NOAA West Watch Short Summary
Sept. 25, 2018

Project Re-cap: This is the last webinar offering for Fiscal Year 2018. NOAA West agreed to provide funding to the Western Regional Climate Center to offer three more in Fiscal Year 2019 (November, January & Spring/Summer timeframe). Next webinar is tentatively scheduled for November 28th, 1-2PM PDT/ 2-3PM MDT. 2019 is a transitional year. The team is investigating options for permanent hosting. If no permanent host and/or operational funding is found, these webinars will conclude at the end of summer, 2019. If you find these webinars helpful, or if you have ideas of in-region entities that may be open to taking on this webinar please contact: (timi.vann@noaa.gov).

El Niño & Regional Climate Brief:
Over the last two months the region experienced drought expansion to more severe drought conditions in OR/WA and UT/ID border, with extreme drought in the Southwest. Monsoon season helped but drought conditions in the Colorado basin will likely persist.

Precipitation & Temperature percentiles: The Pacific Northwest had one of the driest summers on record. California is typically dry; parts of Arizona and New Mexico saw decent monsoon, and Northeast Wyoming and parts of Montana were unusually wet.

Wildfire: Region is still in active wildfire season, particularly in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California. This won't end until the first big rain event. Large wildfires continue to burn across region. August air quality was poor due to the fires, but over the last month the region is experiencing good. Wildfire outlook: The potential is still high (above normal) for California through December.

ENSO status: El Niño watch. No transition yet. There is a 50-55% chance of onset into Fall increasing to 65-70% as we move into winter. There is not a terribly strong signal for sea surface temperature anomalies. There is an usually warm plume to the north of the El Niño region that is worth keeping an eye on. ENSO forecast: Most models do predict the onset of a weak El Niño as we move into Fall/Winter, but It is materializing slowly.

October forecasts: Above average odds of above normal temperatures as we move into fall/winter. The general pattern is typical for El Niño with dryer conditions in the Northwest and wetter conditions in the South.

Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System Updates:
NANOOS: Reported sea surface temperature anomalies. During July and August, the waters along the West Coast were typically warm with exception of some cooler bands off the coast of Oregon as measured by offshore buoy data. The NANOOS climatology application shows interesting spatial variability north to south. Satellite detection of chlorophyll shows a stark contract between July and August; the tip of Olympic peninsula still shows chlorophyll and this is likely associated with the Juan de Fuca eddy. An Environmental Sample Processor (ESP) is

deployed off the coast of La Push for 6 weeks (through October) and real time domoic acid concentrations have been detected.

CeNCOOS: Reported sea surface temperatures at three buoy locations. Warm water trends observed at all three locations, with more variability seen moving farther north along the coast. Discussed growing body of ocean acidification (OA) work in California and drivers for OA in California which include upwelling. CeNCOOS observations are supporting research and applications to combat OA impacts to aquaculture and issuance of public health advisories.

SCCOOS: Record breaking temperatures (78.6-deg) observed on August 1st at the Scripps Pier Shore Station with other warm water temperatures observed by the Coastal Data Information Program (**CDIP**) buoys and others in/around San Diego. The previous temperature record of 78.4 deg was recorded in 1931. These record temperatures resulted in a lot of news coverage. With this warming trend there are more sting ray sightings, increased probabilitie4s of pseudo-nitzschia and related public health recreational shellfish closures, and sea lion strandings due to domoic acid toxicosis.