Climate impacts of El Niño Phenomenon in Latin America and the Caribbean

Severe droughts

Excessive rainfall

Pacific Ocean

Drought episodes

Atlantic Ocean

Scarce precipitation, soil moisture deficit

Increase in surface ocean temperature during the 1998 El Niño event

+0.5+2.5^{0}C

+2.5+5.0^{0}C

+0.5+2.5^{0}C

Severe droughts, increased forest fires

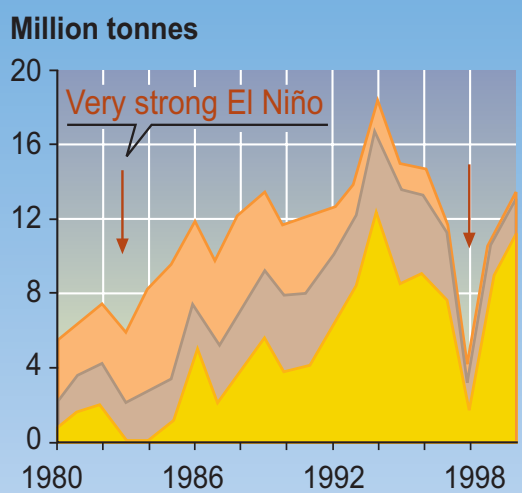
Scarce precipitation in rainy season

Intense rains in summer, dryness in the Andean region

High temperature episodes

Plentiful rains in spring and summer

Pelagic fish catch in southeast Pacific



In Peru, the 1997-1998 El Niño caused US$ 3.5 billion economic losses. Fishery exports dropped by 76 percent.

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Sources: IPCC 2001, FAO 2002,UNEP 2003