

DEFINITIONS OF METEOROLOGICAL FORECASTING RANGES

1. Nowcasting A description of current weather parameters and 0 -2 hours description of forecasted weather parameters
 2. Very short-range weather forecasting Up to 12 hours description of weather parameters
 3. Short-range weather forecasting Beyond 12 hours and up to 72 hours description of weather parameters
 4. Medium-range weather forecasting Beyond 72 hours and up to 240 hours description of weather parameters
 5. Extended-range weather forecasting Beyond 10 days and up to 30 days description of weather parameters, usually averaged and expressed as a departure from climate values for that period.
 6. Long-range forecasting From 30 days up to two years
 - 6.1 Monthly outlook Description of averaged weather parameters expressed as a departure (deviation, variation, anomaly) from climate values for that month (not necessarily the coming month).
 - 6.2 Three month or 90 day outlook Description of averaged weather parameters expressed as a departure from climate values for that 90 day period (not necessarily the coming 90 day period).
 - 6.3 Seasonal outlook Description of averaged weather parameters expressed as a departure from climate values for that season.
- Notes: (1) In some countries, long-range forecasts are considered to be climate products
- (2) Season has been loosely defined as Dec/Jan/Feb = Winter; Mar/Apr/May = Spring; etc...in the northern hemisphere. In the tropical areas seasons may have different durations. Outlooks spanning several months such as multi-seasonal outlooks or tropical rainy season outlooks may be provided.
7. Climate forecasting Beyond two years
 - 7.1 Climate variability prediction Description of the expected climate parameters associated with the variation of inter-annual, decadal and multi-decadal climate anomalies.
 - 7.2 Climate prediction Description of expected future climate including the effects of both natural and human influences.