

cruising

Wind and Ocean

January 2, 2008

The Beaufort Scale



Beaufort Force	Description	Sea State	Speed knots	Speed km/hr	Speed mph
0	Calm	Sea like a mirror	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1
1	Very Light	Ripples with appearance of scales, no foam crests	1 - 3	1 - 5	1 - 3
2	Light breeze	Wavelets, small but pronounced. Crests with glassy appearance, but do not break.	4 - 6	6 - 11	4 - 7
3	Gentle breeze	Large wavelets, crests begin to break. Glassy looking foam, occasional white horses.	7 - 10	12 - 19	8 - 12
4	Moderate breeze	Small waves becoming longer, frequent white horses.	11 - 16	20 - 29	13 - 18
5	Fresh breeze	Moderate waves of pronounced long form. Many white horses, some spray.	17 - 21	30 - 39	19 - 24
6	Strong breeze	Some large waves, extensive white foam crests, some spray.	22 - 27	40 - 50	25 - 31
7	Near gale	Sea heaped up, white foam from breaking waves blowing in streaks with the wind.	28 - 33	51 - 61	32 - 38

Beaufort Force	Description	Sea State	Speed knots	Speed km/hr	Speed mph
8	Gale	Moderately high and long waves. Crests break into spin drift, blowing foam in well marked streaks.	34 - 40	62 - 74	39 - 46
9	Strong gale	High waves, dense foam streaks in wind, wave crests topple, tumble and roll over. Spray reduces visibility.	41 - 47	75 - 87	47 - 54
10	Storm	Very high waves with long overhanging crests. Dense blowing foam, sea surface appears white. Heavy tumbling of sea, shock-like, poor visibility.	48 - 55	88 - 101	55 - 63
11	Violent storm	Exceptionally high waves, sometimes concealing small and medium sized ships. Sea completely covered with long white patches of foam. Edges of wave crests blown in froth. Poor visibility.	56 - 63	102 - 117	64 - 73
12	Hurricane	Air filled with foam and spray, sea white with driving spray, Visibility very seriously affected.	> 64	>119	> 74



2008-01-02