Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 91

Country Name: Samoa

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)			March 2015				
	January 2015 Total	February 2015 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Afiamalu	626.4	534.7	552.6	392.9	593	501.5	39/63
Nafanua	437.4	382.6	320.0	312.3	410.2	358.4	16/43
Apia	370.2	348.6	314.4	273.3	377	309.2	65/126
Faleolo	188.3	238.1	256.0	180.5	243.7	213.6	38/54

TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
January 2015 to March 2015
[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #87]

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	1713.7	1562.7	1981.8	1775.1	28/61	38/38/24 (4.5)	**Near Consistent**
Nafanua	1140.0	1097.2	1609.2	1303.7	17/41	**45**/34/22 (16.9)	**Near consistent**
Apia	1033.2	917.0	1171.4	1056.8	45/126	**44**/31/25 (13.3)	**Near consistent**
Faleolo	682.4	758.3	897.3	856.3	18/54	**38**/26/36 (-3.3)	**Consistent**

Period:*below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for January to March 2015 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #87):
Nino 3.4 value from September to November 2014.

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*Forecast is <u>consistent</u> when observed and predicted (tercile with the highest probability) categories coincide (are in the same tercile).
Forecast is <u>near-consistent</u> 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 <u>inconsistent</u> 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 2015

Predictors and Period used: Nino 3.4 values from January to March 2015

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	59	738.3	41		4.9%	57.6%
Nafanua	54	523.6	46		-2.5%	44.4%
Apia	57	410.2	43		3.6%	54.55
Faleolo	66	330.4	34		13.4%	67.9%

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	46	621.0	30	839.0	24	13.1%	39.4%
Nafanua	39	452.1	30	586.6	31	-1.6%	14.8%
Apia	37	331.7	33	480.8	30	-2.4%	30.3%
Faleolo	44	274.6	35	390.9	21	8.9%	50.0%

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for

May to July 2015

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Apia	27	388	55	530	18		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for March 2015:

All stations recorded **'normal'** rainfall, except Faleolo which received 'above normal' rainfall.

Accumulated rainfall for January to March 2015, including outlook verification:

All stations received **'normal'** accumulated rainfall except Faleolo station which received 'below normal' rainfall.

Faleolo station was **'consistent'** with the outlook whereas Nafanua, Afiamalu and Apia were **'near consistent'**.

Outlooks for May to July 2015:

1. SCOPIC:

-**'Below normal'** rainfall is the most likely outcome for Afiamalu and Faleolo stations, with **'normal'** the next most likely.

- The outlook for Nafanua and Apia station give little guidance for the coming season as the chances of **'above normal'**, **'normal'** and **'below normal'** rainfall are similar.

- The confidence of the model ranges from **'good'** to **'very low'**.

2. POAMA:

- **'Normal'** rainfall is favoured for Apia in the coming season.

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