

While the inception and subsequent onset of breaking in gravity water waves remains incompletely understood, there has been encouraging recent progress. This includes the significant finding that for deep water to shoaling waves, tracking the ratio  $B_x$  of crest tip fluid speed to crest tip speed of any wave crest in an unsteady packet provides a robust generic threshold predictor for whether that crest will evolve to break or not. To investigate whether more complex wave scenarios conform to this breaking threshold behavior, this BEM study investigates breaking inception for 2D deep water and intermediate depth waves on a uniform vorticity shear layer for a range of positive and negative vorticities. While the presence of the shear layer can distort the breaking crest geometry appreciably, our results still conform to the generic breaking inception threshold of  $B_x \sim 0.855$ .