

Victorian coastal waters



HF marine radio voice broadcasts

Warnings, forecasts and coastal weather observations are broadcast on HF from Australia Weather East (VMC).

VMC HF Radio frequencies kHz (voice)

8176, 12365 (any time)
4426, 16546 (7am–6pm*)
2201, 6507 (6pm–7am*)

Marine broadcast schedules (EST)

Forecast	Time*
Coastal NSW & VIC	0130, 0530, 0930, 1330, 1730, 2130
Coastal TAS	0230, 0630, 1030, 1430, 1830, 2230
Coastal SA	(CST) 0200, 0600, 1000, 1400, 1800, 2200

*Add one hour during Daylight Saving Time

Warnings: Every hour commencing 0000 EST



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

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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.

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.

Wind and warning categories

Category	Speed (knots)	Beaufort Force
Strong wind	>25 to 33	6–7
Gale	>33 to 47	8–9
Storm force	>47	10–11
Hurricane force	>63	12

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

Coastal observations

Weather reports 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.

mini-guide

to BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

MARINE WEATHER SERVICES

VICTORIA

Weather warnings and forecasts

Wind warnings are issued whenever strong winds, gales, storm-force or greater winds are expected. They are issued with 24 hours lead time where possible, and are renewed every 6 hours.

Local waters forecasts for Port Phillip and Western Port Bays are issued four times daily. Forecasts for Gippsland Lakes are issued twice daily. Wind forecasts go out to four days ahead.

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 to four days ahead.

Marine services access

Internet

Marine services are available at www.bom.gov.au/marine

HF marine radio

Voice: See back page for details.

Radiofax VMC/VMW: A range of weather and marine charts are broadcast by radiofax. Schedule available from our website.

VHF marine radio

Marine Safety Victoria broadcasts weather information on channel 67 three times daily for vessels in and around Port Phillip and Western Port Bays. The Volunteer Coast Guard also broadcasts in some areas.

Phone (77* cents/min.)

Call 1900 969 930 – VIC coastal waters

Fax

Poll-fax 1800 630 100 for a free directory of fax services.

* Includes GST; more from mobile and public phones