



the bohting company



Captain Jay's

Tampa Bay Maritime Weather Guide

Professional Weather Analysis & Safety Protocols

Weather literacy is not optional on Tampa Bay — it's the difference between a safe, successful day and a dangerous one.

Captain Jay's Weather Intelligence:

"Weather reading is 60% technology, 30% local knowledge, and 10% instinct. Master all three and you'll never be caught off guard."

Tampa Bay's Seasonal Weather Patterns

Winter (Dec-Feb)

- Air: 45–75°F | Water: 60–68°F
- Patterns: Cold fronts every 7–10 days
- Winds: NW 15–25 knots, gusts to 35
- Fog: High during cold fronts

Jay's Strategy: Read the fronts and plan trips between systems with a 48-hr window.

Spring (Mar-May)

- Air: 65–85°F | Water: 68–78°F
- Patterns: Transitional, sea breezes building
- Storm Risk: Moderate, higher in May

Jay's Strategy: "Spring mornings are gold. Get out early, stay flexible afternoons."

Summer (Jun-Aug)

- Air: 80–95°F | Water: 82–88°F
- Patterns: Daily thunderstorm cycles
- Winds: Calm AM, sea breeze 10–20 knots PM
- Storm Risk: High, predictable

Jay's Strategy: Depart early, return storm-aware, always keep a Plan B.

Fall (Sep–Nov)

- Air: 70–88°F | Water: 75–82°F
- Patterns: Peak hurricane season → transitioning to winter
- Winds: Variable, tropical influences

Jay's Strategy: Monitor both local and tropical systems. Experience counts most this season.

Captain's Tech Stack

Weather Apps

- [Windy.com](#) → Model comparisons, long-term planning
- PredictWind → Marine-specific, route planning
- Weather Underground → Hyper-local station data, real-time conditions
- MyRadar → Quick radar checks, storm timing
- RadarScope (*Pro*, \$99/yr) → Level II radar, lightning, velocity

Marine Sources

- NOAA Weather Radio (VHF-WX)
- Buoy Data: Station 42036 (West Tampa Bay)
- Airport & Causeway Wind Sensors: Tampa Intl, St. Pete, Clearwater, Skyway

Decision-Making Protocols

Pre-Departure 5-Point Check

1. Sea State: Wave height, period, tide impact
2. Forecast Verification: Cross-check multiple sources
3. Radar Scan: Storm development within 100 mi
4. Backup Plan: Safe harbors & return windows
5. Emergency Prep: VHF, flares, contacts ready

Jay's Rule: "If I can't answer 'What's the worst-case scenario today?' we don't leave the dock."

Go / No-Go Matrix

✅ Green Light: Winds <15 kts, waves <2 ft, vis >5 mi, no storms within 25 mi, stable pressure

❌ Red Light: Winds >25 kts, waves >4 ft, vis <1 mi, storms within 10 mi, falling barometer

Immediate Threat Response

- Lightning/Storms: 30-30 Rule (lightning <30 sec away = 6 mi). Seek harbor at 10 mi.
- If Caught: Lower antennas, stay low, avoid metal. Never anchor during lightning.

- **Sudden Squall:** Reduce sail/throttle, jackets on, head into wind/waves, call Coast Guard if worsening.

Emergency Gear Checklist

- VHF radio + NOAA channels
- Waterproof phone case + offline weather apps
- Portable weather radio
- Extra life jackets, flares, signaling
- First aid + seasickness meds
- 24-hr food/water supply
- Flashlight + batteries
- Emergency anchor & rode
- Tow rope + repair kit

Tampa Bay's Local Weather Quirks

- **Sea Breeze Convergence:** Summer 2–4 PM, central bay storms, waterspouts common.
- **Bridge Effects:**
 - Skyway: 15–25% wind increase
 - Gandy & Howard Frankland: Gust zones
 - Courtney Campbell: Venturi effect west winds
- **Fog Risks:** Radiation (calm nights), Advection (year-round), Steam Fog (cold over warm water).
- **Waterspouts:** 15–20 per year; peak Jun–Sep, 11 AM–4 PM.

Advanced Weather Reading

- **Pressure Trends:**
 - Steady = Stable
 - Slowly falling = Change coming
 - Rapid drop = Storm imminent
 - Rising after fall = Clearing, but windy
- **Cloud Signals:**
 - Morning cumulus = PM storms
 - Anvil = Storm direction
 - Shelf = Downdrafts, sudden shifts
 - Mammatus = Severe weather → seek shelter
- **Wind Shifts:**
 - SE → SW = Sea breeze winning
 - Sudden calm = Storm nearby

About Anchor & Trade

Our Boht Captain Network brings 25+ years of professional weather-reading expertise to charters, brokerage, and concierge boat services.

☎ 813-449-3464 | ✉ contact@anchorandtrade.com

🌐 anchorandtrade.com

✅ Book your Weather-Savvy Charter at: anchorandtrade.com/charters

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Note: Content created in September 2025. Water depth, businesses, restaurants, and market costs/trends change often. Always verify before you go out or purchase. Boating and monetary investments carry risk(s). Consulting a financial or legal advisor is recommended for decisions beyond general guidance.

The Bohting Company (TBC)
the services division of Anchor & Trade
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