

Ship Report Transcript

Friday, May 31, 2024

By Joanne Rideout

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It's time for the Ship report the show about all things maritime. I'm Joanne Rideout. It's Friday, May 31st, 2024 - the last day of the month. Well, today we're going to talk a little bit about ships and then about the weather, because the weather is about to change a bit over the weekend and it could be a little bit stormy around our area. Nothing that we haven't seen before, but certainly not what we're used to at this time of year.

So, first of all, marine weather. High pressure continues slowly building across the northeastern Pacific, leading to gusty northerly winds and choppier seas. And then as the weekend progresses, we have that unusually late season storm system that's been in the forecast all week, bringing southerly winds to our waters late in the weekend or early next week. And that could be quite a bringer of rain to us.

Today's forecast north winds 5 to 10 knots, becoming northwest, 10 to 15 in the afternoon. Seas 3 to 5 feet. Wave detail: from the northwest will have waves three feet high at 5 seconds apart and from the northwest. Also four foot high, waves at 9 seconds apart. Chance of rain enters the forecast tonight.

And we have inbounders today - we have the West Virginia, she's a petroleum tanker arriving from Long Beach, California, headed for Portland. Refined petroleum there, jet fuel, biodiesel, gasoline, something like that. Passing Astoria around 10 a.m.. She could be in Portland by about 4 p.m..

The Alexandra KPN is arriving from China, headed for Astoria's Anchorage. She'll eventually be picking up potash at the Port of Portland. She'll be in Astoria's Anchorage by about 5:30 p.m. today. And the Viking Drive is a car carrier arriving from San Diego, headed for Portland. Brand new Hyundais there, delivering those to the Port of Portland, passing Astoria around 6:30 p.m. in Portland at the Port of Portland by about 12:30 a.m. on Saturday.

And in our outbounders, the Ocean Amity leaving Kalama around noon time with wheat on board. She'll pass Astoria outbound around 5 p.m.. The Green Wave is leaving Vancouver Subarus on board there. She came in to deliver some to the Port of Vancouver, leaving around 2 p.m., passing Astoria outbound around 8 p.m..

The Sang Shin leaving Portland. Another car carrier came in with Honda's on board to deliver. Some of those could be leaving with some Fords on board - US cars headed for Asia, leaving around 6 p.m., passing Astoria outbound around midnight, and the Plainpalais leaving Vancouver. She could have come in with wind turbine parts on board, leaving around 7 p.m., passing Astoria outbound around 1 a.m. on Saturday morning.

So this week I've been following an impending weather event heading our way. I've been talking about this for a couple days now here on the show, and it's about to arrive later in the weekend. According to current predictions. And so I'd like to give you as much of an update as I have so you know what to expect. We can all keep an eye on this to see what happens over the weekend.

And of course, our weather is always subject to change. But it looks pretty certain that some areas, at least around our region, will receive record rainfall between Saturday and the middle of next week. Here's what we know from some reputable sources for weather info. Let's start with Cliff Mass,

University of Washington professor and meteorologist. For folks not familiar with him and his work, he has a weather blog at cliffmass.com.

Well, in his forecast he's using the terms atmospheric river. And we know that that means a lot of rain. Now, an atmospheric river is just what it sounds like. A river in the sky. Here's what NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, says about atmospheric rivers.

“Atmospheric rivers are relatively long, narrow regions in the atmosphere, like rivers in the sky, the transport, most of the water vapor outside of the tropics. While atmospheric rivers can vary greatly in size and strength. The average atmospheric river carries an amount of water vapor, roughly equivalent to the average flow of water at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Exceptionally strong atmospheric rivers can transport up to 15 times that amount when the atmospheric rivers make landfall. They often release this water vapor in the form of rain or snow.”

Mass says that with this weather event we will receive, “rain so heavy that the wildfire threat will be greatly diminished for an extended period and regional reservoirs will get a mighty top off before our normally dry summer season begins.”

His forecasts tend to cover cover Washington State, and he says that parts of northwest Washington could be getting some substantial rainfall. Let me read a little more from his blog.

“A very moist atmospheric river comes in on Sunday, early Monday, and precipitation totals go crazy with 2 to 4 inches on the western slopes of the regional mountains. The totals by Wednesday morning are staggering, with some favored locations getting 4 to 6 inches of rain. This is unusual for June. To put it mildly. Most impressive of all is that this heavy precipitation period is associated with multiple strong atmospheric rivers.”

Mass says that we'll see two atmospheric rivers with this storm incident, one on Sunday and another on Tuesday. And he says expect many precipitation records to be broken. So that's cliff mass. That's generally for Washington state. Let's take a look at the National Weather Service in Portland. Here's their hydrologic outlook for precipitation and its effects.

There's a threat of river flooding on Sunday through Tuesday for portions of western Washington, a late season atmospheric river will bring moderate to heavy precipitation from Sunday afternoon through Tuesday across all of western Washington.

Heavy rainfall rates are possible over the Southwest Olympics and the Cascades. Total rainfall amounts will range from 1 to 2 inches in the lowlands and 2 to 4 in the mountains. Snow levels above 5000 feet will result in most precipitation falling as rain. This will result in rivers running unusually high. Rivers will crest sometime between Sunday and Tuesday.

So as far as river information, I'll keep an eye on forecasts of river flooding. And if there's any information that I get about local rivers here, flooding, I will certainly share that over the weekend on Facebook.

So from what I can see about this weather information, the rainfall extends southward as we move into Monday and Tuesday. And so that is when the Long Beach Peninsula and the northwest Oregon coast could see the most effects from this.

The National Weather Service in Portland is not posting anything about this because it probably won't happen for a few days. We'll get another update this afternoon, which could include Oregon impacts for next week. And I'll post all of that on my Ship Report Facebook page if and when there are updates available.

And if you take a look at Pacific Ocean storm radar information, you can see that there's a big storm system undulating out there in the Pacific, generally spinning our way. And we'll see what happens with that.

Basically, expect a lot of rain by the end of the weekend and on into next week. It's nothing that we haven't seen before, but it could be more like a winter atmospheric river event than something we'd normally see in June. The good news is that fire danger will be down and reservoirs will get a good influx of needed water.

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