

Pacific Weekly ACCESS-S Update Wednesday 19 February 2025

Ocean Outlook, fortnight to 7 March:

- 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 RMI, most of PNG, northwestern Solomon Is., and southeastern French Polynesia. SST anomalies above 1.2°C are favoured in southern Palau, northwestern PNG, and southern French Polynesia. Forecasts more than -0.8°C **below normal** SSTs are favoured in parts of Gilbert Is. (Kiribati). Elsewhere SSTs are predicted to be near-normal.
- Notably **above normal** sea level (>100 mm) is predicted for southern Palau, parts of central PNG, parts of Solomon Is., southern Tuvalu, far southern 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/. Sea level and SST skill information, can be found in the accompanying presentation.

Climate Outlook, fortnight to 7 March:

- According to the ECMWF and ACCESS-S models, there is significantly increased risk of tropical cyclone occurrence for the week 24 February - 2 March between eastern coastline of Australia and Fiji, with an increased risk extending eastwards to Niue in both models. ECMWF has a peak in probabilities to the east of Fiji.
- Above normal** rainfall is favoured in the following EEZs: Palau, Guam, southern CNMI, northern and southern FSM, parts of PNG, southern Solomon Is., northern New Caledonia, Vanuatu, most of Fiji, Tonga, southern Wallis & Futuna, Samoa, most of A. Samoa, most of Niue, southern Cook Is., southern French Polynesia. **Below normal** rainfall is favoured for the following country EEZs: northern CNMI, far southern FSM, northern RMI, eastern PNG, Nauru, most of Kiribati, central and northern 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, far southern Cook Is., southern Tonga, southern Niue, 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 (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 15 February is weakening over the eastern Pacific as it moves eastwards out of the region. It is forecast to continue weakening over the coming days, becoming indiscernible.
- 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/>

