

IYT / SiA Weather - Learn to Sail

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.

Have you a weather forecast? You need to know the following before setting sail.

- 1 You have an up to date weather forecast from a reliable source. www.tmd.go.th/en
- 2 You ensure that the crew are suitably experienced
- 3 You check the Tides (High water and Low water)
- 4 You ensure the yacht is sound and well prepared
- 5 Safety equipment checked
- 6 Your vhf and mobile works and is in a safe dry bag or location
- 7 You have someone onshore who knows your plans
- 8 You have a Pre-departure Operational Checklist