

Seasonal Prediction Project (SPP)

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 201 Summary Report

Date: Thursday 20 June 2024

Time: Australian Eastern Standard Time at 11:00AM (01:00 UTC)

Host: SPREP

Chair: SPREP

Apologies: None

Main purpose for the OCOF:


- To provide a regular forum for the 14 participating PIC NMSs to discuss the current ENSO status, recent one and three-month rainfall, drought (if present), their seasonal climate outlooks and stakeholders' engagement with other countries and the SPP (Bureau of Meteorology and SPREP) project team.
- In addition, it serves as an online training forum for recent ACCESS development and gives the project team and the NMSs an opportunity to discuss other project-related matters.

Agenda:

1. Brief introduction of PIC participants, SPREP, SPC and Bureau of Meteorology teams.
2. Report on current ENSO status.
3. Each NMS report on their past one and three-months' rainfall in relation to the current ENSO situation (include ranking and verification), their three-month outlooks and their stakeholders engagement. Wherever appropriate NMS to report on their drought status.
4. Round-table discussion: addressing general concerns/queries on outlooks and SCOPIC, CliKp and ACCESS-S
5. Feedback on COSPPac products and services.
6. Country statements with regards to drought or drought-like conditions, drought module issues/concerns.
7. The next OCOF will be held on **18 July 2024** and chair by **Cook Islands**.

Participants:

The OCOF 201 was attended by 15 climate officers (7 female) from 11 partner PIC NMSs.

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| <p>Cook Islands:</p> <p>Fiji: Jasneel Chandra</p> <p>FSM (Chuuk): Boyd Mackensie</p> <p>FSM (Pohnpei):</p> <p>Kiribati: Tekaatu Uribano</p> <p>Niue: Clemencia Sioneholo</p> <p>Papua New Guinea: Nathan Yuave, and Kila Kila</p> <p>Palau: Kiku Mochimaru and Maylene Joshua</p> <p>Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson Kaneko</p> <p>Samoa: Kotoni Faasau, Taumeasina Fomai, Emmanuel Etimani</p> |  |
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|---|--|
| Solomon Islands: Tokelau: Tonga: Mele Lakai Tuvalu: Kaani Kalepo Vanuatu: Joseph Worwor Australia: Grant Beard NOAA: SPREP: Philip Malsale SPC: Moleni Tu'uholoaki | |
|---|--|

OCOF tables were received from 13 participating countries before the meeting.

Observations of March to May 2024:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending May 2024 were discussed for each PIC. This month, several countries experienced extreme rainfall as shown in the following table:

| Station | Period | Rainfall Amount (mm) | Rainfall Rank | Years of record |
|-------------------|----------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Koror, Palau | May | 203.5 | 7 | 73 |
| Afiamalu, Samoa | May | 576.4 | 65 | 71 |
| Nafanua, Samoa | May | 502.4 | 51 | 53 |
| Fua'amotu, Tonga | May | 384.8 | 45 | 45 |
| Nuku'alofa, Tonga | May | 297.5 | 79 | 80 |
| Fua'motu, Tonga | Mar- May | 417 | 5 | 52 |
| Vava'u, Tonga | Mar- May | 1021.1 | 73 | 78 |
| Fua'amotu, Tonga | Mar- May | 1044.7 | 45 | 45 |
| Nuku'alofa, Tonga | Mar- May | 1171.0 | 79 | 79 |

[Note: The above data may not have undergone quality control]

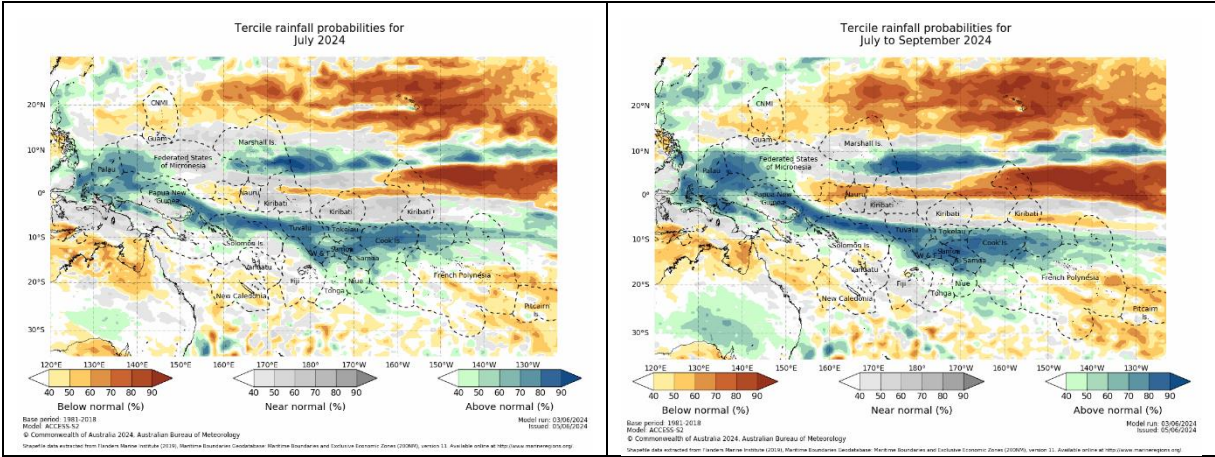
July to September 2024 Outlooks:

ACCESS-S outlooks:

The three-month ACCESS-S rainfall outlook for **July-September 2024** shows a relatively thin band where above normal is likely or very likely, stretches east-southeast from Palau and western FSM across northern PNG (including the Islands), the northern Solomon Islands, most of Tuvalu, northern Fiji, Wallis and Futuna, Tokelau, Samoa, American Samoa, far northern Tonga, Niue, much of the Cook Is, the southern Line Islands, as well as northern French Polynesia. Another region favouring above normal rainfall extends east from central FSM, across central RMI and then further east.

Below normal is likely or very likely, in Guam, CNMI, far southeast FSM, northern Nauru, far northern and far southern RMI, Kiribati (centra Gilbert, northern Phoenix and northern Line Is), southeastern PNG's mainland, western New Caledonia, northern Vanuatu, southwest Fiji, eastern French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Islands

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| | 41-50% | 51-60% | 61-70% | 71-80% | 81-90% | >90% |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Below normal | | | | | | |
| Near-normal | | | | | | |
| Above normal | | | | | | |

| June to August 2024 | | | |
|---------------------|----------|-----|-------|
| | ACCESS-S | C3S | CLIKP |
| Cook Is North | | | |
| Cook Is South | | | |
| Fiji West | | | |
| Fiji Central | | | |
| Fiji East | | | |
| Fiji North | | | |
| Fiji Rotuma | | | |
| FSM West | | | |
| FSM Central | | | |
| FSM East | | | |
| Kiribati West | | | |
| Kiribati Central | | | |
| Kiribati East | | | |
| RMI North | | | |
| RMI Central | | | |
| RMI South | | | |
| Nauru | | | |
| Niue | | | |
| Palau | | | |
| PNG Momase | | | |
| PNG Is | | | |
| PNG South | | | |
| PNG Highlands | | | |
| Samoa | | | |
| Solomon Is West | | | |
| Solomon Is Central | | | |
| Solomon Is East | | | |
| Tonga North | | | |
| Tonga Central | | | |
| Tonga South | | | |
| Tuvalu North | | | |
| Tuvalu Central | | | |
| Tuvalu South | | | |
| Vanuatu North | | | |
| Vanuatu South | | | |

| | | Jun-Aug 2024 | Jul-Sep 2024 |
|--------------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| | | ACCESS-S | |
| Cook Is North | | | |
| Cook Is South | | | |
| Fiji West | | | |
| Fiji Central | | | |
| Fiji East | | | |
| Fiji North | | | |
| Fiji Rotuma | | | |
| FSM West | | | |
| FSM Central | | | |
| FSM East | | | |
| Kiribati West | | | |
| Kiribati Central | | | |
| Kiribati East | | | |
| RMI North | | | |
| RMI Central | | | |
| RMI South | | | |
| Nauru | | | |
| Niue | | | |
| Palau | | | |
| PNG Momase | | | |
| PNG Is | | | |
| PNG South | | | |
| PNG Highlands | | | |
| Samoa | | | |
| Solomon Is West | | | |
| Solomon Is Central | | | |
| Solomon Is East | | | |
| Tonga North | | | |
| Tonga Central | | | |
| Tonga South | | | |
| Tuvalu North | | | |
| Tuvalu Central | | | |
| Tuvalu South | | | |
| Vanuatu North | | | |
| Vanuatu South | | | |

Other matters Discussed:

- ENSO is neutral. There are some early signs that a La Niña might form in the Pacific Ocean later in 2024. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the central Pacific have been steadily cooling since December 2023.
- The Bureau's ENSO Outlook is at La Niña Watch due to early signs that an event may form in the Pacific Ocean later in 2024. The chance is about 50%.
- OCOF 202 will be hosted by SPREP via zoom on the 18 July 2024.
- Need to include temperature outlook in the teleconference brief.

Observed Rainfall

| Country | May 2024 | March to May 2024 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cook Islands | Below normal to normal | Below normal to normal |
| Fiji | Mostly above normal | Above normal |
| FSM (Chuuk) | Below normal | Below normal |
| FSM (Pohnpei) | Above normal | Normal |
| Kiribati | Below normal to normal | Normal to above normal |
| RMI | Above normal | Normal |
| Nauru | Normal | Normal |
| Niue | Above normal | Normal |
| Palau | Below normal | Below normal |
| Papua New Guinea | Mostly normal | Below normal to above normal |
| Samoa | Above normal | Mostly normal |
| Solomon Islands | No report | No report |
| Tonga | Mostly normal and above normal | Below normal and above normal |
| Tuvalu | Mostly above normal | Normal to above normal |
| Vanuatu | No report | No report |

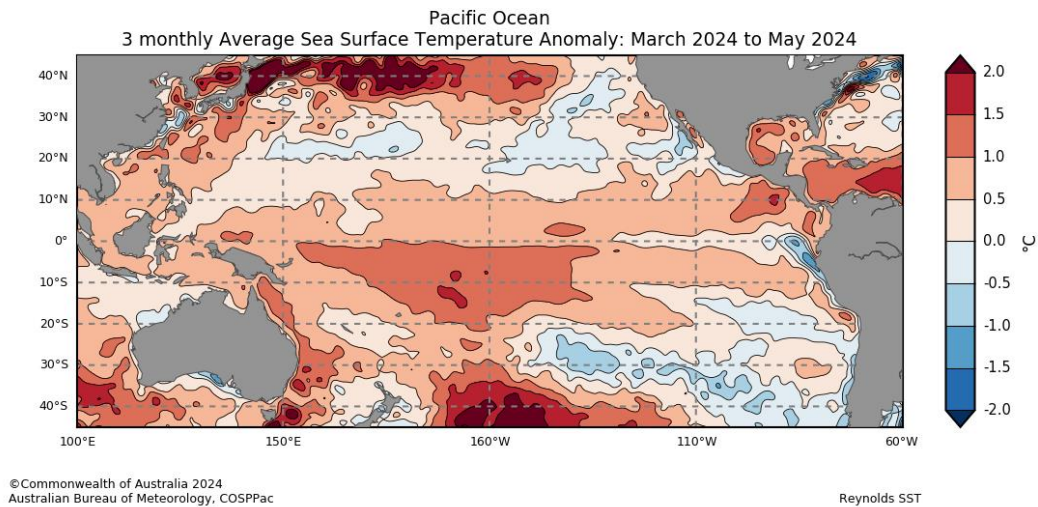
Ocean Conditions

Observations of March to May 2024

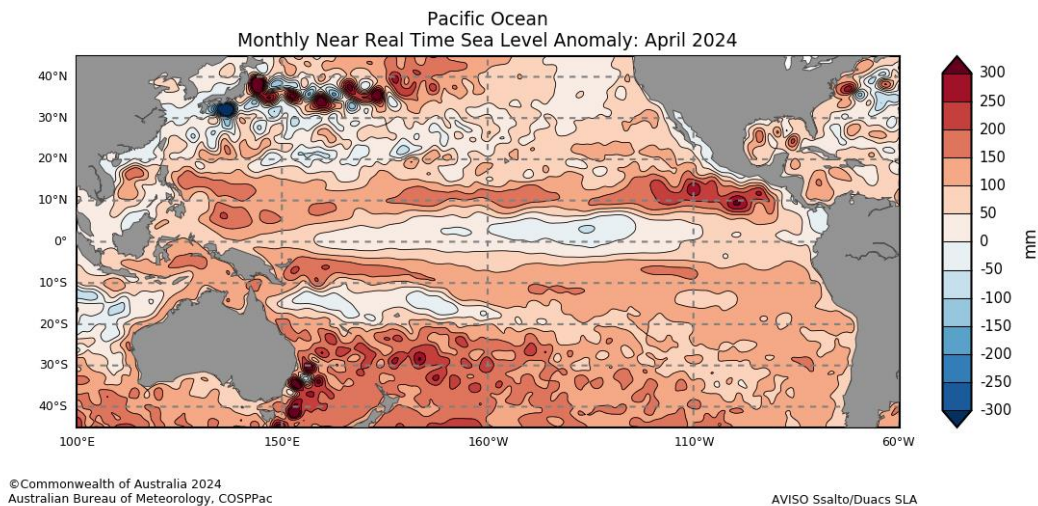
Sea surface temperature (SST):

Above-normal SST anomalies up to 1.5°C persisted in most places in the region, with a few patches more than 1.5°C. Cover part of Tokelau, Samoa, American Samoa and northern Cook Islands. Near-normal SST observed in Palau, northern part of FSM, most of Marshall Island, southern Vanuatu, New Caledonia, southern Fiji and French Polynesia, with a few patches over southern Tonga and southern Cook Islands. Below normal SST observed in southern French Polynesia. Compared with December 2023 to February 2024, the SST anomaly pattern with magnitude greater than 1.5°C above normal, which were dominant across tropical equatorial region from central to eastern Pacific, have fully dissipated in the March to May 2024 period. Meanwhile, SST anomalies with magnitude between 0.5 to 1.5°C have extended westward along equatorial region.

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May sea levels were above normal over most COSPPac countries. Patches of anomalies from +200 to +300 mm were observed along the southeastern Australia coast, and southern New Caledonia's EEZ. Anomalies of up to +250 were observed over Palau and FSM, with patches over parts of southern Fiji, southern Tonga, and southern Cook Islands. However, near-normal anomalies southern part of Marshall Islands, Nauru and Kiribati Islands (northern half of Gilbert islands, northern Phoenix Islands, and northern half of Line Islands), southern PNG, southern Solomon Islands, most of Vanuatu, northern half of Fiji, northern Tonga, northern Niue, and part of central Cook Islands and patches over French Polynesia. The rest of the region were observed with anomalies between +50 and +100mm.



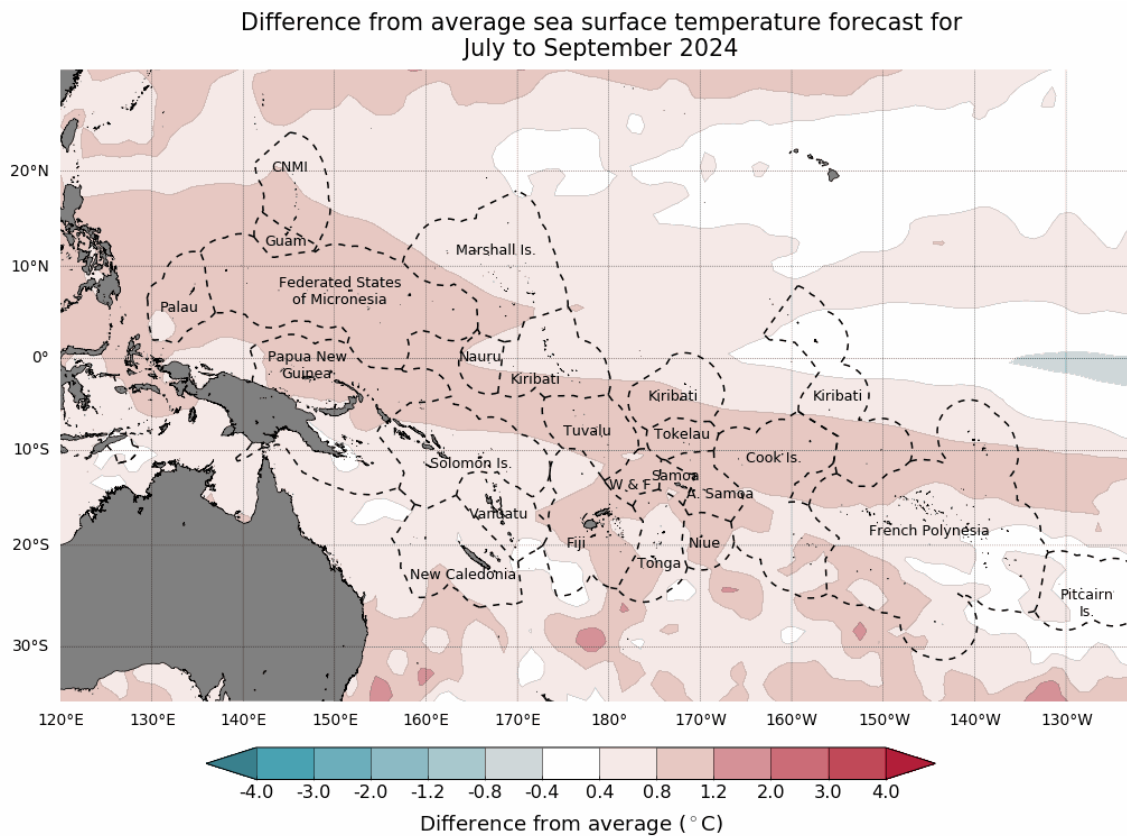
July to September 2024 Outlooks:

Sea surface temperature (SST) outlook: SSTs are generally forecast to be 0.4 to 1.2 °C above normal affecting most of the COSPPac countries except for near-normal SSTs over northern Line Islands (Kiribati), Pitcairn Island, with a few patches over PNG, southern Vanuatu, French Polynesia, and Fiji.

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Sea level outlook: Sea level is generally near-normal for most of the COSPPac countries. Above normal sea level is forecast for central and southern parts of New Caledonia, parts of southern Fiji, southern Tonga, southern Niue, part of southern Cook Islands, and far southern part of French Polynesia. Below-normal sea level is forecast for part of Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Samoa, Niue, northern Tonga, part of French Polynesia and northern Line Islands (Kiribati). The rest of the regions are forecast to be near-normal. Note that this outlook does not include trends of sea level rise.

Coral Bleaching Outlook: For the four weeks outlook to 21 July, "Alert Levels 1 and 2" are forecast for Palau, northern half of PNG, southern FSM, part of northern Solomon Islands, Nauru, and Kiribati (Gilbert Islands). "Warning" areas is forecast for northern FSM, part of southern Marshall Islands, Kiribati (part of northern Gilbert Islands). Broad region of "Watch" areas surrounding both the "Alert Levels 1 and 2" and the Warning areas includes northern part of FSM, Marshall Islands, central Gilbert Islands, Phoenix Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu, northern Solomon Islands and northern PNG. The remaining countries and some parts of the countries mentioned above are predicted to experience "no thermal stress".



Base period: 1981-2018

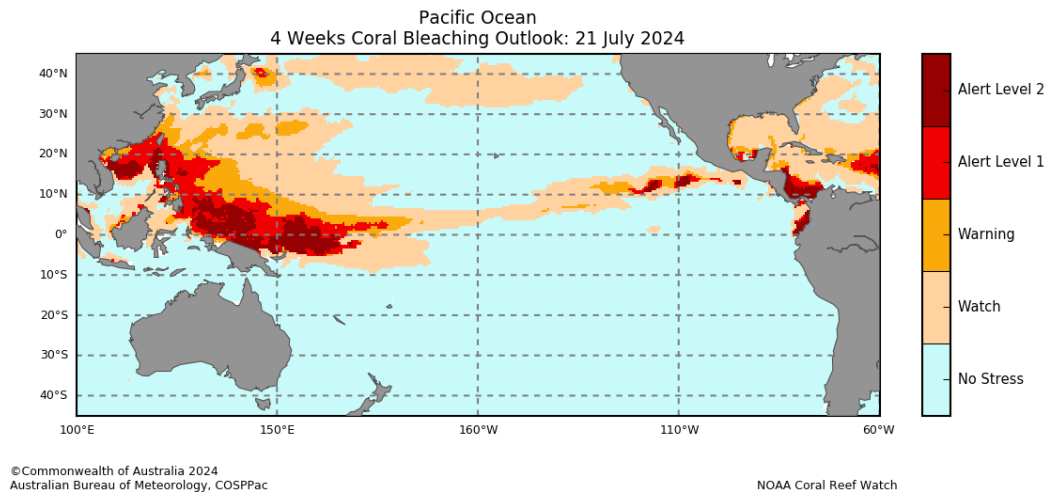
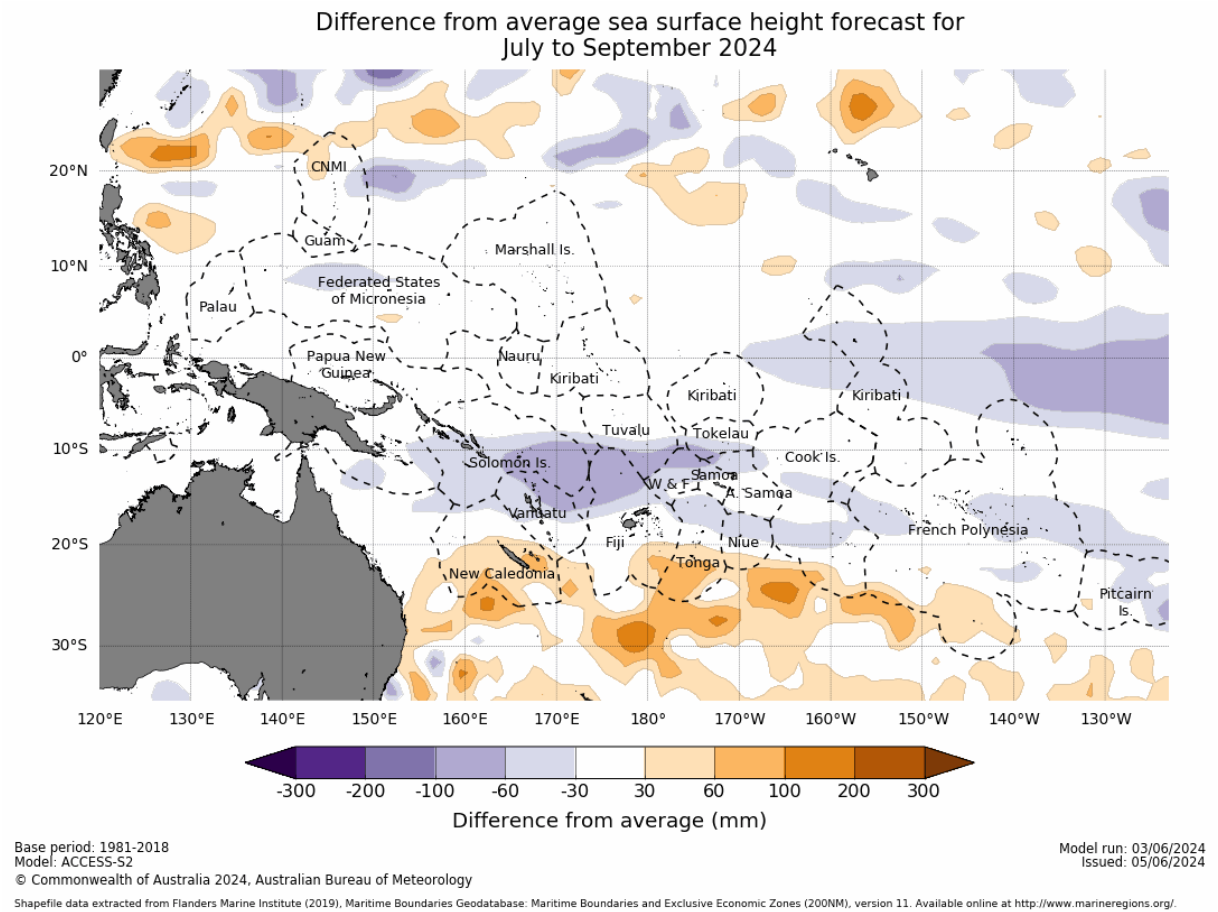
Model: ACCESS-S2

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Shapefile data extracted from Flanders Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), version 11. Available online at <http://www.marineregions.org/>.

Model run: 03/06/2024

Issued: 05/06/2024



Observed Conditions

SST: sea surface temperature anomaly
SLA: sea level anomaly
BN: Below Normal
NN: Near Normal
AN: Above Normal

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| Country | May 2024 | |
|------------------|----------|-------|
| | SST | SLA |
| Cook Islands | AN/NN | AN/NN |
| Fiji | AN/NN | AN/NN |
| FSM (Chuuk) | AN/NN | AN |
| FSM (Pohnpei) | AN/NN | AN |
| Kiribati | AN/NN | AN/NN |
| Marshall Islands | AN/NN | AN/NN |
| Nauru | AN/NN | AN/NN |
| Niue | AN/NN | AN/NN |
| Palau | AN/NN | AN/NN |
| Papua New Guinea | AN/NN | AN/NN |
| Samoa | AN | AN/NN |
| Solomon Islands | AN/NN | AN/NN |
| Tonga | AN/NN | AN/NN |
| Tuvalu | AN | AN/NN |
| Vanuatu | AN/NN | AN/NN |

Country Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective countries engage with their stakeholders

| Country | Date May 2024 | Stakeholder | Total Number of Participants | Number of male | Number of female |
|---|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Cook Islands – EAR Watch | May | Red Cross, Island Council and Executive Officers, To Tatou Vai | 43 | | |
| Cook Islands – Monthly Climate briefing | May | Climate Change | 8 | | |
| Cook Islands – Climate data request | May | Ministry of Marine Resources, Local Newspaper | 2 | | 2 |
| Fiji - Climate Summary | 07 May | General public | 140 | 106 | 34 |
| Fiji - EAR Watch | 10 May | Humanitarian partners | 122 | 96 | 26 |
| Fiji - Climate Outlook | 30 April | General public | 124 | 93 | 31 |
| Fiji - Climate Outlook for Monasavu | 30 May | Energy Fiji Limited | 13 | 13 | - |

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| Fiji - Ocean Outlook | 20 May | A number of key ocean related stakeholders | 36 | 29 | 7 |
| Fiji - Sugarcane rainfall outlook | 8 May | Sugarcane Industry stakeholders | 77 | 60 | 17 |
| Fiji -ENSO update | 24 May | General Public | 142 | 116 | 26 |
| Fiji - Meteorological data request | 01-31 May | A range of stakeholders | 45 | 37 | 8 |
| FSM (Chuuk) - Climate Bulletin | May | DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA | 15 | 8 | 7 |
| FSM (Chuuk) - EAR Watch | May | DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA | 15 | 8 | 7 |
| FSM (Chuuk) – Ocean Outlook | May | DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA | 15 | 8 | 7 |
| FSM (Pohnpei) – Climate bulletin | May | Pohnpei Municipal, Gov't, Kosrae, Municipal Gov't, Pohnpei and Kosrae DCO, Dept. Of Education, Red Cross, Fisheries, Environmental Protection Agency, DECCEM, Mayors, Dept. Of Public Safety, Pohnpei Utility Corporation, Tourism, Fisheries. | 60 | 49 | 11 |
| FSM – EAR Watch | May | Pohnpei Municipal, Gov't, Kosrae, Municipal Gov't, Pohnpei and Kosrae DCO, Dept. Of Education, Red Cross, Fisheries, Environmental Protection Agency, DECCEM, Mayors, Dept. Of Public Safety, Pohnpei Utility Corporation, Tourism, Fisheries. | 60 | 49 | 11 |
| Kiribati - Climate bulletin | 12 May | Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products. | 158 | 70 | 88 |
| Kiribati – EAR Watch | 15 May | Drought committee members | 62 | 35 | 27 |
| Kiribati - Media release | 10 May | KMS Media and KMS Staffs | 53 | 23 | 30 |
| Kiribati - Ocean Bulletin | 12 May | Government and Non-Government Organisations and public subscribed to the products. | 158 | 70 | 88 |
| Kiribati – Climate data request | 1-31 May | Government and Non-government sectors and local fishermen | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| Marshall Island – Climate briefing | 20 May | Office of the Chief Secretary and the National Disaster Management Office | 7 | 4 | 3 |

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| Marshall Islands - Climate data request | 1-31 May | Marshall Islands Chamber of Commerce | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| Nauru | May | No report | | | |
| Niue - Monthly Climate briefing | 15 May | Niue Met | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| Niue – Climate data request | 1-31 May | Private sector | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Palau-April statistics for all stations; manual and automated. | 2 May | WSO Palau and social media platform. | 15+ | 11+ | 4+ |
| Palau-Climate info request | 2 May | Agriculture Officer and a women's group | 21 | 1 | 20 |
| Palau-CLiDE and WSO Palau Daily and Monthly Data | 6 May | WSO Palau and BoM | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Palau-Data request | 9 May | VMJ Construction and WSO Palau | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Palau-Data request feedback | 10 May | VMJ Construction and WSO Palau | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Palau-PEAC Climate Conference Call | 10 May | PEAC, US Drought Monitor, WSOs and WFOs, and Pacific Region participants | 16 | 13 | 3 |
| Palau-Locally tailored PEAC Seasonal Probability Outlook MJJ 2024 | 10 May | PEAC, WSO Palau, and social media | 32+ | 23+ | 9+ |
| Palau-Melekeok data request | 10 May | Melekeok Gov and WSO Palau | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Palau-EAR Watch | 10 May | WSO Palau and social media platform | 20+ | 13+ | 7+ |
| Palau-Locally tailored APCC May to July 2024 and ENSO May to Oct 2024 Outlook | 10 May | WSO Palau and social media | 17+ | 12+ | 5+ |
| Palau-Locally tailored Palau Island Climate Update | 10 May | WSO Palau and social media | 16+ | 12+ | 4+ |
| Palau-Data request | 13 May | VMJ Construction and WSO Palau | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Palau-Data request feedback | 16 May | VMJ Construction and WSO Palau | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Palau-Running totals on May Rainfall statistics | 15 May | WSO Palau and social media | 21+ | 13+ | 8+ |

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|--|-----------|--|-----|-----|----|
| with climatology for 1991-2020 in standard and metric units | | | | | |
| Palau-OCOF 200 celebration | 16 May | WSO Palau and OCOF participants | 40+ | 17 | 23 |
| Palau-Locally tailored OCOF 200 Outlooks and past conditions | 16 May | WSO Palau and social media | 15+ | 11+ | 4+ |
| Palau-OCOF 200 video by WSO Palau | 17 May | WSO Palau, OCOF 200 participants and social media | 14+ | 10+ | 4+ |
| Palau-Climate and Ocean Bulletin | 17 May | WSO Palau and social media | 13+ | 9+ | 4+ |
| Climate data request | 22 May | Office of Planning and Statistics, Bureau of Budget and Planning, Ministry of Finance, ROP and WSO Palau | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Palau-Technical Coordination Workshop & Validation Review : Pacific Regional Climate Centre Network and PIMS/PRSCS 2017-2026 | 22-27 May | Pacific Islands' MET and Climate services and partners | 29 | 21 | 8 |
| Palau-Coral Bleaching satellite data source request | 31 May | UH Manoa student and WSO Palau | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| PNG - Drought Update | 27 May | NGOs, Consultants, Construction Companies, Govt Agencies, Companies, General public | 217 | 177 | 40 |
| PNG - Weekly Ok Tedi Climate Briefing | 13 May | OK Tedi Mine | 16 | 14 | 2 |
| PNG-Excursion | 29 May | School students | 72 | 41 | 31 |
| PNG – Climate data request | 1-31 May | Range of Stakeholders | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Samoa – EAR Watch | 31 May | RED Cross, Water Authority (SWA), Media, Health, Works & Infrastructure, Land & Transport Authority, Agriculture & Fisheries, Fire Services, Ministry of Women, National University of Samoa, Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Communication and Information Technology, Disaster Managers, Marines | 65 | 27 | 38 |

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| Samoa – Seasonal rainfall Outlook | 31 May | RED Cross, Water Authority (SWA), Media, Health, Works & Infrastructure, Land & Transport Authority, Agriculture & Fisheries, Fire Services, Ministry of Women, National University of Samoa, Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Communication and Information Technology, Disaster Managers, Marines | 65 | 27 | 38 |
| Samoa – Ocean Outlook | 31 May | RED Cross, Water Authority (SWA), Media, Health, Works & Infrastructure, Land & Transport Authority, Agriculture & Fisheries, Fire Services, Ministry of Women, National University of Samoa, Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Communication and Information Technology, Disaster Managers, Marines | 65 | 27 | 38 |
| Solomon Islands | May | No report | | | |
| Tonga – Climate Bulletin | 3 May | Government ministries. NGOs, Media, Private Sector | 155 | 118 | 37 |
| Tonga – Ocean Outlook | 3 May | Government ministries. NGOs, Media, Private Sector | 155 | 118 | 37 |
| Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin | 26 May | MET Staff Disaster Dept TRC TuCAN Agriculture All Civil Servants All Kaupule Secretary | 43+ | 24 | 22 |
| Tuvalu – EAR Watch | 26 May | MET Staff Disaster Dept TRC TuCAN Agriculture All Civil Servants All Kaupule Secretary | 43+ | 24 | 22 |
| Tuvalu – Ocean Outlook | 26 May | MET Staff Disaster Dept TRC TuCAN Agriculture All Civil Servants All Kaupule Secretary | 43+ | 24 | 22 |
| Tuvalu - Monthly Climate briefing | 26 May | MET Staff Disaster Dept TRC TuCAN Agriculture All Civil Servants All Kaupule Secretary | 43+ | 24 | 22 |
| Vanuatu | May | No report | | | |
| Total | | | 2,286 | 1,601 | 858 |

Note: The stakeholder data above may not total up due to lack of data from NMS or no participation.

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The discussion can be found in the link below.

https://sprep.zoom.us/rec/share/Hm5T6CsGuxJHydpUaVMu3Kfn_NVzjMiip4kN18jSXWhSjZvuTucuNikN2LQwVFDa.O_9ux40Z4qXWjUOg

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