

# Regional Climate Watch

## To: NMHS in the western Pacific Islands region

The Regional Climate Watch is a guidance product designed for heightening National Meteorological and Hydrological Services awareness of an ongoing or high probability foreseen climate anomaly and its potential impacts on communities so that they can take appropriate action. This watch is disseminated to serve as a mechanism for initiating national preparedness activities and/or a series of events that affect decision-making.

After consultation between the Bureau of Meteorology and SPREP the Pacific RCC-Network Node on Climate Monitoring issues the following guidance information:

**Product ID: 20260325-01**

**Issued:** 25 March 2026

**Valid from-to:** 29 March – 11 April 2026

**Next update:** 1 April 2026



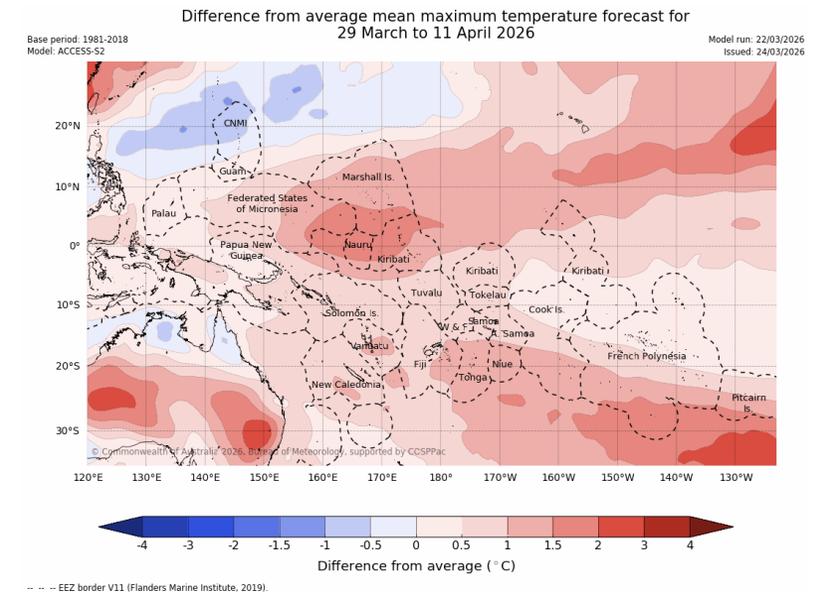
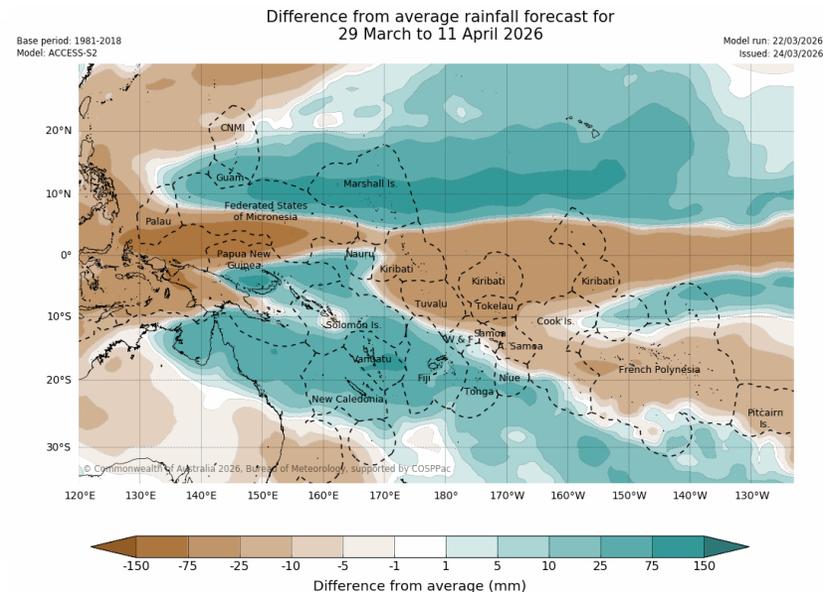
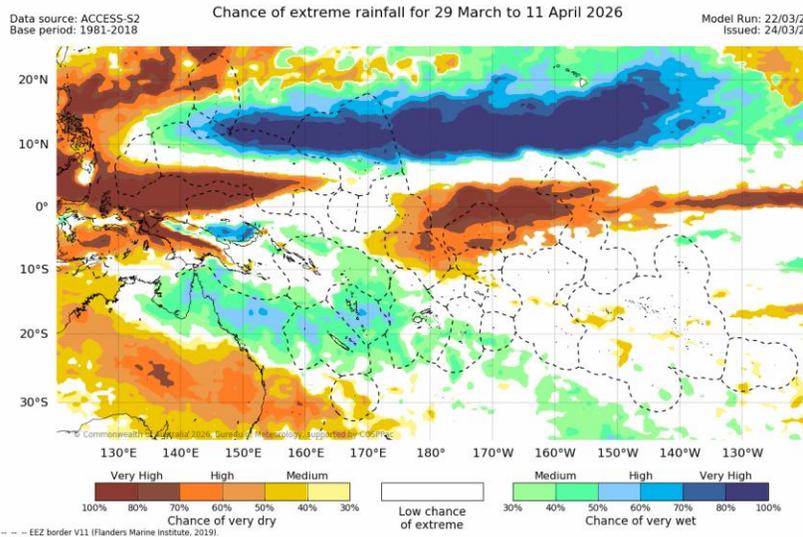
## Areas concerned (highlighted in yellow):

- *Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas*
- *Guam*
- *Palau*
- *Federated States of Micronesia*
- *Republic of the Marshall Islands*
- *Papua New Guinea*
- *Solomon Islands*
- *Vanuatu*
- *New Caledonia*
- *Fiji*
- *Wallis & Futuna*
- *Tonga*
- *Niue*
- *Samoa*
- *American Samoa*
- *Cook Islands*
- *French Polynesia*
- *Nauru*
- *Kiribati*
- *Tuvalu*
- *Tokelau*
- *Pitcairn Islands*



## Extreme Rainfall and Extreme Temperature Advisory:

- There's a very high chance of Very Wet conditions for the fortnight of 29 March – 11 April 2026 for the following EEZs: Guam, southern CNMI, northern FSM, central and northern RMI, and a small region in central PNG. Fortnightly anomalies are forecast to exceed +75 mm over northern FSM, central RMI, and central Vanuatu.
- Positive maximum and minimum air temperature anomalies are forecast to exceed 1.5 °C for the fortnight 29 March – 11 April 2026 over Pohnpei and Kosrae (FSM), southern RMI, Nauru, northern Gilbert Islands (Kiribati), southern French Polynesia and southern Pitcairn Islands. The watch has been cancelled for PNG, southeastern Fiji, southern Tonga, southern Niue, and southern Cook Islands.

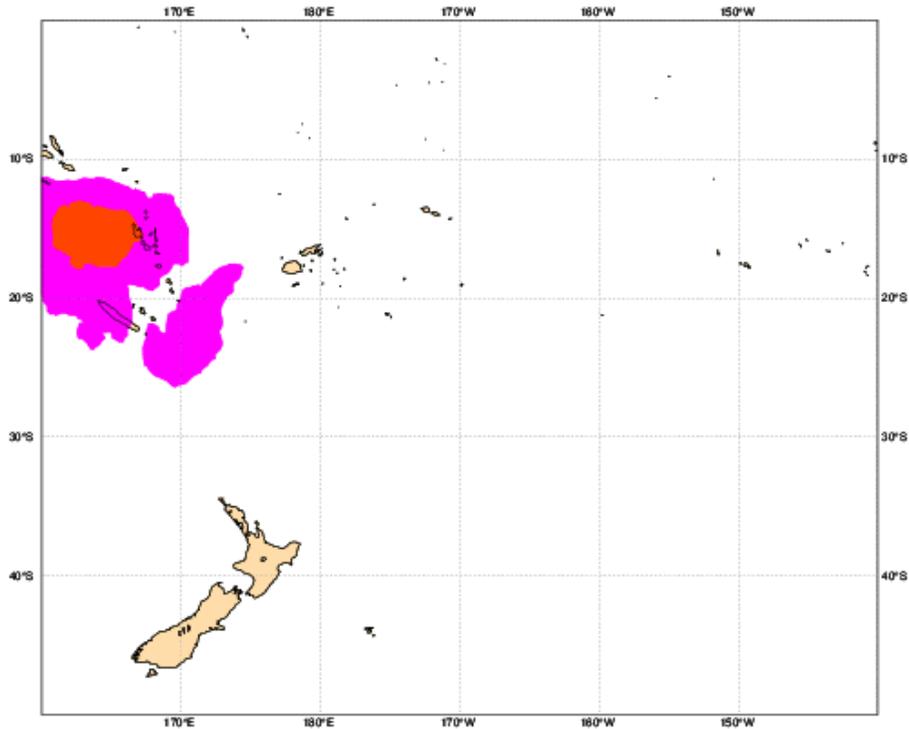


## Tropical Cyclone Advisory:

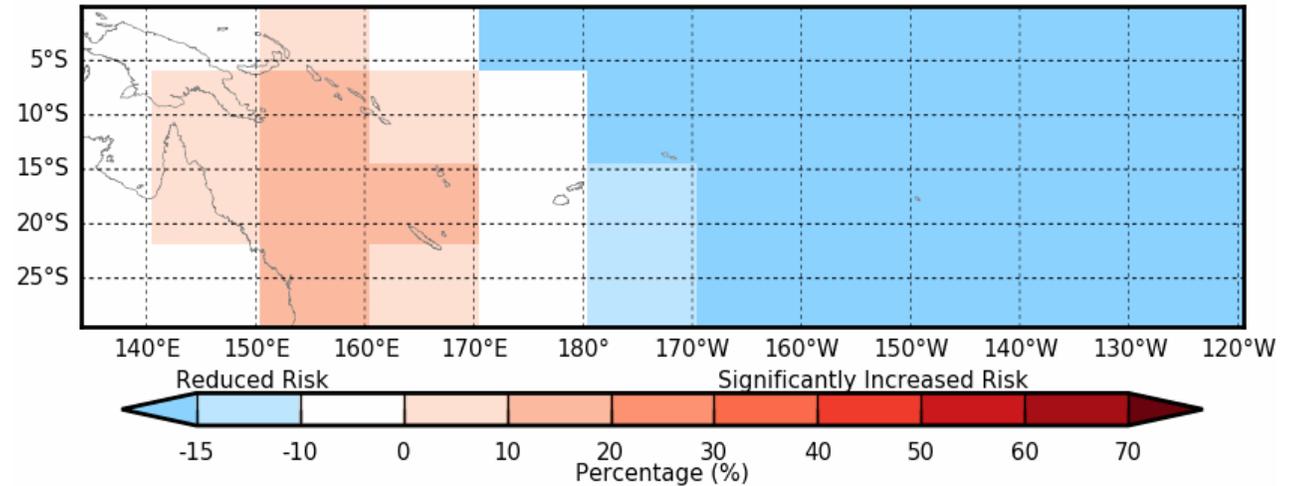
- There is an increased risk of Tropical Cyclone (TC) occurrence near the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia for the week of 30 March – 5 April 2026, according to the ACCESS-S and ECMWF models.

Weekly mean Tropical Storm Strike Probability. Date: 20260324 0 UTC t+(144-312)  
Probability of a TS passing within 300km radius

5-10 10-20 20-30 30-40 40-50 50-60 60-70 70-80 80-90 90-110



Difference from normal chance of Tropical Cyclone's in the South Pacific  
Forecast period: 30/03/2026 - 05/04/2026



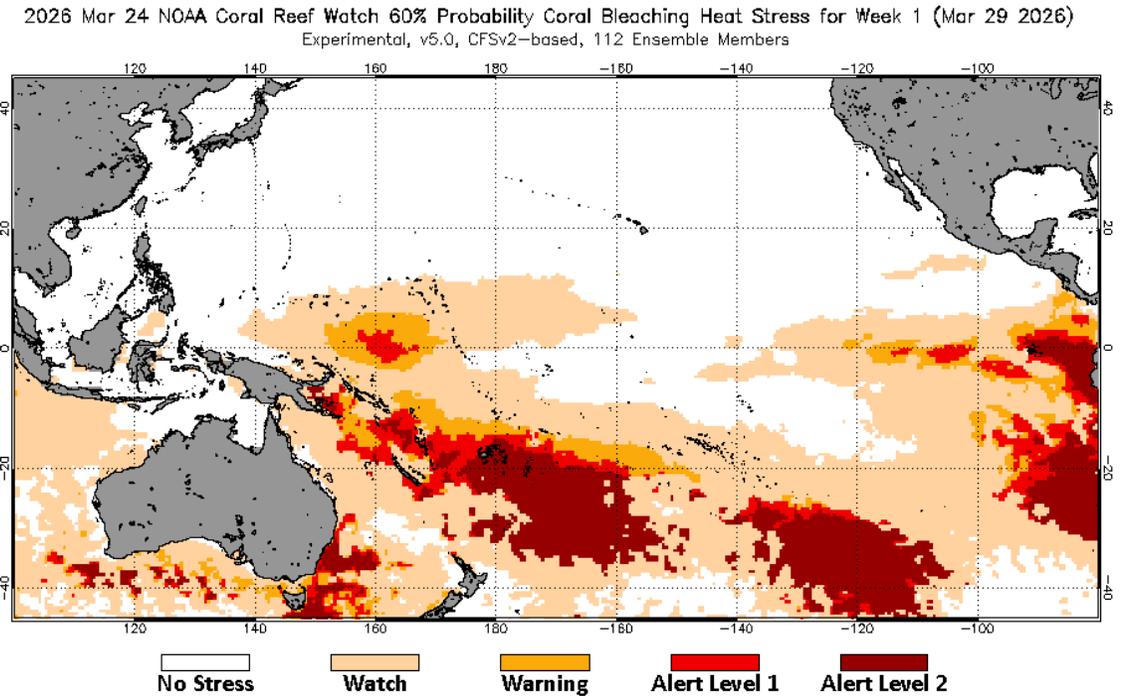
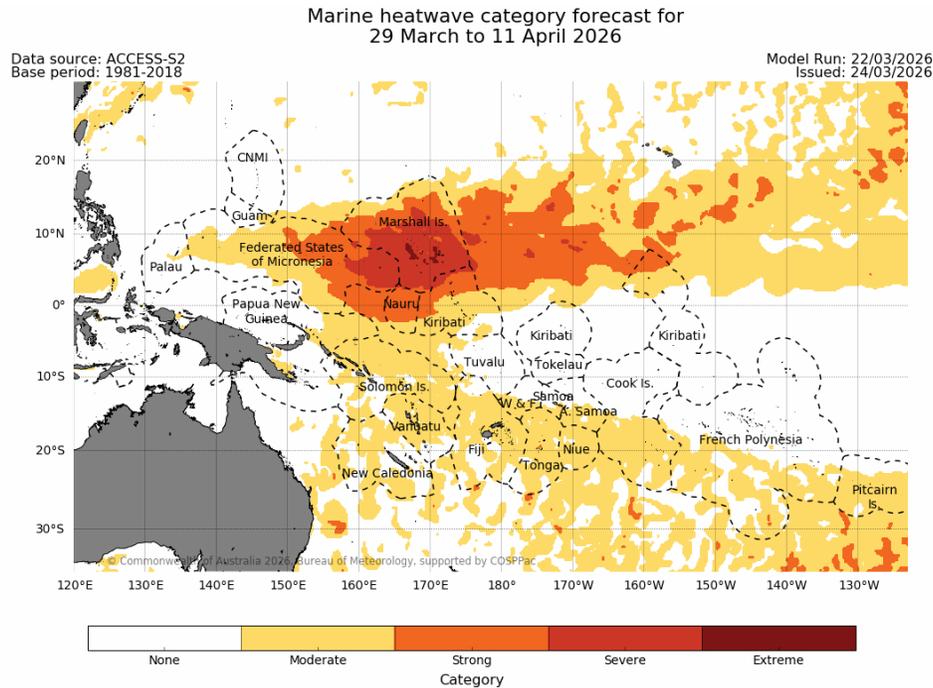
Calibrated Model anomaly probability in overlapping 15 x 20 degree boxes  
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Model: ACCESS\_S2 Model Run: 22/03/2026 Issued: 24/03/2026



## Marine Heatwave and Coral Bleaching Advisory:

- Marine heatwaves in the strong category are forecast to develop for parts of the following EEZ's for the fortnight 29 March – 11 April 2026: RMI, Pohnpei and Kosrae (FSM), Nauru, and the northern Gilbert and Line Islands (Kiribati). There may be impacts on ocean ecosystems, including stress on marine organisms, species migration, and algal blooms in these locations. The watch is now cancelled for PNG, Fiji and Tonga.
- There remains an alert for coral bleaching for the following EEZs for the week of 29 March – 4 April 2026: eastern PNG, Solomon Is, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji, Tonga, Niue, the far southern Cook Islands and far southern French Polynesia. The alert region is similar in strength and expanse when compared to the watch last week.

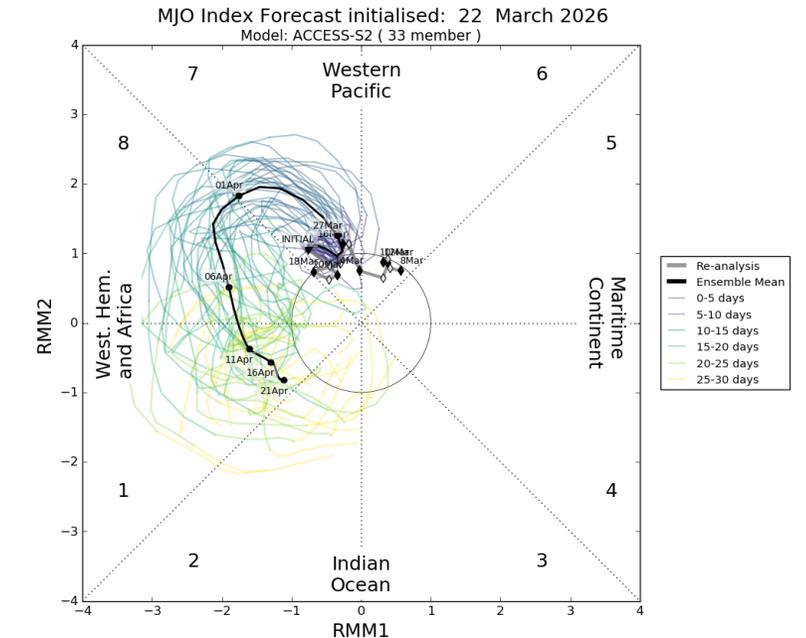
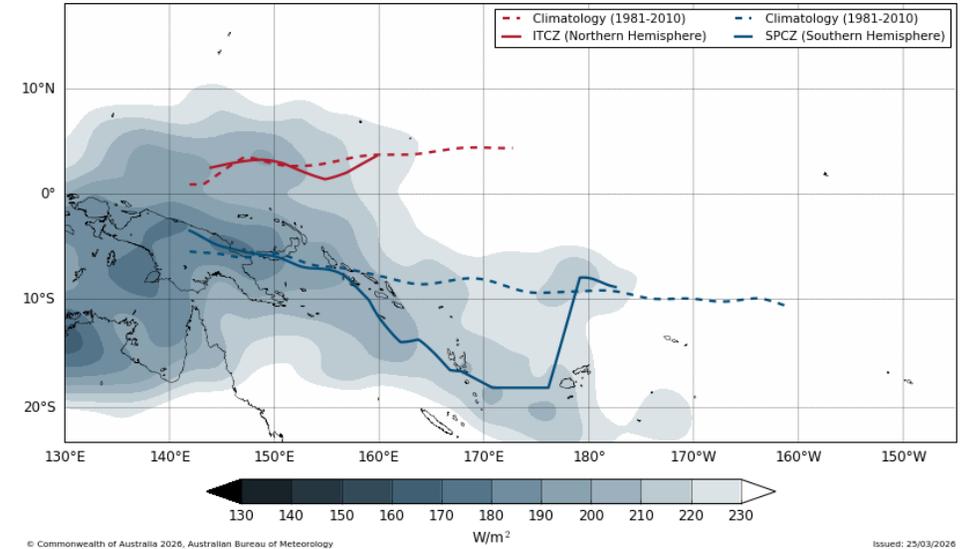


## Climate Influences:

- **El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)** indicates La Niña is close to ending.
- The **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** while currently positive is unlikely to strongly influence western Pacific rainfall at this time of year.
- 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 close to its climatologically normal location for this time of year. The **South Pacific Convergence Zone** is located further south over Vanuatu and Fiji when compared to its usual location.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)** is located in the eastern Pacific, it is forecast to strengthen in the coming days as it moves further eastwards out of the Pacific.

**Outlooks:** <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/pacific/outlooks/>,  
<http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/ocean.html>, [ECMWF Tropical Cyclone Outlook](#)  
[NOAA Coral Reef Watch 60% Probability Coral Bleaching Heat Stress Weekly Outlooks \(CFS based\)](#)  
**Influences:** <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>

30 Day Average Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) minimum to 2026-03-22



## About Regional Climate Watch guidance

- This information should be used as guidance for the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) in a pre-operational mode. It is up to NMHSs in the specified regions to monitor the status and evolution of the current climate conditions closely and to consider issuing a national advisories.
- We will monitor the evolution of the anomaly, issue updates if significant change arise and close the advice when no clear signal can be detected in the forecasts.
- For more information and feedback please email [pacificclimateservices@bom.gov.au](mailto:pacificclimateservices@bom.gov.au). Also, any suggestions on further pieces of information needed by NMHSs is highly welcomed!
- Please note that further climate monitoring and prediction information can be obtained from Pacific RCC-N website (<https://www.pacificmet.net/rcc>)
- The Pacific RCC Network Node on Climate Monitoring is responsible for providing Regional Climate Watch guidance information for NMHSs' own consideration for issuing climate advisories for their territory. The regional watch is currently sponsored by the Australian and New Zealand funded Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) and delivered by Node on Climate Monitoring consortium members that are COSPPac implementation partners (Bureau of Meteorology and SPREP).

