



Should we go out today?

A guide to taking the boat out safely.

Pre-Trip check

- Tides – get a local tide table or app with Fishguard on it
- Weather forecast
 - Met office
 - BBC weather
 - Windfinder
 - etc

Pre-Trip check – Beaufort Scale

Beaufort number	Wind speed				Mean wind speed (kt / km/h / mph)	Description	Wave height		Sea conditions	Land conditions
	kt	km/h	mph	m/s			m	ft		
0	0	0	0	0-0.2	0 / 0 / 0	Calm	0	0	Flat.	Calm. Smoke rises vertically.
1	1-3	1-6	1-3	0.3-1.5	02 / 04 / 2	Light air	0.1	0.33	Ripples without crests.	Wind motion visible in smoke.
2	4-6	7-11	4-7	1.6-3.3	05 / 09 / 6	Light breeze	0.2	0.66	Small wavelets. Crests of glassy appearance, not breaking.	Wind felt on exposed skin. Leaves rustle.
3	7-10	12-19	8-12	3.4-5.4	9 / 17 / 11	Gentle breeze	0.6	2	Large wavelets. Crests begin to break; scattered whitecaps.	Leaves and smaller twigs in constant motion.
4	11-16	20-29	13-18	5.5-7.9	13 / 24 / 15	Moderate breeze	1	3.3	Small waves.	Dust and loose paper raised. Small branches begin to move.
5	17-21	30-39	19-24	8.0-10.7	19 / 35 / 22	Fresh breeze	2	6.6	Moderate (1.2 m) longer waves. Some foam and spray.	Smaller trees sway.
6	22-27	40-50	25-31	10.8-13.8	24 / 44 / 27	Strong breeze	3	9.9	Large waves with foam crests and some spray.	Large branches in motion. Whistling heard in overhead wires. Umbrella use becomes difficult.
7	28-33	51-62	32-38	13.9-17.1	30 / 56 / 35	Near gale	4	13.1	Sea heaps up and foam begins to streak.	Whole trees in motion. Effort to walk against the wind.
8	34-40	63-75	39-46	17.2-20.7	37 / 68 / 42	Gale	5.5	18	Moderately high waves with breaking crests forming spindrift. Streaks of foam.	Twigs broken from trees. Cars veer on road.
9	41-47	76-87	47-54	20.8-24.4	44 / 81 / 50	Strong gale	7	23	High waves (2.75 m) with dense foam. Wave crests start to roll over. Considerable spray.	Light structure damage.
10	48-55	88-102	55-63	24.5-28.4	52 / 96 / 60	Storm	9	29.5	Very high waves. The sea surface is white and there is considerable tumbling. Visibility is reduced.	Trees uprooted. Considerable structural damage.
11	56-63	103-117	64-72	28.5-32.6	60 / 111 / 69	Violent storm	11.5	37.7	Exceptionally high waves.	Widespread structural damage.
12	>63	>117	>72	>32.7	N/A	Hurricane	14+	46+	Huge waves. Air filled with foam and spray. Sea completely white with driving spray. Visibility very greatly reduced.	Massive and widespread damage to structures.

Pre-Trip check - wind

- Over force 5 (17-21 mph) - **never go out**
- Force 4 (11-16mph) –are the crew competent?
- Check the forecast for when you are out and be prepared to come back
- Strong southerly –hard to row back
- Northerly – bigger sea coming back

Pre-Trip check – wind

- [scalehttp://completeguide.rnli.org/beaufort.html](http://completeguide.rnli.org/beaufort.html)
- This is a good site for showing the water state
- There are numerous other ones

Pre Trip check – on the quay

- Look at the sea ...
- Does it look manageable for your crew?
- Is there swell on the slip?
- Should you launch from the middle slip?
- Are there white horses –don't go out
- Always be flexible and willing to change plans or cancel depending on weather and crew

Pre-Trip check – on the quay

- Visibility
- If you can't see past the fort don't go
- Be aware that it might get worse
- Summer sea mists come in fast

Looking after yourself

- Warm clothes – layers
- Cox can get very cold even in summer
- Sun hat
- Life jackets
- Remember the grab bags (flares and emergency blanket)
- Radio
- Bailer (should be in the boat)

Looking after yourself

- Tell someone you are going out AND when you are back
- If you plan to go beyond the bay then tell someone
- Ensure that you have a clear plan and stick to it

Launching

- Have a plan at the top of the slip-
 - Which slip are you using?
 - Who is cox?
 - Who is sitting where?
 - Which order are you getting in (usually cox first then back towards the bow)
 - Who is in charge of the dolly?
 - Who grabs the strap on the dolly?
 - Who grabs the painter?

Launching

- Use fenders to protect the boat
- Beware of hazards
 - Trap fingers
 - Other boats around slip
 - Swell
 - Low tide sand bank straight out from slip, head for river and deeper channel

On the water

- Be aware of wash from other boats
- Time of the ferry (if it's on time but look for smoke)
- Give way to sail
- Rocks - familiarise yourself and steer clear

On the water

- If you are dubious/nervous because of weather/water conditions say so
- Come back if at all in doubt or if wind/weather deteriorates

Landing

Returning –Have a plan!

- Swell – can you use middle slip instead?
- Wind direction, cox needs to allow for ...
 - N/NW/W could blow you on the slip
 - S/SE could blow you away

Landing

Returning –Have a plan!

- Who is grabbing the slip?
- Who is doing the fenders?
- Get out of the boat quickly, starting with the bow and ending with cox
- As you get out hold the boat
- Three holding the boat, one goes for dolly