

## Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 89

**Country Name:** Republic of the Marshall Islands

### TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

| Station (include data period) | January 2015        |                     |       |                       |                       |                      |         |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------|
|                               | November 2014 Total | December 2014 Total | Total | 33%tile Rainfall (mm) | 67%tile Rainfall (mm) | Median Rainfall (mm) | Ranking |
| Majuro                        | 274.3               | 195.1               | 209.3 | 149.9                 | 233.1                 | 206.2                | 35/60   |
| Kwajalein                     | 224.8               | 115.3               | 59.2  | 58.3                  | 115.2                 | 83.7                 | 25/70   |
|                               |                     |                     |       |                       |                       |                      |         |
|                               |                     |                     |       |                       |                       |                      |         |

### TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall November 2014 to January 2015

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #85]

| 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    | 678.7             | 733.9                 | 917.5                 | 837.0                | 11/61   | 37/34/29 (3.8%)                 | Consistent   |
| Kwajalein | 399.3             | 529.3                 | 649.3                 | 596.4                | 35/70   | 38/33/29 (4.7%)                 | Consistent   |
|           |                   |                       |                       |                      |         |                                 |  |
|           |                   |                       |                       |                      |         |                                 |  |

Period: \*below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for November 2014 to January 2015 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #85): Nino 3.4 SST Anomalies (August to September 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  
March to May 2015**

**Predictors and Period used:** Nino3.4 SST Anomalies Dec-Jan (2months)

| Station   | Below Median (prob) | Median Rainfall (mm) | Above Median (prob) |  | LEPS | Hit-rate |
|-----------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|------|----------|
| Majuro    | 55%                 | 748.1                | 45%                 |  | 0.5% | 53.3%    |
| Kwajalein | 58%                 | 493.3                | 42%                 |  | 3.5% | 57.8%    |

| Station   | Below Normal (prob) | 33%ile rainfall (mm) | Normal (prob) | 66%ile rainfall (mm) | Above Normal (prob) | LEPS  | Hit-rate |
|-----------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------|----------|
| Majuro    | 38%                 | 620.9                | 34%           | 878.7                | 28%                 | -0.7% | 25%      |
| Kwajalein | 43%                 | 257.1                | 28%           | 421.4                | 29%                 | 3.8%  | 25%      |

**TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for  
March to May 2015**

| Station   | Lower Tercile (prob) | 33%ile rainfall (mm) | Middle Tercile (prob) | 66%ile rainfall (mm) | Upper Tercile (prob) |  |  |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Majuro    | 21%                  | 236                  | 21%                   | 427                  | 58%                  |  |  |
| Kwajalein | 5%                   | 552                  | 10%                   | 748                  | 85%                  |  |  |

### **Summary Statements**

#### **Rainfall for January 2015:**

Normal rainfall was received at both Majuro and Kwajalein.

#### **Accumulated rainfall for November 2014 to January 2015, including outlook verification:**

Rainfall for the last three (3) months was below normal at Majuro and Kwajalein. The November to January SCOPIC outlook was consistent with observed rainfall at both locations.

#### **Outlooks for March to May 2015:**

##### **1. SCOPIC:**

For Majuro, there are near equal chances of below normal, normal and above normal rainfall. Below normal rainfall is most likely for Kwajalein.

##### **2. POAMA:**

The most likely outcome is above normal rainfall at both stations. For Majuro, normal is the next most likely.

**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:  $X \geq 35$