SAIL REDUCTION GUIDE



This Guide is only an example. Your boat may require reefing earlier or later than the noted true wind speeds.

Shoaling water, current opposing the wind or crossed swells can dramatically worsen sea state and boat performance.

Wind forward of the beam

- 17 knots, 1st reef in mainsail, 10% of genoa furled.
- 23 knots, 2nd reef in mainsail, 20% of genoa furled.
- 28 knots, 3rd reef in mainsail, 30% of genoa furled, increase backstay tension if possible.
- 35 knots 3rd reef in mainsail or drop main and hoist trysail.

Storm jib or storm staysail replaces furled headsail. Set running backs.

45 to 55 knots, forereach or heave-to if your destination is upwind. Wait for directional change.

Wind aft of the beam

22 knots, 1st reef in mainsail, full 125% furling genoa.

28 knots, 2nd reef in mainsail, 20% of genoa furled.

34 knots, 3rd reef in mainsail, 30% of genoa furled. Rig inner forestay.

40 knots, 3rd reef in mainsail, storm staysail. Set running backs. Increase backstay tension.

45 knots, storm trysail and storm staysail, dropping staysail if boat becomes difficult to steer because of excessive boat speed.

Tactics for Storm Conditions with Sustained Winds Above 45 Knots:

- Forereach under trysail or triple reefed main.
- Heave-to under trysail and storm sail. This may be uncomfortable above 50 knots.
- Run or broad reach downwind under minimum storm sail or under bare poles, towing warps or drogue if required. Hand steering may be required to counter rogue waves or the tendency to broach.
- Contact a professional weather router if you are in sustained winds above 45 knots or a tropical depression is forecasted within 400 miles.

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