

THE BEAUFORT SCALE

The Beaufort scale is used to estimate wind strengths. Look closely at the ocean surface in the location you are and determine which description under “Observed sea conditions” matches what you currently see. Based on this, select your Beaufort number. (You will likely not be operating the ROV under Beaufort numbers 6-10.)

BEAUFORT SCALE		
Beaufort Number	Name	Observed sea conditions
0	Calm	Sea like a mirror.
1	Light Air	Ripples with appearances of scales; no foam crests.
2	Light Breeze	Small wavelets; crests of glassy appearance, not breaking.
3	Gentle Breeze	Large wavelets; crests begin to break; scattered whitecaps.
4	Moderate Breeze	Small waves, becoming longer; numerous whitecaps.
5	Fresh Breeze	Moderate waves, taking longer form; many whitecap; some spray.
6	Strong Breeze	Larger waves forming; whitecaps everywhere; more spray.
7	Near Gale	Sea heaps up; white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks.
8	Gale	Moderately high waves of greater length; edges of crests begin to break into spindrift; foam is blown in well-marked streaks.
9	Strong Gale	High waves; sea begins to roll; dense streaks of foam; spray may reduce visibility.
10	Storm	Very high waves with overhanging crests; sea takes white appearance as foam is blown in very dense streaks; rolling is heavy and visibility is reduced.