

Pacific Weekly ACCESS-S Update Wednesday 21 January 2026

Ocean Outlook, fortnight to 6 February:

- 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, FSM, northern PNG, Nauru, southern RMI, southern New Caledonia, southern Tonga, far southern Fiji, and southwestern Niue. Elsewhere, SSTs are expected to be **near normal**.
- Notably, **above-normal** sea levels (>100 mm) are predicted for a small region over eastern CNMI, small patches of FSM, far northern PNG, eastern Solomon Islands, a small patch over southwestern Tuvalu, southeastern New Caledonia, far southern Fiji and far southwestern Tonga, far northern Line Islands (Kiribati). 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 6 February:

- There is an increased risk of tropical cyclone occurrence over the South Pacific east of Vanuatu and New Caledonia from 26 January to 1 February, according to the ACCESS-S and ECMWF models.
- Above-normal** rainfall is favoured in the following EEZs: Palau, Guam, CNMI, most of FSM, part of far western RMI, patches of PNG, most of the Solomon Islands, northern Fiji, southern half of Tuvalu, most of Tonga, Niue, Samoa, American Samoa, Wallis and Futuna, central and southern Cook Islands, French Polynesia (excluding Marquesas Islands), and Pitcairn Islands. **Below-normal** rainfall is favoured for the following EEZs: northern RMI, northern Nauru, central Gilbert Islands, Phoenix and Line Islands (Kiribati), southern PNG, far southern Solomon Islands, most of New Caledonia, southwestern Fiji, far southern Tonga, northern Tokelau, northern Cook Islands and Marquesas Islands (French Polynesia).
- Near-normal or below-normal** maximum and minimum air temperatures are favoured for northern CNMI, Rotuma (Fiji), most of Wallis & Futuna, southern Tuvalu, central Samoa, Tokelau, southeastern Gilbert, Phoenix and Line Islands (Kiribati), northern Cook Islands, northern French Polynesia, and parts of Pitcairn Islands. 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)** indicators in the Pacific show La Niña conditions are continuing. **The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** is neutral. 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 south of its climatological positions for this time of year. The **South Pacific Convergence Zone** is close to its climatologically normal position west of 170°E, and to the east it is southwards of its usual position closer to Fiji and Tonga.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)** is currently active in the far western Pacific. It is forecast to propagate eastwards as it moves through the Pacific region over the coming week and is likely to influence weather patterns in the region 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/>

