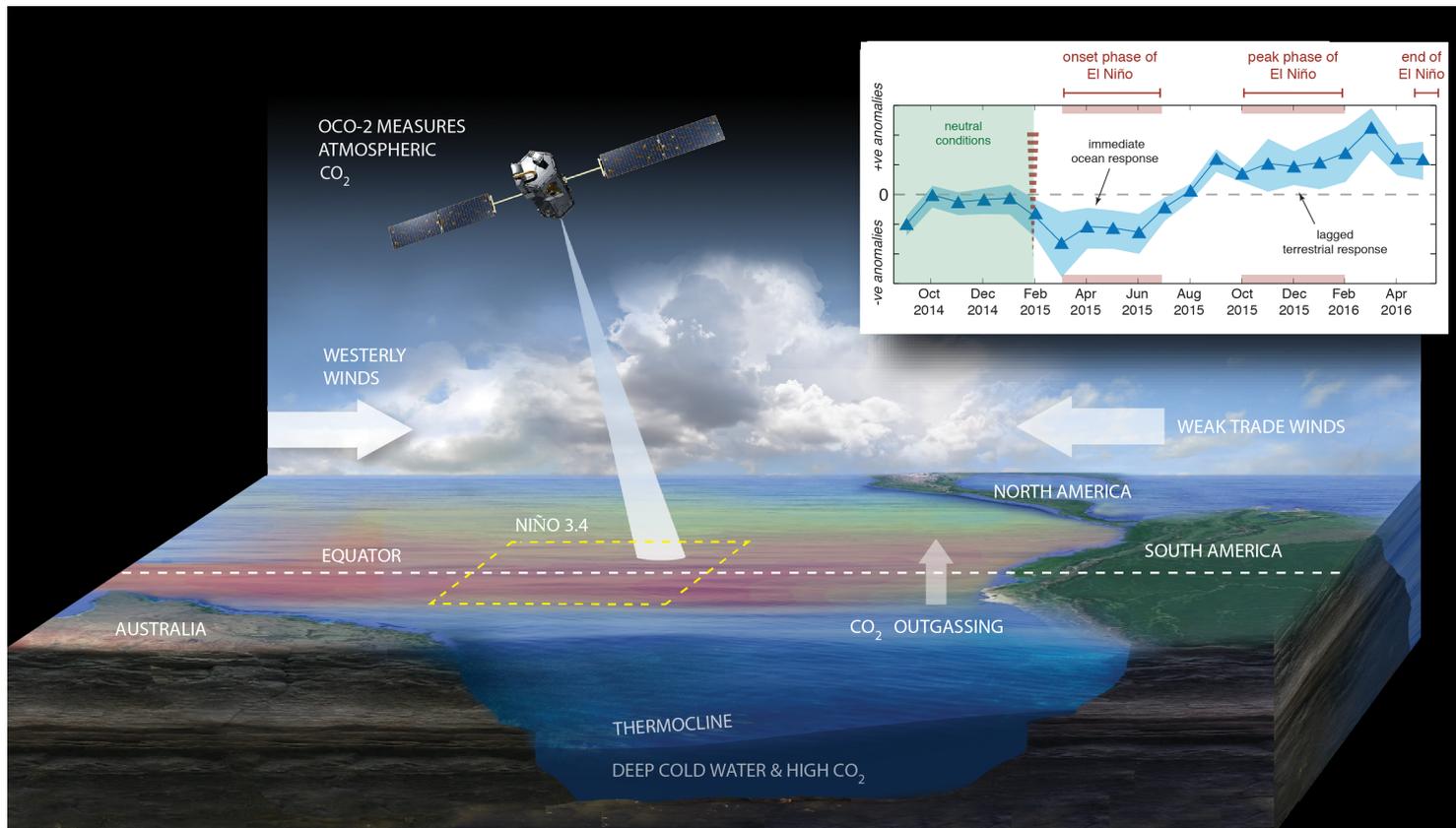




# NASA's Carbon Sleuth Tracks the Influence of El Niño on Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>



NASA's OCO-2 mission monitored changes in global CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations during the 2015-2016 El Niño event. Inset shows the time-series of column-averaged CO<sub>2</sub> concentration anomalies derived from OCO-2 observations over the tropical Pacific Ocean – the center of action during an El Niño. During neutral conditions, the anomalies hover around zero but during the El Niño event, two distinct phases are visible – a negative phase during the El Niño onset (March – July 2015) and a positive phase during the latter stages (October 2015 and later). Negative anomalies are due to the reduction in outgassing of CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes from the tropical Pacific Ocean while the positive anomalies occur due to increased emissions from fires and droughts.