

Pacific Islands - Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) No. 93

Country Name: Samoa

TABLE 1: Monthly Rainfall

Station (include data period)	May 2015						
	March 2015 Total	April 2015 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Afiamalu	552.6	314.0	364.6	217.9	345.5	282.7	43/62
Nafanua	320.0	119.3	296.4	176.4	260.3	197.8	34/44
Apia	314.4	165.9	251.4	126.6	196.2	164.0	100/126
Faleolo	256.0	134.1	143.0	101.3	176.7	128.0	30/54

**TABLE 2: Three-monthly Rainfall
March to May 2015**

[Please note that the data used in this verification should be sourced from table 3 of OCOF #89]

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	1231.2	963.0	1288.7	1151.0	36/61	39/26/35 (-1.2)	Near consistent
Nafanua	735.7	769.0	1001.4	900.5	11/43	38/23/39 (-4.0)	Inconsistent
Apia	731.7	624.0	791.9	702.1	60/126	38/29/33 (-2.2)	Near consistent
Faleolo	533.1	461.9	613.8	518.8	49/53	26/39/35 (-0.1)	Consistent

Period: *below normal/normal/above normal

Predictors and Period used for March to May 2015 Outlooks (refer to OCOF #89):

Nino 3.4 values from November 2014 to January 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 July to September 2015

Predictors and Period used: Nino 3.4 value from March to May 2015

Station	Below Median (prob)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Above Median (prob)		LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	56	592.9	44		-2.7%	43.8%
Nafanua	56	406.5	44		-3.1%	33.3%
Apia	41	347	59		-1.6%	54.5%
Faleolo	62	284.8	39		-1.0%	48.1%

Station	Below Normal (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Normal (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Above Normal (prob)	LEPS	Hit-rate
Afiamalu	29	490.1	44	675.5	27	-3.3%	34.4%
Nafanua	35	324.2	33	511.6	32	-3.9%	3.7%
Apia	38	251.5	24	423.6	38	-4.0%	15.2%
Faleolo	41	218.9	33	360.5	26	-3.6%	7.4%

TABLE 4: Seasonal Climate Outlooks using POAMA2 for July to September 2015

Station	Lower Tercile (prob)	33%ile rainfall (mm)	Middle Tercile (prob)	66%ile rainfall (mm)	Upper Tercile (prob)		
Apia	5	267	89	430	6		

Summary Statements

Rainfall for May 2015: “Above normal” rainfall was recorded for all stations except Faleolo received “normal rainfall”.

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

All stations received “normal” accumulated rainfall except Nafanua recorded “below normal” rainfall.

The outlook verification was “near consistent” for Afiamalu and Apia from March to May. Faleolo was “consistent” and Nafanua recorded “inconsistent”.

Outlooks for July to September 2015:

1. SCOPIC:

- For Afiamalu station, most likely outcome is “normal” with “below normal” the next most likely.
- The outlook for Nafanua, offers little guidance for the coming season as the chances of “below normal”, “normal” and “above normal” rainfall are similar.
- For Apia station, mixed guidance with similar chances for “below normal” and “above normal” totals.
- Outlook for Faleolo shows the most likely outcome is “below normal” with “normal” the next most likely.
- The confidence of the model is “very low” for all stations.

2. POAMA:

- “Normal” rainfall is favoured for the coming season for Apia station.

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: $X \geq 35$