

## Pacific Weekly ACCESS-S Update Thursday 02 January 2025

### Ocean Outlook, fortnight to 17 January:

- Sea surface temperature (SST) forecasts more than 0.8 °C **above normal** are present in the following country EEZs: Palau, Guam, CNMI, most of FSM, central and northern RMI, PNG, most of Solomon Is., northern New Caledonia, eastern Vanuatu, southern Fiji, southern Tonga, southern Niue, southern Cook Is., and southern French Polynesia. SST anomalies above 1.2 °C are favoured in Palau, central CNMI, southwestern FSM, and northern PNG. SSTs more than 0.8 °C below normal are present across the northern Phoenix and Line Islands (Kiribati). Elsewhere SSTs are predicted to be near-normal.
- Notably **above normal** sea level (>100 mm) is predicted for small patches of southeastern Palau, northwest RMI, northern PNG, southwest New Caledonia, far southeaster Fiji, and far southern Tonga. **Below normal** sea level (<100 mm) is predicted for the northern Line Is. (Kiribati). Elsewhere sea levels are predicted to be near-normal. Note that sea level anomalies from ACCESS-S2 do not include global but can include regional sea level trends.
- Tide calendars available via [oceanportal.spc.int/portal/library/](http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/library/). Sea level and SST skill information, can be found in the accompanying presentation.

### Climate Outlook, fortnight to 17 January:

- According to the ECMWF and ACCESS-S model consensus outlook, there is normal risk of tropical cyclone over the northwest Pacific out to the 12th January 2025.
- Above normal** rainfall is favoured in the following EEZs: most of Palau, northern CNMI, most of FSM, parts of central RMI, central and southeastern PNG, most of Solomon Is., Fiji, southern Tuvalu, W & F, Samoa, A. Samoa, Tonga, Niue, most of the central and southern Cook Is., central and southern French Polynesia, and southern Pitcairn Is. **Below normal** rainfall is favoured for the following country EEZs: eastern Guam, northern and southeastern FSM, northwest RMI, northern PNG, most of New Caledonia, Nauru, most of Kiribati (excluding northern Gilbert and Line Is.), northern Tuvalu, northern Tokelau, northern Cook Is., northern French Polynesia, and northern Pitcairn Is.
- Maximum and/or minimum air temperatures are favoured to be **normal** or **below normal** in the following country EEZs: Nauru, Kiribati (excluding far northern and southern Gilbert and Line Is.), northern Tuvalu, northern Tokelau, northern & eastern Cook Is., and northern French Polynesia. Elsewhere, there is a strong likelihood of **above normal** temperatures.
- Remember to review rainfall and air temperature outlook skill information, which can be found in the accompanying presentation.

### Climate Influences:

- El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)** is currently in the neutral range. Since November, atmospheric indices such as the SOI and trade winds have strengthened towards La Niña with oceanic indices responding in recent weeks. Additional information is available via the Southern hemisphere monitoring update- <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso>. The **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** is also neutral.
- Over the 30 days to 28 December, outgoing longwave radiation observations suggest the **Intertropical Convergence Zone** was close to average position for this time of year, and the **South Pacific Convergence Zone** remained displaced southwards from Papua New Guinea towards Fiji and Samoa.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)**, as of 30 December, has been weak in the western Pacific over the past week, and is forecast to remain weak as it moves into the western hemisphere in the coming weeks.

**Outlooks:** <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/pacific/outlooks/>, <http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/ocean.html>, [ECMWF Tropical Cyclone Outlook](http://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/short-range-weather-forecasts/tropical-cyclone-outlook) **Influences:** <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>

