### **Beaufort Scale**

Estimating the strength of the wind

### Force 0 - Calm



- Sea like a mirror
- 0 knots

# Force 1 – Light Air



- Ripples with the appearance of scales are formed, but without foam crests.
- 1-3 knots

# Force 2 – Light Breeze



Small wavelets, still short, but more pronounced. Crests have a glassy appearance and do not break.
 4 – 6 knots

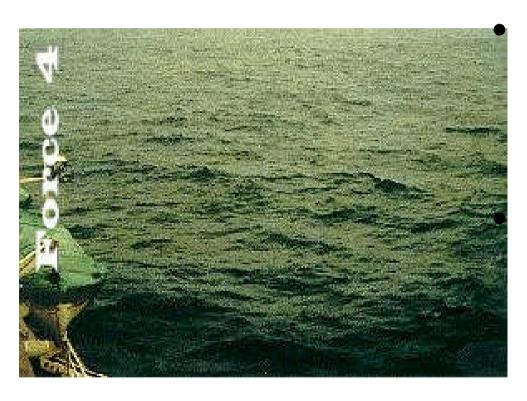
### Force 3 – Gentle Breeze



Large wavelets.
Crests begin
to break. Foam of
glassy
appearance. Perhaps
scattered
white horses.

7 - 10 knots

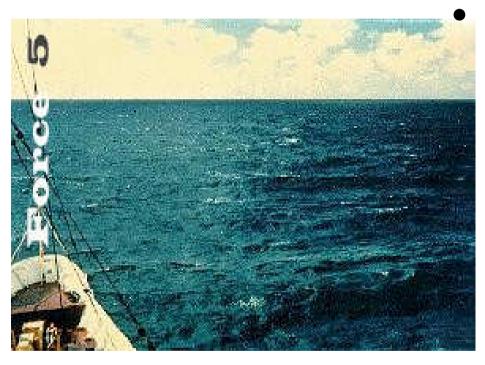
#### Force 4 – Moderate Breeze



Small waves, becoming larger; fairly frequent white horses.

11 – 16 knots

#### Force 5 – Fresh Breeze



Moderate waves, taking a more pronounced long form; many white horses are formed. Chance of some spray.

• 17 – 21 knots

# Force 6 – Strong Breeze



 Large waves begin to form; the white foam crests are more extensive everywhere.
 Probably some spray.

22 - 27 knots

#### Force 7 – Near Gale



Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks along the direction of the wind.
 28 – 33 knots

#### Force 8 – Gale



Moderately high waves of greater length; edges of crests begin to breakinto spindrift. The foam is blown in well-marked streaks along the direction of the wind.

• 34 – 40 knots

# Force 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.

• 41 – 47 knots

### Force 10 – Storm



 Very high waves with long overhanging crests. The resulting foam, in great patches, is blown in dense white streaks along the direction of the wind. On the whole the surface of the sea takes on a white appearance. The 'tumbling' of the sea becomes heavy and shock-like. Visibility affected.

• 48 – 55 knots

#### Force 11 – Violent Storm



Exceptionally high waves (small and medium-size ships might be for a time lost to view 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

• 56 – 63 knots

froth. Visibility affected.

### Force 12 – Hurricane



The air is filled with foam and spray. Sea completely white with driving spray; visibility very seriously affected.

64 knots and over



















