**NAUTICAL DICTIONARY**

Abaft  Behind. At or near the stern. Aft of amidships. On the after side of.
Abaft the beam  Bearing more than 90 degrees from dead ahead.
Abandon ship  Leave the boat with no intention to make further efforts to save or preserve her.
Abate  The wind is said to abate when its force lessens.
Abeam  Directly off the side of the boat. At right angles to the fore and aft line.
Aboard  On or in any vessel or boat. On board.
Abreast  Side by side.
Adrift  Floating free without propulsion. Floating on the tide unsecured.
Aft  Towards, at, or near the stern.
Aground  The state of a vessel part which is touching the bottom. Held fast on the bottom.
Ahead  Forward of. Advance. In the direction of the bows.
Ahoy  The general nautical hailing term to attract attention. "Ahoy the dock", "Ahoy the raft".
Alpha  A, the letter "A" in the phonetic alphabet.
Amidships  A helm order to put the wheel or tiller so that the rudder is fore and aft. To steer dead ahead.
Anchor  Device that digs into the sea bottom to prevent the boat from drifting. To secure the vessel by way of anchoring.
Anchorage  The place where a boat, or boats, may anchor.
Anchor's aweigh  The report from the bow that the anchor has been hove out of the ground, is off the bottom with its weight taken by the chain and rode.
Annual variation  The inconsistency in the earth's magnetic force that causes a change in the variation of the magnetic compass: the difference may be found printed on charts as increasing or decreasing so much annually.
Anti-fouling  Paint on the bottom of a boat that reduces marine growth.
Astern  Behind. Backwards. In the direction of the stem. Outside and abaft of the vessel.
At anchor  A vessel riding by its anchor.
ATON's  Aids TO Navigation.
Awash  Said of anything where the sea, or water, is just washing over it. Level with the surface of the water, or just under it.
Aweigh  Off the ground with weight taken by supporting ropes, cable, or chain. (See anchor's aweigh)
Aye-aye sir  The verbal acceptance of an order.
Back  The keep of a boat. The wind is said to "back" when it changes direction counter-clockwise.
Back splice  Used to prevent the ends of a rope from unlaying.
Bail  Remove water from a boat by hand, or with a bailer.
Ballast  Weight low in the hull to improve stability.
Bank  An area of the seabed that raises above the surrounding ground.
Bar  The silting-up of deposit or shallowing formed near the entrance to a harbor or inlet.
Barometer  Instrument that measures atmospheric pressure which determines changes of weather.
Batten Down  Close openings and secure gear.
Battery  Source of direct current (DC) for electronics.
Beached  Said of any vessel that has run ashore or is placed there for any reason, or of a mariner who retires to live ashore.
Beacon  An artificial warning mark to aid navigation.
Beam  The breadth of a vessel at her widest part. Extreme width. Straight out from the side of the boat, at ninety degrees from either side of dead ahead.
Beam sea  A sea rolling in at right angles to the vessels course.
Beam wind  A wind blowing in at right angles to the vessels course.
Beamy  Anything of excessive, or unusual beam. An unusually wide boat.
Bearing  The direction of one object from another. It may be given as true, magnetic, or relative to the vessel's compass.
Beaufort wind scale  A table used at sea to classify the various wind forces and their speeds, their descriptions being denoted by the use of numbers (force 7, force 9).
Belay  Make fast a rope around a bailing pin or cleat. An order to cease what one is doing, or to cancel an order.
Bell buoy  A buoy containing a bell that is rung by the motion of the sea.
Below  Between decks. Going below is descending from the upper deck.
Berth  Any place in a harbor allotted for the accommodation of a vessel. Place a vessel in any allotted position.
Bilge  A lowest area or specified cabin in any vessel. To give a wide berth is to keep well clear of anything.
Bimini Top  Canvas canopy.
Binnacle  The stand or case in which the ship's compass is housed.
Blocks
- Pulleys inside a frame, used to gain a mechanical advantage or to lead a rope in any required direction. It is measured by the length of its shell.

Blowers
- Fans that remove dangerous vapors from the engine compartment.

Boathook
- Pole with a blunt hook used for extending one's reach.

Boom
- Horizontal post of the main sail.

Bow
- Front (of the boat)

Bow Eye
- Towing loop secured at the bow.

Bow Line
- Rope that attaches the front of the boat to a dock.

Bowline
- A knot used to tie a loop in the end of a line.

Bowsprit
- A spar projecting from the bow of a sailing vessel, to which the headsails are secured.

Bravo
- B, the letter "B" in the phonetic alphabet.

Breakwater
- Artificial harbor. A protective barrier erected across a deck to break the force of any seas that are shipped.

Bridge
- Cockpit (control station).

Broach
- Broadsides to the waves.

Broad On/Off
- 45 degree angle to front/back.

Bulkhead
- Vertical partition maintaining rigidity in construction and dividing a vessel into watertight compartments.

Buoy
- Floating navigation aids.

Buoyancy
- Ability to float, expressed in positive or negative. A boat has positive buoyancy, a rock has negative buoyancy.

Burgee
- Flag identifying ownership or membership.

Can
- Green cylindrical buoy.

Capsize
- Upside down in the water.

Cardinal Points
- North, South, East, West.

Cast Off
- Unfasten for departure.

Catamaran
- Boat with two hulls.

Caulking
- Any substance used for sealing between the seams of planking to make them watertight.

Cavitation
- Turbulence caused by a propeller blade spinning too fast and creating low-pressure bubbles.

CDMVT
- Angle conversion process from Compass to True direction (+East).

Celestial Navigation
- True direction as opposed to Magnetic or Compass.

Chafe
- Rub or wear away by constant use or friction.

Chafing gear
- Protection applied to prevent chafing.

Chandlery
- Shop where nautical gear is sold.

Channel
- The deepest part of a passage through which the main current flows.

Charlie
- C, the letter "C" in the phonetic alphabet.

Chart
- Relevant data, represented on and as a map, and used for navigational purposes. Charts are the sailors roadmaps.

Chine
- Juncture of the side and the bottom of a boat.

Chop
- Waves that are short and steep.

Cleat
- Fitting with arms used to fasten lines.

CO Monitor
- Carbon Monoxide warning device. Used in enclosed areas on boats with gasoline engines.

Cocked hat
- The small triangle indicated on a chart when three lines of position are supposed to meet, but do not quite do so. The center of the triangle becomes the position fix.

Codline
- Small line used for many handy purposes, such as lacing, ornamental knots, quick tie down of small items... etc.

COG
- Course Over Ground, the course in the water adjusted for current and wind.

Combined Seas
- Wave height that is the sum of the swells plus the wind waves.

Common whipping
- Used to bind the end of a rope to prevent it from unlaying and fraying.

Companionway
- Entrance between the deck and the cabin.

Compass
- Direction finding instrument using the Earth's magnetic field.

Compass bearing
- The position of any object observed, as indicated by the compass.

Compass rose
- A graduated circle printed on a chart for use as a reference for showing true and magnetic north.

Complain
- A ship is said to do this when she is creaking.

Constant bearing
- A bearing that remains the same, even though the ship is moving; if of another ship, it indicates a collision course.

Course
- Direction laid from point to point. The boat maintains a heading to stay on course.

Cowl
- Air scoop.

Crest
- Wave top.

Cross bearings
- A simultaneous observation of two separate objects, the bearings of which are then laid on a chart to fix the ships position.
Cuddy — A small cabin in the front of a boat.
Current — Horizontal movement of water; set is its direction and drift is its speed.
Danforth — The brand name of a type of anchor.
Davit — The metal supports from which boats are hoisted or lowered, usually erected in pairs and swung into
Davy Jones — The evil spirit of the sea.
Davy Jones locker — The bottom of the sea, common graveyard of everything thrown overboard; the grave of men drowned at sea, and of ships that have foundered.
Dayboard — Navigation aid for day use.
Dead ahead or astern — Dead in line with the ship.
Dead calm — A flat sea with no sign of moving currents. A movie with Sam Neil and Nicole Kidman.
Dead reckoning — A contraction of deduced reckoning, being the estimated position of a ship based on time, speed, and distance calculations as opposed to plotting an observed position.
Dead slow — The minimum speed possible to retain steerageway.
Deck — The floor of a boat.
Delta — D, the letter “D” in the phonetic alphabet.
Deviation — Compass error caused by its proximity to magnetic disturbances.
Dinghy — A small, open rowboat used for all utility purposes, mainly for transport to and from the main vessel. May be able to accommodate a small outboard motor. See Tender.
Direction — Relative position of two points using three-digit numbers (000 - 360).
Displacement — Weight of the water displaced by a boat.
Distress — A state of danger requiring assistance.
Dividers — An instrument with two movable points, used in chart work.
Dock — An artificial enclosure for the berthing and retention of ships for any purpose. It may be wet, dry, floating, or stationary.
Documented Vessel — Boat registered with the USCG instead of a state.
Dodger — Canvas enclosure on a sailboat.
Dog — A clip used for closing watertight doors or hatches.
Draft — Depth of boat below waterline.
Dredge — Removal of accumulated runoff in waterways.
Drift — To float unsecured with the tide. The speed of the current.
Dumping — Legal or illegal release of garbage into the water.
Ease off — Slacken a rope gradually. Loosing any tight fitting.
Easting — The distance gained to Eastward.
Eddy — Circular water movement caused by current passing an obstruction or a counter current.
Ensign — The distinguishing flag used to indicate nationality, usually flown at or near the stern.
Entrance — The shape of the forepart of a vessel.
EP, Estimated Position — The position on a chart at which a vessel may be estimated to be at any time after allowances have been made for tides, winds, and courses laid off.
Equator — An imaginary circle around the middle of the earth. Zero degrees latitude.
Even keel — Upright. Without a list. Drawing a similar depth of water fore and aft.
Fall astern — Drop back. Reduce speed and get astern of another vessel.
Fathom — A measurement equivalent to six feet applied to ropes for their length, and to depths.
Fenders — Cushions that protect the sides of the boat.
Fetch — Area in which ocean waves are generated by the wind.
Fix — To take a fix is to ascertain the position of the boat by the intersection of any two or more bearings taken at the same time.
Flame Arrester — Backfire flame control devices required on gasoline engines.
Flare — A pyrotechnic distress signal. The curve of the freeboard from the bows, upward and outward, providing additional rising surface to oncoming waves.
Fleur De Lys — The decorative North point as printed on compass cards and compass roses.
Flood Tide — Tidal current toward the land (rising level).
Flotsam — Goods lost by shipwreck, or anything that has gone overboard and is later found floating at sea.
Fluke — Anchor component that digs in.
Flying bridge — A small helm station located on the uppermost deck.
Flying Dutchman — The phantom sailing ship that traditionally haunts the seas off the Cape of Good Hope.
Fog — The limited visibility state generated when the temperature and dewpoint are within 4 degrees F of each.
Fog horn — The apparatus used for signaling during periods of reduced visibility.
Following Sea — Waves coming from behind the boat.
Fore  In, towards, or of the foremost part of any vessel. A prefix applied to that one of many that is nearest the
Describes anything that will not run clear, becomes entangled, forms an obstruction, collides, or prevents
free passage.
Fouled anchor  The term used when the anchor rode is entangled around the flukes of an anchor.
Founder  Fill with water; Go to the bottom; Sink.
Fox-trot  F, the letter “F” in the phonetic alphabet
Freeboard  Height of boat above the waterline
Freshen  The wind is said to freshen when it increases in strength.
From stem to stern  From one extreme end to the other. The maritime equivalent of bumper to bumper.
Fronts  Weather boundaries.
Gale  A strong wind between a stiff breeze and a hurricane.
Galley  Kitchen
Gangway  Walkway between a boat and the dock
Gear  Personal baggage
Generator  Motor that produces alternating current (AC)
Ghosting  Under sail and making way, when there seems no wind.
Gibe  See jibe
Gimbals  Rings that enable a compass or stove to remain level
Give way vessel  A vessel, whose duty it is to keep clear of another by taking necessary action.
Golf  G, the letter “G” in the phonetic alphabet
GPS  Global Positioning System, U.S. military satellites that broadcast signals for receivers to determine exact
position on earth.
Ground Tackle  Anchoring equipment
Gunwale  Juncture of the top and the side of boat (pronounced gun’l)
Hail  Call to another vessel. A vessel is said to hail from her port of registry.
Half-tide  The mean level of the sea during springs or neaps; it is therefore a constant factor.
Halon  Fire extinguishing material used in engine compartments.
Halyard  Ropes used for hoisting and lowering flags, sails, etc…
Harbor  An area of water partially enclosed.
Hard chine  A feature of a boat in which the topsides and bottom meet at an angle rather than curving to a round
Hatch  Opening in deck to the area below
Haul  Pull on a rope. “Haul away” is the order to pull.
Hawespipe  A pipe fitted to the deck that allows rope, cable, or chain to pass through.
Haven  An inlet from a coastline where ships may anchor and shelter.
Head  Toilet / Bathroom
Head sea  Waves approaching from the front of the boat.
Heading  Direction the boat is pointed
Headway  A vessel is said to make headway when she advances, bows first, and begins to make way through the
Heave  Vertical motion of the boat due to waves. A command to lift or pull together.
Heave To  Stop, trim sails, or work the engine so as to keep the vessel almost stationery. Used in the event of an
emergency or impending danger, as opposed to “laying to” with intent to stop and wait.
Heel  Leaning to the side
Helm  The steering console or station.
High tide  The greatest elevation of a tide at a certain place.
Hitch  Knot used to attach to an object
Hold  A special compartment or space used for stowing cargo.
Holding Tank  Storage tank for sewage
Holidays  Bare patches missed when painting or patching.
Hook  The anchor, stated as “drop the hook”.
Hotel  H, the letter “H” in the phonetic alphabet
Hove to  Underway, but not making way through the water.
Hull  Lower part of the boat in contact with the water that provides buoyancy
Hull down  Said of a vessel beyond the horizon, with only its masts in view.
Hypothermia  Inability to maintain sufficiently warm body temperature
India  I, the letter “I” in the phonetic alphabet
Inlet  Narrow waterway from the ocean to an inland bay
Isobar  A line drawn to link areas of equal barometric pressure.
Jetsam  Goods thrown overboard to lighten a vessel.
Jetty  Structure projecting out from the shore
Jib  The foremost sail in a sailing vessel, triangular in shape, and set between the foremast and the bowsprit.
Jibe — Sailing maneuver with the stern into the wind.
Jonah — Anyone reputed to bring misfortune or disaster.
Juliet — J, the letter “J” in the phonetic alphabet
Jury rig — A temporary setup used until permanent repairs can be made.
Keel — The solid beam running the length of the lowest part of the hull. In effect, the vessel’s backbone. On a sailboat, it will be much larger, deeper, and weighted down to stabilize the boat against the wind pushing against the sails.
Killick — A small anchor. A large stone or weight used for anchoring.
Kilo — K, the letter “K” in the phonetic alphabet
Knot — Mechanism to secure a rope. The equivalent of one nautical mile per hour; 1.15 x statute miles.
Labor — Pitch and roll in heavy seas, show signs of working.
Lading — A vessel’s cargo.
Laid up — Refers to the way strands are wound together to make up a rope. A ship not in commission. In bed, sick, or injured.
Landfall — Approaching land, especially after a long voyage. To make good landfall is to approach land at the spot anticipated.
Landlubber — A man of the land who is uninformed as to the ways of nautical matters.
Landmark — A conspicuous spot onshore used as a navigational aid.
Lanyard — Length of rope fastened to an object
Lateral Bouyage — System of red and green buoys that mark the edges of navigable channels
Latitude — Degrees :Minutes:Seconds (0-90) North/South of the Equator
Lay to — Stop by keeping into the wind.
Lee shore — The shore facing the lee side of a ship, being that on to which the wind would drive her if she were unable to make an offing.
Leeward — Downwind side, sheltered from the wind.
Let fly — Let the sheet go, suddenly spilling the wind from a sail.
Lima — L, the letter “L” in the phonetic alphabet
Line — Rope
List — Continuous lean to one side.
LOA — Length Over All, the primary dimension of a boat
Log — Device for measuring distance through water
Longitude — Degrees:Minutes:Seconds (0-180) East/West of the Greenwich Meridian
Lookout — A person specially posted to keep a diligent watch, to observe and report all that come into view or
Mackerel sky — A sky with long white streaks of cloud, often a portent of impending rain.
Magnetic bearing — The bearing of an object in relation to the magnetic compass.
Magnetic compass — A ship’s standard compass.
Magnetic course — A course as read from the magnetic compass rose on the chart. The true course with variation applied to
Magnetic North — The northern center of the earth’s magnetic influence, as opposed to true North. It is approximately located at 70 degrees North and 97 degrees 30 minutes west in arctic Canada.
Maiden voyage — The first trip of a new vessel.
Make fast — To secure
Make headway — To advance through the water.
Making Way — Boat moving under its own power
Mal De Mer — Sea sickness
Man overboard — The alarm called by anyone who sees someone fall over the side into the water.
Mare’s tails — White feather-shaped wisps of clouds; they often indicate an increase of wind if they gather into a regular formation.
Marina — Docking area usually with services
Marlinspike seamanship — The term embracing knotting, splicing, seizing, etc…; the art of shaping and working ropes.
Mast — Vertical post on sail boats
Mayday — Emergency distress call (help me)
Meridian — A line that will cut through the equator at right angles and run from pole to pole.
Metal Mike — The autopilot
Mike — M, the letter “M” in the phonetic alphabet
MLLW — Mean Lower Low Water, reference level used for depth measurements on nautical charts in the USA
Mooring — Buoy used by boats to tie up
Morse Code — Nearly obsolete means of nautical communication using “dots” and “dashes”
Nautical Mile — One minute of latitude roughly equal to 1.15 Statute Miles
Neap tides — those with a smaller range than spring tides; they are not as high, low, or rapid.
Negative buoyancy — See Buoyancy
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US government agency that reports weather and tidal information

Notice to Mariners
A notification published periodically for the correction of charts.

November
N, the letter "N" in the phonetic alphabet

Nun
Red cylindrical buoy with a conical top.

Observed position
A vessel's position plotted on a chart from the observation of objects, as opposed to dead reckoning.

Occulting light
Such a light that is on more than it is off.

On the beam
At right angles to the fore and aft centerline of a ship. Directly off the side of the ship.

On the bow
Within the angle from right ahead to 45 degrees on either side.

On the quarter
On a bearing midway between the beam and the stern.

Oscar
O, the letter "O" in the phonetic alphabet.

Out of trim
With a list, down at one end. Untidy.

Outboard
Outside a ship or boat. Farther towards a ship's side. A portable, self-contained propelling unit, secured to the transom of small boats.

Overboard
Over the side and into the water

Overtaking vessel
Any vessel approaching another from within an arc prescribed from her stern light; it is her duty to keep clear while the other vessel stands her course and speed.

Painter
The rope at the bow of a small boat for making it fast.

Papa
P, the letter "P" in the phonetic alphabet.

Passage
A long voyage from one place to another.

Pay Out
Slacken and ease a rope so that it runs freely.

Pennant
A long narrow banner, or triangular shaped flag. A short length of rope with a metal thimble in each end, one of which is often hooked to a tackle.

PFD
Personal Floatation Device (life preserver)

Phonetic Alphabet
System used to identify letters in verbal communications.

Pier
Structure extending into the water for tying a vessel to.

Piling
Vertical post in the water.

Pilot
A person licensed to navigate ships through channels and fairways in or out of port. A ship's navigator.

Pilot boat
Used by pilots for meeting ships.

Pilot house
The wheel house.

Piloting
Navigating a boat by determining position and directing movement.

Pitch
The depression of the bows plunging into a trough in the seas.

Pitch pole
Be ended up, stern first, and be completely overthrown by the sea.

Planing
A boat is planing, or up on plane, when moving through the water with bows lifted well clear and more out of the water than in.

Planing Hull
Power boat that eliminates the bow wake.

Plastic boat
Derogatory term for a fiberglass boat.

Points of a compass
There are 32 points of a compass consisting of 4 cardinals (N, S, E, W), 4 half cardinals (NE, SE, SW, NW), 8 intermediates (NNE, ENE, ESE, SSE, SSW, WSW, WNW, NNW) and 16 by points. Each point is 11.25 degrees from its neighbor, is also divided into half and quarter points.

Pontoon
Any large tank used as a platform.

Poop
The raised deck on the after part of a ship.

Pooped
A vessel is said to be pooped when a sea breaks over the stern when running before a wind or sea.

Port
Left (the side of the boat when facing forward), the opposite to starboard. An opening in a ship's side. Carry.

Port Tack
Sailing "give way" with wind from the left side.

Porthole
An opening in the ships side to let in light and air.

Poseidon
The god of the sea in Greek mythology.

Positive buoyancy
The quality possessed by any craft that would remain afloat when waterlogged.

Pram
A small dinghy with a cut off bow, or forward transom, used as a tender to larger boats.

Prevailing Wind
Typical direction of the wind at a locale.

Prime meridian
The meridian which passes through Greenwich, and from which longitude east or west is reckoned.

Prohibited area
An area marked on a chart, where anchoring, trawling, or fishing, etc... may be forbidden by authority.

Prolonged blast
A blast of the horn of 4-6 seconds duration.

Prop walk
Sideways force created by a spinning propeller.

Propulsion - Diesel
Engine that runs by compressed combustion.

Propulsion - Gasoline
Engine that runs by sparked combustion.

Pulpit
An elevated tubular metal guardrail set up at the bow or stern; typically extending from the bow.

Purse Seine
A seining net which can be closed like a purse.

Quarter
The side of the ships between the beam and the stern.
Quartering  Sailing with the wind coming over the quarter.
Quartering wind  Wind that comes from the ships quarter.
Quay  Docks used to load/unload cargo
Quebec  Q, the letter “Q” in the phonetic alphabet
Race  A strong current that disturbs water over a large area.
Radar  System that uses the transmission / reflection / reception of radio waves to determine distance, direction, and size of an object; derived from Radio Direction And Range finding.
Rake  The angle of backward inclination of a ships masts or funnels. The slope of a bow or stern beyond the keel ends.
Range  Distance away of an object. The difference between the depth of water at high and low tides.
Reach  A long straight part of a waterway, or distance between two bends in a river. There may be an upper or lower reach, while that part leading into a harbor is a harbor reach.
Red-Right-Returning  ATON reminder: RED buoys on the RIGHT when RETURNING from the sea
Reef  To reduce sail area by folding, rolling, or tying up part of the sails. A chain of rocks lying submerged near the surface.
Refitting  A period during which repairs, reconstruction, and replacements are effected.
Regatta  A program of sailing and rowing races arranged by an authority or club.
Reserve buoyancy  those compartments above water level that may effectively be made watertight.
Rigging  Sailing ropes and hardware
Rip, rip tide  A running tide, rising as it flows, and breaking in ripples.
Rode  Anchor rope and/or chain
Roll  Vertical motion from side-to-side
Romeo  R, the letter “R” in the phonetic alphabet
Rudder  Movable fixture in the water that provides steering
Rules of the Road  Navigation guidelines
Running Lights  Red, Green, and White lights used by boats at night
Scope  Anchoring length to depth ratio
Screw  Propeller
Scuppers  Holes cut in bulwarks for water to escape overboard from decks.
Scuttle  To sink a ship by cutting holes in her.
Sea anchor  Any kind of drogue, used as a floating anchor for a vessel to ride to, head to wind, if hove to in bad
Sea legs  Possessed by those who have the ability to walk about on a vessel pitching and tossing about in heavy
Sea room  The area around a ship clear of obstructions and of land.
Sea State  Open water conditions resulting from wind and water activity
Seacock  Hole in hull with a valve to regulate the water flow
Set  The direction of the current. The current is said to be “setting” at a certain direction.
 Sextant  Navigation instrument for measuring angles.
Shackle  Metal linkage typically used to connect rope to an anchor
Sheer  Curve of the deck as viewed from the side
Sheet  Rope that controls a sail’s horizontal movement
Ship  Boat longer than 20 meters (65.6 feet). To receive anything onboard.
Ship oars  Place oars in crutches or oarlocks ready for use.
Shoal  A place where water is not deep and endangers navigation.
Shore Power  Electrical power (AC) via cables provided at the marina as opposed to the engines or a generator
Shrouds  Wires that run to the side of the boat to support the sail mast
Side lights  The red and green navigation lights required by the Rules of the Road, fixed to show from right ahead to two points abaft the beam, red to port, green to starboard, with visibility at least two miles.
Sierra  S, the letter “S” in the phonetic alphabet
Slack Water  Tidal period between flood and ebb tides
Sling  Hoist that lifts a boat out of the water.
Slip  Berth with docks on three sides
Small Craft Advisory  Winds to 33 knots (38 mph) and/or dangerous sea conditions for smaller boats
Snub  Suddenly check anything that is running out.
SOG  Speed over ground, the speed in the water adjusted for current and wind.
Sounding  A depth reading
Spars  Poles used in sail rigging
Spindrift  Spray whipped off and blown from the crests of waves.
Splice  Join two ropes together by interweaving the braids
Spring Line  Rope between the boat and the dock to limit forward/reverse motion
Spring Tide
Tide at which the range between high and low is greatest, and which occur just after a full or new moon, when sun, earth, and moon are in line or nearly so.

Squall
Sudden violent windstorm

Stanchion
A fixed upright pillar support between decks or for guardrails, awnings...etc.

Stand on vessel
That vessel which maintains course and speed.

Starboard
The right hand side of the boat when facing forward. Opposite to port.

Starboard Tack
Sailing "right of way" with wind from the right side

Stateroom
A large cabin formerly described as being set aside for the owner, but now referenced to an increased level of luxury and comfort.

Stays
Wires that run to the front and rear of the boat to support the sail mast

Steerageway
Sufficient motion to support steering

Stem
The timber at the bow of a ship into which the planks are butted. The point at which both sides of the bow meet.

Stern
Back of the boat

Stern Line
Rope that attaches the back of the boat to a dock

Stores
Food and supplies

Storm Surge
Rising sea preceding a storm

Stove in
Damaged by anything breaking through into a ship.

Slow
To put in its proper place. To find a place for a thing and put it there.

Superstructure
Structures above the deck

Stays
Wires that run to the front and rear of the boat to support the sail mast

Swing
A vessel is said to swing as she is tied to a mooring or at anchor and moves to changing winds or tides.

Swing a compass
Ascertaining deviations for calibrations of a magnetic compass.

Tack
To maneuver toward the wind by continually altering course back and forth so as to take the wind at an angle rather than dead on.

Tackle
Assemblage of ropes and blocks

Taff rail
The rail at the stern of a ship.

Tango
T, the letter "T" in the phonetic alphabet

Tender
Accommodate larger outboards. While difficult to row, they provide a more comfortable and drier ride than dinghies.

Tide
Water depth (and resultant current) variations created by the gravitational forces of the Moon and the Sun

Topsides
The upper part of the hull above the waterline, literally the top of the sides.

Trade winds
Persistent tropical winds that blow from the subtropical high pressure towards the equatorial low pressure

Transom
Vertical partition at the back of the boat

Trim
The difference in draft between forward and aft. The set of a vessel on the water. The set of a sail used for best advantage. Neat.

Trim Tabs
Adjustable planes at the stern that allow the pilot to adjust the trim of the boat.

Trip Line
Rope to the anchor crown used to mark its place and assist in pulling when stuck

Trough
Low point between waves

Turn turtle
To turn over completely

TVMD
Angle conversion process from True to Compass direction (+West)

Twin screw
A vessel with two propellers on separate shafts.

Underway
Not tied to the dock, at anchor, or aground.

Uniform
U, the letter "U" in the phonetic alphabet

USCG
United States Coast Guard

Variation
The angle between True North and magnetic North; it varies in different parts of the world, and may be either easterly or westerly.

Veer
Change direction as does the wind.

Ventilation
Turbulence caused by a propeller blade spinning too close to the surface and creating air bubbles

VHF
Very High Frequency, the FM radio telephone transmission/receive channels (01-88) in the 156-157 MHz range (USA)

Victor
V, the letter "V" in the phonetic alphabet

Voyage
Complete trip with multiple passages

Wake
Waves formed by the passing of a vessel through the water.

Wash
The turbulent water left behind any vessel passing through the water.

Waterline
The top edge of the bottom color paint where it meets the topside color. The line to which water rises.

Wave Height
The significant wave height is the average of the highest third of all waves in an area

Waypoint
Position saved in a GPS receiver
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weigh</td>
<td>To raise anchor or depart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wharf</td>
<td>Structure parallel to the shore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiskey</td>
<td>W, the letter &quot;W&quot; in the phonetic alphabet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind waves</td>
<td>Waves created locally by the wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windlass</td>
<td>Anchor winch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windward</td>
<td>Upwind side</td>
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<tr>
<td>X-ray</td>
<td>X, the letter &quot;X&quot; in the phonetic alphabet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yacht</td>
<td>Boat used for recreation with luxury features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yankee</td>
<td>Y, the letter &quot;Y&quot; in the phonetic alphabet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yaw</td>
<td>Horizontal motion from side-to-side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc Anodes</td>
<td>Plates that protect a boat's underwater metals from galvanic deterioration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zulu</td>
<td>Z, the letter &quot;Z&quot; in the phonetic alphabet</td>
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