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Fiji Ocean Outlook

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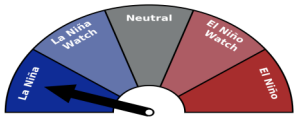
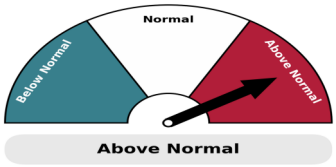
In Brief



ENSO Outlook

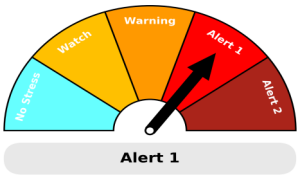
⇒ A La Niña event is currently in underway, with a transition to ENSO-neutral conditions favored in the coming months.



SST Outlook

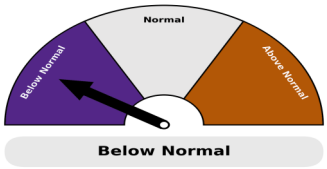
⇒ *Above normal* sea surface temperatures (SSTs) likely during the February to April 2026 period across Fiji Waters.

⇒ The 29°C South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ) average position is likely to be displaced south of its normal location, within Fiji's EEZ, during the February to April 2026 period.



Coral Bleaching

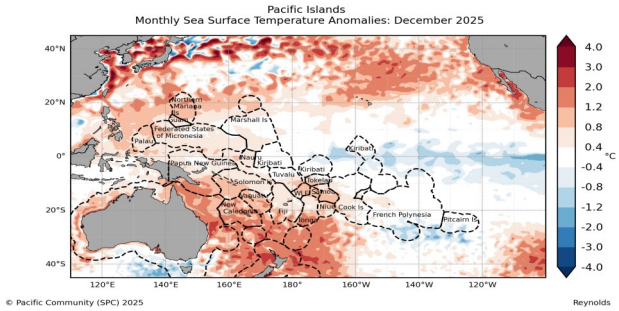
⇒ The 12 weeks coral bleaching outlook is at *'Alert Level 1'* for waters in the Coral Coast, as well as the Northern, Central and Eastern Divisions, with a *'Warning'* status present for the rest of Fiji Waters.



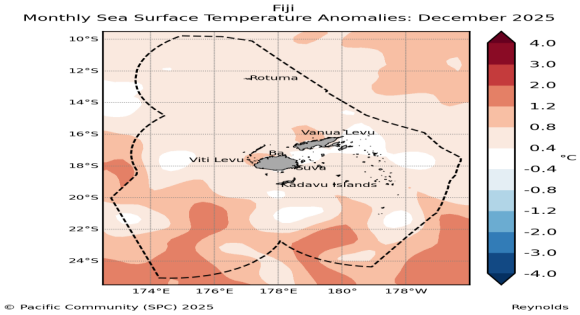
Sea Level Outlook

⇒ Sea level is likely to be *below normal* for most of the Fiji Group, while *above normal* sea level is likely for Rotuma during February to April 2026 period.

Pacific Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs): Recent Observations



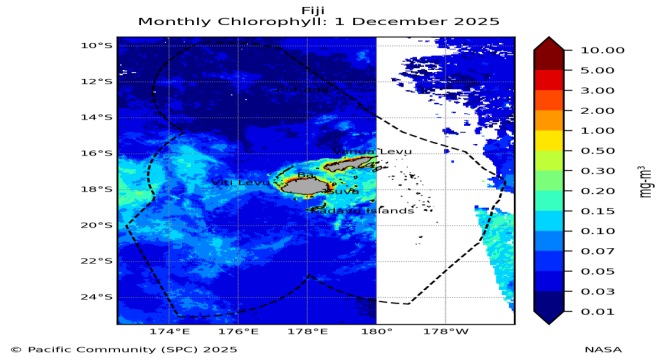
SST anomalies in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean ranged from *near* to *below* normal, while *above normal* SSTs were observed in most of the western Pacific Ocean.



Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) anomalies around the country were mostly *above normal* during December, ranging from 0.4–1.2°C, and reaching 1.2–2.0°C in the southern regions of Fiji's EEZ.

Possible Applications:
Presence of warmer than usual waters in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific indicate persistence of an El Niño event and cool waters indicate La Niña. Monitoring warm patches of ocean gives insight into the potential for cyclone formation, and possible start or finish of the cyclone season.
For further information on ocean temperature refer to https://legacy-oceanportal.spc.int/portal/help/about_OceanTemperature.pdf

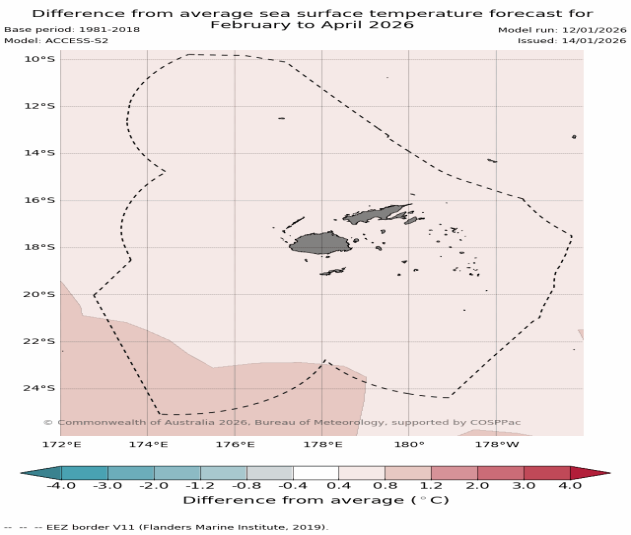
Chlorophyll Concentration



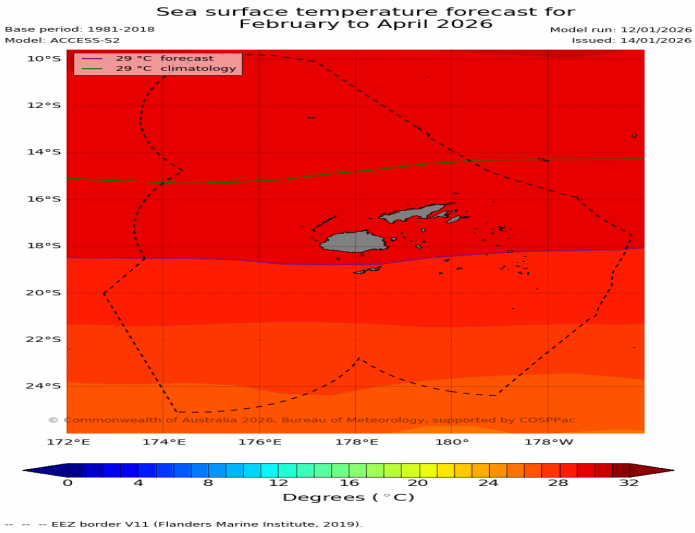
During December, high chlorophyll concentrations were recorded along the central and western coasts of Viti Levu, parts of the Mamanuca Group, around the northern and southern coasts of Vanua Levu and parts of the Eastern Division, including Moala and Lomaiviti Groups.

Possible Applications:
Chlorophyll concentration can be of great interest to fishermen targeting smaller pelagic (open sea) fish. High concentration of chlorophyll can also provide indication of potential hazardous conditions near the coast from reef fish diseases, such as ciguatera, harmful algal blooms, and outbreak of Crown of Thorns starfish, which is a coral eating pest. For further information on chlorophyll concentration refer to https://legacy-oceanportal.spc.int/portal/help/about_chlorophyll.pdf

Sea Surface Temperature (SST) Outlook



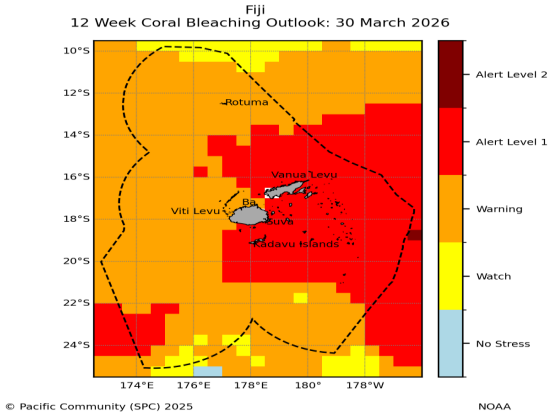
SSTs are likely to be *above normal* across Fiji Waters during the February to April 2026 period.



Average position of the 29°C convergence zone is likely to be displaced south of its normal position, within Fiji's EEZ, during the February to April 2026 period (purple line).

Possible Applications:
The movement of the convergence zone has an influence on relative abundance of tuna in the Pacific Ocean. The 29°C isotherm around the western Pacific warm pool forms a good proxy for the convergence zone, and can therefore be used to track the gravity center of Skipjack tuna fishing activity. For further information on seasonal sea surface temperature forecast refer to https://legacy-oceanportal.spc.int/portal/help/about_POAMA_SST.pdf

Coral Bleaching Outlook



The 4 weeks coral bleaching outlook is at *'Warning'* for some areas in northern Lau Group, while the rest of the Fiji Waters are at *'Watch'* status.

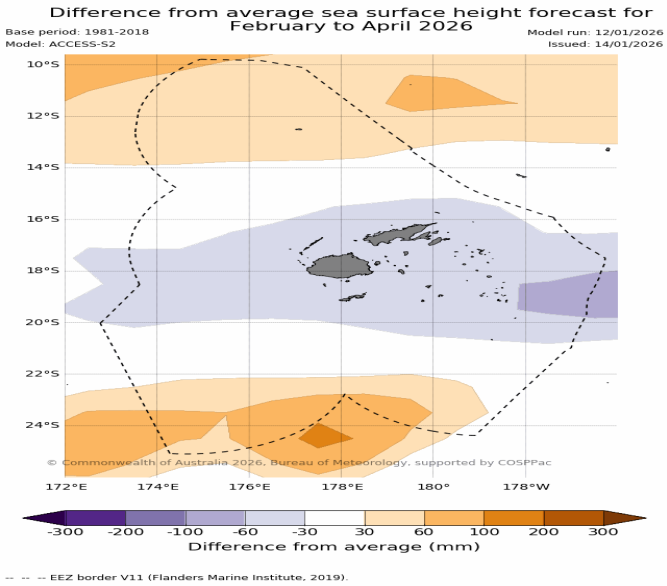
The 8 weeks coral bleaching outlook is at *'Warning'* for some coastal waters in the Coral Coast and the Central, Northern and Eastern Divisions, while a '*Watch*' is in place for the rest of the country.

At 12 weeks, coral bleaching outlook is at *'Alert Level 1'* for waters in the Coral Coast and Northern, Central and Eastern Divisions, with a *'Warning'* status present for the rest of Fiji Waters.

The image on the left is for 12 weeks outlook.

Possible Applications:
Once a potential bleaching event is detected, a management plan should be implemented to reduce the impacts of bleaching. For further information on coral bleaching refer to https://legacy-oceanportal.spc.int/portal/help/about_coralbleaching.pdf

Sea Level Outlook



Sea level is likely to be *below normal* for most of the Fiji Group, while *above normal* sea level is likely for Rotuma during February to April 2026 period.

Possible Applications:
Stakeholders can use forecasts of extreme sea level to make decisions about the protection of communities and infrastructure against coastal inundation. For further information on sea level refer to https://legacy-oceanportal.spc.int/portal/help/about_POAMA_Sea_Level.pdf

Tide Predictions (February to April 2026)

Suva						Lautoka					
Monthly Highest Tide			Monthly Lowest Tide			Monthly Highest Tide			Monthly Lowest Tide		
Date	Time	Height	Date	Time	Height	Date	Time	Height	Date	Time	Height
2 Feb	18:46	2.10m	3 Feb	01:20	0.41m	2 Feb	18:34	2.34m	2 Feb	00:21	0.30m
22 Mar	08:40	2.05m	3 Mar	00:13	0.49m	2 Mar	17:33	2.27m	3 Mar	00:00	0.38m
19 Apr	07:28	2.09m	20 Apr	14:50	0.40m	18 Apr	06:19	2.31m	19 Apr	13:33	0.33m

Port Denarau						Vatia					
Monthly Highest Tide			Monthly Lowest Tide			Monthly Highest Tide			Monthly Lowest Tide		
Date	Time	Height	Date	Time	Height	Date	Time	Height	Date	Time	Height
2 Feb	18:42	2.19m	3 Feb	01:08	0.15m	1 Feb	17:40	2.16m	2 Feb	00:12	0.16m
21 Mar	07:39	2.14m	3 Mar	00:05	0.23m	2 Mar	17:26	2.08m	2 Mar	23:50	0.22m
19 Apr	07:12	2.17m	19 Apr	13:38	0.18m	18 Apr	06:07	2.08m	19 Apr	13:23	0.18m

All date and time are in Fiji Standard Time.

Moon Phases (February to April 2026)

New Moon ●	First Quarter ◑	Full Moon ○	Last Quarter ◐
		2nd February	10th February
18th February	25th February	3rd March	11th March
19th March	26th March	2nd April	10th April
17th April	24th April		

Explanatory Notes

Anomalies – denote the departure of an element (sea surface temperature and sea level) from its long-period average value for a particular location.

Sea Surface Temperature (SST) – the temperature of the water's surface. It is usually measured using buoys, ship data, and satellites.

Sea Surface Temperature (SST) Outlook

Above Normal – indicates that SST anomalies fall within the highest 3rd of observations in a 37 year period, typically equal to or above +0.8°C.

Near Normal – indicates that SST anomalies lies in the middle 3rd of observations in a 37 year period, typically between –0.4°C and +0.4°C.

Below Normal – indicates that SST anomalies fall within the lowest 3rd of observations in a 37 year period, typically equal to or below -0.8°C.

Coral Bleaching Outlook

No Stress – Thermal stress is unlikely.

Watch – Low-level of thermal stress.

Warning – Coral bleaching possible.

Alert 1 – Coral bleaching is likely.

Alert 2 – Coral mortality is Likely.

Sea Level Outlook

Above Normal – indicates that sea level anomalies fall within the highest 3rd of observations in a 37 year period, typically equal to or above +60mm.

Near Normal – indicates that sea level anomalies lies in the middle 3rd of observations in a 37 year period, typically between –60mm and +60mm.

Below Normal – indicates that sea level anomalies fall within the lowest 3rd of observations in a 37 year period, typically equal to or below –60mm.

El Niño events are associated with warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific. El Niño events usually result in reduction of Fiji's rainfall. Often the whole of Fiji is affected in varying degrees and it is quite unusual for one part of the country to experience a prolonged dry spell, while the other is in a wet spell.

La Niña events are associated with cooling of the central and eastern tropical Pacific. Usually La Niña results in wetter than normal conditions for Fiji, occasionally leading to flooding during the Warm/Wet Season. (November to April).

When ENSO is **Neutral**, that is, neither El Niño nor La Niña, it has little effect on global climate, meaning other climate influences are more likely to dominate.