

From the Met Office. Issued at 0530 GMT on Thursday 04 Jan 2007.

Here is the weather forecast for the inshore waters of Great Britain and Northern Ireland valid for the following 18 hours.

General Situation: low Fair Isle at first moving east into Scandinavia. Transient ridge moving east across all parts. Frontal band reaching northwestern parts later.

From Cape Wrath to Duncansby Head including Orkney.

Wind: west veering northwest 6 to gale 8, occasionally severe gale 9, decreasing 4 or 5 for a time, backing south 5 or 6 later. squally showers at first, becoming fair for a time. Occasional rain later.

Visibility: good, occasionally moderate later.

Shetland.

Wind: southwest 5 or 6 veering northwest 6 to gale 8, decreasing 3 or 4 later.

squally showers dying out then fair for a time. Occasional rain later.

Visibility: good, occasionally moderate later.

From Duncansby Head to Whitby.

Wind: southwest veering west or northwest 6 to gale 8, occasionally severe gale 9, decreasing 4 or 5 later.

showers then fair for a time. Occasional rain later.

Visibility: good, occasionally moderate later.

From Whitby to North Foreland.

Wind: southwest veering west 6 to gale 8, occasionally severe gale 9 at first near North Foreland, decreasing 5 or 6 later.

showers then fair.

Visibility: good.

From North Foreland to St. Catherine's Point.

Wind: southwest veering west 6 to gale 8, occasionally severe gale 9 at first, decreasing 5 later.

squally showers dying out.

Visibility: good.

From St. Catherine's Point to Lands End.

Wind: southwest veering west 6 to gale 8 decreasing 5 later.

squally showers dying out.

Visibility: good.

From Lands End to Colwyn Bay.

Wind: southwest veering west 6 to gale 8 decreasing 5 later.

showers at first then fair.

Visibility: good.

From Colwyn Bay to Mull of Kintyre including Lough Foyle to Carlingford Lough.

Wind: west 6 to gale 8 decreasing 4 or 5, backing southwest 5 or 6 later.

squally showers dying out then fair for a time. Occasional rain later.

Visibility: good occasionally moderate later.

From Mull of Kintyre to Cape Wrath.

Wind: west or northwest 6 to gale 8, occasionally severe gale 9, decreasing 4 or 5, backing southwest 5 or 6 later.

squally showers then fair for a time. Occasional rain later.

Visibility: good occasionally moderate later.