

Glossary of Terms for Fishing Vessels

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Abaft	In the direction of the stern from whatever the object is being referred to eg. Abaft the mast means towards the stern of the vessel from the mast.
Aft	Towards rear or at the stern. Applied to wind it means wind blowing over the stern from 45° to either side of it.
Amidships	The area of a ship which is central both to fore and aft line as well as the athwart ships line
Antifouling	A specially prepared paint for coating the underwater area of a hull. By virtue of the toxins contained and the leaching properties marine life cannot attach themselves.
Apron	The length of the timber immediately behind the stern
Backsplice	Used to prevent the ends of a rope from unlaying when the rope is not indented to pass through the block. The stands are crowned and then tucked back down the rope.
Ballast	Any material carried either inside or outside a vessel to lower the centre of gravity and thus stabilise her.
Barge	Any self propelled vessel whether self propelled or dumb
Beam	The widest part of a vessel. Any athwart ships timber used to support the deck or so placed to withstand stresses on the vessel's side.

Beam knee	Any gussets like member that connects a beam to a flange. Origin a natural grown knee was used in timber construction. In modern materials like fiberglass ferrocement and steel the identity of the knee is the lost being an integral part of the whole.
Belting	A heavy rubbing strip of timber or steel placed at near the water line. The word is often erroneously used to describe any such rubbing strip regardless of where it is placed.
Bilge	The under water part of a ship hull where the bottom plating meets the sides
Bilge keel	Strengthening timber placed fore and aft externally along the time of bilge. It also protects when the vessel tasks the ground. Contemporarily it means relatively deep keel placed between the centerline and the bilge. An identical keel is placed to the opposite side and together they provide reasonably shallow draught without sacrificing lateral resistance in small yachts. They can be associated with a center keel but where there is no center keel they are usually referred to as twins keels.
Block	A pulley used to gain a mechanical advantage or to redirect a line from one point to another.
Ballard	Large vertical mooring post usually in pairs using the same bolt down base
Boom	Any spar used to extent the foot of a fore and aft sail
Bow	The extreme forward end of a ship. The stem area.
Braided rope	A method of making a rope where three or more strands are interwoven in diagonal pattern.

Bridge	The wing extensions on each side of a well house on large ships from where the captain may clearly see the fore and aft
Bulkhead	Any transverse or fore and aft portion in a ship.
Bulwark	A planked in fence around the edge of a deck to resist waves coming on deck to protect crew.
Buttock line	Lines used in boat design and build to represent the fore and aft vertical section equidistant from the keel.
Camber	The curve of a deck in large ships the standard camber is 1/50th of the vessel's beam.
Carvel built	A wooden vessel on which the planks run fore and aft and are laid against each other on edges to produce a smooth surface.
Caulk	To make a joint water tight by driving oakum or cotton between two planks in timber boat or to expand the overlying edges of steel plates by hammering the joint
Chine	The line where the sides of bottom and flat over bottomed craft meet.
Clinker built	A boat built with overlapping strakes (planks) which are clinched through. This method gives a hull homogeneity and provides a way in which dinghies of minimum size could be constructed using the natural materials. High speed craft gains a slight stabilising moment from the overlapping planks when constructed in this way.
Clove hitch	A useful fast knot consisting of two half hitches. This knot should not be used when excessive strain will be experienced as it readily binds and becomes impossible to free.

Coaming	The vertical fence around hatchery or cockpit. It prevents water slopping in and must be of a certain minimum height for survey standards
Cockpit	The sunken area small boat, either amidships or aft where the helmsman sit and from where all sheets are operated.
Copper sheathing	This copper plates attached to the bottom of a timber vessel which prevents fouling by
Dairt	Protecting steel fitting from which is suspended dinghy presents an ideal hoisting stowing method for the dinghy if placed over the stern.
Derrick	A boom used for hoisting and lowering heavy objects. The boom of any yacht can be used for this purpose.
Draft (Draught)	Depth of water at which a vessel floats. It is the amount she draws.
Dry dock	An excavated dock with watertight doors into which the ship is placed. The doors are closed behind it and water is pumped out leaving the ship dry and ready to work on.
Echo sounder	An electronic instrument, which emits a sound from a transducer, mounted on a bottom a boat and measures the time interval until the echo returns. A graduated scale converts such information into feet and fathoms. A graph recorder is attached.
Even keel	When keel is horizontal and draft it fore and aft.
Fathom	SIX FEET 1.8 meter

Fender	A specially made buffer to hang between two vessel or vessel and wharf when lying alongside. Heavy fenders should be used as modern lightweight types blow out of position and even upon to the deck under gusty conditions.
Ferrocement	The combination of steel work and cement mix used to build boats of the same name. The hull consists of 2-4 layers of hexagonal or square mesh one or more layers of steel rods then another 2-4 layers of mesh. The armature is bound tightly together with wire ties faired by panel heating then cemented.
Fore and aft	Lying along the same directions the length of the ship
Freeboard	Hull above water line height usually measured to deck line at lowest point.
Ground ripe	The roping at the bottom of the trawl net, lead line because of lead weight attached.
Helm	Steering apparatus controlling the rudder
keel	The backbone of any ship it lies fore and aft along the centerline of the bottom
keelson	An inner keel along the top of the floor and through bolted to the keel.
Knot	Nautical unit of the velocity used internationally regardless of national measurement system It is 6080 ft/h. because knot is a complete statement it is unnecessary and incorrect to state speed as knots per hour.

Lalien sail	A triangular sail with a long inclined whiff which is laced to a yard. Used extensively in eastern countries.
Lee	Referred to the side of the fishing vessel protected by wind.
Leeward	Directions in which the wind blows
Leeway	The sideways travel of vessel when affected by wind angle between the indented course and actual course after leeway is considered
Lignum vitae	Hard timber used for external shaft bearings.
Long line	A single fishing line with dozens or hundreds of hooks attached to short lines down its length. Most sophisticated lines are interconnected and suspended by radiobuoys which emits a signal to a master station aboard ships signifying that a fish is attached
Luff	Leading edge of fore and aft sails.
Multichine	A hull with two or more chines on each side.
Net tonnage	The measurement of a vessel derived by deducting space allowed for crew, engine room etc. From the gross cubic capacity of the vessel this ascertains the cargo carrying capacity
Otter board	Boards rigged in such a way that they sheer away from each other during the time of operation. The net is thus kept open as it drags along the bottom sea. Used for trawling.
Outrigger	The frame work extending outside a rowing boat to support the row locks

Overhang	Part of the vessel which projects beyond water line in the fore and aft.
Propeller	A multi bladed of fan used to propel a vessel.
Rabbit	A recess along a piece of timber to give a snug and flush landing to matting piece.
Rudder	Device used for steering
Sextant	A navigational instrument for measuring angles
Ship worm	A mollusk which destroys timber by eating cellulose
Skiff	A small light boat either decked or open and propelled by oars sail or out board motor
Slipway	A marine railway to haul boats out of water.
Starboard	Right hand side of a vessel looking forward
Stem	A timber at the bow into which the strakes fit and terminate
Stern	Rear of a boat
Transom	Lack of a hull
Wake	Disturbed water behind a vessel
Winch	A device used for hauling in ropes or chains. Three main types of winches are anchor winch, short winch and halyard winch.