

Australian Government

Bureau of Meteorology

December 2011

Graphical Marine Forecasts

New to the Bureau of Meteorology website are graphical marine forecasts. These forecasts are constructed differently and have many advantages over the older style Tasmanian marine graphics.

In effect the meteorologists at the Bureau of Meteorology “paint a 3D picture” of the elements of the atmosphere. These snapshots of the atmosphere are devised every few hours going ahead. The pictures of the atmosphere are based on grid points which in effect gives a separate forecast for each gridpoint. The Tasmanian information dovetails the Victorian and New South Wales graphics so will cover the boxing day yacht races.

This system is not just for marine weather but covers the land areas as well so for mariners that are going up to the lakes will benefit from this system.

Forecast elements that will be available graphically to the mariner include;

Wind in knots;

Combined sea and swell height;

Weather (fog, rain, thunderstorms)

Rainfall (Chance of, amounts likely)

The graphics will have key locations around the coast line but mariners will be able to move the cursor and click anywhere to get a forecast for that point for that day.

There is a lot of information contained in this system. To help mariners get the most from this system the Bureau of Meteorology will be joining with some of the Coast Guard/Sea rescue organization to host joint meetings to explain the new system and how to get the best information from it. See separate paragraph in this newsletter.

To view the new system go to

<http://www.bom.gov.au/forecasts/graphical/marine/tas/index.php>

The forecast for the Far Northwest Coast for the day of the images on the next page

Forecast for Tuesday until midnight

Winds East to northeasterly 10 to 20 knots. Seas Up to 1.5 metres.

Swell Southwesterly about 1.5 metres.

However, by looking at the graphics you can see that the lee side of King Island has less wind than the windward and to the north of Cape Wickham the wind is a little stronger. It is this kind of detail that will help mariners with their voyage planning.

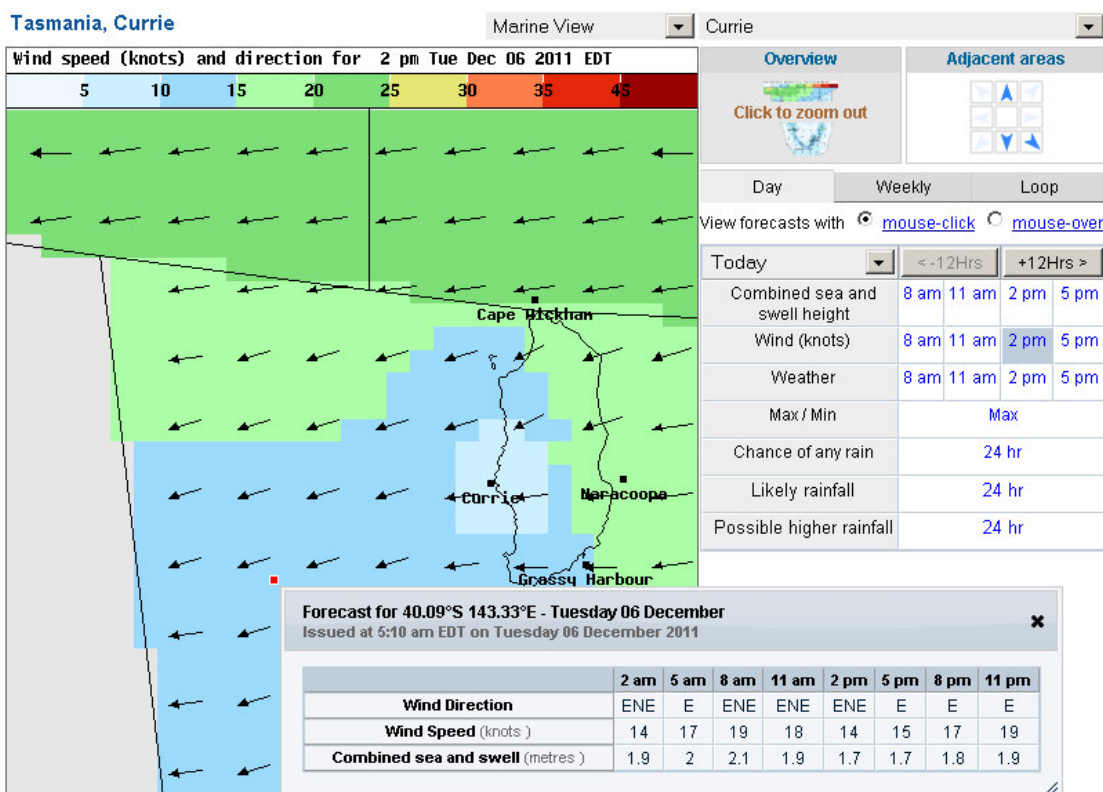
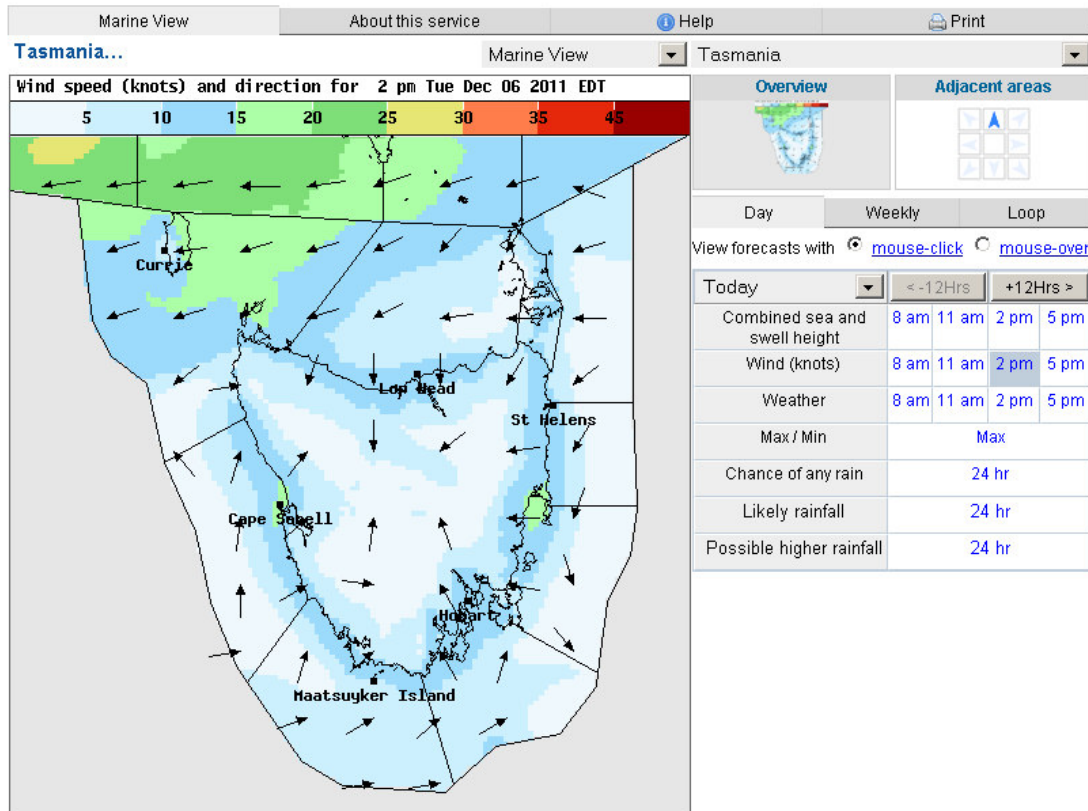


[Bureau Home](#) > [Weather & Warnings](#) > [Tasmania](#) > Marine Forecast Explorer

Forecast Explorer

These interactive maps show temperature, rainfall, weather, wave and wind forecasts for Victoria, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania.

The maps are updated routinely at around 6 am and 6 pm EDT, and have been quality controlled by Bureau of Meteorology forecasters. We welcome [feedback](#).



Coast Radio Hobart's Weather Initiative

When the Bureau of Meteorology introduced the new inshore forecast zones for around Hobart in June the size of the forecast increased considerably. This was due to more forecast zones, more detail in each zone and forecasts extending for a longer period. Coast Radio Hobart realised that all these extra words would severely congest the time available in their broadcast schedules.

As an innovation they introduced a new service where the inshore forecasts can be accessed at any time. This automated service broadcasts the inshore forecasts for the Derwent Estuary, Frederick Henry and Norfolk Bay, Storm Bay and Channel Forecast, on the hour and half hour during eastern standard time, and on the quarter hour during daylight saving time on vhf channel 1.

Well done Coast Radio Hobart.

Weather Seminars at Coast Guard Offices

Over the boating season there will be several opportunities to attend boating weather seminars run jointly by the Bureau of Meteorology and Coast Guard offices, The seminars will be free of charge and run for about 60 to 90 minutes. The seminars will cover general marine weather, getting the most from the new forecast system and a general question and answer session. It is also an opportunity for the mariner to find out the latest services offered by your local Coast Guard Base.

Dates and venues are yet to be finalised. Notification of dates and venues will be sent out on the newsletter email list as well as in the press and promotion by the local marine rescue units.

Reminder of General Safety for the Boating Season

These are some of the safety hints from MAST

Get an up to date forecast from your area of operation.
Know the area you're boating and seek local knowledge.
Tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
Know the limitations of your boat – ask a boat dealer.
Know your own limitations – if you're in any doubt, come in.
Carry the right safety gear and know how to use it.
Don't commit yourself to the trip-cancel if the weather is bad.
Know the load limit of your boat and don't exceed it.
Carry some spare fuel and basic spare parts.
If you're in doubt about safety – put on a PFD.
Keep an eye on the kids and put them in a PFD at the boat ramp.
Alcohol and boating don't mix.

To all Tasmanian Mariners
Have a safe and happy Christmas and boating season.
Your team at the Bureau of Meteorology

Praise/Complaints/Queries

If you wish to have an explanation of any marine weather matter please email pubmarine.tas@bom.gov.au or call 03 6221 2081 during normal business hours. Use the same email address and phone number if you wish to be put on the address list for this newsletter.