



## GENERAL WIND SPEED DESIGNATIONS

| BEAUFORT SCALE  | NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DESIGNATIONS | VELOCITY IN MILES PER HOUR |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0   | CALM                                  | 0 TO 1                     |
| 1   | LIGHT AIR                             | 1 TO 3                     |
| 2   | LIGHT BREEZE                          | 4 TO 7                     |
| 3   | GENTLE BREEZE                         | 8 TO 12                    |
| 4   | MODERATE BREEZE                       | 12 TO 18                   |
| 5   | FRESH BREEZE                          | 19 TO 24                   |
| =====   |                                       |                            |
| Too strong for parasailing.<br>Time to stow canopies away and reschedule for another day. |                                       |                            |
| 6   | STRONG BREEZE                         | 25 TO 31                   |
| 7   | MODERATE GALE                         | 32 TO 38                   |
| 8   | FRESH GALE                            | 39 TO 46                   |
| =====   |                                       |                            |
| If possible, haul boat out of water.  |                                       |                            |
| 9   | STRONG GALE                           | 47 TO 54                   |
| 10  | WHOLE GALE                            | 55 TO 63                   |
| 11  | STORM                                 | 64 TO 73                   |
| 12  | HURRICANE                             | 74 AND OVER                |

Strength of winds are designated in three ways:

1. By Beaufort Scale Number;
2. By National Weather Service designation;
3. By velocity in miles per hours.

Beaufort Scale number was developed during the great old days of sail. It was the first attempt to officially designate the strengths of wind. This scale is referred to on a worldwide basis, and is used largely by cruising skippers.