Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 117

Country Name: Samoa

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			May 2017				
	March 2017 Total	April 2017 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Afiamalu	219.5	478.5	1007.9	227.6	364.0	298.0	62/64
Nafanua	135.1	440.5	951.5	183.5	262.0	199.4	46/46
Apia	91.9	318.8	882.2	127.6	203.0	164.1	128/128
Faleolo	213.3	311.5	420.4	101.7	176.7	138.6	56/56

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
March to May 2017

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #113]

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?
Afiamalu	1705.9	1009.9	1298.6	1161.2	59/63	**36**/34/30 (-1.3)	Inconsistent
Nafanua	1527.1	801.9	1001.1	872.1	45/45	32/**39**/29 (-2.3)	Near-consistent
Apia	1292.9	664.6	836.8	763.9	125/128	30/**39**/31 (-0.5)	Near-consistent
Faleolo	945.2	487.7	621.3	541.6	54/55	**36**/31/33 (-1.7)	Inconsistent

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for March 2017 to May 2017 Outlooks: **Nino 3.4 values from December 2016 to January 2017**

*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 July to September 2017

Predictors and Period used: Nino 3.4 indices from April to May 2017

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	59	589.8	41		0.8%	51.9%
Nafanua	58	392.4	42		-1.9%	46.3%
Apia	55	343.6	45		-0.8%	47.8%
Faleolo	60	275.8	40		0.6%	51.9%

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	**37**	475.9	36	671.0	27	-0.8%	26.9%
Nafanua	35	313.4	**36**	497.6	29	-2.4%	22.0%
Apia	**37**	251.0	33	423.0	30	-1.3%	29.9%
Faleolo	**49**	207.6	29	358.2	22	1.3%	34.6%

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for July to September 2017

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Apia	24	267	18	430	**58**		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for May 2017: "Above normal" rainfall recorded across all stations. Record high May totals were registered at Nafanua, Apia and Faleolo.

Accumulated rainfall for March to May 2017, including outlook verification:

All stations observed 'above normal" rainfalls. Nafanua's 1527 mm was a record high for this three-month period.

The outlooks were inconsistent for Afiamalu and Faleolo stations, but were "near consistent" at Nafanua and Apia.

Outlooks for July to September 2017:

1. **SCOPIC:**
    - At Faleolo station the most likely outcome is "below normal", with "normal" the next most likely.
    - At Afiamalu, Nafanua and Apia the outlook offers little guidance for the coming season as the chances of "above normal", "normal" and "below normal" rainfall are similar.

    The confidence of the model is "very low".

2. **POAMA:**

    Above normal rainfall is favoured for the next three months in Apia

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

Very Low: X < 0.0	Low: 0 ≤ X < 5	Moderate 5 ≤ X < 10	Good: 10 ≤ X < 15	High: 15≤ X < 25
Very High: 25 ≤X < 35	Exceptional: X ≥ 35			