

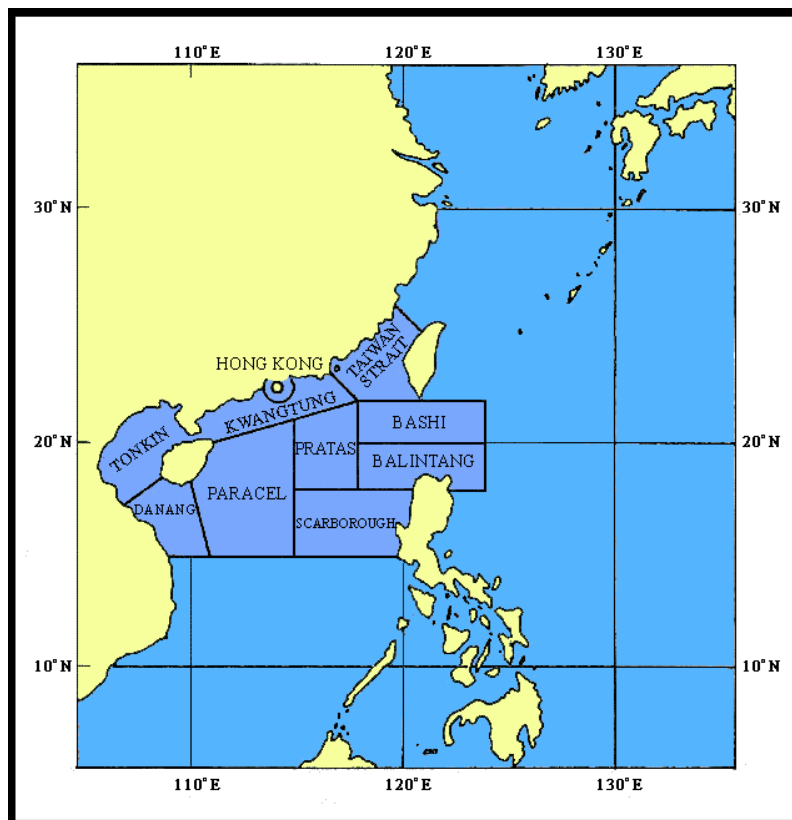
Enhanced Marine Meteorological Services

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In the past years, the marine weather forecast (“Marine Forecast”) for ships issued by the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) was prepared twice daily at 09 and 21 Hong Kong Time (HKT) by our forecasters and broadcast six times a day via NAVTEX. Starting from 1 Apr 2020, the update frequency of the forecast has increased to three times every day at 05, 13 and 21 HKT (i.e. 21Z, 05UTC, 13 UTC) to allow more responsive update to the forecast based on the latest computer model forecast products and assessment by the forecasters. The content of the forecast remains unchanged, including warning of winds of gale force or above, a synopsis of significant weather system, and 24-hour forecasts of the weather and sea state for 10 marine areas in the South China Sea and the western North Pacific.

The Marine Forecast was broadcast for the first time by the Observatory using radio telegraphy in 1915. This was one of the earliest marine meteorological services provided by HKO. The wireless broadcast was since overtaken by the automated NAVTEX broadcast system under the Marine Department in 2000. Details of broadcast schedule of the Marine Forecast can be found at

<https://www.hko.gov.hk/en/wservice/tsheet/pms/fmar.htm?menu=services&broadcast>



Marine forecast for the 10 areas in the South China Sea and the western North Pacific

MARINE FORECAST

Bulletin issued at 13:00 HKT 18/Dec/2020

Gale Warning areas: Kwangtung, Taiwan Strait, Bashi, Pratas, Balintang, Scarborough, Paracel and Danang.

GENERAL SITUATION AT 180300 UTC:

THE NORTHEAST MONSOON IS AFFECTING THE FORECAST AREAS.

MARINE FORECAST FOR 24 HOURS FROM 180500 UTC:

HONG KONG= N TO NE 5-6, UP TO 7 LATER CLD SEA 2-3 M, UP TO 4 M LATER TEMP 19-13 C =

KWANGTUNG= N TO NE 6-7, UP TO 8 LATER RAIN PATCHES SEA 3-4 M, UP TO 6 M LATER SWELL NE 2-3 M =

TAIWAN STRAIT= NE 7-8 CLD SEA 4-6 M SWELL NE 3 M =

BASHI= E TO NE 6-7, OCNL 8 RAIN PATCHES SEA UP TO 6 M SWELL NE 3 M =

PRATAS= NE 6-7, UP TO 8 LATER RAIN PATCHES SEA 3-4 M, UP TO 6 M LATER SWELL NE 3 M =

BALINTANG= E TO NE 6-7, OCNL 8 RAIN PATCHES SEA UP TO 6 M SWELL NE 3 M =

SCARBOROUGH= NE 6-7, UP TO 8 LATER RAIN PATCHES SEA 3-4 M, UP TO 6 M SWELL NE 2-3 M =

PARACEL= N TO NE 6-7, UP TO 8 LATER RAIN PATCHES SEA 3-4 M, UP TO 6 M LATER SWELL NE 2-3 M =

TONKIN= N TO NE 6-7 CLD SEA 3-4 M SWELL NE 2 M =

DANANG= N TO NE 6-7, UP TO 8 LATER RAIN PATCHES SEA 3-4 M, UP TO 6 M LATER SWELL NE 2-3 M =

NNNN

Abbreviations:

KT, VRB, SLW, FRQ - knot, variable, slow, frequent STNR, QSTNR, C - stationary, quasi-stationary, degrees celsius WKN, INTSF, INTST, NC - weaken, intensify, intensity, no change LGT, ISOL, SCT, OCNL - light, isolated, scattered, occasional CLD, DZ, TS - cloudy, drizzle, thunderstorm

The date and time are specified by a 6-digit number DDHHMM. DD stands for the day of month, HH represents the hour while MM indicates the minute in UTC.

A sample of Marine Forecast