



Sea Conditions Guide: Congo River Mouth



Climate key features

The Congo River Mouth's climate is characterized by its tropical features with two different seasons, one wet and one dry. The wet season occurs between October and May and is mostly cloudy with high tropical rainfall. The dry season occurs between June and September with very low rainfall.

Benguela Current

Benguela Current is a Southern Atlantic current that drifts along the coast from the Cape of Good Hope up to Angola. Briefly explained by the relation between the thermocline of the Atlantic waters and sub Antarctic cold waters.

Squalls

The River Congo Mouth area is located at a major zone of deep convection. This tropical area is characterized by the high amount of available energy to trigger local heavy thunderstorms.

Most of these storms develop over the continental area and gradually move offshore with the prevailing upstream

winds. These squalls occur during the wet season and often cause microbursts leading winds to increase up to force 8/9 (Beaufort Scale) and lightning which can cause disruption on the vessels and platform's operations. During the dry season squalls are rarely observed due to the colder sea temperatures which inhibits convection or dissipate those triggered inland.

Mesoscale weather features – sea breeze

Sea breeze is a diurnal wind cycle caused by differences between the surface thermal heating over land and the relatively constant sea surface temperature along the day.

The transition between the dry season into the wet season brings often also an increase of the average wind speeds over this area. This could be explained by the still colder sea surface temperatures during the dry season and the increase of the temperatures over land which results in the end of a pronounced westerly sea breeze over this area.