Corinthian Yacht Club of Portland

Schooner Creek Boat Works

Pacific NW Offshore

vaco, WA to Victoria, BC  47th International Yacht Ra

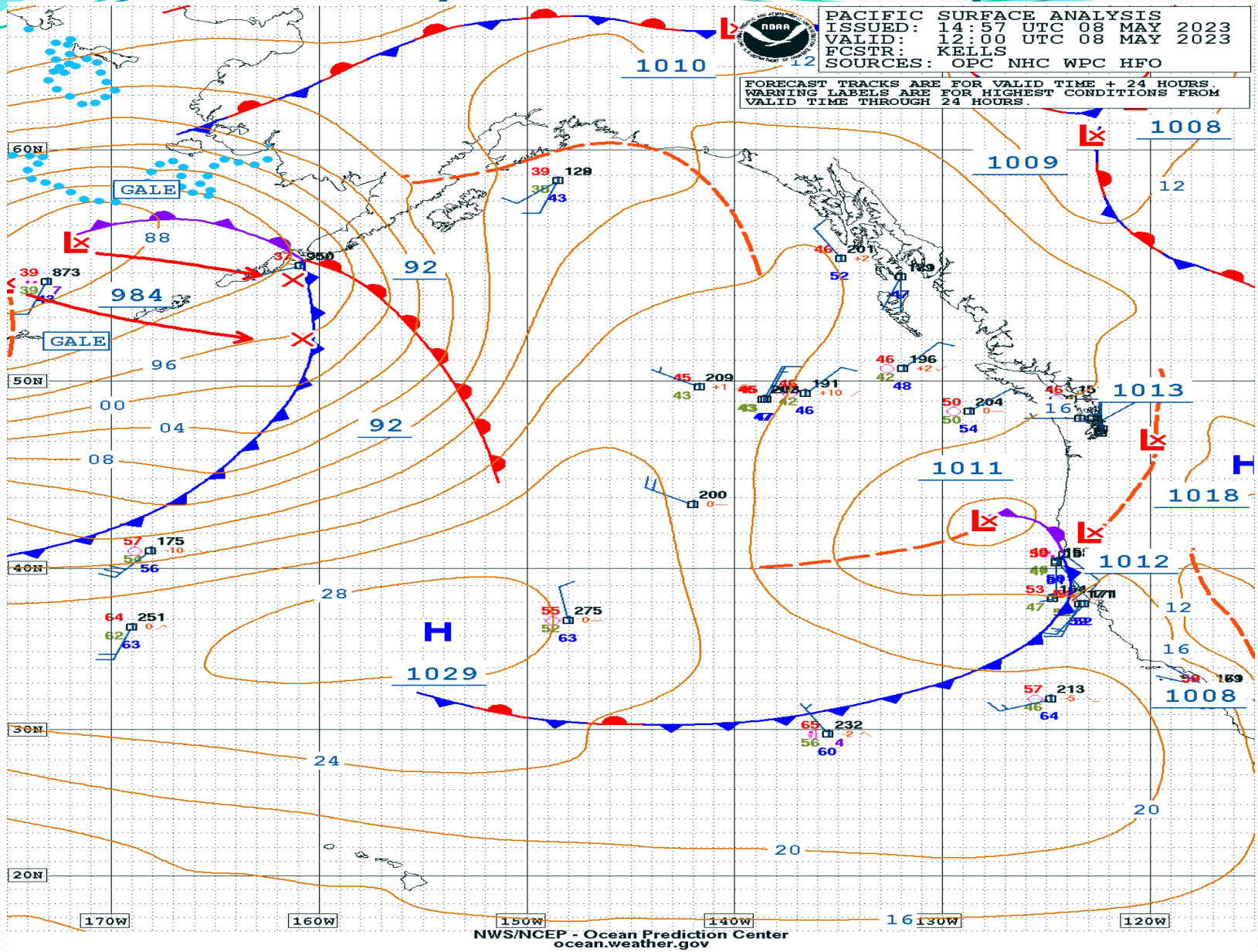
Corinthian Yacht Club of Portland

May 11-14 2023

The Forecast for 11 May

- We have a relatively unstable situation and it is in a state of transition.
- Welcome to Spring in the Pacific NW.
- The good news is there probably won't be any more than 12 knots of wind from the 11th to the 14th.
- The bad news is the average wind speed will be 3-7 knots.

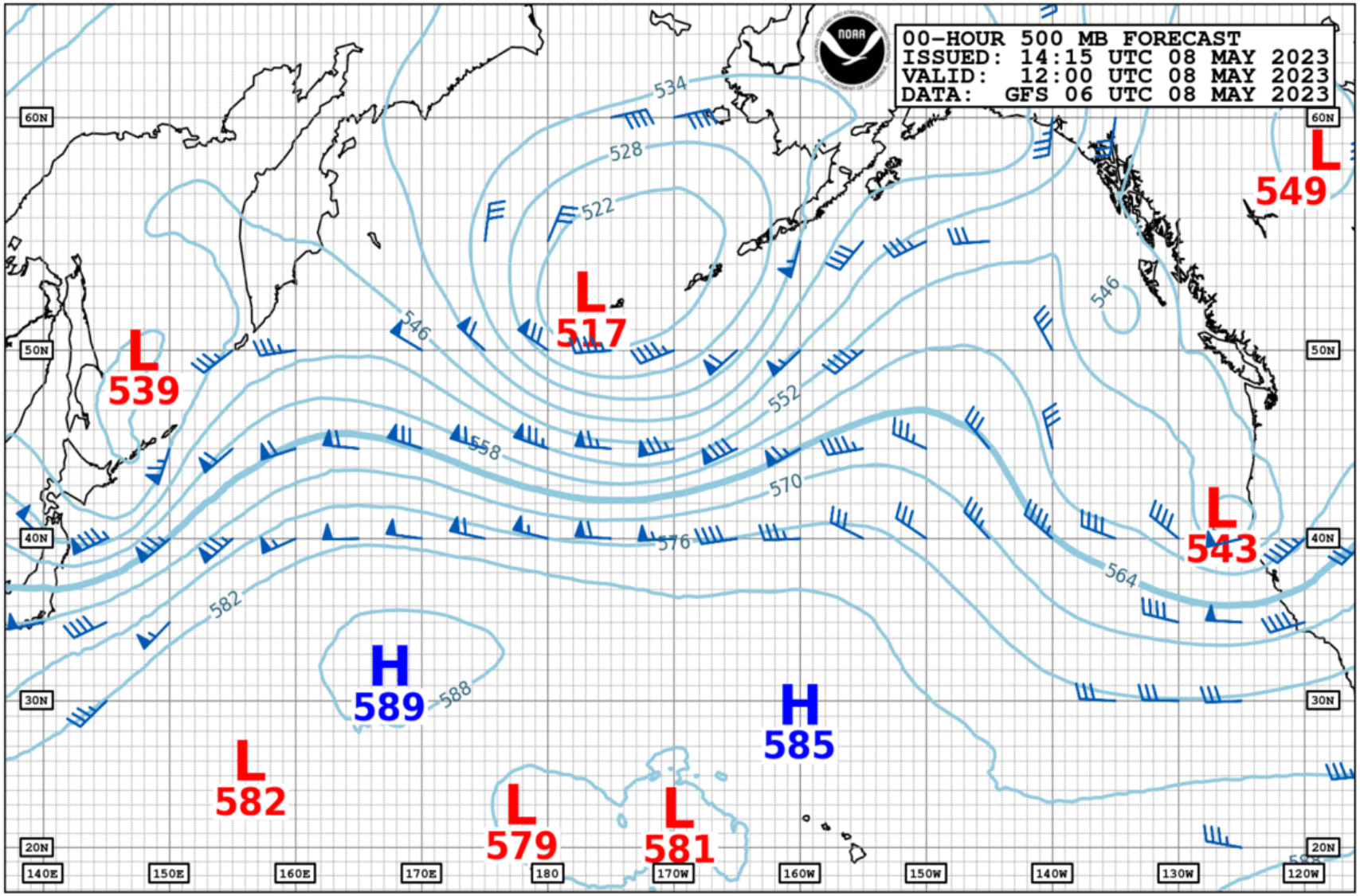
8 May Surface Analysis



Map Analysis

- We have a weak low-pressure system (1011MB) off the southern Oregon Coast drifting to the SSE.
- The Pacific High is also weak(1029MB) and south and west of a “normal” position.
- Moving into the Gulf of Alaska we have two low-pressure systems with an attached vigorous frontal system.
- The problem will be that this system won’t get to the Pacific NW.

500MB Chart

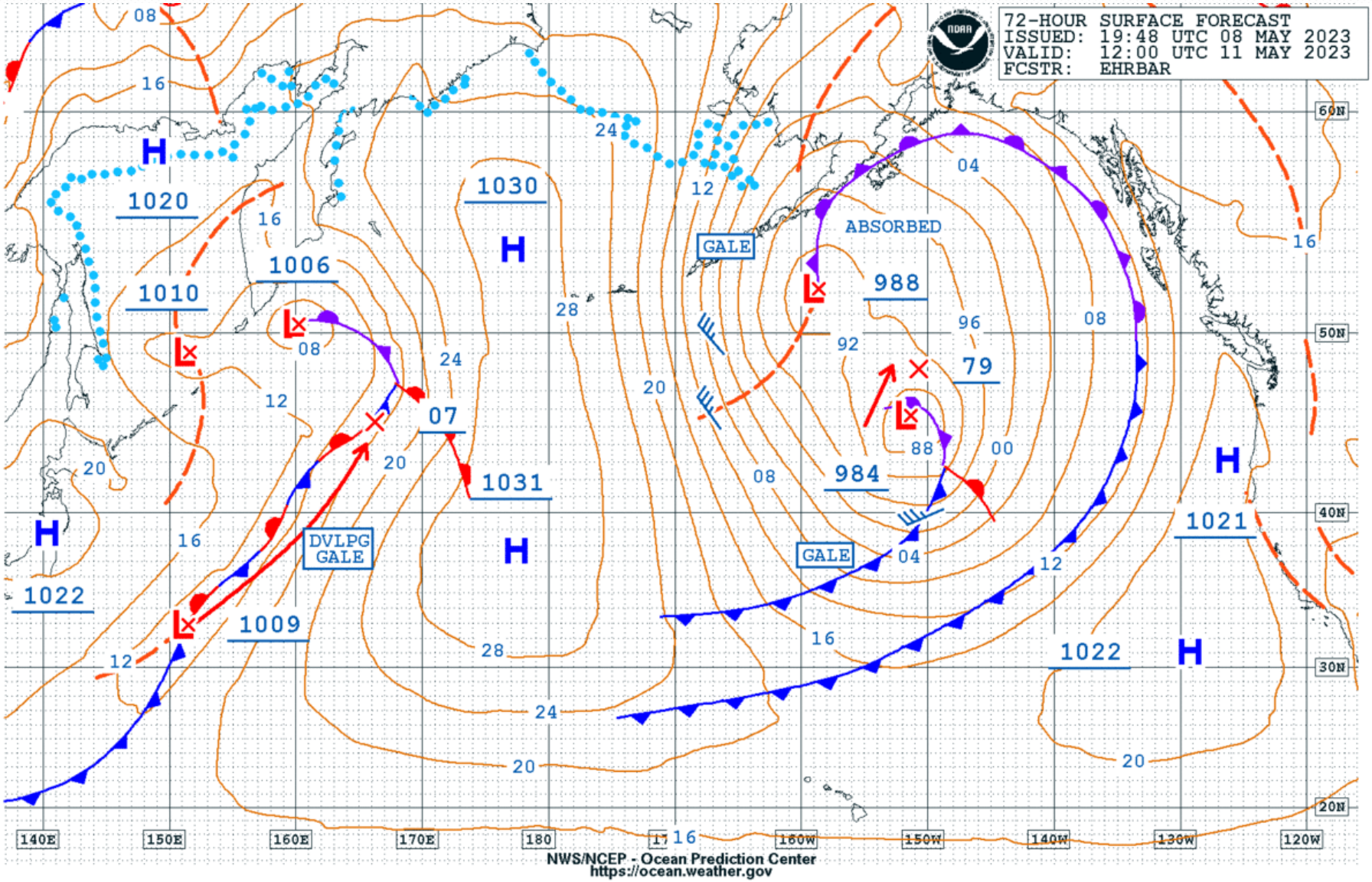


NWS/NCEP - Ocean Prediction Center
https://ocean.weather.gov

500Mb Chart Analysis

- The upper air flow today is mainly zonal (flowing west to east) with the jet stream coming ashore just south of San Francisco.
- The surface low off the southern Oregon coast intrudes into the upper atmosphere and there isn't much to move it.
- The surface low coming into the Gulf of Alaska mentioned in the last slide intrudes into the upper atmosphere in the western Aleutians.

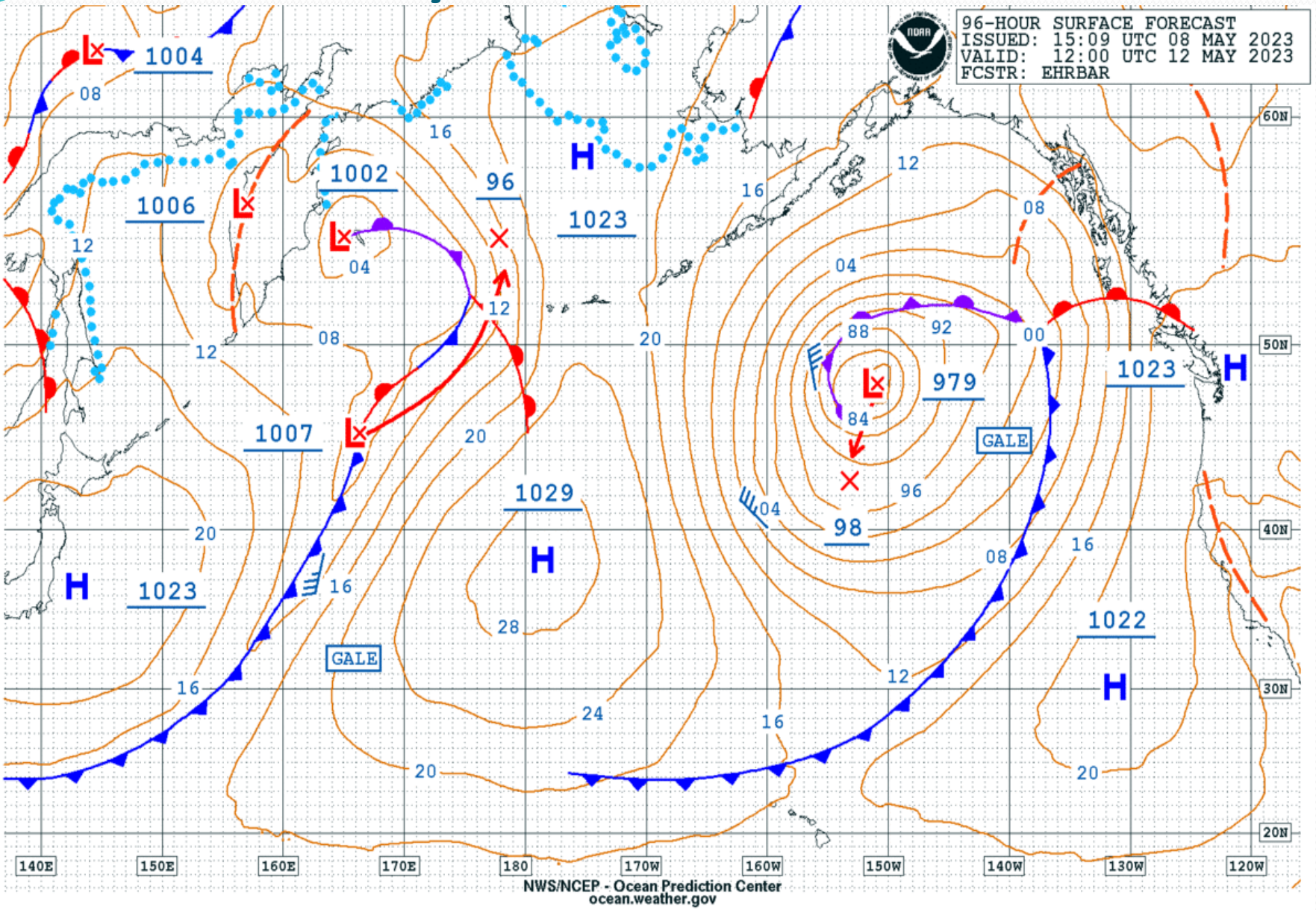
11 May Surface Forecast Chart



11 May Surface Analysis

- The weak low-pressure system off the Oregon Coast has drifted and dissipated to a weak through.
- Behind that low, a weak ridge of high pressure has built along the coast from southern Calif to mid-Vancouver Island.
- The low-pressure system that is moving into the Gulf of Alaska has slowed and will now be directed to the NNE.
- Note the gap in the isobars over the Pacific NW. Very little to no pressure gradient.

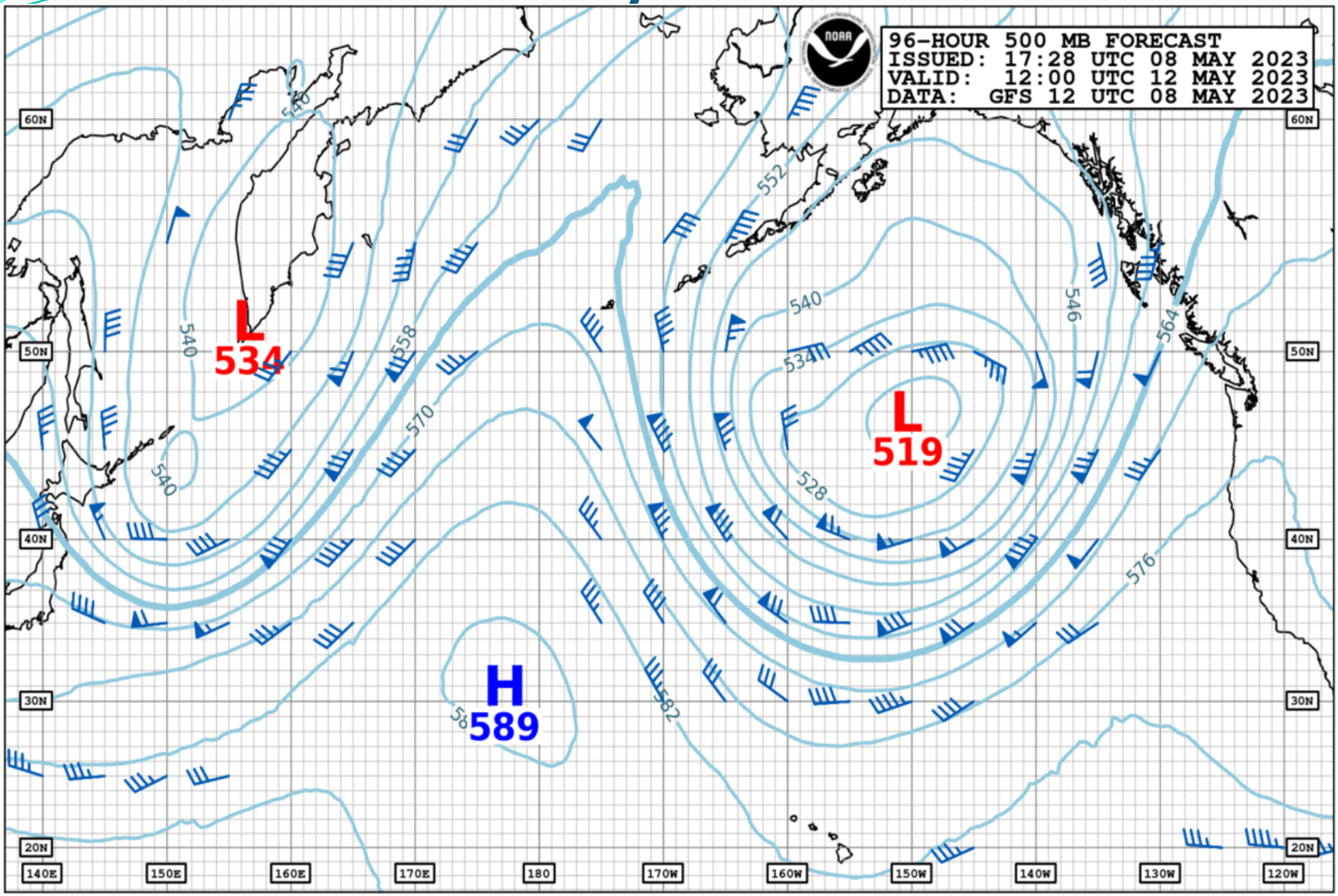
12 May Surface Forecast



12 May Surface Forecast

- The ridge of high-pressure has slightly strengthened to 1023MB and now extends to the north end of Vancouver Island,
- The low in the Gulf of Alaska has strengthened very slightly but will now weaken and move to the SSW.
- This will keep an onshore pressure gradient from building over the Pacific NW.
- Note the gap in the isobars over the Pacific NW.

12 May 500MB


96-HOUR 500 MB FORECAST
ISSUED: 17:28 UTC 08 MAY 2023
VALID: 12:00 UTC 12 MAY 2023
DATA: GFS 12 UTC 08 MAY 2023
L
534
L
519
H
589
60N
50N
40N
30N
20N
140E
150E
160E
170E
180
170W
160W
150W
140W
130W
120W
540
552
546
564
534
528
576
558
570
582
NWS/NCEP - Ocean Prediction Center
https://ocean.weather.gov

12 May 500MB Analysis

- The flow has become meridional with the jet stream now coming ashore north of Vancouver Island.
- With nothing to the west of the 519MB upper level low over the Gulf, there is nothing to push that system our direction.
- This what will bring warmer temperatures to the Pacific NW this weekend.

Ocean Surface Currents

- There is a large clockwise eddy centered at 45.77N 125.71W. Strongest current is roughly at 46.24N 124.6W flowing roughly due south at .13 knots
- At 47N 124.86 W the current is flowing at 235° at .05 knts.
- At 47.8N 125.17W the current is flowing at 70° at .11 knts.
- At 48.28N 125.06W the current is flowing at 335° at .13 knts.
- In other words, at those speeds it is more important to worry about the windspeed.

Conditions Summary

- For the start the remains of a drainage E-NE breeze of 2-6 knots
- 1100 hrs the breeze will back to NW at 3 knots and start a slow build to maybe 10 knots by 1700 hrs.
- Between 2200-2400 hrs the breeze will ease and clock to the NE and remain in the 3-6 knot range.
- By 1100 hrs Friday the breeze will back to the NW at 3 knots.
- By 1400-1500 hrs the breeze will back to the WNW at 4-8 knots.
- This will hold into the Strait of JdF.

Crystal Ball Analysis

- The new Swan 42 CS finishes around 0200 hrs 13 May.
- The J-120 finishes around 0830 hrs 14 May.
- It is going to be slow.
- I'll have a more detailed forecast for the Wednesday skippers meeting.
- Since the picture is in a state of flux, the forecast will change.
- Don't shoot the messenger.

Questions?

- Feel free to email me at: Lbruce@MSN.com
- Talk to you again on 10 May
- Thank you