The Irish Sea Area Forecast Book

Glenans Irish Sailing Club

Photocopy the following pages to make your own forecast book.

Met Eireann – Irish Sea Area Forecast

Weather forecasts for Irish coastal waters are issued daily by Met Eireann, the Irish Meteorological Service.

RTE Radio 1 FM 88.2 - 90.0 and 95.2 mHz
MW 567 and 729 kHz
at these times: 06.02 12.53 18.34(Sa, Sun, hols)
19.02 (Mon - Fri) 23.55
(broadcast times may change -- check local listings)

Irish Coast Radio Stations

Malin Head	Ch 23	Glen Head	Ch 24
Belmullet	Ch 83	Clifden	Ch 26
Shannon	Ch 28	Bantry	Ch 23
Cork	Ch 26	Mine Head	Ch 83
Rosslare	Ch 23	Wicklow Head	Ch 87
Dublin	Ch 23	Valentia	Ch 24

at these times:
0103 0403 0703 1003 1303 1603 1903 2203
An announcement of each forecast is made on Channel 16 three minutes before broadcast. Gale warnings are broadcast as soon as they are issued and hourly thereafter. **Valentia Radio Ch 24** will issue a forecast upon request.

Weather Dial, the commercial division of Met Eireann, provides a recorded Sea Area Forecast and Gale Warnings by telephone on **1550 123 855**. There is a charge for this telephone service. Weather Dial also offers a variety of services by fax. Place the fax machine in Manual Mode, dial **1570 131 838**, and listen to instructions on how to obtain available services. There is a charge for this telefax service.

Shipping Forecasts issued by the UK Weather Centre are broadcast by BBC Radio 4: FM 92.4 - 94.6 mHz
LW 198 kHz / 1515m
at these times: 00.48 05.35 12.01 17.54
(broadcast times may change -- check local listings)

Web Sites
Met Eireann Sea Area Forecast www.met.ie/
UK Met Office inshore/offshore www.met-office.gov.uk

Each **Sea Area Forecast** issued by Met Eireann contains the following standard elements:

Meteorological or General Situation: A description of the meteorological situation over Ireland at the stated time and of adjacent weather systems, e.g. depressions, anticyclones or frontal troughs, which are expected to influence the forecast areas during the following 24 hours. A general forecast follows giving wind, weather and visibility for Irish coastal waters and the Irish Sea.

Terms used to describe **Weather**

Fine	dry, mainly sunny day, clear after dark
Fair	dry, good sunny or clear spells (no more than 3 - 5 oktas of medium or low cloud or 6 - 8 oktas of high cloud).
Cloudy	6 - 8 oktas of low or medium cloud
Mist	visibility restricted by water droplets
Haze	visibility restricted by dust or smoke

Terms used to describe **Visibility**

Good	more than 5 nautical miles (9 km)
Moderate	2 - 5 nautical miles (4 - 9 km)
Poor	1,100 yards to 2 nautical miles
Fog	less than 1,100 yards (1000 metres)

Coastal Reports taken from Malin Head, Dublin Airport, Rosslare, Roche's Point Automatic, Valentia and Belmullet include these details:

- wind direction on the 16 point compass, speed in knots
- weather
- visibility in miles and yards
- pressure in hectoPascals (millibars)
- pressure tendency, which describes change in pressure over the preceding 3 hours according to this scale:

0.0 - 0.4 hPa	steady
0.5 - 1.9 hPa	rising or falling slowly
2.0 - 3.4 hPa	rising or falling
3.5 - 5.9 hPa	rising or falling rapidly
6.0 hPa +	rising or falling very rapidly

Outlook includes a brief description for the next 24 hours following the period covered by the forecast.

Gale Warnings are issued for Irish coastal waters, which extend 30 miles out from the coastline, and the Irish Sea.

Gale	Beaufort Force 8 winds expected.
Stong Gale	Force 9 winds or frequent gusts of at least 52 knots expected.
Storm Force	Force 10 or frequent gusts of at least 61 knots expected.
Violent Storm	Force 11 or frequent gusts of at least 69 knots expected
Hurricane Force	winds greater than 64 knots

Speed of movement of Pressure Systems is described as:

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

Onset of gale force or stronger winds is described as:

imminent	within 6 hours
soon	between 6 and 12 hours
later	between 12 and 24 hours

Swell Wave Heights are issued in the warnings section of the Sea Area Forecast, using the mariners' convention whereby heavy swell means swell waves of 4 metres or higher.

Sea State	*Wave Height in Metres*
Calm	0 - 0.1
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

The Beaufort Scale

Force	Description	Sea Specifications	Knots	MPH	KPH	Land Specifications
0	Calm	Sea like a mirror	0	0	0	Smoke rises vertically
1	Light Air	Ripples like scales form	1 - 3	1 - 5	1 - 3	Wind direction shown by smoke drift, but not by wind vanes
2	Light Breeze	Small wavelets	4 - 6	4 - 7	6 - 11	Wind felt on face, leaves rustle, ordinary vane moved by wind
3	Gentle Breeze	Large wavelets, crests start to break	7 - 10	8 - 12	12 - 19	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion, light flags fly
4	Moderate Breeze	Small waves becoming longer, frequent white horses	11 - 16	13 - 18	20 - 28	Raises dust and loose paper, small branches move.
5	Fresh Breeze	Moderate waves, many white horses, chance of spray	17 - 21	19 - 24	28 - 38	Small trees in leaf sway, crested wavelets on inland waters
6	Strong Breeze	Large waves, extensive white foam crests, probably some spray	22 - 27	25 - 31	39 - 49	Large branches in motion; whistling telephone wires; umbrellas difficult
7	Near Gale	Sea heaps up, streaks of white foam	28 - 33	32 - 38	50 - 61	Whole trees in motion, walking against the wind feels inconvenient
8	Gale	Moderately high waves of greater length	34 - 40	39 - 46	62 - 74	Breaks off twigs, generally impedes walking progress
9	Strong Gale	High waves; dense streaks of foam; wave crests topple; spray may reduce visibility	41 - 47	47 - 54	75 - 88	Slight structural damage to buildings
10	Storm	Very high waves, sea surface appears white, visibility affected	48 - 55	55 - 63	89 - 102	Trees uprooted, considerable structural damage, rarely occurs inland
11	Violent Storm	Exceptionally high waves, long white foam patches cover sea, poor visibility	56 - 63	64 - 72	103 - 117	Widespread damage
12	Hurricane	Air filled with foam and spray, sea completely white, bad visibility	greater than 64	greater than 73	greater than 118	Widespread damage

The descriptive scale mariners and meteorologists use to describe the speed of the wind was first standardised by an Irishman in the British Royal Navy, Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort.

Born in County Louth in 1774, Beaufort was of French Huguenot origin and joined the Navy as a midshipman at the age of 14. Beaufort's father, a clergyman, purchased the boy's commission into the Navy, as was the custom at the time.

Beaufort served a long and distinguished career at sea, rising to the rank of Admiral, achieving the post of Hydrographer to the Royal Navy and and was awarded a knighthood.

He devised a thirteen point scale of wind force which was officially adopted by the Navy in 1805. He chose to define his wind scale points in common terms used every day by seamen. As his "yardstick," he chose a fully rigged man o' war, the largest type of battleship then in service afloat.

He described his scale using the effect winds would have on such a ship and the sails it might carry. Thus, a Gale Force 8 was a wind strength in which "a well conditioned man o' war might carry triple reefs and courses." Force 0 was a "calm," Force 2 was a "slight breeze," terms readily understood by the sailors of his day. Beaufort retired from the Navy to his family's lands in Louth, where he died in 1857.

In the early 1900's, an all-iron navy had little use for terms describing the effect of wind on sailing ships. The scale was revised and wind strengths described in terms of their effect on the open sea surface. For the benefit of landlubbers, a second set of descriptive terms was devised, using loose bits of paper, twigs, umbrellas and chimney pots to describe the strength and the effect of the wind inland.

Glenans Irish Sailing Club

Met Eireann
Sea Area Forecast

Until _____ Hours on _____

Issued at _____ Hours on _____

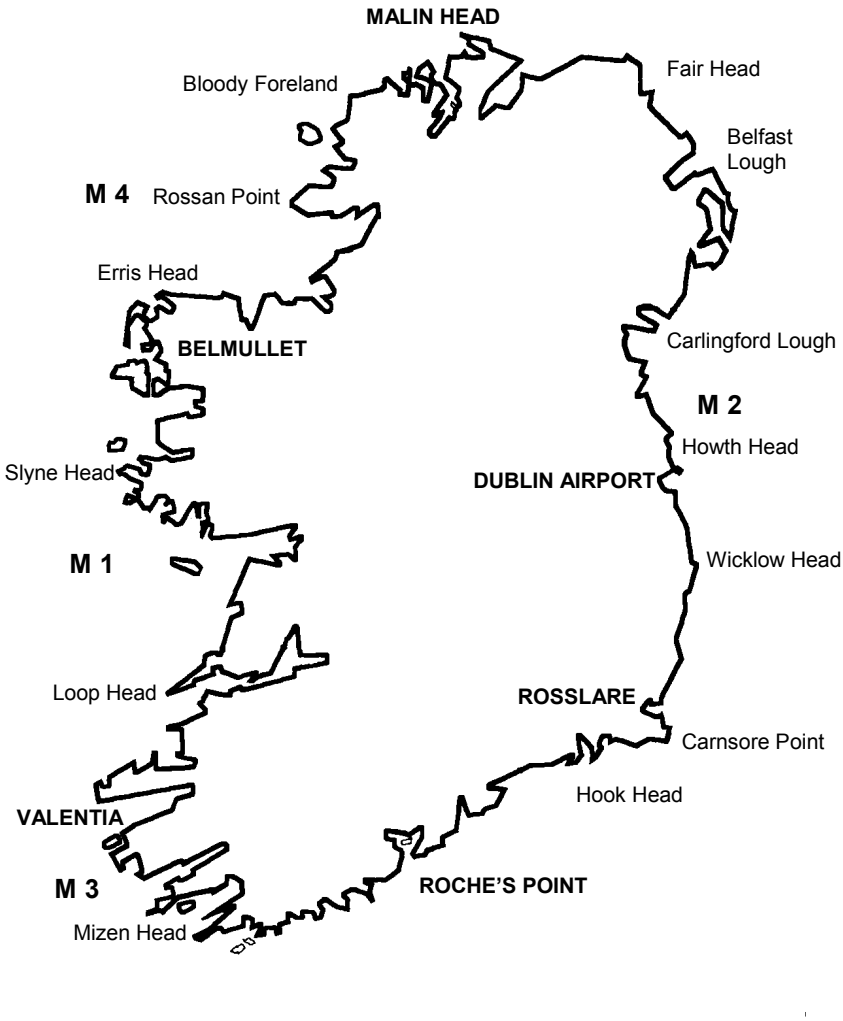
Gale warning in operation for _____

Small Craft warning _____

Meteorological situation _____

at _____hours _____

Wind	
Force	
Backing/Veering	
Weather	
Visibility	
Wind	
Force	
Backing/Veering	
Weather	
Visibility	
Wind	
Force	
Backing/Veering	
Weather	
Visibility	



Warning of heavy swell: _____

Outlook for following 24 hours: _____

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Coastal reports at	wind	weather	visibility	pressure	trend
Malin Head					
Rosslare					
Roche's Point					
Valentia					
Belmullet					
Dublin Airport					
Buoy Mike 1					
Buoy Mike 2					
Buoy Mike 3					
Buoy Mike 4					