



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

VICTORIA REGIONAL OFFICE
Bureau of Meteorology
GPO Box 1636 Melbourne Vic 3001 Australia

In reply please quote

Changes to VHF (very high frequency) Radio Marine Weather Services

The Bureau of Meteorology advises that the coastal waters forecast services broadcast twice daily via the Telstra VHF Seaphone network will cease as from 3am Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday 31 May 2006. For further information about alternative sources of coastal waters weather information for your area please see below. For information about the discontinuing services visit the Bureau's web site at www.bom.gov.au/marine/seaphone_vhf_network.shtml.

There is a considerable range of alternative and more comprehensive sources of broadcast weather information, provided or sponsored by other VHF and HF radio broadcasters including Marine Safety Victoria and volunteer organisations such as the Volunteer Marine Rescue and Coast Guard. Most of these organisations broadcast weather information generally twice daily, both morning and afternoon, whilst some will provide weather information on demand. The Bureau is encouraging mariners to use these alternative sources in advance of the date of cessation.

Mariners who need more information after reading this web page are advised to contact the Bureau office in Melbourne, or by emailing the Bureau's marine radio contact desk at marineradio@bom.gov.au, or by writing to the National Manager, Marine Weather Services, GPO Box 1289 Melbourne Vic 3001.

Other Sources of VHF marine weather broadcasts in Victoria

Weather information is broadcast for vessels in and around Port Phillip and Western Port Bays on VHF Channel 67. For more information visit the Marine Safety Victoria web site at www.marinesafety.vic.gov.au/ and look under 'Marine Safety Radio'. Weather information is also available through Volunteer Coast Radio Stations. For more information visit the Coastguard web site at www.coastguard.com.au/.

Marine Weather Information from the Bureau of Meteorology

Mariners are reminded that the Bureau disseminates marine weather information through various media. See below for an update on the services available:

Internet

Marine forecasts and warning services are available on the Bureau's web site at www.bom.gov.au/marine. The site publishes the latest satellite images, weather maps, marine forecasts and warnings, latest coastal observations and a range of educational pages.

HF Voice and Fax

The Bureau broadcasts its HF radio marine weather services for high seas and Australian coastal areas from transmitters at Charleville in Queensland and Wiluna in Western Australia. Identifiers are **VMC** (for services from Charleville) and **VMW** (for services from Wiluna). For more information and broadcast schedules see www.bom.gov.au/marine/marine_weather_radio.shtml .

Inmarsat satellite broadcasts

The Bureau provides a limited range of forecasts and warnings via the Inmarsat system. Services are provided for the Australian high seas areas and a limited number of coastal areas. For more information and broadcast schedules see www.bom.gov.au/marine/bureau_inmarsat.shtml .

Telephone Weather

The Bureau provides recorded forecasts, warnings and coastal weather observations for mariners. Dial 1900 926 113 for a list of your local numbers (note call costs apply). For more information see www.bom.gov.au/other/voice.shtml .

Weather by Fax

The Bureau operates a polling fax service providing weather charts, satellite images, weather radar images, the latest warnings, coastal waters forecasts and the latest reports from coastal stations (note call costs apply). For more information see www.bom.gov.au/other/wbf/wbf.shtml .

Public Radio and Television Broadcasts

The Bureau distributes coastal waters forecasts and warnings to radio and television networks. Broadcasting of these varies between stations.

VHF Seaphone channels in Victoria affected by the cessation

The following is the list of Seaphone VHF channels which will no longer broadcast the Bureau's coastal weather forecasts in Victoria from **31 May 2006**.

Region	Channel	Location	Broadcast Times
VIC	26	Melbourne	0803 1733 EST
VIC	27	Lakes Entrance	0803 1733 EST
VIC	60	Port Welshpool	0803 1733 EST