

Changes to Lake Champlain Recreational Forecast:

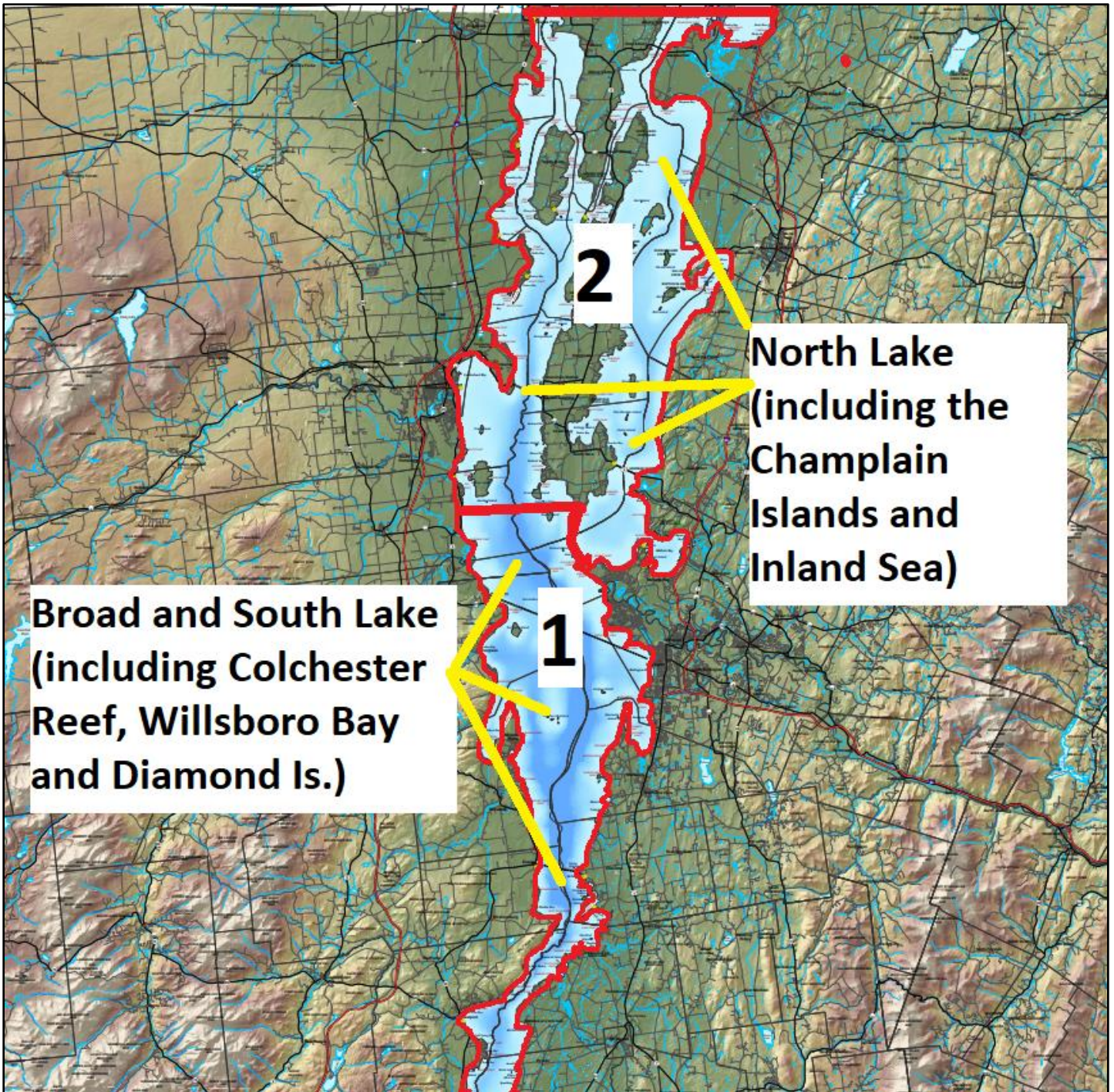
Beginning on May 1, 2021 the NWS in Burlington, VT began issuing the Lake Champlain Recreational Forecast in a new experimental format. The new format contains two separate forecast zones including, 1) **Northern Waters including the Champlain Islands and the Inland Sea** and 2) **Southern Waters including Colchester Reef, Willsboro Bay and Diamond Island**. These changes were made in coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard in Burlington to help improve forecast messaging and public safety for those engaging in activities on the lake. The new zone groupings, along with an example of the new text product format are shown at the bottom of this document.

Other changes have also been incorporated into the forecast. Notably, NWS Burlington will no longer issue specific Lake Thunderstorm Advisories, instead opting for cautionary/preparedness wording in the product for the potential of thunderstorms at all times when thunderstorms are in the first period of the forecast. This change will hopefully eliminate confusion during times when only isolated storms affect the lake, or are only impacting far northern or southern waters respectively. **Please note that NWS Burlington will continue to issue all Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Warnings and associated public safety messaging when conditions warrant.**

The criteria for issuance of Lake Wind Advisories remains unchanged (upper bound of sustained wind range equal or greater than 25 knots for several or more hours). To avoid confusion, if one forecast zone of the lake meets Lake Wind Advisory criteria, then a Lake Wind Advisory will be issued for the entire lake with the headline appearing at the top of the product.

Given these new changes are currently experimental, we welcome your feedback. If you have any questions or comments, please send a note to btv.webmaster@noaa.gov.

Map of new Lake Champlain forecast zones:



Text example of new Lake Champlain Recreational Forecast format:

Recreational Forecast
National Weather Service Burlington VT
314 AM EDT Sat May 8 2021

.The Forecast for the Northern Waters of Lake Champlain,
Including the Champlain Islands and Inland Sea...

.TODAY...Southeast winds less than 10 knots. Mostly cloudy. A slight
chance of showers in the morning, then a chance of showers in the
afternoon. Waves 1 foot or less.

.TONIGHT...Light and variable winds. Mostly cloudy in the evening,
then becoming partly cloudy. A chance of showers in the evening.
Waves 1 foot or less.

.SUNDAY...Light and variable winds. Partly sunny. Waves 1 foot or
less.

.SUNDAY NIGHT...West winds 10 knots or less, becoming southwest.
Partly cloudy in the evening, then becoming mostly cloudy. Waves
1 foot or less.

.MONDAY...Northwest winds less than 10 knots. Mostly cloudy. A
chance of showers in the afternoon. Waves 1 foot or less.

.MONDAY NIGHT...West winds 5 to 10 knots, becoming southwest. Mostly
cloudy in the evening, then becoming partly cloudy. A chance of
showers. Waves 1 to 2 feet.

.TUESDAY...Southwest winds 5 to 15 knots, becoming west. Partly
sunny. A chance of showers. Waves 1 to 3 feet, building to 2 to
4 feet.

.TUESDAY NIGHT...West winds 10 to 15 knots, becoming northwest.
Partly cloudy. A chance of rain showers. Waves 2 to 4 feet.

.WEDNESDAY...Northwest winds 10 to 15 knots. Partly sunny. Waves
1 to 3 feet.

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.The Forecast for the Southern Waters of Lake Champlain,
Including Colchester Reef, Willsboro Bay, and Diamond Island...

.TODAY...Southeast winds less than 10 knots, becoming northeast.
Cloudy. A slight chance of showers in the morning, then a chance of
showers in the afternoon. Waves 1 foot or less.

.TONIGHT...Northwest winds less than 10 knots, becoming southwest.
Mostly cloudy in the evening, then becoming partly cloudy. A chance
of showers in the evening. Waves 1 foot or less.

.SUNDAY...Southwest winds less than 10 knots, becoming west. Mostly
cloudy. Waves 1 foot or less.

.SUNDAY NIGHT...Southwest winds less than 10 knots. Mostly cloudy. A
chance of rain overnight. Waves 1 foot or less.

.MONDAY...North winds less than 10 knots, becoming northwest. Mostly
cloudy. A chance of rain. Waves 1 foot or less.

.MONDAY NIGHT...Northwest winds 10 knots or less, becoming
southwest. Mostly cloudy in the evening, then becoming partly
cloudy. A chance of showers. Waves 1 to 2 feet.

.TUESDAY...Southwest winds 10 knots or less, becoming west 10 to
15 knots. Partly sunny. A chance of showers. Waves 1 to 3 feet,
building to 2 to 4 feet.

.TUESDAY NIGHT...Northwest winds 10 to 15 knots. Partly cloudy. A
chance of rain showers in the evening. Waves 2 to 4 feet.

.WEDNESDAY...Northwest winds 10 to 15 knots. Partly sunny. Waves
2 to 4 feet.

Latest Level and Temperature Data from Around Lake Champlain
Level Temperature

USGS gage at Rouses Point NY	97.36 feet	
USGS gage at Burlington VT	97.57 feet	43 degrees
USGS gage at Port Henry NY	97.63 feet	
Colchester Reef		Missing
Diamond Island		46 degrees

Early in the boating season, water temperatures on rivers, ponds and lakes remain rather cold. Immersion in cold water can be life threatening very quickly due to hypothermia and the bodies inability to work efficiently in the cold water. Therefore, it is recommended to consider postponing small craft boating activities until water temperatures become warmer. However, if you choose to venture out, wear all recommended cold water protective gear, including a life jacket, in the event of an accident.

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Notice: Wave height forecasts represent the average of the highest one-third (33%) of waves (measured from trough to crest) that occur in a given period. Since the Significant Wave Height is an average of the largest waves, mariners should be aware that many individual waves will probably be higher.