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PAT CALDWELL

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SwellCaldWell Updated 3 PM Monday, October 13, 2025

DATE	SWELL HGT	SWELL DIR	SWELL PER	SURF H1/3	SURF H1/10	TREND	PROB	WIND SPD	WIND DIR	TREND
12 PM	6.2	NW	17	12	16	UP		4-8	E	UP
10/13	1.5	E	13	1	3	UP				
	1.5	SW	13	1	3	SAME				
TUE	7	NW	15	12	16	DOWN	LOW	8-12	E	UP
10/14	3	WNW	15	4	6	UP	LOW			
	1.5	E	12	1	2	SAME	LOW			
	1.5	SW	12	1	3	SAME	LOW			
WED	5.5	NW	14	8	12	SAME	LOW	12-17	E	UP
10/15	2	WNW	13	2	4	DOWN	LOW			
	5	E	6	1	2	UP	LOW			
	1	SW	16	1	3	SAME	LOW			BACK TO
THU	5.5	NW	14	8	12	SAME	LOW	13-19	E	UP

10/16	6	E	7	2	4	UP	LOW			
	1	SW	16	1	3	SAME	LOW			
FRI	4.5	NW	14	6	10	DOWN	LOW	13-19	E	SAME
10/17	3.5	NNW	17	6	8	UP	LOW			
	6	E	8	3	5	SAME	LOW			
	1	SW	16	1	3	SAME	LOW			
SAT	5	NNW	14	6	10	DOWN	LOW	13-19	E	SAME
10/18	6	E	8	3	5	SAME	LOW			
	1	SW	16	1	3	SAME	LOW			

Table Definitions given after Discussion

Summary

Long-lived NW swell.

Discussion

Midday Monday 10/13, northern shores have breakers above the calendar day average from 310-320 degrees of 16-22s intervals. Heights should remain elevated on Tuesday.

On this day, 10/13, in the historical H1/10 visual surf observation Goddard-Caldwell database (<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/metadata/geoportal/rest/metadata/item/gov.noaa.nodc%3A0001754/html>) (starting 9/1968) for the north shore of Oahu, the average is 4.5 Hs, (9' peak face, Oahu Surf Climatology (http://ilikai.soest.hawaii.edu/HILO/climo/oahu_surf_climatlogy.html)) and the largest surf on this date was 15 Hs (sets 30' peak face top spots) in 1982.

Moon's view-

- Kamkatcha corner found winter with a long-lived wave source for Hawaii.

Long-lived Kamchatka corner pattern 10/8-10, Phase 1

- Back story:
 - Upper-level atmosphere placed a massive, winterish, cyclonic spiral in the far NWPAC starting 10/8.
 - At the surface, a deepening low-pressure area dropped to lowest central pressure (962 mb) on Thursday.
 - ASCAT showed strongest winds late Wednesday into midday Thursday to storm force over a large area.
 - JASON measured seas 30-38' in the Hawaii source zone over the 310-325 degree fetch with head of fetch 2400 nm away.

BACK
TO

- Local surf so far:
 - Sunday before dark, long-period, NW sets climbed to near average.
 - The long-period swell was filled in by dawn Monday well above average.
 - Lot of lull/spurt variations Monday morning to midday with pulse moments nearing XL.
 - This is the biggest swell yet this season from 310-320 degrees.
 - Other big one Sunday 10/5 more NNW and shorter period from close source.
 - Pulse status:
 - NOAA NW Hawaii buoys 51001 and 51101 are still trending up midday Monday 10/13 in the dominant 16-19s band.
 - PacIOOS/CDIP Waimea, Oahu buoy showing deep water swell within 4.6 to 7' 10/13 AM.
 - Prognosis:
 - Building into the eve, with Phase 2 for Tuesday

NWPAC pattern centered from 315 degrees, with added remnant Halong push, Phase 2

- Post tropical cyclone Halong 10/10 is raced NNE toward Aleutians just west of the Date Line Friday, reaching Aleutians on the Date Line by mid Saturday.
- About a half day of storm-force winds over the 310-325 degree band gave a pat on the back to the Kamchatka Phase 1 swell heading out way—
 - Local surf prognosis:
 - The Halong enhancement centered from 315 degrees should trend up the surf Monday PM into Tuesday morning centered from 315 degrees.

Typhoon Halong 10/8-10

- The system began tracking east near 35N east of Japan 10/8.
- This set up a narrow fetch over the 290-300 degree band for Hawaii.
- It slowly weakened with time and was in post-tropical cyclone status midday 10/10.
- JASON measured seas >35' 10/9 over narrow fetch aimed towards Hawaii. This fetch was about 2400 nm away.
- Local surf prognosis:
 - Wave models are not honing in on this WNW energy barely at all, but those >35' seas cannot be ignored.
 - Kauai partial shadow issue for Oahu.
 - Long period onset likely Monday 10/13 PM, peaking early Tuesday, and dropping Wednesday from 290-300 degrees.

NWPAC pattern centered from 315 degrees, Phase 3

- The Kamchatka corner pattern had some weakening late Thursday relative to Phase 1. Thursday^{BACK} night through Saturday, 10/9-11, there were still gales to severe gales with seas 18-25' over a similar large fetch beyond 2400 nm away back to Kamchatka.

- The pattern weakened sharply on Sunday as the upper-level gyre gave way to a zonal jet.
- Local surf prognosis:
 - Choke plenty waves placed on the conveyor belt for Hawaii from the Russian wave factory, with steady surf a notch above average Wednesday into Thursday, dropping near average by Friday morning from 310-320 degrees.

Date Line to Gulf of Alaska near Aleutians 10/13-15

- Models show a low gaining storm-force as it approaches the Date Line near 50N Monday night.
- Fetch expected to aim highest NE of Hawaii.
- Pattern expected to shift rapidly east along Aleutians, reaching east of the Hawaii swell window 10/15.
- Local surf prognosis:
 - Surf should rise from 330-345 degrees Friday PM before sundown.
 - Max of event pre to near dawn Saturday near average.
 - Short-lived, fallen below average Sunday from 330-360 degrees.

Midday Monday 10/13, the east side has breakers near nil from the trade wind belt. Similar Tuesday

Windward wind-head concerns —

- Models keep the long-lived, large area of weak, upper-level low pressure nearby NW to NE of Hawaii within 20-30N through the week into Saturday.
- At the surface, high pressure is modelled to set up N to NE of the state by midweek and hold into weekend. The upper-level low is expected to suppress the local trade wind magnitude potential, plus make for passing cloud/rain clusters, which would make more frequent ups/downs than dry trades.

East side surfer interests—

- Hurricane Priscilla 10/7-9 was SSW of Baja. A pinch of low, moderate-period swell out of 85-95 degrees is arriving Monday. It will likely hold at small levels into Tuesday before fading.
- Trend up in local trade wind swell starting 10/15 from 70-90 degrees.

Midday Monday 10/13, southern shores have small breakers from 180-220 degrees of 12-14s intervals. Low surf is likely for Tuesday.

On this day, 10/13, in the historical H1/10 visual surf observation Goddard-Caldwell database (<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/metadata/geoportal/rest/metadata/item/gov.noaa.nodc%3A0001754/html>) (starting 1972) for the south shore of Oahu, the average is 2.2 Hs, (~4' peak face) and the largest surf on this date was 6 Hs (12' peak face) in 2003 from SSW under 20 knot ENE winds.

BACK
TO

Moon's view:

Austral spring has sprung and odds are getting lower for Hawaii southern hemi surf.

Zonal pattern 40-60S from S of Australia to SE of New Zealand 10/6-12

- West to east winds to gales with seas 15-25' set up off/on through the week last week. Angular spreading likely to keep low, background, long-period surf local this week from 190-220 degrees.

Into the long range, let's see what Woolly Worm (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzZitoUBuCE>) is up. It's lunch, there's Woolly staring in the fridge, still staring, guess today we are between grocery store runs. That must be the clue, models showing a short-lived spell of surf below average 10/19-20 from NW to N. Small WNW surf is expected at the same time out of typhoon Nakri (off Japan today). Oh, now Woolly is hitting the fridge on the lanai, bingo, choke eats. Must be something good coming. Models showing a low to near 950 mb in NWPAC 10/17-19, that could bring well above average, NW to NNW, long-period surf locally within 10/21-23.

The next SwellCaldWell forecast will be issued Wednesday, October 15.

Climatology update (Oct 3, 2025) to include through Sept 2025:

Summary (click below for details of each)

North shore, month of Sept 2025: No ummmffff, but beggars cant be choosy, some decent small to medium relative to Sept, nsstat09 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/nsstat09.txt>).

South shore, month of Sept 2025: Decent, a pinch over average most size categories, ssstat09 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/ssstat09.txt>). For the 2025 season, smstat03_09 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/smstat03_09.txt), March to Sept, below average, though smoking August tilted the larger size brackets near average, given the slow spell March to July.

Wind-heads: Sept 2025: Near average, wwstat09 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/wwstat09.txt>). (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/wwstat05.txt>)

Climate Fun 1.

BACK
TO

Monthly Stats

North Shore Oahu (1968-present):

January: nsstat01 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/nsstat01.txt>)

February: nsstat02 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/nsstat02.txt>)

March: nsstat03 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/nsstat03.txt>)

April: nsstat04 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/nsstat04.txt>)

May: nsstat05 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/nsstat05.txt>)

June: nsstat06 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/nsstat06.txt>)

July: nsstat07 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/nsstat07.txt>)

August: nsstat08 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/nsstat08.txt>)

September: nsstat09 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/nsstat09.txt>)

October: nsstat10 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/nsstat10.txt>)

November: nsstat11 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/nsstat11.txt>)

December: nsstat12 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/nsstat12.txt>)

South Shore Oahu (1972-present):

January: ssstat01 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/ssstat01.txt>)

February: ssstat02 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/ssstat02.txt>)

March: ssstat03 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/ssstat03.txt>)

April: ssstat04 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/ssstat04.txt>)

May: ssstat05 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/ssstat05.txt>)

June: ssstat06 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/ssstat06.txt>)

July: ssstat07 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/ssstat07.txt>)

August: ssstat08 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/ssstat08.txt>)

BACK
TO

*Picts surf forecaster validation duties Big Wednesday 8/18/21



(photos Shredsniper.com, Mike Carroll)

September: ssstat09 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/ssstat09.txt>)

October: ssstat10 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/ssstat10.txt>)

November: ssstat11 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/ssstat11.txt>)

December: ssstat12 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/ssstat12.txt>)

Wind (1988-present, PC's best guess):

January: wwstat01 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/wwstat01.txt>)

February: wwstat02 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/wwstat02.txt>)

March: wwstat03 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/wwstat03.txt>)

April: wwstat04 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/wwstat04.txt>)

May: wwstat05 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/wwstat05.txt>)

June: wwstat06 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/wwstat06.txt>)

July: wwstat07 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/wwstat07.txt>)

August: wwstat08 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/wwstat08.txt>)

September: wwstat09 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/wwstat09.txt>)

October: wwstat10 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/wwstat10.txt>)

November: wwstat11 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/wwstat11.txt>)

December: wwstat12 (<https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/wwstat12.txt>)

BACK
TO

Seasonal Stats

North Shore Oahu, 1968/69-2023/24; (full season, September to June):
nmstat09_06 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/nmstat09_06.txt)

North Shore Oahu, 2024/25 last year season (Sept-June): nmstat09_06
 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/nmstat09_06.txt)

South Shore Oahu, 1972-2024 (full season, March thru November):
smstat03_11 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/smstat03_11.txt)

South Shore Oahu, 2025 season (March to Sept): smstat03_09 (https://www.surfnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/smstat03_09.txt)

Helpful links,

Oahu Surf Climatology (http://uhslc.soest.hawaii.edu/outreach/climo/oahu_surf_climatlogy.html)

Island Shadows (<http://ilikai.soest.hawaii.edu/HILO/shadow.html>)

Educational outreach: Waves 101– Why Surf Varies Time/Place
 (http://uhslc.soest.hawaii.edu/outreach/vary/why_surf_varies.html)

Table Definitions

DATE	Represents daylight hours in zones of high refraction (biggest surf spots for given incident swell direction, period and height). First row(s) in table refers to observations from buoys (swell) and cams (breakers) made for the time when the SwellCaldWell forecast was updated. Other rows refer to forecast for spell (~30-60 min) within daylight when arrival of maximum wave energy, or active envelopes , occur. This forecast tends to bias high for safety (and easier to ride a bigger board if surf is smaller than expected, than to ride a shorter board when bigger). Even under “steady” swell, heights vary spell to spell through a day.
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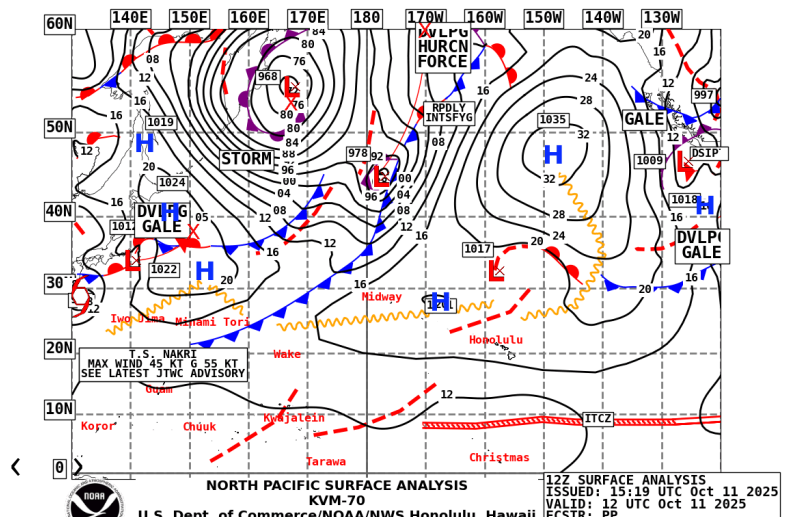
BACK
TO

SWELL HGT	Deep water swell (H1/3) height (feet) corresponding to a nominal (~3 mile) location offshore of Oahu seaward of the coastal shelf for the given incident swell direction. Deep water swell height from each unique wave-generating source is obtained by summing up all energy for wave periods > 10 seconds, which removes the wind swell. H1/3 is the average of the highest 1/3 rd of all waves coming in for the targeted high energy envelope spell from this defined source. Wind swell are defined for wave periods <= 10 seconds.
SWELL DIR	Deep water swell direction (from) centered on 16 point compass bands.
SWELL PER	Deep water swell period (seconds).
SURF H1/3	Breaker H1/3 (defined above) height (feet, peak face) during most active envelopes. H1/3 sets arrive about every 3 minutes with large variance.
SURF H1/10	Average of highest 1/10th of all breakers (feet, peak face) during active envelopes; H1/10 sets arrive about every 10 minutes with large variance.
PEAK FACE	Trough to crest height (feet) on shoreward side of breaker at moment and location along wave front of maximum cresting,
Ocn H1/100 Cleanup or Sneaker set	Waves arrive within a range of sizes. Surf zone enthusiasts emphasize the smaller percent of larger waves when communicating a report in an X to Y occasional Z format. The X to Y range is nominally H1/3 to H1/10. The Z, or sneaker or cleanup sets, are the H1/100, which is about 1.3 times the H1/10 (eg., H1/10=10' gives H1/100=13'). H1/100 th sets arrive on average every 90 minutes with large variance. Thus your typical 2 hour session is bound to see at least one cleanup set.
TREND	Breaker height (wind speed) tendency during daylight
WIND SPD	Wind speed (knots) for nominal coastal location on the windward side relative to prevailing large scale wind (ie, east side under trades or S or W side under konas),
WIND DIR	Wind direction (from) centered on 16 point compass bands. LV refers to light and variable.

BACK
TO



SURFACE CHART



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BACK
TO

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LINKS

Surfrider Oahu (<http://oahu.surfrider.org>)

Maui Ola Foundation (<https://mauiola.org>)

Pacific Tsunami (<http://www.tsunami.org/faq.html>)

Sustainable Coastlines HI (<http://sustainablecoastlineshawaii.org/>)

Surfing the Nations (<http://surfingthenations.com/>)

Defend Oahu (<http://www.defendoahucoalition.org/>)

Access Surf Hawaii (<http://www.accessurf.org/>)

WSL (<https://www.worldsurfleague.com>)

Rise Above Plastic (<http://www.riseaboveplastics.org/>)

Water Quality (Clean Water Branch) (<https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/cwb/#!/viewer>)

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BACK
TO