

One Day, 7 Hour Weather Primer for Coastal Cruisers

- 1) Introduction of self and attendees: Why are you here & the day's topics (30minutes)
- 2) Why do I care about weather (30 minutes)
- 3) What is available and ways to get the information (one hour)
 - VHF voice broadcasts (play a sample)
 - Navtex, and other text forecasts products (e.g. right off smart phone)
 - Weatherfax
 - Websites
 - VTS; other vessels
 - Ham/HF/SSB: boaters net; broadcasts
 - Synoptic weather charts
 - Samples, handouts & demos
- 4) General discussion about weather forecasts (three hours)
 - Breakdown of text and voice broadcast components:
 1. Overall trends (Synoptic descriptions)
 2. Area by area reports of wind/waves and weather; area by area forecasts of wind/waves and weather.
 3. Reporting stations and area of coverage (e.g., Lake Michigan and coastal areas within 5 NM of Chicago shoreline; Cape Flattery to Pt Saint George, Hood Canal, etc.
 4. The need for a navigation plotting chart of weather buoys and other weather reporting locations
 5. Tides & currents and geographical considerations (e.g., Columbia and Grays Harbor bars)
 - Synoptic Charts
 1. Types and main components
 2. How to organize and use the products
 - How to interpret what one sees:
 1. Clouds
 2. Barometric pressure trends
 3. Wind & waves
 4. The importance of logging weather and verifying
- 5) Resources: (one hour)
 - Websites
 - Manuals
 - Books
 - Bibliography
- 6) Where to learn more (30 minutes)
 - 5-Day STCW Approved Basis and Advanced Meteorology courses
 - 2-Day Level 1, Level 11, & Level 111 Marine Meteorology courses
- 7) Review of day's key topics and map discussion (30 minutes)