

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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FOG OFF THE ATLANTIC COAST

Off the Atlantic coast of Canada and the United States from Nova Scotia south to Long Island the frequency of fog begins to increase rapidly in May and usually continues to increase until July, after which there is a more or less steady decrease until November and December, when fog is least common in these waters.

"Within this region," says W. E. Hurd, of the Weather Bureau, "are the places of maximum occurrence of fog for the eastern coast waters of the United States; namely, east of Maine and off Nantucket and Block Island. In the vicinity of Point Judith, R. I., north of Block Island, is a locality known among coasters as the 'fog hole', because of the great amount of fog that prevails there.

"Off the Maine coast, during the prevalence of variable winds, fogs may form and dissipate with great rapidity and frequency, so that a vessel may find herself shut in at one moment, free a few minutes later with a change of the wind, and then again befogged with a return of the breeze to its former quarter. In the weather folklore of this coast it is said that if a wisp of mist is to be seen hanging over Mount Desert or over the Camden Hills, whether the sky be otherwise clear or not, the following day is usually foggy.

"East of Cape Cod fog has been known to last without a break of consequence for a period of two or three weeks."

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