Definitions

Small Craft Advisory: Observed or forecast winds of 20-33 knots or forecast seas 7 feet or greater for at least 2 hours. Small Craft Advisories may also be issued for hazardous sea conditions or lower wind speeds that may affect small craft operations. Issued up to 12 hours ahead of conditions. (There is no legal definition for the term *small craft*).

Gale Warning: Observed or forecast sustained surface winds of 34-47 knots, not associated with a tropical cyclone.

Storm Warning: Observed or forecast sustained surface winds, or frequent gusts, of 48-63 knots, not associated with a tropical cyclone.

Tropical Storm Warning: Observed or forecast sustained surface winds of 34-63 knots, associated with a tropical cyclone.

Hurricane Warning: Observed or forecast sustained surface winds of 64 knots or higher, associated with a hurricane.

Special Marine Warning: Observation or forecast of one of the following, associated with a squall or thunderstorm, and expected to last less than 2 hours:

- sustained winds or gusts of 34 knots or greater
- hail 3/4 inch or more in diameter

For more information before you head out on the water,
www.weather.gov

Weather Information Broadcasts

NOAA Weather Radio in Georgia

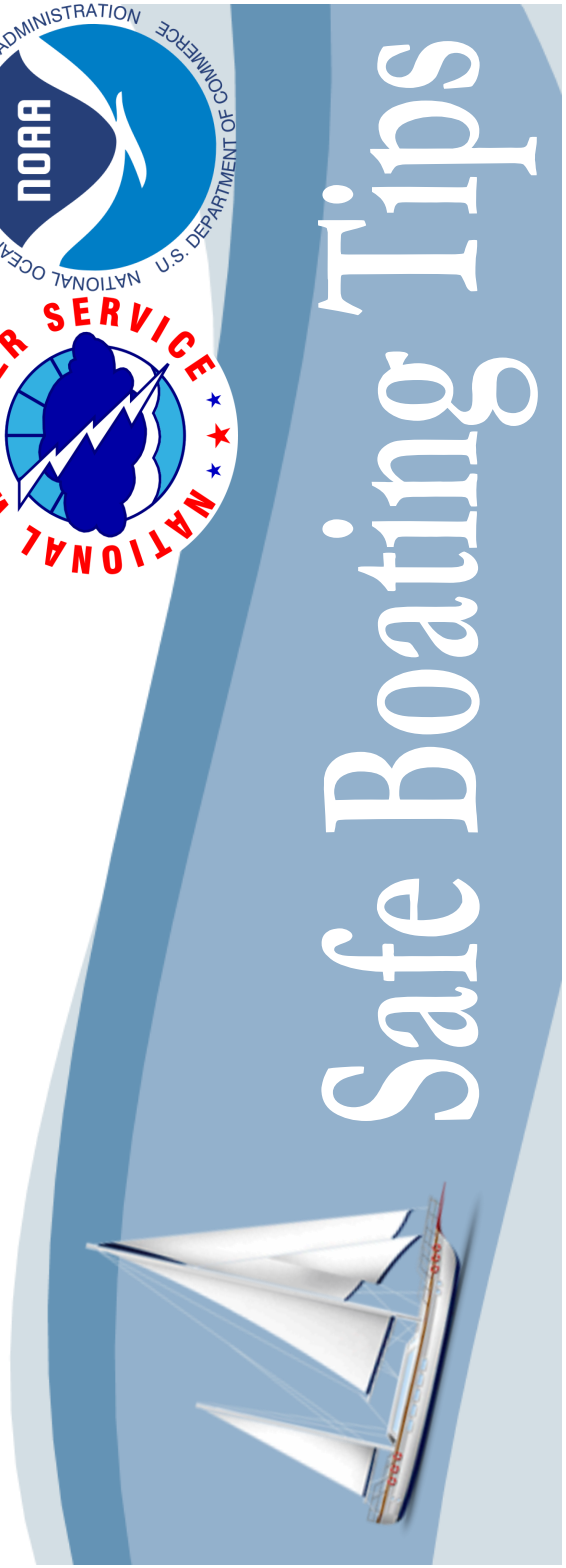
Americus	162.425	Eatonton	162.525
Athens	162.400	LaGrange	162.450
Atlanta	162.550	Macon	162.475
Augusta	162.550	Pelham	162.550
Baxley	162.525	Sandersville	162.450
Blue Ridge	162.475	Savannah	162.400
Brasstown Bald	162.500	Taylor's Ridge	162.450
Buchanan	162.400	Thomaston	162.500
Chatsworth	162.400	Valdosta	162.500
Cleveland	162.400	Washington	162.500
Columbus	162.400	Waycross	162.475
Eastman	162.400	Waynesboro	162.425

NOAA Weather Radio is broadcast on these frequencies in the U.S.: 162.400MHz, 162.425MHz, 162.450MHz, 162.475MHz, 162.500MHz, 162.525MHz, and 162.550MHz.

Coast Guard Marine information stations are available on selected frequencies within the MF/HF marine bands: 2-20MHz.

Coast Guard NAVTEX	518kHz
Coast Guard VHF (Channel 22A)	157.1MHz
National Institute of Standards and Technology and Frequency Stations WWV & WWVH	2.5 MHz 5 MHz 10 MHz 15 MHz 20 MHz

Commercial AM/FM Radio Stations



You know the weather....

It can be both friend and foe. Calm winds and seas make for enjoyable boating, waterskiing, and fishing. A fresh breeze and a light chop provide an invigorating sailing or wind surfing experience. But the sudden emergence of dark clouds, shifting and gusty winds, torrential downpours and lightning can turn a day of pleasure into a nightmare of distress. Here are some tips on how to boat safely.

Plan for fun...

Several days ahead of time start looking for and listening to National Weather Service extended forecasts on NOAA Weather Radio, AM/FM radio, TV and internet. The extended forecasts give general information up to a week ahead to help you decide whether or not to continue making plans.

Before Setting Out...

Pay close attention to the forecast and listen to detailed marine weather forecasts on NOAA Weather Radio. Take note of small boat cautionary statements, Small Craft Advisories, or Gale or Storm Warnings in the forecast. The advisories and warnings (see definitions) alert mariners to higher winds and waves either occurring now or forecast to occur up to 24 hours from now. Advisories and warnings for conditions expected later give mariners time to take action to protect life and property.

Radio Tips

If you have a VHF transceiver with built-in NOAA Weather Radio channels, use them! Otherwise, consider buying a VHF weather radio. Keep in mind that broadcast reception varies with location, obstructions, etc. A broad average range is 20 to 40 miles from the transmitter. If outside this range, consider buying a good quality HF single sideband transceiver to add to your VHF. Although more expensive, it may help you access information that can save your life and property.

While on the Water, Stay Alert!

- Check NOAA Weather Radio for latest warnings and forecasts
- Watch for signs of approaching storms:
  - dark, threatening clouds
  - a steady increase in wind or sea
  - lightning flashes
- An increase in wind opposite in direction to a strong tidal current may lead to steep waves capable of broaching a boat
- Heavy static on your AM radio may indicate nearby thunderstorm activity
- If a thunderstorm is approaching, head for shore. Get out of your boat and away from the water. Find shelter immediately.
- If you can not get to shore:
  -put on your personal flotation devise and prepare for rough seas
  -stay below deck if possible
  -keep away from metal objects that are not grounded to the boat's protection system
  -do not touch more than one grounded object at a time