

Beaufort Scale

Force	Description	Specification	Equivalent speed in			Wave in m (max)	Rem.:
			Knots	m/sec	Km/h		
0	Calm	Sea like a mirror	00	0-0.2	01		Can be frustrating and dull sailing.
1	Light Air	Ripples with the appearance of scales are formed. but without foam crests.	01-03	0.3-1.5	01-05	0.1(0.1)	
2	Light breeze	Small wavelets. still short. but more pronounced. Crests have a glassy appearance and do not break.	04-06	1.6-3.3	06-11	0.2(0.3)	Can be pretty fun.
3	Gentle	Large wavelets. Crests begin to break. Foam of glassy appearance. Perhaps scattered white horses.	07-10	3.4-5.4	12-19	0.6(1)	
4	Moderate	Small waves. becoming larger; fairly frequent white horses.	11-16	5.5-7.9	20-28	1(1.5)	
5	Fresh	Moderate waves. taking a more pronounced long form; many white horses are formed. Chance of some spray.	17-21	8.0-10.7	29-38	2(2.5)	Is fun getting a bit hairy.
6	Strong	Large waves begin to form; the white foam crests are more extensive everywhere. Probably some spray.	22-27	10.8-13.8	39-49	3(4)	
7	Near Gale	Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks along the direction of the wind.	28-33	13.9-17.1	50-61	4(5.5)	
8	Gale	Moderately high waves of greater length; edges of crests begin to break into spindrift. The foam is blown in well-marked streaks along the direction of the wind.	34-40	17.2-20.7	62-74	5.5(7.5)	Is sailable but dangerous only sail if absolutely necessary.
9	Strong gale	High waves. Dense streaks of foam along the direction of the wind. Crests of waves begin to topple. tumble and roll over. Spray may affect visibility.	41-47	20.8-24.4	75-88	7(10)	
10	Storm	Very high waves with long overhanging crests. The resulting foam. in great patches. is blown in dense white streaks along the direction of the wind. On the whole the surface of the sea takes on a white appearance. The 'tumbling' of the sea becomes heavy and shock-like. Visibility affected.	48-55	24.5-28.4	89-102	9(12.5)	Is getting on to be survival conditions even big ships get in trouble in this.
11	Violent	Exceptionally high waves (small and medium-size ships might be for a time lost to view behind the waves). The sea is completely covered with long white patches of foam lying along the direction of the wind. Everywhere the edges of the wave crests are blown into froth. Visibility affected.	56-63	28.5-32.6	103-117	11.5(16)	
12	Hurricane	The air is filled with foam and spray. Sea completely white with driving spray; visibility very seriously affected.	64 and more	32.7 and more	118 and more	14(-)	You'll make the news if you survive it.