



Government of Samoa

## MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

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25 October 2018.

### **MEDIA RELEASE: SAMOA TROPICAL CYCLONE (TC) OUTLOOK 2018-2019 SEASON**

#### **Outlook for Samoa**

For 2018-2019 season, the Samoa Meteorology Division predicts an elevated risk for Samoa. Based on historical Tropical cyclone data, 2-3 cyclones can cross the 400km radius of Apia, Samoa. At least 1 tropical cyclone to reach Category 3 (wind speed of at least 178km/h or 111 mph) or greater (Cat.4 – Cat.5).

The TC Outlook is based on statistical analyses of historical tropical cyclones data that occurred dating back to the 1970's in similar ENSO-Neutral conditions, the same methodology developed by regional centers, with national Tropical Cyclone Outlooks utilizing national datasets.

For Samoa, (7) analogue (mapped) seasons are identical to the current ENSO conditions. (Refer to Table 1).

Season	Regional: # of named TC	Samoa: 400KM vicinity of Apia	Regional Tropical Cyclones				
			Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3	Cat 4	Cat 5
1986/87	15	3	2	6	3	4	0
1990/91	3	0	0	1	1	1	0
2003/04	6	1	2	2	0	1	1
2004/05	12	6	5	0	1	2	4
2006/07	7	1	1	5	1	0	0
2009/10	11	4	3	3	1	2	2
2014/15	8	0	1	2	1	3	1
Mean total	8.9	2.1	2.0	2.7	1.1	1.9	1.1
Rounded mean totals	9	2	2	3	1	2	1

## **El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)**

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains in **neutral** conditions (neither El Niño nor La Niña) in the region. Most Global Climate models are favouring El Niño (70% likelihood) to develop toward the end of 2018. Sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies for September shows SSTs were warmer than average in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment - Meteorology Division will continue to monitor the development of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and will advise the general public if there are significant changes to the outlook presented.

Tropical Cyclones are associated with high winds, storm surges, water spouts and extreme rainfall. All communities are urged to remain vigilant, be alert and foremost advance preparedness when a warning is officially announced of an impending tropical cyclone.

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