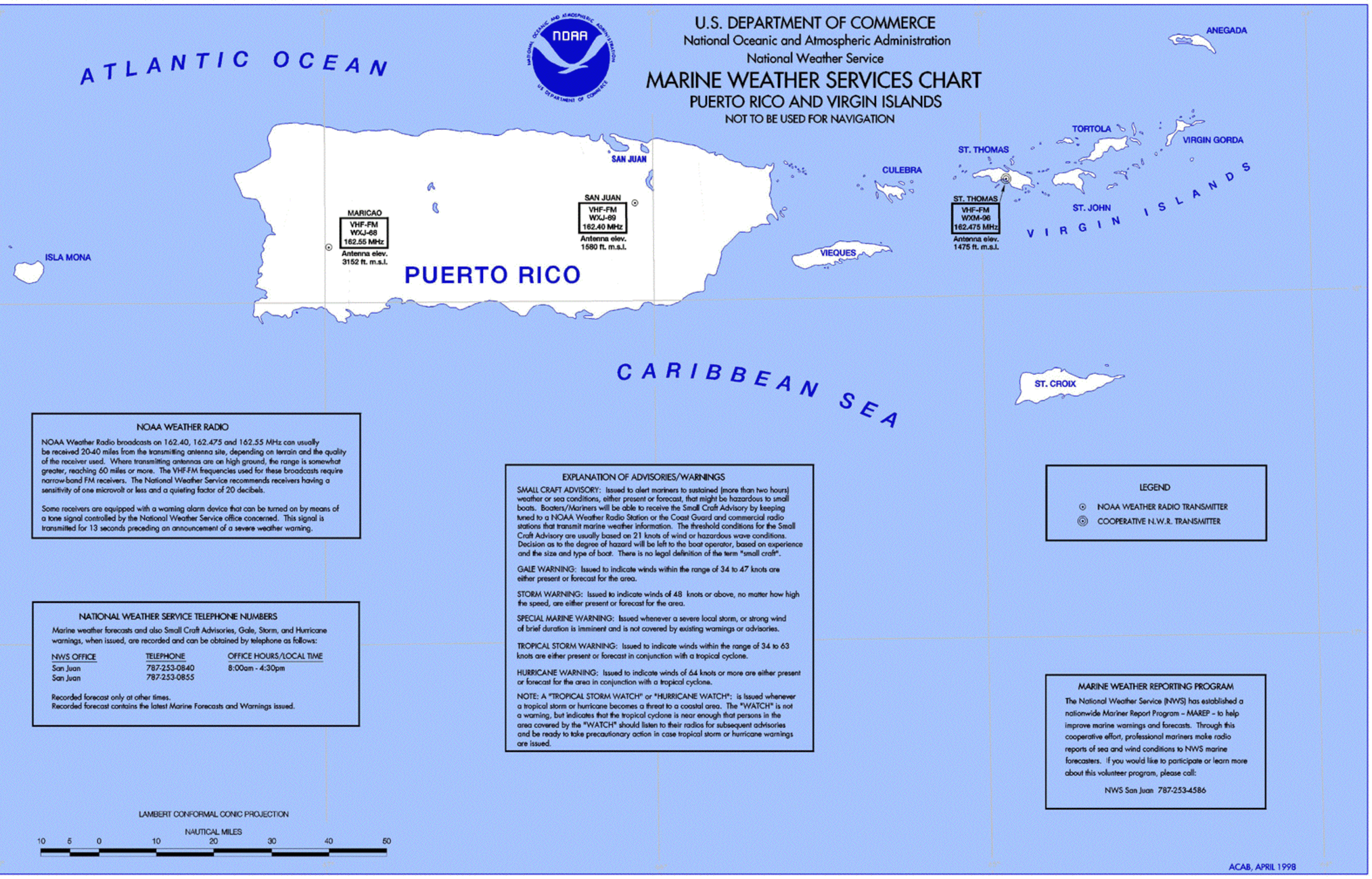
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

MARINE WEATHER SERVICES CHART

PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN ISLANDS

NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION



NOAA WEATHER RADIO

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts on 162.40, 162.475 and 162.55 MHz can usually be received 20-40 miles from the transmitting antenna site, depending on terrain and the quality of the receiver used. Where transmitting antennas are on high ground, the range is somewhat greater, reaching 60 miles or more. The VHF-FM frequencies used for these broadcasts require narrow-band FM receivers. The National Weather Service recommends receivers having a sensitivity of one microvolt or less and a quieting factor of 20 decibels.

Some receivers are equipped with a warning alarm device that can be turned on by means of a tone signal controlled by the National Weather Service office concerned. This signal is transmitted for 13 seconds preceding an announcement of a severe weather warning.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Marine weather forecasts and also Small Craft Advisories, Gale, Storm, and Hurricane warnings, when issued, are recorded and can be obtained by telephone as follows:

NWS OFFICE	TELEPHONE	OFFICE HOURS/LOCAL TIME
San Juan	787-253-0840	8:00am - 4:30pm
San Juan	787-253-0855	

Recorded forecast only at other times.
Recorded forecast contains the latest Marine Forecasts and Warnings issued.

EXPLANATION OF ADVISORIES/WARNINGS

SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY: Issued to alert mariners to sustained (more than two hours) weather or sea conditions, either present or forecast, that might be hazardous to small boats. Boaters/Mariners will be able to receive the Small Craft Advisory by keeping tuned to a NOAA Weather Radio Station or the Coast Guard and commercial radio stations that transmit marine weather information. The threshold conditions for the Small Craft Advisory are usually based on 21 knots of wind or hazardous wave conditions. Decision as to the degree of hazard will be left to the boat operator, based on experience and the size and type of boat. There is no legal definition of the term "small craft".

GALE WARNING: Issued to indicate winds within the range of 34 to 47 knots are either present or forecast for the area.

STORM WARNING: Issued to indicate winds of 48 knots or above, no matter how high the speed, are either present or forecast for the area.

SPECIAL MARINE WARNING: Issued whenever a severe local storm, or strong wind of brief duration is imminent and is not covered by existing warnings or advisories.

TROPICAL STORM WARNING: Issued to indicate winds within the range of 34 to 63 knots are either present or forecast in conjunction with a tropical cyclone.

HURRICANE WARNING: Issued to indicate winds of 64 knots or more are either present or forecast for the area in conjunction with a tropical cyclone.

NOTE: A "TROPICAL STORM WATCH" or "HURRICANE WATCH": is issued whenever a tropical storm or hurricane becomes a threat to a coastal area. The "WATCH" is not a warning, but indicates that the tropical cyclone is near enough that persons in the area covered by the "WATCH" should listen to their radios for subsequent advisories and be ready to take precautionary action in case tropical storm or hurricane warnings are issued.

LEGEND

- NOAA WEATHER RADIO TRANSMITTER
- COOPERATIVE N.W.R. TRANSMITTER

MARINE WEATHER REPORTING PROGRAM

The National Weather Service (NWS) has established a nationwide Mariner Report Program – MAREP – to help improve marine warnings and forecasts. Through this cooperative effort, professional mariners make radio reports of sea and wind conditions to NWS marine forecasters. If you would like to participate or learn more about this volunteer program, please call:

NWS San Juan 787-253-4586

ACAB, APRIL 1998

MSC-14—PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN ISLANDS

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DISCREPANCY REPORTS SOLICITED
Reports of discrepancies in this chart and any other comments are appreciated and will be used in preparing the next edition.

Please mail to: National Weather Service (W/OM12)
1325 East-West Highway, Room 14126
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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