Pacific Islands - Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 199

Country: Vanuatu

Part 1: Recent climate

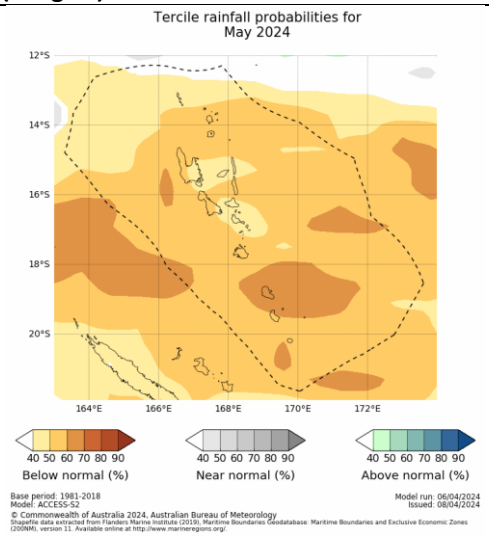
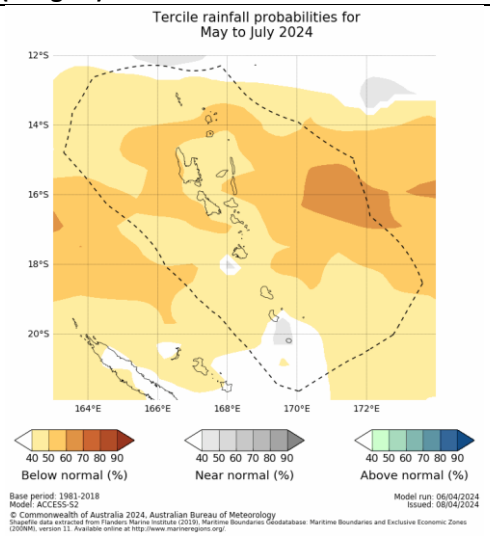
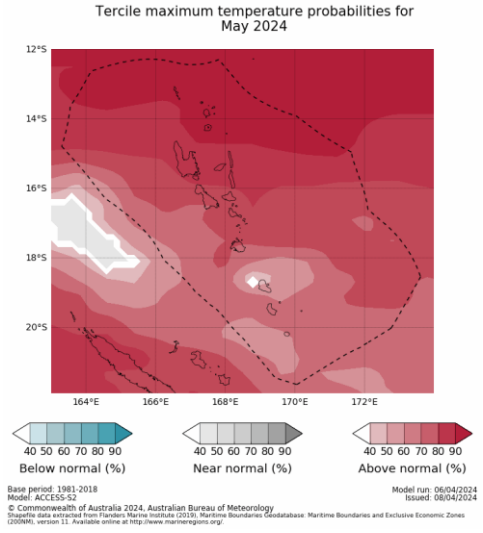
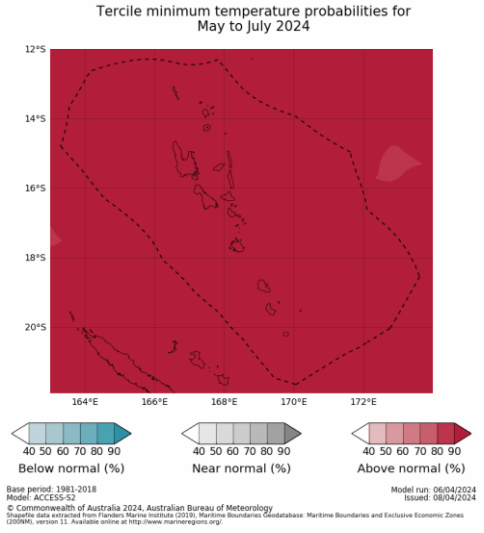
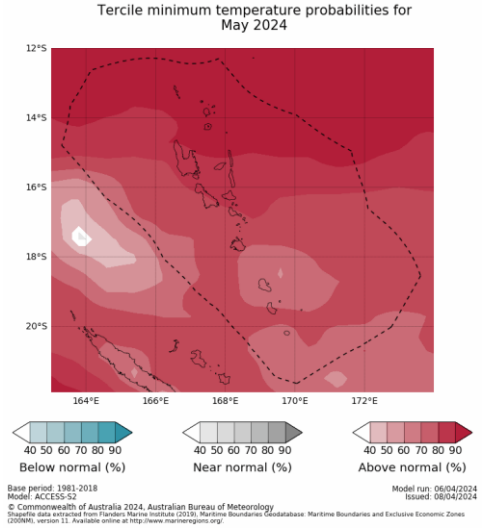
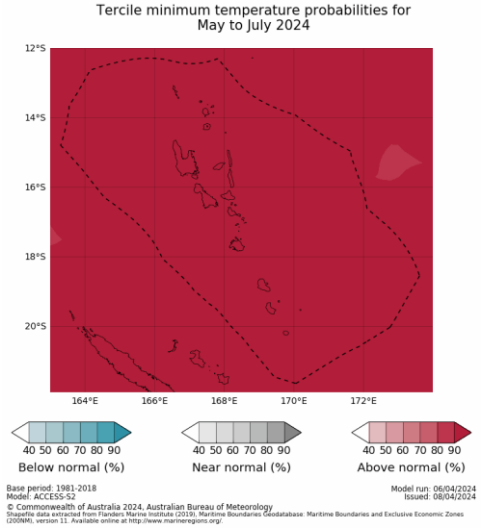
TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	Jan-2024	Feb-2024	Mar-2024				
			Total (mm)	33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank
	Total (mm)	Total (mm)	Rainfall (mm)				
Northern Region							
Sola (1971-2024)	450.8	344.2	641.4	308.0	450.3	388.1	44/52
Pekoa (1971-2024)	506.2	375.9	842.0	193.9	286.7	242.6	**53/54**
Lamap (1961-2022)				191.1	326.5	245.9	
Southern Region							
Bauerfield (1972-2024)	224.5	409.0	746.6	252.2	340.8	293.4	**50/52**
Port Vila (1953-2024)	291.0	476.0	506.5	249.7	376.3	306.5	62/72
Whitegrass (1972-2024)	148.3	295.0	376.3	143.5	228.6	192.6	**48/53**
Aneityum (1952-2024)	67.8	432.2	399.3	226.6	372.1	303.7	53/73

TABLE 2: Three-month Total Rainfall for January to March 2024

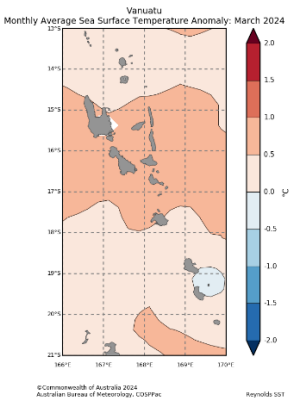
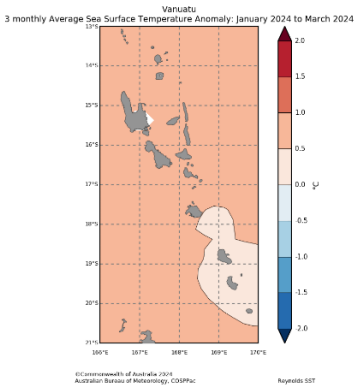
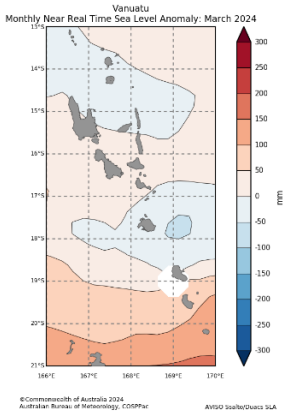
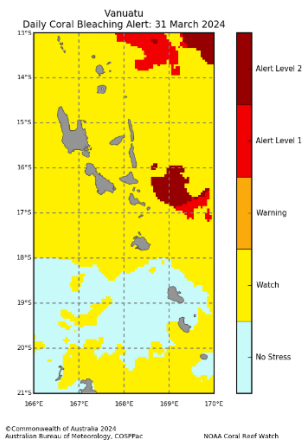
Station	Three-month Total		33%tile	67%tile	Median	Rank
	Rainfall (mm)					
Northern Region						
Sola (1971-2024)	1436.4	Above normal	1015.6	1218.2	1120.0	**47/51**
Pekoa (1971-2024)	1724.1	Above normal	750.9	969.0	807.5	**54/54**
Lamap (1961-2022)			641.6	813.0	707.2	
Southern Region						
Bauerfield (1972-2024)	1380.1	Above normal	798.4	1037.1	983.3	**48/52**
Port Vila (1953-2024)	1273.5	Above normal	752.8	1002.2	862.5	62/72
Whitegrass (1972-2024)	819.6	Above normal	495.2	707.8	547.4	42/53
Aneityum (1952-2024)	899.3	Normal	749.2	974.8	855.0	40/73

Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for May and May to July 2024

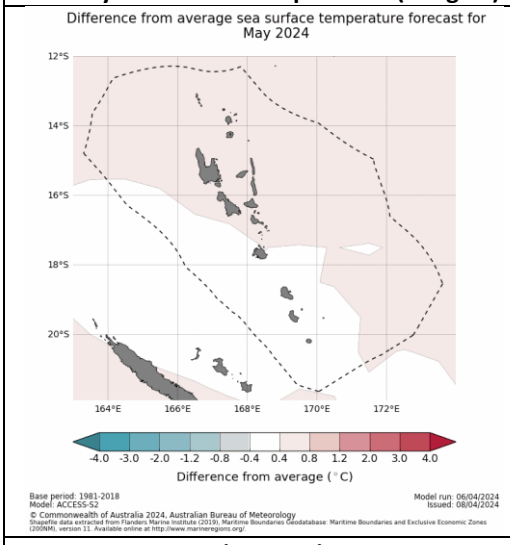
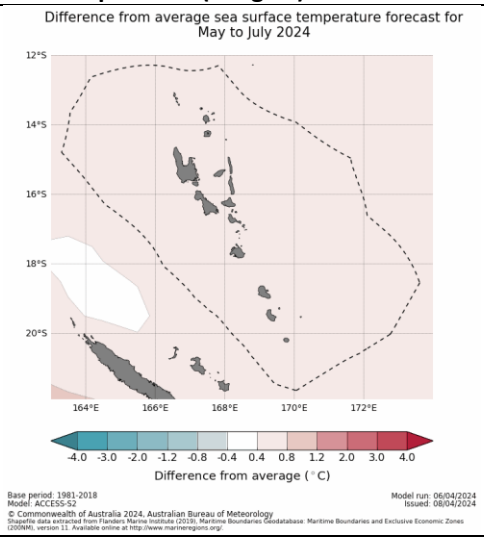
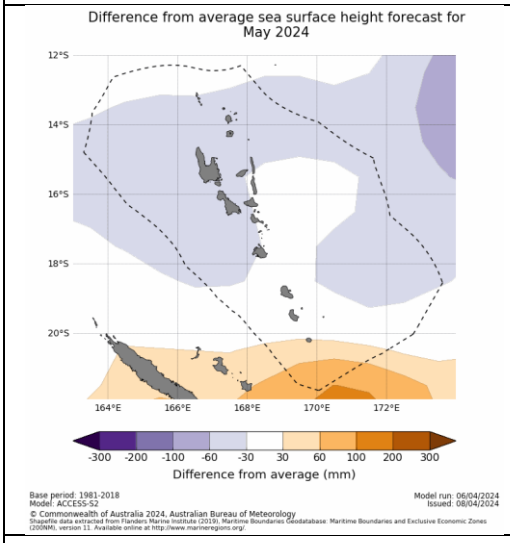
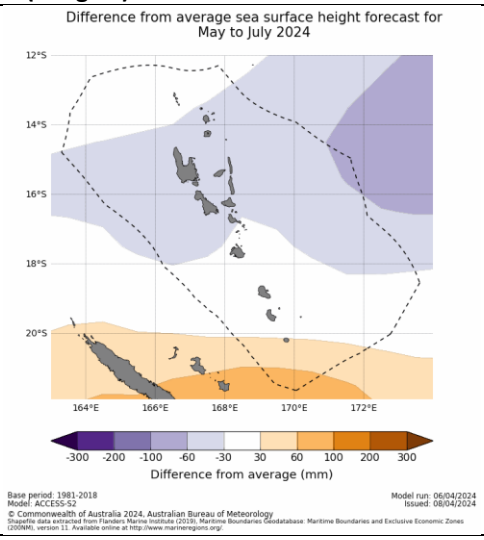
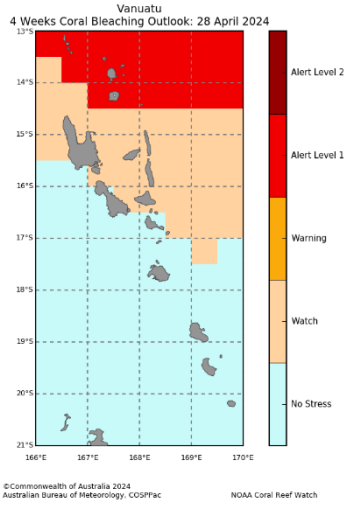
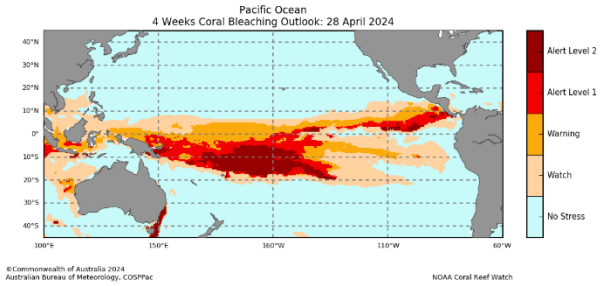
Monthly: May	Seasonal: May to July
Rainfall (Image 1)	**Rainfall (Image 2)**
	
Monthly Maximum temperature (Image 3):	**Seasonal maximum temperature (Image 4):**
	
Monthly minimum temperature (Image 5):	**Seasonal minimum temperature (Image 6):**
	

Part 2: Recent Ocean Observation

Monthly/Three months: March 2024 and January to March 2024

Monthly: March 2024	Last three months: January to March 2024:
Sea Surface Temperature (Image 1):	**Sea Surface Temperature (Image 4):**
	
Sea level (Image 2):	
	
Daily coral bleaching alert (Image 3):	
	

Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for May and May to July 2024

Monthly: May	Seasonal: May to July
Monthly sea surface temperature (Image 5):	**Seasonal sea surface temperature (Image 6):**
	
Monthly sea level (Image 7):	**Seasonal sea level (Image 8):**
	
4-week Coral Bleaching (Image 9):	
	

Summary Statement

Monthly and last three months: March 2024/January to March 2024 statement

The rainfall for March was above normal over all regions of Vanuatu. Pekoa recorded its second wettest March in 54 years, Bauerfield experienced its third wettest March in 52 years, and Whitegrass recorded its sixth wettest March in 53 years.

For the past three months, rainfall was above normal over the whole country, except for Aneityum where normal rainfall was recorded. Sola and Bauerfield experienced their fifth wettest January to March on record, while Pekoa experienced its wettest in 54 years of record.

Part 1i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for May and May to July 2024

Monthly /Seasonal rainfall and temperature Outlook statements

The rainfall for May is likely to be below normal across the country over parts of the Sanma, Penama and Malampa province, and the rest of the country is *very likely* to experience below normal rainfall.

May to July rainfall is likely to be below normal over most of Vanuatu. The exception is Tafea where the outlook offers little guidance for some parts.

Maximum and minimum temperatures during May and averaged over May to July, are likely or very likely to be above normal over Vanuatu.

Part 2: Recent Ocean summary statement

Monthly and last three months: March 2024/January to March 2024

March ocean temperatures around the central part of Vanuatu were 0.5 - 1.0 °C above normal. Elsewhere, ocean temperatures were near normal.

Averaged over January to March, ocean temperatures around the country were up to 1.0°C above normal.

March sea levels around central and northern Vanuatu were near normal (-50 to 50mm). Elsewhere, sea levels were up to 150 mm above normal.

Coral bleaching Alert as of 31st March was at Watch levels throughout most of the country.

Part 2i. Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for May and May to July 2024

Ocean Variable statement

May ocean temperatures around Vanuatu are predicted to be 0.4 to 0.8°C above normal over Torba, Sanma, Penama, Malampa, and parts of Shefa. Ocean temperatures around Tafea are expected to remain at normal levels.

Averaged over May to July, ocean temperatures are predicted to be 0.4 to 0.8°C above normal around Vanuatu.

May, and averaged over May to July sea levels around the country are predicted to be 30 to 60mm below normal over Torba, Sanma, Penama, Malampa, Shefa, and 30 to 60mm above normal over Aneityum. Elsewhere is predicted to be normal.

Coral Bleaching Outlook is predicted to reach Alert Level 1 over Torba in April, Watch level for Sanma, Penama and parts of Malampa.

IN BRIEF for Teleconference

- Rainfall was above normal for May and May to July, except for Aneityum where rainfall was normal for the period of May.
- The rainfall outlook generally indicates below average most likely in May, and averaged over May to July
- SSTs were generally near to above normal for March and January to March. The outlook shows above normal SSTS for the next one and three months.
- Sea-surface heights (SSH) were below to above normal for March. Below-normal to above normal sea surface heights are predicted for May and May to July.
- Coral Bleaching Alert Level 1 is predicted for Torba in April.

TABLE 3: Stakeholder Engagement- Evaluations of how effective NMS engage with stakeholders

Product	Date: March 2024	Stakeholder	Total Number of Participants	Number of Male	Number of Female	Comments (If there are comments from you Stakeholders)
Fisheries Climate Bulletin						
Tourism Climate Bulletin						
Weekly Climate Update						
WMO Day						
Area Administrators and Disability Workshop						
Ambaebulu Junior Secondary School Career Talk						
Saint Patrick's College Career Talk						
Total						