

LiMPETS Beaufort Wind Scale

Beaufort Number or Force	Wind Speed			World Meteorological Organization Description	Estimating Wind Speed		
	Knots	mph	km/hr		Effects Observed at Sea	Effects Observed Near Land	Effects Observed on Land
0	under 1	under 1	under 1	Calm	Sea like a mirror	Calm	Calm; smoke rises vertically
1	1-3	1-3	1-5	Light Air	Ripples with appearance of scales; no foam crests	Small sailboat just has steerage way	Smoke drift indicates wind direction; vanes do not move
2	4-6	4-7	6-11	Light Breeze	Small wavelets; crests of glassy appearance, not breaking	Wind fills the sails of small boats which then travel at about 1-2 knots	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; vanes begin to move
3	7-10	8-12	12-19	Gentle Breeze	Large wavelets; crests begin to break, scattered whitecaps	Sailboats begin to heel and travel at about 3-4 knots	Leaves, small twigs in constant motion; light flags extended
4	11-16	13-18	20-28	Moderate Breeze	Small waves 0.5-1.25 meters high, becoming longer; numerous whitecaps	Good working breeze, sailboats carry all sail with good heel	Dust, leaves, and loose paper raised up; small branches move
5	17-21	19-24	29-38	Fresh Breeze	Moderate waves of 1.25-2.5 meters taking longer form; many whitecaps; some spray	Sailboats shorten sail	Small trees in leaf begin to sway
6	22-27	25-31	39-49	Strong Breeze	Larger waves 2.5-4 meters forming; whitecaps everywhere; more spray	Sailboats have double reefed mainsails	Larger branches of trees in motion; whistling heard in wires
7	28-33	32-38	50-61	Near Gale	Sea heaps up, waves 4-6 meters; white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks	Boats remain in harbor; those at sea heave-to	Whole trees in motion; resistance felt in walking against wind
8	34-40	39-46	62-74	Gale	Moderately high (4-6 meter) waves of greater length; edges of crests begin to break into spindrift; foam is blown in well-marked streaks	All boats make for harbor, if near	Twigs and small branches broken off trees; progress generally impaired
9	41-47	47-54	75-88	Strong Gale	High waves (6 meters); sea begins to roll; dense streaks of foam; spray may reduce visibility		Slight structural damage occurs; slate blown from roofs
10	48-55	55-63	89-102	Storm	Very high waves (6-9 meters) with overhanging crests; sea takes a white appearance as foam is blown in very dense streaks; rolling is heavy and visibility is reduced		Seldom experienced on land; trees broken or uprooted; considerable structural damage occurs
11	56-63	64-72		Violent Storm	Exceptionally high (9-14 meters) waves; sea covered with white foam patches; visibility still more reduced		Very rarely experienced on land; usually accompanied by widespread damage
12	64 and over	73 and over	118 and over	Hurricane	Air filled with foam; waves over 14 meters; sea completely white with driving spray; visibility greatly reduced		