



# Weather

Sailors, farmers, and people planning parades all worry about bad weather. But the sailor certainly has the most to lose. Think about that the next time you're tempted to take a small sailboat into threatening weather. When the thunderheads are piling up and the wind is rising unpleasantly, think safety. Go later.

But suppose the sun is shining and the sky is clear and the breeze is benevolent. Is it safe to go out? Not until you've checked the weather report.

Besides newspaper weather reports, you can get up-to-the-minute forecasts from radio and television. Also, check to see if there is a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) radio station in your area. Many NOAA stations broadcast weather reports 24 hours a day. Telephone services also provide continuous forecasting.

Still, someday, in spite of everything, you might be caught in a storm. What should you do?

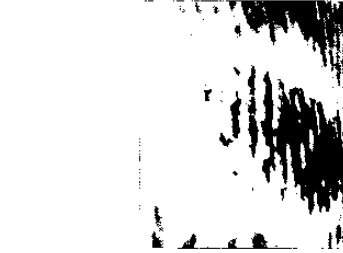
First, order your crew to sit on the floorboards to keep the center of gravity low and reduce wind resistance. Head the boat at low speed into the wind and waves and make for the nearest shelter. If you can't make headway, drop the anchor, pay out plenty of line, and lay low until the storm quiets down. You're much safer in your boat. **Always keep your PFD on.**

Always check weather clues against local experience. On the Pacific coast, for instance, local westerly winds picking up moisture off the ocean and strengthened by prevailing westerlies often bring rain. Easterly winds coming off the mountain ranges are more likely to be dry. On the Atlantic coast, local westerly winds are usually fair; local easterly winds are wet and cold.

## CLOUD IDENTIFICATION



1  
Cirrostratus



2  
Altostratus



3  
Stratocumulus



4  
Cumulus



6  
Cirrus



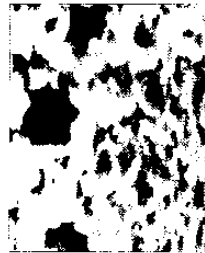
5  
Stratus



7  
Cirrocumulus



9  
Cumulonimbus



8  
Alto cumulus