



Samoa Ocean Outlook for February 2019

Issued: January 2019



Summary

- Issue Outline:**
- Ocean Summary
 - Ocean Temperature
 - Convergence Zone
 - Coral Bleaching
 - Sea Level Forecast

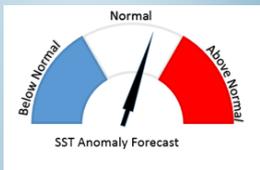
- February Sea Surface Temperatures is expected an increase of 0.5-1.0°C.
- Further propagation of the Convergence Zone to the south.
- Coral bleach outlook currently at Warning levels.
- Samoa anticipates a 0-50mm rise in sea level in the next 3 months.

Climate Status:

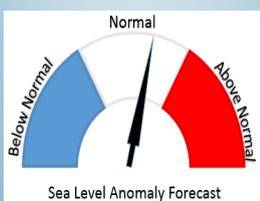
ENSO Update: ALERT



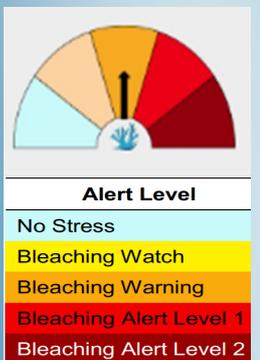
Sea Surface Temperature:



Sea Level Forecast:



Coral Bleaching Forecast:



Samoa Meteorology Division-
Member of WMO

Contacts

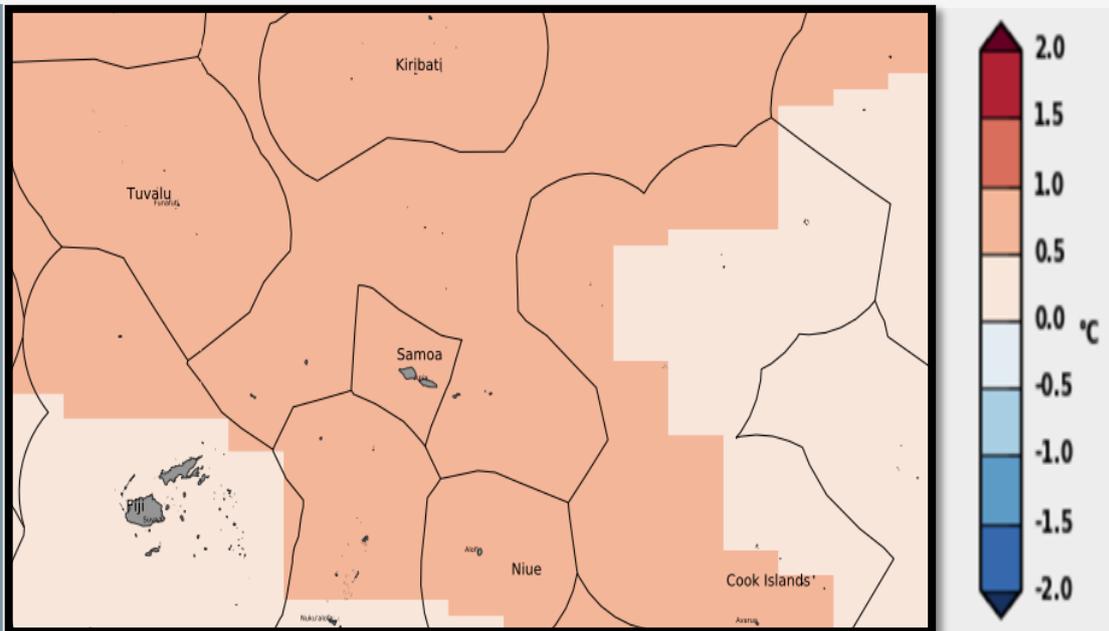
General: +685 20855,

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Website:

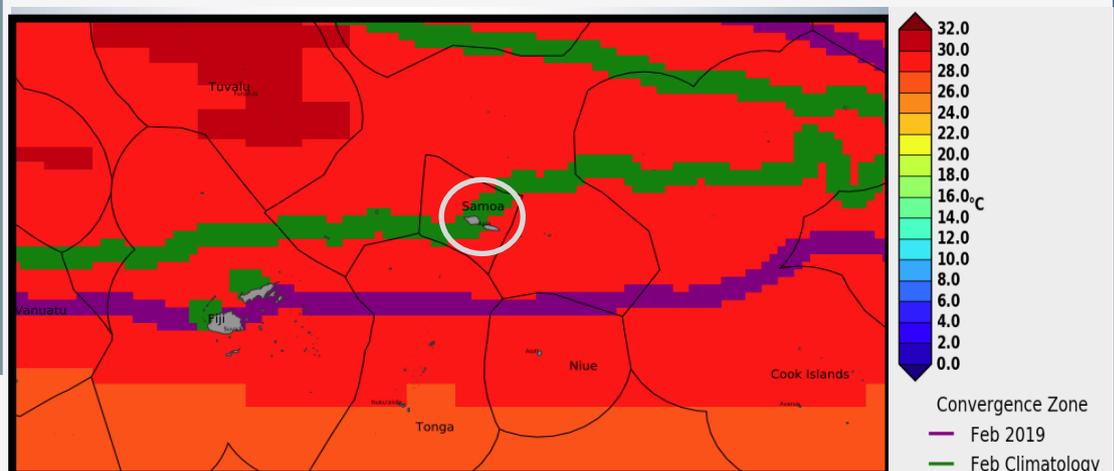
<http://www.samet.gov.ws>

Sea Surface Temperature Forecast Anomaly



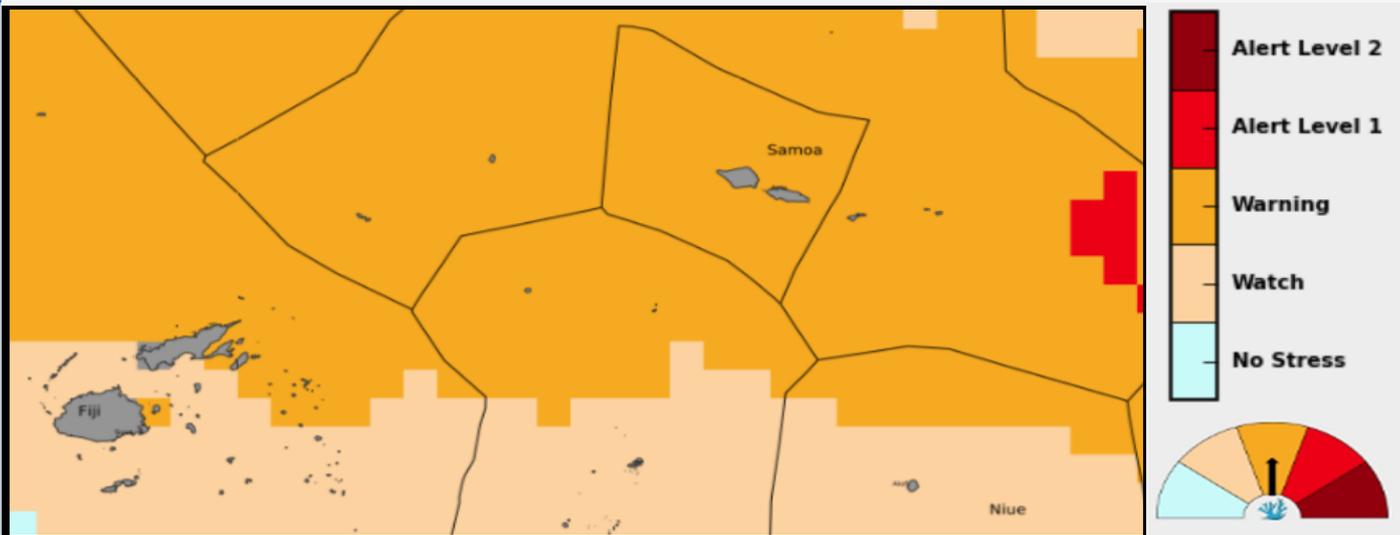
A warm pool of about 0.5-1.0 °C warmer than normal is anticipated for the Samoan region, along with northern island neighbours Tuvalu and Kiribati. Other close by countries predict a 0.0-0.5°C warmer than normal sea surface temperatures in February 2019.

Sea Surface temperature forecast with convergence zone



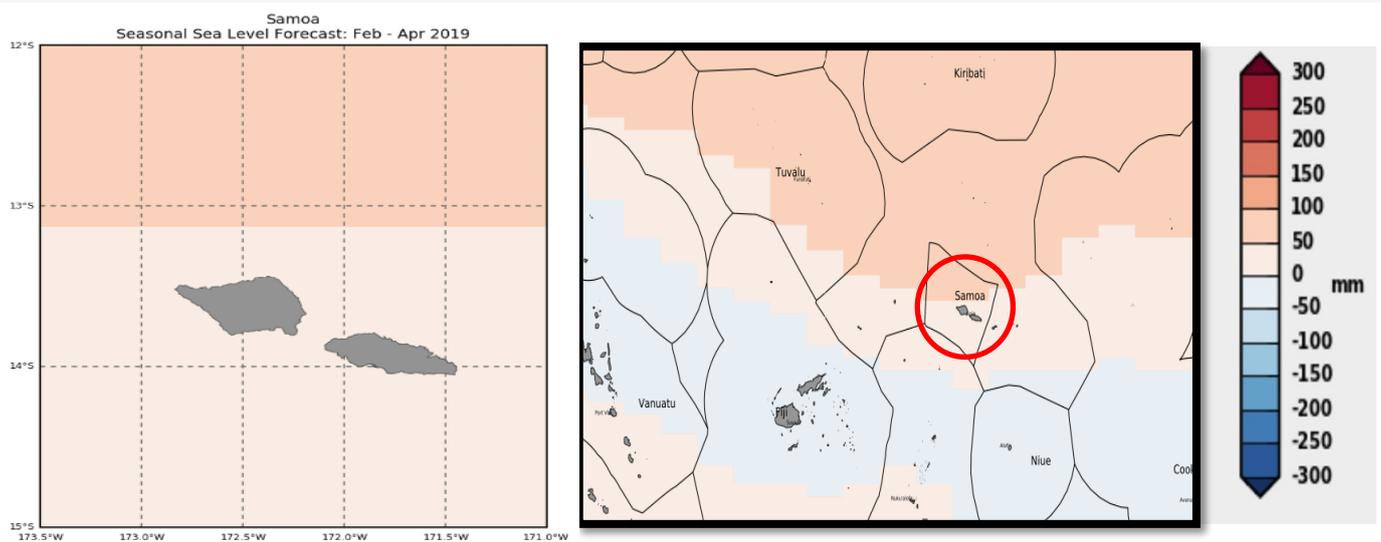
The continuation of the eastward migration of warm surface temperatures places the current convergence zone (purple) south of the Samoan Island, whereas the normal February position would have been within the vicinity of the group. *N.B* Convergence zones are where cold and warm water meet, and are rich in nutrients, attracting lots of fish.

Coral Bleaching



Our coral bleaching outlook shows that the warm conditions experienced in the last few months sustains the outlook at Coral Bleach Warning. Responsible sectors are advised to take precautionary actions and continue monitoring.

Seasonal Sea Level Forecast



In the next three months, February to April 2019, the Samoan region will expect 0-50mm rise, while further north will be anticipating elevated sea levels as well.

This forecast is based on the combined long-term effects of temperature, salinity and wind on the water levels and do not include daily changes in tide or weather.

Major Contributors:

- Pacific Ocean Portal: oceanportal.spc.int
- Bureau of Meteorology: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>