

# Standard Elements of Sea Area Forecast

## Wind Warnings

Gale and Small Craft Warnings

## Meteorological Situation

A statement of the meteorological situation over Ireland at the stated time and of the adjacent weather systems, e.g. depressions, anticyclones or frontal troughs, which are expected to have an influence on the forecast areas during the following 24 hours.

A general forecast follows giving wind, weather, and visibility for all coastal waters and the Irish Sea.

## Weather

Terms used to describe weather in the Sea Area Forecast and the Coastal Reports:

- Fine:** Dry, mainly sunny day. Clear after dark.
- Fair:** Dry, good sunny or clear spells (cloud no more than 3-5 okta of medium or low cloud or 6-8 okta of high cloud).

- Cloudy:** 6-8 okta of low or medium cloud.
- Mist:** Visibility restricted by water droplets.
- Haze:** Visibility restricted by dust, smoke or sea salt particles.

## Visibility

Descriptions of visibility in the Sea Area Forecasts mean the following:

- Good:** more than 5NM (9km)
- Moderate:** 2-5NM (4-9km)
- Poor:** 0.5 to 2NM (4km)
- Fog:** less than 0.5NM (1,000m)

## Swell Warnings

Warnings of heavy swell (> 4 metres) where relevant.

## Outlook

A brief outlook for the 24 hour period following the period covered by the forecast.

## Weatherdial

A telephone recorded sea area forecast and warnings of gales and heavy swell are available by dialling

**1550 123 855**

A forecast of conditions on Dublin Bay is included with the Greater Dublin Area forecast. The number is

**1550 123 854**

The sea area forecast is also available on Weatherdial Fax on

**1570 131 838**

1550 calls cost €0.97 per minute incl. VAT. 1570 calls cost €1.78 per minute incl. VAT. Calls from mobiles will cost more. Helpline ATS 0818 200 150 (National calls).

## Sea Area Forecasts

### \*RTÉ Radio 1

Broadcast at 0602, 1253, 2355 local time

### RTÉ Network 2

Marine Outlook Friday after Late News Bulletin

### \*The Irish Coast Guard VHF Channels

Sea area forecasts are broadcast at 0103, 0403, 0703, 1003, 1303, 1603, 1903 & 2203 local time on VHF working channels.

Warnings are broadcast as soon as they are issued and on the next hour and thereafter at 0033, 0633, 1233 & 1833 local time.

Sea area forecasts are available from [www.met.ie](http://www.met.ie)  
and on mobile from <http://m.met.ie/>

\*All details correct as of November 2013



**Met Éireann**  
Glasnevin Hill, Dublin 9,  
Ireland



## Coastal Reports

(from the following stations)

Malin Head • Dublin Airport • Roche's Point • Valentia • Belmullet

Buoys located off the following coasts; M2-Dublin, M3-Kerry, M4-Donegal, M5-Wexford, M6-deep Atlantic 400km W of Slyne Head

The coastal reports include:

- (a) wind direction on the 16 point compass and speed in knots;
- (b) weather;
- (c) visibility in nautical miles (and tenths of);
- (d) pressure in hectopascals;
- (e) pressure tendency which describes the change in pressure over the past 3 hours, according to this scale:
  - 0.0 — 0.4 hPa = steady
  - 0.5 — 1.9 hPa = rising/falling slowly
  - 2.0 — 3.4 hPa = rising/falling
  - 3.5 — 5.9 hPa = rising/falling rapidly
  - 6.0 hPa + = rising/falling very rapidly

## State of Sea

Seastate	Significant wave height in metres
Calm (glassy)	0m
Calm (rippled)	0 - 0.1
Smooth (wavelets)	0.1 - 0.5
Slight	0.5 - 1.25
Moderate	1.25 - 2.5
Rough	2.5 - 4
Very rough	4 - 6
High	6 - 9
Very high	9 - 14
Phenomenal	Over 14

## Inland Lakes

Forecasts for Loughs Derg, Ree, Corrib, Mask, Allen and Key of wind, weather, visibility and outlooks will be broadcast on L.Ree VHF Ch 62 at 0715, 0915, 1615, 1815 and L.Derg VHF Ch 61 at 0720, 0920, 1620, 1820.

## Beaufort Scale of Wind

Force	Description	Speed*		Seastate	Wave height** in metres
		knots	km/hr		
0	Calm	<1	<1	Sea like mirror	
1	Light air	1-3	1-5	Ripples	0.1 (0.1)
2	Light breeze	4-6	6-11	Small wavelets	0.2 (0.3)
3	Gentle breeze	7-10	12-19	Large wavelets, crests begin to break	0.6 (1)
4	Moderate breeze	11-16	20-28	Small waves becoming longer, frequent white horses	1 (1.5)
5	Fresh breeze	17-21	29-38	Moderate waves, many white horses, chance of spray	2 (2.5)
6	Strong breeze	22-27	39-49	Large waves, white foam crests, probably some spray	3 (4)
7	Near gale	28-33	50-61	Sea heaps up, streaks of white foam	4 (5.5)
8	Gale	34-40	62-74	Moderately high waves of greater length	5.5 (7.5)
9	Strong gale	41-47	75-88	High waves, dense streaks of foam, spray may reduce visibility	7 (10)
10	Storm	48-55	89-102	Very high waves, long overhanging crests, visibility affected	9 (12.5)
11	Violent storm	56-63	103-117	Exceptionally high waves, long white foam patches cover sea	11.5 (16)
12	Hurricane	64+	118+	Air filled with foam and spray, sea completely white	14 (-)

\*Speed = mean speed at a standard height of 10 metres.

\*\*Wave height is only intended as a guide to what may be expected in the open sea. Bracketed figures indicate the probable maximum wave height.

## Gale and Small Craft Warnings

**Gale Warnings** are issued by Met Éireann for Irish coastal waters, which are extending 30 nautical miles out from the coastline, and the Irish Sea or parts thereof.

**Small Craft Warnings** - if winds of Force 6 (min. mean 22kts) are expected up to 10nm offshore.

**Gale Warnings** - if winds of Force 8 are expected.

**Strong Gale Warnings** - if winds of Force 9 or frequent gusts of at least 52 knots are expected.

**Storm Force Warnings** - if winds of Force 10 or frequent gusts of at least 61 knots are expected.

**Violent Storm Force Warnings** - if winds of Force 11 or frequent gusts of at least 69 knots are expected.

**Hurricane Force Warnings** - if winds of greater than 64 knots are expected.

### Time Frame

<i>Imminent:</i>	within 6 hours
<i>Soon:</i>	between 6 and 12 hours
<i>Later:</i>	between 12 and 24 hours

The speed of movement of pressure systems is described as follows:

Slowly:	up to 15 knots
Steadily:	15 to 25 knots
Rather quickly:	25 to 35 knots
Rapidly:	35 to 45 knots
Very Rapidly:	greater than 45 knots