

Marine Forecasts Terminology

Gale Warnings	Gale	Winds of at least Beaufort force 8 (34-40 knots) or gusts reaching 43-51 knots	Sea state	High	Wave height of 6.0 to 9.0 m
	Severe gale	Winds of force 9 (41-47 knots) or gusts reaching 52-60 knots		Very high	Wave height of 9.0 to 14.0 m
	Storm	Winds of force 10 (48-55 knots) or gusts reaching 61-68 knots		Phenomenal	Wave height more than 14.0 m
	Violent storm	Winds of force 11 (56-63 knots) or gusts of 69 knots or more	Beaufort Scale	0	<1 knot
	Hurricane force	Winds of force 12 (64 knots or more)		1	1-3 knots
Time	Imminent	Expected within six hours of time of issue		2	4-6 knots
	Soon	Expected within six to 12 hours of time of issue		3	7-10 knots
	Later	Expected more than 12 hours from time of issue		4	11-16 knots
Visibility	Very poor	Visibility less than 1,000 metres		5	17-21 knots
	Poor	Visibility between 1,000 metres and 2 nautical miles		6	22-27 knots
	Moderate	Visibility between 2 and 5 nautical miles		7	28-33 knots
	Good	Visibility more than 5 nautical miles		8	34-40 knots
Wind	Wind direction	Indicates the direction from which the wind is blowing		9	41-47 knots
	Becoming cyclonic	Indicates that there will be considerable change in wind direction across the path of a depression within the forecast area		10	48-55 knots
	Veering	The changing of the wind direction clockwise, e.g. SW to W		11	56-63 knots
	Backing	The changing of the wind in the opposite direction to veering (anticlockwise), e.g. SE to NE		12	64+ knots
Sea state	Smooth	Wave height less than 0.5 m			
	Slight	Wave height of 0.5 to 1.25 m			
	Moderate	Wave height of 1.25 to 2.5 m			
	Rough	Wave height of 2.5 to 4.0 m			
	Very rough	Wave height of 4.0 to 6.0 m			