

Ocean Sailing Expeditions - Sail management

Beaufort scale	Wind strength	Foresail size	Mainsail size	Tactics	
1-3	Light to gentle breeze	1-6 knots	No. 1 Genoa	100%	Loosen settings to power up sails
3	Gentle breeze	7-10 knots	No. 2 Genoa	100%	Bring tension on as wind builds
4	Moderate breeze	11-16 knots	No. 2 Genoa	0-1 reefs	Change from No.2 Genoa to No. 3 as wind builds
5	Fresh breeze	17-21 knots	No. 3 Jib	1 reef	Reef if going to windward
6	Strong breeze	22-27 knots	No. 3 Jib	2 reefs	Sail off to accommodate sea state
7	Near gale	28-33 knots	No. 3 Jib	2 reefs	Change to No. 4 Jib as wind builds
8	Gale	34-40 knots	No. 4 Jib	2 reefs	Consider changing to trysail/bearing away
9	Severe gale	41-47 knots	Storm Jib	Trysail	Sail to sea state
10	Storm	48-55 knots	Storm Jib	Drogue	Sail downwind to reduce load on boat/rig
11	Violent storm	56-63 knots	Storm Jib	Drogue	Sail downwind/remove sail if over powered
12	Hurricane	64 knots +	NIL	Drogue	Minimise hull speed/preserve crew energy

Heavy weather preparation

Item	Done	Item	Done	Item	Done
Secure all deck & cockpit gear		Shut lockers and hatches		Put essentials in plastic containers	
Turn off seacocks to sinks/toilets		Mark fix on chart and secure to table		Update captains log	
Revise route for weather		Check for sea room		Update waypoints in GPS	
Obtain latest weather forecasts		Roster crew - rest strongest first		Eat meal, prep snacks and flasks	
Hydrate with lots of water		Update coastguard/RCC of plans		Take sea sickness pills	
Charge engine batteries		Check bilge empty/pumps working		Check & wear safety gear	
Secure cockpit lockers/wash board		Secure gear below for knock down		Check anchor locker secure	
Check jackstays and safety tethers		Check cockpit drains are clear		Prepare storm jib and trysail	
Prepare storm drogue		Check grab bag, flares, life raft plans		Secure boom with extra lines	