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PAT CALDWELL

Mahalo for your Epic support Hawaii.

All New Premium SNN sign ups get Pat's forecasts Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Monday is FREE for all, and we offer Wednesday & Friday updates for Premium Members, just 5.00 a month (about a buck a week).

In addition to ALL Pat's updates, you'll also get the SNN 10-day forecasts plus our Multi Surf Cams free from Cam Ads & plenty viewing.

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SwellCaldWell Updated 1 PM Monday, May 12, 2025

DATE	SWELL HGT	SWELL DIR	SWELL PER	SURF H1/3	SURF H1/10	TREND	PROB	WIND SPD	WIND DIR	TREND
1 PM	1.3	NW	14	1	3	UP		15-20	ENE	SAME
05/12	7	ENE	8	3	5	SAME				
	2.6	S	14	4	6	DOWN				
TUE	2.5	NNW	12	3	5	SAME	LOW	15-20	ENE	SAME
05/13	7	ENE	8	3	5	SAME	LOW			
	2.4	S	13	3	5	DOWN	LOW			
WED	2.5	NNW	11	3	5	SAME	LOW	13-19	E	SAME
05/14	6.5	ENE	8	3	5	SAME	LOW			
	2.2	S	12	2	4	DOWN	LOW			
THU	2.5	NNW	10	2	4	DOWN	LOW	13-19	E	SAME
05/15	6	ENE	8	3	4	DOWN	LOW			
	2	S	12	2	3	SAME	LOW			
FRI	2.5	NNW	12	3	5	UP	LOW	13-19	E	SAME
05/16	6	ENE	8	3	4	SAME	LOW			
	2	S	11	1	3	SAME	LOW			
SAT	2.5	NNW	11	3	4	DOWN	LOW	13-19	E	SAME
05/17	6	ENE	8	3	5	SAME	LOW			
	2	S	11	1	3	SAME	LOW			

Table Definitions given after Discussion

Summary

Active small surf from around the compass.

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Discussion

Midday Monday 05/12 on northern shores has slowly rising, tiny to small surf below the calendar day average, from 310-320 degrees of 13-15s intervals, as well as the refracting trade wind swell for select spots. Similar surf Tuesday.

On this day, 05/12, 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 3.1 Hs, (6' peak face, Oahu Surf Climatology (http://ilikai.soest.hawaii.edu/HILO/climo/oahu_surf_climatlogy.html)) and the largest surf on this date was 8 Hs (sets 16' peak face top spots) in 1993 from NW under 6 knot LV winds.

Moon's view

- Low pressure patterns continue to form on ~3 days spacing though magnitude mostly sub-gale and beyond 1500 nm away. Series of low-end, NW to NNW, May events.

Kurils to Date Line/Aleutians 5/7-9

- Backstory:
 - Gale low formed late Tuesday 5/6 with a compact fetch over the 310-315 degree It maintained gales as it tracked east along 45N reaching about 2500 nm away Thursday midday. Winds weakened and aimed more NE of Hawaii Friday as the system crossed the Date Line.
- Pulse status:
 - NW Hawaii buoys 51001 and 51101 midday Monday 5/12 show dominant S swell with little indication of the NW event.
 - PacIOOS/CDIP Hanalei, Kauai and Waimea, Oahu midday both show the slither of energy from 310-320 degrees within 13-15s. This is making for tiny to small breakers for NW exposures Monday midday, with largest breakers for exposures to the trade wind swell.

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- Prognosis:
 - This event should peak below average on Tuesday from 310-325 degrees. Continued trade wind swell select

New low Date Line to NE Aleutians 5/10-11

- Fast-moving, compact near-gale formed near 40N, 180E Friday night. It raced NNE with mostly strong breezes to about 1500 nm away Saturday morning centered from 320 degrees. It weakened sharply as it crossed into the Bering Sea Sunday.
 - In combo with fading surf from the aforementioned small bump, this mild source should keep tiny to small, short-period surf from 315-330 degrees on Wednesday into Thursday.

Broad area of weak low pressure tracking east along 45N from Kurils to Date Line 5/11-13

- Winds are mostly just strong breezes while west of the Date Line 5/11-12. Head of the fetch is modelled to cross east of the Date Line to about 1400 nm away as the fetch of peak winds near strong breezes aims NE of Hawaii.
 - Another tiny to small, shorter-period event is expected to pick up Friday from 305-320 degrees and peak Saturday morning from 315-330 degrees. It should be short-lived.

Midday Monday 05/12 on the east side has near trade wind swell average surf from 20-90 degrees. Tuesday should be about the same.

Windward wind-head concerns —

- Primary center of surface low pressure near 1035 mb is NNE of Hawaii Monday 5/12 near 40N, 150W, or about 1000 nm away. Models show it slowly weakening a few millibars then by Wednesday then holding about the same near 35N, 145W (1000 nm away) into the weekend. An axis of high pressure remains N of Hawaii through the period keeping steady moderate/fresh trades mostly within 60-90 degrees into the weekend.
- Luck of the draw on scoring windward side, even with peak of the trade wind event 5/10-12, still plenty of lulls off/on as seen in the Coconut Island, Mokuloloe

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(https://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=mokh1), Kaneohe Bay wind gauge at the tidal gauge station.

East side surfer interests—

- ASCAT satellite Sunday night to Monday morning 5/11-12 showed pockets of strong breezes within 500 nm mostly to the ENE to N of Hawaii. This is keeping active wind swell within 30-60 degrees, with enough N pinch for select Country spots. This pattern should hold though top winds should favor E to NE of Hawaii in coming days with downward trend of wind swell at Country spots though E side staying about the same through the week near average, centered from near 60 degrees.

Midday Monday 05/12 on southern shores has surf near the summer average from 180-195 degrees of 12-16s intervals. Heights should be a notch lower on Tuesday.

On this day, 05/12, 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 2.8 Hs, (~6' peak face) and the largest surf on this date was 6 Hs (12' peak face) in 2019 from SSW under 6 knot LV winds.

Moon's view:

After the Mother's Day source E of New Zealand 5/3-5, surface high pressure took over leading to a low spell for this period after the present event dwindles.

Mother's Day swell:

- Backstory:
 - Phase 1, A low had a NE track from S of NZ starting 5/2. Mostly gales into 5/4 AM, nosing to within 3600 nm.

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- Phase 2, low went storm force and stalled E of New Zealand 5/4-5.
- ASCAT validated the storm-force winds over a compact area, though well aimed at Hawaii 5/4 morning into eve.
- JASON 5/4 PM seas to 35'.
- Pattern held similar Monday 5/5.
- It weakened to marginal gales and shifted SE 5/6-7.
- Pulse status:
 - NOAA southern buoy 51002 shows a steady decline from the peak Saturday night to Sunday morning in wave energy and dominant wave period down to small/medium levels within 12-13s by Monday midday 5/12.
 - PacIOOS/CDIP Barber's Point, Oahu buoy showed the max in deep water, long-period swell Sunday afternoon. Heights have been dropping toward midday 5/12.
- Prognosis:
 - Surf should drop below average on Tuesday and hang at upper-end background into Wednesday.
 - This source should fall to low-end background of 10-12s from 175-185 degrees for Thursday into Saturday.
 - Otherwise low (< 1' deep water swell), long-period surf near low-end background should add inconsistent, small sets from 190-220 degrees midweek into the weekend.

Into the long range, let's see what Woolly Worm (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzZitoUBuCE>) is up. He threw his back out playing with keiki at the Saturday BBQ. He is likely resting. Nope, stomach power is stronger than the back pain—there he goes heading to the kitchen for lunch—slowly. I'll take that as "a little better" clue. There was a large area of zonal (west to east), extreme (severe gale to storm force) winds well down within 55-65S to S of New Zealand 5/11-12. It moved east quickly as it weakened. It could pinch up the surf a notch to upper-end background locally by Monday 5/19 from 180-200 degrees. It should be short-lived. Otherwise, for Country next week, the next shorter-period, NW to NNW bump due locally around 5/21.

The next SwellCaldWell forecast will be issued Wednesday, May 14.

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