



Kiribati Meteorological Service

Contacts

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- Ocean Summary
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- Coral Bleaching

Important notes:

Coral Bleaching Effect:

Alert: No thermal stress

Watch: Low-thermal stress

Warning: Coral Bleaching possible

Alert 1: Coral Bleaching likely

Major Contributors:

1. Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific

Kiribati Ocean Outlook

December 2018 - February 2019

Kiribati Meteorological Service Division

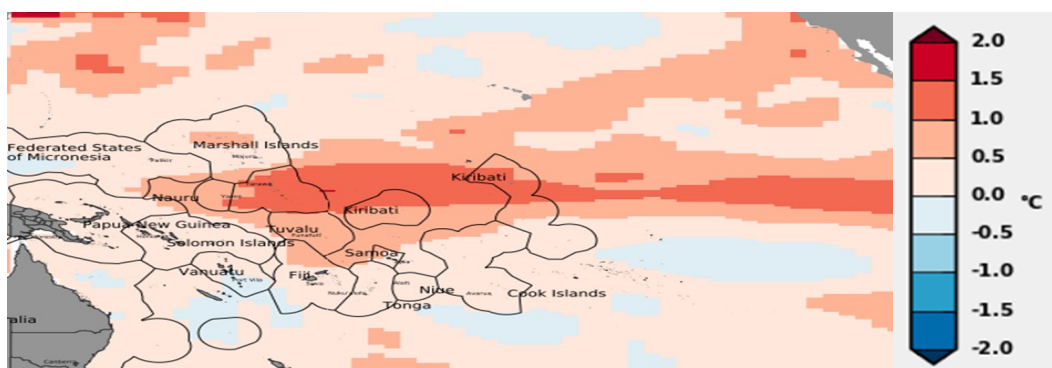
Issue: 39

Summary

December 2018

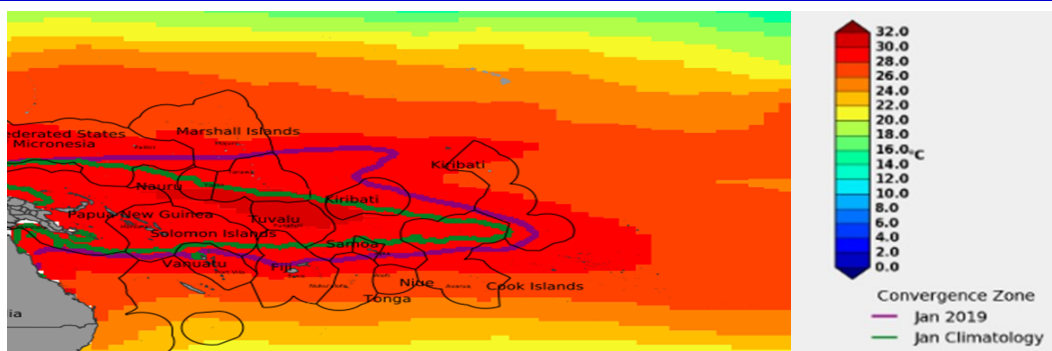
- Kiribati waters will continue to warm by 1.5°C to 2°C.
- The convergence zone remains over the Gilbert and Phoenix Groups.
- Coral bleaching is on alert level 2 for Western and Central Kiribati while the Line Islands is on watch.
- Sea level will increase up to 150mm.

Sea Surface temperature Forecast anomaly



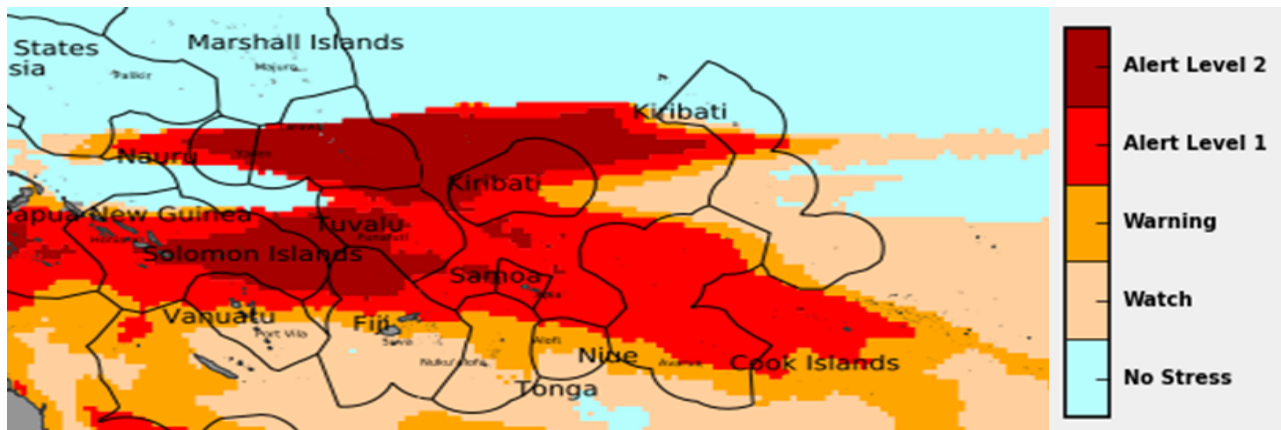
The forecast for the coming three months (Dec-Feb) will be warmer by 1.5°C in the Gilbert Islands, Northern Line and Phoenix. Hence, in February it is expected to increase to 2.00°C only for the Northern Gilbert Islands. Warm waters is related to more rainfall and cooler waters is related to less rainfall.

Sea Surface temperature forecast with convergence zone



The convergence zone position is located over the Phoenix and Gilbert groups for the next three months (Dec-Jan) and is expected to move further east in February. The convergence zone is an area that is likely rich in nutrients and favorable for migratory fish. So, this is a good time for fishing vessels to fish in the Kiribati waters.

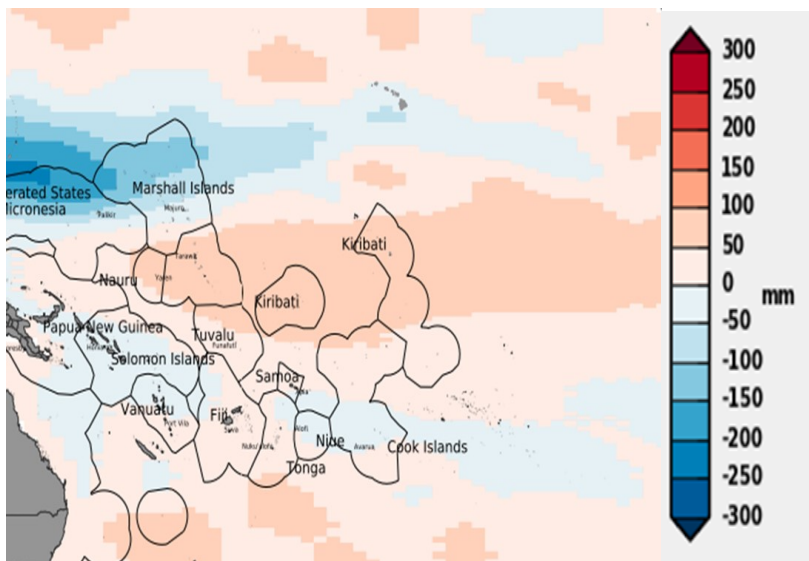
Coral Bleaching



The forecast for Coral bleaching for the next coming months (Dec-Feb) shows an indication on Alert level 2 for the Gilbert groups and Northern Phoenix Islands while most part of the Line Islands is on watch. At this stage, coral mortality is likely to exist.

Caution: The public are advised to take extra cautions when fishing/diving in lagoon due to coral mortality. For the tourism information, during the bleach event, the coral becomes fragile and weak so take extra care when conducting snorkeling or diving events.

Seasonal Sea Level Forecast and Extreme Tide Calendar



MONTH	DATE	TIME	HEIGHT (m)	MOON PHASE
Dec	22 nd	1616	2.81	Full moon
	23 rd	1659	2.81	moon
	24 th	1743	2.81	
Jan	22 nd	1737	2.93	Full moon
	23 rd	1819	2.88	moon
Feb	19 th	1644	2.93	Full moon
	20 th	1724	2.96	moon
	21 st	1803	2.91	

The seasonal sea level forecast for the next three months is expected to increase up to 150mm (0.15m) for the Gilbert group. The Phoenix and Line group will increase by 100mm (0.01m).

This forecast is based on the ocean atmosphere model (POAMA) produced by Bureau of Meteorology, Australia.

For preparedness, it is predicted that there will be an astronomical spring tide for the three months ahead December to February (refer to tide table above). Therefore, coastal communities should be cautious due to the increase of sea level, coupled with the astronomical tide might cause flooding in low lying areas.