

## Pacific Weekly ACCESS-S Update Wednesday 15 January 2025

### Ocean Outlook, fortnight to 31 January:

- 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, central and northwestern RMI, most of PNG, central and western Solomon Is., northern New Caledonia, Vanuatu, southern Fiji, southern Tonga, southern Niue, and southern French Polynesia. SST anomalies above 1.2°C are favoured in far southwestern Palau, central CNMI, southwestern FSM, parts of PNG, and southern French Polynesia. Elsewhere SSTs are predicted to be near-**normal**.
- Notably **above normal** sea level (>100 mm) is predicted for small patches of central Palau, southwest FSM, northwest RMI, patches of PNG, patches of Solomon Is., central Tuvalu, southwest New Caledonia, far southeastern Fiji, and far southern Tonga. **Below normal** sea level (<100 mm) is predicted for central Line Is. (Kiribati). 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/](https://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/library/). Sea level and SST skill information, can be found in the accompanying presentation.

### Climate Outlook, fortnight to 31 January:

- According to the ECMWF and ACCESS-S model consensus outlook, there is a near-normal to below-normal risk of tropical cyclone occurrence for the week 21-27 January for southwest and northwestern Pacific regions, and the week 28 January to 3 February for the northwestern Pacific.
- Above normal** rainfall is favoured in the following EEZs: southern Palau, CNMI, most of FSM, southern RMI, southeastern PNG, southern Solomon Is., New Caledonia, Vanuatu, southern Fiji, and southern Tonga. **Below normal** rainfall is favoured for the following country EEZs: parts of PNG, Nauru, most of Kiribati (excluding northern Phoenix and patches of Line Is.), northern Tuvalu, northern Tokelau, patches of Cook Is., northern French Polynesia, and southern Pitcairn Is.
- 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.), southern Fiji, northern Tokelau, northern Cook Is., eastern French Polynesia, Pitcairn Is. 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)** is currently 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 11 January, 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 French Polynesia.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)**, as of 11 January was active over Africa, it is forecast to remain active as it moves into the Indian Ocean then Maritime Continent in a couple of weeks time.
- Outlooks:** <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/pacific/outlooks/>, <http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/ocean.html>, [ECMWF Tropical Cyclone Outlook](https://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/short-range-weather-forecasts/tropical-cyclone-outlook)
- Influences:** <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>

