

Topic:

Wind

QC-0501

Resource:

[Beaufort Scale](#)

Basics: Wind is a serious consideration to paddlers. The Beaufort Scale is a useful correlation of wind and sea conditions which we have modified for paddlers. Weather forecasting websites such as [Weather Underground](#) will predict wind speed and direction for general locations. Remember that actual conditions at your paddling location may vary.

Question: *How does wind affect a kayak or canoe?*

Answer: Many kayaks will tend to head up "into" the wind. This is called "weather-cocking". The degree to which a kayak or canoe weathercocks depends greatly on its design, and also on the direction and speed of the wind relative to your direction of travel.

Question: *How can the paddler control the effects of weather-cocking?*

Answer: Good boat handling skills can do much to compensate for weather-cocking. There are many strokes that can be helpful as well as edging your boat in the proper direction. Know your weather forecast and your ability to handle conditions -experienced paddlers know when not to go out. It is also helpful to get expert advice in choosing your boat and paddle.

Advanced Concepts: You may want to get more information on the following:

- What are on-shore or offshore breezes? ...are they predictable?
- How can you protect your boat from the effects of wind?
- How can you be efficient when paddling in wind?
- How can you use wind to your advantage in paddling?

For more information contact

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