

IYT SiA Weather - IYT International Crew

Where do I get weather information from?

The weather sources that are best suited to novice sailors are Thai Met office, Local radio and the Internet.

What do I need to Know?

Wind direction and force while sailing! Rain? Temperature. Sea State.

Is the proposed sail viable?

Likelihood of adverse weather.

Are the crew properly attired for conditions?

What do I need to know to be able to interpret the weather information?

You need to know about the Beaufort Scale. Learn to Sail and Competent crew should only venture out in Force (1-3) ie less than 10 knots wind speed. Fair weather.

Where can I find out more?

Check out the Internet

www.franksingleton.clara.net/

www.windguru.com

Another great site for offshore planning is

www.grib.us

Basic causes of weather

The earth's weather is caused by the heating effect of the sun interplaying with the earth's atmosphere in conjunction with the seasonal axis tilt. This causes areas of high and low pressures. Air travels from high to low pressure.

Thai Weather In Thailand we have a predominant pattern of seasonal winds called the monsoon. The characteristics of this weather are NE winds in the Dry season and West wet winds in the summer season. Strong winds, rain and shifting wind directions (over a 12-24hr period) can feature in June through to September but not every day.

Local weather and effects

Most IYT recreational sailors need to know how local physical conditions affect wind. Buildings tend to cause eddies and funnelling effects which may not be apparent on the water. Hills and valleys create 'fan spread'. Sailors have to learn to read the sails and the sea. Strong winds can be 'read' from the water! A gust of wind is often apparent as it approaches a sailing boat because it tends to be a fast moving patch of dark water.

Weather and Lee shores

It is important to recognize a lee shore because the good skipper needs to avoid getting too close particularly in light winds or if the engine is suspect. Weather shores look safe but strong offshore winds are dangerous if you sail a few miles off shore. Always check weather forecast before proceeding to sea.

Sea Breezes

Sea Breezes occur because of the heating effect of the land causing air to rise and in effect sucking in cool air from over the sea. This usually happens between 1pm and 4pm during the day. **Sea breezes can become strong onshore winds! Care is required when they become katabatic (night winds) off land winds.** These are sometimes problematic for anchoring. Anchor with a view to changes over a 12 hour period.