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For Immediate Release

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High Wind Event Expected Wednesday for the Marianas; Advisories in Effect

The National Weather Service (NWS) Guam Weather Forecast Office advised moderate to fresh winds will prevail for Guam and Rota, meanwhile Tinian and Saipan are encountering fresh to strong winds, with potential for damaging winds by Wednesday in the Northern Marianas. NWS has the following advisories in effect:

A **high surf advisory** remains in effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan until 6 a.m. Friday along west and north facing reefs. Large breaking waves of 7 to 9 feet, increasing to 12 to 14 feet Wednesday, dangerous swimming and surfing conditions, and localized beach erosion are expected. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous conditions.

A **high risk of rip currents** remains in effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan through late Thursday night. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from the shore into deeper water. If caught in a rip current, do not swim against the current. Swim in a direction following the shoreline, face the shore and call or wave for help.

A **gale watch** is in effect for the coastal waters of Guam and Rota from Wednesday morning through late Wednesday night. Northeast winds of 25 to 30 knots, with gusts up to 40 knots, and seas of 14 to 16 feet are possible. Strong winds can cause hazardous seas which could capsize or damage vessels and reduce visibility. Mariners should consider altering plans to avoid possible hazardous conditions.

A **hazardous seas watch** is in effect for the coastal waters of Guam and Rota from Wednesday morning through late Wednesday night. Very steep and hazardous seas of 14 to 16 feet are possible. During that time, mariners are advised to remain in port, seek safe harbor, alter course, and/or secure the vessel for severe wind and seas. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions.

A high wind watch, small craft advisory, gale watch, and hazardous seas watch are in effect for the coastal waters of Tinian and Saipan as well.

The Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense (GHS/OCD) remind the community to avoid hazardous surf and seas while the advisories are in effect. Visit the following links for the latest advisory information:

- NWS Website: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>
- NWS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NWSGuam/>
- GHS/OCD Website: <https://ghs.guam.gov/>
- GHS/OCD Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/>

For more information, contact GHS/OCD Public Information Officer Jenna G. Blas at (671) 489-2540 or via email at jenna.g.blas@ghs.guam.gov.

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