

Beaufort number	Description	Wind speed			Wave height		Sea conditions
		mph	km/h	kts	m	ft	
0	Calm	< 1	< 1	< 1	0	0	Flat
1	Light air	1 - 3	1.1 - 5.5	1 - 2	0 - 0.2	0 - 1	Ripples without crests
2	Light breeze	4 - 7	5.6 - 11	3 - 6	0.2 - 0.5	1 - 2	Small wavelets. Crests of glassy appearance, not breaking
3	Gentle breeze	8 - 12	12 - 19	7 - 10	0.5 - 1	2 - 3.5	Large wavelets. Crests begin to break; scattered whitecaps
4	Moderate breeze	13 - 17	20 - 28	11 - 15	1 - 2	3.5 - 6	Small waves with breaking crests. Fairly frequent white horses
5	Fresh breeze	18 - 24	29 - 38	16 - 20	2 - 3	6 - 9	Moderate waves of some length. Many white horses. Small amounts of spray
6	Strong breeze	25 - 30	39 - 49	21 - 26	3 - 4	9 - 13	Long waves begin to form. White foam crests are very frequent. Some airborne spray is present
7	High wind, moderate gale, near gale	31 - 38	50 - 61	27 - 33	4 - 5.5	13 - 19	Sea heaps up. Some foam from breaking waves is blown into streaks along wind direction. Moderate amounts of airborne spray
8	Gale, fresh gale	39 - 46	62 - 74	34 - 40	5.5 - 7.5	17.2 - 20.7	Moderately high waves with breaking crests forming spindrift. Well-marked streaks of foam are blown along wind direction. Considerable airborne spray
9	Strong gale	47 - 54	75 - 88	41 - 47	7 - 10	23 - 32	High waves whose crests sometimes roll over. Dense foam is blown along wind direction. Large amounts of airborne spray may begin to reduce visibility
10	Storm, whole gale	55 - 63	89 - 102	48 - 55	9 - 12.5	29 - 41	Very high waves with overhanging crests. Large patches of foam from wave crests give the sea a white appearance. Considerable tumbling of waves with heavy impact. Large amounts of airborne spray reduce visibility
11	Violent storm	64 - 72	103 - 117	56 - 63	11.5 - 16	37 - 52	Exceptionally high waves. Very large patches of foam, driven before the wind, cover much of the sea surface. Very large amounts of airborne spray severely reduce visibility
12	Hurricane	≥ 73	≥ 118	≥ 64	≥ 14	≥ 46	Huge waves. Sea is completely white with foam and spray. Air is filled with driving spray, greatly reducing visibility