Ocean Bulletin

Issue no: OB0526

Issued Date: 18/05/2026

Issue Outline:

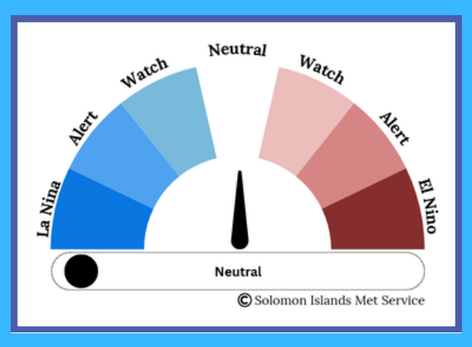
- ✓Sea Surface Temperature
- ✓Coral Bleaching
- ✓Convergence Zone
- ✓Sea Level Prediction

Ocean Summary:

- ✓Higher than usual Sea Surface Temperature (SST) persists.
- ✓Coral bleaching is at Watch Level: corals at risk, bleaching possible.
- ✓Ocean Convergence zone shifts southward within our waters.
- ✓Normal to higher than usual Sea Surface Heights (SSHs) predicted for the country.

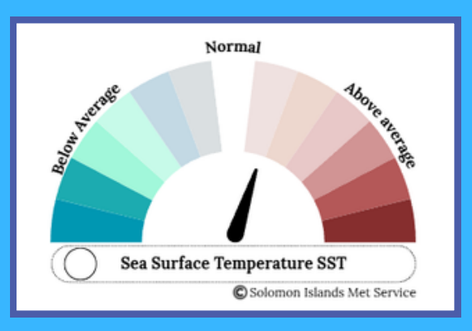
Climate Update

El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)



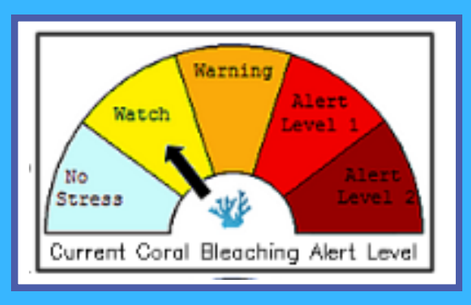
- ✓ENSO Status: Currently Neutral
- ✓ENSO Outlook: El Nino

Sea Surface Temperature (SST)



- ✓-0.4-0.4^{0}c :Near-normal
- ✓0.4-0.8^{0}c : Warmer-than-Usual

Coral Bleaching Alert

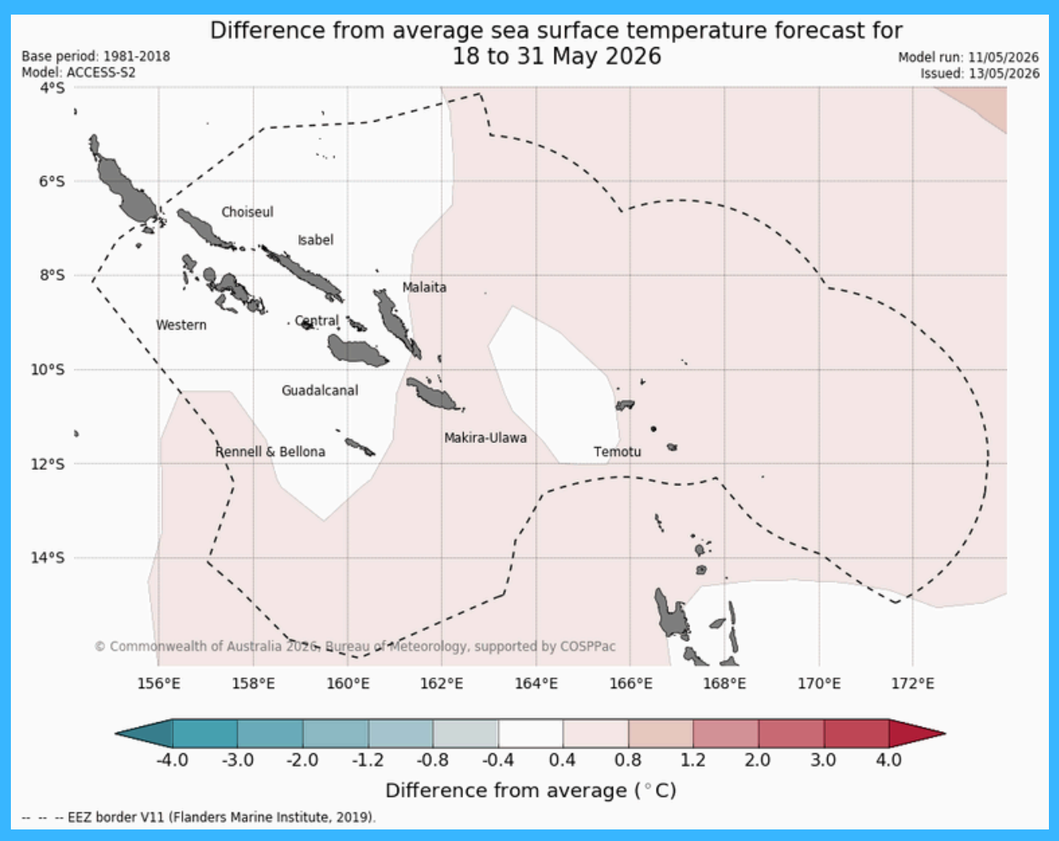


- ✓Bleaching is possible

1 Sea Surface Temperature Outlook (SST):

The fortnight outlook indicates **normal** SSTs, ranging from -0.4°C to 0.4°C across the western and central coastal waters, while **warmer-than-usual** SSTs of 0.4°C to 0.8°C are expected over the far south, eastern, and northern waters within the Solomon Islands EEZ.

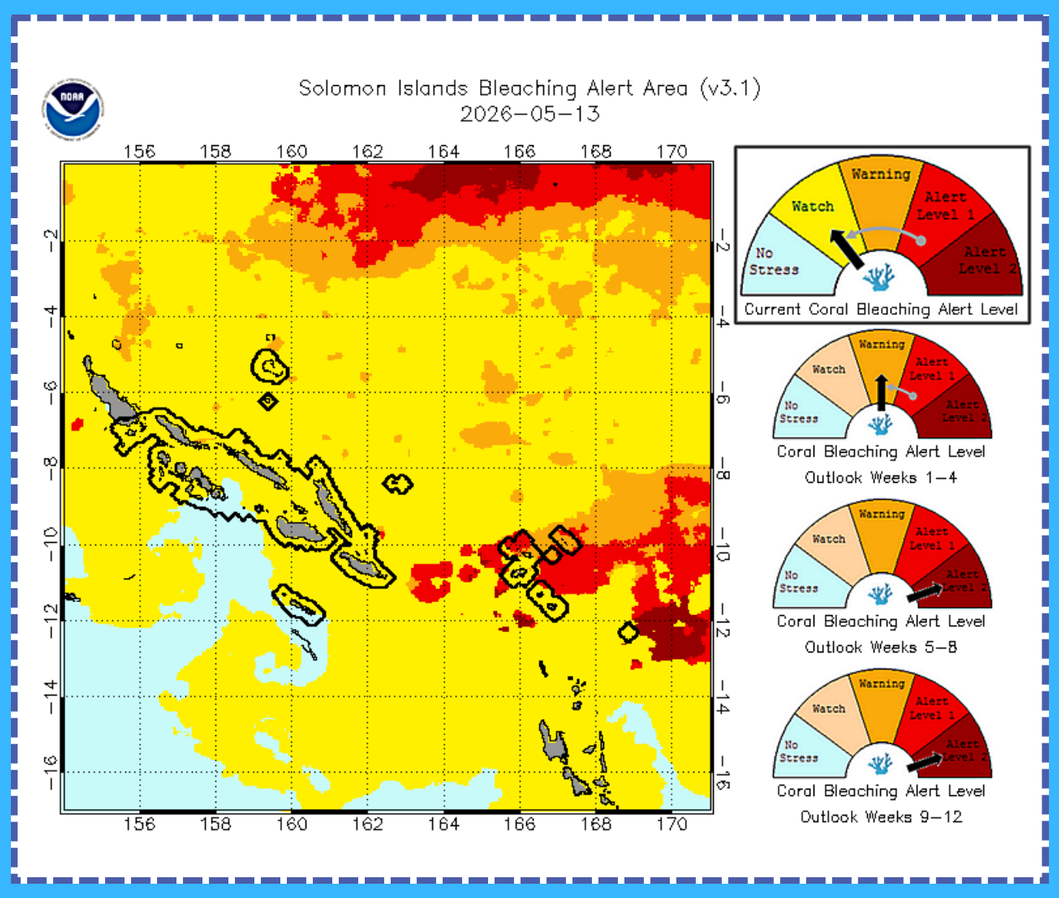
Regions with **warmer-than-usual** ocean SSTs are considered nutrient-rich waters that favor tuna breeding and feeding grounds and are regarded as highly productive potential fishing hotspots.



2 Coral Bleaching Outlook:

Coral bleaching **"Watch Level"** is currently in effect across the country, with parts of Temotu under "**Alert Level 1**" conditions over the eastern waters.

The Outlook further indicates "**Warning Level**" for the next 1-4 weeks, whilst "**Alert level 1**" is favoured during the next 5-12 weeks, highlighting the potential for significant coral bleaching during the coming season.

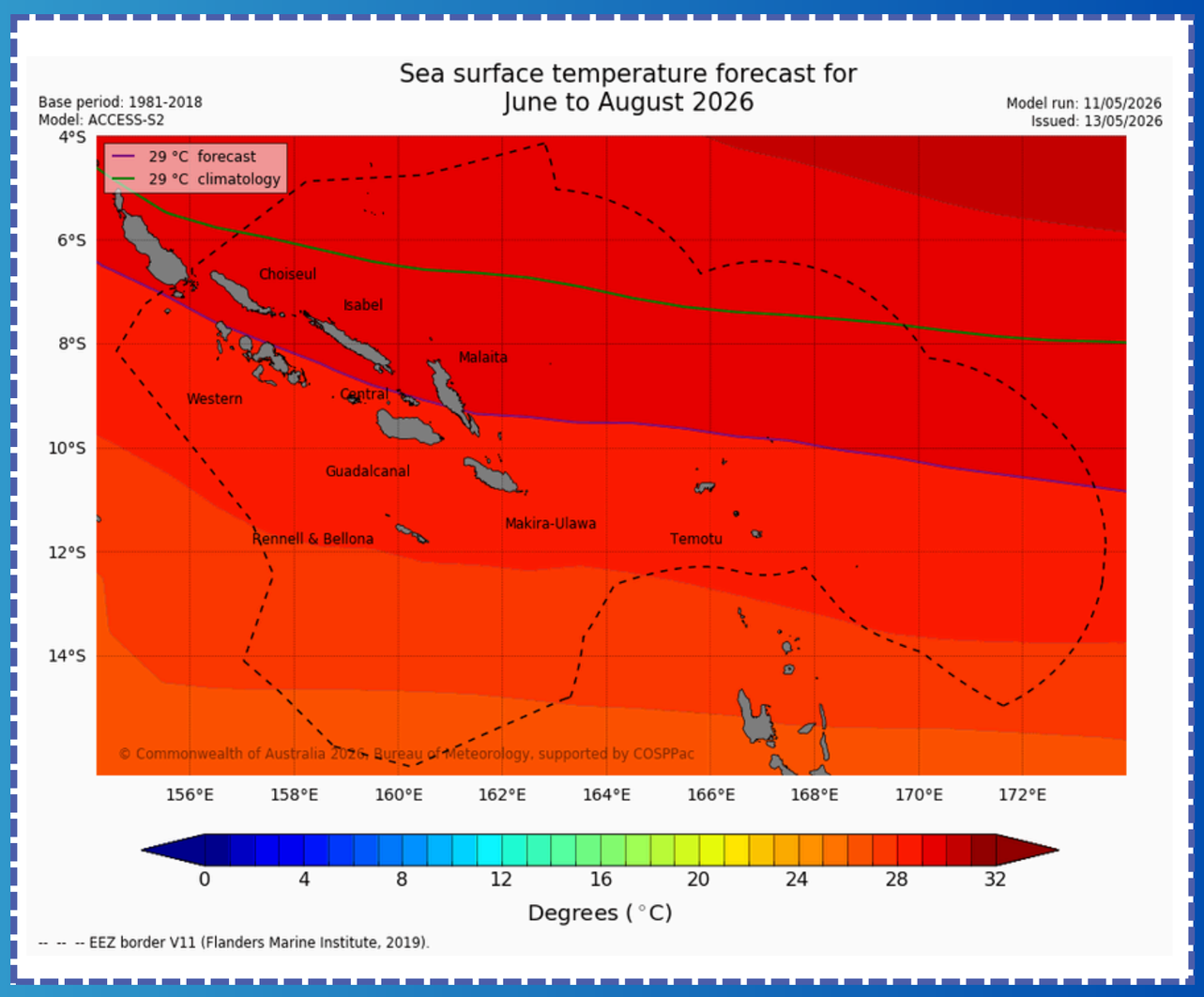


3 Convergence Zone (Fishing Hotspot):

June— August 2026:

The oceanic convergence zone is forecast to **shift southward** within northern waters over the next three months, potentially bringing productive tuna and pelagic fishing hotspots closer to local coastal and commercial fisheries.

This implies reduced travel time, fuel costs, and fishing effort, while enabling larger catches that could strengthen economic activities, improve food security, and enhance household incomes and livelihoods.



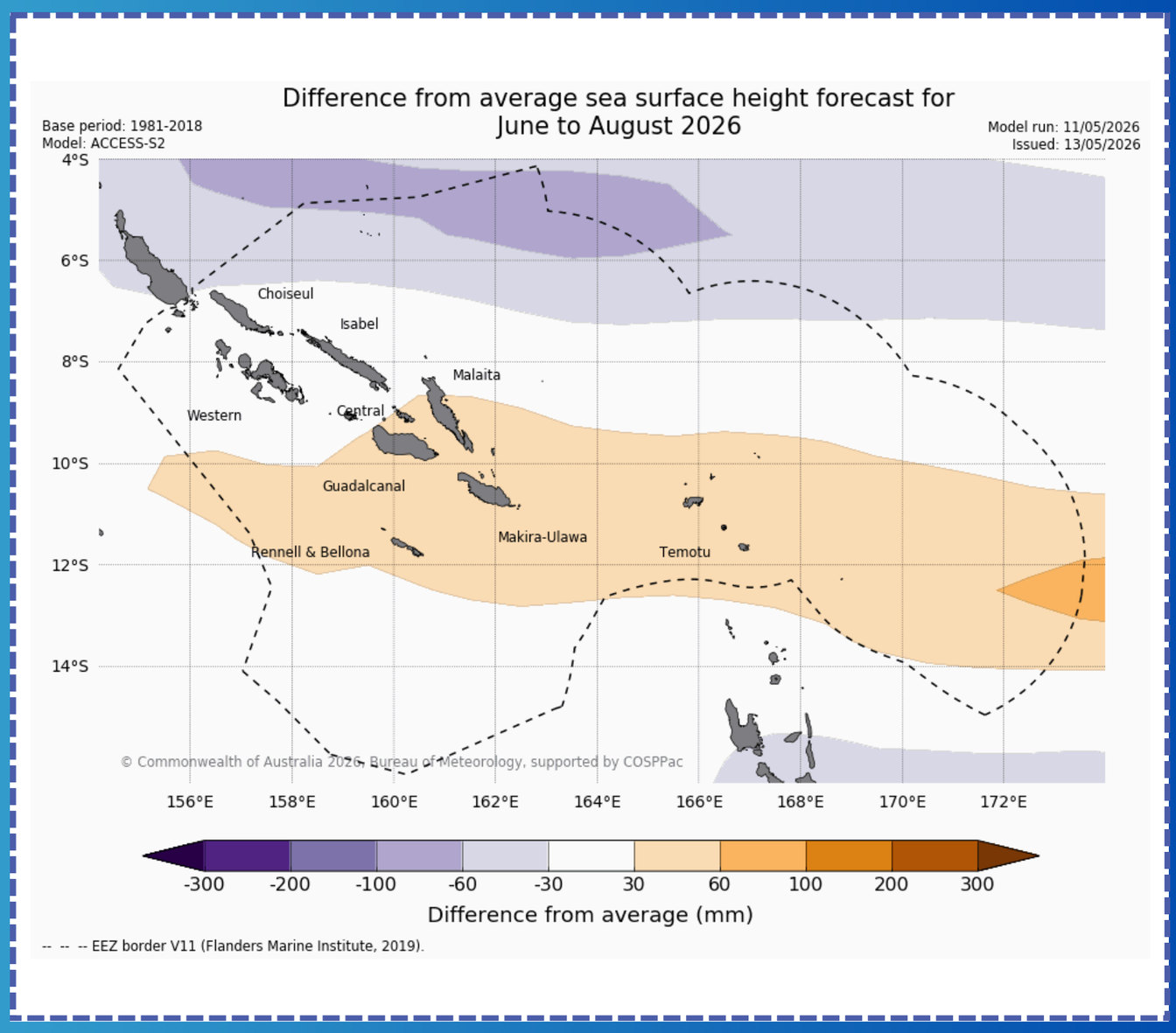
4 Sea Level Prediction:

June— August 2026:

The outlook for Sea Surface height (SSH) for the next 3-months is -30mm to 30mm **Normal** and 30mm to 60mm **above-normal** for most waters of the country.

The **Normal** SSH indicates relatively stable ocean conditions and normal ocean circulation patterns. **Above-normal** SSH indicates the chances of changing sea conditions, which could result in high seas, coastal flooding, and inundation.

Areas within **Above-normal** SSH regions are advised to take precautionary measures at all times and be well-informed about sea states before traveling to avoid loss of life and property at sea.



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