

From the Met Office. Issued at 0530 GMT on Wednesday 03 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: ridge over British Isles declining and moving away eastwards as deepening low moves steadily northeast towards the Faeroe Islands.

From Cape Wrath to Duncansby Head including Orkney.

Wind: south veering southwest 6 to gale 8, occasionally severe gale 9.

rain then showers.

Visibility: moderate or good.

Shetland.

Wind: south or southeast veering southwest 6 to gale 8.

rain then squally showers.

Visibility: moderate or good.

From Duncansby Head to Whitby.

Wind: south or southwest 5 to 7, occasionally gale 8.

rain at times.

Visibility: moderate or good.

From Whitby to North Foreland.

Wind: southwest 4 or 5, occasionally 6, increasing 6 to gale 8.

rain at times.

Visibility: moderate or good.

From North Foreland to St. Catherine's Point.

Wind: southwest 4 or 5 increasing 6 or 7, occasionally gale 8.

rain or drizzle.

Visibility: good, becoming moderate for a time.

From St. Catherine's Point to Lands End.

Wind: southwest veering west 5 to 7, occasionally gale 8.

rain or drizzle, then showers.

Visibility: mainly moderate, becoming good later.

From Lands End to Colwyn Bay.

Wind: southwest veering west 5 to 7, increasing 7 or gale 8, occasionally severe gale 9.

rain then showers.

Visibility: moderate or good.

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

Wind: southwest veering west 6 to gale 8, occasionally severe gale 9.

rain then showers.

Visibility: moderate or good.

From Mull of Kintyre to Cape Wrath.

Wind: southwest veering west 6 to gale 8, occasionally severe gale 9.

rain then squally showers.

Visibility: moderate, occasionally poor, becoming good.