

BEAUFORT WIND FORCE SCALE

Nautical Reference Guide for Sea Conditions

FORCE	KNOTS (KN)	CLASSIFICATION	SEA CONDITIONS
0	< 1	Calm	<i>Sea like a mirror</i>
1	1 - 3	Light Air	<i>Ripples with appearance of scales</i>
2	4 - 6	Light Breeze	<i>Small wavelets; crests do not break</i>
3	7 - 10	Gentle Breeze	<i>Large wavelets; scattered whitecaps</i>
4	11 - 16	Moderate Breeze	<i>Small waves; numerous whitecaps</i>
5	17 - 21	Fresh Breeze	<i>Moderate waves; many whitecaps, some spray</i>
6	22 - 27	Strong Breeze	<i>Large waves; white foam crests; spray</i>
7	28 - 33	Near Gale	<i>Sea heaps up; white foam from breaking waves</i>
8	34 - 40	Gale	<i>Moderately high waves; spindrift observed</i>
9	41 - 47	Strong Gale	<i>High waves; dense foam; visibility affected</i>
10	48 - 55	Storm	<i>Very high waves; heavy rolling; sea appears white</i>
11	56 - 63	Violent Storm	<i>Exceptionally high waves; visibility poor</i>

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12	64+	Hurricane	<i>Air filled with foam and spray; sea completely white</i>