

Urgent – Marine Weather Message

Small Craft Warning

Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Services

1:00 PM Thursday 31 December 2020

...Small craft warning in effect for Antigua, Barbuda, St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands...

Locations to be affected: Especially open Atlantic or north and eastern waters.

Timing: Until Saturday.

Synopsis: Strong winds, due to the significant steepening of the pressure gradient, are forecast to cause hazardous seas. The threat level to the life, livelihood, property and infrastructure of mariners is high, and there is the potential for extensive impacts. A small craft warning means that wind speeds of 41 km/h or higher (22 knots or higher) and or wind waves and or wind swells of 9 feet or greater are expected to produce hazardous wave conditions to small crafts.

Winds over open waters: Northeast at 30 to 44 km/h (16 to 24 knots; 18 to 28 mph), with strong gusts to around 69 km/h (37 knots; 43 mph).

Seas (significant wave heights): 2.5 to 3.5 metres (8 to 12 feet), occasionally or locally reaching near 4.5 metres (15 feet). Dominant wave period is 6 to 9 seconds.

Potential impacts: Loss of life; injuries; damage or loss of boats and fishing equipment; sea search and rescue disruptions; cancellations to sea transportation; scarcity of sea food; cancellation to marine recreation and businesses and economic losses.

Caution: Small craft operators should stay in or near port.

Please continue to monitor these hazardous, life-threatening marine conditions. Stay tuned to updates coming out of the Met Office via antiguamet.com and facebook.com/abmetservice

Forecaster: Dale Destin