

Data management and Climate and Ocean Products and Services

Pacific Islands – Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum No. 220 Summary Report

Date: Thursday 22 January 2026

Chair: Vanuatu

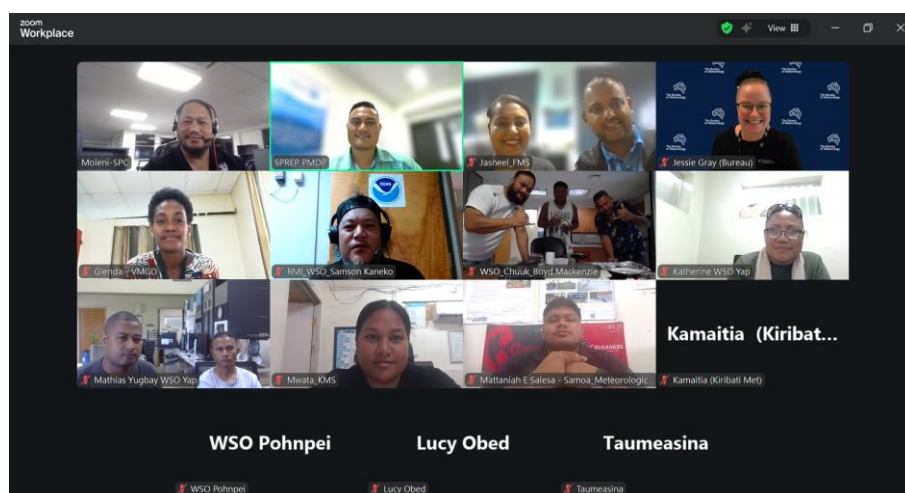
Apologies: Tuvalu, Tonga and Palau

Main purpose for the OCOF:

- To provide a regular forum for the 15 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 Data management and Climate and Ocean Products and Services (SPREP, SPC and Bureau of Meteorology) project team.
- In addition, it serves as an online training forum for recent SCOPIC, and 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, Bureau of Meteorology, WMO, and NOAA 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 stakeholder's 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. Any other climate extreme events during the past one and three months.
7. The next OCOF (OCOF 221) will be held on **18 February 2026** and be chair by **Chuuk**.



Participants:

The OCOF 220 was attended by 13 climate officers (5 females) from PIC NMSs and 3 from partners.

<p>Cook Islands: Fiji: Jasneel FSM (Chuuk): Boyd FSM (Pohnpei): Wallace FSM (Yap): Katherine and Mathias Guam: Kiribati: Kamaitia and Mwata Niue: Papua New Guinea: Palau: Republic of Marshall Islands: Samson Samoa: Mattaniah, Kotoni and Taumeasina Solomon Islands: Tokelau: Tonga: Tuvalu: Vanuatu: Glenda (chair) and Joseph Australia: Jessie NOAA: SPREP: Silipa SPC: Moleni WMO:</p> <p>Apologies: Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Palau</p>	
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OCOF tables were received from all the participating countries except for Papua New Guinea, Tokelau, Guam, Niue, Nauru.

Observations of October to December 2025:

Observed rainfall for the one and three-month periods ending December 2025 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
Rarotonga, Cook Islands	Oct – Dec	197.4	6	127
Kosrae – FSM	Oct – Dec	1669.3	44	48
Kanton – Kiribati	Oct – Dec	8.3	2	67
Kwajalein – RMI	Dec	66.3	3	80
Vava'u – Tonga	Oct – Dec	874.9	72	79

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

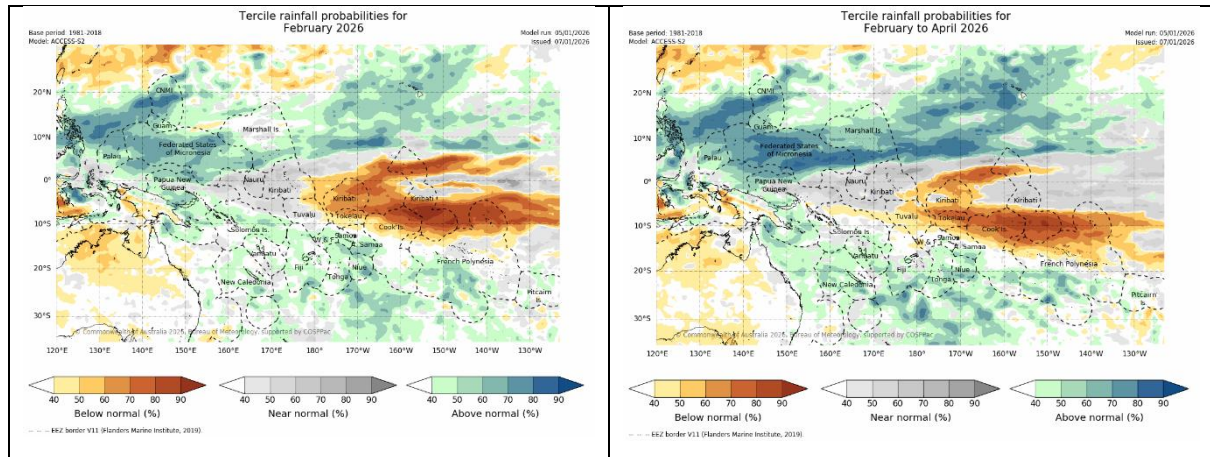


February to April 2026 Outlooks:

ACCESS-S outlooks:

The three-month ACCESS-S rainfall outlook for **February-April 2026** shows strong probabilities for below normal rainfall likely or very likely over Kiribati (Phoenix, and Line Islands), Tokelau, Tuvalu, northern Cook Islands, and central and northern French Polynesia. There are also patches of below normal probabilities over central PNG.

Above normal rainfall is likely or very likely in a band stretching eastward from Palau, Guam, CNMI, FSM, RMI, northern and southern PNG, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Niue, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, American Samoa, southern Cook Islands, and southern French Polynesia.



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

Other matters Discussed:

- OCOF 221 will be hosted by SPREP via Zoom on 18 February 2026 and chaired by Chuuk.
- Integrate an Impact Table after the Stakeholder Engagement Table starting from OCOF221, to capture the impacts of severe weather and climate-related events across participating countries and encourage country-level inputs.
- Transition to the latest Ocean Portal, ensuring all users access and utilize the updated ocean-related maps ahead of the decommissioning of the older version.
- Revise summary sections to avoid referencing specific locations and instead use generalized statements where appropriate.
- Identify and deliver internal trainings for countries requiring support on the interpretation and application of ocean-related maps.
- Update and validate climate and ocean maps ahead of future OCOFs, addressing issues related to outdated products identified in the two months preceding recent OCOFs.



Observed Rainfall

Country	December 2025	October to December 2025
Cook Islands	Normal	Normal to Below Normal
Fiji	Below Normal to Above Normal	Below Normal to Above Normal
FSM (Chuuk)	Below Normal	Normal
FSM (Pohnpei and Kosrae)	Normal to Above Normal	Normal to Above Normal
FSM (Yap)	Below Normal	Below Normal
Kiribati	Below Normal to Normal	Below Normal to Normal
RMI	Below Normal	Normal to Below Normal
Nauru	No data	No data
Niue	No data	No data
Palau	Below Normal	Normal
Papua New Guinea	No data	No data
Samoa	Below Normal	Normal to Below Normal
Solomon Islands	Below Normal to Above Normal	Below Normal to Above Normal
Tokelau	No data	No data
Tonga	Below Normal to Above Normal	Normal to Above Normal
Tuvalu	Normal to Below Normal	Below Normal to Normal
Vanuatu	Normal to Above Normal	Below Normal to Above Normal

Ocean Conditions

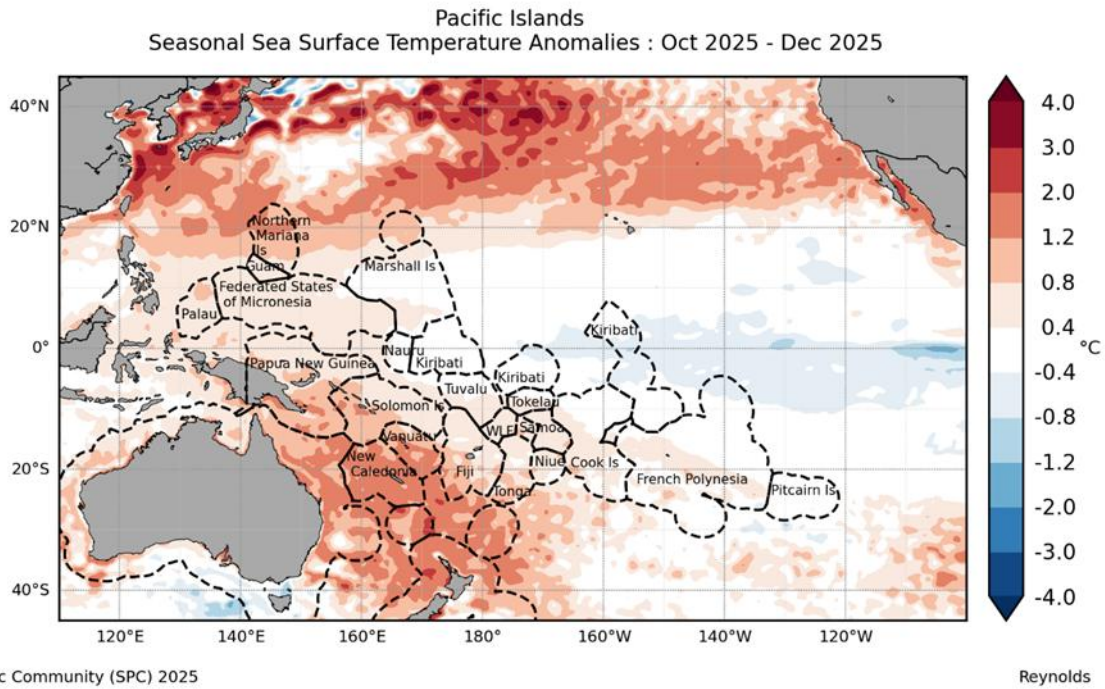
Observations from October to December 2025:

Sea surface temperature:

Three-monthly SST (Sea Surface Temperature) anomalies indicated that most Pacific countries experienced above-normal temperatures. However, near-normal SST anomalies were noted over Nauru, the Gilbert Islands (Kiribati), most of the Phoenix Islands (Kiribati), the northern waters of Tokelau, the northern Cook Islands, northern French Polynesia, the southern Line Islands, and parts of the Marshall Islands and Pitcairn Islands. Below-normal temperatures were observed over the Central Line Islands and the northern tip of northern French Polynesia.

Above-normal SST anomalies of up to 2.0°C were recorded in the Northern Mariana Islands, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia, with additional patches of elevated temperatures seen over Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Fiji. For the remaining countries, SST anomalies were at most 1.2°C to 0.8°C above normal.



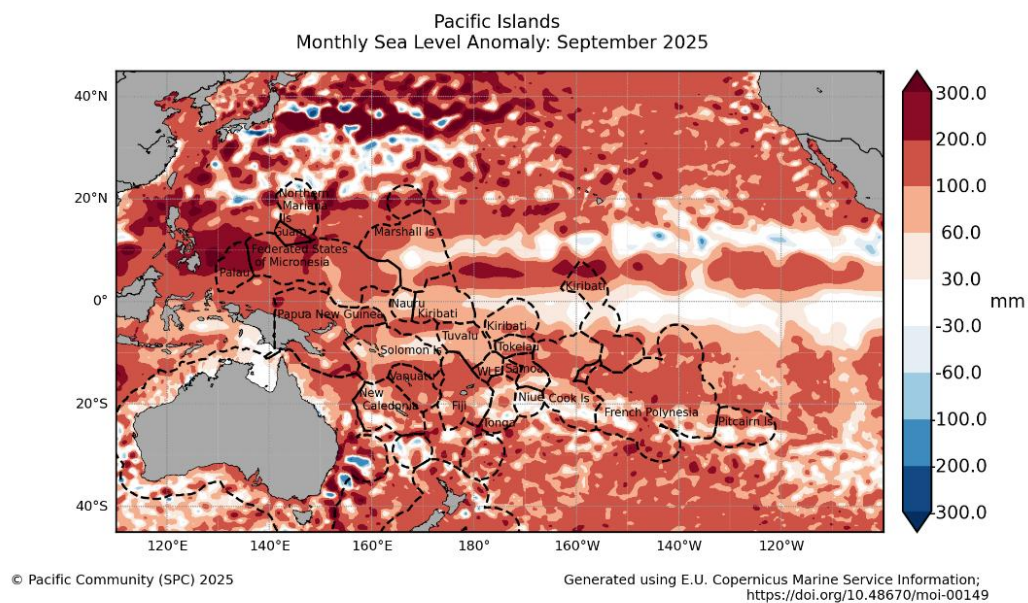


Sea Levels:

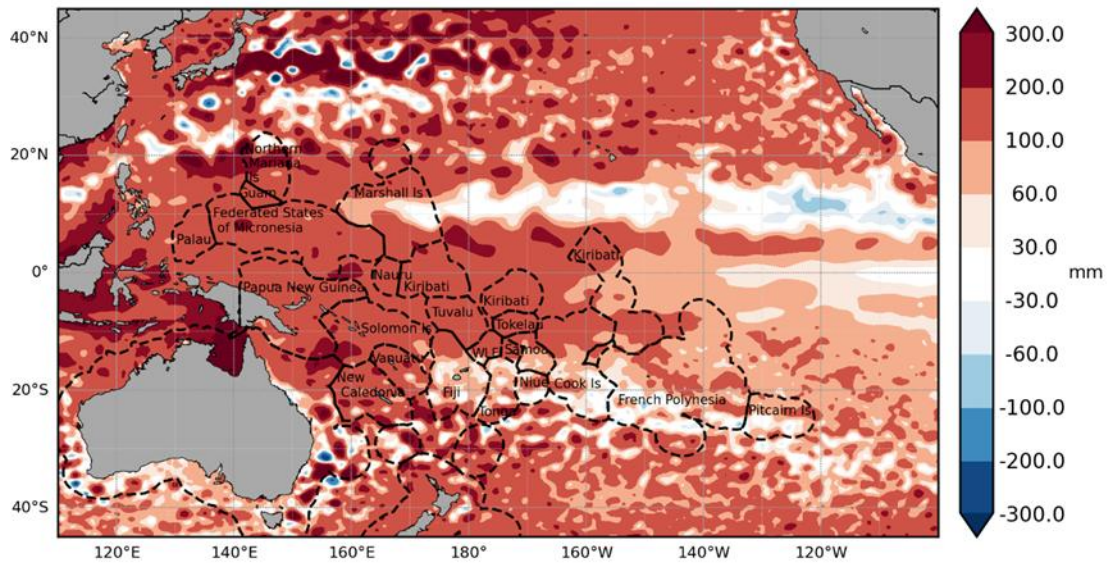
December Sea levels:

In December, sea levels were generally above normal across the Pacific region. However, patches of near-normal sea levels were recorded in Fiji, Tonga, Niue, the southern Cook Islands, southern French Polynesia, the Pitcairn Islands and part of the Marshall Islands.

Patches of positive sea level anomalies exceeding +200 mm were observed in the Northern Mariana Islands, FSM, PNG, the Solomon Islands, southern Fiji, southern Tonga, and French Polynesia. The rest of the countries not mentioned earlier, and the remaining parts of the countries already mentioned, experienced sea levels up to +200mm.



Pacific Islands
Monthly Sea Level Anomaly: December 2025



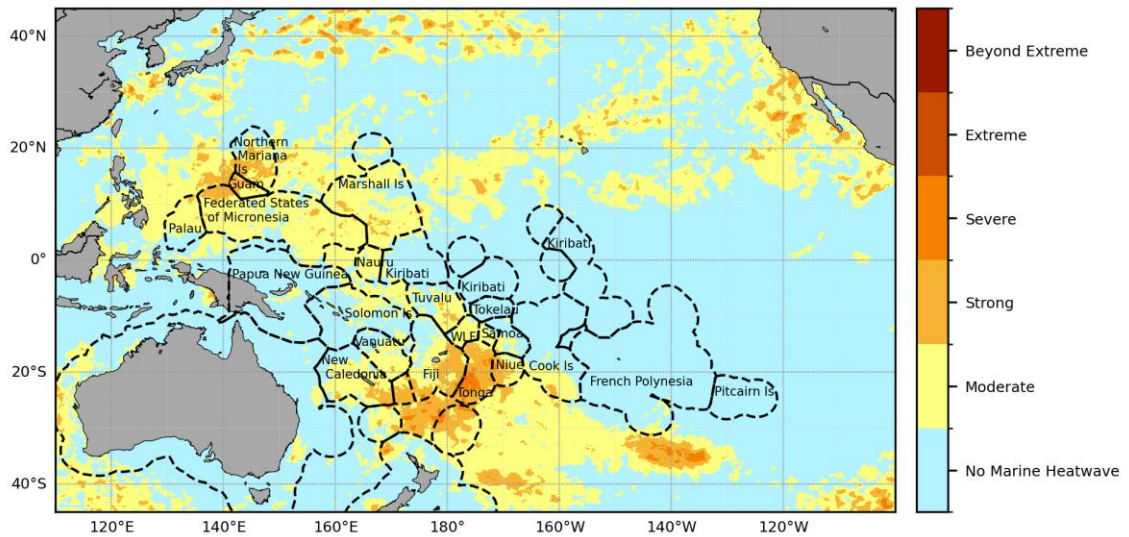
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Generated using E.U. Copernicus Marine Service Information;
<https://doi.org/10.48670/moi-00149>

Marine Heat Wave Status

As of 21 January 2026, Fiji and Niue are currently experiencing a "strong" marine heatwave, while Tonga is experiencing strong to severe conditions.

Pacific Islands
Daily Marine Heat Wave: 21 January 2026



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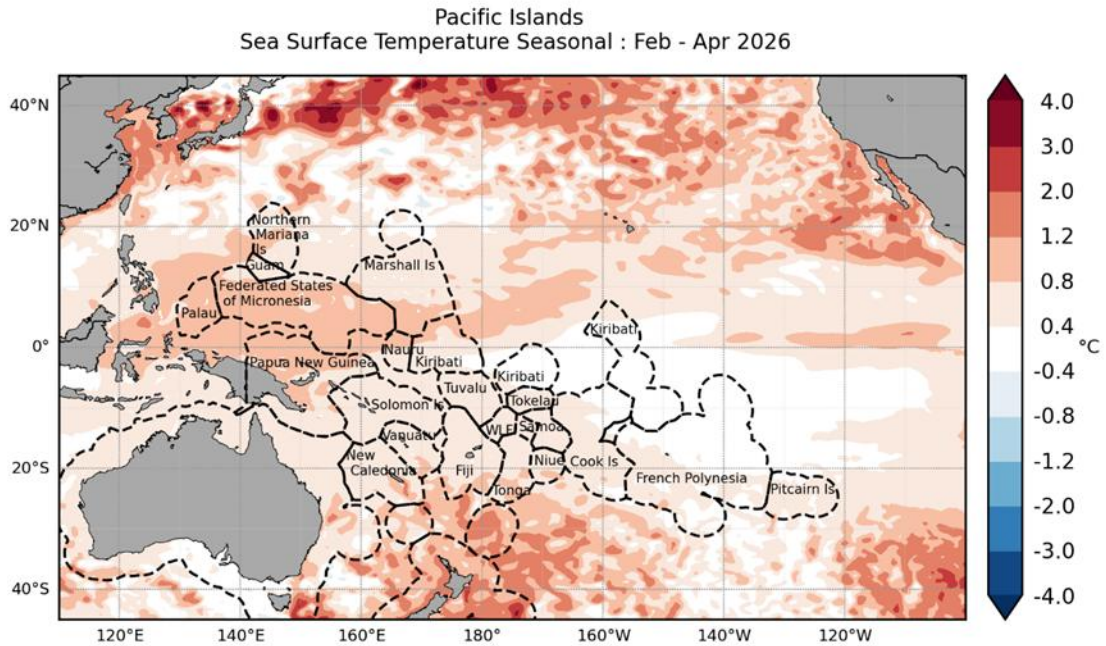
NOAA Coral Reef Watch (CRW)



February to April Outlooks:

Sea surface temperature (SST) outlook:

Three-monthly SST anomalies outlook shows above-normal over most of the Pacific countries, except for near-normal SST anomalies for countries in the central Pacific which include Kiribati, Tokelau, northern Tuvalu, northern Samoa, northern American Samoa, northern half of Cook Islands, and northern French Polynesia. The SST anomalies for the remaining countries will be utmost 1.2°C or 0.8°C above normal.



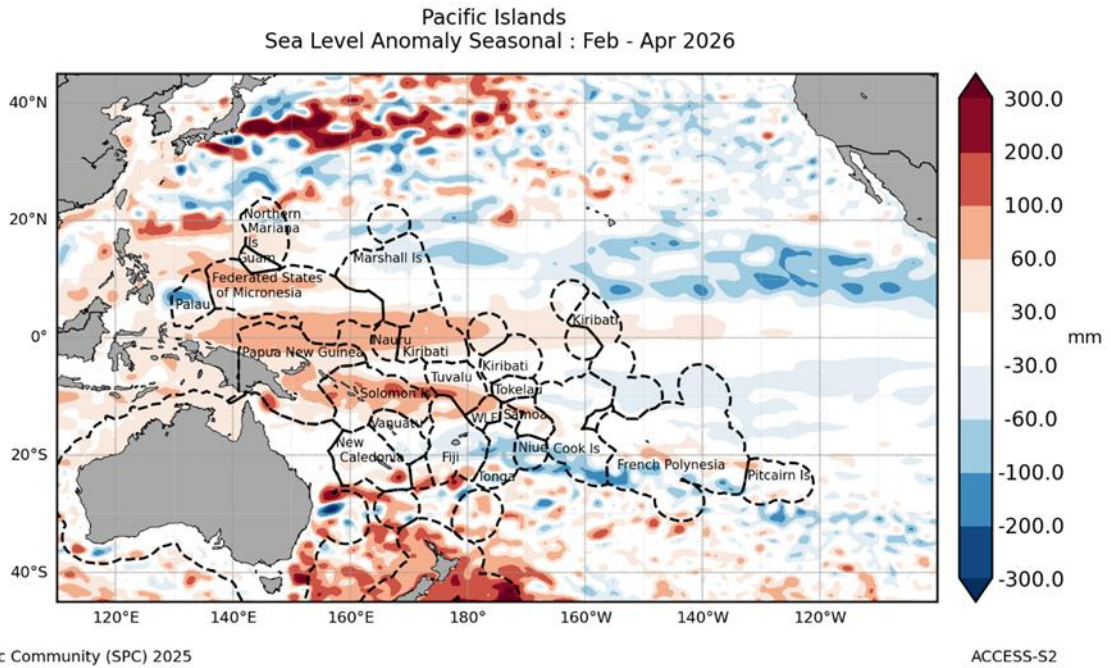
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ACCESS-S2

Sea level outlook:

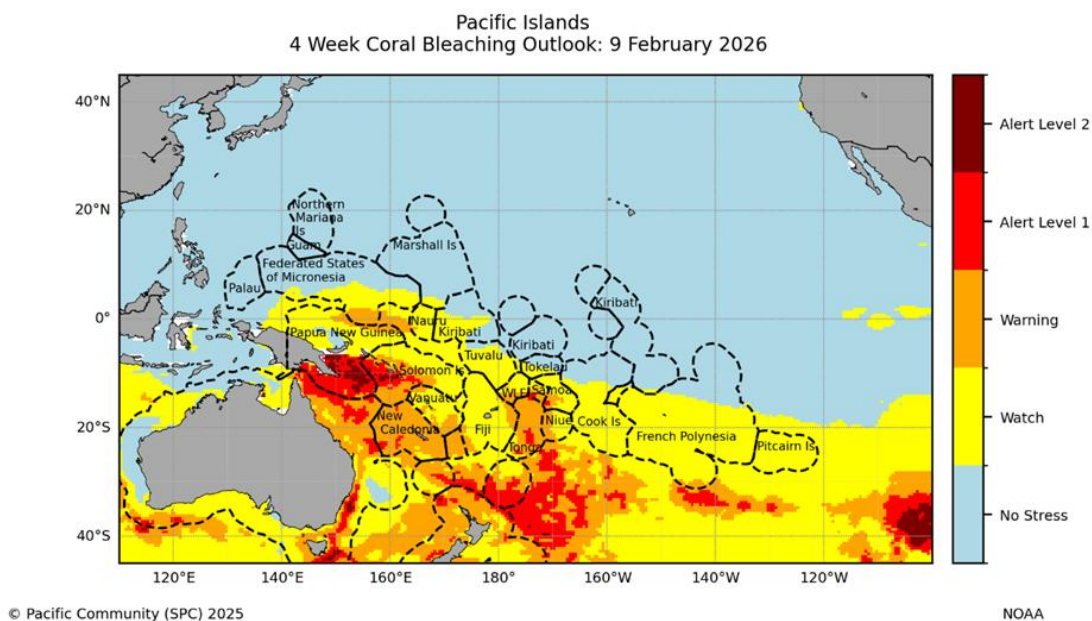
Sea levels are forecast to be above normal mostly in the western Pacific and below normal in the eastern South Pacific. Countries in the western Pacific that will experience above-normal sea levels, with a few patches up to 200mm, include PNG, the Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, southern Fiji, and Tuvalu. Countries forecast to experience above-normal sea levels of up to 100mm include FSM, Nauru, Gilbert Islands, Tuvalu, central French Polynesia, and Samoa, and up to 60mm above normal include the Phoenix Islands and the northern Line Islands. Countries that near-normal sea levels will dominate include the Marshall Islands, the central Line Islands, northern Tuvalu's EEZ, and northern Tokelau. Countries with below-normal sea levels expected over the next three months include the southern Line Islands, central and northern Tonga, Niue, northern and southern Cook Islands, southern French Polynesia, and northern Marshall Islands. Note that this outlook does not include trends of sea level rise.





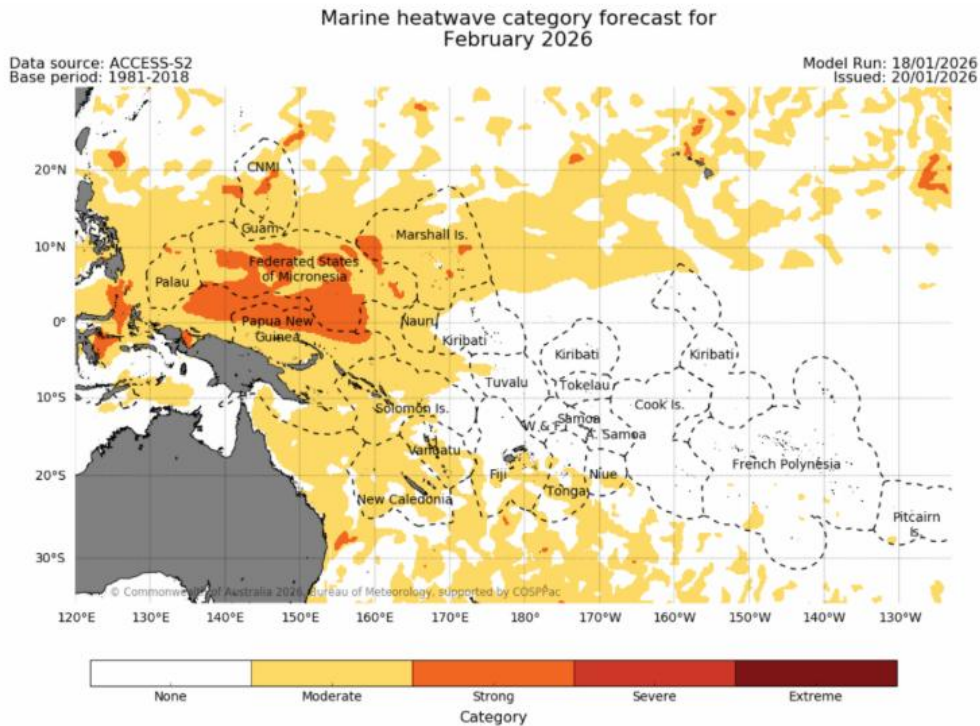
Coral Bleaching Outlook:

For the four-week outlook leading up to February 9, the forecast indicates "Alert Levels 1 and 2" for Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Some areas in Tonga, New Caledonia, and Samoa are expected to experience patches of Alert Level 1. A "Warning" is issued for the remaining parts of the Solomon Islands, as well as for Tonga, Niue, and New Caledonia. Other countries are placed under a 'Watch' or 'No Stress' status.



Marine Heat Wave Outlook for February

A moderate MHW is predicted for most Pacific countries, including strong categories in FSM and PNG, and a few patches over Marshall Islands. However, take caution, as this is a monthly forecast, and it may be higher or lower than anticipated, especially on a daily and weekly basis.



Observed Conditions

SST: sea surface temperature anomaly

SLA: sea level anomaly

BN: Below Normal

NN: Near Normal

AN: Above Normal

Country	December 2025	
	SST	SLA
American Samoa	AN	AN
Cook Islands	AN/NN	AN/NN
Fiji	AN	AN/NN
FSM (Chuuk)	AN	AN
FSM (Pohnpei&Kosrae)	AN	AN
FSM (Yap)	AN	AN
Kiribati	NN/BN	AN/NN
Marshall Islands	AN/NN	AN/NN
Nauru	AN	AN
Niue	AN	AN/NN
Palau	AN	AN
Papua New Guinea	AN	AN
Samoa	AN	AN/NN
Solomon Islands	AN	AN
Tonga	AN	AN/NN
Tuvalu	AN/NN	AN
Vanuatu	AN	AN



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

Country	Date October 2025	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of male	Number of female	Disability	Age group
FSM (Chuuk) -Climate Bulletin	December	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	23	12	11		
FSM (Chuuk) -EAR Watch	December	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	23	12	11		
FSM (Chuuk) – Ocean Outlook	December	DEOC, DECCEM, CPUC, UN, IOM, Chuuk State Gov., CWC, DOE, EPA	23	12	11		
Cook Islands – EAR Watch	December	Climate Change, Red Cross, Island Council and Executive Officers, To Tatou Vai, etc	53				
Cook Islands – climate data requests	December	To Tatou Vai, and MMR	5	2	3		
Fiji – Climate Outlook	December	General public	127	93	31	3	
Fiji – EAR Watch	December	Humanitarian Partners	122	96	26		
Fiji – Ocean Outlook	December	A number of key ocean related stakeholders	36	29	7		
Fiji – Climate Summary	December	General public	140	106	34	3	
Fiji – Climate Outlook for Monasavu	December	Energy Fiji Limited	13	13			
Fiji – Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook	December	Sugarcane Industry stakeholders	77	60	17		
Fiji – National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF)	December	Oceans & Maritime Stakeholders	44	30	14		
Fiji – Meteorologic al Data Request	December	A range of stakeholders	30	21	9		
FSM (Pohnpei) – Climate bulletin	December	Pohnpei Municipal Gov't, Kosrae Municipal Gov't, Pohnpei and Kosrae DCO, Dept. Of Education, Red Cross, Fisheries, Environmental Protection	69	53	13	3	



		Agency, DECEM, Mayors, Dept. Of Public Safety, Pohnpei Utility Corporation, Tourism, Fisheries, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, USVPA					
FSM (Pohnpei) – EAR Watch	December	Pohnpei Municipal Gov't, Kosrae Municipal Gov't, Pohnpei and Kosrae DCO, Dept. Of Education, Red Cross, Fisheries, Environmental Protection Agency, DECEM, Mayors, Dept. Of Public Safety, Pohnpei Utility Corporation, Tourism, Fisheries, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, USVPA	69	53	13	3	
Kiribati - Climate bulletin	December	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88	1	
Kiribati – EAR Watch	December	Drought Committee Members.	62	35	27	0	
Kiribati – Briefing note on Ocean Parameters	December	Offshore and Coastal Fisheries	4	3	1	0	
Kiribati - Media release	December	All Media Outlets	12	6	6	0	
Kiribati - Ocean Outlook	December	Government and Non-Government Organisations and Public subscribed to the products.	158	70	88	1	
Kiribati – Agromet Bulletin	December	Agriculture and Livestock Division (ALD)	4	1	3	0	
Kiribati – Climate Data request	December	Water	1		1		
Marshall Island – EAR Watch	December	NDMO, MWSC, EPA, NRC, OCIT, MIDPO, CCD, PSS, ACWA, WASH CLUSTERS	27	17	10		
Marshall Island – Monthly Climate briefing	December	Chief Secretary Office and National Disaster Management Office	6	4	2		
Palau – Weekly Fisheries Bulletin	2 nd Dec	Various stakeholders and Social Media	149	60	89		
Palau – Weekly	9 th Dec	Various stakeholders and Social Media	149	60	89		



Fisheries Bulletin							
Palau – Watch ‘Deck Card’	9 th Dec	Various stakeholders and Social Media	149	60	89		
Palau – Nov. 2025 Monthly Rainfall & Temp	9 th Dec	Various stakeholders and Social Media	149	60	89		
Palau Weekly Weather Bulletin	9 th Dec	Various stakeholders and Social Media	149	60	89		
Palau Monthly Ocean Bulletin	12 th Dec	Various stakeholders and Social Media	149	60	89		
Palau Climate Bulletin	12 th Dec	Various stakeholders and Social Media	149	60	89		
Palau Weekly Fisheries Bulletin	16 th Dec	Various stakeholders and Social Media	149	60	89		
Palau Weekly Weather Bulletin	16 th Dec	Various stakeholders and Social Media	149	60	89		
Palau PICASO	17 th Dec	Various stakeholders and Social Media	149	60	89		
Palau Weekly Fisheries Bulletin	23 rd Dec	Various stakeholders and Social Media	149	60	89		
Palau Weekly Weather Bulletin	23 rd Dec	Various stakeholders and Social Media	149	60	89		
Palau Weekly Weather Bulletin	30 th Dec	Various stakeholders and Social Media	149	60	89		
Solomon Islands – Seasonal Outlook	December	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon Star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goldridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD, Forestry, Ministry of Health, Solomon Water, MECDM, Live and Learn, Tourism, Maritime Service, People with Disability, MID, Ministry of Fisheries, Sol Tuna Ltd, UN	58	46	12		30 and above



		Women, Council of Women, Community Representatives					
Solomon Islands – EAR Watch	December	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon Star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goldridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD, Forestry, Ministry of Health, Solomon Water, MECDM, Live and Learn, Tourism, Maritime Service, People with Disability, MID, Ministry of Fisheries, UN Women, Council of Women.	53	41	14		30 and above
Solomon Islands – SAPE Farm	December	Farm Manager	1	1	0		30 and above
Solomon Islands – Adaliua Farm	December	Ministry of Agriculture Extension Division Officer (Malaita)	1	1	0		30 and above
Solomon Islands – Malaria Outlook	December	Ministry of Health & Medical Services (The National Vector Borne Disease Control program)	4	4	0		30 and above
Solomon Islands – Ocean Outlook	December	Red Cross, NDMO, Ministry of Agriculture, SIBC, Hydrology, Solomon Star, Paoa FM, World Vision, Goldridge Mining, Ministry of Mines and Energy, MEHRD	31	24	7		30 and above
Solomon Islands – Climate Data Request	December	Katahira Engineers International (KEI)	1	1	0		30 and above
Tonga – Climate Bulletin	December	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private Sector	77	32	42	3	
Tonga – Ocean Outlook	December	Government ministries, NGOs, Media, Private Sector	77	32	42	3	
Tuvalu – Climate Bulletin	December	MET Staff, Disaster Dept, TRC, TuCAN, Agriculture, Head Quarter, (PWIDW), All-Island Council, Permanent, Sec Gov, Fisheries Dept, Health Dept, TEC Dept,	66	38	27	1	






		Environment, Climate Change, Tuvalu Maritime School, Fusialofa Association, Tuvalu National Woman Council (TWC)					
Tuvalu – EAR Watch	December	MET Staff, Disaster Dept, TRC, TuCAN, Agriculture, Head Quarter, (PWIDW), All-Island Council, Permanent, Sec Gov, Fisheries Dept, Health Dept, TEC Dept, Environment, Climate Change, Tuvalu Maritime School, Fusialofa Association, Tuvalu National Woman Council (TWC)	66	39	27	1	
Tuvalu – Fisheries and Ocean Outlook	December	MET Staff, Disaster Dept, TRC, TuCAN, Agriculture, Head Quarter, (PWIDW), All-Island Council, Permanent, Sec Gov, Fisheries Dept, Health Dept, TEC Dept, Environment, Climate Change, Tuvalu Maritime School, Fusialofa Association, Tuvalu National Woman Council (TWC)	66	39	27	1	
FSM Yap – EAR Watch	December		13	11	2		
	December		13	11	2		
Total			3,750				



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



Impact Table: Severe weather and climate events

Dates	Phenomena/Event	Location	Image
8 th December	Flash flooding	Surface flooding experienced in the Central Division, Suva. Source: FBC News.	
15 th December	Flash flooding	Flash flooding in the Western Division, Rakiraki . Source: Fiji One News	
	Flash flooding	<i>Flooded Rakiraki town. Source: Fijivillage.</i>	
	Flash flooding	Rising waters in the Ba River. Source: FBC News.	



		<p>Western Division, Lautoka. Source: Fiji Roads Authority.</p>	
17 th December	Flash flooding	<p>Western Division, Lautoka. Source: Fiji Roads Authority</p>	
3 rd December	Coastal Inundation	<p>Inundation occurred on December 3rd, impacting low-lying areas in Majuro, the Marshall Islands' capital. The airport roadway was the most impacted and pounded with waves and debris, as shown in the attached photos. The airport road is the sole means to get to the west side of the island. Water and debris filled and covered the road, causing a shutdown for few hours during high tide.</p> <p>This inundation event was supplemented by a combination of the lunar cycle and a north swell from another weather system. Coastal Flood Statement and Advisories were issued and delivered to the general public</p>	