

Pacific Weekly ACCESS-S Update

Wednesday 28 January 2026

Ocean Outlook, fortnight to 13 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 and western RMI, New Caledonia, southern Vanuatu, Tonga, southern Fiji, Niue, southern Cook Is. SST forecasts more than **1.2°C above normal** are favoured for southern Tonga, southern Fiji, southern Niue, southern Cook Is., Palau, Nauru, CNMI and parts of FSM. Elsewhere, SSTs are expected to be **near normal**.
- Notably, **above-normal** sea levels (>100 mm) are predicted for a small region over eastern CNMI, patches of FSM, far western RMI, far northern PNG, southeastern New Caledonia, far southern Fiji, 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 13 February:

- There is an increased risk of tropical cyclone occurrence over the South Pacific south of Fiji from 2 February to 8 February, and across the Philippines in the North Pacific, according to the ACCESS-S and ECMWF models.
- Above-normal** rainfall is favoured in the following EEZs: Palau, Guam, CNMI, FSM, southern RMI, patches of PNG, southern Fiji, southern Tonga. **Below-normal** rainfall is favoured for the following EEZs: northern RMI, Phoenix and Line Islands (Kiribati), parts of PNG, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, northern Cook Islands, and northern French Polynesia including Marquesas Islands.
- Near-normal or below-normal** maximum and minimum air temperatures are favoured for Phoenix and Line Islands (Kiribati), northern Cook Islands, and northern French Polynesia. 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 slightly south of its climatological positions for this time of year. The **South Pacific Convergence Zone** is close to its climatologically normal position east of 160°E, and to the west it is southwards of its usual position.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)** is currently active in the far western Pacific. It is forecast to weaken as it moves into the western hemisphere.
- 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/>

