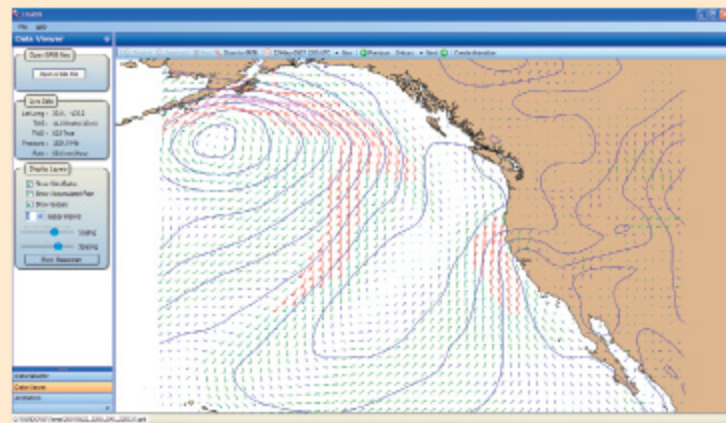*ViewFax GRIB file*

Grib U.S. GRIB file

Options Abound for Grabbing a GRIB Weather File

GRIB files and various GRIB readers can be downloaded from several different sites on the Internet. We currently use ViewFax reader, developed Jim Corenman, who also wrote the software for SailMail and AirMail. We access the GRIBs for free through SailDocs as described below.

Anyone using GRIB files must remember that these files are sent without review by any meteorologist. They are automated and prone to a variety of failures and errors. For an accurate summary of the risks involved in using GRIB-based forecast send a blank e-mail to GRIBWarning@saildocs.com.

- **ViewFax GRIB reader**—*www.siriuscyber.net/wxfax;* free download.

- **SailMail**—An easy way to use SailMail to receive GRIBs is by sending a coded message indicating what GRIB data you want to SailDocs. For information on how to do this, send a blank e-mail to info@saildocs.com.

There are several other sources (free and commercial) for weather. Some are marketed along with particular software or hardware, although the files will likely work with most GRIB-aware programs.

- **Global Marine Networks**—*www.globalmarinenet.net/grib.htm;* free wind forecasts and good info on GRIB.

- **Grib U.S.**—*www.grib.us,* free Windows software for downloading, viewing and animating GRIB data.

- **Expedition Navigation Software**—*http://effil.tripod.com/Weather.htm.*

- **Frank Singleton**—*www.franksingleton.clara.net;* Former U.K. meteorologist provides a list of free and commercial GRIB services.

- **National Weather Service**—For information on how to request free text forecasts directly from the U.S. National Weather Service, send an e-mail to ftpmail@weather.noaa.gov, and in the first and only line of the message put "Help."

- **Nav Center**—*www.navcenter.com;* marketed in connection with MaxSea software.

- **OCENS WeatherNet**—*www.ocens.com;* a subscriber system designed to optimize the download of weather products via wireless connections.

- **Raymarine**—*http://www.raymarine.com/raymarine/Default.asp?Page=149&Section=3*