



USER INTERVIEW

William

1. Do you live near a body of water?

Yes

2. Do you enjoy spending time on the water?

I try to be on the water as much as I can, usually about once a week if I'm lucky. I live near the beach, but my family has a home on the creek, so I'm fortunate to have many options to get on the water.

3. What water based activities do you participate in?

Boating, Fishing, Kayaking, Swimming, Drinking, Tubing occasionally. I would say boating and fishing the most. My family is big on fishing, so that's something we do together often, whether it's from a dock or boat. I own kayaks, but don't use them as often as I should. Fishing from them can be fun too.

4. Where do you usually get your weather forecasts from?

Usually a weather app. Occasionally I'll get information from the news, but mainly just for big fronts or hurricanes.

5. Which weather app do you use the most and why?

Weather Underground, Tides Near Me, My Radar – they are all very simple and straight forward. Most of the important info is on the initial screen and they usually register where you are located, so you don't have to go search for what you're looking for. I also like that you can input and save certain favorite locations so you they're easy to access when you need them.

6. Is there a feature or features, within one of the weather apps, that you find most helpful when planning your time on the water?

Future forecasts for tides. I like the radar so I can see what's coming my way, and 10 day forecasts are really helpful when trying to plan ahead.

7. How often do you check the weather?

Multiple times a day generally. However, when I'm going on the water, I usually just check current and future weather conditions right beforehand. I usually spend time on the boat and am too busy driving, fishing, or entertaining friends to keep checking the apps.

8. Do you check the weather before planning your time on the water?

Always. (see above)

9. Do you check the weather while you're on the water? If so, why?

Not usually. (See question #7). I usually check out future forecasts before getting on the water, so I know I don't have anything to worry about. Obviously if the weather starts changing suddenly or the water gets rough, I'll check out the app to see what's happening.

10. Would weather alerts help you plan your time on the water or do you prefer to check weather apps for updates?

I prefer to check the apps myself and see what's coming

11. Would you be interested in being able to chat with other people in your area via a weather app to see how the weather or water is wherever they are?

No, not really. I don't really want to chat with strangers.

What if they could provide helpful information as far as alerts, or coast guard sightings, issues, etc?

I guess that would be helpful, but I don't know that I would rely on that information. Getting actual coast guard alerts would be helpful though. I would know that information was reliable.

12. What type of weather or water information is important to you when planning for your time on the water? Or what information do you hope to get from the app(s) you use?

Tide Reports, wind reports, wave heights, water clarity, water temperature, barometric pressure, air temperature and wind direction. These are the most important for boating and fishing.

13. Would it be helpful to know where nearby boat landings are? Why or why not?

No, I already know where they are. If anyone is spending time on the water or has a boat, they are already probably aware too.

14. Do you find weather forecasts or technical weather terms confusing?

No, not at all

15. In what format do you prefer to get your weather conditions?

I prefer to get hourly weather conditions all laid out for me. I really like bar graphs and more detailed info rather than just infographics though.

16. What about an app makes it trustworthy or dependable to you?

I'm not really sure. I've been using the same apps for so long because they're easy to use. The majority of them are connected to Doppler radars or government radars, so I know all the information is accurate.

18. Would you find it helpful if suggestions were offered within the app? Such as how long you should plan to spend on the water before weather gets bad? Or are there other possible suggestions that might be helpful when planning your time on the water?

Yes, I think that would be helpful. Also maybe shark sightings or riptides?