



Weather Forecasts

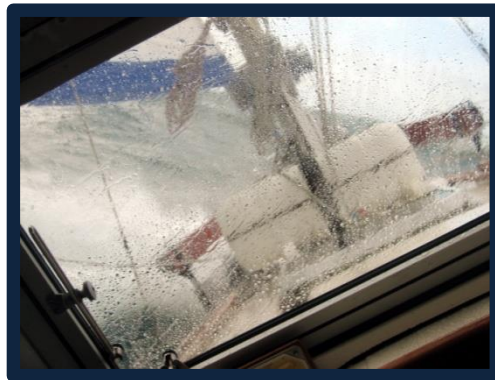
Where to find them and what they mean

Introduction

Only a few years ago the yachtsman had just a few sources of weather forecasts. First, was to listen to VHF Radio Coastguard Broadcasts and the other was to listen to the Shipping Forecast on Radio 4.

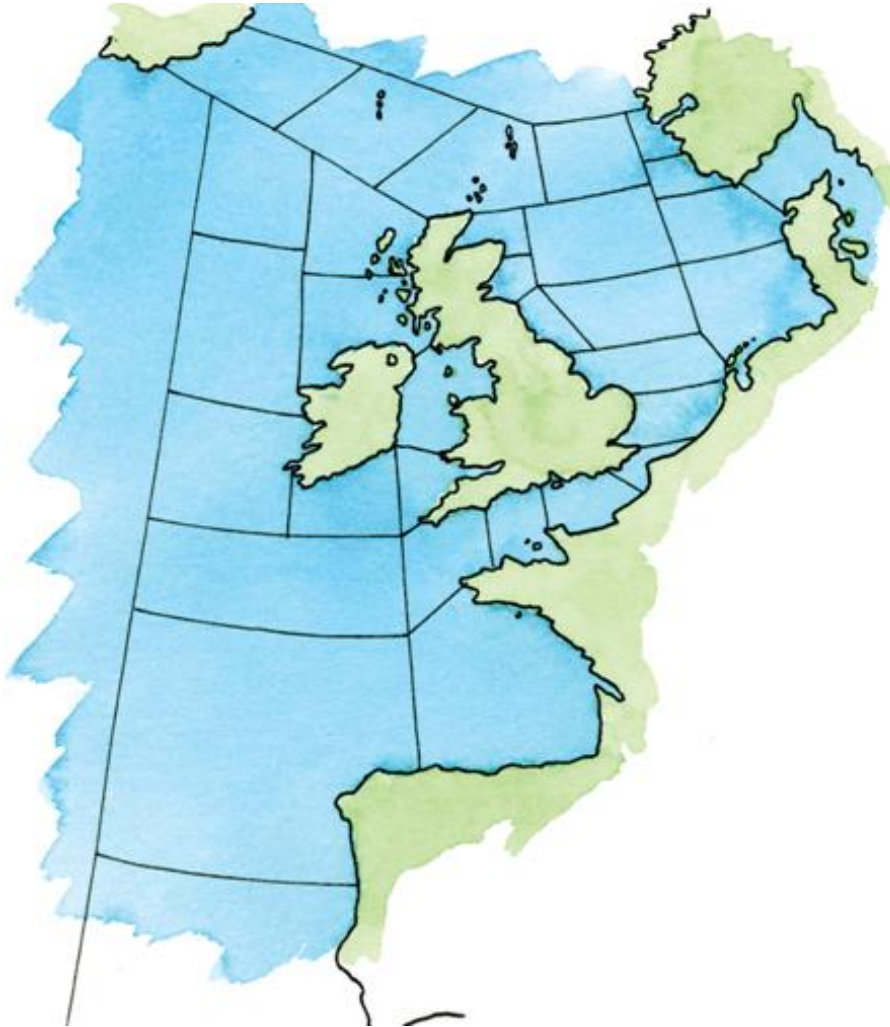
Today, we have many accurate and free sources using dedicated gadgets or the internet via smart-phones and computers.

There is now **no excuse** to go to sea without obtaining the latest weather information.



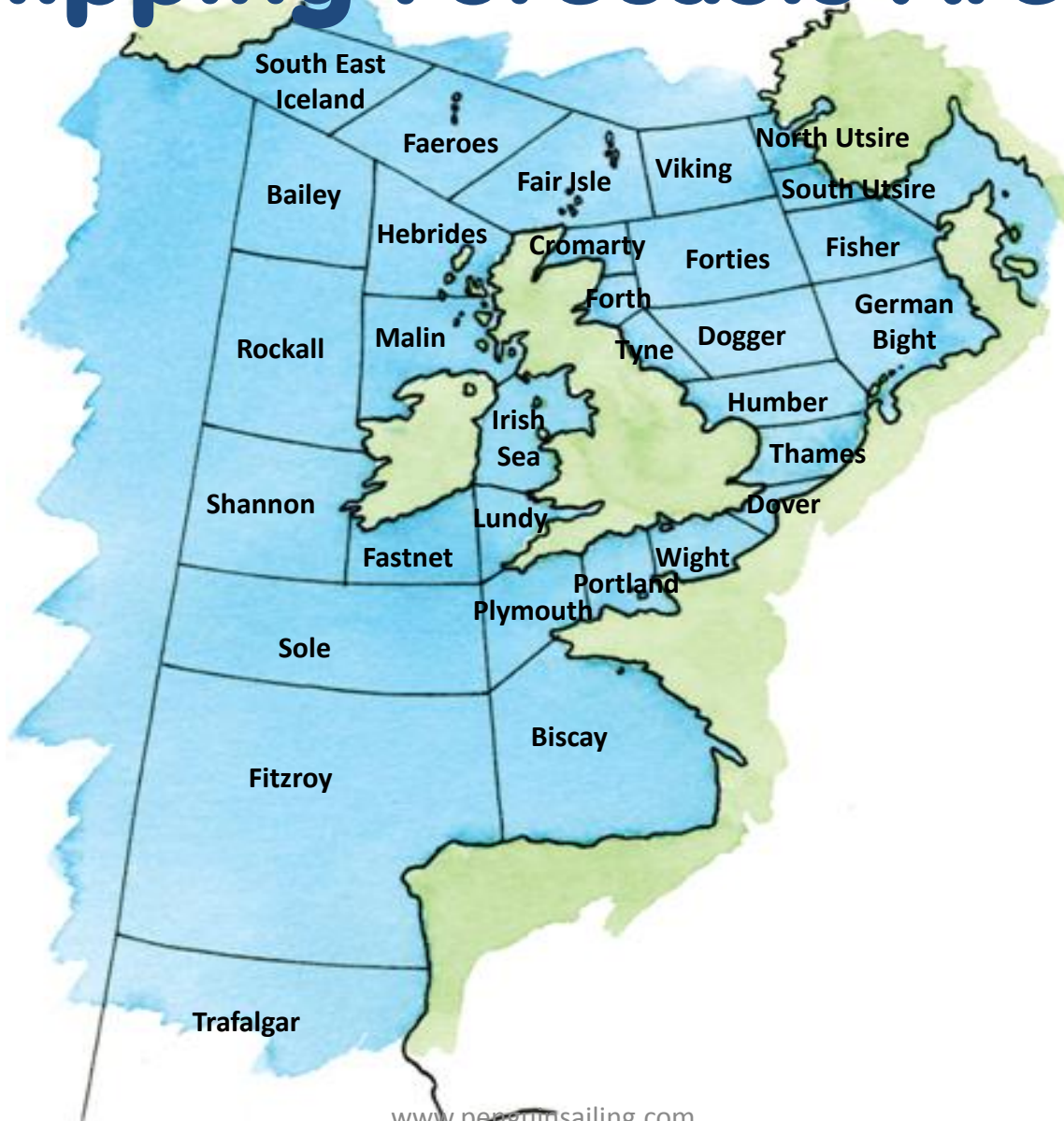
Sources of Forecasts

There are a many ways to obtain a weather forecast...



- ...marine safety information broadcast on VHF by the Coastguard
- ...metfax
- ...short message service (SMS)
- ...recorded forecast by phone
- ...internet
- ...teletext
- ...forecasts posted by harbour and marina offices
- ...local radio stations
- ...navtex

Shipping Forecasts Areas



Beaufort Scale



- Force 1.. ...light airs 1 – 3 knots
- Force 2... ...light breeze 4 – 6 knots
- Force 3... ...gentle breeze 7 – 10 knots
- Force 4... ...moderate 11 – 16 knots
- Force 5... ...fresh breeze 17 – 21 knots
- Force 6... ...strong breeze 22 – 27 knots
- Force 7... ...near gale 28 – 33 knots
- Force 8... ...gale 34 – 40 knots
- Force 9... ...severe gale 41 – 47 knots
- Force 10.. ...storm 48 – 55 knots

Further Reading



We highly recommend Chris Tibbs's
RYA Weather Handbook (G1)



We highly recommend David Haughton's
RYA Weather Forecasts(G5)

You can buy a copies of these books by visiting our on-line shop at
www.penguinsailing.com