
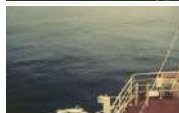

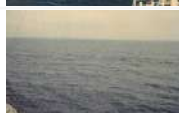











The Beaufort scale was devised by Francis Beaufort in 1805 and provides a simple 0 to 12 reference to describe the conditions in the marine environment. Whilst the scale references wind speed range in knots, it also provides information on the likely sea state as there is a direct relationship to wind. It also enables a Beaufort force to be understood by just looking at the sea conditions.

Number / Name	Wind speed	Wave height	Sea conditions
0 Calm	< 1knot	0m	 Sea like a mirror
1 Light air	1 - 3knots	0 - 0.3m	 Ripples with appearance of scales are formed, without foam crests
2 Light breeze	4 - 6knots	0.3 - 0.6m	 Small wavelets still short but more pronounced; crests have a glassy appearance but do not break
3 Gentle breeze	7 - 10knots	0.6 - 1.2m	 Large wavelets; crests begin to break; foam of glassy appearance; perhaps scattered white horses
4 Moderate breeze	11 - 16knots	1 - 2m	 Small waves becoming longer; fairly frequent white horses
5 Fresh breeze	17 - 21knots	2 - 3m	 Moderate waves taking a more pronounced long form; many white horses are formed; chance of some spray
6 Strong breeze	22 - 27knots	3 - 4m	 Large waves begin to form; the white foam crests are more extensive everywhere; probably some spray
7 High wind, near gale	28 - 33knots	4 - 5.5m	 Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks along the direction of the wind; spindrift begins to be seen
8 Gale, fresh gale	34- 40knots	5.5 - 7.5m	 Moderately high waves of greater length; edges of crests break into spindrift; foam is blown in well-marked streaks along the direction of the wind
9 Strong/severe gale	41- 47knots	7 - 10m	 High waves; dense streaks of foam along the direction of the wind; sea begins to roll; spray affects visibility
10 Storm, whole gale	48- 55knots	9 - 12.5m	 Very high waves with long overhanging crests; resulting foam in great patches is blown in dense white streaks along the direction of the wind;
11 Violent storm	56- 63knots	11.5 - 16m	 Exceptionally high waves; small- and medium-sized ships might be for a long time lost to view behind the waves; sea is covered with long white patches of foam
12 Hurricane	> 64knots	≥ 14m	 The air is filled with foam and spray; sea is completely white with driving spray; visibility very seriously affected