

Pacific Weekly ACCESS-S Update Wednesday 3 December 2025

Ocean Outlook, fortnight to 19 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, southern PNG, western Solomon Is., southwestern Vanuatu, most of New Caledonia, southern Tonga, and central 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 far northern RMI. **Below-normal** sea levels (<100 mm) are indicated in patches of the southern Cook Is, southwest 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 19 December:

- In the South Pacific domain there is an increased risk of tropical cyclone over the Solomon Islands and in the Coral Sea for 8 to 14 December. Whereas for the Northwest Pacific there is an increased risk over the western Philippines and Brunei according to the ACCESS-S and ECMWF models.
- Above-normal** rainfall is favoured in the following EEZs: CNMI, most of the ocean regions of PNG, Solomon Is, northern New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Samoa, American Samoa, Wallis and Fatuna, western Phoenix Islands (Kiribati), southern Cook Islands, Niue, north parts of French Polynesia and most of Pitcairn Is. **Below-normal** rainfall is favoured for the following EEZs: southern Palau, Guam, FSM, central and southern RMI, mainland PNG, southern New Caledonia Is, parts of Line Is. (Kiribati), central French Polynesia and southern Pitcairn Islands.
- Near-normal or below-normal** maximum and minimum air temperatures are favoured for Nauru, Kiribati, the northern half of Tuvalu, Tokelau, Cook Is, 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, potentially weakening in upcoming 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 close to its climatological normal positions for this time of year. The **South Pacific Convergence Zone** is south of its normal position, currently over the northern Cook Islands.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)** is currently active over the western Pacific Ocean. The MJO is forecast to strengthen into the western Hemisphere and Africa 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/>

