



Glossary

A

Adverse (weather)

Weather conditions that are difficult or dangerous for boating, such as strong winds, heavy rain, or rough seas.

Anchor

A heavy device lowered to the seabed to hold a boat or ship in place.

B

Bailer

A container or device used to remove unwanted water from a boat.

Bilge Pump

A mechanical or manual pump used to remove water that collects in the lowest part of a boat (the bilge).

Bow

The front part of a boat or ship.

C

Cardinal Markers

Aid boaters in navigating away from larger spread dangers such as reefs, rocky areas. Inform which side they need to pass them.

North: Post black at top - yellow at bottom. Cones both point up. Continuous white flash. Stay to the North of marker

East: Post black at top and bottom - yellow in-between. Cones to top and to bottom. 3 white flashes. Stay to the east of marker

South: Post black at bottom - yellow at top. Cones both point down. 6 white flashes + 1 long white flash. Stay to the south of marker

West: Post black in the middle - yellow at both ends. Cones point into middle of post. 9 white flashes. Stay to the west of the marker

Chart

A specialised map used for navigating waterways, showing depths, hazards, and landmarks.

Coastal bar

A sand or sediment buildup at the mouth of a river or harbour that can create dangerous shallow water and breaking waves.

E

EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon)

A distress beacon that sends a signal to rescue services when activated in an emergency.

F

Flares

Emergency signals that produce bright light or smoke to attract attention during distress situations.

G

Gunwale

The top edge of a boat's side where the hull meets the deck.

H

Helm

The steering area of a boat or ship; also refers to the steering control itself.

Heightened risk

A situation where conditions (such as weather or sea state) make boating more dangerous than usual.

K

Knot

A unit of speed used at sea, equal to one nautical mile per hour.

1 knot

Exactly one nautical mile per hour (about 1.852 km/h).

L

Lanyard

Rope or line used to attach to items, ie bucket

Lifejacket

Garment worn to provide buoyancy in the water

M

Mayday

Marine radio call of DISTRESS. Require immediate assistance

Made fast to the shore

Secured or tied firmly to the land using ropes, anchors or moorings.

N

Nautical Mile

A unit of distance used in marine and air navigation, equal to 1.852 kilometres.

O

Open Sea

Deep ocean waters far from land, often exposed to stronger winds and larger waves.

P

Pan Pan

Marine radio call of an URGENT nature. Require assistance but not immediately

Personal Watercraft (Jetski)

A small, motorised water vehicle designed for one or a few riders, operated by standing or sitting.

R

Recreational Craft

Craft operated with a recreational marine licence.

S

Safe Speed

Speed that you are able to take control to avoid a collision or stop the vessel within an 'appropriate' distance.

Securite

Marine radio call of SAFETY. Such as weather, navigational issues. .

Starboard

The right-hand side of a boat when facing forward.

Stern

The back (rear) part of a boat'

Squall

A sudden, strong burst of wind often accompanied by rain or storms.

Swell

Long, rolling waves generated by distant weather systems, not local wind.

T

Transom

The flat surface forming the back of a boat where the engine is often mounted.

Trawler

A large fishing vessel designed to drag nets through the water to catch fish.

U

Underway

A vessel that is not anchored, made fast to the shore, or aground.

V

VHF Radio

A marine radio system used for short-range communication between boats and coastal stations, especially for safety and emergencies.