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Fiji Ocean Outlook

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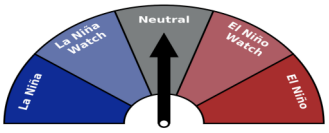
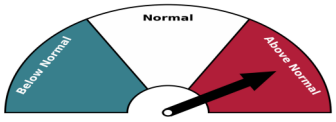
In Brief



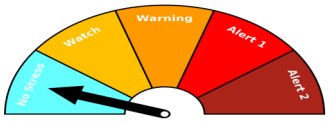
ENSO Outlook

⇒ The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently neutral, with a transition to La Niña condition likely during the September to November 2024 period.



SST Outlook

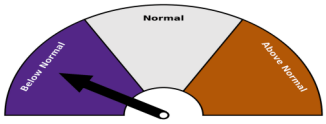
⇒ *Above normal* sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are likely across most of the Fiji Group during September to November 2024.



Coral Bleaching

⇒ The average position of the 29°C convergence zone is likely to be displaced south of its normal position, close to Fiji's EEZ, during the September to November 2024 period.

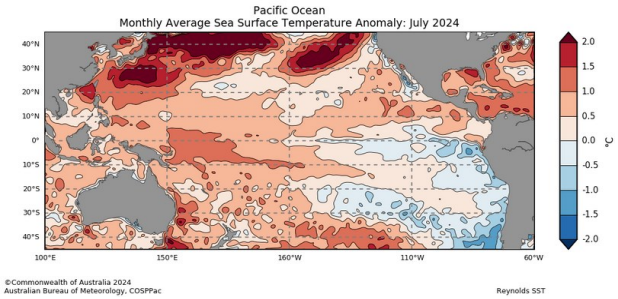
⇒ The 4, 8 and 12 weeks coral bleaching outlook is at *'No Stress'* level across the Fiji Waters.



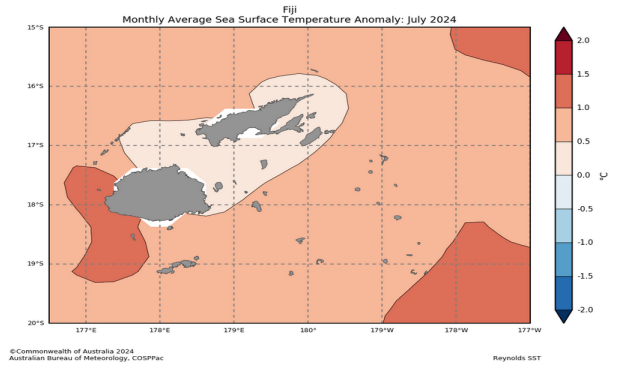
Sea Level Outlook

⇒ *Below normal* sea level is likely for Rotuma, while *near normal* sea level is likely for the rest of the Fiji Group, during the September to November 2024 period.

Pacific Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs): Recent Observations



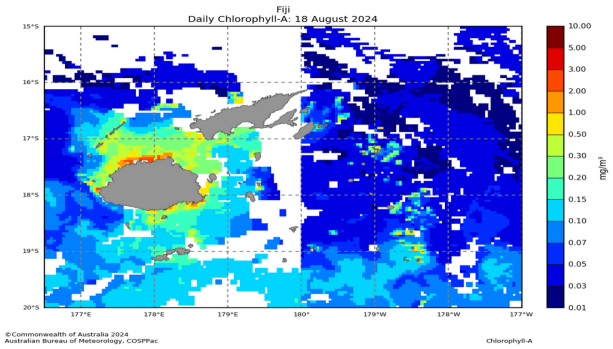
Warmer than normal SSTs were observed across most of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. However, SSTs were up to 2 °C cooler than average in the equatorial Pacific east of 140°W and along parts of the South American coast.



SSTs around the Fiji Waters were mostly *above normal* during July, with anomalies of 1.0°C to 1.5°C observed across the country.

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 http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/help/about_OceanTemperature.pdf.

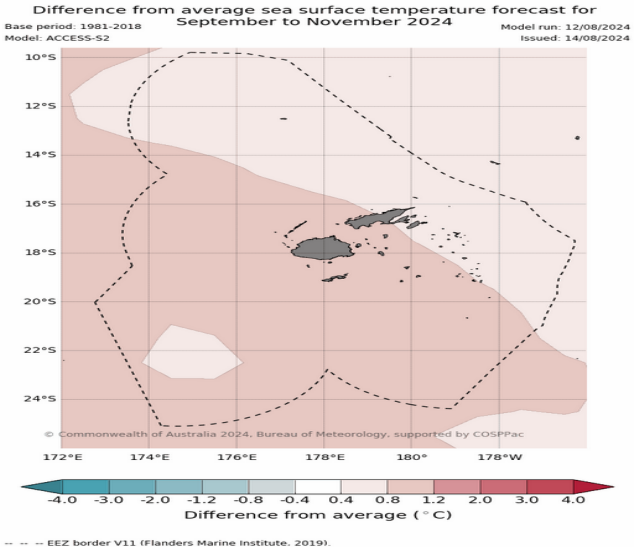
Chlorophyll Concentration



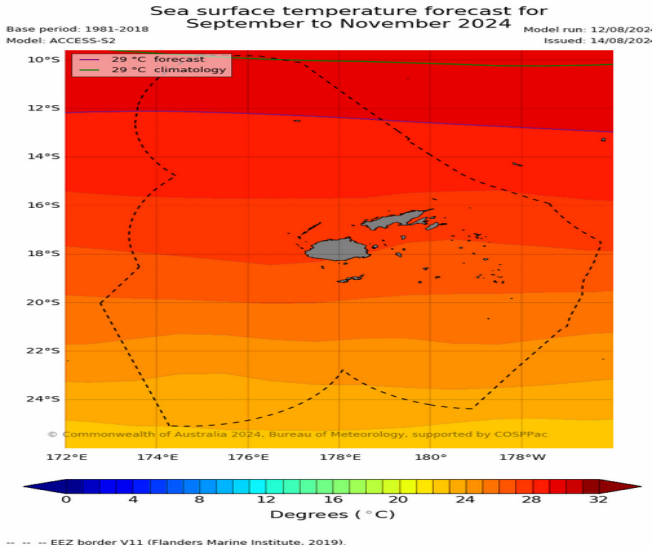
Daily chlorophyll concentration - 18th August 2024. High concentrations of chlorophyll were observed along the western and eastern coasts of Viti Levu and parts of southern Lau Group.

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 http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/help/about_chlorophyll.pdf.

Sea Surface Temperature (SST) Outlook



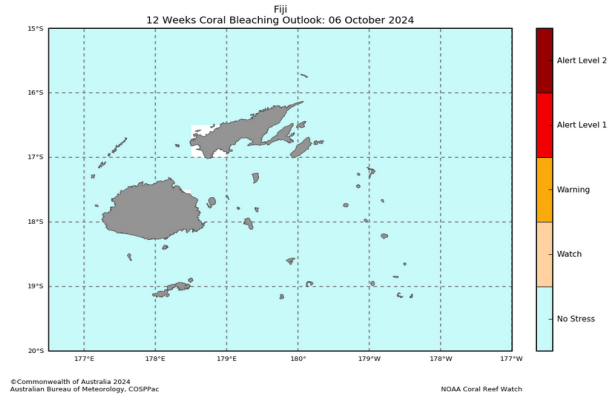
Above normal SSTs are likely across most of Fiji Waters during the September to November 2024 period.



Average position of the 29°C convergence zone is likely to be displaced south of its normal position, close to Fiji's EEZ, during the September to November 2024 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 http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/help/about_POAMA_SST.pdf.

Coral Bleaching Outlook

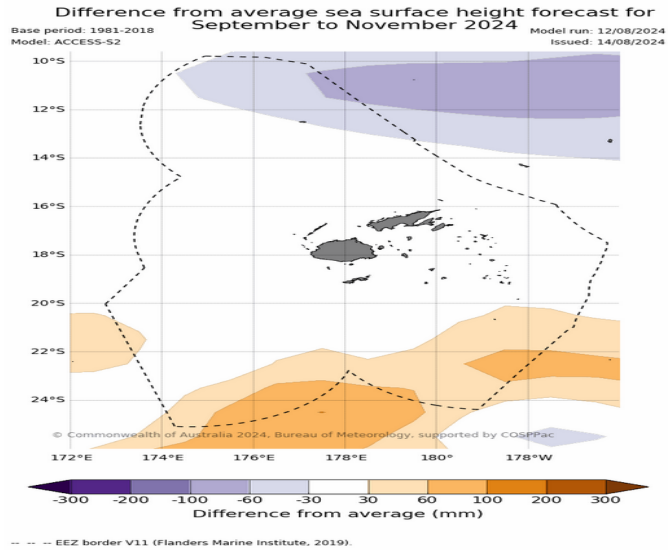


The 4, 8 and 12 weeks coral bleaching outlook is at *'No Stress'* for the Fiji Waters.

Caption: The image 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 http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/help/about_coralbleaching.pdf.

Sea Level Outlook



Below normal sea level is likely for Rotuma, while *near normal* sea level is likely for the rest of the Fiji Group, during the September to November 2024 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 http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/help/about_POAMA_Sea_Level.pdf.

Tide Predictions (September to November 2024)

Suva Tidal Gauge						Lautoka Tidal Gauge					
Monthly Highest Tide			Monthly Lowest Tide			Monthly Highest Tide			Monthly Lowest Tide		
Date	**Time**	**Height**	**Date**	**Time**	**Height**	**Date**	**Time**	**Height**	**Date**	**Time**	**Height**
20 Sep	20:05	2.10m	19 Sep	13:05	0.37m	19 Sep	19:00	2.35m	18 Sep	12:04	0.27m
18 Oct	18:49	2.14m	20 Oct	02:10	0.34m	18 Oct	18:30	2.40m	19 Oct	00:57	0.28m
16 Nov	18:26	2.13m	17 Nov	01:02	0.34m	15 Nov	17:22	2.39m	17 Nov	00:43	0.27m

All date and time are in Fiji Standard Time.

Moon Phases (September to November 2024)

New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
3rd September	11th September	18th September	25th September
3rd October	11th October	17th October	24th October
2nd November	9th November	16th November	23rd November

Disclaimer: *While Fiji Meteorological Service takes all measures to provide accurate information and data, it does not guarantee 100% accuracy of the information presented in this outlook. The Department should be sought for expert advice, clarifications and additional information as and when necessary. The user assumes all risk resulting directly or indirectly from the use of this outlook.*