

Term	Definition
Abaft	Behind you when you are facing forward .
ABYC	American Boat and Yacht Council, Inc.
Admiralty law	The law of the sea; maritime law according to the British Admiralty.
Adrift	Floating without mooring or direction.
Afloat	On the water.
Aft	Describing the after section of a vessel , or things to the rear of amidships and near the stern .
Aground	Touching bottom.
Amidships	In the center, the center portion of a vessel .
Anchor	A forging or casting shaped to grip the sea bottom and, by means of a cable or rope, hold a boat in a desired position.
Anchorage	A customary, suitable and (usually) designated harbor area in which vessels may anchor .
Astern	The direction toward the stern , or the back end, of the vessel .
Athwart	Anything running across the boat from side to side. An aft bench seat across the stern is athwartships.
Aweigh	What an anchor is when it is off the bottom.
Bail	To remove water from a boat by pump or bailer.
Bar	A shoal of sand or mud on which you can run aground .
Beacon	A post or buoy placed over a shoal or bank to warn vessels, also a signal mark on land.
Beam	Imaginary line amidships at right angles to keel of vessel . Also vessel's width amidships .
Bearing	The direction or point of the compass in which an object is seen.
Bilge	The lower internal part of a boat's hull .
Bimini	A rectangular canopy, usually of canvas, on a light frame that protects the bridge and/or control console from sun and rain.
Bow	The forward part or front of the boat.
Bridge	The control station from which a large boat is navigated.
Bulkhead	Vertical partition in a boat.
Buoy	A floating object showing navigation channels or marking prohibited areas on the water.
Burdened vessel	Former term for the vessel which must stay clear of vessels with the right-of-way.
Capsize	To turn over, bottom side up.
Carburetor Backfire Flame Arrestor	Required equipment on all motorboats except outboards and diesels. Reduces chance of fire caused by backfires in internal combustion engines.
Cast off	To undo all mooring lines in preparation for departure.
Chart	A map of a body of water that contains piloting information.
Chine	The intersection of sides and bottom of a boat.
Chop	Short, steep waves in an abrupt motion.
Cleat	A piece of wood or metal with projecting ends to which lines are made fast.
Cockpit	A well or sunken space in the afterdeck of a small boat for the use of the helmsman and crew.
Cockpit sole	The floor of the cockpit .

Companionway	A <u>hatch</u> or entrance from the deck to the cabin.
Compass	The instrument which shows the <u>heading</u> of a <u>vessel</u> .
Current	The movement of the water in a horizontal direction.
Davit	A crane that projects over the side or <u>stern</u> of a ship and is used as a hoist.
Dead ahead	In a direction exactly ahead.
Deadrise	The rise on the bottom of a <u>midships</u> frame from the <u>keel</u> to the <u>bilge</u> .
Depth Sounder	An electronic depth-finding instrument, measuring the time a sound wave takes to go from the <u>vessel</u> to the bottom and return, then displaying the result in feet, fathoms, or meters.
Dinghy	A small boat used as a <u>tender</u> .
Displacement Hull	Type of <u>hull</u> that plows through the water even when more power is added.
Downwind	A direction to <u>leeward</u> , with the wind.
Draft	The depth of the <u>vessel</u> below the water <u>line</u> , measured vertically to the lowest part of the <u>hull</u> .
Dunnage	Mats, boughs, pieces of wood, or other loose materials placed under or among goods carried as cargo in the hold of a ship to keep them dry and to prevent their motion and chafing; cushioning or padding used in a shipping container to protect fragile articles against shock and breakage; baggage or personal effects.
Ebb	An outgoing tide.
Fathom	A nautical linear measurement equal to 6 feet, used for measuring water depth.
Fenders	Objects placed along the side of the boat to protect the <u>hull</u> from damage.
Flare	The outward spread of the boat's sides from the waterline to the rail at the <u>bow</u> . Also, a pyrotechnic signaling device that can indicate distress.
Following sea	Waves from <u>astern</u> .
Fore	Located at the front of the <u>vessel</u> ; forecabin is toward the <u>bow</u> , the opposite of <u>aft</u> cabin; foredeck is the <u>forward</u> part of the main deck.
Forward	Toward the <u>bow</u> .
Founder	To sink below the surface of the water.
Freeboard	The vertical distance measured on a boat's side from the waterline to the gunwale.
Galley	The kitchen area of a boat.
Give-way vessel	The one which must stay clear of vessels which have the right-of-way.
Gunwale	The upper edge of a boat's side - pronounced "gunnel."
Hail	A call to another <u>vessel</u> .
Harbor	A safe, protected <u>anchorage</u> for docking and loading.
Hatch	An opening in the boat's deck for persons or cargo to go below.
Head	A marine toilet.
Head sea	Waves coming from the direction in which a <u>vessel</u> is <u>heading</u> .
Heading	The <u>compass</u> direction in which a <u>vessel</u> is pointed at any given moment.
Helm	The wheel or tiller by which a ship is steered.
High tide	High water, the highest normal level reached.
Holding Tank	Storage tank for sewage, so that it will not be pumped overboard into the water.
Hull	The main structural body of a <u>vessel</u> , excluding superstructure, masts, sails or rigging.

Inboard	More toward the center of a <u>vessel</u> ; inside; a motor fitted inside the boat.
Inland Rules	Rules of the road that apply to <u>vessel</u> operation in harbors and certain rivers, lakes, and inland waterways.
Intracoastal Waterways	ICW: bays, rivers and canals along the coasts (such as Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts), connected so that vessels may travel without going into the open sea.
Jetty	A structure projecting out from the shore to influence the <u>current</u> or tide or protect a <u>harbor</u> .
Keel	The main structural member of a <u>vessel</u> , the backbone; the lateral area beneath the <u>hull</u> to provide steering stability and reduce leeway.
Knot	To bend a <u>line</u> . Also, a unit of speed equal to one nautical mile (6,076.10 feet) an hour.
Latitude	Geographic distance north or south of the equator.
Launch	(1) To put a <u>vessel</u> into the water; (2) a small open powerboat, mainly used for transportation between a <u>vessel</u> and shore.
Lee	The side opposite to that from which the wind blows.
Leeward	Situated on the side turned away from the wind. (Opposite of <u>windward</u> .)
Limber Holes	Drainage holes in the <u>bilge</u> timbers of a <u>vessel</u> , allowing water to run to a low point for pumping out.
Line	A rope used aboard a ship.
List	A continuous leaning to one side, often caused by imbalance in stowage or wind.
LOA	Length over all; the maximum length of a vessel's <u>hull</u> , excluding projecting spars or rudder.
Locker	A storage place, a closet.
Locker	A compartment for onboard stowage of articles.
Log	A record or diary of a vessel's journey.
Longitude	Geographic distance east or west of the prime meridian.
Lubber's Line	A mark or permanent <u>line</u> on a <u>compass</u> that shows the course of the boat.
Making Way	Making progress through the water.
Marina	A place providing secure moorings for pleasure boats and usually offering service facilities, such as fuel docks and showers.
Mayday	A radio distress call, from the French m'aidez (help me); SOS in Morse Code.
Midships	The center of the boat.
Moored	Anchored or made fast to a <u>pier</u> or wharf.
Mooring	Permanent ground tackle; a place where vessels are kept at <u>anchor</u> .
Nautical Mile	6076.12 feet, or 1852 meters, an international standard; the geographical mile, the length of one minute of <u>latitude</u> at the equator, is 6087.20 feet.
Navigation Rules	The U.S. "Rules of the Road" governing navigation lights, vessels meeting or passing, sound signals, distress signals and practical boating etiquette.
Offshore	Out of sight of land.
Outboard	Powerboat having an engine outside the <u>hull</u> .
Outdrive	A propulsion system for boats, with an <u>inboard</u> motor operating an exterior drive, with drive shaft, gears, and <u>propeller</u> ; also called stern-drive and inboard/outboard.
PFD	Personal Flotation Device; a life preserver.
Pier	A structure extending into navigable water, used as a landing place or promenade.
Pitch	(1) The up and down movement as the <u>bow</u> and <u>stern</u> rise and fall due to wave action; (2) The theoretical distance advanced by a <u>propeller</u> in one revolution.

Planing Hull	Type of <u>hull</u> that is shaped to lift out of the water at high speed and ride on the surface.
Port	The left side of the boat when you are facing the <u>bow</u> , also a destination or <u>harbor</u> .
Privileged vessel	Former term for the <u>vessel</u> with the right-of-way.
Propeller	Wheel or screw. Mechanism that pushes water <u>aft</u> to propel the boat.
Pulpit	The <u>forward</u> railing structure at the <u>bow</u> .
Relative bearing	A direction in relation to the fore-and-aft <u>line</u> of a <u>vessel</u> .
Rules of the Road	The nautical traffic rules for preventing collisions on the water.
Scope	The length of the <u>anchor</u> rope or chain. 6 to 1 <u>scope</u> means that the length of the <u>anchor</u> rope from the boat to the <u>anchor</u> is 6 times the depth of the water.
Scupper	A hole allowing water to run off the deck.
Seacock	A through-hull valve, a shut-off on a plumbing or drain pipe between the vessel's interior and the sea.
Seakindly	Comfortable in rough seas.
Seaworthy	Fit or safe for a sea voyage.
Slip	A berth for a boat, usually between two piers.
Stand-on vessel	The <u>vessel</u> with the right-of-way.
Starboard	The right side of the boat when you are facing the <u>bow</u> ; a direction to the right. It is said that when navigation was guided by the stars, the constellations were displayed on "star boards" which were always placed on the right side of the pilothouse.
Stern	The after end or back of the <u>bow</u> .
Stow	To put in the proper place.
Swamp	To fill with water coming in over the deck and gunwales.
Tender	A <u>dinghy</u> or other small boat which accompanies or attends a larger <u>vessel</u> , such as a yacht, and is used to transport persons and provisions.
Transom	The transverse planking which forms the afterend of a small, square-ended boat. (Outboard motors are usually attached to a <u>transom</u> .)
Trim	To arrange weights in a <u>vessel</u> in such a manner as to obtain a desired <u>draft</u> at <u>bow</u> and <u>stern</u> .
Trim tabs	Adjustable rectangular control flaps that project along the water's surface at the <u>transom</u> when the <u>hull</u> is planing.
Underway	<u>Vessel</u> in motion, for example, when not <u>moored</u> , at <u>anchor</u> or <u>aground</u> .
USCG	United States Coast Guard.
USPS	United States Power Squadron, a private membership organization that specializes in boating education and good boating practices.
Vessel	Every kind of watercraft, other than a seaplane on the water, capable of being used as a means of transportation on the water.
VHF Radio	A Very High Frequency electronic communications and direction finding system.
Wake	Moving waves, created by <u>vessel</u> motion. Track or path that a boat leaves behind it, when moving across the water.
Wash	The broken water left behind a speeding <u>vessel</u> . The surging action of the waves in the <u>wash</u> of a large boat can be very powerful.
Way or Underway	Movement of a <u>vessel</u> through the water. Technically it is <u>underway</u> when not at <u>anchor</u> , <u>aground</u> , or made fast to the shore. The common usage is interpreted as progress through the water. Headway when going <u>forward</u> and Sternway when going backwards.
Weigh	To raise the <u>anchor</u> in preparation for departure.
Whistle Signal	A standard communication signal between boats, to indicate change of course, danger, or other

	situations.
Windward	Situated on the side closest to the wind. (Opposite of <u>leeward.</u>)
Yaw	To swing erratically off course.