



Tonga Ocean Outlook

June 2024

Issue: 5

Issued 17th May 2024

TONGA METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

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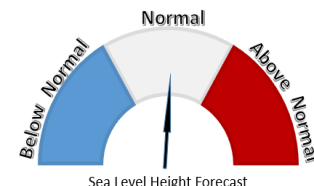
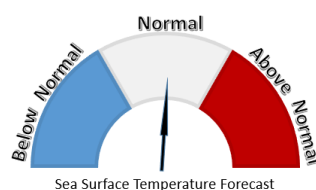
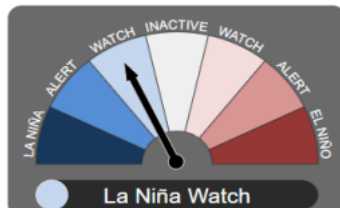
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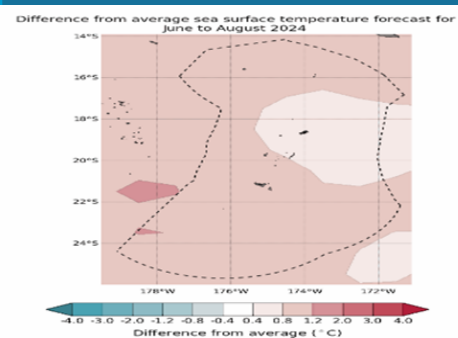
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- There are some early signs that a La Niña might form in the Pacific Ocean later in 2024.
- Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) forecast for Tonga is around 0.4 to 0.8°C above average.
- Sea level is forecast for below average over the Niuaus and above average in the south during the forecast period.
- The fisheries convergence zone is predicted to be north of the Niuaus waters in the next few months.



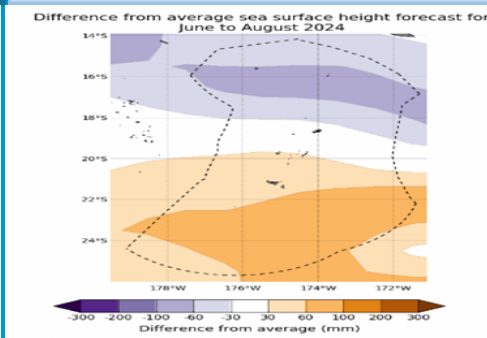
Sea Surface Temperature Forecast



Base period: 1981-2018
Model run: 06/05/2024
Model: ACCESS-S2
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Sea surface temperature forecast for June to August 2024 shows 0.4 to 0.8°C above average for Tonga. Presence of warmer or cooler waters than usual is useful because it indicates whether El Niño or La Niña like pattern is likely during the forecast period.

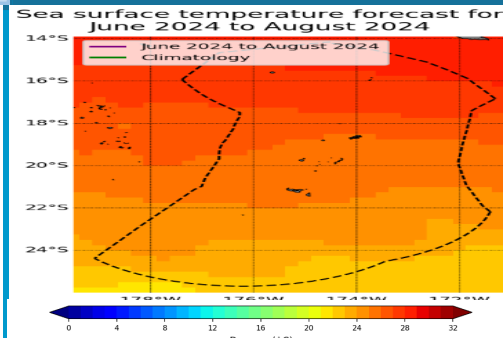
Sea-level Forecast



Base period: 1981-2018
Model run: 06/05/2024
Model: ACCESS-S2
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Sea level forecast shows 30-100mm below average sea level height over the Niua waters and average across Vav'a'u. Sea level forecast for Ha'apai, Tongatapu and 'Eua waters shows 30-100mm above average. Stakeholders can use this forecast to make decisions about the protection of communities and infrastructure against coastal inundation.

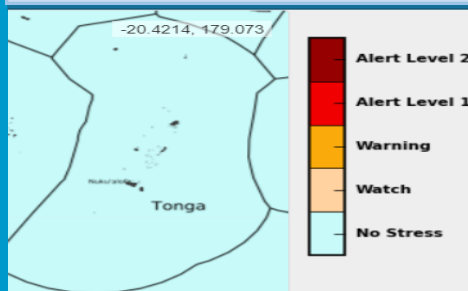
Nutrient Zone Forecast



Base period: 1981-2018
Model run: 06/05/2024
Model: ACCESS-S2
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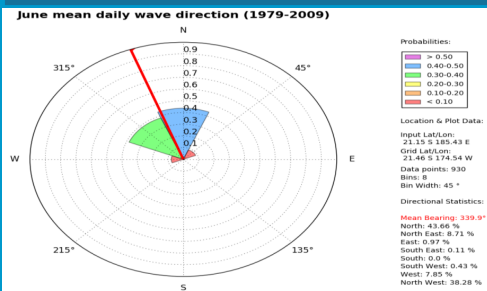
The boundary between warm and cold ocean water is rich in nutrients and attracts Tuna. This convergence zone is normally located to the far north of Niuafo'ou waters but in June, it is displaced a bit south. This information can be used by stakeholders to know where tuna can be found during this time period.

Coral Bleaching



Coral bleaching is at the No Stress level across Tonga waters. Bleaching is a common stress response of corals, caused by warmer sea temperatures. During periods of unusually high sea temperatures, corals can bleach and may eventually die if the heat stress is intense and sustained over several weeks. This information is very useful for tourists and related stakeholders.

Monthly Wave direction



Nuku'alofa wave climate for June shows majority of the waves to come from the southeast going toward the north-west direction. This has been the average direction for the past 30 years. The average wave height for this location in June is 2.6 m with the possibility of waves reaching as high

The highest & Lowest tides predicted for 2024

10 highest tides for 2024			10 lowest tides for 2024		
Date	Time	Height (m)	Date	Time	Height (m)
11-Feb	20:41	1.88	20-Oct	3:14	0.24
13-Mar	9:45	1.88	19-Oct	2:20	0.25
12-Mar	8:54	1.88	18-Nov	2:55	0.26
12-Feb	21:34	1.87	21-Oct	4:07	0.26
10-Apr	8:28	1.87	21-Aug	14:34	0.26
11-Mar	20:22	1.87	17-Nov	2:03	0.26
10-Feb	19:47	1.86	21-Sep	3:32	0.27
10-Mar	19:29	1.85	22-Aug	15:22	0.27
18-Oct	19:59	1.85	22-Sep	4:27	0.28
09-Apr	7:37	1.85	19-Nov	3:47	0.28

Tidal predictions show the highest tides of the year for Nuku'alofa. The next highest and lowest tide coming up on the 10th April with a height of 1.87m. and 0.32m. This information is very useful to everyone who wants to know these events especially to those stakeholders and people who are interested in tide predictions for guidance. Process of watering and soaking of the beach hibiscus fibre (fa'u) for making waist mats.

Spring tide (full moon)



Neap tide (first-quarter moon)



Spring tide (new moon)



Neap tide (third-quarter moon)



Spring and Neap Tides

Spring and neap tides occur every month and correspond with the phase of the moon. They usually occur twice per month. **Spring tides** are very high tides that occur during full and new moon phases, when the gravitational forces of the sun and moon combine to exert a stronger pull on the oceans. **Neap tides** are lower high tides and higher low tides that occur during the moon's quarter phases, when the gravitational forces between the sun and moon are not aligned.

Moon Phases for May to July 2024

16 May (first quarter)	24 May (full moon)
31 May (last quarter)	7 June (new moon)
14 June (first quarter)	22 June (full moon)
29 June (last quarter)	6 July (new moon)
14 July (first quarter)	21 July (full moon)
28 July (last quarter)	