

Pacific Weekly ACCESS-S Update Wednesday 20 August 2025

Ocean Outlook, fortnight to 6 September:

- Sea surface temperature (SST) forecasts more than 0.8°C **above-normal** are favoured in the following country Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZs): FSM, Palau, PNG, Solomon Is., Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji, southern Tuvalu, W & F, central French Polynesia and Pitcairn Is. SST anomalies above 1.2°C are favoured in most of PNG, Solomon Is., parts of New Caledonia, Vanuatu, and west French Polynesia. Elsewhere, SSTs are predicted to be **near-normal**.
- Notably, the **above-normal** sea level (>100 mm) is predicted for most of Palau, northwestern FSM, eastern CNMI. **Below-normal** sea levels (<100 mm) are predicted central Niue, central CNMI, and small patches in the southern New Caledonia, southern French Polynesia and southern Cook Islands. Elsewhere, sea levels are expected 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 are available via <https://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/library/>. Sea level and SST skill information can be found in the accompanying presentation.

Climate Outlook, fortnight to 5 September:

- In the outlook, the risk of tropical cyclone occurrence is significantly increased for the period 25 to 31 August in the region near Philippines, Palau, Guam, CNMI, FSM and western Marshall Islands according to the ACCESS-S and ECMWF models.
- Above-normal** rainfall is favoured in the following EEZs: North-western PNG, north Palau, Marshall Islands, eastern and western FSM, Guam, southern CNMI, parts of Solomon Is., parts of Fiji, Tonga, and Pitcairn Is. **Below-normal** rainfall is favoured for the following EEZs: Kiribati (southern Gilbert, most of Phoenix and central Line Is.), New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, northern Tokelau, Nauru, and southern parts of French Polynesia.
- Near-normal maximum and minimum air temperatures** are favoured for Gilbert Is., the Phoenix and Line Is. (Kiribati) and northeastern French Polynesia. Elsewhere **above-normal** temperatures are likely. 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)** and **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** remain neutral. A negative **IOD** event is likely in the coming months. Additional information is available via the Southern Hemisphere Monitoring Update - <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso>.
- For the past 30 days, outgoing longwave radiation observations show that in the far western Pacific the **Intertropical Convergence Zone** is north of its usual position, currently located near Guam. The **South Pacific Convergence Zone** is weaker than usual for this time of year.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)** is currently active over the western Indian Ocean. Most international models forecast the MJO to weaken and become inactive in the coming fortnight
- 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/>

