



## ► Coastal Waters zones in Tasmania & adjacent areas

Warnings, Forecasts and Coastal Weather Observations are broadcast from Australia Weather East (VMC).

**VMC HF Radio frequencies kHz**  
**4426, 8176, 12365, 16546 (7am–6pm\*)**  
**2201, 6507, 8176, 12365 (6pm–7am\*)**

- Coast Radio Hobart (formerly Tasmar Radio, call 6231 2276 for details) and volunteer groups also broadcast to some areas.

mini-guide

to BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

# ► MARINE WEATHER SERVICES

TASMANIA

## Routine marine forecasts

**Routine forecasts and observation reports** for coastal waters areas within 60 nautical miles of the coast and larger inland lakes 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. Wind alerts are issued for Southwest and Central Plateau lakes as required. **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 (EST)

Location	Forecasts*
Coastal VIC	0130, 0530, 0930, 1330, 1730, 2130
Coastal TAS & SA	0230, 0630, 1030, 1430, 1830, 2230
South East High Seas	0030, 0430, 0830, 1230, 1630, 2030

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

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**Warnings  
every hour  
commencing  
0000 EST**



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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 Eastern Standard Time is UTC+10 hrs.

## ► Wind and warning categories

Category	Speed	Beaufort Force
Lake wind alerts	>20 kn	≥5
Strong wind <sup>1</sup>	25 to 33 kn	6–7
Gale	34 to 47 kn	8–9
Storm	>47 kn	≥10

*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*

## ► 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

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

from our web site.

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

1900 969 940–Tasmanian boating warnings, forecasts & observations  
**Fax** poll-fax 1800 061 437 for a free directory of fax services.

### Internet

Information is also available from the Bureau's web site at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

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