

From the Met Office. Issued at 2330 GMT on Thursday 04 Jan 2007.

To BBC Radio 4

Here is the weather forecast for the inshore waters of Great Britain and Northern Ireland valid for the following 24 hours.

General Situation: Gales spreading to the far northwest.

From Cape Wrath to Duncansby Head including Orkney.

Wind: southwesterly 2 or 3, backing southerly 4 or 5, occasionally 6. rain, then showers.

Visibility: moderate or good.

Shetland.

Wind: southwesterly 3, backing southerly 5 or 6, veering westerly 7 or gale 8 later today.

rain, then showers.

Visibility: moderate or good.

From Duncansby Head to Whitby.

Wind: southwesterly 2 or 3, increasing 4 or 5 for a time. rain, then showers.

Visibility: moderate or good.

From Whitby to North Foreland.

Wind: westerly backing southwesterly 3 or 4, occasionally 5 in exposed locations.

occasional rain.

Visibility: moderate or good.

From North Foreland to St. Catherine's Point.

Wind: westerly backing southwesterly 4 or 5. occasional rain.

Visibility: moderate or good.

From St. Catherine's Point to Lands End.

Wind: westerly backing southwesterly 4 or 5, decreasing 3 later. occasional rain.

Visibility: moderate or good.

From Lands End to Colwyn Bay.

Wind: southwesterly 4 or 5, decreasing 3 later. rain or showers.

Visibility: moderate or good.

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

Wind: southwesterly 4 or 5, occasionally 6. rain, then showers.

Visibility: moderate or good.

From Mull of Kintyre to Cape Wrath.

Wind: southerly veering southwesterly 5 to 7, occasionally gale 8 in the exposed western and northwestern Isles. rain, then showers.

Visibility: moderate, becoming mainly good.