NOAA report examines extreme weather in 2011

By Chris Dolce, Weather Channel

The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has released its state of the climate report along with a separate article explaining some of the extreme events of 2011 from a climate perspective.

"2011 will be remembered as a year of extreme events, both in the United States and around the world," said Deputy NOAA Administrator Kathryn D. Sullivan. "Every weather event that happens now takes place in the context of a changing global environment. This annual report provides scientists and citizens alike with an analysis of what has happened so we can all prepare for what is to come."

NOAA says back-to-back La Ninas (cooling of the equatorial Pacific Ocean) affected regional climates and influenced many of the world's significant weather events in 2011.

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