Bulletin May 2018 – Tropical Meteorology

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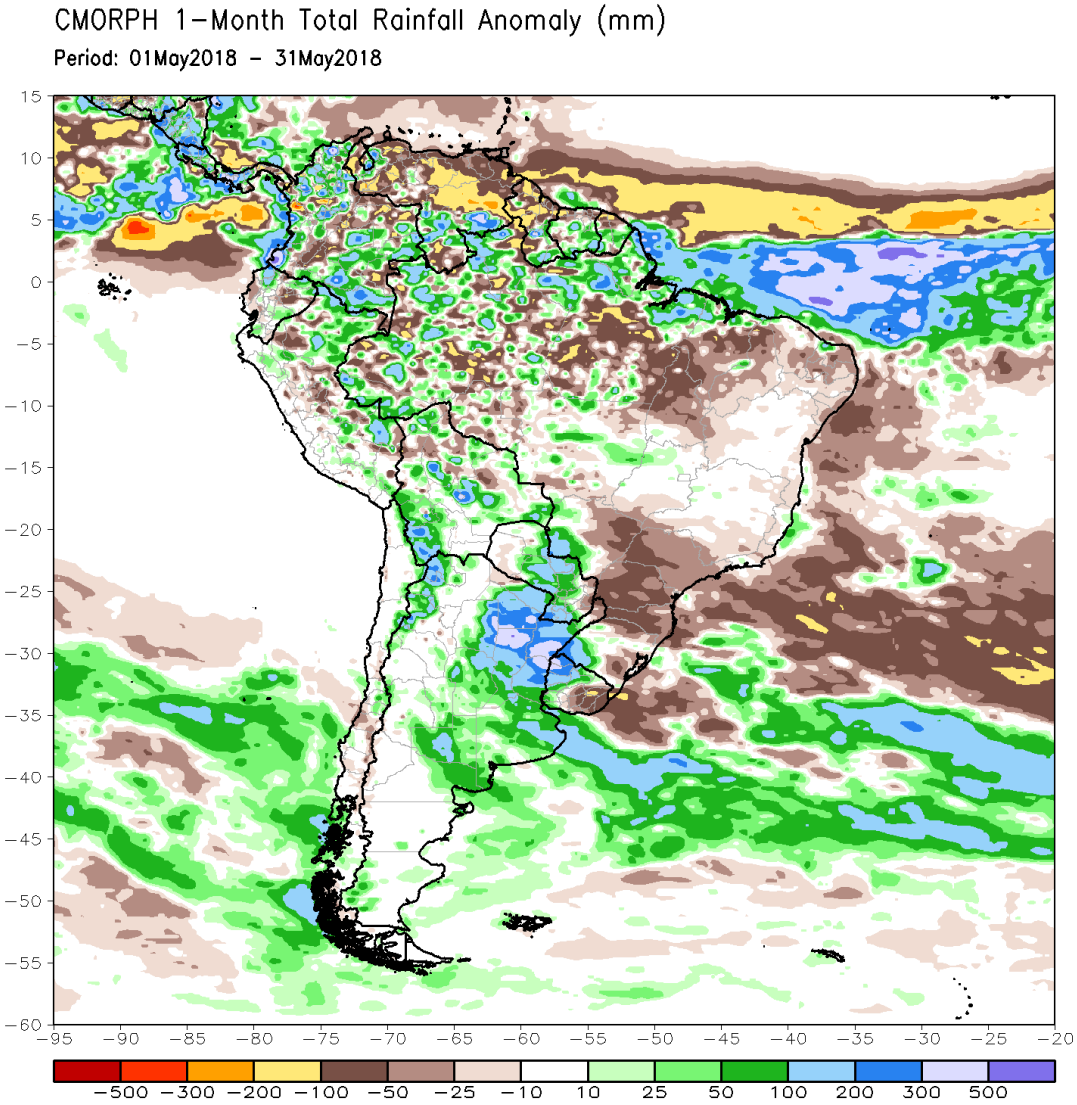
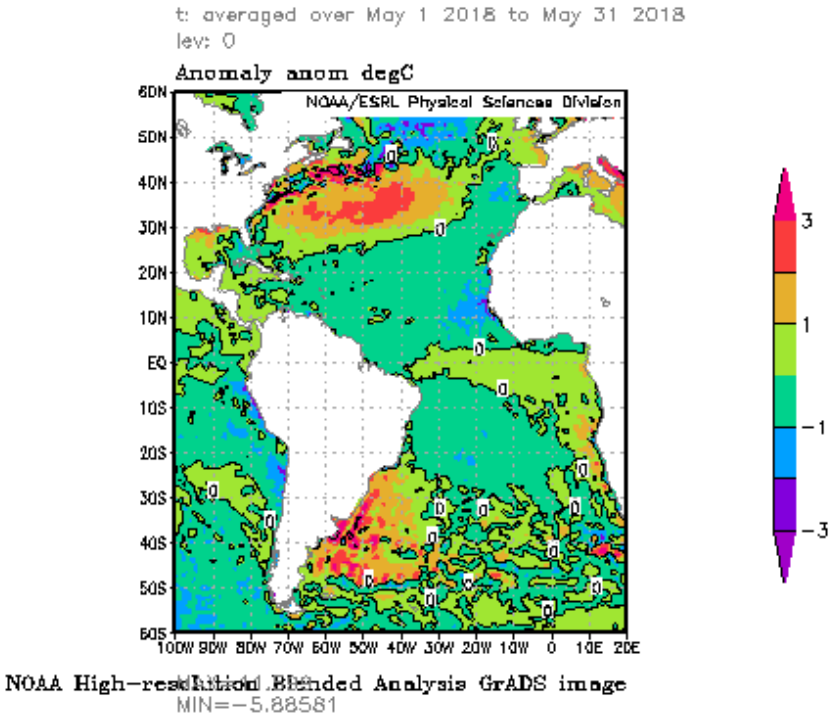
Reduced rainfall is seen in most of Brazil during May of 2018. The anomalous anticyclonic flow in the low levels of the atmosphere, that extended over the interior of the country, is among the main mechanisms responsible for this reduction. North Venezuela and Ecuador also displayed a reduction in rainfall. The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) stays south of its climatological position, which explains, in part, rainfall being above the historical average between Amapá and the far north of Maranhão.



Source:
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/international/cmorph/cmorph_May2018-May2018_sam_anom.gif

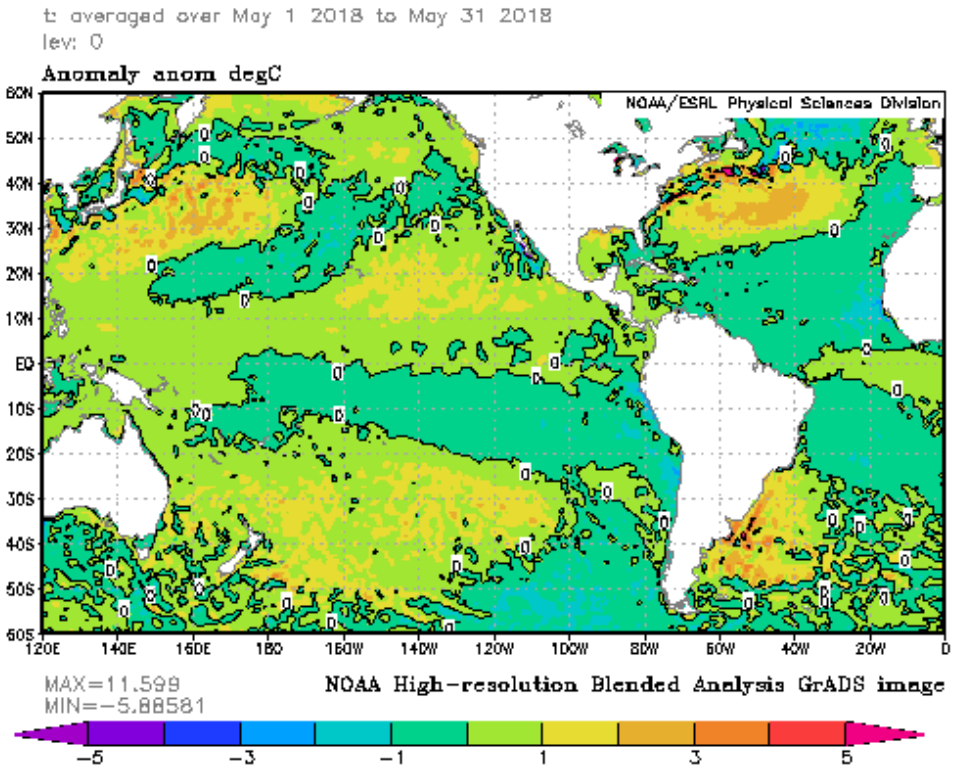
Negative SST anomalies are seen over the Northern Tropical Atlantic region, particularly near the west coast of Africa, which favored the shift of the ITCZ to the south of its climatological position.



Source: https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd

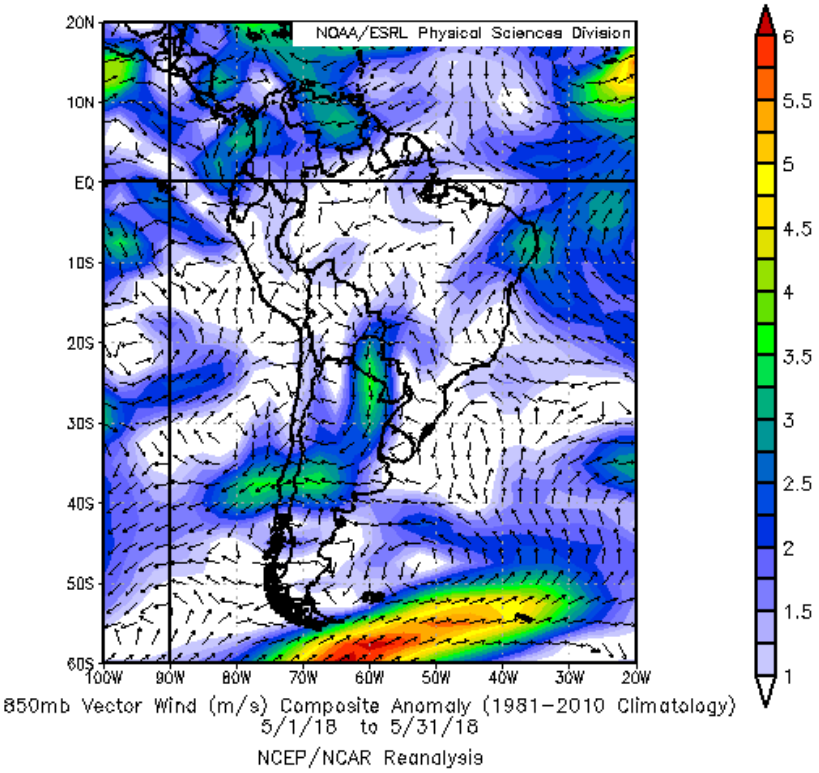
The current global oceanic and atmospheric conditions show a case of neutrality in relation to the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon; that is, the absence of the El Niño or La Niña phenomena.

SST anomalies during May 2018



Source: https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd

The reduction of rainfall in the North, Northeast, and Southern regions of Brazil are associated with the intensification of the semi-permanent high pressure system of the South Atlantic, which entered the east coast of Brazil and inhibited the passage of frontal systems, as can be seen through the 30-day mean vector wind anomaly at 850 hPa.



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