

# Beaufort Scale

Beaufort	Description	Wind speed	Wave height	Conditions	Sail	Power Vessel
0	Calm	< 1 knot	0 m	Mirror like	Drifting	Fast planing
1	Light air	1–3 knots	0 - 0.3 m	Ripples	Drifting	Fast planing
2	Light breeze	4–6 knots	0.3 - 0.6 m	Small wavelets	Full main, light headsail	Fast planing
3	Gentle breeze	7–10 knots	0.6 - 1.2 m	Large wavelets, occasional white caps	Full sail	Fast planing
4	Moderate breeze	11–16 knots	1 - 2 m	Small waves, frequent white caps	Reefed headsail	Reduce speed to prevent slamming
5	Fresh breeze	17–21 knots	2 - 3 m	Moderate waves, many white crests	Reefed mainsail	Reduce speed to prevent slamming
6	Strong breeze	22–27 knots	3 - 4 m	Large waves, white foam crests	Reefed main headsail	Displacement speed
7	Near gale	28–33 knots	4 - 5.5 m	Breaking waves, foam in streaks	Deep reefed main, stay sail	Displacement speed
8	Gale	34–40 knots	5.5 - 7.5 m	Moderately high waves, breaking crests	Deep reefed main, storm jib	Displacement speed, stern waves
9	Severe gale	41–47 knots	7 - 10 m	High waves, visible spray	Trysail, storm jib	Displacement speed, stern waves
10	Storm	48–55 knots	9 - 12.5 m	Very high waves, long breaking crests	Survival tactics	
11	Violent storm	56–63 knots	11.5 - 16 m	Exceptionally high seas, continuously breaking waves	Survival tactics	
12	Hurricane Force	≥ 64 knots	≥ 14 m	Exceptionally high seas, continuously breaking waves	Survival tactics	

# Beaufort Scale

## Beaufort Force 0

Calm

Wind: < 1 knot

Waves: 0 m

Mirror like



# Beaufort Scale

## Beaufort Force 1

Light air

Wind: 1–3 knots

Waves: 0 - 0.3 m

Ripples



# Beaufort Scale

**Beaufort Force 2**  
Light breeze  
Wind: 4–6 knots  
Waves: 0.3 - 0.6 m  
Small wavelets



# Beaufort Scale

## **Beaufort Force 3**

Gentle breeze

Wind: 7–10 knots

Waves: 0.6 - 1.2 m

Large wavelets,  
occasional white  
caps



# Beaufort Scale

**Beaufort Force 4**  
Moderate breeze  
Wind: 11–16 knots  
Waves: 1 - 2 m  
Small waves,  
frequent white caps



# Beaufort Scale

## **Beaufort Force 5**

Fresh breeze

Wind: 17–21 knots

Waves: 2 - 3 m

Moderate waves,  
many white crests



# Beaufort Scale

**Beaufort Force 6**  
Strong breeze  
Wind: 22–27 knots  
Waves: 3 - 4 m  
Large waves, white  
foam crests



# Beaufort Scale

**Beaufort Force 7**  
Near gale  
Wind: 28–33 knots  
Waves: 4 - 5.5 m  
Breaking waves,  
foam in streaks



# Beaufort Scale

## **Beaufort Force 8**

Gale

Wind: 34–40 knots

Waves: 5.5 - 7.5 m

Moderately high  
waves, breaking  
crests



# Beaufort Scale

## **Beaufort Force 9**

Severe gale

Wind: 41–47 knots

Waves: 7 - 10 m

High waves, visible  
spray



## **Beaufort Force 10**

Storm

Wind: 48–55 knots

Waves: 9 - 12.5 m

Very high waves,  
long breaking crests



# Beaufort Scale

## **Beaufort Force 11**

Violent storm  
Wind: 56–63 knots  
Waves: 11.5 - 16 m  
Exceptionally high seas, continuously breaking waves



## **Beaufort Force 12**

Hurricane Force  
Wind:  $\geq 64$  knots  
Waves:  $\geq 14$  m  
Exceptionally high seas, continuously breaking waves

