

Pacific Weekly ACCESS-S Update Wednesday 29 January 2025

Ocean Outlook, fortnight to 14 February:

- Sea surface temperature (SST) forecasts more than 0.8°C **above normal** are favoured in the following country EEZs: Palau, Guam, CNMI, FSM, PNG, most of Solomon Is., west Tuvalu, southern Fiji, central Tonga, Niue, southern Cook Is., and southern French Polynesia. SST anomalies above 1.2°C are favoured in Palau, central CNMI, southwestern FSM, parts of PNG, and southern French Polynesia. **Below normal** SSTs are favoured in parts of Kiribati. Elsewhere SSTs are predicted to be near-normal.
- Notably **above normal** sea level (>100 mm) is predicted for southern Palau, central PNG through to northern Solomon Is., west Tuvalu, southwest New Caledonia, 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 14 February :

- According to the ECMWF and ACCESS-S model consensus outlook, there is increased risk of tropical cyclone occurrence for the week 3-9 February in the western Coral Sea extending to southern PNG.
- Above normal** rainfall is favoured in the following EEZs: Guam, Palau, CNMI, FSM, southern RMI, southern Solomon Is., New Caledonia, Vanuatu, southern Fiji, southern Tonga, and southern French Polynesia. **Below normal** rainfall is favoured for the following country EEZs: PNG, Nauru, most of Kiribati (excluding northern Phoenix and patches of Line Is.), 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.), northern Tokelau, northern Cook Is., and far 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)** 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 26 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 Samoa.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)**, as of 26 January was active over the Maritime Continent, it is forecast to remain active as it moves into the western Pacific over the next week.
- 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/>

