Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: May - July 2015 Issue date: 23.04.15

The forecast presented here is for May and the average of the May-June-July period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for May will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 1 May 2015.

This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical models and expert judgement.

SUMMARY - TEMPERATURE:

For May near- to below-average temperatures are most likely. For May-June-July above-average temperatures are most probable but uncertainty is large.

Overall, the probability that the UK-mean temperature for May-June-July will fall into the coldest of our five categories is between 15% and 20% and the probability that it will fall into the warmest of our five categories is 25% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Much of the tropical Pacific Ocean remains warmer than average and close to El Niño thresholds with significant warming in the past month across the eastern Pacific Ocean and especially near the coast of South America. The majority of climate models continue to suggest that sea surface temperatures will be above El Niño thresholds in early summer. However, even if El Niño conditions strengthen, the influence on climate across northern Europe, at this time of year, is unlikely to be significant.

There are few external forcing factors which influence weather patterns across Europe at this time. Sea surface temperatures to the south of Greenland are cooler than in recent years, but this is not expected to significantly influence conditions across northern Europe until later in the year.

Computer model signals are weak regarding the most probable atmospheric circulation types over Europe during late spring and early summer. However, there is a slight preference for lower pressure near and to the north of the UK during May; this circulation type, with winds blowing more frequently from the west or northwest, lends some support to the increased likelihood of near- to below-average temperatures in May.

For May-June-July as a whole no clear signals emerge for temperature; this can be seen in the right-hand graph in figure T2 which, although it shows a slight shift towards above-average temperatures, also has a large spread of possible outcomes.

Fig T1

3-month UK outlook for temperature in the context of the observed annual cycle

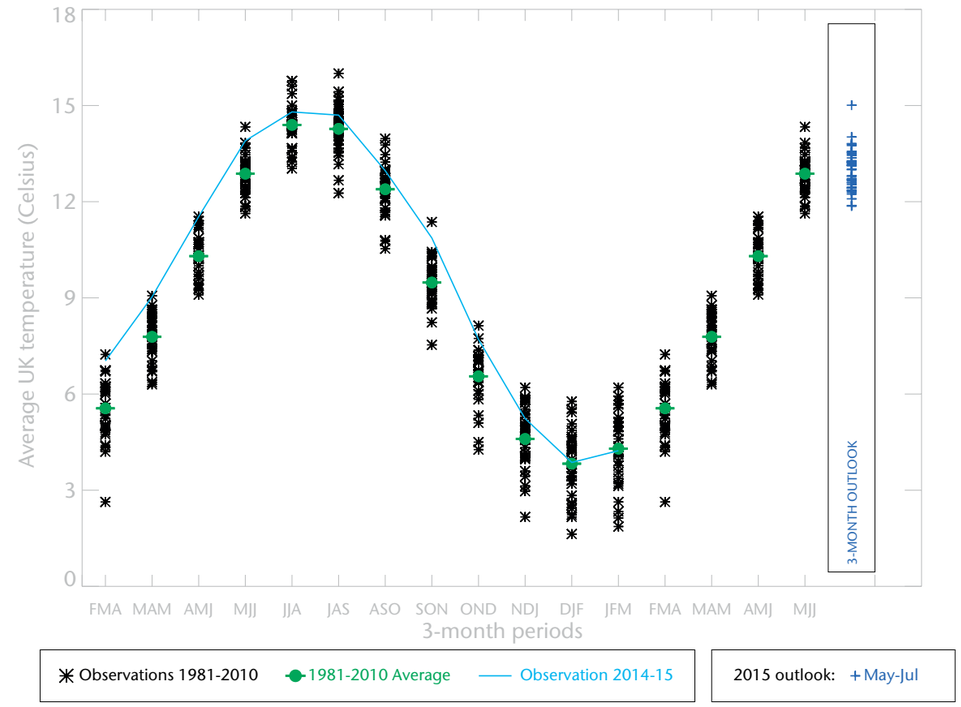


Fig T2

1-month and 3-month UK outlook for temperature in the context of observed climatology

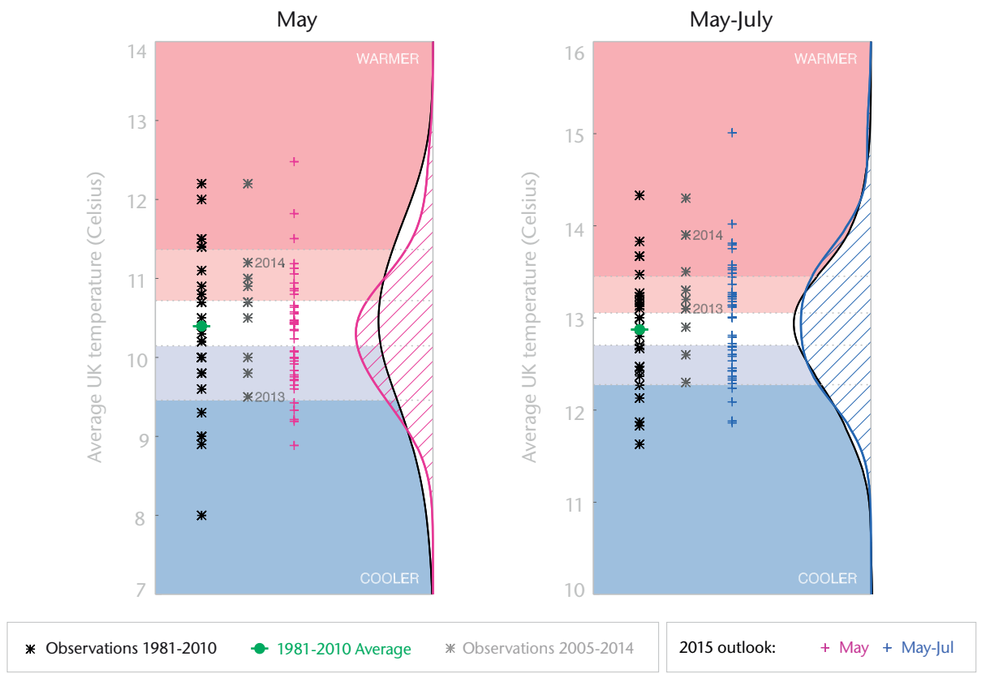
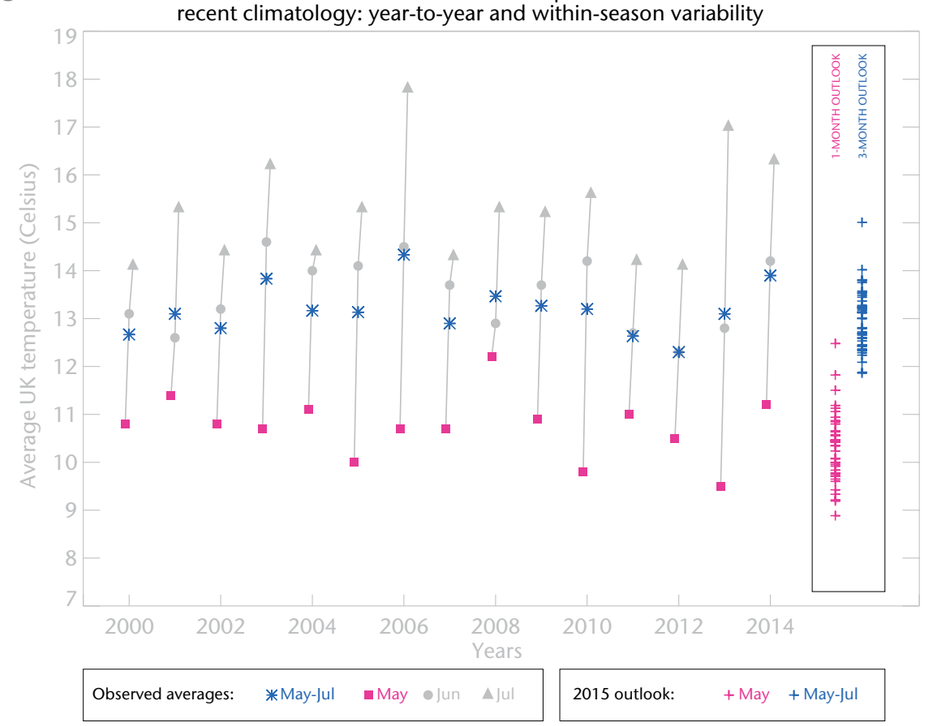


Fig T3

1-month and 3-month UK outlook for temperature in the context of recent climatology: year-to-year and within-season variability



This Outlook provides an indication of possible temperature and rainfall conditions over the next 3 months. It is part of a suite of forecasts designed for contingency planners.
The Outlook should not be used in isolation but should be used with shorter-range and more detailed (30-day, 15-day and 1-to-5-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.