

A

ABOARD - On or within the boat.

ABOVE DECK - On the deck (not over it - see ALOFT)

AFT - Toward the stern of the boat.

AHEAD - In a forward direction.

ALOFT - Above the deck of the boat.

ASTERN - In back of the boat, opposite of ahead.

B

BELOW - Beneath the deck.

BOAT - A fairly indefinite term. A waterborne vehicle smaller than a ship. One definition is a small craft carried aboard a ship.

BOW - The forward part of a boat.

BOWLINE - A knot used to form a temporary loop in the end of a line.

BRIDGE - The location from which a vessel is steered and its speed controlled. "Control Station" is really a more appropriate term for small craft.

BUOY - An anchored float used for marking a position on the water or a hazard or a shoal and for mooring.

C

CABIN - A compartment for passengers or crew.

CAPSIZE - To turn over.

CHART - A map for use by navigators.

CLOVE HITCH - A knot for temporarily fastening a line to a spar or piling.

COIL - To lay a line down in circular turns.

COURSE - The direction in which a boat is steered.

CURRENT - The horizontal movement of water.

D

DEAD AHEAD - Directly ahead.

DEAD ASTERN - Directly aft.

DECK - A permanent covering over a compartment, hull or any part thereof.

DINGHY - A small open boat. A dinghy is often used as a tender for a larger craft.

E

F

FIGURE EIGHT KNOT - A knot in the form of a figure eight, placed in the end of a line to prevent the line from passing through a grommet or a block.

FORE-AND-AFT - In a line parallel to the keel.

FORWARD - Toward the bow of the boat.

G

GALLEY - The kitchen area of a boat.

GANGWAY - The area of a ship's side where people board and disembark.

GEAR - A general term for ropes, blocks, tackle and other equipment.

H

HEAD - A marine toilet. Also the upper corner of a triangular sail.

HULL - The main body of a vessel.

I

J

JACOBS LADDER - A rope ladder, lowered from the deck, as when pilots or passengers come aboard.

K

KEEL - The centerline of a boat running fore and aft; the backbone of a vessel.

KNOT - A measure of speed equal to one nautical mile (6076 feet) per hour.

KNOT - A fastening made by interweaving rope to form a stopper, to enclose or bind an object, to form a loop or a noose, to tie a small rope to an object, or to tie the ends of two small ropes together.

L

M

MIDSHIP - Approximately in the location equally distant from the bow and stern.

N

NAVIGATION - The art and science of conducting a boat safely from one point to another.

O

OVERBOARD - Over the side or out of the boat.

P

PLANING - A boat is said to be planing when it is essentially moving over the top of the water rather than through the water.

PORT - The left side of a boat looking forward. A harbor.

Q

R

ROPE - In general, cordage as it is purchased at the store. When it comes aboard a vessel and is put to use it becomes line.

RUDDER - A vertical plate or board for steering a boat.

S

SEAMANSHIP - All the arts and skills of boat handling, ranging from maintenance and repairs to piloting, sail handling, marlinespike work, and rigging.

SECURE - To make fast.

SHIP - A larger vessel usually thought of as being used for ocean travel. A vessel able to carry a "boat" on board.

SQUARE KNOT - A knot used to join two lines of similar size. Also called a reef knot.

STARBOARD - The right side of a boat when looking forward.

STEM - The forward most part of the bow.

STERN - The after part of the boat.

STOW - To put an item in its proper place.

T

TIDE - The periodic rise and fall of water level in the oceans.

TILLER - A bar or handle for turning a boat's rudder or an outboard motor.

U

V

W

Y

YACHT - A pleasure vessel, a pleasure boat; in American usage the idea of size and luxury is conveyed, either sail or power.