NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - October 26, 2023

American Samoa Tropical Cyclone Forecast for 2023-24 Season

KEY POINTS:

- **El Niño is forecast to bring an elevated risk of tropical cyclones (TCs) for American Samoa from November 2023 - April 2024**
- **Residents are reminded that it only takes one TC to cause significant damage to communities**
- **Life threatening weather and sea conditions may occur without a direct hit from a TC.**

INCREASED TC RISK DUE TO EL NIÑO:

TC season formally begins on November 1 and runs through April 30. American Samoa will likely see **normal to above normal** tropical cyclone (TC) activity for the 2023-24 season due to the ongoing El Niño.The increase in this forecast, compared to the past three seasons for the Territory, is due to the shift from La Niña to El Niño. American Samoa typically sees 1 to 2 TCs during a normal year. NWS Pago Pago predicts 2 to 4 TCs in the area within 300 nautical miles from Tutuila this season.

SAFETY AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:

It is important to keep in mind that one TC can devastate a community and it does not take a direct hit to cause significant damage, life-threatening weather or perilous seas. Therefore, we always urge residents, visitors and mariners to be prepared prior to the TC season. Please visit https://www.weather.gov/ppg for the latest forecasts and FEMA's Ready.gov for information on preparedness plans, tips and how to build emergency kits.

2023-24 Seasonal Outlook of TC Frequency (Departure from Normal)

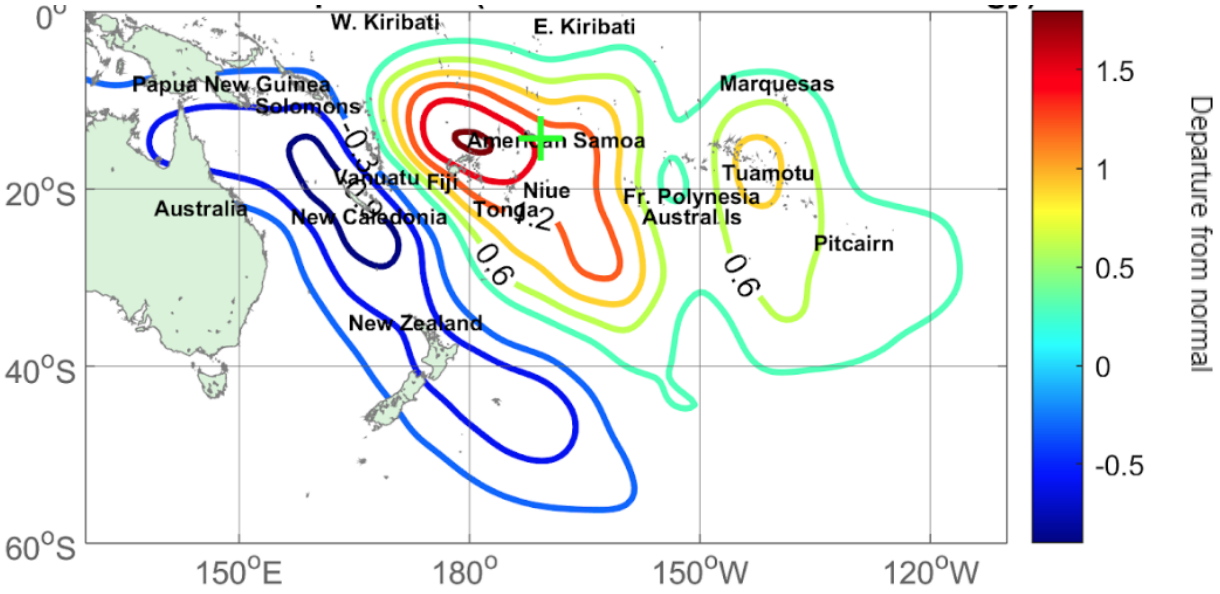

Figure 1: Outlook of TC frequency anomalies for 2023-24 season; plot uses data from the South Pacific Enhanced Archive of Tropical Cyclones (SPEArTC) dataset (Diamond, et al 2012); Green plus symbol (+) shows the location of American Samoa. Red (blue) areas indicate more (less) TC activity compared to normal.

TC OUTLOOK:

This outlook (covering 300 nautical miles from Tutuila) is a general guide to the predicted, overall TC activity across the Territory and does not indicate how many of these systems will actually make landfall. However, the outlook does provide a general idea of how many TCs could affect American Samoa with peripheral effects such as strong damaging winds, torrential rainfall, and/or storm surge/inundation.

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Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @NWSPagoPago, and visit our website: https://weather.gov/ppg for updated weather information for American Samoa.

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The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, water, and climate data, forecasts and warnings and impact-based decision support services for the protection of life and property and enhancement of the national economy.

REFERENCES:

Diamond, H.J., A.M. Lorrey, K.R. Knapp, and D.H. Levinson. 2012. Development of an enhanced tropical cyclone tracks database for the southwest Pacific from 1840-2011. International Journal of Climatology, ***32****: 2240–2250. DOI:10.1002/joc.2412.*

NWS Weather Service Office (WSO) Pago Pago, in collaboration with the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center (RSMC) Nadi, Fiji; Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) and Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) continuously monitor weather conditions near the Territory by using an array of observations, satellite data and output from complex weather computer models that serve as the basis for tropical cyclone tracks and forecasts.

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