



# RCSD Regional Climate Outlooks

- Regional Climate Outlooks
  - Regional extension of NCDC's monitoring and assessment capacity
  - Inform NCDC product and service requirements
  - Support priority constituents such as the Western Governors Association as an early warning resource for extreme events
  - Expanded to include within region focus such as Gulf of Mexico, Rio Grande, and Great Lakes

### Climate Impacts and Outlook

#### Hawaii and U.S. Pacific Islands Region

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2013

**Significant Events and Impacts for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2013**

**Molokai and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands** – Record cold temperatures (lowed the islands in early April. Isolated flash floods occurred in late March, but prolonged drought remains.

**Spring Commencement** of the Hawaiian Islands (2013) – Strong trade winds dominated the weather during the 1st Quarter of 2013 with many days of high surf. Temperatures routinely reached 80°F under conditions of light to moderate trade winds and clear skies. Green fire frequency increased.

**Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)** – Dry conditions in the islands north of Majuro (i.e., Kwajalein, Ujae, Bikini) became severe with impacts to water quality and quantity and deterioration of terrestrial food sources. **The Way to the Seawater** of RMI declared a state of disaster.

**Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)** – Dry conditions prevailed on Yap and northern Chuuk. No significant impacts were noted.

**Republic of Palau** – Near normal conditions prevailed this quarter. No significant impacts were noted.

**American Samoa** – Near normal conditions prevailed this quarter. No significant impacts were noted.

**U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI)**  
Showing includes both USAPI/Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

**Regional Climate Overview for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2013**

April 16, 2013

U.S. Regional Drought Conditions as of April 16, 2013

**ENSO-neutral conditions continued in the equatorial Pacific Region, but weather conditions were more in line with La Niña (e.g., a weakening of the monsoon, reduced tropical cyclone activity and elevated sea level) as which became established across Micronesia. Temperature were well above normal across Guam and FSM during the quarter, with many daily maximums exceeding 90°F.**

**As compared to February 2013, the monthly mean sea level March 2013 shows slight sea-level rise (most of the USAPI stations). Currently, satellites are 3 inches higher than normal. Sea surface temperatures were generally near normal except for the waters around Hawaii and American Samoa where cooler water prevailed early in the quarter, eventually warming above normal in the last week of April.**

**Throughout much of the region was on the drier side of normal. However, rainfall was near- to above-normal in many spots of the state, especially Honolulu and Ukae. In Ukae and the West, rainfall was above-normal. In the West, rainfall was well below-normal and drought conditions persisted in these areas. In the FSM, rainfall was below normal in northern Chuuk and above normal in the remainder of Chuuk, near normal in Pohnpei, below-normal in Pohnpei, and near-normal in Yap. In Palau, rainfall was below-normal. In American Samoa, rainfall was slightly above-normal.**

**Drought conditions continued over the Hawaiian Archipelago. By mid-April, over 80% of the state of Hawaii was extremely dry in drought, an increase of 12% over the last quarter. However, there was a 20% drop of areas in areas of extreme drought. Meanwhile, drought in Honolulu, Guam, and Yap was somewhat during the quarter, which abnormal stress developed in Yap and Palau.**

**Regional Climate Outlook for February-April in both the western Pacific and southern Pacific was near normal. Two cyclones in the western Pacific passed across the Philippine archipelago and entered the South China Sea where they quickly dissipated. The southeast Pacific region formally ended on 16 April with late season Typhoon Haiyan that lasted until 1 May.**

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### Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook

#### Eastern Region

September 2012

**National - Significant Events for June-August 2012**

**Significant Events for August and Summer 2012**

**Highlights for the East:**

**Flash flooding** continued to impact eastern regions due to rain in July in New York, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. On July 28, the District of Columbia had 12.1 inches of rain. On July 29 in North Carolina, the South Fork Catawba River had a 100-year high on record, 17.8 feet above lake elevation. On 29 and 30 July, the South Carolina River had a 100-year high on record, 17.8 feet above lake elevation. On 29 and 30 July, the South Carolina River had a 100-year high on record, 17.8 feet above lake elevation.

**Michigan, IL, had a record high in precipitation. The temperature did not drop below 70 degrees F even at night. From June 23 to July 23, several other cities set similar records, including Washington, D.C., where the temperature (at the Washington Monument) from July 26-29. The same weather stretched from late July and Washington County, VA, so that all three sets of records were broken on 11.83 feet above lake elevation.**

**Puerto Rico, PR, had had to be evacuated. The temperature did not drop below 70 degrees F even at night. From June 23 to July 23, several other cities set similar records, including Washington, D.C., where the temperature (at the Washington Monument) from July 26-29. The same weather stretched from late July and Washington County, VA, so that all three sets of records were broken on 11.83 feet above lake elevation.**

**The composite 2012-2013 rainfall and temperature of 11.83 degrees in a 100-year record. The 2012-2013 rainfall and temperature of 11.83 degrees in a 100-year record. The 2012-2013 rainfall and temperature of 11.83 degrees in a 100-year record.**

**Regional - Climate Overview for June-August 2012**

**Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies**  
Departure from Normal (°F) (June 1-August 1, 2012)  
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) (June 1-August 1, 2012)

**June: Waterlogged**  
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) (June 1-30, 2012)

**With an average temperature of 73.0 degrees F, summer was 2.2 degrees F warmer than normal in the region. Over the last quarter (July), the region was 1.0 degree warmer than normal. In the region, the average temperature was 73.0 degrees F, which was 1.0 degree warmer than normal. In the region, the average temperature was 73.0 degrees F, which was 1.0 degree warmer than normal.**

**The Eastern Region had a record summer precipitation with 18.47 inches of rain, 148% of normal. In the region, the average temperature was 73.0 degrees F, which was 1.0 degree warmer than normal. In the region, the average temperature was 73.0 degrees F, which was 1.0 degree warmer than normal.**

**Most of the region's extreme heat record this year among the top ten areas in the United States. In the region, the average temperature was 73.0 degrees F, which was 1.0 degree warmer than normal. In the region, the average temperature was 73.0 degrees F, which was 1.0 degree warmer than normal.**

**Over 20% of the region's extreme heat record this year among the top ten areas in the United States. In the region, the average temperature was 73.0 degrees F, which was 1.0 degree warmer than normal. In the region, the average temperature was 73.0 degrees F, which was 1.0 degree warmer than normal.**

### Regional Outlook

#### El Niño Outlook

**Outlook Indicates Continuing Dry Conditions**

Fall will likely bring **below-average precipitation** to the Pacific Northwest, making drought development likely. Drought will persist across most of the West and Great Plains, but signs of **above-normal precipitation** in Texas could bring some improvement.

**Weak El Niño** conditions are likely to develop in the fall and persist through at least December, possibly into early spring.

An El Niño year typically means above-average precipitation in the southwestern US, but predictions for borderline El Niño conditions indicate that rainfall likely will not match previous wet years during an El Niño.

An increased likelihood of **below-median precipitation** is expected in the northwest US through spring of 2013.

**Left: US Seasonal Drought Outlook, valid September–December 2012.** (cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

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