

WIND SPEED & SEA STATE

Beaufort Scale Reference for Maritime Observation

Force	Knots (kn)	Classification	Sea Conditions & Visual Cues
0	< 1	<i>Calm</i>	Sea like a mirror. Smooth and glassy surface.
1	1 - 3	<i>Light Air</i>	Ripples with the appearance of scales are formed, but without foam crests.
2	4 - 6	<i>Light Breeze</i>	Small wavelets, short but pronounced. Crests do not break.
3	7 - 10	<i>Gentle Breeze</i>	Large wavelets. Crests begin to break. Scattered whitecaps.
4	11 - 16	<i>Moderate Breeze</i>	Small waves becoming longer. Fairly frequent whitecaps.
5	17 - 21	<i>Fresh Breeze</i>	Moderate waves, taking a more pronounced long form. Many whitecaps.
6	22 - 27	<i>Strong Breeze</i>	Large waves begin to form. Extensive white foam crests everywhere.
7	28 - 33	<i>Near Gale</i>	Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks.
8	34 - 40	<i>Gale</i>	Moderately high waves of greater length. Edges of crests break into spindrift.
9	41 - 47	<i>Strong Gale</i>	High waves. Dense streaks of foam along the direction of the wind. Spray may affect visibility.

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10	48 - 55	<i>Storm</i>	Very high waves with long overhanging crests. Surface of the sea takes a white appearance.

Template only – For reference purposes