

The Beaufort Scale

"Over thousands of years sailors have learnt to estimate the speed of the wind just by looking about. This technique matured into what we now call the Beaufort scale. The universe tells you everything you need to know about it as long as you are prepared to watch, to listen, to smell, in short to observe"

FORCE	SPEED	SEA	SEA
0	0 Knots	SEA	Sea like a mirror
	0 mph		LAND
	0 km/h		



FORCE	SPEED	SEA	SEA
1	1-3 Knots	SEA	Ripples with the appearance of scales are formed, but without foam crests
	1-3 mph		LAND
	1-6 km/h		



FORCE	SPEED	SEA	SEA
2	4-6 Knots	SEA	Small wavelets. Crests have a glassy appearance and do not break
	4-7 mph		LAND
	7-11 km/h		



FORCE	SPEED	SEA	SEA
3	7-10 Knots	SEA	Large wavelets. Crests begin to break. Foam of glassy appearance.
	8-12 mph		LAND
	12-19 km/h		



FORCE	SPEED	SEA	SEA
4	11-16 Knots	SEA	Small waves, becoming longer, fairly frequent white horses
	13-18 mph		LAND
	19-25 km/h		



FORCE	SPEED	SEA	SEA
5	17-21 Knots	SEA	Moderate waves, taking a more pronounced long form; many white horses are formed.
	19-24 mph		LAND
	30-39 km/h		



FORCE	SPEED	SEA	SEA
6	22-27 Knots	SEA	Large waves begin to form; the white foam crests are more extensive everywhere.
	25-31 mph		LAND
	40-50 km/h		



FORCE	SPEED	SEA	SEA
7	28-33 Knots	SEA	Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves starts to blow in streaks with wind.
	32-38 mph		LAND
	51-62 km/h		



FORCE	SPEED	SEA	SEA
8	34-40 Knots	SEA	Moderate high waves of greater length; edges of crests begin to break into spindrift.
	39-46 mph		LAND
	63-75 km/h		



FORCE	SPEED	SEA	SEA
9	41-47 Knots	SEA	High waves. Crests of waves begin to tumble and roll over. Spray may affect visibility
	47-54 mph		LAND
	76-87 km/h		



FORCE	SPEED	SEA	SEA
10	48-55 Knots	SEA	Very high waves. Surface of the sea takes on a white appearance. Visibility affected
	55-63 mph		LAND
	86-102 km/h		



FORCE	SPEED	SEA	SEA
11	56-63 Knots	SEA	Exceptionally high waves. The sea is covered with long white patches of foam
	64-72 mph		LAND
	103-117 km/h		



FORCE	SPEED	SEA	SEA
12	over 63 Knots	SEA	Huge waves; air is filled with foam and spray; sea white with driving spray; visibility very seriously affected
	over 72 mph		LAND
	over 117 km/h		

