

Pacific Weekly ACCESS-S Update Wednesday 5 March 2025

Ocean Outlook, fortnight to 21 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, far northern RMI, most of PNG, northern Solomon Is., northern Cook Is., most of French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Is. SST anomalies above 1.2°C are favoured in southern Palau, northern 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, northern FSM, parts of central PNG, Solomon Is., southern Tuvalu, and far southern Tonga. **Below normal** sea level (<100 mm) is predicted for northern Tonga, northern Line Is. (Kiribati), and northeastern French Polynesia. 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 21 March:

- According to the ACCESS-S and ECMWF models, there is increased risk of tropical cyclone (TC) occurrence in the South China Sea for the week 10 – 16 March. For the same period the ECMWF model shows an increased chance of TC occurrence from the Coral Sea through to Vanuatu, Fiji, and Tonga.
- Above normal** rainfall is favoured in the following EEZs: Palau, CNMI, western and central FSM, northern RMI, and central Line Is. (Kiribati). **Below normal** rainfall is favoured for the following country EEZs: far southern FSM, eastern PNG, Nauru, northern Fiji, parts of Tonga, Wallis & Futuna, Gilbert & and parts of Phoenix Is. (Kiribati), Tuvalu, patches in southern Cook Is., and central/southern French Polynesia.
- Maximum and/or minimum air temperatures are favoured to be **normal** or **below normal** in the following country EEZs: Nauru, Kiribati (excluding southern Line Is.), southern 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 2 March, outgoing longwave radiation observations suggest the **Intertropical Convergence Zone** was close to its average position for this time of year (confined to the western Pacific), and the **South Pacific Convergence Zone** remained displaced southwards below the Solomon Is., over Vanuatu and Fiji.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)**, as of 1 March is weak. It is forecast to have limited influence on Pacific weather over the coming week.
- 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/>

