

# OUR PACIFIC OCEAN, OUR STORIES

Know your Ocean with the Pacific Ocean Portal!



Savaii, Samoa © Stuart Chape

## How to find accurate and reliable information on the Pacific Ocean

There is a lot of information available on the web today, and it can be overwhelming and confusing, especially when you are reporting on issues relating to science. Scientific information is constantly being updated, and scientists and experts need to consistently research, review and fact check to ensure the information they are giving to their audiences is up to date and accurate.

This factsheet will introduce you to the Pacific Ocean Portal – a user-friendly, open access online tool, and the place to go for historical and near real-time Pacific Ocean data. It is based upon the Pacific Ocean Portal! Factsheet developed by the Pacific Community (SPC) through the Climate and Oceans Support program in the Pacific (COSPPac).

Data are displayed visually, as downloadable maps and graphs, and files are low bandwidth making them ideal for slow internet speeds. While the portal was developed for non-technical users, data are sourced from historical records streamed from satellites and obtained from ocean-based equipment and computer models.



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*A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*



## What can you find on the Pacific Ocean Portal?

The information available on the portal includes:

- Near-real time tide and weather observations from 194 locations
- Annual tide calendars for 23 locations around the Pacific
- Wave climate reports with a summary of wind and wave statistics for 200 locations
- Seasonal and long-term sea level trends
- Daily and forecast sea surface and subsurface ocean temperature
- Daily salinity and chlorophyll levels
- Forecast current direction and speed
- Forecast sea and swell wave height, period and speed
- Forecast wind speed
- Coral bleaching alerts
- Help files with details about the data and how to interpret the information

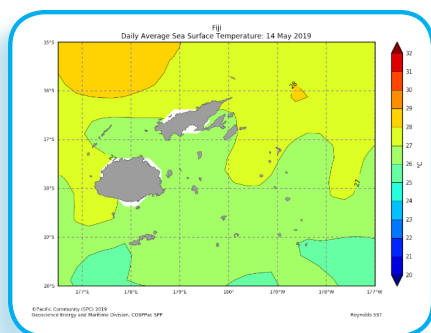


Anyone can use the portal – from students and researchers, to fishermen and fishing communities, as well as coastal communities and ship captains or crews and even tourism operators.

Journalists and the media can also use the portal to learn more about our ocean in order to cover stories and report back to the public. Coral reef bleaching outlooks are important and alert us when the reef is particularly stressed, so the media and journalism networks can warn fishing communities and large fishing bodies to reduce fishing in those high stress areas. And sea surface temperature forecasts can highlight likely fishing hotspots where fishermen can move to instead.

The portal can also produce maps and graphs of ocean conditions for a given date or location to help you research and find more about the story or issues you are covering, and ensure that your stories are based on accurate information and reliable facts.

## Telling our Pacific stories with the Pacific Ocean Portal



Reporting about stories, and connecting your readers to the real life people involved in the ocean issues you cover can be strengthened with information from the Pacific Ocean Portal.

The portal can produce maps and graphs of ocean conditions on a given date at a given location to inform your research. Maps and graphs can be used to accompany your webstories. There are also helpfiles which provide details about data sources, how to interpret the maps and graphs, and where to go to learn more.

If your media reports aim to share information for your fisherman the Pacific Ocean Portal contains actual and predicted tide, currents, wind and wave forecasts can help you plan fishing trips. Seasonal sea surface temperature forecasts can highlight likely fishing hotspots.

If you are unsure how to best interpret or use the information found on the Pacific Ocean Portal please work with your national Met Service for assistance and guidance. You can also email [oceanportal@spc.int](mailto:oceanportal@spc.int)

**Know your Ocean!** Visit <http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/ocean.html> to learn more or email [oceanportal@spc.int](mailto:oceanportal@spc.int)

### Pacific Ocean Portal

