

LOCAL WEATHER.—For extended remarks on the marine climate along foreign coasts, see the appropriate Sailing Directions and Planning Guides prepared and published by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency ; for the coasts of the United States and its possessions, see the appropriate Coast Pilot prepared and published by the National Ocean Service. The trimester publication "Mariners Weather Log" prepared and published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, carries informative articles on marine climate conditions and tropical cyclone information.

AUGUST

PRESSURE.—An area of high pressure continues to overlie the area between South America and Australia, with a mean central pressure of 1025 millibars centered near 31°S, 90°W. Mean pressures slowly decrease to the north of the high to less than 1009 millibars within the equatorial trough centered between the equator and 10°N. South of 45°S, the mean pressure pattern remains zonal; the mean pressure decreases to near 988 millibars at 60°S.

TEMPERATURE.—Mean air temperatures are close to freezing at 60°S, while along the equator they range from 21°C off South America to over 28°C through the Melanesia Island chain. Approximately 1% of the temperature observations fall above 3°C and below -6°C at 60°S. Most (98%) equatorial temperatures fall between 18°C and 27°C over the Galapagos Islands and between 25°C and 33°C over the western South Pacific.

WINDS.—Wind speeds continue to average force 4 to 6 south of 30°S and force 3 to 4 north of 30°S. East to southeasterly winds prevail north of the 30th parallel and westerly winds, south of 30°S. The prevailing westerlies, however, are somewhat more variable in direction (northwest through southwest) than during the warmer months.

GALES.—Gale force winds (force 8 or greater) are rarely observed north of 30°S. Frequencies of 10% or higher occur south of a line that runs south of Tasmania and New Zealand before turning north and reaching as far north as 33°S at 110°W. East of 170°W, 55°S gale frequencies of 20% or more reach as far north as 38°S at 110°W and extend south of 60°S east of 110°W. Frequencies as high as 30% are observed through the Drake Passage.

TROPICAL CYCLONES.—Tropical cyclone activity is virtually non-existent during the height of the austral winter.

VISIBILITY.—Along with the winter temperatures, increased occurrences of poor visibilities (less than 2 miles) appear over the eastern South Pacific. Frequencies of 20% are reported as far north as 42°S between 85°W and 100°W, whereas over the western South Pacific frequencies are less than 10% at 42°S. Frequencies at 60°S range from 40% west of 130°E to just over 30% east of 100°W.

WAVE HEIGHTS.—Over the eastern third of the South Pacific frequencies of wave heights of 12 feet or greater range from 10% as far north as 5°S to as high as 50% west of 90°W and south of 50°S. Frequencies across the western two-thirds range from 10% south of 20°S to 25°S to over 50% south of 50°S to 55°S.

CHART #1

TROPICAL CYCLONES

The mean tracks of tropical storms and hurricanes are shown in red. These tracks represent averages, and movements of individual systems may vary widely.

SURFACE PRESSURE

This chart shows the average barometric pressure reduced to sea level. Isobars are solid blue lines for every 2.5 millibars difference in pressure.

CHART #2

AIR TEMPERATURE

The mean air temperature (°C) in red lines is shown for every 2 degrees. All weather narratives refer to air temperature.

VISIBILITY

Blue lines show percentages of observations reporting visibilities less than 2 miles.

CHART #3

GALES

The red numerals in the center of each 5-degree square on this inset chart show the average percentage of ship reports in which winds of at least force 8 have been recorded for the month. In cases where the observation count is low the gale frequency may be nonrepresentative and therefore different from the values used in the text. Where "0" is given, gales may have been recorded, but too infrequently to give a percentage value.

SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE

The mean sea surface temperature (C°), in blue lines, is shown for every degrees.

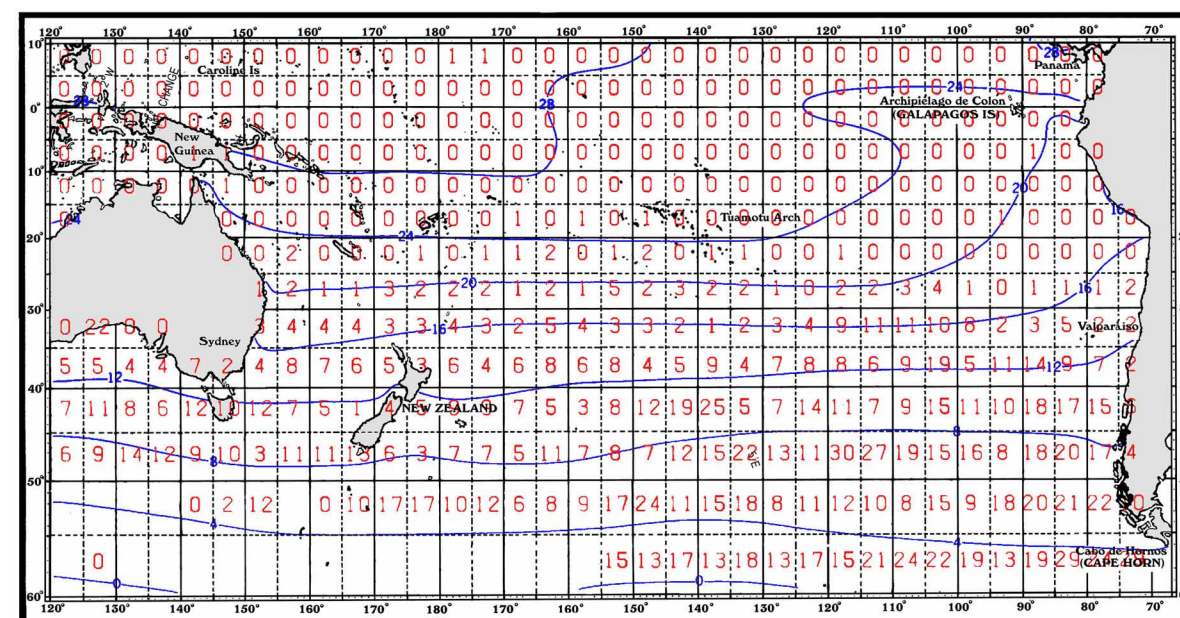
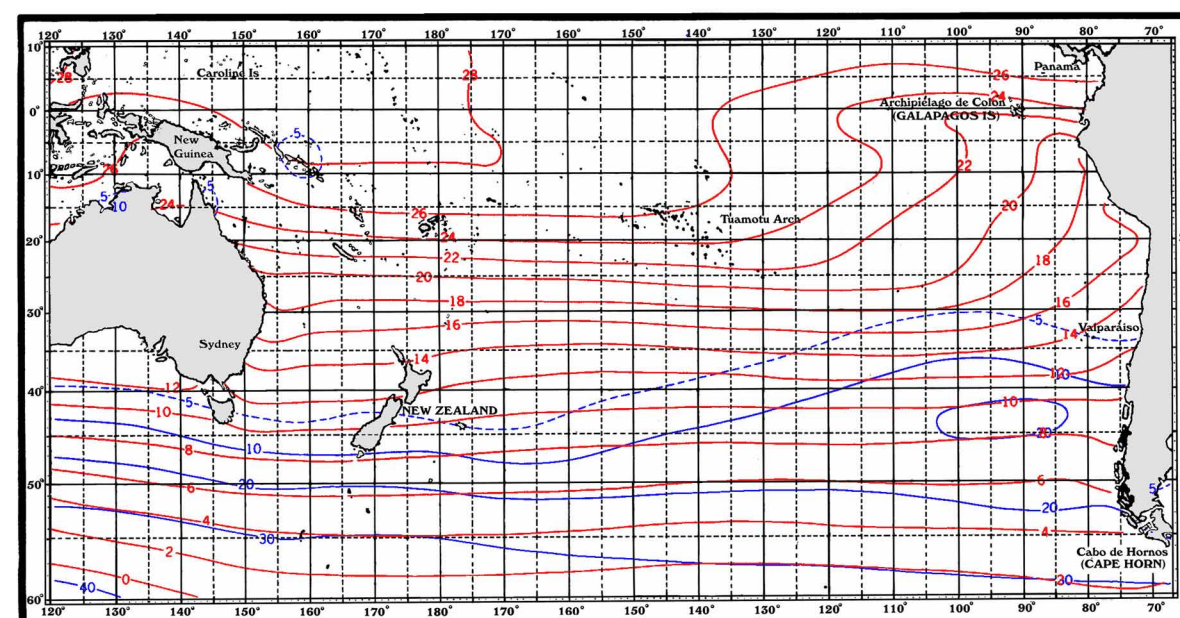
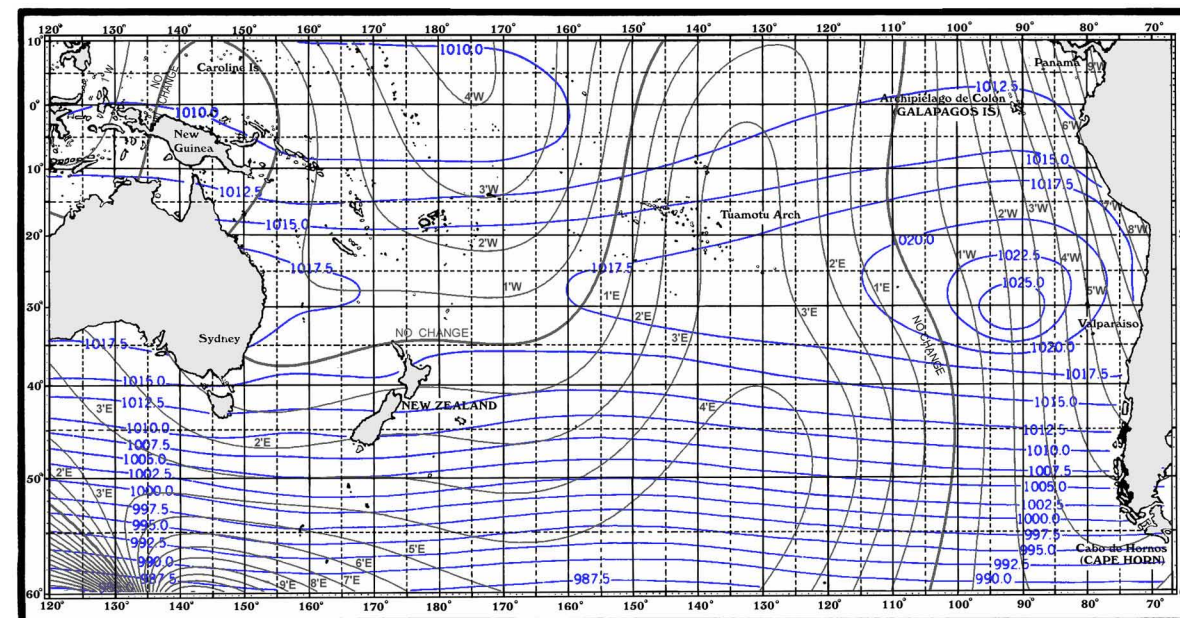
EXPLANATION OF WIND ROSES

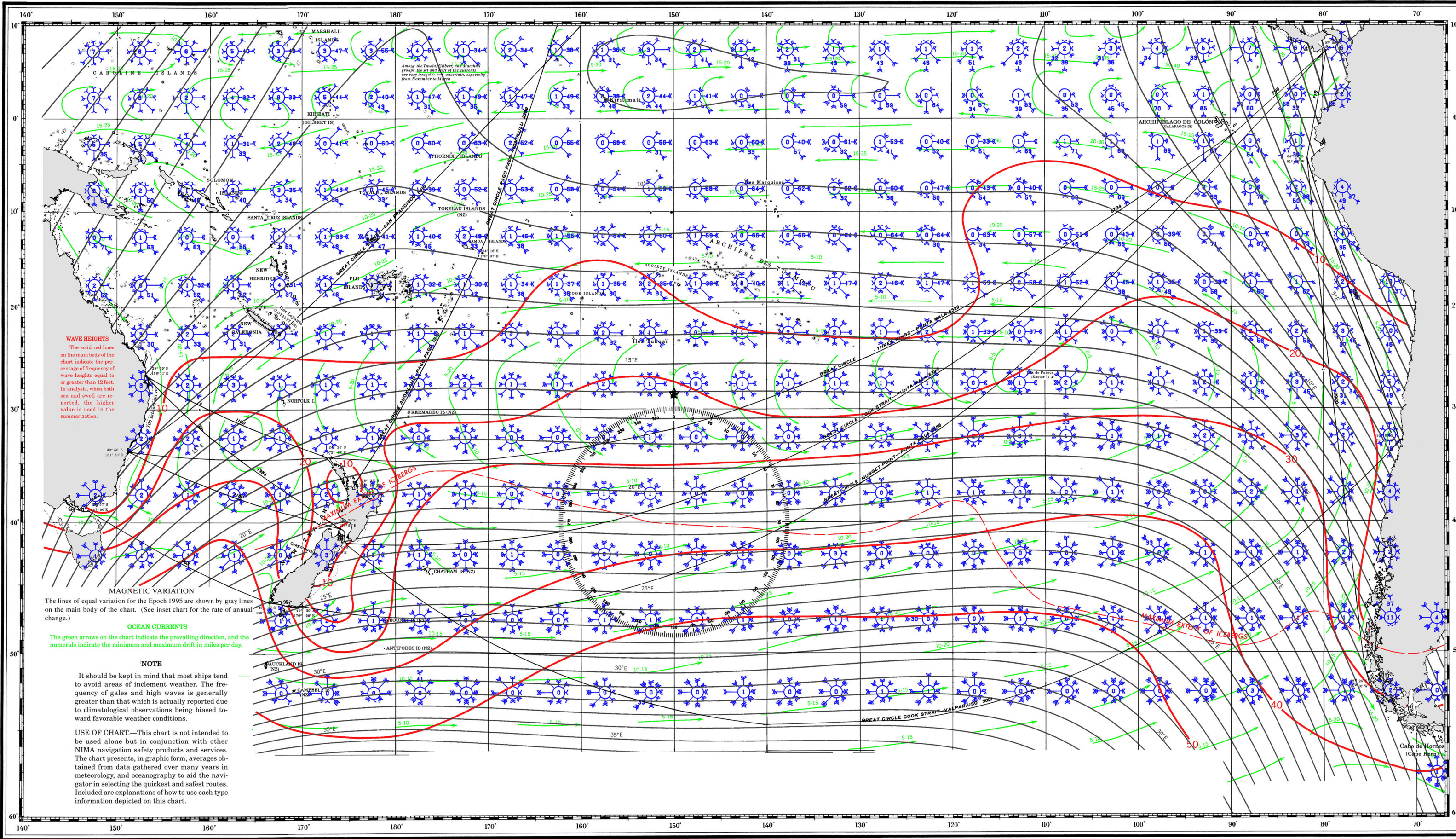
PREVAILING WINDS AND CALMS.—The wind rose in blue color is located in the center of each 5° square where there was sufficient data. The rose shows the distribution of the winds that have prevailed in the area over a considerable period. The wind percentages are summarized for the eight points and calm. The arrows fly with the wind indicating the direction from which the wind blew. The length of the shaft, measured from the outside of the circle using the scale below, gives the percent of the total number of observations in which the wind has blown from that direction. The number of feathers shows the average force of the wind on the Beaufort scale. The figure in the center of the circle gives the percentage of calms. When the arrow is too long to fit conveniently in the 5° square, anything over 29 percent, the shaft is broken and the percentage is indicated by numerals.

FOR EXAMPLE.—The sample wind rose should read thus: In the reported observations the wind has averaged as follows: From N. 3 percent, force 3; N.E. 16 percent, force 4; E. 61 percent, force 4; S.E. 17 percent, force 5; S. 1 percent, force 4; S.W. less than 1 percent, force 3; W. 1 percent force 2; N.W. 1 percent, force 4; calms 0 percent.



0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
SCALE OF WIND PERCENTAGES





WAVE HEIGHTS
 The solid red lines on the main body of the chart indicate the percentage of frequency of wave heights equal to or greater than 12 feet. In analysis, when both sea and swell are reported, the higher value is used in the summarization.

MAGNETIC VARIATION

The lines of equal variation for the Epoch 1995 are shown by gray lines on the main body of the chart. (See inset chart for the rate of annual change.)

OCEAN CURRENTS

The green arrows on the chart indicate the prevailing direction, and the numerals indicate the minimum and maximum drift in miles per day.

NOTE

It should be kept in mind that most ships tend to avoid areas of inclement weather. The frequency of gales and high waves is generally greater than that which is actually reported due to climatological observations being biased toward favorable weather conditions.

USE OF CHART.—This chart is not intended to be used alone but in conjunction with other NIMA navigation safety products and services. The chart presents, in graphic form, averages obtained from data gathered over many years in meteorology, and oceanography to aid the navigator in selecting the quickest and safest routes. Included are explanations of how to use each type information depicted on this chart.

Among the Tuvalu, Gilbert and Marshall groups the set and drift of the currents are very irregular and uncertain, especially from November to March.

MAXIMUM EXTENT OF ICEBERGS

Cape de Hornos (Cape Horn)