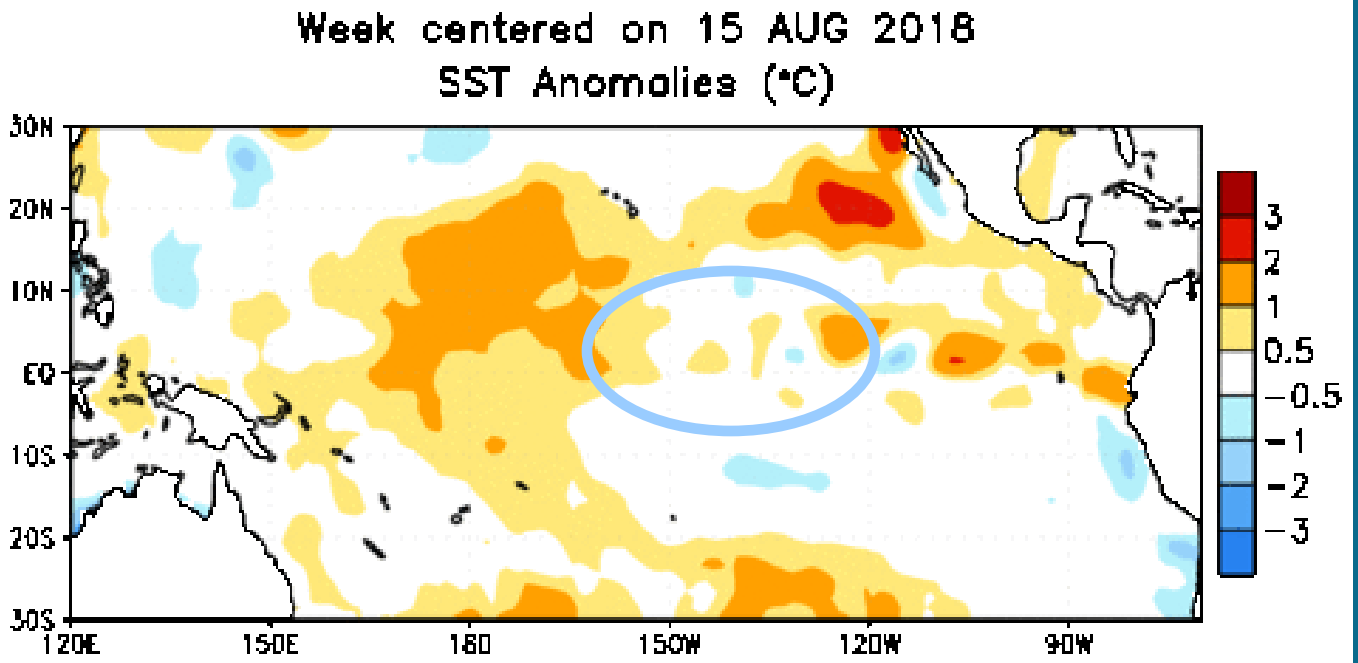
Average Days Below Zero



What Pattern is Evident For This Coming Winter?

- Neutral conditions are currently observed in the Equatorial Pacific
- A weak El Nino event is expected to develop soon and persist through the winter
- El Nino is a warming of the waters off the coast of Ecuador/Peru

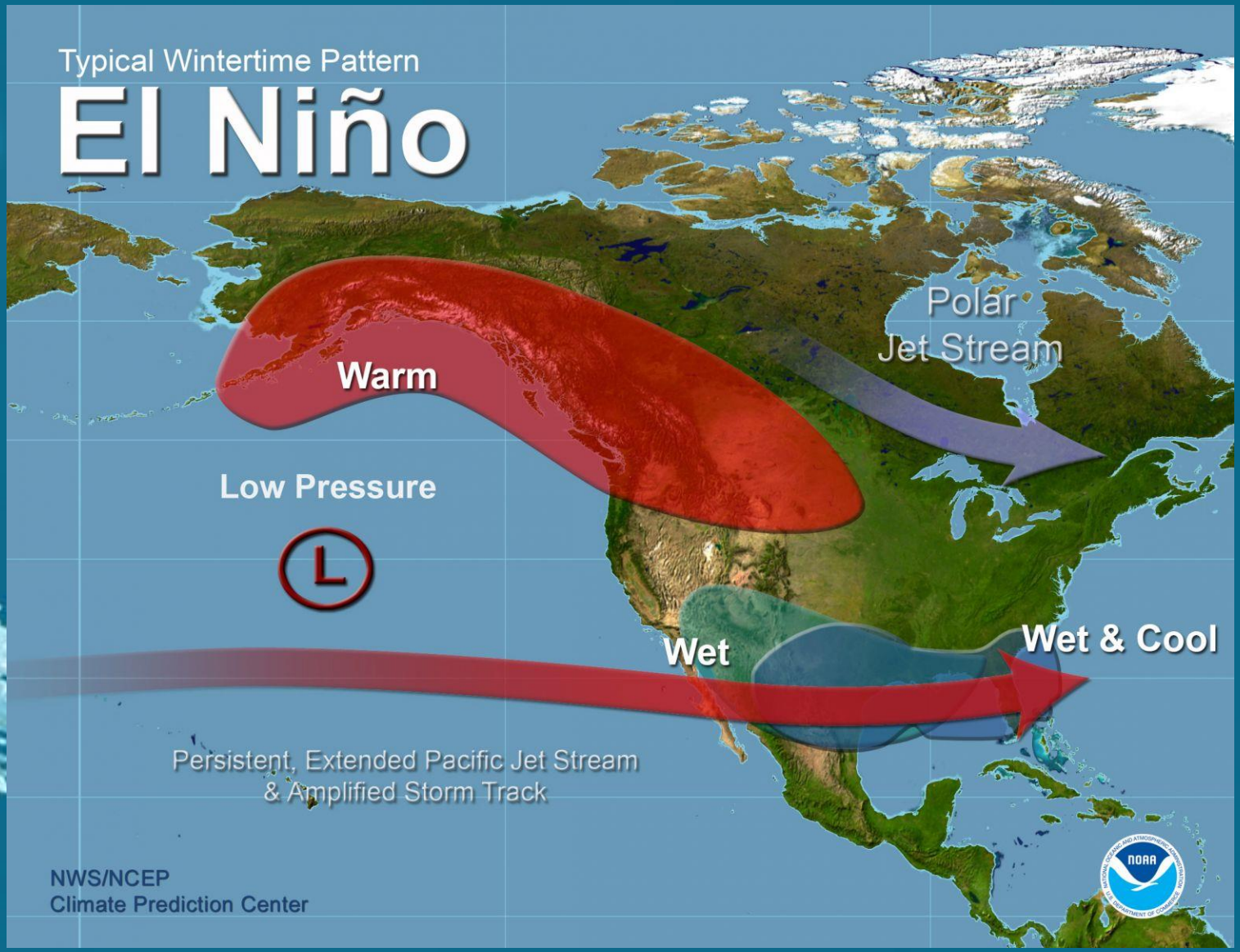
El Nino



Red colors show warmer than normal sea-surface temperatures

Weak El Nino (1-2 degrees above)

Typical El Nino Weather Pattern

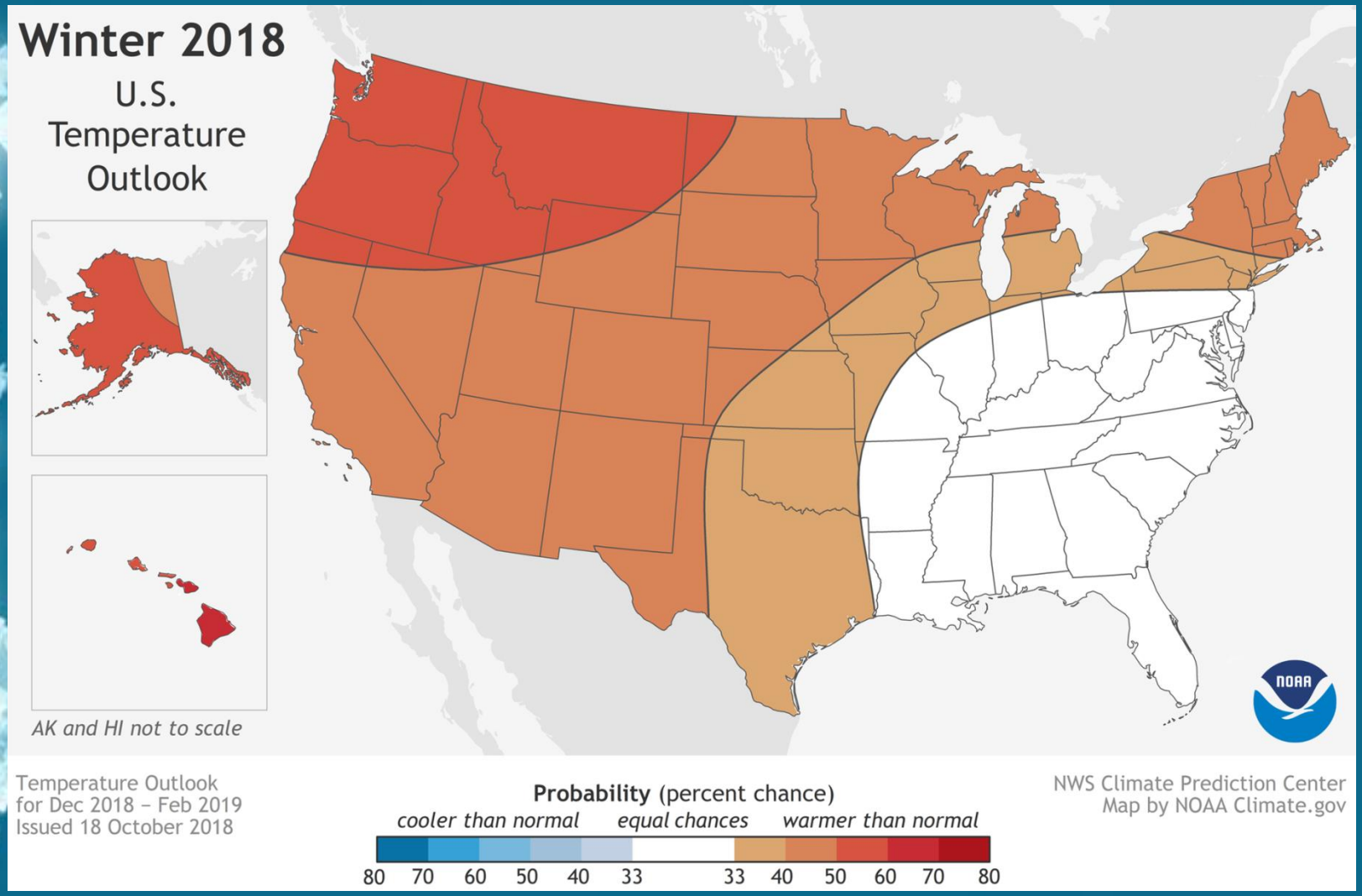


El Nino

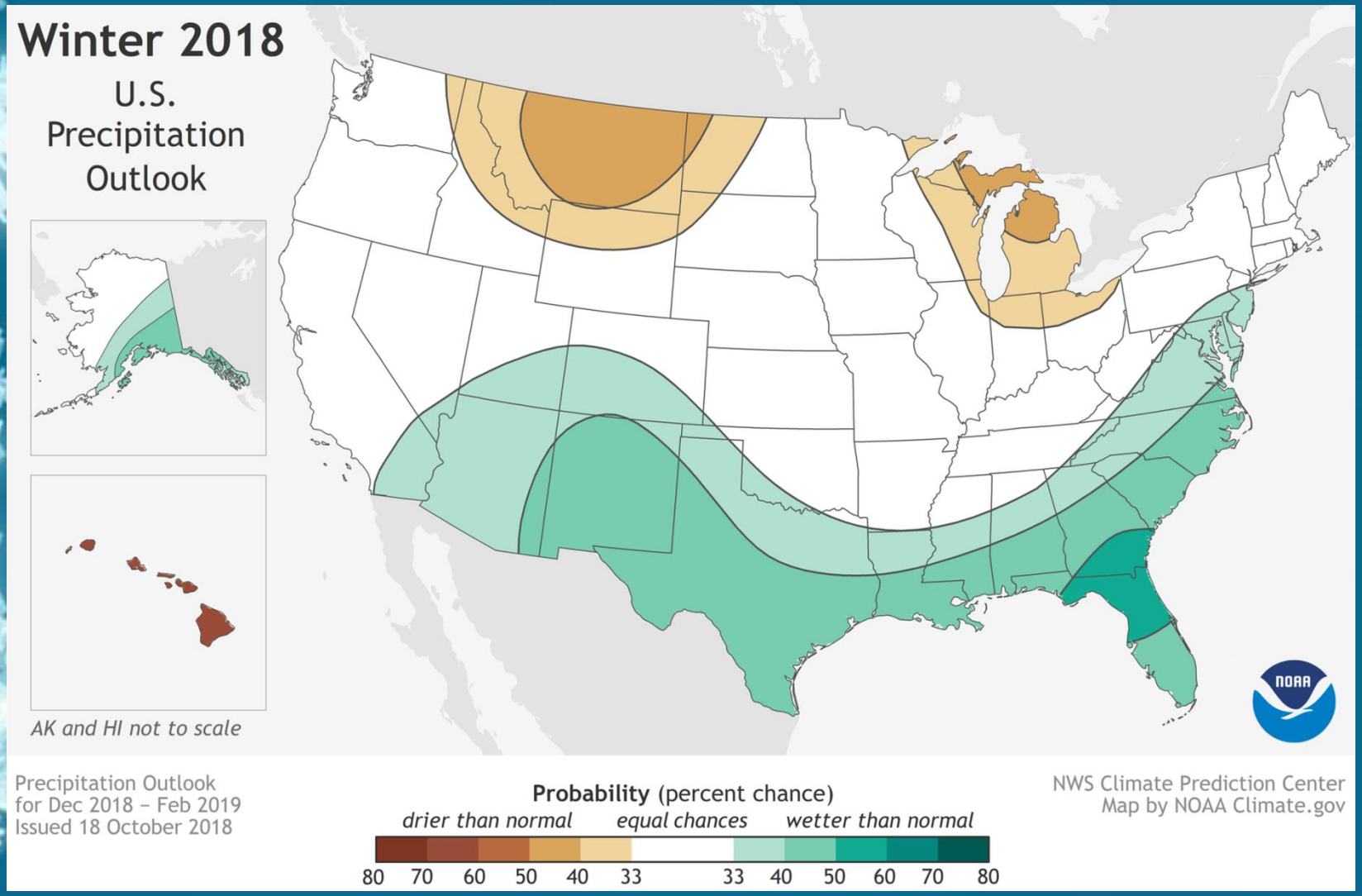
- Important to note that El Nino/La Nina has only a **minor** direct influence on Illinois winters
- Varies depending on strength/location of El Nino/La Nina event as well as timing of onset
- Other short-term circulations are much better (but can't be accurately predicted more than a **couple weeks** in advance)

Now for the Official Winter 2018-2019 Outlook…

2018-2019 Winter Outlook



2018-2019 Winter Outlook



Winter Outlook Summary

- **Temperature: Slight trend for above normal…especially N/NW**
- **Precipitation: no clear trend**
- **While temperatures may trend above normal overall, several periods of cold will still be likely**

Shifting Gears to Reporting…

What to Report?

- **Time of Precipitation Onset:** this can help us assess our current accumulation forecasts
- **Type** (are you getting rain, snow, sleet, freezing rain, or a mixture?)
- **Snowfall** (use snowstick or ruler)

What to Report?

- **Snowfall** is the amount of NEW snow that has occurred since your last measurement
- Provide measurements DURING the storm (not more frequently than once every 3 hours…6 hours is ideal)
- Send your final storm total after the event concludes

How to Measure Snow

- Select a flat, grassy location well away from obstructions (drifting effect)
- Do NOT take measurements on concrete or asphalt surfaces (melting effect)
- Do NOT measure snow drifts
- Take an average of at least 5 readings and use this as your official total

Measuring Snow at NWS Lincoln

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How to Measure Ice

- Find a flat object such as a table top or fence post

- Use a ruler to measure the ice thickness

Winter Resources

SWOP Training Page

weather.gov/ilx/swop-training

YouTube Training Videos

4 short clips (5-8 minutes)

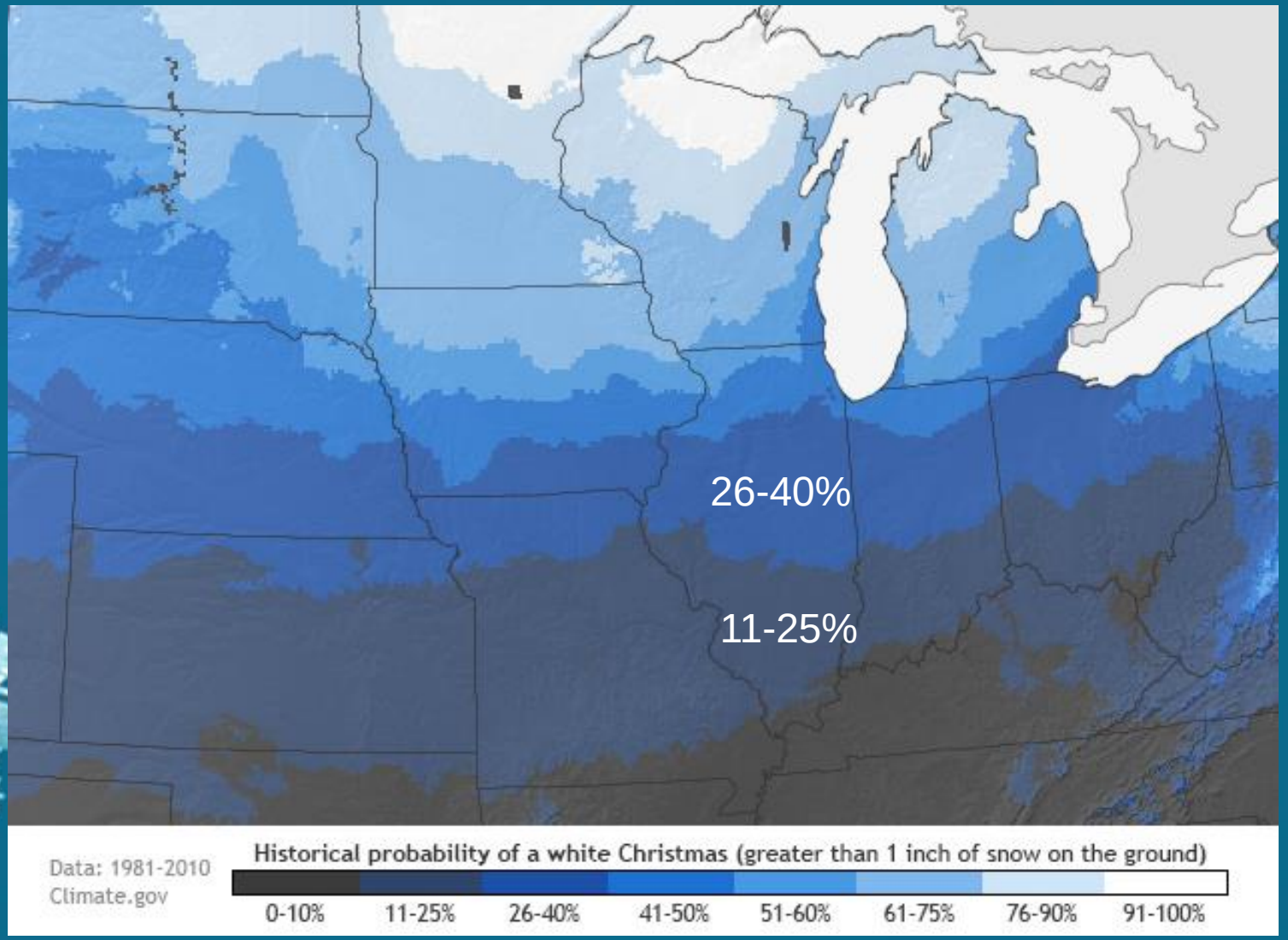
Part 1: Overview of SWOP Program

Part 2: Measuring Snow

Part 3: Selecting a Spot to Measure Snow

Part 4: Snow Measurement Demonstration

Chances of a White Christmas




Questions?
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April 9, 2018