

Pacific Islands - Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 222

Country: Cook Islands

Part 1: Recent climate

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	Dec-2025	Jan-2026	Feb-2026				Rank
			Total (mm)	33%tile	67%tile	Median	
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	Rainfall (mm)				
Penrhyn (1937-2026)	135.2	144.4	61.6	120.0	293.0	213.5	13/88
Rarotonga (1899-2026)	139.6	158.9	271.9	152.0	242.0	208.0	89/128

TABLE 2: Three-month Total Rainfall for December 2025 to February 2026

Station	Three-month Total		33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank
	Rainfall (mm)					
Penrhyn (1937-2026)	341.2	Below normal	513.3	839.5	628.0	25/88
Rarotonga (1899-2026)	570.4	Normal	557.0	747.3	659.0	44/127

# Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for April and April to June 2026

Monthly: April 2026	Seasonal: April to June 2026
<b>Rainfall (Image 1)</b>	<b>Rainfall (Image 2)</b>
<p>Tercile rainfall probabilities for April 2026</p> <p>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 Model run: 02/03/2026 Issued: 04/03/2026</p> <p>Below normal (%) Near normal (%) Above normal (%)</p> <p>--- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019).</p>	<p>Tercile rainfall probabilities for April to June 2026</p> <p>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 Model run: 02/03/2026 Issued: 04/03/2026</p> <p>Below normal (%) Near normal (%) Above normal (%)</p> <p>--- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019).</p>
<b>Monthly Maximum temperature (Image 3):</b>	<b>Seasonal maximum temperature (Image 4):</b>
<p>Tercile maximum temperature probabilities for April 2026</p> <p>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 Model run: 02/03/2026 Issued: 04/03/2026</p> <p>Below normal (%) Near normal (%) Above normal (%)</p> <p>--- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019).</p>	<p>Tercile maximum temperature probabilities for April to June 2026</p> <p>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 Model run: 02/03/2026 Issued: 04/03/2026</p> <p>Below normal (%) Near normal (%) Above normal (%)</p> <p>--- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019).</p>
<b>Monthly minimum temperature (Image 5):</b>	<b>Seasonal minimum temperature (Image 6):</b>
<p>Tercile minimum temperature probabilities for April 2026</p> <p>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 Model run: 02/03/2026 Issued: 04/03/2026</p> <p>Below normal (%) Near normal (%) Above normal (%)</p> <p>--- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019).</p>	<p>Tercile minimum temperature probabilities for April to June 2026</p> <p>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 Model run: 02/03/2026 Issued: 04/03/2026</p> <p>Below normal (%) Near normal (%) Above normal (%)</p> <p>--- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019).</p>

## Part 2: Recent Ocean Observation

### Monthly/Three months: February and December 2025 to February 2026

Monthly: February 2026	Last three months: December 2025 to February 2026
<p><b>Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (Image 1):</b></p> <p>Cook Islands Monthly Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies: February 2026</p> <p>© Pacific Community (SPC) 2025 Reynolds</p>	<p><b>Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (Image 4):</b></p> <p>Cook Islands Seasonal Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies : Dec 2025 - Feb 2026</p> <p>© Pacific Community (SPC) 2025 Reynolds</p>
<p><b>Sea level anomaly (Image 2):</b></p> <p>Cook Islands Monthly Sea Level Anomaly: February 2026</p> <p>© Pacific Community (SPC) 2025 using E.U. Copernicus Marine Service Information: <a href="https://doi.org/10.48670/mol-00149">https://doi.org/10.48670/mol-00149</a></p>	
<p><b>National daily coral bleaching alert (Image 3):</b></p> <p>Cook Islands Coral Bleaching Alert: 5 March 2026</p> <p>© Pacific Community (SPC) 2025 NOAA</p>	<p><b>Pacific daily coral bleaching alert (Image 5):</b></p>

# Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for April and April to June 2026

Monthly: April 2026	Seasonal: April to June 2026
<b>Monthly sea surface temperature anomaly (Image 5):</b>	<b>Seasonal sea surface temperature anomaly (Image 6):</b>
<p>Difference from average sea surface temperature forecast for April 2026</p> <p>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 Model run: 02/03/2026 Issued: 04/03/2026</p> <p>© Commonwealth of Australia 2025. Bureau of Meteorology, supported by COSPPac.</p> <p>--- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019).</p>	<p>Difference from average sea surface temperature forecast for April to June 2026</p> <p>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 Model run: 02/03/2026 Issued: 04/03/2026</p> <p>© Commonwealth of Australia 2025. Bureau of Meteorology, supported by COSPPac.</p> <p>--- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019).</p>
<b>Monthly sea level anomaly (Image 7):</b>	<b>Seasonal sea level anomaly (Image 8):</b>
<p>Difference from average sea surface height forecast for April 2026</p> <p>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 Model run: 02/03/2026 Issued: 04/03/2026</p> <p>© Commonwealth of Australia 2025. Bureau of Meteorology, supported by COSPPac.</p> <p>--- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019).</p>	<p>Difference from average sea surface height forecast for April to June 2026</p> <p>Base period: 1981-2018 Model: ACCESS-S2 Model run: 02/03/2026 Issued: 04/03/2026</p> <p>© Commonwealth of Australia 2025. Bureau of Meteorology, supported by COSPPac.</p> <p>--- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019).</p>
<b>National 4-week Coral Bleaching Outlook (Image 9):</b>	<b>Pacific 4-week Coral Bleaching Outlook (Image 10):</b>
<p>Cook Islands 16 Week Coral Bleaching Outlook: 15 June 2026</p> <p>Alert Level 2 Alert Level 1 Warning Watch No Stress</p> <p>© Pacific Community (SPC) 2025 NOAA</p>	<p>(This cell is currently blank in the provided image.)</p>

## **Summary Statement**

### **Monthly and last three months: February/December 2025 to February 2026 statement**

February rainfall was below normal for Penrhyn and above normal for Rarotonga. For the past three months December 2025 to February 2026, rainfall was below normal for Penrhyn and near-normal over Rarotonga.

#### **Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for April and April to June 2026**

##### **Monthly /Seasonal rainfall and temperature Outlook statements**

The rainfall for April 2026 is likely or very likely to be below normal over the northern coasts including Penrhyn and above normal for Rarotonga and the southern coasts. The three-month rainfall outlook for April to June 2026, reinforces the same general pattern: drier-than-normal conditions in the central and north, and wetter-than-normal conditions in the south.

Maximum and minimum temperatures during April 2026 and averaged over April to June 2026 are very likely to be above normal over all of the country.

#### **Part 2: Recent Ocean summary statement**

##### **Monthly and last three months: February/December 2025 to February 2026**

February sea surface temperatures (SSTs) around Rarotonga were 1.2 to 2°C above normal, and near-normal over Penrhyn and the northern coasts.

Averaged over December 2025 to February 2026, sea surface temperatures around Rarotonga were 0.4 to 0.8°C above normal, and near-normal over Penrhyn and the northern.

February sea levels around Rarotonga were 60 to 100 mm above normal and 100 to 200 mm above normal around Penrhyn.

A coral bleaching Watch status is currently in effect for Tukao, Palmerston, Station de Copra, Atai and Kimiangatau and an Alert Level 1 status for Rarotonga and Tamarua as of 05<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

#### **Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for April and April to June 2026**

##### **Ocean Variable statement**

April 2026 sea surface temperatures around Penrhyn are predicted to be 0.4 to 0.8°C above normal and 1.2 to 2°C above normal for Rarotonga.

Averaged over April to June 2026, sea surface temperatures follow the monthly pattern of above normal around Penrhyn and Rarotonga.

April 2026 sea levels around both Penrhyn and Rarotonga are predicted to be -30 to 30mm near-normal.

Averaged over April to June 2026, sea levels around Penrhyn are predicted to be -60 to -30mm /below normal and -30 to 30mm near-normal for Rarotonga.

Coral Bleaching outlook indicates No Stress status for the next 16 weeks.

## In brief for Teleconference

- Rainfall was below normal for the northern Cook Islands and normal to above normal for southern Cook Islands
- The rainfall outlook generally indicates below average as most likely for Penrhyn and above normal for Rarotonga in April. April to June 2026 follows the same as monthly pattern.
- SSTs were above normal for February and December 2025 to February 2026. The outlook shows above normal SSTs for the next one and three months.
- Sea levels were above normal for February. Near-normal sea levels are predicted for April and April to June 2026.
- No Stress Coral bleaching.

**TABLE 3: Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective NMS engage with stakeholders (February 2026)**

Product	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of Male	Number of Female	Disability	Comments (If there are comments from you Stakeholders)
Climate Bulletin						
EAR Watch	Climate Change, Red Cross, Island Council and Executive Officers, To Tatou Vai, etc	53	?	?	?	
Monthly Climate Briefing						
Ocean Outlook						
Climate data request	To Tatou Vai, and MMR	5	2	3	?	
<b>Total</b>		58	2	3	?	

Stakeholder category	Do your products reach this group? (Y/N)	Tailored product? (Y/N)
<b>Agriculture sector</b>	Y	N
<b>Disaster Risk Reduction sector</b>	Y	N
<b>Energy sector</b>	N	
<b>Health sector</b>	Y	N
<b>Water sector</b>	Y	N
<b>Fisheries and Aquaculture sector</b>	Y	N
<b>Tourism sector</b>	Y	N
<b>Maritime sector</b>	Y	N
<b>Research &amp; education sector</b>	N	
<b>Women's [] organisations</b>	Y	N
<b>National disability organisations</b>	N	
<b>Community based organisations (e.g. councils)</b>	Y	N

<b>Products offered in local dialects/ languages</b>	N	N
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