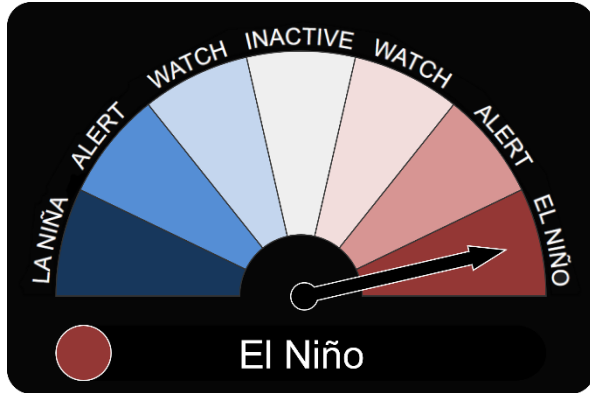


A monthly bulletin issued by the Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-hazards Department that provides concise one-month outlook on climatic conditions over Vanuatu that the fisheries sector can use for better decision-making.

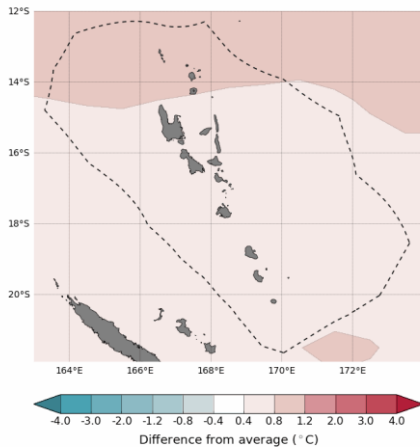
## El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO)



ENSO status continues to be in El Niño. El Niño events typically increase the chance of below average rainfall in Vanuatu, resulting in drier conditions and warmer daytime temperatures.

*El Niño hemi stap yet. Lo taem blo wan El Niño I kat hae Janis blo Vanuatu I save kasem ol bilou nomol renfol we I save mekem ples I drae plante mo ples I hot tumas lo day.*

Difference from average sea surface temperature forecast for March 2024



Base period: 1981-2018  
Model: ACCESS-S2  
© Commonwealth of Australia 2024, Australian Bureau of Meteorology  
Shapefile data extracted from Flinders Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), version 11. Available online at <http://www.marinerregions.org/>

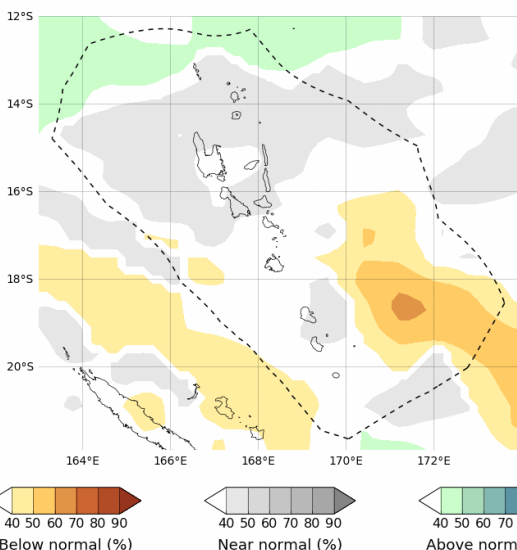
Model run: 05/02/2024  
Issued: 07/02/2024

## Sea Surface Temperature Forecast

Sea surface temperature is expected to be 0.4°C warmer than usual across the country, and up to 1.2 °C warmer in Torba province.

*Tempreja blong solwota bae hemi wom bitim nomol lo full Vanuatu. Tempreja blo solwota I save kasem 1.2°C lo Torba Province mo 0.4°C lo efri nara province.*

Tercile rainfall probabilities for March 2024



Base period: 1981-2018  
Model: ACCESS-S2  
© Commonwealth of Australia 2024, Australian Bureau of Meteorology  
Shapefile data extracted from Flinders Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), version 11. Available online at <http://www.marinerregions.org/>

Model run: 26/02/2024  
Issued: 28/02/2024

## Rainfall Outlook

Rainfall is likely to be near normal for all provinces this month.

*Efri aelan lo Vanuatu bae oli kasem ol renfol we bambae oli klosap lo nomol.*

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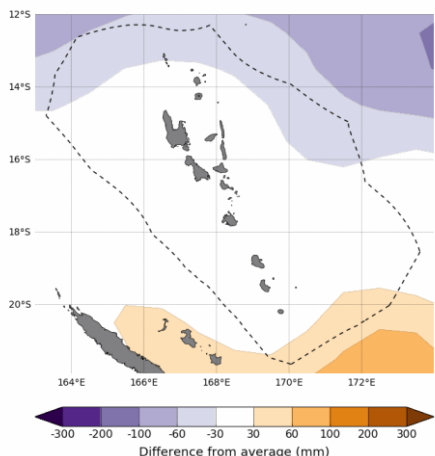


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Difference from average sea surface height forecast for March 2024



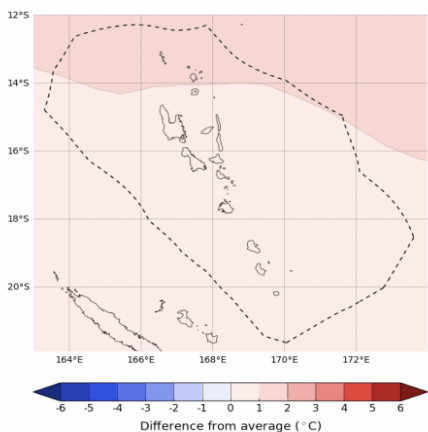
Base period: 1981-2018  
 Model: ACCESS-S2  
 © Commonwealth of Australia 2024, Australian Bureau of Meteorology  
 Shapefile data extracted from Fisheries Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (2004M), version 1.1. Available online at <http://www.maritime.gov.au>  
 Model run: 05/02/2024  
 Issued: 07/02/2024

## Sea Level Forecast

Most of the country is expected to have near normal sea level.

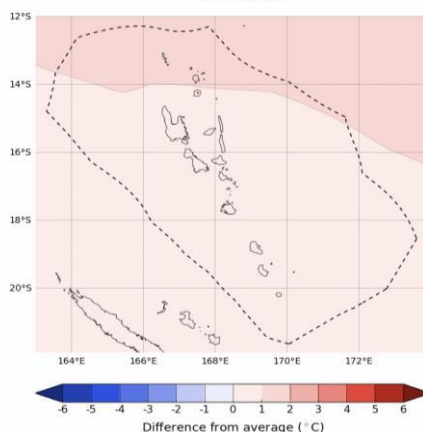
Plante lo ogeta aelans blo Vanuatu bae oli save luk solwota we klosap lo ol nomol level.

Difference from average mean maximum temperature forecast for March 2024



Base period: 1981-2018  
 Model: ACCESS-S2  
 © Commonwealth of Australia 2024, Australian Bureau of Meteorology  
 Shapefile data extracted from Fisheries Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (2004M), version 1.1. Available online at <http://www.maritime.gov.au>  
 Model run: 26/02/2024  
 Issued: 28/02/2024

Difference from average mean minimum temperature forecast for March 2024



Base period: 1981-2018  
 Model: ACCESS-S2  
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 Shapefile data extracted from Fisheries Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (2004M), version 1.1. Available online at <http://www.maritime.gov.au>  
 Model run: 26/02/2024  
 Issued: 28/02/2024

Slightly above average (0-1°C) day-time temperatures are expected across the country this month, particularly in Torba province (1-2°C).

- *Tempreja blong dei bae wom lelebet bitim nomol wetem wan diffrens blong 0-1°C, be Torba Provinc hemi save kasem 1-2°C.*

Slightly above average (0-1°C) night-time temperatures are expected across the country this month, particularly in Torba province (1-2°C).

- *Tempreja blong naet bae wom lelebet bitim nomol wetem wan diffrens blong 0-1°C, be torba I save kasem 1-2°C difrens*

## Tide Outlook for March

| Port Vila Harbour |       |            |              |        |            |
|-------------------|-------|------------|--------------|--------|------------|
| Lowest Tide       | Date  | Time (VUT) | Highest Tide | Date   | Time (VUT) |
| 0.20m             | 9 Mar | 11:25pm    | 1.57m        | 12 Mar | 7:06am     |

| Luganville Harbour |       |            |              |        |            |
|--------------------|-------|------------|--------------|--------|------------|
| Lowest Tide        | Date  | Time (VUT) | Highest Tide | Date   | Time (VUT) |
| 0.09m              | 9 Mar | 10:38pm    | 1.85m        | 10 Mar | 4:47pm     |

## Moon Phases for March

| Fes Kwata | Ful Moon | Las Kwata | Niu Moon |
|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| 17 March  | 25 March | 4 March   | 10 March |

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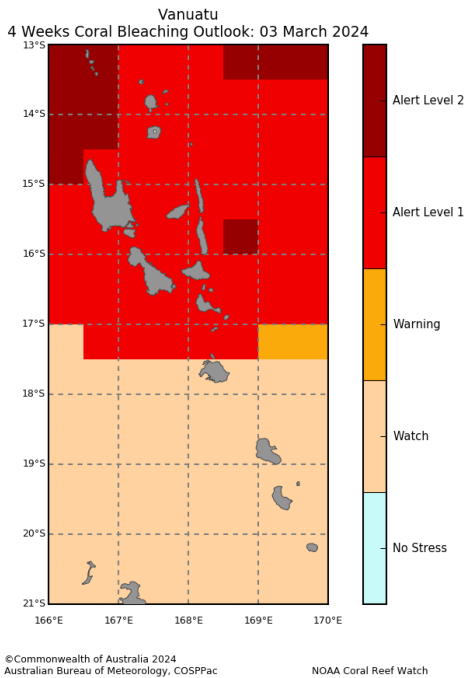
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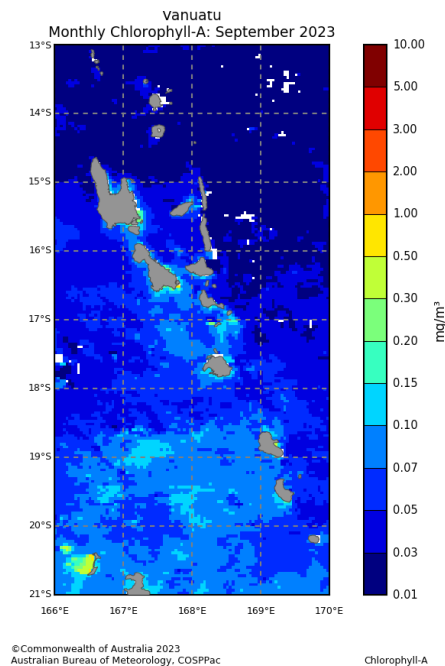
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## Coral Bleaching Outlook

Alert 1 is in place for Torba, Sanma, Penama, Malampa and parts of Shefa provinces. A Watch is in place for more southern islands.

*Alet 1 istap long Torba, Sanma, Penama, Malampa Mo sam pat blong shefa. Warning istap long southern aelans.*



## Chlorophyll A status from Sep 2023

Chlorophyll concentrations from September were low especially in the northern islands. Pockets of higher concentrations were found at the southern coasts of Espiritu Santo and Malakula, reaching 0.30mg/m<sup>3</sup>.

*Level blong Klorofil since Septemba hemi low long noten aelans. Klorofil I hae lelebet (0.30mg/m<sup>3</sup>) long soaten pat blong Santo aelan mo Malekula.*

## Bulletin Highlights for March 2024

|            |         |                  |   |
|------------|---------|------------------|---|
| ENSO:      | El Niño | Max Temp:        | ↑ |
| SST:       | ↑       | Min Temp:        | ↑ |
| Rainfall:  | –       | Coral Bleaching: | ↑ |
| Sea Level: | –       | Chlorophyll:     | ↓ |

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## Climate Smart Recommendations for Fisheries Sector

|  |  | Offshore fisheries  | Lagoon fisheries  |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>EL Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)</b> | El Nino<br>La Nina   |   |   |
| <b>Sea Surface Temperatures</b>            | Further South  | - Higher likelihood of warmer water tuna species skipjack and yellow fin.<br>- Fish on warm side of SST fronts for natural biological hotspots. |   |
| <b>Sea Level</b>                           | > 200 mm<br><br>< - 200 mm   |   |   |
| <b>Rainfall</b>                            | Above normal<br><br>Below normal                                   |   |   |
| <b>Maximum and Minimum Temperature</b>     | Above average<br><br>Below average                                 |   |   |
| <b>Coral Bleaching Level</b>               | Warning<br><br>Alert 1<br><br>Alert 2                              |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce storm water and fertilizer runoff</li> <li>- Avoid using herbicides and pesticides</li> <li>- When anchoring boats, avoid anchoring near places with coral reefs</li> <li>- Encourage offshore fishing to alleviate stressors in the lagoon.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Chlorophyll</b>                         | Above normal   | Likely higher stocks for smaller pelagic fish   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Higher risks of lagoon fish disease, encourage offshore fishing</li> <li>- Limit nutrient runoff &amp; monitor for algal blooms</li> <li>- Target high chlorophyll regions for crown of thorns starfish management activities</li> </ul>                       |
| <b>High and Low Tides</b>                  | High Tide<br><br>Low Tide  |   |   |
| <b>Moon Phases</b>                         | First Quarter<br><br>Full moon<br><br>Last Quarter<br><br>New Moon |   |   |

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