

## Paleorecords of ENSO variability from Coastal Peru

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Mollusk valves and fish bones found in archaeological sites on the north and central coasts of Peru suggest that El Niño may have begun (or changed significantly) at 5800 cal BP, and that between ca. 5800 and 3200/2800 cal BP, El Niño was present but less frequent than today. Modern, rapid recurrence intervals were apparently achieved only after that time. In this presentation, I review available data from multiple sources for temporal and spatial climate variability along the Peruvian coast between ca. 9,000 and 2,800 cal BP. Looking then at the archaeological record, it is apparent that the postulated onset of El Niño at 5800 cal BP is temporally correlated with the beginning of monumental construction on the Peruvian coast, while the apparent increase in El Niño frequency after 3200 cal BP is correlated with the abandonment of monumental, Initial Period temples in the same region. I conclude by discussing possible causal links.