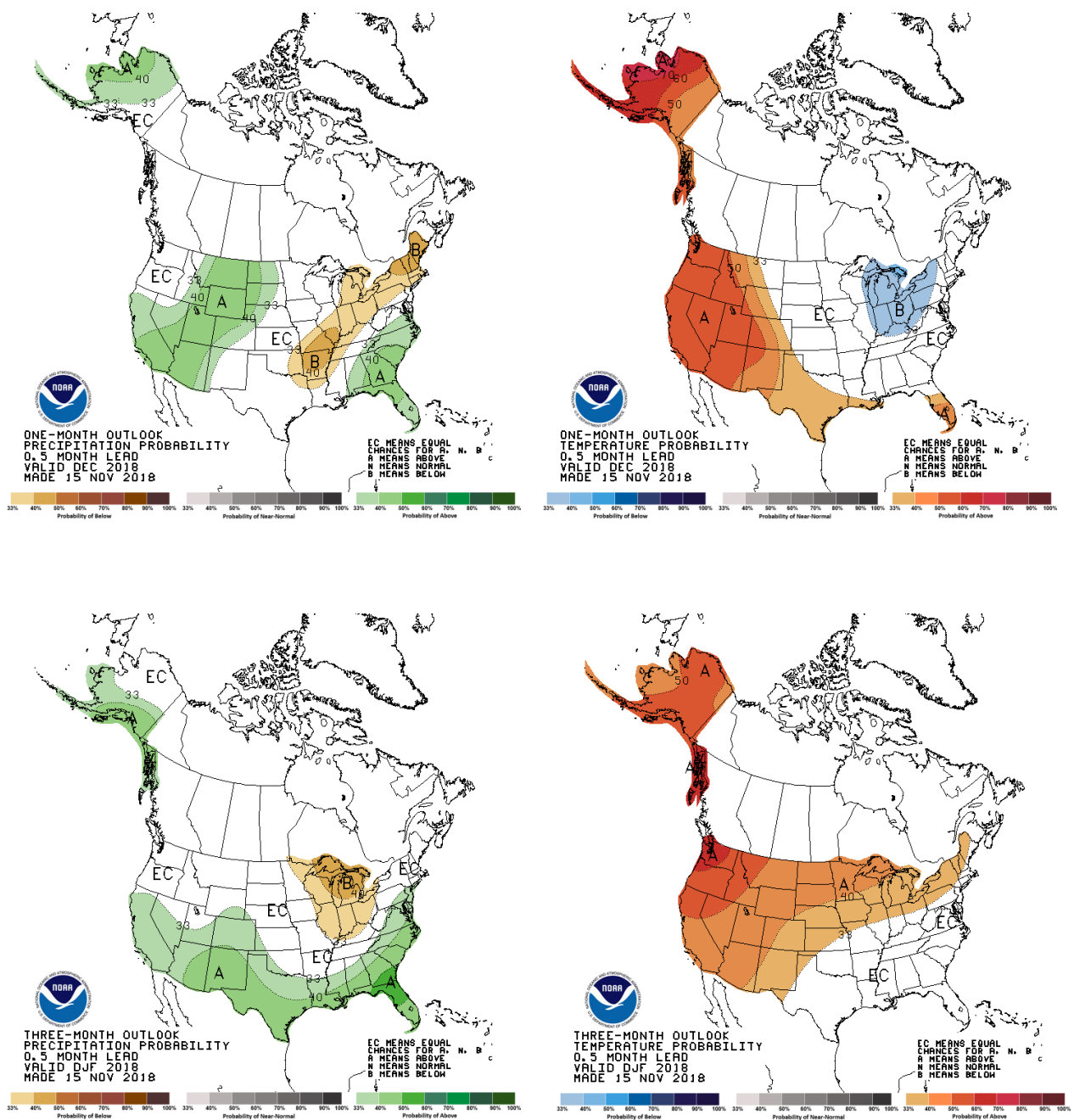


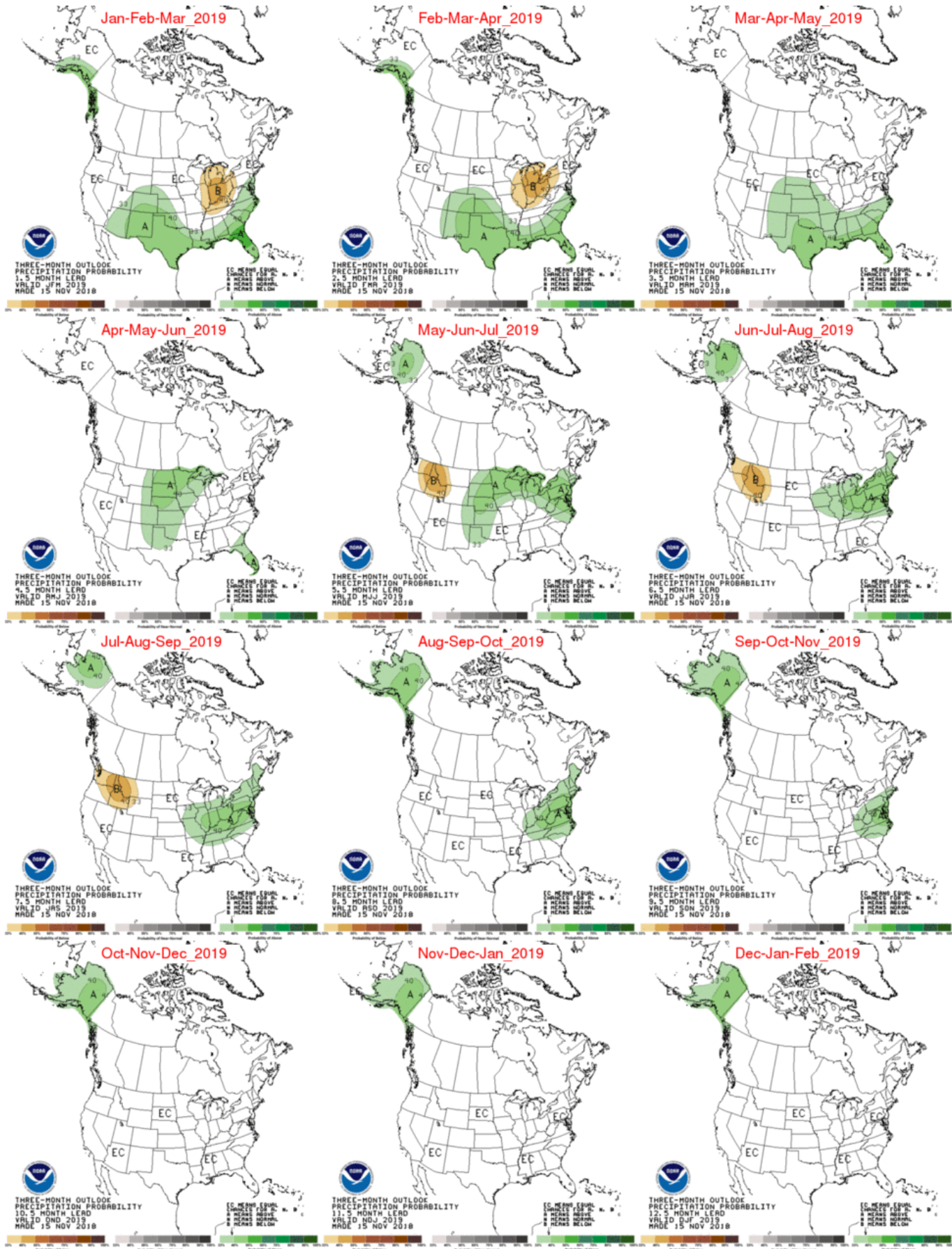
Current Monthly/Seasonal Forecast

(December 2018)

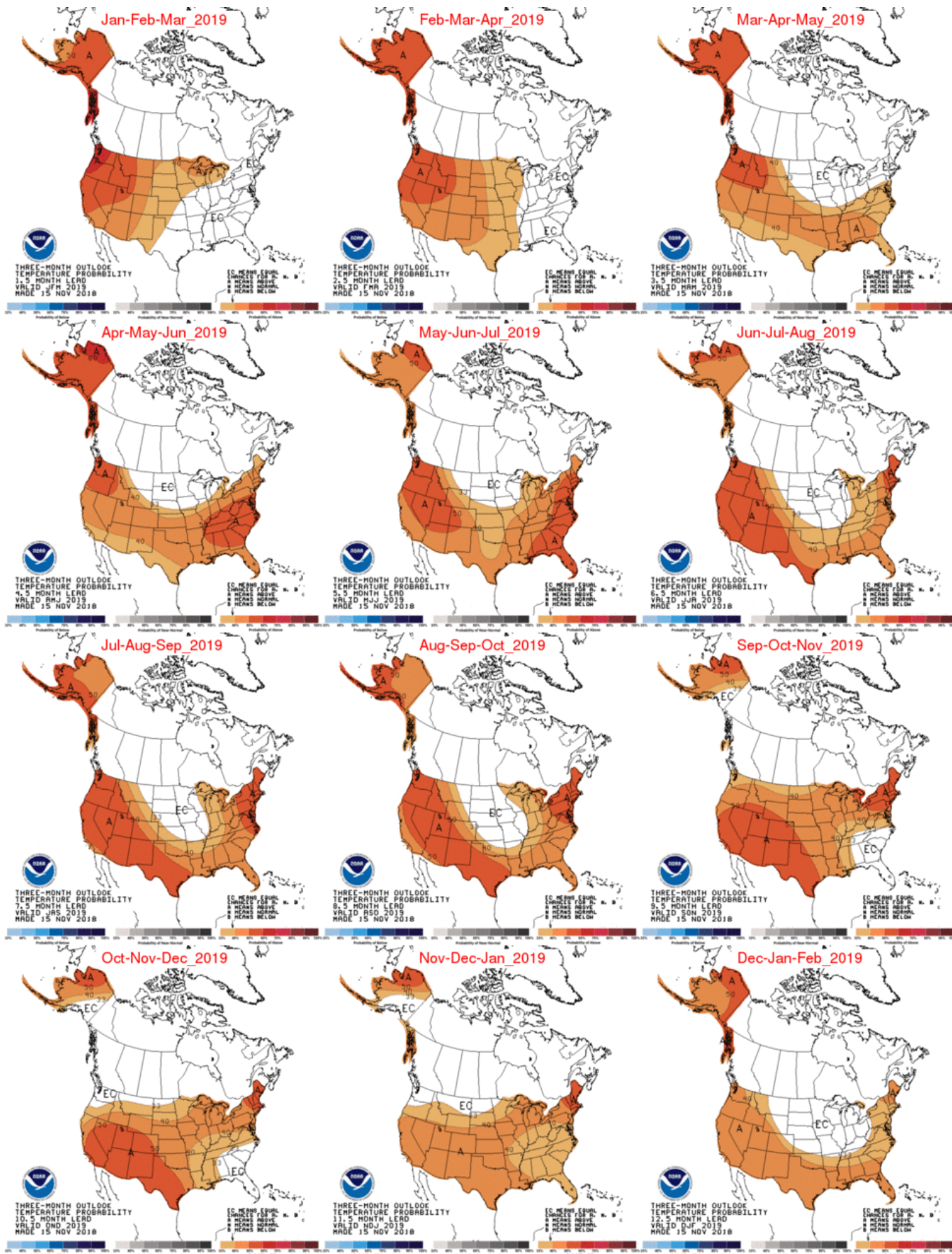
Note: The monthly and seasonal outlooks (below) are based primarily on climate phenomena that exhibit a relatively large degree of predictability such as the El Niño / Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle, as well as decade-to-decade variability and trends. Extratropical circulation patterns on monthly to seasonal time scales [such as the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO)] also significantly impact the monthly and seasonal temperature and precipitation patterns, sometimes distorting expected ENSO-related patterns. However, since the long-range predictability of these extratropical circulation patterns is very limited, they are not explicitly represented in the extended-range forecasts. To take these uncertainties into account, probabilities of temperature and precipitation are decreased (increased) in regions where the variability associated with these patterns is large (small).



PRECIPITATION



TEMPERATURE



Climate Outlook

The key below is used to interpret each of the color versions of the *Climate Outlook* products. In areas where confidence in predictive skill has been established, the probabilities of the above normal, near normal or below normal categories are increased accordingly above the Climatology level of 1/3 (33.3%) for each category. These probabilities are contoured using colors as depicted in the key below.

In those areas where the skill of our present prediction tools is not sufficient, the default is equal chances (white color). The probabilities of experiencing each of the three categories (above normal, near normal or below normal) remain equally likely (1/3) in the white areas on attached maps.

Precip	Temp	Probability anomaly as shown on map	Probability of occurrence for each Equal			Most likely category
			A	N	B	
		40%-50%	73.3%-83.3%	23.3%-13.3%	3.3%	"Above"
		30%-40%	63.3%-73.3%	33.3%-23.3%	3.3%	"Above"
		20%-30%	53.3%-63.3%	33.3%	13.3%-3.3%	"Above"
		10%-20%	43.3%-53.3%	33.3%	23.3%-13.3%	"Above"
		5%-10%	38.3%-43.3%	33.3%	23.3%-28.3%	"Above"
		0%-5%	33.3%-38.3%	33.3%	33.3%-28.3%	"Above"
		0%-5%	30.8%-33.3%	33.3%-38.3%	30.8%-33.3%	"Near Normal"
		5%-10%	28.3%-30.8%	38.3%-43.3%	28.3%-30.8%	"Near Normal"
		0%-5%	33.3%-28.3%	33.3%	33.3%-38.3%	"Below"
		5%-10%	28.3%-23.3%	33.3%	38.3%-43.3%	"Below"
		10%-20%	23.3%-13.3%	33.3%	43.3%-53.3%	"Below"
		20%-30%	13.3%-3.3%	33.3%	53.3%-63.3%	"Below"
		30%-40%	3.3%	33.3%-23.3%	63.3%-73.3%	"Below"
		40%-50%	3.3%	23.3%-13.3%	73.3%-83.3%	"Below"
		0%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	"Equal Chances"

