

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 85

Country Name: SAMOA

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	September 2014						
	July 2014 Total	August 2014 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Afiamalu	261.8	188.2	107.6	115.1	217.1	151.4	20/59
Nafanua	141.1	62.7	69.8	90.3	178.9	135.9	11/44
Apia	122.2	48.5	54.5	84.5	171.9	123.9	17/92
Faleolo	74.3	100.3	50.4	64.1	119.1	94.3	11/44

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall July to September 2014

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #81]

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	557.6	417.7	666.8	585.2	26/56	36/34/30 (-1.4)	Near Consistent
Nafanua	273.6	259.2	495.9	403.7	16/44	35/31/34 (-3.1)	Consistent
Apia	225.2	252.7	435.7	371.5	24/91	35/29/36 (-3.6)	Inconsistent
Faleolo	225.0	175.5	367.4	260.6	17/42	37/29/34 (-0.8)	Near Consistent

Period: *below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for July to September 2014 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #79):
Nino 3.4 value from March to May 2014

* 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 November 2014 to January 2015

Predictors and Period used: NINO 3.4 Values from July to September 2014

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	60	1627.9	40		23.8%	75.0%
Nafanua	61	1235.3	39		26.0%	70.4%
Apia	55	1011.6	45		8.2%	59.4%
Faleolo	55	785.1	45		0.7%	63.0%

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	39	1425.9	38	1900.4	23	9.6%	40.6%
Nafanua	35	970.8	39	1410.9	26	22.4%	55.6%
Apia	36	882.8	33	1191.7	31	5.5%	50.0%
Faleolo	36	687.7	30	919.3	34	-3.8%	29.6%

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for November 2014 to January 2015

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Apia	36	713	12	865	51		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for September 2014:

-All stations recorded '**below normal**' rainfall.

Accumulated rainfall for July to September 2014, including outlook verification:

-Afiamalu and Faleolo stations recorded '**normal**' rainfall whereas '**below normal**' rainfall recorded for Apia and Nafanua.

-The Afiamalu and Faleolo three-month rainfall was '**near consistent**' with the July to September outlook. Nafanua was '**consistent**' and Apia recorded '**inconsistent**'.

Outlooks for November 2014 to January 2015:

1. SCOPIC:

- The outlook for Apia and Faleolo stations offer little guidance for the coming season as the chances of '**above-normal**', '**normal**' and '**below-normal**' rainfall are similar.
- '**Normal**' rainfall is forecast for Nafanua stations with '**below normal**' the next most likely.
- At Afiamalu there is a near equal likelihood of below normal or normal rainfall
- The confidence of the model outlook is '**moderate**' at Afiamalu and Apia, '**high**' at Nafanua and '**very low**' at Faleolo station.

2. POAMA:

- '**Above normal**' is favoured for Apia for November 2014 to January 2015 period.

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: $X \geq 35$