



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, MARINE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

MARINE NOTICE No. 27 Of 2004

*NOTICE TO ALL SHIPOWNERS, FISHING VESSEL OWNERS,
AGENTS, SHIPMASTERS, SKIPPERS, FISHERMEN,
YACHTSMEN, SEAFARERS AND CHANDLERS*

Met Éireann - Sea Area Forecast

M5 Buoy deployed off South East Coast of Ireland



(Map not to scale)

THIS MARINE NOTICE SUPERSEDES MARINE NOTICE No. 9 of 2004

The Sea Area Forecast issued by Met Éireann covers Irish Coastal Waters out to 30 nautical miles, and also includes the Irish Sea area as shown in the map above.

The Sea Area Forecast 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 have an influence on the forecast areas during the following 24 hours.

Explanation of some terms used here are: -

Imminent: within 6 hours,
Soon: between 6 and 12 hours
Later: between 12 and 24 hours.

The speed of movement of pressure and frontal 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 45knots.

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

Wind: The wind strength is given in Beaufort Force and wind direction using the 16-point compass.

Weather: The following are some terms used in the Forecast and coastal reports: -

Fine: Dry, mainly sunny day. Clear after dark.
Fair: Dry, good sunny or clear spells (cloud 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.
Other terms such as rain or hail shower are self-explanatory.

Visibility: descriptions of visibility mean the following: -

Good: more than 5 nautical miles (9km)
Moderate: 2 – 5 nm (4 – 9 km)
Poor: 0.5 to 2 nm (4km)
Fog: less than 0.5 nm (1,000m)

Swell Warnings: when significant swell height of greater than 4 metres is expected.

Outlook: A brief outlook is given for the 24 hours following the period covered by the forecast

Coastal Reports: (from a selection of the following stations)

- Malin Head
- Dublin Airport
- M2 Buoy at 53.5° North, 5.4° West [53° 28.8'N, 05° 25.5'W]
- Rosslare
- M5 Buoy at 51.6° North, 6.7° West [51° 41.4'N, 6° 42.24'W]
- Roche's Point Automatic
- Valentia
- M3 Buoy at 51.2° North, 10.5° West [51° 13'N, 10° 33'W]
- M1 Buoy at 53.1° North, 11.2° West [53° 07.6'N, 11° 12'W]
- Belmullet
- M4 Buoy at 54.7° North, 9.1° West [54° 40'N, 9° 04'W]

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 (millibars)
- (e) Pressure tendency, which describes the change in pressure over the past 3 hours, according to this scale:
 - 0.0 – 0.4hPa = steady
 - 0.5 – 1.9hPa = rising/falling slowly
 - 2.0 – 3.4 hPa = rising/falling
 - 3.5 – 5.9 hPa = rising or falling rapidly
 - 6.0hPa or greater = rising /falling very rapidly.

Gale Warnings

Met Éireann issues Gale warnings for Irish coastal waters, which are regarded as extending 30 miles out from the coastline, and the Irish Sea or part thereof.

Gale Warnings are issued if winds of Beaufort Force 8 are expected.

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

Storm Force Warnings are issued if Beaufort Force 10 or frequent gusts of at least 61 knots are expected.

Violent Storm Force Warnings are issued if Beaufort Force 11 or frequent gusts of at least 69 knots are expected.

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

Small Craft Warnings

Small Craft Warnings are issued (April to September incl.) if winds of Beaufort Force 6 (min. mean of 22 knots) are expected up to 10 Km offshore.

Sea Area Forecasts are issued and broadcast live from: Met Éireann's General Forecasting Division on RTE Radio 1 at 0602, 1255, 1655 and 2355 local time [as of 1st April 2004]

Any Gale Warnings are also included on hourly news bulletins on RTÉ Radio.

The Irish Coast Guard (ICG) Coast Radio Stations.

ICG Coast Radio Stations make a prior announcement of weather forecasts on Marine VHF Radio Ch16 and then broadcast the forecast on the named relevant VHF Radio working channel.

Met Éireann's Sea Area Forecasts are broadcast every 3 hours beginning at 0103 local time:

i.e. broadcast times are: - 0103, 0403, 0703, 1003, 1303, 1603, 1903, and 2203 local time.

Gale Warning **and Small Craft Warning** broadcasts are also preceded by an announcement on Marine VHF Ch16. They are broadcast on receipt and are repeated at the next one of the following times: - 0033, 0633, 1233 and 1833 local time.

WEB:

The latest Sea Area Forecast, Gale Warnings (if any) **and Small Craft Warnings (if any)** are available on www.met.ie

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For any technical enquires please contact Met Eireann at 01 806 4200, email: met.eireann@met.ie

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