







Beaufort Wind Scale

Wind speeds and sea conditions



Force	Description	Wind Speed	Wave Height	Sea Conditions	
0	Calm	<1 knot	0m	Flat.	
1	Light air	1–3 knots	0–0.2 m	Ripples without crests.	
2	Light breeze	4–6 knots	0.2–0.5 m	Small wavelets. Crests of glassy appearance, not breaking.	
3	Gentle breeze	7–10 knots	0.5–1 m	Large wavelets. Crests begin to break; scattered whitecaps.	
4	Moderate breeze	11–16 knots	1–2 m	Small waves with breaking crests. Fairly frequent whitecaps.	
5	Fresh breeze	17–21 knots	2–3 m	Moderate waves of some length. Many whitecaps. Small amounts of spray.	
6	Strong breeze	22–27 knots	3–4 m	Long waves begin to form. White foam crests are very frequent. Some airborne spray is present.	
7	High wind	28–33 knots	4–5.5 m	Sea heaps up. Some foam from breaking waves is blown into streaks along wind direction. Moderate amounts of airborne spray.	
8	Gale	34–40 knots	5.5–7.5 m	Moderately high waves with breaking crests forming spindrift. Well marked streaks of foam are blown along wind direction. Considerable airborne spray.	
9	Strong gale	41–47 knots	7–10 m	High waves whose crests sometimes roll over. Dense foam is blown along wind direction. Large amounts of airborne spray may begin to reduce visibility.	
10	Storm	48–55 knots	9–12.5 m	Very high waves with overhanging crests. Large patches of foam from crests give the sea a white appearance. Considerable tumbling of waves with heavy impact. Large amounts of airborne spray. Reduced visibility.	
11	Violent storm	56–63 knots	11.5–16 m	Exceptionally high waves. Very large patches of foam, driven before the wind, cover much of the sea surface. Very large amounts of airborne spray severely reduce visibility.	
12	Hurricane force	>64 knots	>14 m	Huge waves. Sea is completely white with foam and spray. Air is filled with driving spray, greatly reducing visibility.	