



National Weather Service (NWS) Key West, Florida

About Our Office

NWS Mission

Providing weather, water, and climate data, forecasts, warnings and **Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS)** for the protection of life and property and enhancement of the national economy.

NWS consists of **168** operational units, and most are **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**

NWS has **~4450** employees, of whom **86%** are in the field

NWS Vision

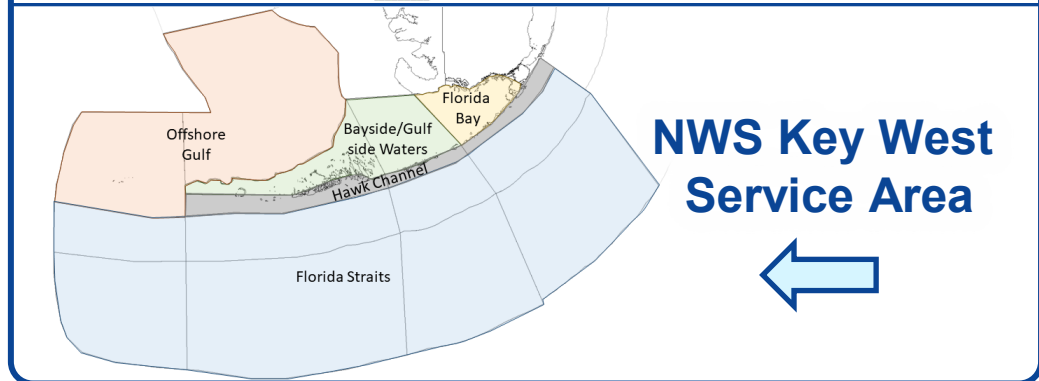
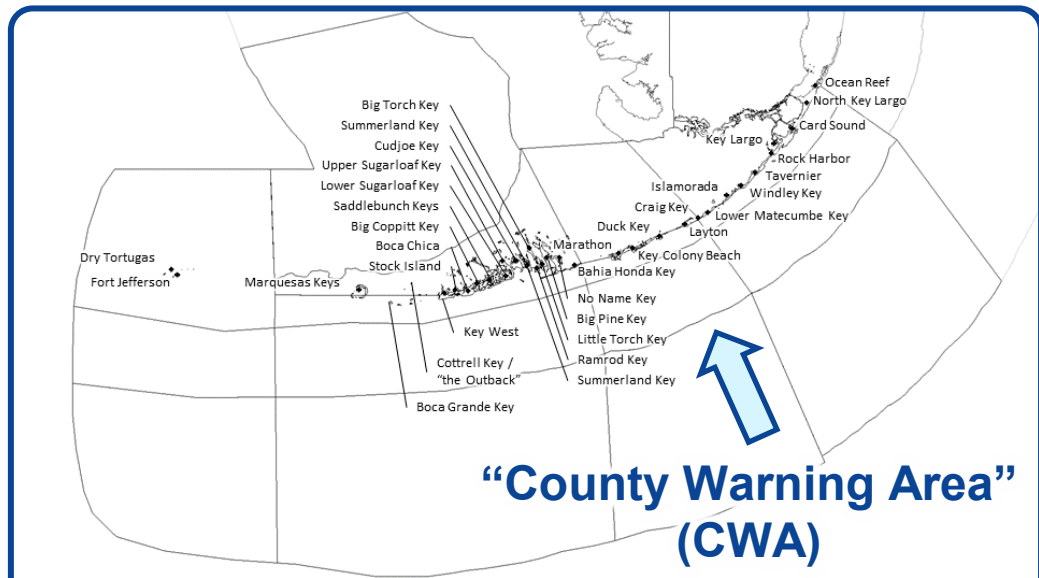
A Weather-Ready Nation: Society is prepared for and responds to extreme weather, water, and climate events.

“Ready, Responsive, Resilient” through the provision of IDSS

NWS issues **~1.5 million** forecasts and **~50,000** warnings each year

About the Florida Keys NWS Office

The Florida Keys National Weather Service is one of 122 local offices that provide forecasts and warnings across the United States. The Florida Keys NWS forecasts for the entire Island Chain, as well as the adjacent nearshore and offshore coastal waters. The Keys have a large recreational boater, commercial fishing, and marine military presence, making the forecast for the coastal waters of utmost importance. The office operates with 22 professionals when fully staffed, including 16 meteorologists who work 24/7/365 to provide constant weather watch.



Contact Information

Available 24/7/365

National Weather Service

1315 White Street

Key West, FL 33040

305-295-1316 (public line)

sr-key.webmaster@noaa.gov



weather.gov/key

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Program Areas



Decision Support Services

- Supporting federal, tribal, state, and local core partners with 24/7 weather support
- Short-fuse weather briefing emails to partners for severe weather events
- Spot forecasts to support execution of core partner missions and for unplanned incidents
- Deployment to the Monroe County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for high-impact weather events



Education & Outreach

- SKYWARN Spotter program
- Scheduled presentations for schools and community groups inside and outside the forecast office
- Booths at various community events



Electronics Technicians

- Maintain:
 - NEXRAD WSR-88D radar
 - Two ASOS Surface Weather Stations
 - Two NOAA Weather Radio broadcast stations



Aviation

- Terminal aerodrome forecasts (TAFs) regularly issued for two Florida Keys airports
- Airport Weather Warnings issued for imminent lightning and wind impacts
- Routinely support the large general aviation community in the Florida Keys



Marine

- Provide IDSS for numerous core partners, including: USCG, FWC, JIATF-S, Monroe County, City of Key West, and City of Marathon
- Marine weather forecasts and products to support:
 - One of the largest “live-aboard” communities in the U.S. (Boot Key Harbor)
 - A commercial fishing industry that is #2 nationwide in terms of value
 - Over 100 marinas, and scores of fishing and diving charters
 - The only barrier reef in the continental U.S.
 - World maritime commerce, with 40% of commerce traffic passing through the Keys marine service area annually
 - The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, 2,900 sq. nm of marine habitat
 - Sport Fishing Capital of the World (Islamorada)



Observations

- Twice-daily weather balloon releases to sample the atmospheric profile
- Maintain climate records for Key West dating to 1871 and Marathon dating to 1950
- Maintain Cooperative Observer Network in the Keys
- Florida Keys CoCoRaHS Coordinators assist volunteer observers to supplement rainfall data



Fire Weather

- Daily fire weather forecasts
- On-demand, site-specific spot weather forecasts for prescribed burns, wildfires, and other incidents



Public Forecasts

- Radar monitoring 24/7/365
- Accurate and timely watches and warnings
- Supporting communities and partners before, during, and after severe storms and tropical cyclones
- Storm damage surveys, coordination on damage assessments