

Force	term	Description of the state of the sea	Wind speed (knots)	range	Sea state	Wave height (m)
0	Calm	Sea like a mirror	0	<1	Calm	0
1	Light air	Ripples with the appearance of scales are formed, but without foam crests.	2	1-3	Smooth	0.1
2	Light breeze	Small wavelets, still short but more pronounced. Crests have a glassy appearance and do not break.	5	4-6	Smooth	0.2
3	Gentle breeze	Large wavelets. Crests begin to break. Foam of glassy appearance. Scattered white horses.	9	7-10	Slight	0.6
4	Moderate breeze	Small waves, becoming longer, fairly frequent white horses.	13	11-16	Moderate	1
5	Fresh breeze	Moderate waves, taking a more pronounced long form; many white horses are formed. Chance of some spray.	19	17-21	Rough	2
6	Strong breeze	Large waves begin to form; white foam crests are more extensive everywhere. Probably some spray.	24	22-27	Very rough	3
7	Near gale	Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks along the direction of the wind.	30	28-33	High	4
8	Gale	Moderately high waves of greater length; edges of crests begin to break into spindrift. The foam is blown in well-marked streaks along the direction of the wind.	37	34-40	Very high	5.5
9	Strong gale	High waves. Dense streaks of foam along the direction of the wind. Crests of waves begin to topple, tumble and roll over. Spray may affect visibility.	44	41-47	Very high	7
10	Storm	Very high waves with long over-hanging crests. The resulting foam, in great patches, is blown in dense white streaks along the direction of wind. On the whole the surface of the sea takes a white appearance. The 'tumbling' of the sea becomes heavy and shock-like. Visibility is affected	52	48-55	Phenomenal	9
11	Violent storm	Exceptionally high waves (small & medium sized ships might be lost to view for a time behind the waves). The sea is completely covered with long white patches of foam lying along the direction of the wind. Everywhere the edges of the wave crests are blown into froth. Visibility is affected.	60	56-63	Phenomenal	11.5
12	Hurricane	The air is filled with foam and spray. Sea completely white with driving spray; visibility very seriously affected	64+			14