

The National Weather Service needs you!

At a recent training seminar at the National Weather Service (NWS) in Medford, it was suggested that mariners' observations are needed and welcomed at the Medford office.

The NWS in Medford serves the marine community from Florence to Point St. George. The meteorologists at the center would like to hear all of your comments and observations. "They really want any information that will help them see what kind of job they are doing and comments on how they are doing," says Hugh Link, Executive Director of the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, who was there as a guest speaker. The forecasters said they could benefit greatly from contact by the fishermen who are on the water.

The forecasters encourage mariners to call if you need information or to give observations while they are out on the ocean. Good comes with the bad, and if the forecast is off from what you're seeing, they want to know that too. Any observations will be helpful to better understand the current weather and sea conditions, and to help produce more accurate and more consistent forecasts.

Brian Nieuwenhuis, one of the meteorologists at NWS Medford, says they look forward to calls from mariners who need help figuring out a good time window out of a port, or who want to make comments about the current forecast. The NWS is especially interested in any "rogue waves" someone might experience. Brian says they may then be able to use their equipment to track the event as it moves up or down the coast.

The NWS is open 24 hours a day, and for now, it is best to call **(541) 773-1067** and ask for the Marine desk. The NWS also has a Facebook page for the Medford office, and a text/e-mail address at **MFR.Marine@noaa.gov**, both of which can be used to send any observations or comments directly to the forecasters. These folks are eager for information and their main goal is to be accurate enough to allow advance warning to ultimately help keep you and your equipment out of harm's way, or even better, save a life.

The NWS also thought the text-only weather site might be valuable to fishermen who use their phones to check the weather while they are fishing: <http://cell.weather.gov/marine/mfr.htm>. Give it a try.