

Conditions Observed at Sea Aboard Small Monohulls vs. The Beaufort scale

Beaufort # Conditions

- 0 Dead calm. Sail remains still without moving
- 1 A sailboat will move slowly with little heel, and only bare steerageway can be maintained with light sails
- 2 A sailboat can make one or two knots good. There will be little heel.
- 3 A sailboat will heel to some extent and can make speeds of three or four knots.
- 4 A sailboat can carry a full suit of sails. The boat will heel well and hull speed can be made good. Beating to windward will make for wet sailing.
- 5 A sailboat should take a reef into the mainsail, and spray will come aboard.
- 6 The mainsail should be double reefed, or storm sails hoisted. Close hatches as some solid water and much spray will come aboard.
- 7 Remain in port if possible. If at sea, heave to, lie ahull, or run under storm sails or bare poles, towing a warp astern if there is no danger of pooping.
- 8 Hole up if at all possible at a sheltered and safe anchorage or dock. At sea, heave to, lie ahull, or tow a warp astern if you run before the storm. Close all hatches and remain below unless absolutely necessary to steer. The boat will be very lively. Much water will come aboard. In some cases the vessel will have to be steered continuously if dragging a warp astern does not hold her steady before the wind
- 9 and above Stay at a protected anchorage with two anchors out, or in a hurricane hole if available. At sea, proceed as for Force 8 above. Use oil if available to prevent the seas from breaking. Remain below if possible. It will be noisy and uncomfortable but probably safe, although there might be some damage topsides.