

ASSESSMENT OF LAUNCH CONDITIONS (Revised 20.3.22)

Although the decision whether to launch or not will always involve a careful assessment by the Launch Cox, there are certain conditions the club has determined that make conditions automatically unsafe for launching and recovery.

There are three parameters that have a major influence on launch conditions:

Wave height (WH)	There is a <i>Channel Coastal Observatory</i> wave buoy 3 km to the south of the slipway. It provides real-time data on the wave height. Google "Dawlish wave buoy" The website is: www.channelcoast.org/data_management/real_time_data/charts/?chart=103
Tide (T)	The best website for determining the tide level at Exmouth Dock is: http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/coast_and_sea/tide_tables/10/27 Google "BBC Exmouth tide" The height of the tide in relation to the sand bar strongly influences the beach conditions. Take into account whether the tide is rising or falling Above 3 m Pole Sands has little wave dampening effect. Below 3 m the dampening effect increases. Below 2 m any waves are dampened completely.
Wind speed (WS)	The Edge's WindGuru website provides the current average wind information: https://www.windguru.cz/station/2395 Google "Windguru Exmouth seafront" The forecast wind can be obtained from the Met Office website: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/mobile/forecast/gbvxfhrfv Click on more detail tab for the windspeed etc. A wind speed of 19 mph or more (Force 5 or more) is significant if the wind direction is from the Southwest through to the East. Those combinations are very likely to cause offshore wave heights greater than 0.5m. Also a strong N wind may well cause localised difficult conditions up river. Use this WindGuru site to check conditions in the Exe Estuary. https://www.windguru.cz/station/1882

The following guidelines apply:

WS of 19mph or more (SW - East) and T>3.0m UNSAFE TO LAUNCH

**WS =19-24 mph (SW-East) or WH>0.75m
and T<3.0m**

CAUTION !

**Launch site protected by Pole Sands but significant waves out to sea.
Coxes should not proceed beyond red Buoy 8. Exe Estuary rowing only.**

WS < 19mph and WH<0.5m

OK TO LAUNCH

In addition the following weather conditions must be taken into consideration when assessing whether to launch or not:

Fog	If you can't see Dawlish Warren from the slipway UNSAFE TO LAUNCH.
Lightning	If lightning is forecast during your planned row UNSAFE TO LAUNCH.