

**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 weathercocking?*

**Answer:** Good boat handling skills can do much to compensate for weathercocking. 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 affects 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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