

Pacific Weekly ACCESS-S Update Wednesday 12 February 2025

Ocean Outlook, fortnight to 28 February:

- Sea surface temperature (SST) forecasts more than 0.8°C **above normal** are favoured in the following country EEZs: Palau, Guam, CNMI, most of FSM, far northern and western RMI, PNG, most of Solomon Is., and southern French Polynesia. SST anomalies above 1.2°C are favoured in southern Palau, central CNMI, northern PNG, and southern French Polynesia. **Below normal** SSTs are favoured in parts of Nauru, and Kiribati. Elsewhere SSTs are predicted to be near-normal.
- Notably **above normal** sea level (>100 mm) is predicted for southern Palau, western FSM, central PNG, parts of Solomon Is., far southern Fiji, and far southern Tonga. **Below normal** sea level (<100 mm) is predicted for central Line Is. (Kiribati) and eastern RMI. 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 February:

- According to the ECMWF and ACCESS-S model consensus outlook, there is increased risk of tropical cyclone occurrence for the week 17-23 February for Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Wallis & Futuna, Samoa, A. Samoa, Niue, and Cook islands.
- Above normal** rainfall is favoured in the following EEZs: Guam, southern CNMI, northern FSM, parts of PNG, Solomon Is., parts of New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Wallis & Futuna, Samoa, A. Samoa, Niue, central and southern Cook Is., and most of French Polynesia. **Below normal** rainfall is favoured for the following country EEZs: northern CNMI, far southern FSM, eastern PNG, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tokelau, northern Cook Is., and northern French Polynesia.
- Maximum and/or minimum air temperatures are favoured to be **normal** or **below normal** in the following country EEZs: Nauru, Kiribati (excluding far southern Line Is.), parts of New Caledonia, southern Fiji, southern Tonga, northern Tuvalu, northern Tokelau, northern Cook Is., and northern French Polynesia. 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 09 February, outgoing longwave radiation observations suggest the **Intertropical Convergence Zone** was close to its average position for this time of year (but more confined to the western Pacific), and the **South Pacific Convergence Zone** remained displaced southwards between PNG and northern Vanuatu.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)**, as of 9 February, is active in the Western Pacific, enhancing the risk for extreme rainfall locally as it continues to move eastwards over the coming week before it is forecast to move out of the region.
- 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/>

