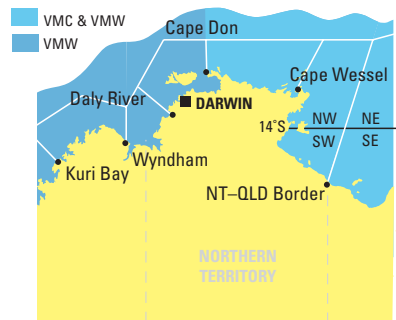


▶ Northern Territory Coastal Water zones



▶ HF radio voice frequencies

Warnings, Forecasts and Coastal Weather Observations are broadcast from VMW and VMC on the following HF radio frequencies:

VMC broadcasts on frequencies (kHz)

4426, 8176, 12365, 16546 (6.30 am–5.30 pm CST)

2201, 6507, 8176, 12365 (5.30 pm–6.30 am CST)

VMW broadcasts on frequencies (kHz)

4149, 8113, 12362, 16528 (8.30 am–7.30 pm CST)

2056, 8113, 6230, 12362 (7.30 pm–8.30 am CST)

▶ HF broadcast services

Forecast	Broadcast times*	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	VMC

* Local Standard Time (add one hour during Daylight Saving Time)

Warnings Every hour commencing 0030 CST



Australian Government

Bureau of Meteorology

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mini-guide

to BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

▶ MARINE WEATHER SERVICES

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Weather warnings and forecasts

Wind warnings are issued whenever strong winds, gales, storm force or hurricane force winds are expected. They are issued with around 24 hours lead-time where possible, and are renewed every six hours.

Coastal waters forecasts for areas within 60 nautical miles of the coast are issued twice daily. Updates may be issued at other times. Forecasts include wind, sea and swell predictions out to three days ahead.

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 six hours.

▶ Definitions and terminology

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

Wave height is the vertical distance between the top of the crest and the bottom of the 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. One knot 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.

Combined 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.

Wave period is the number of seconds between each wave crest. The greater the period, the greater the energy and wavelength of the waves.

▶ Wind and warning categories

Category	Speed (knots)	Beaufort Force
Strong wind	26 to 33	6–7
Gale	34 to 47	8–9
Storm force	48 to 63	10–11
Hurricane force	64 or more	12

Note: Wind speed is a ten-minute average. Gusts may be up to 40% stronger.

▶ Coastal observations

Weather observations from coastal stations include local wind speed and direction. They may also include sea and swell reports, general weather and visibility. Observations are generally updated every half hour.

Regular monitoring of reports is advised.

▶ Marine services access

Internet Marine services are available from the Bureau's website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/marine>.

HF marine radio

Voice: see back page for details
 Radiofax VMC/VMW: a range of weather and marine charts is broadcast by radiofax. Schedule available from our website.

VHF marine radio

Marine weather forecasts are broadcast through volunteer marine rescue groups and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard. For details see the Bureau's marine web pages as detailed above.

Phone (77* cents/min.)
 1900 955 367 NT coastal waters

Fax (\$1.38*/min.) poll-fax 1902 935 200 for a reference directory of fax services.

* Call costs apply (correct at time of printing) includes GST; more from mobile and public phones.