

# CPS Toolik helicopter operations 2016

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# 2016 Toolik helicopter overview

- Small decrease in number of supported projects from last year

2015: 26 projects

2016: 24 projects

- Small decrease in helicopter hours

2015: 193 flown

2016: 183 in budget

- Relative economization



# Planned 2016 helicopter operations

- One helicopter for entire season
- Second helicopter for shorter duration than last year
  - Dates TBD – please provide input
- Coordination done by one seasonal helicopter coordinator, and PFS full time staff before and after
- Pollux Aviation will be the likely provider



# Additional changes from previous years

- Helicopter coordinator and CPS Toolik maintenance will share a truck
  - Coordinator will work with Toolik to borrow an on-pad truck on days when maintenance technicians switch
- CPS will deploy a new VHF repeater
- NSF will share the Toolik helicopter calendar with the IARPC (Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee) community



# A look at summer weather predictions....

- Strong El Nino at present
- “The <...> consensus forecast indicates that the transition to ENSO neutral is most likely by early summer, and odds of La Nina developing by [Jul Aug Sep] exceed 30%. “
- “The largest impact on Alaska's weather from ENSO events occurs during the winter months.”
- This summer is a transition/neutral period: weather typically uncertain

ENSO = El Nino/Southern Oscillation

El Nino - the warm phase of the ENSO cycle

La Nina - the cold phase of the ENSO cycle

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long\\_range/fxus05.html](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/fxus05.html)

[http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/classroom/el\\_nino3.php](http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/classroom/el_nino3.php)



# Implications for this season

Shorter duration for the second helicopter means increased expectations for the primary aircraft:

- May require more flexibility with timing of field site access
- Weather delays may create a longer backlog

Researchers and Toolik staff will deal with several coordinators throughout the season, email and phone number will remain the same



Thank you!

Any questions?

