



BAHMET 7.6A

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT

Updated at 6:00 PM EDT on Wednesday, 21st October, 2026

**...SEAS SLOWLY SUBSIDING THROUGH FRIDAY...
...STRONG NORTHEAST WINDS, VERY ROUGH SEAS AND POSSIBLE GALE-FORCE
CONDITIONS EXPECTED THIS WEEKEND...**

This statement updates the Special Weather Statement issued on Monday, 19th October, 2026.

**...Hazardous seas on Atlantic exposures will ease slightly through Friday, but small craft
should remain cautious...**

**...Northeasterly winds will strengthen from Friday night. Near-gale to gale-force
conditions are possible over the Northern and Northwest Bahamas and the Gulf Stream on
Sunday, with seas building to 12 to 18 feet on Atlantic exposures...**

**...Coastal flooding is a growing concern this weekend as large swells coincide with
seasonally high (king) tides...**

At 4:00 PM EDT, a weakening stationary front extended from the western Atlantic near 31°N 64°W south-westward across the Central Bahamas to central Cuba. A trough of low pressure ahead of the front lay east of the Southeast Bahamas, from near 26°N 68°W to the Windward Passage, with numerous showers and thunderstorms over the Atlantic waters east of The Bahamas. Northeasterly winds behind the front have eased to 10 to 15 knots. Seas will continue to subside slowly through Friday.

A renewed and stronger episode of hazardous weather is expected this weekend. From Friday night, strong high pressure will build southward over the western Atlantic and the eastern United States. At the same time, a low pressure system is expected to form near The Bahamas along the remnants of the front, beneath an upper-level low near Cuba. The tightening pressure gradient between these systems will produce strong northeasterly winds over the Northern and Northwest Bahamas from Saturday. Near-gale to gale-force conditions are possible over these waters and the Gulf Stream on Sunday and Sunday night. The Central and Southeast Bahamas will be closer to the low, with more variable winds, including fresh to strong southerly winds over the Southeast Bahamas on Saturday.

Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms will affect the Northern and Central Bahamas tonight through Thursday night. Showers and thunderstorms are expected to increase from Friday night into the weekend as deep tropical moisture spreads over the region. There is an increasing risk of heavy rainfall and flooding in the Northern and Northwest Bahamas, and possibly the Central Bahamas, from Friday night through Sunday. The location and amount of the heaviest rainfall remain uncertain. Further details will follow in later statements.

Marine Impacts:

Winds and Seas:

Through Friday, northeasterly winds will remain 10 to 15 knots in most areas, increasing to 15 to 20 knots over the Northern Bahamas and the Gulf Stream on Friday. Seas on Atlantic exposures of 5 to 9 feet will persist in long-period northeasterly swells. From Saturday, northeasterly winds will strengthen to 20 to 25 knots over the Northern and Northwest Bahamas, and to 25 to 30 knots over the Gulf Stream and the waters north of Grand Bahama and Abaco by Saturday night. On Sunday and Sunday night, winds of 20 to 30 knots with gusts to gale force are expected across the Northern and Northwest Bahamas. Seas on Atlantic exposures will build to 11 to 17 feet on Sunday and 12 to 18 feet on Sunday night. Northeasterly winds against the Gulf Stream current will produce seas of 9 to 13 feet, occasionally 17 feet, with steep and dangerous waves.

Atlantic Swells:

Long-period northeasterly swells will continue on Atlantic exposures from Grand Bahama to Mayaguana through the week. A new and larger northeasterly swell will reach the Northern and

Northwest Bahamas on Saturday night and Sunday, and the Central and Southeast Bahamas on Sunday and Sunday night. Swells will break heavily across reefs, cuts and harbour entrances.

Advice to Mariners:

Small craft operators should continue to exercise caution in all areas, and should avoid Atlantic-exposed passages and cuts through Friday. Mariners in the Northern and Northwest Bahamas should complete their voyages and secure their vessels by Friday evening, and should remain in port from Saturday until conditions improve. Mariners should not attempt to cross the Gulf Stream from Saturday through at least Sunday night. All mariners should closely monitor marine forecasts issued by the Bahamas Department of Meteorology and have plans in place to avoid the weekend's hazardous conditions.

Rip Currents and Surf:

Dangerous rip currents and rough surf will continue along Atlantic-facing and north-facing beaches in all regions through Friday. Rip currents and surf will become life-threatening from Saturday through at least Monday. 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.

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

Region	Anticipated Alert	Period
Northern Bahamas	Small Craft Advisory Near Gale to Gale conditions possible, including the Gulf Stream	Tonight – Sunday night Saturday night – Sunday night
Northwest Bahamas	Small Craft Caution, becoming Small Craft Advisory Near Gale conditions possible	Tonight – Friday; Saturday – Sunday night Sunday – Sunday night
Central Bahamas	Small Craft Advisory on Atlantic exposures	Tonight – Sunday night
Southeast Bahamas	Small Craft Caution, becoming Small Craft Advisory	Tonight – Friday; Saturday – Sunday night

Projected Sea Heights for the Territorial Waters of the Bahamas

Period	Northern Bahamas	Northwest Bahamas	Central Bahamas	Southeast Bahamas
Tonight (21st October)	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 5–7 ft Gulf Stream: 4–6 ft, occasionally 8 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 5–7 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 5–8 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 4–7 ft
Thursday (22nd October)	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft Gulf Stream: 5–7 ft, occasionally 9 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 6–9 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 6–9 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 5–8 ft
Friday (23rd October)	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft Gulf Stream: 5–7 ft, building to 6–9 ft late	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft
Saturday (24th October)	Sheltered: 4–6 ft Atlantic: 6–9 ft Gulf Stream: 7–10 ft, occasionally 13 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 7–10 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 6–9 ft	Sheltered: 4–6 ft Atlantic: 6–10 ft
Saturday Night (24th October)	Sheltered: 5–8 ft Atlantic: 7–11 ft Gulf Stream: 8–13 ft, occasionally 17 ft	Sheltered: 4–7 ft Atlantic: 7–11 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 6–10 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–10 ft
Sunday (25th October)	Sheltered: 6–10 ft Atlantic: 11–17 ft Gulf Stream: 9–13 ft, occasionally 17 ft	Sheltered: 6–9 ft Atlantic: 11–17 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 8–12 ft, building to 12–18 ft north of 24°N	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 5–9 ft, 7–11 ft north of 23°N
Sunday Night (25th October)	Sheltered: 7–10 ft Atlantic: 12–18 ft Gulf Stream: 9–13 ft, occasionally 17 ft	Sheltered: 6–9 ft Atlantic: 12–18 ft	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 9–13 ft, up to 12–19 ft north of 24°N	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 7–10 ft, 9–13 ft north of 23°N

Land Impacts:

Coastal Flooding and Erosion:

Seasonally high (king) tides are expected this weekend into early next week. Combined with large northeasterly swells and strong onshore winds, these tides are likely to cause moderate coastal flooding along north- and east-facing coastal roads and low-lying shorelines from Saturday night through at least Monday, mainly around the times of high tide. Wave overwash and significant coastal erosion are likely along Atlantic-facing shorelines, especially in the Northern and

Northwest Bahamas. Minor coastal flooding at high tide is possible before then. Residents and property owners in coastal areas should begin preparing now to safeguard their property. Motorists and pedestrians should avoid flooded coastal roads and keep away from sea walls and exposed shorelines.

Flooding:

Heavy rainfall from Friday night through Sunday may cause flooding of roads and low-lying areas, particularly in the Northern and Northwest Bahamas. Residents in flood-prone areas should clear drains now. Motorists should not drive through flooded roads.

Wind Hazards:

Strong and gusty northeasterly winds on Sunday and Sunday night may topple loose objects, signs and weak tree limbs, and may cause isolated power interruptions in the Northern and Northwest Bahamas. Residents should secure loose outdoor items and furnishings by Saturday afternoon.

Projected Wind Speeds and Gusts for the Bahamas

Period	Northern Bahamas	Northwest Bahamas	Central Bahamas	Southeast Bahamas
Tonight (21st October)	N–NE 10–15 kt	NE 10–15 kt	N–NE 10–15 kt	Light and variable
Thursday (22nd October)	N–NE 10–15 kt Gusts to 20 kt	NE 10–15 kt	NE near 10 kt	Light and variable, becoming E–SE 10–15 kt late
Friday (23rd October)	NE 15–20 kt Gusts to 25 kt	NE 10–20 kt	NE–E 10–15 kt	E–SE 10–20 kt
Saturday (24th October)	NE 15–25 kt 20–25 kt over the Gulf Stream Gusts to 30 kt	NE–E 15–20 kt Gusts to 25 kt	NE–E 10–15 kt 15–20 kt over Atlantic waters	S 15–25 kt Gusts to 30 kt
Saturday Night (24th October)	NE 20–25 kt 25–30 kt over the Gulf Stream Gusts to 35 kt	NE–E 20–25 kt Gusts to 30 kt	E 10–15 kt NE 20–25 kt over Atlantic waters	S–SW 10–15 kt
Sunday (25th October)	N–NE 20–30 kt 25–30 kt over the Gulf Stream Gusts to 40 kt	N–NE 20–30 kt Gusts to 35 kt	SE near 10 kt, shifting NW NE–E 20–25 kt over Atlantic waters	SW 10–20 kt
Sunday Night (25th October)	NE–E 20–30 kt 25–30 kt over the Gulf Stream Gusts to 40 kt	NE–E 20–30 kt Gusts to 35 kt	Variable 5–10 kt NE–E 25–30 kt over Atlantic waters	SW near 10 kt

**Gale-force gusts (34 knots or more) 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 conditions closely and will issue further statements as necessary. The track and strength of the low expected to form near The Bahamas this weekend remain uncertain, and changes to the forecast winds, seas and rainfall are likely.

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