Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 121

Country Name: Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	July 2017 Total	August 2017 Total	September 2017				
			Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Majuro	318.0	330.2	531.6	260.5	369.7	321.3	62/64
Kwajalein	175.5	159.5	560.3	229.5	302.3	269.3	73/73

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
July to September 2017
[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #117]

Station	Three-month Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking	Forecast probs.* (include LEPS)	Verification* (Consistent, Near-consistent Inconsistent)?
Majuro	1179.8	830.1	977.7	901.9	58/64	**38**%/32%/30% (-1.0%)	Inconsistent
Kwajalein	895.3	722.7	848.1	774.5	57/73	28%/34%/**38**% (-0.8%)	Consistent

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for July to September 2017 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #117):

NINO 3.4 SST anomalies for April – May 2017

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* Forecast is <u>consistent</u> when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) categories coincide (are in the same tercile).
Forecast is <u>near-consistent</u> when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) differ by only one category (i.e. terciles 1 and 2 or terciles 2 and 3).
Forecast is <u>inconsistent</u> when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) differ by two categories (i.e. terciles 1 and 3).

TABLE 3: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using SCOPIC for November 2017 to January 2018

Predictors and Period used: 2-month NINO3.4 SST anomalies (August-September)

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Majuro	**51%**	836.9	49%		7.5%	65.1%
Kwajalein	**50%**	596.4	50%		-0.6%	51.5%

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Majuro	**34%**	728.0	**34%**	917.5	32%	6.2%	44.4%
Kwajalein	**34%**	527.3	**33%**	650.1	**33%**	-0.5%	37.9%

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for November 2017 to January 2018

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	67%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Majuro	**55%**	794	6%	917	39%		
Kwajalein	42%	527	6%	635	**52%**		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for September 2017:
Above normal rainfall was recorded at both stations, Majuro and Kwajalein.

Accumulated rainfall for July to September 2017, including outlook verification:
Above normal rainfall was recorded at both Majuro and Kwajalein during the period July to September 2017.

Seasonal rainfall outlook verification was inconsistent at Majuro and consistent at Kwajalein.

Outlooks for November 2017 to January 2018:
1. **SCOPIC:**
   The outlook for the next three months offers little guidance at both Majuro and Kwajalein, with chances of below-normal, normal, and above-normal being similar.

   The skill test for both stations is very low to low.

2. **POAMA:**
   The seasonal outlook for next three months for Majuro favours below-normal rainfall, while above-normal is the next most likely.

   The outlook for Kwajalein favours above-normal, with below-normal being the next most likely.

NB: The X LEPS % score has been categorised as follows:

Very Low: X < 0.0   Low: 0 ≤ X < 5   Moderate 5 ≤ X < 10   Good: 10 ≤ X < 15   High: 15≤ X < 25

Very High: 25 ≤X < 35   Exceptional: X ≥ 35