

Pacific Weekly ACCESS-S Update Wednesday 03 September 2025

Ocean Outlook, fortnight to 19 September:

- Sea surface temperature (SST) forecasts more than 0.8°C **above normal** are favoured in the following countries' Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs): southern FSM, eastern Palau, PNG, Solomon Is, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, western Fiji, central Tonga, Niue, central Cook Is., central French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Is. SST anomalies above 1.2°C are favoured in most of PNG, the western and south of Solomon Islands, northern New Caledonia, Vanuatu, and eastern French Polynesia. Elsewhere, SSTs are predicted to be **near-normal**.
- Notably, **above-normal** sea levels (>100 mm) are predicted for most of eastern CNMI, Palau, and northern Solomon Is. **Below-normal** sea levels (<100 mm) are indicated for northern CNMI, eastern Tonga, western Niue, southern Cook Is., northern Line Islands (Kiribati), as well as southern French Polynesia. 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 19 September:

- The risk of tropical cyclone occurrence is significantly increased for the period from 8 to 14 September in the region near the Philippines, Palau, Taiwan, Guam, CNMI, western Marshall Islands, and FSM, according to the ACCESS-S and ECMWF models.
- Above-normal** rainfall is favoured in the following EEZs: Northern CNMI, PNG, southern Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, most of New Caledonia, Fiji, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, southern American Samoa, Niue, southern Cook Islands, and western French Polynesia. **Below-normal** rainfall is favoured for the following EEZs: Guam, northern FSM, northern and western RMI, Nauru, Kiribati (Gilbert, Phoenix, and most of Line Islands), northern Tuvalu, Tokelau, northern Cook Islands, the northern parts of French Polynesia, and parts of Pitcairn Islands.
- Near-normal maximum and minimum air temperatures** are favoured for Nauru, the Gilbert Islands, the Phoenix Islands (Kiribati), northern Tuvalu, northern Tokelau, northern Cook Islands, and northeastern French Polynesia. The central line and northernmost part of French Polynesia are expected to be **below-normal** temperatures. Elsewhere, **above-normal** temperatures are likely. Please review the 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)** remains 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 have shown that the **Intertropical Convergence Zone** in the far western Pacific has shifted north to its usual position, currently located south of FSM. The **South Pacific Convergence Zone** is weaker than normal for this time of year and observed over PNG, south of its usually position.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)** is very weak or indiscernible over the maritime continent. Most models forecast that the MJO will weaken to become indiscernible in the coming days.
- 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/>

