

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 103

Country Name: Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	March 2016						
	January 2016 Total	February 2016 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
MAJURO	28.2	80.5	33.8	147.6	257.9	192.4	6/62
KWAJALEIN	51.3	11.7	26.7	49.2	119.0	86.8	8/72

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall January to March 2016

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #99]

Station	Three-month Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking	Forecast probs.* (include LEPS)	Verification* (Consistent, Near-consistent, Inconsistent?)
MAJURO	142.5	489.5	687.5	582.6	3/62	90%/8%/2% (20.4%)	CONSISTENT
KWAJALEIN	89.7	205.3	381.1	242.9	7/72	92%/7%/1% (26.7%)	CONSISTENT

Period: *below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for January to March 2016 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #99):

2 MONTH NINO3.4SST OCT-NOV 2015

* Forecast is consistent when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) categories coincide (are in the same tercile).

Forecast is near-consistent when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) differ by only one category (i.e. terciles 1 and 2 or terciles 2 and 3).

Forecast is inconsistent when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) differ by two categories (i.e. terciles 1 and 3).

**TABLE 3: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using SCOPIC for
May to July 2016**

Predictors and Period used: 2 MONTH NINO3.4SST FEB-MARCH

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
MAJURO	61%	845.9	39%		-1.2%	54.1%
KWAJALEIN	53%	705.6	47%		-1.4%	45.5%

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
MAJURO	28%	786.6	58%	949.9	14%	-0.7%	42.6%
KWAJALEIN	59%	586.1	15%	800.1	26%	0.2%	39.4%

**TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for
May to July 2016**

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
MAJURO	30%	777.0	30%	848.0	40%		
KWAJALEIN	18%	537.0	18%	698.0	64%		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for March 2016:

Below normal was recorded at both Majuro and Kwajalein for March 2016.

Accumulated rainfall for January to March 2016, including outlook verification:

Rainfall over the last three months was also recorded below normal at both stations. The SCOPIC outlooks for the last three months were consistent for the 2 stations.

Drought & Impacts:

- Ongoing severe to extreme droughts at all stations in the RMI including the 2 main stations, Majuro and Kwajalein.
- The 2 main stations are experiencing water shortages due to the large population on each islands.
- Many outer islands in the RMI also reported very low waters to supply their needs and are seeking supports from the government officials.

Government Response:

The RMI Government disaster officials over the past month have been deploying reverse osmosis water-makers to remote Marshall Islands communities that have not seen rain in months.

Outlooks for May to July 2016:

1. SCOPIC:

Seasonal rainfall outlook for May to July shows below normal rainfall the most likely outcome for Kwajalein and normal rainfall favours at Majuro. The next most likely outcome is normal rainfall at Kwajalein and below normal at Majuro.

2. POAMA:

The seasonal rainfall outlook for May to July at both stations favours above normal rainfall. The next most likely category is mixed with similar chances for below-normal and normal totals.

NB: The X LEPS % score has been categorised as follows:

Very Low: $X < 0.0$

Low: $0 \leq X < 5$

Moderate $5 \leq X < 10$

Good: $10 \leq X < 15$

High: $15 \leq X < 25$

Very High: $25 \leq X < 35$

Exceptional: $X \geq 35$