

Pacific Weekly ACCESS-S Update Wednesday 10 December 2025

Ocean Outlook, fortnight to 26 December:

- Sea surface temperature (SST) forecasts more than 0.8°C **above normal** are favoured in the following countries' Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs): CNMI, Guam, Palau, southern FSM, southern and northern PNG, southwestern Vanuatu, most of New Caledonia, Tonga, and Niue. SST anomalies above 1.2°C are favoured in parts of northern CNMI and southern New Caledonia. Elsewhere, SSTs are expected to be near normal.
- Notably, **above-normal** sea levels (>100 mm) are predicted for CNMI, central-west FSM, and a patch in southwestern Solomon Is. **Below-normal** sea levels (<100 mm) are indicated in patches of the southern Cook Is, South French Polynesia and northern CNMI. Elsewhere, sea levels are expected to be **near-normal**. Note that sea level anomalies from ACCESS-S2 do not include global trends but can include regional ones.
- 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 26 December:

- There is a reduced risk of tropical cyclone occurrence over the Northwest Pacific for 15 to 21 December according to the ACCESS-S and ECMWF models.
- Above-normal** rainfall is favoured in the following EEZs: CNMI, north-eastern Palau, patches of FSM, northern and central RMI, south-eastern PNG, Solomon Is, northern New Caledonia, Vanuatu, northern Fiji, southern Tuvalu, southern Tokelau, Samoa, American Samoa, Wallis and Fatuna, Southern Line Islands (Kiribati), southern Cook Islands, Niue, French Polynesia and patches of Pitcairn Is. **Below-normal** rainfall is favoured for the following EEZs: southern Palau, southern RMI, mainland PNG, southern New Caledonia Is, southern Tonga, northern Gilbert Is., Phoenix Is., and central to northern Line Is. (Kiribati), northern Cook Is., northern Nauru, Tuvalu, Tokelau, northern French Polynesia and southern Pitcairn Islands.
- Near-normal or below-normal** maximum and minimum air temperatures are favoured for eastern Nauru, Kiribati, the northern half of Tuvalu, Tokelau, Cook Is, patches of Fiji, small areas of PNG and northern Vanuatu, French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Island. Elsewhere, **above-normal** temperatures are likely. Please review the skill information for the rainfall and air temperature outlook in the accompanying presentation.

Climate Influences:

- El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)** indicates La Niña is underway. The **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** is negative and is expected to weaken in the coming weeks. Additional information is available via the Southern Hemisphere Monitoring Update - <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>.
- Over the past 30 days, outgoing longwave radiation observations indicate that the **Intertropical Convergence Zone** is near its climatological positions for this time of year. The **South Pacific Convergence Zone** is south of its normal position, currently over Tonga.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)** is currently active over the western Hemisphere and Africa and is unlikely to influence Pacific weather patterns over the coming fortnight. The MJO is forecast to weaken as it moves into the Indian Ocean over the coming fortnight.
- Outlooks:** <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/pacific/outlooks/> , <http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/ocean.html> , **ECMWF tropical cyclones Influences:** <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>

