Beaufort Scale

Developed in 1805 by Sir Francis Beaufort

Beaufort Scale #	Wind Speed MPH (kn x 1.15)	Nautical Terminology		Effects on Land	Effects on Water
0	Under 1	Calm		Calm, smoke rises vertically	Sea surface smooth and mirror-like
1	1-3	Light Air		Smoke drift indicates wind direction but vanes do not move	Scaly ripples, no foam crests
2	4-7	Light Breeze		Wind felt on face, leaves begin to rustle, vanes begin to move	Small wavelets, crests glassy, no breaking tops or ridges
3	8-12	Gentle Breeze		Leaves & small twigs in constant motion; light flags	Large wavelets, crests begin to break, scattered whitecaps
4	13-18	Moderate Breeze		Dust leaves and loose paper lifted; small branches move	Small waves 1-4 ft. becoming longer, numerous whitecaps
5	19-24	Fresh Breeze		Small trees sway	Moderate waves 4-8 ft taking longer form, many whitecaps, some spray
6	25-31	Strong Breeze		Large braches of trees in motion; whistling heard in wires	Larger waves 8-13 ft, whitecaps common, more spray
7	32-38	Near Gale / Moderate Gale		Whole trees in motion; Resistance when walking into wind	Sea heaps up, waves 13-20 ft, white foam streaks off breakers
8	39-46	Gale / Fresh Gale		Twigs and small branches broken off	Moderately high (13-20 ft) waves of greater length, edges of crests begin to break into spindrift, foam blown in streaks
9	47-54	Strong Gale		Slight structural damage occurs; Slates blown from rooves	High waves (20 ft), sea begins to roll, dense streaks of foam, spray may reduce visibility
10	55-63	Whole Gale / Storm		Seldom experienced on land; Trees broken; Structural damage	Very high waves (20-30 ft) with overhanging crests, sea white with densely blown foam, heavy rolling, lowered visibility
11	64-72	Violent Storm		Very rarely experienced on land; unusually widespead damage	Exceptionally high (30-45 ft) waves, foam patches cover sea, visibility more reduced
12	73 or higher	Hurricane		Violent destruction	Air filled with foam, waves over 45 ft, sea completely white with driving spray, visibility greatly reduced

Kayakers

Beginners

Intermediate

Advanced

Stay at home