



Nineteen months of daily weather logging on the U.S. east coast: The WFIP3 event log

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Abstract. The Third Wind Forecast Improvement Project (WFIP3) is a multi-institutional field campaign designed to advance the understanding and prediction of the offshore atmospheric boundary layer along the U.S. east coast. Extending from February 2024 through August 2025, WFIP3 combines long-term coastal and offshore measurements with targeted modeling and forecasting efforts. This data paper presents the WFIP3 event log, a curated record of 578 days of meteorological phenomena and field observations that complements the campaign's extensive high-frequency datasets. The event log provides both manually documented daily weather discussions and automatically derived indicators of atmospheric processes—including low-level jets, wind ramps, extreme wind veer, and weak wind conditions—based on observations from scanning lidars deployed at three coastal and offshore sites. The dataset offers structured metadata, standardized time and site identifiers, and consistent terminology to facilitate its integration with WFIP3's observational and modeling data products. The log supports diverse applications, from model evaluation and forecast verification to the selection of case studies on offshore boundary-layer dynamics. The WFIP3 event log is publicly available through the U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Data Hub, providing the research community with a transparent and enduring contextual reference for the interpretation and use of WFIP3 measurements.

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1 Introduction

25 In this data description article, we present the WFIP3 event log, a curated record of weather discussions and field observations associated with the Third Wind Forecast Improvement Project (WFIP3). WFIP3 is a large, multi-institutional field campaign (Kirincich et al., 2026) that combined coastal and offshore measurements collected between early 2024 and summer 2025 along the U.S. east coast. Given the extensive duration of WFIP3 and the large number of observations gathered across multiple sites, the WFIP3 event log complements the high-frequency measurement data by providing an easily approachable yet
30 comprehensive temporal account of notable atmospheric phenomena – such as frontal passages, low-level jets, sea breezes, fog, and convection – for each day of the nineteen months of the WFIP3 field campaign.

The concept of maintaining a daily event log builds upon the successful framework established during the Second Wind Forecast Improvement Project (WFIP2; Shaw et al., 2019; Wilczak et al., 2019), which demonstrated the value of systematically documenting meteorological events and forecast performance to guide subsequent analyses and model evaluation. The
35 WFIP3 event log provides similar contextual information, essential for the interpretation and quality control of the campaign’s measurement records and for the identification of relevant case studies for scientific analyses in the region. The log follows a consistent and simple spreadsheet-based structure with standardized time stamps, site identifiers, and event categories, aiming to enhance the utility of WFIP3 observational data for a broad range of applications, from the evaluation of atmospheric models and forecast systems (Olson et al., 2019) to the planning of future offshore field experiments (Bodini et al., 2025). Through this
40 open-access resource, we aim to provide the community with a transparent and enduring record of WFIP3 operations, enabling more accurate interpretation of the offshore measurements and fostering collaborative research on offshore boundary-layer processes and wind energy applications.

In this data paper, Sect. 2 provides a brief overview of the WFIP3 campaign, Sect. 3 describes the process used to identify and prioritize the atmospheric phenomena included in the event log, and Sect. 4 outlines the overall structure of the log. Section
45 5 details the data format, and Sect. 6 highlights notable examples of logged events. Concluding remarks are provided in Sect. 7.

2 The WFIP3 campaign

WFIP3 is a multi-institutional field campaign aimed at advancing the scientific understanding and forecasting of the offshore atmospheric boundary layer. Jointly funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the project focuses on the southern New England offshore region (Figure 1), an area of
50 active wind energy development. These coordinated observations provide high-resolution profiles of wind, temperature, and

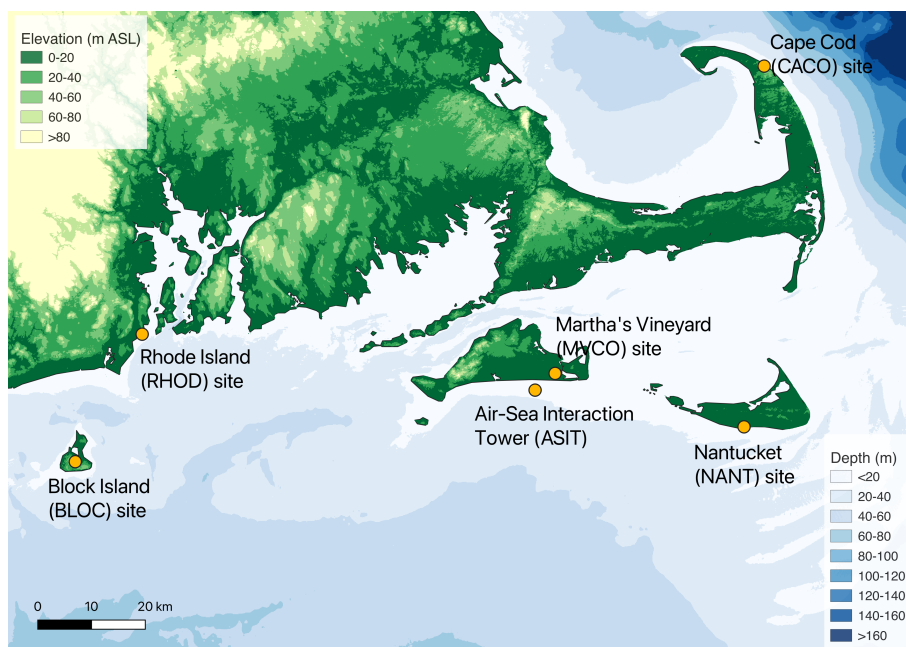


Figure 1. Map showing the WFIP3 domain and the main long-term instrumented sites. The manual component of the event log covered the whole region; the automated portion was run using observations collected at sites RHOD (more representative of onshore conditions), BLOC, and NANT (more representative of offshore conditions).

humidity across the marine atmospheric boundary layer – the first of their kind along the U.S. east coast – as well as surface and near-surface measurements. In addition to these primary physical variables, the campaign also captures pressure, aerosol concentrations, and estimates of key indirect parameters such as atmospheric boundary layer height, turbulence kinetic energy (TKE), and TKE dissipation rate. This comprehensive suite of measurements offers an unprecedented opportunity to evaluate and improve numerical weather prediction models in this data-sparse region. A comprehensive overview of the WFIP3 campaign can be found in Kirincich et al. (2026).

3 Identification of phenomena to log

Given the extended duration of the WFIP3 campaign, the research team developed an event log framework to systematically identify and record meteorological processes of particular relevance to offshore wind forecasting and offshore wind energy. This effort aimed to facilitate the discovery of scientifically valuable case studies within the large WFIP3 observational dataset and to support targeted model evaluation and improvement activities.

The selection of phenomena to include in the WFIP3 event log followed a structured, multi-stage process. The research team first compiled a comprehensive list of atmospheric and oceanographic processes relevant to the campaign's scientific objectives. This list was subsequently refined and ranked by the WFIP3 core team according to both scientific importance and



practical feasibility for daily logging. To ensure the event log also reflected the priorities of the offshore wind industry, the WFIP3 team engaged 11 global experts from leading energy companies. More than 80% of invitees participated in a survey evaluating the same list of candidate processes and phenomena. The final prioritization results, summarized in Table 1, report mean scores from both the WFIP3 research team and the industry advisors (1 = lowest, 5 = highest).

70 Overall, the WFIP3 researchers expressed broad scientific interest across a wide range of meteorological processes, reflecting the campaign's goal of improving fundamental understanding and model representation of the offshore boundary layer. In contrast, industry experts identified a smaller number of high-priority topics – particularly wind turbine and wind farm wakes, and extratropical systems and hurricanes – as most critical for wind energy applications.

The industry survey also gathered feedback on measurement types considered most impactful for advancing offshore wind resource assessment. A recurring theme was the need for long-term, high-quality observations of vertical temperature profiles to assess numerical weather prediction model skill in representing atmospheric stability and turbulence – key factors influencing wake behavior and power production. Respondents also emphasized the importance of sufficient temporal overlap with existing floating lidar deployments, as short measurement durations (<12 months) limit the reliability of Measure-Correlate-Predict analyses commonly used in industry. The results of this collaborative prioritization process were directly incorporated into the planning of the WFIP3 event log, ensuring that the phenomena tracked throughout the campaign addressed both scientific and industry-relevant knowledge gaps.

4 WFIP3 event log structure

While an exhaustive daily record of all relevant metocean processes listed in Table 1 would have been ideal, maintaining such detailed documentation for the full duration of the WFIP3 campaign was not feasible. To balance comprehensiveness and practicality, the WFIP3 event logging effort was divided into two complementary components:

1. Automated event logging,
2. Manual event logging with weekly weather discussions led by the WFIP3 research team.

4.1 Automated logging

For processes that are suitable for automatic detection using real-time observations from the WFIP3 instruments deployed in the field, algorithms were developed to quantify the daily occurrence of these processes at the relevant WFIP3 sites. Specifically, the following quantities were logged for each day, using measurements (as 10-minute averages) from the scanning lidars (used in six-beam vertical profiling mode) deployed on the ground at the RHOD, BLOC, and NANT sites:

- Low-level jet (LLJ) occurrence, quantified as the percentage of the day during which an LLJ was present. LLJs are detected using the algorithm presented in Quint et al. (2025): an LLJ is flagged when the lidar profile exhibits (i) a distinct wind speed maximum below 800 m (the “nose”), (ii) a minimum decrease of 3 m s^{-1} in wind speed above the nose within 400 m, and (iii) a peak wind speed of at least 10 m s^{-1} .



Table 1. Prioritization of offshore processes by the WFIP3 research team and by offshore wind energy industry experts (1 = lowest priority, 5 = highest). Bold indicates the processes that were tracked in the WFIP3 event log.

<i>Process / Phenomenon</i>	<i>WFIP3 Team</i>	<i>Industry</i>
Low-level jets	5.0	3.8
Forecast busts	4.8	2.6
Boundary-layer adjustment effects	4.7	3.5
Weak wind events	4.3	2.1
Offshore flow	4.0	3.4
Sea surface temperature characterization	4.0	3.1
Wind turbine and wind farm wakes	4.0	4.8
Cloud coverage	3.9	1.9
Precipitation	3.9	2.0
Coastal upwelling	3.7	3.1
Sea breezes	3.7	3.1
Easterly flow	3.5	2.6
Waves and wind-wave misalignment	3.5	3.0
Extra-tropical systems, including hurricanes	3.3	4.0
Cold fronts, nor'easters, cold air outbreaks	3.3	3.5
Wind veer	3.3	3.1
Wind ramp events	3.3	3.5
SST fronts	3.1	3.0
Synoptic/mesoscale high and low pressures	3.0	2.9
Convection, including tornadoes	2.9	2.6
Freezing sea spray	2.8	2.8
Fog	2.4	3.1
Gulf Stream meanders	2.4	2.3
Lightning	2.4	2.8
Radiative forcing from mid- to high-level clouds	2.0	2.1

- Weak wind speeds, quantified as the percentage of the day with 140 m (our proxy for hub height for some of the offshore turbines deployed in the area) wind speeds less than or equal to 3 m s^{-1} (a typical cut-in value at which a wind turbine begins to generate power);
- 100 – Strong wind speeds, quantified as the percentage of the day with 140 m wind speeds greater than or equal to 25 m s^{-1} (a typical cut-out value at which a wind turbine is shut down to prevent damage);



- Easterly winds, defined as the percentage of the day with 140 m winds from an easterly (between 45 and 135 degrees) direction. These winds represent an offshore flow, which is often linked with a change in atmospheric stability that strongly affects wind speed vertical profiles and turbine height shear;
- 105 – Extreme wind veer, quantified as the percentage of the day when the difference in wind direction between 300 m and 100 m exceeded 20°;
- Wind ramp-up events, quantified in terms of the percentage of time each day when the 140 m wind speed increased by more than 5 m s⁻¹ over 10 or 30 minutes, or by more than 10 m s⁻¹ over 60 minutes;
- Wind ramp-down events, expressed as the percentage of time each day when the 140 m wind speed decreased by more
110 than 5 m s⁻¹ over 10 or 30 minutes, or by more than 10 m s⁻¹ over 60 minutes.

4.2 Manual logging

The manual logging by WFIP3 researchers built on the prioritized list of processes of interest (Table 1) and complemented the automated component of the event log. Each daily entry included information on the synoptic situation, convection, precipitation, mean marine boundary layer wind direction, perceived accuracy of the High-Resolution Rapid Refresh model
115 (HRRR, Dowell et al. (2022)) day-ahead forecast below 500 m, fog or low stratus occurrence, lightning, LLJ activity, and sea-breeze events. Additional narrative sections summarized the overall weather evolution and forecast performance, noted any instrument outages, and provided daily ratings for their usefulness for research. Two ratings (ranging from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates “little usefulness” and 5 indicates “perfect”) were assigned to each day – one reflecting value for model development and one for observational research. We note that for the initial days of the campaign (from 1 February 2024
120 through 24 March 2024), a single combined score was reported until discussions during the weekly event log pointed out the value of distinguishing model and observational development case studies. The NOAA model observation website https://www.psl.noaa.gov/renewable_energy/wfip3/modelobs/ (Fig. A1) was developed specifically for WFIP3 to facilitate the manual logging effort, monitor atmospheric conditions, model performance, and instrument well-being during the course of the campaign. A complete list of the websites consulted by loggers is available in Appendix A, including National Weather Service
125 forecast discussions, WFIP3 observations, model forecasts, and satellite observations.

A day was generally considered valuable (in either category) when extensive observations were available and the wind field exhibited substantial variability such as ramps, gusty periods, or transitions near key turbine operating thresholds (cut-in or cut-out speeds). From an observational perspective, complex atmospheric conditions, including precipitation, convection, or frontal passages, were not seen as drawbacks because they often yield valuable insights into boundary-layer processes
130 even when certain instruments operate suboptimally. For model development, however, the most informative cases were those characterized by relatively simple meteorology but notable or systematic forecast errors in wind speed or direction, allowing specific model deficiencies to be isolated and examined.

One researcher from the WFIP3 team was in charge of daily logging, which was organized in groups of 4 days to reflect typical timelines of weather systems moving through mid-latitudes. Days were usually “claimed” on a shared Google spreadsheet



135 a month or so in advance. The National Weather Service offices in Boston, Massachusetts, and Upton, New York, contributed
to the daily logging effort by completing entries as their operational schedules allowed, providing additional expert insight into
synoptic and mesoscale conditions. Weekly review meetings complemented the daily entries. During these discussions, WFIP3
loggers led a structured review of the previous week's logs. These sessions provided an opportunity to identify high-priority
case studies (e.g., events with large model forecast errors or distinctive boundary-layer structures), discuss short-term forecast
140 outlooks, and note emerging meteorological or oceanographic processes of potential relevance as the campaign evolved. This
combination of daily logging and weekly synthesis ensured a consistent, scientifically grounded record of meteorological con-
ditions throughout the WFIP3 campaign and supported the identification of the most valuable periods for subsequent detailed
analysis.

5 Dataset format

145 To ensure accessibility and ease of use, the WFIP3 event log is provided as a structured spreadsheet, as was used during the
active logging stage. The primary tab contains the manually curated component of the log, which documents daily notes on
notable meteorological events, model performance, and instrumentation issues. Additional tabs include the automated logs
generated by the scanning lidars deployed at the RHOD, BLOC, and NANT sites. Because the main event log was manually
compiled by multiple contributors, a degree of subjectivity in categorization and interpretation is unavoidable. To minimize
150 inconsistencies and enhance data reliability, the log was reviewed weekly by the WFIP3 team to standardize entries and ensure
internal consistency across sites and contributors and assigned ratings. The WFIP3 event log is publicly available through the
U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Data Hub at <https://doi.org/10.21947/3010982> (Bodini et al., 2024).

6 Event log summary

Daily scores assigned by WFIP3 loggers indicate that most days had medium to low ratings across both the observational and
155 model development categories (Fig. 2). About 10 days received the maximum score of 5 in each category, and roughly 60
days scored 4, reflecting periods of particularly notable observations or cases useful for model evaluation. While the overall
distributions of scores are broadly similar for the two categories, individual days did not necessarily receive the same rating
for both, highlighting differences in the types of atmospheric features most valuable for observational research versus model
development.

160 Days that received the maximum observational score exhibited a variety of notable atmospheric phenomena. These included
persistent LLJs, substantial spatial and temporal variability in wind speed and direction, and multiple wind ramp events oc-
curring over short periods. Additionally, unique events such as a solar eclipse (Solari et al., 2026) were observed, further
highlighting the diversity of atmospheric states captured during the campaign. Days that scored highest for model development
were characterized by significant discrepancies between HRRR forecasts and observations, offering valuable test cases for nu-
165 merical weather prediction model improvements. Notable issues included mistimed or missed wind ramps, LLJs not accurately

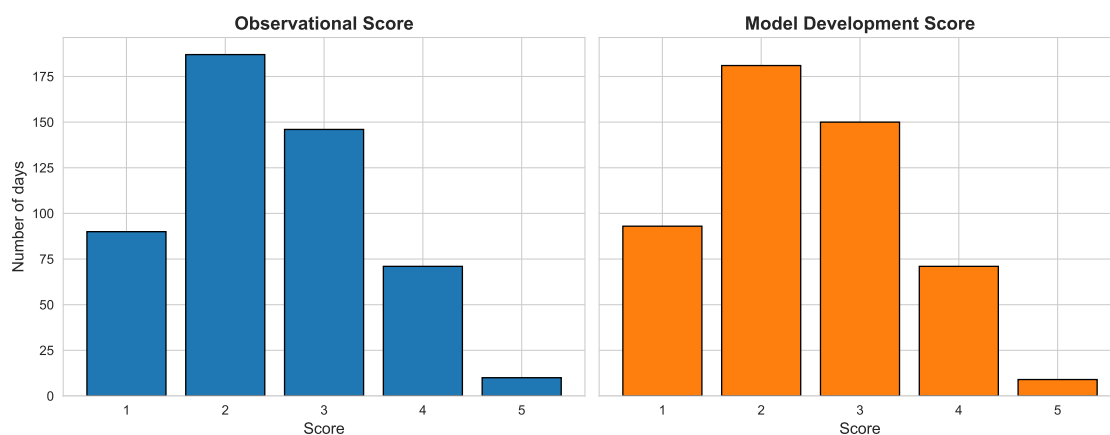


Figure 2. Distribution of daily scores assigned by WFIP3 loggers from 25 March 2024 to 31 August 2025. The left panel shows scores for observational relevance, and the right panel shows scores for model development relevance. Note: days from 1 February 2024 to 24 March 2024 are excluded from this figure, as only a single combined score was recorded during that period.

captured by the HRRR model, misrepresentation of low-level clouds and fog, and large underestimation or overestimation of wind speeds.

The analysis of the automated component of the event log allows for some initial assessment of the observed long-term wind conditions in the region. In this context, the RHOD site represents predominantly onshore conditions. BLOC, although offshore, is more influenced by onshore flow under the dominant wind directions, and the NANT site is more representative of fully offshore conditions. Weak winds at 140 m, defined as wind speeds less than or equal to 3 m s^{-1} , are generally brief at all WFIP3 sites (Fig. 3), with the highest occurrence in late summer (up to 15% of the average day at RHOD) and lower percentages offshore (lowest at NANT, intermediate at BLOC). Onshore, weak wind conditions are observed on more days per month compared to offshore, highlighting a clear spatial gradient from land to sea.

LLJs occur most frequently in spring, summer, and fall, with up to more than two-thirds of days in a month experiencing events, and mean daily durations reaching over 20% at BLOC in June (Fig. 4). Winter months exhibit reduced LLJ activity. Seasonal trends are similar across all sites, with minor differences in absolute occurrence and duration and no pronounced spatial pattern between sites, consistent with model-based studies of LLJs in these regions (Quint et al., 2025).

Extreme wind veer, defined as differences in wind direction exceeding 20° between 100 m and 300 m, is more common onshore (RHOD) and at the nearshore BLOC site, with fewer occurrences offshore at NANT (Fig. 5). These events are observed throughout the year, with slightly higher frequencies in spring, summer, and fall. On average, more than 20 days per month experience extreme veer at the onshore and nearshore sites (RHOD and BLOC sites), and the fraction of time per average day ranges from roughly 3% offshore (NANT site) in winter to over 30% in summer and fall.

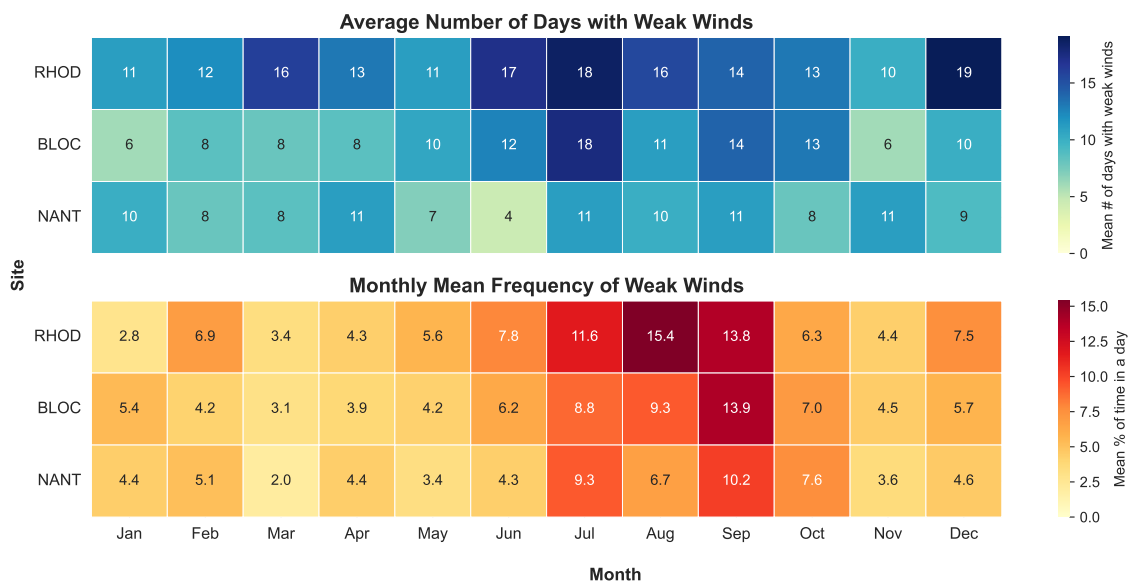


Figure 3. Monthly weak wind characteristics at three WFIP3 sites (RHOD, BLOC, NANT) from February 2024 to August 2025. Weak winds are quantified as the percentage of the day with 140 m wind speeds less than or equal to 3 m s^{-1} . The top panel shows the average number of days per month with weak winds, and the bottom panel shows the mean percentage of time in a day when weak winds were observed for each month and site.

Ramp events occur more frequently at the RHOD and BLOC sites compared to NANT, indicating stronger variability closer to shore. Short-term wind changes exceeding 5 m s^{-1} within 10 minutes are relatively rare and most common during the fall and winter months. Events over a 30-minute period are more frequent and distributed throughout the year, with ramp-up occurrences peaking in winter and spring, while ramp-down events extend into the summer months (Fig. 6).

7 Conclusions

The WFIP3 event log provides a structured and quality-controlled record of meteorological events observed during the 19-month WFIP3 field campaign, offering essential contextual information for the interpretation of the project’s coastal and offshore measurements. It integrates manually curated weather discussions with automated event detection algorithms. The data reveal the frequency and seasonality of several key offshore processes – including LLJs, weak wind conditions, extreme wind veer, and wind ramps – captured across onshore, nearshore, and offshore sites. While these preliminary summaries demonstrate the internal consistency and completeness of the log, the dataset’s primary purpose is to support community-wide analyses and model validation efforts. The WFIP3 event log thus serves as a companion product to the campaign’s comprehensive measurement datasets. Its standardized structure, clear metadata, and open-access availability make it a valuable resource for researchers and practitioners investigating offshore boundary-layer processes, evaluating model performance, or

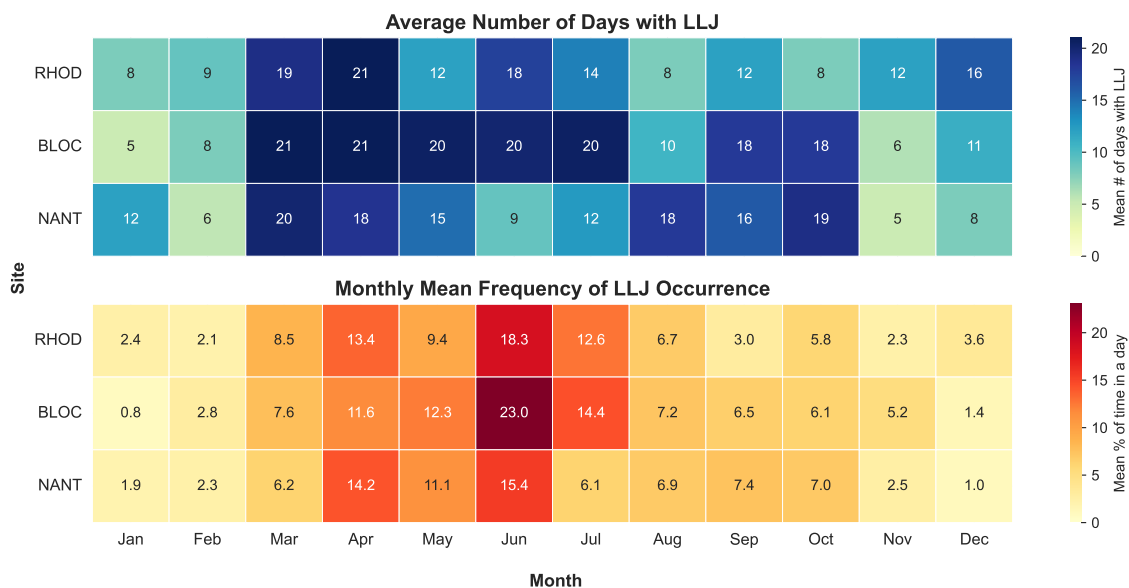


Figure 4. Monthly low-level jet (LLJ) characteristics at three WFIP3 sites (RHOD, BLOC, NANT) from February 2024 to August 2025. The top panel shows the average number of days per month with LLJ detected from the lidar data, and the bottom panel shows the mean percentage of time in a day an LLJ is detected for each month and site.

planning future measurement campaigns. Continued use of this type of curated contextual dataset will enhance the transparency, reproducibility, and scientific impact of large-scale atmospheric field experiments. When other large-scale atmospheric field experiments are designed and budgeted, resources for similar event logging capabilities will be critical for ensuring the broad use of large datasets.

Data availability. The WFIP3 event log is publicly available on DOE’s Wind Data Hub at <https://doi.org/10.21947/3010982> (Bodini et al., 2024).

Appendix A: List of resources consulted by event loggers

The following websites were frequently consulted by the WFIP3 event loggers and provide helpful guidance for a comprehensive characterization of the regional metocean conditions:

- National Weather Service weather discussions, available for recent days on the National Weather Service website (e.g., Boston office: <https://forecast.weather.gov/product.php?site=NWS&issuedby=BOX&product=AFD>) and archived for older entries by the Iowa State University Iowa Environmental Mesonet at <https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/wx/afos/list.phtml>.

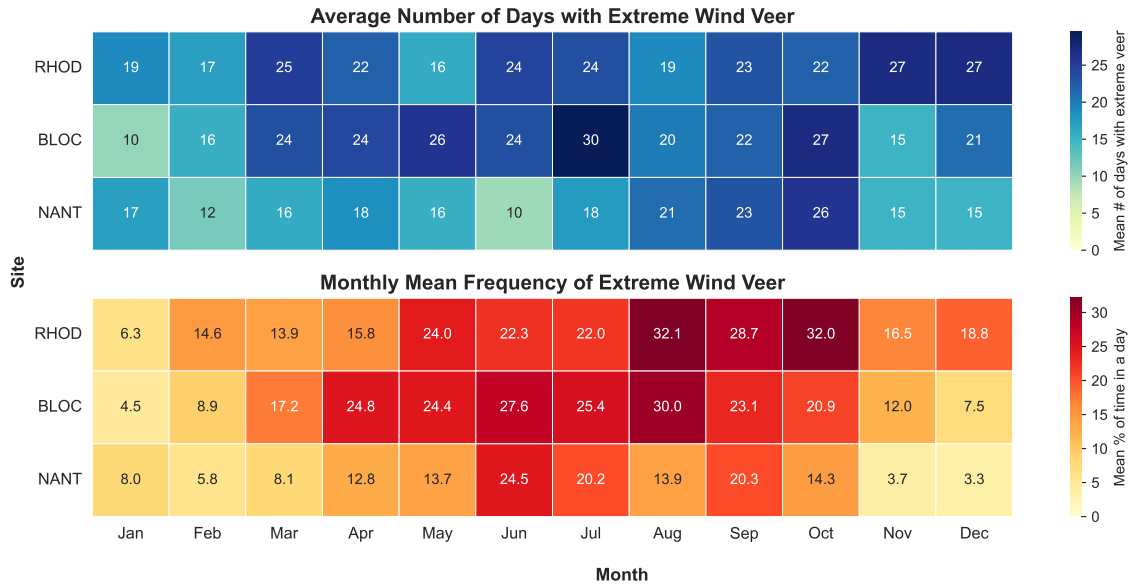


Figure 5. Monthly extreme wind veer characteristics at three WFIP3 sites (RHOD, BLOC, NANT) from February 2024 to August 2025. Extreme wind veer is quantified as the percentage of the day when the difference in wind direction between 100 m and 300 m exceeded 20°. The top panel shows the average number of days per month with extreme wind veer ($\% > 0$), and the bottom panel shows the mean percentage of time in a day extreme veer was observed for each month and site.

- Daily weather maps, archived by NOAA’s Weather Prediction Center at <https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/dailywxmap/index.html>.
- Synoptic evolution, analyzed using Global Forecast System (GFS) analyses and forecasts provided by the University at Albany at <https://www.atmos.albany.edu/student/abentley/realtime.html>.
- 215 – Radar imagery for precipitation, available from NOAA’s Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor product viewer at https://mrms.nssl.noaa.gov/qvs/product_viewer and the National Center for Atmospheric Research’s (NCAR) Mesoscale and Microscale Meteorology Laboratory at <https://www2.mmm.ucar.edu/imagearchive/>.
- Cloud fields, viewable from satellite imagery hosted by NCAR at <https://weather.ral.ucar.edu/satellite/>.
- Mesoscale model fields, such as those from HRRR (<https://rapidrefresh.noaa.gov/hrrr/HRRR>) and WFIP3-specific Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model runs (<https://rapidrefresh.noaa.gov/WFIP3>).
- 220 – WFIP3 model–observation comparisons, available on NOAA’s Physical Sciences Laboratory website at https://psl.noaa.gov/renewable_energy/wfip3/modelobs/. This portal (Fig. A1), developed specifically for the WFIP3 campaign, enables direct comparison between observed and modeled quantities at three WFIP3 sites—Block Island, Martha’s Vineyard, and Nantucket. It includes multiple models (HRRR, GFS, RAP, and WFIP3 WRF runs) and integrates data from several

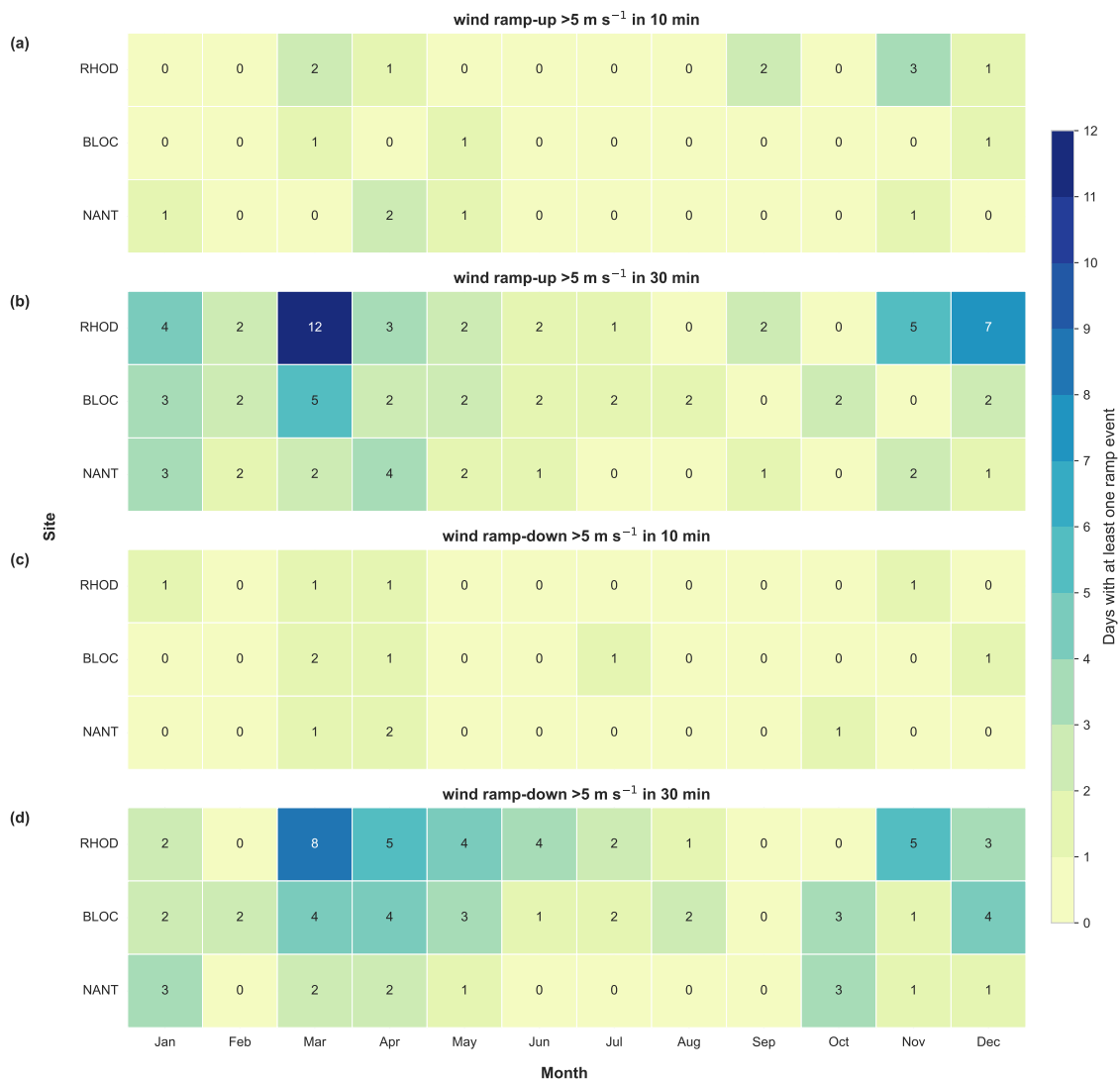
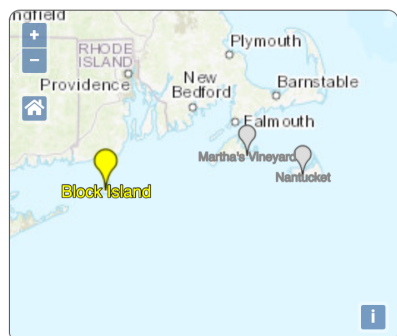


Figure 6. Monthly wind ramp events at three WFIP3 sites (RHOD, BLOC, NANT) from February 2024 to August 2025. Panels (a) and (b) show wind ramp-up events, quantified as the percentage of time each day when the 140 m wind speed increased by more than 5 m s⁻¹ over 10 (a) or 30 minutes (b). Panels (c) and (d) show wind ramp-down events, quantified as the percentage of time each day when the 140 m wind speed decreased by more than 5 m s⁻¹ over 10 (c) or 30 minutes (d). Values represent the average number of days per month with at least one ramp event.



WFIP3 Observation/Model Comparisons



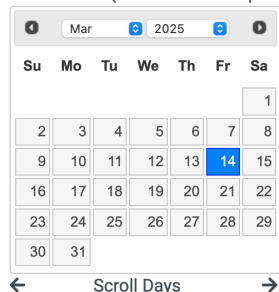
Select Site:

Instruments:

Model: HRRR v4 RAP v5 GFS v16
 EXP 1km EXP 3km

Initialization Time:

Select Date: (Latest Model: Sep 8 2025)



Parameter: Wind Speed (High Res) Wind Direction (High Res) Wind Speed (Low Res)
 Wind Direction (Low Res) Signal-To-Noise (High Res)
 Signal-To-Noise (Low Res) Wind Speed (Hub Height)
 Wind Direction (Hub Height) Wind Capacity Factor (Hub Height)

Model Grid Point: Land Water

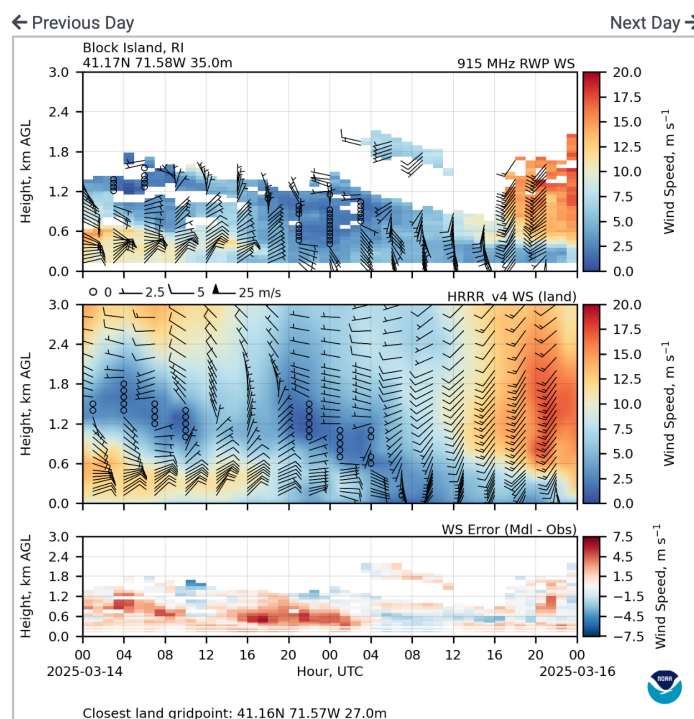


Figure A1. Screenshot showing the WFIP3 model–observation comparison website developed by NOAA’s Physical Sciences Laboratory.

- Wave and swell conditions at Martha’s Vineyard, available, for example, from <https://swell.willyweather.com/ma/dukes-county/south-beach-marthas-vineyard.html>.
- Wave observations at Block Island, provided by the Coastal Data Information Program at <https://cdip.ucsd.edu/m/products/?stn=154p1>.
- Sea surface temperature fields, available from NOAA’s Office of Satellite and Product Operations at <https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/products/ocean/sst/contour/>.

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- Offshore waters forecasts, provided by NOAA’s Ocean Prediction Center at <https://ocean.weather.gov/shtml/NFDOFFNT1.php>.

235 *Author contributions.* NB, JO, and DDT led the initial development of the WFIP3 event log. NB wrote the journal article and implemented the automated component of the event log. NB, JO, BG, GVI, MSS, SR, JKL, NA, TM, BA, JM, and EJ contributed to the daily logging. All authors participated in weekly weather discussions, provided feedback on the event log, and reviewed the draft of the journal article.

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