NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)

This 24/7 weather radio broadcast is the best way to receive weather alerts and updates on the water and is a must-have for any boat.

Seven NWR transmitters broadcast weather observations, forecasts, and warnings for the Maryland part of the Chesapeake Bay. A tone alarm will alert for warnings.

Boat responsibly: Wear a life jacket!

National Weather Service
Baltimore/Washington Weather Forecast Office
43858 Weather Service Road
Sterling, VA 20166
(703) 996-2200
weather.gov/lwx

Marine and Tide Forecasts and Warnings

“Be in the know before you go!”

U. S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin.
National Weather Service
Baltimore/Washington Forecast Office
Sterling, Virginia
Marine Weather

We provide marine forecasts and warnings for 14 zones on Tidal Potomac River and the Maryland Portion of the Chesapeake Bay. A Coastal Waters Forecast is issued for each zone.

Elements for Coastal Waters Forecasts:

- Synopsis (with future wind headlines)
- Wind Speed, Direction, Gust
- Wave Height
- Weather, Visibility

Example Coastal Waters Forecast for a zone

Marine Wind Headlines (Criteria):

- Small Craft Advisory (18-33 knots)
- Gale Warning (34-47 knots)
- Storm Warning (48-63 knots)
- Hurricane Force Wind Warning (>= 64 knots)

Marine Warning Headlines:

- Severe Thunderstorm/Tornado Watch
- Special Marine Warning (34 knot or more wind, waterspout, ¾” hail)
- Marine Weather Statement (Brief wind, dense fog, low water, advance notice of dangerous thunderstorms)
- Tropical Cyclone Watch/Warning

Tide Forecasts

Tide observation (blue) and forecast (maroon)

We forecast the tidal water level for both coastal flooding and blowout tide conditions at locations with tide gauges. Coastal Flood Watch and Warning: moderate and major coastal flooding. Coastal Flood Advisory: minor coastal flooding. Marine Weather Statement: blowout tides.

Elements for Tide Forecasts:

- Wind Speed, Direction, Duration
- Astronomical Tide Prediction
- Barometric Pressure Pattern, Moon Phase

Websites for Marine Weather and Tides:

- NWS Forecast Office for MD Bay Area weather.gov/lwxmarine, mobile.weather.gov
- National Data Buoy Observations ndbc.noaa.gov/maps/Chesapeake_Bay.shtml
- Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoys buoybay.noaa.gov “Smart Buoys” App
- NWS River/Tide Observations and Forecasts water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=lwx
- NOAA Tide Observations and Forecasts tidesonline.noaa.gov tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ofs/cbofs/cbofs.html
- Ocean Prediction Center opc.ncep.noaa.gov “Coast Guard” App