**ENSO guidance from Tropics chapter ENSO author (**t***his is considering Nino-3.4 region. We recognize this does not apply to all regions*):**

"The only definitive ENSO guidance that we can provide with confidence is that El Niño was strong in DJF 2023-24 (1.8ºC in DJF and 1.5ºC in JFM) and weakened through March-May 2024. The first season of ENSO-neutral was in April-June 2024 and that has persisted through the most recent season (October-December 2024); see [https://origin.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\_monitoring/ensostuff/ONI\_v5.php](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Forigin.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov%2Fproducts%2Fanalysis_monitoring%2Fensostuff%2FONI_v5.php&data=05%7C02%7Crobert.dunn%40metoffice.gov.uk%7Cbbfa54e1060c4c7694ec08dd2ff5cf96%7C17f1816120d7474687fd50fe3e3b6619%7C0%7C0%7C638719455116213719%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZznHWxvVCusfg6M%2B1w8hVp82yOIuYhKAKSVuWgzs8Ws%3D&reserved=0).

This is Michelle L'Heureux's personal scientific opinion\*\*, but if others wanted to describe the tropical atmospheric circulation as La Niña-like beginning in September 2024 that would be acceptable, but NOAA/CPC could not formally declare it because the Niño-3.4/ONI index depends on an older 30-year climatology.   So, some judgement on people's part with respect to describing ENSO in the last half of the year is acceptable and subject to some editorial review."

\*\* These scientific results and conclusions, as well as any view or opinions expressed herein, are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NWS, NOAA, or the Department of Commerce