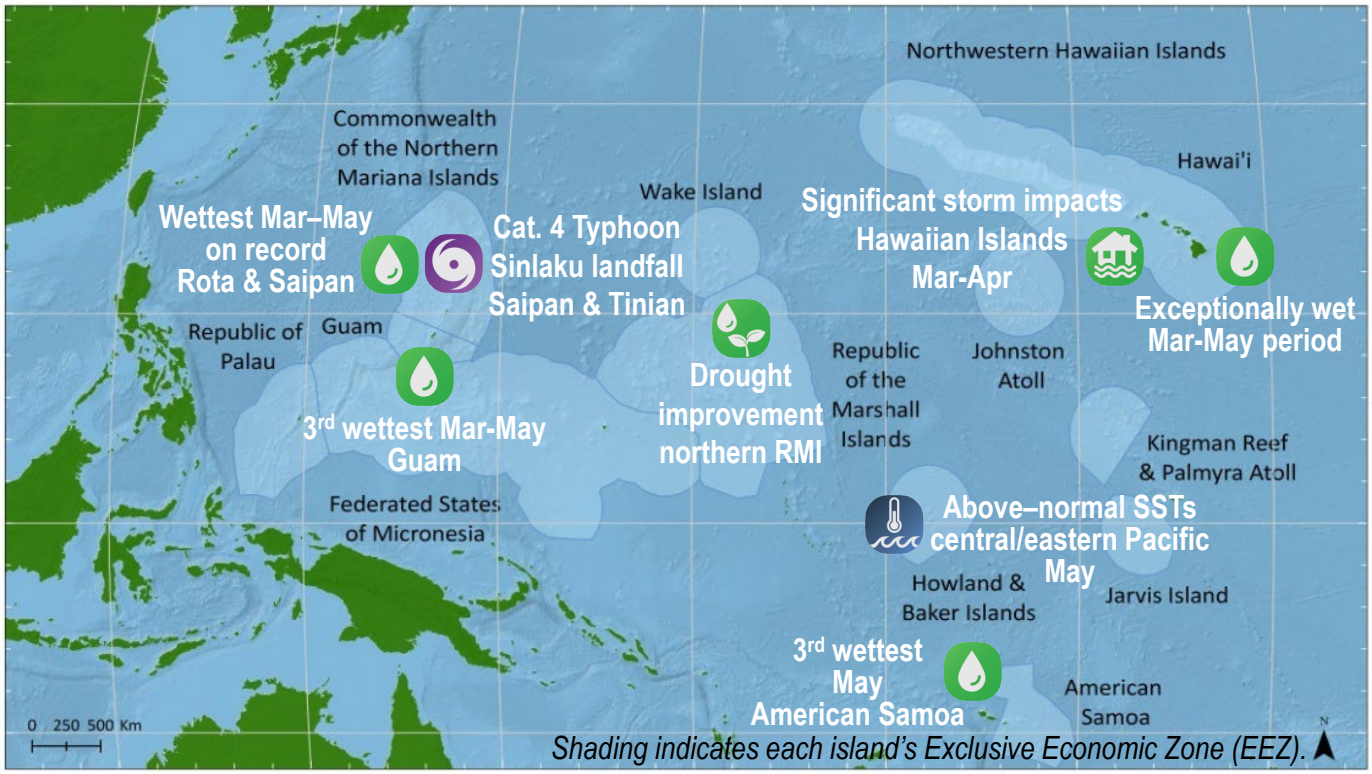
Significant Events – *For March 2026–May 2026*

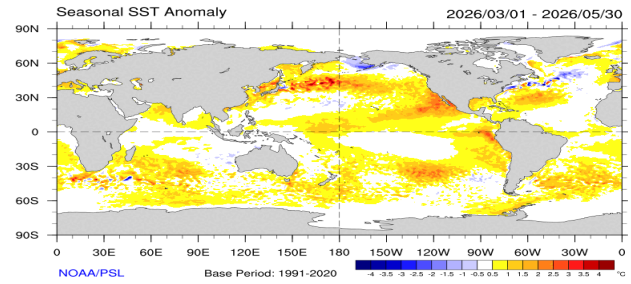


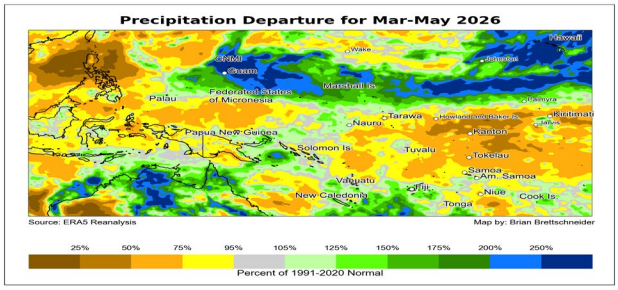
Highlights for Hawaii and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands

- During March–May 2026 (MAM), El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral conditions were present, with the Relative Oceanic Niño Index (RONI) at -0.1ºC for MAM, before transitioning to El Niño conditions over the past month as above-normal sea surface temperatures (SSTs) developed across the central to eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. Currently, an El Niño Advisory is in effect, with the latest weekly Niño 3.4 index value at +0.7ºC and a 63% chance of a very strong El Niño developing during November 2026–January 2027, according to the latest NOAA ENSO Diagnostic Discussion update issued by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) on June 11, 2026.
- For the MAM period, above-normal precipitation was observed across much of the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI), including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and American Samoa. Most USAPI locations remained drought-free during MAM.
- In March, back-to-back kona lows brought an extended period of heavy rainfall across the Hawaiian Islands from March 10–24, with accumulations up to 50+ inches, leading to severe flooding, landslides, road closures, damaging winds, power outages, damage to homes, infrastructure and crops, evacuations, and swift-water/emergency rescues.
- In CNMI, Typhoon Sinlaku made landfall on Saipan and Tinian on April 14 as a Category 4 typhoon, with sustained winds of ~145–150 mph, and estimated gusts approaching 175 mph. The storm lingered over the islands for several hours late April 14 into the pre-dawn hours of April 15, causing catastrophic wind damage, flooding, utility outages, widespread damage to homes and infrastructure, and more than 1,000 residents sheltered across Guam and the Northern Marianas.

Lead Author: David Simeral (david.simeral@dri.edu)
Additional contact: Brandon Bukunt (brandon.bukunt@noaa.gov)

Climate Overview – *For March 2026–May 2026*





Sea surface temperature anomalies for Mar 1–May 30, 2026 (left), and 3-month precipitation departures from normal for Mar–May 2026 across the central and western tropical Pacific, with warmer colors indicating drier-than-normal conditions and cooler colors indicating wetter-than-normal conditions (right).
Source: NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory (left); ERA5 Reanalysis/B. Brettschneider, National Weather Service (right).

By the end of the MAM period, ENSO-neutral conditions were present, with mostly above-average SSTs observed across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean following a transition from below-normal SSTs earlier in the season. In portions of the western tropical Pacific/USAPI region, SSTs were generally near to below normal, although the west-central equatorial Pacific Niño 4 region was above normal. During the past two months, above-average subsurface temperature anomalies persisted and strengthened across much of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. According to the latest NOAA CPC ENSO Diagnostic Discussion update issued June 11, 2026, the latest weekly Niño region SST departures were +0.7ºC in Niño 4, +0.7ºC in Niño 3.4, +1.0ºC in Niño 3, and +2.1ºC in Niño 1+2.

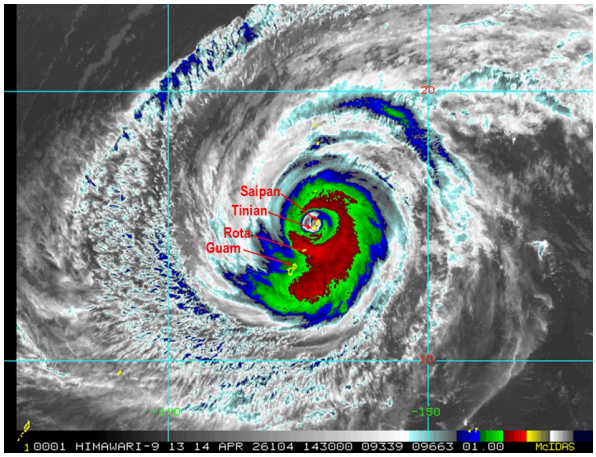
In May 2026, sea-level anomalies remained above normal along the equatorial central and eastern Pacific Ocean, with +5 to +15 cm anomalies extending from ~170ºE eastward to the South American coast, primarily within ~5º of the equator. Across RMI, FSM, Guam, and Palau, sea levels were below normal, generally ranging from -5 to -25 cm, with the strongest negative anomalies observed across FSM and in proximity to Guam. In contrast, near to above-normal sea levels were observed in CNMI (ranging from +5 to +15 cm). In American Samoa, anomalies were above normal, ranging from +5 to +10 cm, while the Hawaiian Islands were near normal to slightly above normal, with anomalies generally ranging from 0 to +10 cm., according to the latest available satellite altimetry observations from the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS) and the University of Hawai'i Sea Level Center (UHSLC).

During MAM, most of the USAPI region observed drought-free conditions, except for moderate-to-extreme drought in RMI at Utirik and Wotje during March–April 2026, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. For MAM precipitation totals, Airai (Palau) recorded 33.19 in. (111% of normal). In FSM, Yap observed 25.64 in. (127% of normal), Kapingamarangi 26.73 in. (75% of normal), Pohnpei 73.23 in. (136% of normal), Lukunor 25.89 in. (112% of normal), Kosrae 60.30 in. (111% of normal), and Chuuk 46.15 in. (139% of normal). In the Mariana Islands, Saipan observed 28.32 in. (395% of normal; wettest MAM on record), and Guam 37.96 in. (350% of normal; 3rd wettest MAM). In the RMI, Majuro observed 33.70 in. (123% of normal), while Kwajalein logged 26.96 in. (165% of normal). In Pago Pago, American Samoa, MAM precipitation was slightly above normal, with 38.59 in. observed (109% of normal), including its 3rd wettest May on record with 21.55 in. In the Hawaiian Islands, exceptionally wet conditions prevailed, particularly during March-April, with record-breaking MAM precipitation observed in Kailua-Kona (8.24 in.; 368% of normal), and Kahului (23.07 in.; 494% of normal). Elsewhere, Lihue observed 27.05 in. (275% of normal; 2nd wettest MAM), Honolulu 17.07 in. (432% of normal; 5th wettest MAM), Molokai 21.82 in. (382% of normal; 2nd wettest MAM; wettest March), and Hilo 38.76 in. (133% of normal; 6th wettest May).

In the South Pacific region east of 135ºE, the tropical cyclone (TC) season ended with below-normal activity, with 5 named storms and a regional Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) Index of 57.7 compared to the 1991–2020 normal of 67.3 as of April 30. In the Northwest Pacific, TC activity was above normal as of June 8, with an ACE Index of 53.0, largely due to Typhoon Sinlaku (Apr 9–20; ACE Index of 40.6), according to the Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project.

Lead Author: David Simeral (david.simeral@dri.edu)
Additional contact: Brandon Bukunt (brandon.bukunt@noaa.gov)

Sectoral Impacts – *For March 2026–May 2026*



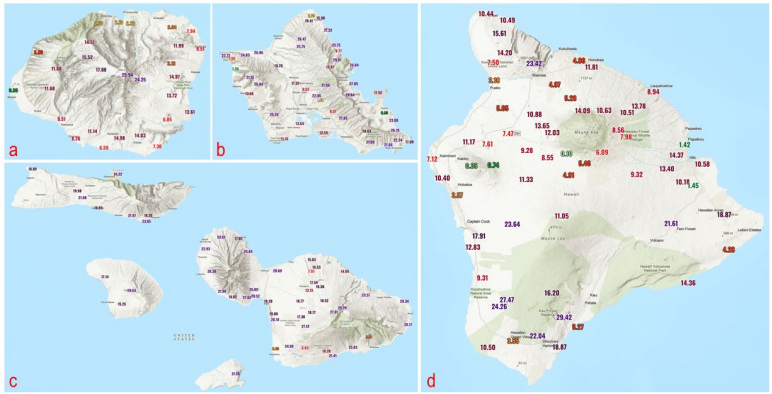
Enhanced infrared image from Himawari-9 satellite of Typhoon Sinlaku (14:30 UTC; Apr 14, 2026) making landfall over the islands of Saipan and Tinian, CNMI. Source: JMA/NOAA/CIRA.

Red Cross volunteers delivering relief supplies in response to Typhoon Sinlaku. Source: American Red Cross.

Satellite image of flooded neighborhoods and farmland in the vicinity of Mokulēʻia and Waialua on the North Shore of Oʻahu, Hawaii (Mar 14, 2026). Source: NASA Earth Observatory.

Facilities and Infrastructure – In the Hawaiian Islands, Governor Green issued seven emergency proclamations related to three severe weather events during March–April 2026, and President Trump approved a major disaster declaration for Hawaiʻi on April 15 for severe storms during March 10–24. The first event (March 10–16), a major kona low/storm system, brought multiple rounds of heavy rain and damaging winds across much of the island chain, with precipitation totals generally ranging from 5–10 inches, locally 15–25+ inches and 30+ inches in the hardest-hit areas, causing flash flooding, landslides, road closures, power outages, and swift-water rescues, especially on Maui and Hawaiʻi Island. The second event (March 19–24) produced severe flooding on Oʻahu's North Shore, especially Waialua and Haleʻiwa, where saturated soils from the earlier kona low worsened impacts, before heavy rain shifted to east Oʻahu, Maui, and Hawaiʻi Island, causing additional flooding, landslides, road closures, and rescues. The third event (April 7–14), associated with surface low pressure, a frontal system, an upper-level trough, and deep tropical moisture, brought intermittent heavy rain and isolated thunderstorms statewide, causing flash flooding, landslides, and road closures, with impacts worsened by saturated soils from the March storms.

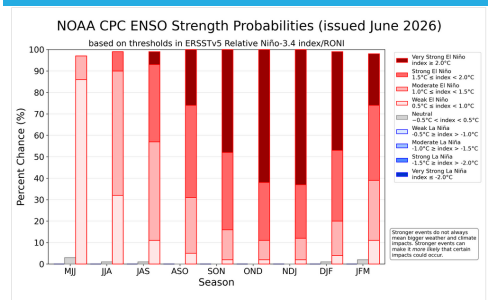
Elsewhere in the Pacific, Typhoon Sinlaku struck the Marianas on April 14–15, with the eyewall crossing Saipan and Tinian as a Category 4 typhoon, causing catastrophic wind damage, flooding, utility outages, and widespread damage to homes and infrastructure. Guam was spared the most destructive eyewall winds but experienced heavy rain, strong winds, hazardous surf, and utility disruptions, while more than 1,000 residents were sheltered across Guam and the Northern Marianas.

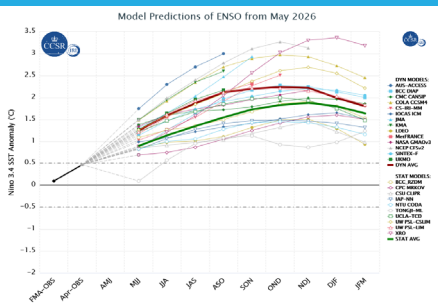


Precipitation totals for a) Kauai, b) Oʻahu, c) Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi, Maui, Kahoʻolawe, and d) Hawaiʻi Island, in association with kona low storm events impacting the Hawaiian Islands from Mar 10-24. Source: NWS Honolulu; Synoptic.

Lead Author: David Simeral (david.simeral@dri.edu)
Additional contact: Brandon Bukunt (brandon.bukunt@noaa.gov)

Seasonal Outlook – *For June–August 2026*

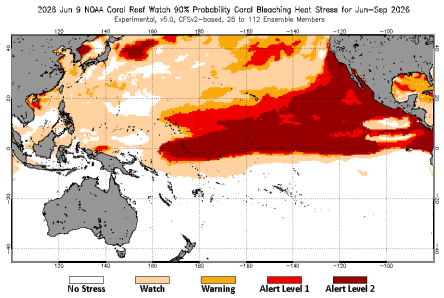


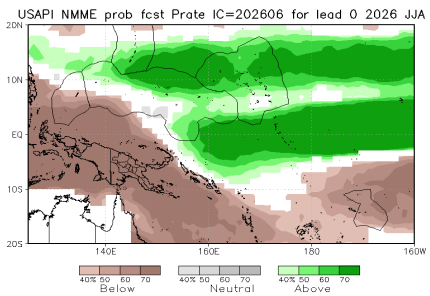


Official NOAA CPC ENSO strength probabilities. Bars show the chance of El Niño (red), ENSO-Neutral (grey), and La Niña (blue) provided for 9 upcoming, overlapping 3-month season. Color shading within bars indicates the chances of each category of El Niño or La, Niña strength (weak, moderate, strong, very strong) (left); and ENSO forecast model predictions (right). Source: NOAA CPC (left); Columbia IRI (right).

According to the latest NOAA CPC ENSO Diagnostic Discussion, an El Niño Advisory is in effect with El Niño conditions present and expected to strengthen over the next several months into the Northern Hemisphere winter 2026-27. Moreover, there is a 63% chance of a very strong El Niño developing during November 2026-January 2027 (above left). In terms of sea- level height anomalies, sea levels are expected to continue decreasing over the next several months across Micronesia in response to the strengthening El Niño.

The NOAA Coral Reef Watch four-month coral bleaching heat stress outlook (Jun-Sep 2026; below left) calls for a high probability (90%) of high heat stress (Alert Level 1-2) expected across most of the west-central, central, and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean in an area extending latitudinally from ~2-5ºS to ~15-20ºN.





NOAA Coral Reef Watch 90% probability coral reef heat stress outlook for June-September 2026 (left); and NOAA North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) USAPI seasonal precipitation forecast for June-August 2026 (right).
Source: NOAA NESDIS (left); NOAA CPC (right).

For the June–August (JJA) 2026 precipitation forecast, above-normal rainfall is favored for southern portions of the Mariana Islands and much of FSM and RMI, while below-normal precipitation is expected for Palau and American Samoa (above right). Additionally, tropical storm risk is elevated for central/eastern Micronesia, the Marianas, and the Hawaiian Islands over the next several months. For the Hawaiian Islands, enhanced probabilities of above-normal rainfall are forecast for all islands from JJA 2026 through the September–October 2026 period, according to the latest NOAA CPC Long-Lead Hawaiian Islands Seasonal Forecast Discussion.

Regional Partners

NOAA Coral Reef Watch:
https://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/

NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information:
https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/

NOAA NMFS Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center:
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/about/pacific-islands-fisheries-science-center

NOAA NWS Weather Forecast Offices Honolulu, Guam, & Pago Pago:
https://www.weather.gov/hfo/
https://www.weather.gov/gum/
https://www.weather.gov/ppg/

NOAA OceanWatch - Central Pacific Node:
https://oceanwatch.pifsc.noaa.gov/index.html

NPS Pacific Island Inventory & Monitoring Network:
https://www.nps.gov/im/pacn/index.htm

University of Guam - Water and Environmental Research Institute:
https://weri.uog.edu/

University of Hawaii - Asia Pacific Data Research Center (APDRC):
https://apdrc.soest.hawaii.edu/

University of Hawaii – Cooperative Institute for Marine & Atmospheric Research:
https://www.soest.hawaii.edu/jimar/index.htm

University of Hawaii - Sea Level Center:
https://uhslc.soest.hawaii.edu/

USGS Science Center - Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center:
https://www.usgs.gov/pacific-coastal-and-marine-science-center

USGS Pacific Islands Water Science Center:
https://www.usgs.gov/centers/pacific-islands-water-science-center

Western Regional Climate Center:
https://wrcc.dri.edu/

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