

Sailing Weather Forecast  
2018 Race Week at Newport  
Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island Sound  
Issued 0530 EDT FRIDAY 20 JULY 2018

NOTE: Please send feedback to [feedback@sailwx.com](mailto:feedback@sailwx.com). Thanks!

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WARNING AND ADVISORIES: There are no warnings or advisories posted for the sailing area. Monitor NOAA All Hazards Radio for the latest official warnings and advisories.

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SYNOPSIS: Light winds today. Sailing may be impossible in the morning, but a light S'ly sea breeze is expected for the afternoon that should fill and stabilize enough to provide for a fair - albeit light - sailing breeze.

This morning's weather map shows high pressure very close to but slightly east of Newport. There is slack gradient in place this morning, and conditions are such that any land/drainage winds this morning will be quite limited. The high is expected to shift a little east into Cape Cod Bay and then the Gulf of Maine today. This will promote development of a weak S/SSE gradient.

Sea breeze which form in S'ly gradients tend to be limited, since the return flow aloft of the classic sea breeze 3-D circulation is limited to nonexistent. It will take until late morning or mid-day for the wind to start building from the S, and even then build will be limited to generally around 7-11 knots. A slight left component in the gradient (SSE) may cause the wind to oscillate or trend left at times today.

FORECAST DISCUSSION: Light and variable into late morning. S'ly sea breeze develops on RIS first, but very patchy and slow filling. Sea breeze will start around noon or a little after on the bay - also slow filling. Becoming S 5-10 early afternoon 9-13 mid- to late afternoon. Peak sea breeze will be late afternoon.

WEATHER: Mainly sunny and a little warmer today. Some thermal cumulus will likely develop in the afternoon.

AIR TEMPERATURE: Cool near 60F this morning warming to around 80F. Some modest cooling on the PM sea breeze.

SEAS: Narragansett Bay - Flat water to less than 1 ft.  
Rhode Island Sound - Flat chop this morning. Swell 2 ft. Chop increasing to 1 ft on the PM sea breeze.

Detailed Wind Forecast for TODAY - NARRAGANSETT BAY:

Time (Local)	Wind Direction (Magnetic)	Most Likely Shift	Shift Type	10M TWS (Knots)	COMMENTS	Potential Gust	
20-Jul-18 08:00	240 - 270	➤		Random	03 - 07	Calm or light and variable	8
20-Jul-18 09:00	260 - 290	➤		Random	01 - 05		6
20-Jul-18 10:00	190 - 220	⬅	L	Abrupt	00 - 04	Developing sea breeze	5
20-Jul-18 11:00	160 - 190	⬆	L	Persistent	01 - 05	Patch; slow to fill at first	6
20-Jul-18 12:00	160 - 190	⬆		Oscillating	03 - 07		8
20-Jul-18 13:00	170 - 200	⬆	R	Oscillating	05 - 09	Oscillating or meandering direction	10
20-Jul-18 14:00	175 - 205	⬆	R	Oscillating	07 - 11		13
20-Jul-18 15:00	175 - 205	⬆		Oscillating	07 - 11		13
20-Jul-18 16:00	180 - 210	⬆		Oscillating	08 - 12		14
20-Jul-18 17:00	165 - 195	⬆	L	Persistent	09 - 13	Peak wind late afternoon	15
20-Jul-18 18:00	160 - 190	⬆	L	Persistent	08 - 12		14

**Detailed Wind Forecast for TODAY – RHODE ISLAND SOUND:**

Time (Local)	Wind Direction (Magnetic)	Most Likely Shift	Shift Type	10M TWS (Knots)	COMMENTS	Potential Gust	
20-Jul-18 08:00	255 - 285	➤		Random	03 - 07	Calm or light and variable	8
20-Jul-18 09:00	275 - 305	➤	L	Random	01 - 05		6
20-Jul-18 10:00	170 - 200	⬆	L	Abrupt	01 - 05	Developing sea breeze	6
20-Jul-18 11:00	170 - 200	⬆	L	Oscillating	05 - 09	A quick build to near 10	10
20-Jul-18 12:00	175 - 205	⬆		Oscillating	06 - 10	Slower build in afternoon	12
20-Jul-18 13:00	175 - 205	⬆	R	Oscillating	07 - 11	Oscillating or meandering direction	13
20-Jul-18 14:00	175 - 205	⬆		Oscillating	09 - 13		15
20-Jul-18 15:00	175 - 205	⬆		Oscillating	10 - 14		16
20-Jul-18 16:00	175 - 205	⬆		Oscillating	10 - 14		16
20-Jul-18 17:00	155 - 185	⬆	L	Persistent	09 - 13	Peak wind late afternoon	15
20-Jul-18 18:00	160 - 190	⬆	L	Persistent	09 - 13		15

**HEDGE: 1) Forecast Confidence: AVERAGE.**

Models are in generally good agreement. Used a model consensus to develop the forecast table. There is light SW;y onshore flow at first this morning, however this is expected to falter as the sea breeze component gets going mid-/late-morning.

2) As noted above, although sea breeze develops first in offshore course area, it will peak slightly earlier on the bay. Sea breeze will may take up to 1 hour longer to get going on the bay.

3) Sea breeze peak wind late afternoon

4) Sea breezes which develop in weak onshore gradient flow tend to "pump" in pressure. That is they trend up and down in speed with bands of pressure pulsing in. The bands are typically oriented perpendicular to the wind direction. This effect is more pronounced on the offshore course area.

5) Although wind direction is indicated as oscillating, it may actually meander. There \*may\* be a tendency to favor left-shift, especially in the mid- to late-afternoon.

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SATURDAY (21 JULY 2018): Forecast continues to modulate, but all points to a low develop on the Carolina coast and moving north or north-northeast with time. High pressure will be over Nova Scotia. Light winds in the morning, mainly from the E marking the developing gradient associated with the Carolina low. Winds building to light-moderate in the afternoon and tending ESE. Very puffy and shifty on the bay. A bit steadier/stronger on RIC.

E 5-10 early morning tending ESE and building to 10-15. Gradient holding steady and possibly building 14-18 later afternoon.

Increasing cloud. Chance of rain developing later in the day or evening.

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