

Topic:

Weather

QC-1204

Resource:

[Weather
101 for
Paddlers](#)

Basics: Weather can change plans for a great day on the water to an odyssey that is best chronicled from the local Inn. With our best efforts at prediction we still are slave to the actual facts of weather at our specific location. This can easily differ from our best hopes and plans prepared with the help of the [National Weather Service](#).

Question: *Forecasters commonly predict some risk of bad weather. How can we avoid losing good days on the water?*

Answer: Forecasters are telling us that weather is inherent unpredictable on a local level. The prospect of rain alone is typically not reason to cancel a paddling trip for properly equipped and prepared paddlers. Use forecasts as a planning guide and be prepared, but make your decision to launch on observations you make yourself at the put-in based on realistic considerations of safety.

Question: *If I am on the water how can I avoid a nasty weather surprise?*

Answer: Good weather awareness is part of our overall safety-monitoring program on the water. Subtle changes in our environment can provide important warnings to paddle for a safe harbor. Knowing the meaning of abrupt shifts in temperature or wind speed and understanding cloud patterns can help us update our local forecast in meaningful ways. Having a good marine radio and monitoring the weather channel for your area while paddling can be a useful support tool

Advanced Concepts: You may want to get more information on the following:

- Does a ragged water horizon indicate pleasure or pain?
- What do anvil shaped clouds indicate about coming weather?
- What might cause an abrupt drop in temperature on the water?
- If thunder lags lightning by 5 seconds, how far away is the storm?
- What is the best procedure if caught on water during lightning?

For more information contact

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