

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Dr. Charles F. Brooks  
of Clark University

WEATHER REPORTS FOR FISHERMEN

A recent extension of the Weather Bureau's work in Boston is a service given to fishing fleets and other coastwise shipping. For some time, the Weather Bureau has been sending out storm warnings in code from the Charlestown Navy Yard for the benefit of larger vessels. Now weather information is being broadcast twice a day from the coast guard station (NCP) at Nahant so that all boats of that service may be kept in touch with conditions. The Nahant Station can be heard from New York to Nova Scotia, by anyone having a radio set capable of tuning to 130 meters.

Arlington (NAA) has for some time served the whole coast, especially that farther south. Recently, three tugs pulling barges were proceeding from a middle Atlantic port to New York. Only one had a radio. Off the New Jersey coast this tug received the Weather Bureau's storm warning and put in to port safely with its tow; the other two tows broke away and were lost with all on board. Unfortunately, the audibility of Arlington reports is now greatly interfered with by the evening broadcasting of a New York station that has "jumped" NAA's 435 meter wave-length. This adds unnecessarily to the hazards of coastwise shipping in the dangerous waters about Cape Cod, as well as deprives inland forecasters of the information essential for snow forecasts. Since the first of the year NAA has been greatly improved and many reception difficulties have been overcome.

The forecasts for New England are broadcast from stations WEEI and WNAC at Boston, at 11:15 a.m. and 10 p.m., and at 11 a.m., respectively. WEEI has a wave length of 348 meters and WNAC has 280 meters, both in the regular radiophone broadcast band. Further distribution of the New England forecasts is made by WBZ at Springfield at 10 p.m., and by WTIC at Hartford at the same hour. Other broadcasting stations throughout the country, as KDKA at Pittsburgh, also send out weather reports regularly.

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