



BAHMET 7.6A

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT

Issued at 6:00 PM EDT on Thursday, 15th October, 2026

**...STRONG COLD FRONT TO BRING STRONG TO GALE FORCE NORTHEAST WINDS,
LARGE SWELLS AND HAZARDOUS MARINE CONDITIONS THIS WEEKEND INTO
EARLY NEXT WEEK...**

**...Strong northeast winds and hazardous marine conditions are expected across the
Northern and Northwest Bahamas from Saturday night through at least Tuesday,
spreading to the Central and Southeast Bahamas from Sunday night...**

**...Dangerous rip currents, rough surf and coastal flooding are likely along north- and east-
facing shorelines from Sunday...**

The Bahamas Department of Meteorology (BDM) is monitoring a strong cold front that will move off the northeast coast of Florida late Friday night. The front is forecast to extend from near Bermuda to South Florida by late Saturday and to sweep across the Northern Bahamas on Saturday night. Strong high pressure will build in behind the front and tighten the pressure gradient across the archipelago. This pattern will produce strong, persistent northeasterly winds and large northeasterly swells from Sunday into at least Tuesday.

Ahead of the front, increasing moisture will bring scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to the Northern and Northwest Bahamas from Friday night into Saturday. Showers will continue along and behind the front on Sunday and Monday, mainly on north- and east-facing coasts. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds, frequent lightning and brief heavy downpours. There is a slight to moderate risk of localised flooding in low-lying and flood-prone areas of Grand Bahama, Abaco, Bimini and New Providence during this period.

Marine Impacts:

Winds and Seas:

Northeasterly winds will increase to 20 to 25 knots across the Northern and Northwest Bahamas from Saturday night. Winds will reach 25 to 30 knots, with gusts near gale force, over the Gulf Stream and the waters north of Grand Bahama and Abaco on Saturday night and Sunday. Seas will build to 8 to 12 feet on Atlantic exposures from Sunday and to 9 to 14 feet, occasionally higher, over the Gulf Stream. Northeasterly winds blowing against the northward-flowing Gulf Stream will produce steep, closely spaced and dangerous waves. Hazardous conditions will spread into the Central Bahamas from Sunday night and the Southeast Bahamas from Monday, mainly as large northeasterly swells.

Advice to Mariners:

Small craft operators in the Northern and Northwest Bahamas should remain in port from Saturday night until conditions improve. Small craft operators in the Central and Southeast Bahamas should exercise caution from Sunday night and avoid Atlantic-exposed passages and cuts. All mariners should secure vessels, avoid crossing the Gulf Stream and closely monitor marine forecasts issued by the Bahamas Department of Meteorology.

Atlantic Swells:

Long-period northeasterly swells generated by the strong winds north of The Bahamas will reach the Atlantic exposures of Abaco, Grand Bahama, the Berry Islands and Eleuthera on Sunday. The swells will spread to Cat Island, San Salvador, Long Island and the Exumas on Sunday night and Monday, then to the Southeast Bahamas on Monday night and Tuesday. Swells will break heavily across reefs, cuts and harbour entrances.

Rip Currents and Surf:

Dangerous to life-threatening rip currents and rough surf are expected along Atlantic-facing and north-facing beaches from Sunday through at least Tuesday. 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 and north of Grand Bahama and Abaco	Saturday night – Tuesday Saturday night – Sunday
Northwest Bahamas	Small Craft Advisory	Sunday – Tuesday
Central Bahamas	Small Craft Caution, becoming Small Craft Advisory on Atlantic exposures	Sunday night – Tuesday
Southeast Bahamas	Small Craft Caution, becoming Small Craft Advisory on Atlantic exposures	Monday – Tuesday

Projected Sea Heights for the Territorial Waters of the Bahamas

Period	Northern Bahamas	Northwest Bahamas	Central Bahamas	Southeast Bahamas
Saturday (17th October)	Sheltered: 1–3 ft Atlantic: 2–4 ft Gulf Stream: 2–4 ft, building to 4–6 ft late	Sheltered: 1–3 ft Atlantic: 2–4 ft	Sheltered: 1–3 ft Atlantic: 2–4 ft	Sheltered: 1–3 ft Atlantic: 2–4 ft
Saturday Night (17th October)	Sheltered: 3–5 ft, building to 5–7 ft Atlantic: 6–8 ft, building to 8–12 ft Gulf Stream: 8–12 ft	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 2–4 ft, building to 5–7 ft late occasionally to 10 ft.	Sheltered: 1–3 ft Atlantic: 2–4 ft	Sheltered: 1–3 ft Atlantic: 3–5 ft
Sunday (18th October)	Sheltered: 5–8 ft Atlantic: 8–12 ft, occasionally 14 ft Gulf Stream: 9–14 ft, occasionally 17 ft	Sheltered: 4–7 ft occasionally to 10 ft. Atlantic: 8–12 ft occasionally to 16 ft.	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 3–5 ft, building to 8–12 ft occasionally to 16 ft. north of 24°N late	Sheltered: 1–3 ft Atlantic: 2–4 ft
Sunday Night (18th October)	Sheltered: 5–8 ft Atlantic: 8–12 ft, occasionally 14 ft Gulf Stream: 9–14 ft, occasionally 18 ft	Sheltered: 5–8 ft occasionally to 12 ft Atlantic: 8–12 ft occasionally to 16 ft.	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 7–11 ft occasionally to 15 ft.	Sheltered: 1–3 ft Atlantic: 2–4 ft, building to 5–7 ft occasionally to 10 ft north of 23°N
Monday (19th October)	Sheltered: 5–8 ft Atlantic: 8–12 ft Gulf Stream: 9–14 ft, occasionally 15 ft	Sheltered: 5–8 ft occasionally to 12 ft Atlantic: 8–12 ft occasionally to 16 ft	Sheltered: 4–6 ft Atlantic: 7–11 ft occasionally to 15 ft.	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 4–6 ft, building to 6–8 ft occasionally to 12 ft
Monday Night (19th October)	Sheltered: 5–8 ft Atlantic: 8–12 ft Gulf Stream: 8–12 ft, occasionally 14 ft	Sheltered: 5–8 ft occasionally to 12 ft Atlantic: 8–12 ft occasionally to 16 ft.	Sheltered: 4–6 ft Atlantic: 7–11 ft occasionally to 15 ft.	Sheltered: 2–4 ft Atlantic: 6–9 ft occasionally to 12 ft
Tuesday (20th October)	Sheltered: 4–7 ft Atlantic: 8–12 ft Gulf Stream: 9–13 ft	Sheltered: 4–7 ft occasionally to 10 ft. Atlantic: 8–12 ft occasionally to 16 ft.	Sheltered: 4–6 ft Atlantic: 7–11 ft occasionally to 15 ft.	Sheltered: 3–5 ft Atlantic: 6–10 ft occasionally to 14 ft

Land Impacts:

Coastal Flooding and Erosion:

Persistent onshore winds and large swells 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 Tuesday. 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 make the necessary preparations to safeguard their property.

Wind Hazards:

Strong and gusty northeasterly winds may topple loose objects, signs and weak tree limbs, mainly in the Northern and Northwest Bahamas from Saturday night through Tuesday. Residents should secure loose outdoor items and furnishings before Saturday evening.

Temperatures:

Slightly cooler and less humid air will follow the front into the Northern and Northwest Bahamas from Sunday. 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
Saturday (17th October)	S–SW 5–10 kt, becoming NW–N 15–20 kt late	SE–S 5–10 kt, becoming variable	E–SE near 10 kt	E–SE 10–15 kt
Saturday Night (17th October)	N–NE 20–25 kt 25–30 kt over the Gulf Stream Gusts to 35 kt	N–NE 10–15 kt, increasing to 15–20 kt late	NE–E 10–15 kt	E–SE 10–15 kt
Sunday (18th October)	NE 20–25 kt 25–30 kt over the Gulf Stream Gusts to 35 kt	NE 20–25 kt Gusts to 30 kt	NE–E 10–15 kt, increasing to 15–20 kt north of 24°N late	NE–E near 10 kt
Sunday Night (18th October)	NE–E 20–25 kt Gusts to 35 kt	NE–E 20–25 kt Gusts to 35 kt	NE–E 15–20 kt Gusts to 25 kt	NE–E 10–15 kt
Monday (19th October)	NE 20–25 kt Gusts to 30 kt	NE 20–25 kt Gusts to 30 kt	NE–E 15–20 kt Gusts to 25 kt	E 10–15 kt
Monday Night (19th October)	NE–E 20–25 kt Gusts to 30 kt	NE–E 20–25 kt Gusts to 30 kt	NE–E 15–20 kt Gusts to 25 kt	NE–E 10–15 kt
Tuesday (20th October)	NE 15–25 kt Gusts to 30 kt	NE–E 15–25 kt Gusts to 30 kt	NE–E 15–20 kt Gusts to 25 kt	E 10–15 kt

**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.*

The BDM will continue to monitor this system closely and will issue further statements as necessary. Forecast details, particularly the timing of the frontal passage and the peak winds and seas, may change as the system evolves.

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