



*Official Weather Source
of the Cayman Islands*

WHAT THE FORECASTER MEANS.....

This document is meant to provide customers of this website with a clarification of terms that the Weather Forecaster uses within the Public Weather Forecast for the Cayman Islands.

Public forecast includes synopsis, forecasted sky condition, forecasted precipitation, forecasted winds, forecasted seas, sunrise/sunset times, tides and 24 hour outlook.

Synopsis

Indicates weather systems affecting the forecast region as well as the general impact over a 24 hour period.

Forecast: National Weather Service 24 hour forecast is divided into section today, tonight and tomorrow as needed. Each section contains a forecast Sky Condition, Chance of Precipitation, significant weather comments, forecasted winds and forecasted seas.

Sky condition

TERMINOLOGY	AVERAGE SKY COVER
Overcast	90-100%
Cloudy	70-80%
Partly Cloudy	30-60%
Mostly Clear/Mostly Sunny	0-20%
Fair	Less than 40% cloud cover, no precipitation and no extreme weather

Chance of Precipitation

The "Probability of Precipitation" (PoP) describes the chance of measurable precipitation occurring at *any* point you select in the area.





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Probability of Precipitation	Descriptive Terms Used
Less than 20%	None to Slight Chance
30-40%	Chance, Widely Scattered
50-60%	Chance, Scattered
70-80%	Likely, Numerous
90-100%	Categorical ("Rain this afternoon")

Added description may include intensity, time and location.

Other significant weather and comments

This may be in the form of noting of "heavy showers" or in the form of a flood warning.

Winds

Wind is forecast in terms of both the wind direction and speed. The wind direction will be in terms of compass directions example north, south, east etc. and wind speeds in knots divisible by 5 example 5 knots or less, 5 to 10 knots, 10 to 15 knots etc.

SUSTAINED WIND SPEED

TERMINOLOGY

0-10 nautical miles per hour	Light
10-15 nautical miles per hour	Moderate/Breezy
15-20 nautical miles per hour	Fresh/Brisk
20-25 nautical miles per hour	Strong/Windy

It may be noted at this point if forecasted thunderstorms may produce gusty winds.

Seas

Sea height forecast are based on forecasted wind speeds. Forecasted sea heights are descriptive as well numerical. Seas forecasted range should be at least 2 feet example 2 feet or less, 1 to 3 feet, 2 to 4 feet etc.





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Smooth	Less than 2 feet	
Slight	1 to 3 feet	
Moderate	3 to 5 feet	
Rough	4 to 6 feet	Marine advisory
Very rough	5 to 7 feet	Marine warning

Seas may include watches or warnings depending upon wave heights with 6 feet heights listed for watches and 7 feet for warnings.

Tides

Tides calculated from tides program or assigned tables.

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise and sunset times calculated through tides program or assigned tables.

Outlook

Outlook period is for 24 hours beyond the 24 hour forecast period. Terms used in the outlook are descriptive and less specific than what is used in the forecast.

Note that descriptive terms for sky condition, winds and seas may be used in either the synopsis or the outlook.

