

Pacific Weekly ACCESS-S Update Wednesday 12 March 2025

Ocean Outlook, fortnight to 28 March:

- Sea surface temperature (SST) forecasts more than 0.8°C **above normal** are favoured in the following country EEZs: Palau, Guam, most of CNMI, most of FSM, northern RMI, most of PNG, most of Solomon Is., northern Vanuatu, northern Fiji, Samoa, American Samoa, most of Cook Is., southern French Polynesia, and western Pitcairn Is. SST anomalies above 1.2°C are favoured in southern Palau, most of PNG, southeastern French Polynesia and southwestern Pitcairn Is. Elsewhere SSTs are predicted to be near-**normal**.
- Notably **above normal** sea level (>100 mm) is predicted for southern Palau, western Guam, eastern CNMI, northern FSM, parts of central PNG, most of Solomon Is., western Tuvalu, and far southern Tonga. **Below normal** sea level (<100 mm) is predicted for northern Line Is. (Kiribati), southeastern French Polynesia, and eastern Pitcairn. Elsewhere sea levels are predicted to be near-**normal**. Note that sea level anomalies from ACCESS-S2 do not include global but can include regional sea level trends.
- Tide calendars available via oceanportal.spc.int/portal/library/. Sea level and SST skill information, can be found in the accompanying presentation.

Climate Outlook, fortnight to 28 March:

- According to the ACCESS-S and ECMWF models, there is increased risk of tropical cyclone (TC) occurrence over the southern Philippine's and northern Australia region for the week 17 – 23 March.
- Above normal** rainfall is favoured in the following EEZs: Palau, Guam, CNMI, western and northern FSM, northern RMI, and central Line Is. (Kiribati). **Below normal** rainfall is favoured for the following country EEZs: far southern FSM and RMI, most of PNG, Nauru, parts of Tonga, Wallis & Futuna, Gilbert parts of Phoenix Is., and northern Line Is. (Kiribati), northern Tuvalu, patches in southern Cook Is., central French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Islands.
- Maximum and/or minimum air temperatures are favoured to be **normal** or **below normal** in the following country EEZs: northern CNMI, Nauru, Kiribati (excluding southern Line Is.), eastern New Caledonia, southern Vanuatu, southern Fiji, southern Tonga, northern Tuvalu, and northern Tokelau. Elsewhere, there is a strong likelihood of **above normal** temperatures.
- Remember to review rainfall and air temperature outlook skill information, which can be found in the accompanying presentation.

Climate Influences:

- El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)** remains neutral. While many of the indicators have recently met the threshold for La Niña they have not been sustained for levels or duration sufficient to warrant La Niña status. Additional information is available via the Southern hemisphere monitoring update- <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso>. The **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** is also neutral.
- Over the 30 days to 8 March, outgoing longwave radiation observations suggest the **Intertropical Convergence Zone** was confined to the western Pacific over southern FSM, and the **South Pacific Convergence Zone** remained displaced southwards below the Solomon Is., over northern Vanuatu and Fiji.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)**, as of 11 March is of moderate strength. It is forecast to weaken as it progresses eastwards across the Indian Ocean.
- Outlooks:** <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/pacific/outlooks/>, <http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/ocean.html>, [ECMWF Tropical Cyclone Outlook](http://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/short-range-weather-forecasts/tropical-cyclone-outlook)
- Influences:** <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>

