



BAHMET 7.6A

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT

Issued at 6:00 PM EDT on Saturday, 17th October, 2026

**...COLD FRONT MOVING INTO THE NORTHERN BAHAMAS TONIGHT...
...LARGE NORTHEAST SWELLS AND HAZARDOUS MARINE CONDITIONS THROUGH
MIDWEEK...**

This statement updates the Special Weather Statement issued on Thursday, 15th October, 2026.

...Thunderstorms and locally heavy rain are expected over the Northern and Northwest Bahamas tonight into Sunday...

...Large northeasterly swells will produce hazardous seas on Atlantic exposures across all regions from Sunday through Wednesday, with dangerous rip currents into Thursday...

At 3:00 PM EDT, a strong cold front extended from the western Atlantic near 31°N 77°W to near Fort Pierce, Florida. A trough of low pressure ahead of the front lay between Florida and The Bahamas, with showers and thunderstorms along and east of it. The front will move into the Northern Bahamas tonight and reach the Straits of Florida by early Sunday. It is then forecast to stall near the Straits of Florida and the Northern Bahamas on Monday and weaken by midweek. Strong high pressure behind the front will drive strong northeasterly winds over the Gulf Stream and send large northeasterly swells into Bahamian waters from Sunday through Wednesday.

Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms will affect the Northern and Northwest Bahamas tonight into Sunday, mainly over Grand Bahama, Bimini, Abaco, the Berry Islands, New Providence and Andros. Some thunderstorms will produce frequent lightning, strong gusty winds, heavy downpours and possible waterspouts. Isolated rainfall totals of 2 to 4 inches are possible. There is a slight to moderate risk of flooding in low-lying and flood-prone areas. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms will spread into the Central Bahamas on Sunday night and Monday. Showers will continue at times on north- and east-facing coasts of the Northern and Northwest Bahamas through Monday.

Marine Impacts:

Winds and Seas:

Northeasterly winds of 25 to 30 knots, with gusts near gale force, will affect the Gulf Stream west of Bimini and Grand Bahama on Sunday and Sunday night. Seas there will build to 9 to 13 feet, occasionally 17 feet. Northeasterly winds blowing against the northward-flowing Gulf Stream will produce steep, closely spaced and dangerous waves. Across the Northern and Northwest Bahamas, northeasterly winds will increase to 15 to 20 knots, locally 20 to 25 knots over the banks and channels, from Sunday night through Tuesday. Seas on Atlantic exposures will build to 7 to 10 feet on Sunday and 9 to 13 feet from Sunday night through Monday night. They will then subside slowly to 6 to 9 feet by Wednesday.

Atlantic Swells:

Long-period northeasterly swells will reach the Atlantic exposures of Abaco, Grand Bahama, the Berry Islands and Eleuthera on Sunday. They will spread to Cat Island, San Salvador, Long Island and the Exumas on Sunday night and Monday. The swells will reach the Southeast Bahamas on Monday and Monday night. Seas of 7 to 11 feet are expected on the Atlantic exposures of the Central and Southeast Bahamas from Monday through Tuesday, even though local winds there will be only 10 to 15 knots. Swells will break heavily across reefs, cuts and harbour entrances. Seas of 6 to 9 feet will persist on most Atlantic exposures into Thursday.

Advice to Mariners:

Small craft operators in the Northern and Northwest Bahamas should remain in port from tonight until conditions improve. Mariners should not attempt to cross the Gulf Stream from Sunday through Tuesday. Small craft operators in the Central and Southeast Bahamas should remain in port or stay in sheltered waters from Monday through Tuesday, and should avoid Atlantic-exposed

passages and cuts. All mariners should secure their vessels and closely monitor marine forecasts issued by the Bahamas Department of Meteorology.

Rip Currents and Surf:

Dangerous to life-threatening rip currents and rough, pounding surf are expected along Atlantic-facing and north-facing beaches in all regions from Sunday through at least Thursday. This includes the northern beaches of New Providence and Grand Bahama. Beachgoers, swimmers and pleasure-craft operators are strongly urged to remain out of the water during this period.

Anticipated Marine Alert Levels (subject to confirmation in the official Marine Forecast):

Region	Anticipated Alert	Period
Northern Bahamas	Small Craft Advisory Near Gale conditions possible over the Gulf Stream west of Bimini and Grand Bahama	Tonight – Wednesday Sunday – Sunday night
Northwest Bahamas	Small Craft Advisory	Sunday – Wednesday
Central Bahamas	Small Craft Caution, becoming Small Craft Advisory on Atlantic exposures	Sunday night – Wednesday
Southeast Bahamas	Small Craft Caution, becoming Small Craft Advisory on Atlantic exposures	Monday – Wednesday

Projected Sea Heights for the Territorial Waters of the Bahamas

Period	Northern Bahamas	Northwest Bahamas	Central Bahamas	Southeast Bahamas
Tonight (17th October)	Sheltered: 2–4 ft, building to 3–5 ft Atlantic: 3–5 ft, building to 7–11 ft north of Grand Bahama and Abaco late Gulf Stream: 3–5 ft, building to 6–9 ft late	Sheltered: 1–3 ft Atlantic: 2–4 ft	Sheltered: 1–3 ft Atlantic: 2–4 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 3–5 ft
Sunday (18th October)	Sheltered: 4–6 ft Atlantic: 7–10 ft Gulf Stream: 8–13 ft, occasionally 17 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 4–6 ft, building to 7–10 ft	Sheltered: 1–3 ft Atlantic: 2–4 ft, building to 7–10 ft north of 24°N late	Sheltered: 1–3 ft Atlantic: 2–4 ft
Sunday Night (18th October)	Sheltered: 5–8 ft Atlantic: 9–13 ft Gulf Stream: 9–13 ft, occasionally 17 ft	Sheltered: 4–7 ft Atlantic: 9–13 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 6–9 ft, 9–13 ft north of 24°N	Sheltered: 1–3 ft Atlantic: 2–4 ft, building to 6–9 ft north of 23°N late
Monday (19th October)	Sheltered: 5–8 ft Atlantic: 9–13 ft Gulf Stream: 9–12 ft, occasionally 15 ft	Sheltered: 4–7 ft Atlantic: 9–13 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 7–11 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 5–9 ft
Monday Night (19th October)	Sheltered: 5–8 ft Atlantic: 9–13 ft Gulf Stream: 8–12 ft, occasionally 15 ft	Sheltered: 4–7 ft Atlantic: 9–13 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 7–11 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 6–9 ft
Tuesday (20th October)	Sheltered: 4–7 ft Atlantic: 8–12 ft Gulf Stream: 7–11 ft, occasionally 14 ft	Sheltered: 4–6 ft Atlantic: 8–12 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 7–10 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 6–10 ft
Wednesday (21st October)	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–9 ft Gulf Stream: 5–8 ft, occasionally 10 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–9 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 5–7 ft

Land Impacts:

Flooding:

Heavy downpours tonight into Sunday may cause flooding of roads and low-lying areas in the Northern and Northwest Bahamas. Motorists should not drive through flooded roads. Residents in flood-prone areas should clear drains and move valuables to higher ground.

Coastal Flooding and Erosion:

Large swells and persistent onshore winds are likely to cause wave overwash, heavy sea spray and minor to moderate coastal flooding along north- and east-facing coastal roads from Sunday through Wednesday. The greatest risk will occur around the times of high tide. Coastal erosion is likely along Atlantic-facing shorelines. Motorists should avoid flooded coastal roads, and pedestrians should keep away from sea walls and exposed shorelines. Property owners in coastal areas should take the necessary measures to safeguard their property.

Wind Hazards:

Strong gusts in thunderstorms tonight may topple loose objects, signs and weak tree limbs in the Northern and Northwest Bahamas. Residents should secure loose outdoor items and furnishings this evening.

Temperatures:

Slightly cooler and less humid air will settle over the Northern and Northwest Bahamas from Tuesday. Overnight lows may dip into the upper 60s °F in parts of Grand Bahama, Bimini and Abaco. A significant drop in temperature is not expected.

Projected Wind Speeds and Gusts for the Bahamas

Period	Northern Bahamas	Northwest Bahamas	Central Bahamas	Southeast Bahamas
Tonight (17th October)	N–NE 10–20 kt 20–25 kt over the Gulf Stream and north of Grand Bahama late Gusts to 30 kt in thunderstorms	Variable 5–10 kt, becoming N–NE 10–15 kt late Stronger gusts in thunderstorms	E near 10 kt	E–SE 10–15 kt
Sunday (18th October)	NE 10–15 kt 25–30 kt over the Gulf Stream Gusts to 35 kt	NE 10–15 kt	E near 10 kt, becoming N–NE 10–15 kt north of 24°N	E–SE near 10 kt
Sunday Night (18th October)	NE 15–25 kt 25–30 kt over the Gulf Stream Gusts to 35 kt	NE 15–20 kt 20–25 kt over the banks and channels Gusts to 30 kt	NE–E 10–15 kt 15–20 kt north of 24°N	E 10–15 kt
Monday (19th October)	NE 15–20 kt 20–25 kt over the Gulf Stream Gusts to 30 kt	NE 15–20 kt Gusts to 25 kt	NE–E 10–15 kt	E near 10 kt
Monday Night (19th October)	NE 15–20 kt 20–25 kt over the Gulf Stream Gusts to 30 kt	NE 15–20 kt Gusts to 25 kt	NE–E 10–15 kt	NE–E 10–15 kt
Tuesday (20th October)	NE 15–20 kt 20–25 kt over the Gulf Stream Gusts to 25 kt	NE 10–20 kt Gusts to 25 kt	NE–E 10–15 kt	E near 10 kt
Wednesday (21st October)	NE 10–15 kt 15–20 kt over the Gulf Stream	NE 10–15 kt	NE 10–15 kt	E–SE near 10 kt, becoming light

**Gusts to 35 knots (gale-force gusts) shown in red. Sheltered = offshore waters in the lee of the islands and banks. Atlantic = Atlantic-exposed waters. Gulf Stream = waters west of Bimini and Grand Bahama.*

The BDM will continue to monitor this system closely and will issue further statements as necessary. The position at which the front stalls may change the timing and strength of winds and showers over the Northern and Northwest Bahamas.

BDM urges residents to closely monitor all weather updates and forecasts broadcast on television and radio, as well as through its WhatsApp channel and Facebook page (Bahamas Meteorology). Additionally, the BDM offers a user-friendly, regularly updated website to ensure the most current information is easily accessible: <https://met.gov.bs>.

Issued by:
The Bahamas Department of Meteorology