

Pacific Weekly ACCESS-S Update Wednesday 19 March 2025

Ocean Outlook, fortnight to 4 April:

- Sea surface temperature (SST) forecasts more than 0.8°C **above normal** are favoured in the following country EEZs: Palau, Guam, most of CNMI, western and northern FSM, far northern RMI, most of PNG, central and western Solomon Is., far northern Vanuatu, parts of New Caledonia, most of American Samoa, most of the Cook Is., southern French Polynesia, and much of Pitcairn Is. SST anomalies above 1.2°C are favoured in southern Palau, large parts of PNG, far 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 GSM, far eastern Guam, central CNMI, parts of central PNG, most of central and western Solomon Is., southern Tuvalu, and far southern Tonga. **Below normal** sea level (<100 mm) is predicted for parts of the northern Line Is. (Kiribati), and small patches of French Polynesia and 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 4 April:

- According to the ACCESS-S and ECMWF models, there is increased risk of tropical cyclone (TC) occurrence over northern Australia and the coral sea region for the week 24 – 30 March.
- Above normal rainfall is favoured in the following EEZs: Palau, Guam, central and northern CNMI, western FSM, parts of northern RMI, the southern half of the Line Is. (Kiribati), patches of southern PNG, much of the Solomon Is., northern Vanuatu, northern and central Fiji, southern Tuvalu, Tokelau, W & F, Samoa, A. Samoa, parts of Niue, Cooks Is., patches of French Polynesia, and southern Pitcairn Is. **Below normal** rainfall is favoured for the following country EEZs: northern PNG, southern and eastern FSM, southern RMI, Nauru, Gilbert Is. and Northern Line Is. (Kiribati), patches of New Caledonia, patches of southern Vanuatu, southern Fiji, patches of southern and central Tonga, and central 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.), parts of eastern New Caledonia, a patch of southern Vanuatu, southern Fiji, southern Tonga, most of Tuvalu, and most of 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. SSTs in the central tropical Pacific have risen since February but remain firmly in the neutral range. 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 15 March, outgoing longwave radiation observations suggest the **Intertropical Convergence Zone** was confined to the western Pacific, and the **South Pacific Convergence Zone** remained displaced southwards over the Solomon Is., and closer to northern Vanuatu and Fiji.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)**, as of 15 March is active over the Indian Ocean. The MJO is forecast to weaken in coming days as it progresses eastwards.
- 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-weather-forecasts)
- Influences:** <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>

