



## ▶ NT Coastal Waters zones

HF broadcasting stations are Aust. Weather East (VMC) & Aust. Weather West (VMW).

HF Radio frequencies for Warnings, Forecasts & Coastal Weather Observations are:

VMC	4426, 8176, 12365, 16546	6.30am–5.30pm (CST)
	2201, 6507, 8176, 12365	5.30pm–6.30am (CST)
VMW	4149, 8113, 12362, 16528	8.30am–7.30pm (CST)
	2056, 6230, 8113, 12362	7.30pm–8.30am (CST)

VHF Coast Radio Darwin (VKD999) broadcasts coastal weather bulletins for Daly River to Cape Don on channel 67 at 0803/1803 CST.

mini-guide

to BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

# ▶ MARINE WEATHER SERVICES

NORTHERN TERRITORY

## Routine marine forecasts

**Routine coastal waters forecasts and observation reports** for areas within approximately 60 nautical miles of the coast and for the Gulf of Carpentaria are issued several times daily. Coastal warnings are issued whenever strong winds, gales, storm-force or greater winds are expected, and are renewed every 6 hours.

**Routine high seas forecasts** are issued twice daily for the areas beyond the coastal waters surrounding Australia. High Seas warnings are issued whenever gale, storm-force or greater winds are expected, and are renewed every 6 hours.

## ▶ Marine broadcast schedules (CST)

Location	Forecasts*	Station
Coastal NT East of Cape Don and QLD	0300, 0700, 1100, 1500, 1900, 2300	VMC
Coastal NT & WA East of Kuri Bay	0300, 0700, 1100, 1500, 1900, 2300	VMW
QLD Gulf Waters	0000, 0400, 0800, 1200, 1600, 2000	VMW
Northern High Seas	0000, 0400, 0800, 1200, 1600, 2000	VMW/VMC

\* Central Standard Time

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**Warnings every hour commencing 0030 CST**



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## ► Definitions and terminology

**Wind direction** is given in 8 compass points for forecasts and 16 for observations and is the direction the wind is coming from.

**Wave height** is the vertical distance between the top of crest and bottom of trough.

**Wind speed** refers to the average speed over a 10-minute period at a height of 10 metres above the surface and is given in knots. A knot (kn) is equal to a speed of one nautical mile per hour. Note: 10 knots = 18.5 km/h and 10 km/h = 5.4 knots.

**Gusts** may be up to 40 per cent stronger than the average speed.

A **squall** is an abrupt and large increase of wind speed with a duration of the order of minutes which diminishes rather suddenly.

**Sea and swell heights** are described in terms of significant wave height which represents the average of the highest one-third of the waves. Some waves will be higher and some lower than the significant wave height. Typically one in 2000 waves will be twice this height.

**King/Freak/Rogue waves** occur when wind waves and/or a combination of swell waves join to produce a very high wave. These waves can be much larger than the significant wave height.

**UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)**  
Time references in forecasts/warnings for high seas are given in UTC. Australian Central Standard Time is UTC+9.5 hrs.

## ► Wind and warning categories

Category	Speed	Beaufort Force
Strong wind <sup>1</sup>	25 to 33 kn	6–7
Gale	34 to 47 kn	8–9
Storm	>47 kn	10–11
Hurricane <sup>2</sup>	>63 kn	12

*Note: wind speed is a ten-minute average and gusts may be up to 40% stronger*

<sup>1</sup> Strong Wind Warnings: coastal waters area only

<sup>2</sup> Hurricane Warnings: tropical high seas area only

## ► Coastal reports

Weather observations from coastal stations report local wind speed and direction and may include sea and swell, general weather and visibility. Reports are broadcast after forecasts. Reports are also available via fax and phone.

**Regular monitoring of reports is advised**

## ► Forecast and warning delivery systems

### HF and VHF marine radio

See back page.

### Radiofax VMC/VMW

A range of weather and marine charts are broadcast by radiofax. Schedule available

from our web site.

**Phone** (77\* cents/min.)

1900 955 367–NT coastal waters

**Fax** poll-fax 1800 630 100 for a free directory of fax services.

### Internet

Information is available from the Bureau's web site at <http://www.bom.gov.au>

*\* Includes GST; more from mobile and public phones*