

97/98 Ocean Climate Variability in the Northeast Pacific: How Much Blame does El Niño Deserve

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The rapid warming of the coastal NE Pacific in the spring and summer of 1997 is viewed in relation to local and remote atmospheric anomalies in the Pacific Basin. North Pacific climate anomalies observed in 1997/98 are compared with those observed in past warm episodes in the Northeast and tropical Pacific, respectively.

Of particular interest is the extent to which the tropical ENSO is reliably teleconnected to the ocean climate of the Northeast Pacific. This issue is addressed by tabulating atmospheric circulation anomalies for events showing coherent and incoherent temperature anomalies between the tropical and Northeast Pacific.