



Döhle Yachts

Managing Perfection



Glossary of Nautical Terms,
Abbreviations and Acronyms

Glossary of Nautical Terms, Abbreviations and Acronyms

This glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms has been compiled by Döhle Yachts. They are terms used in the yachting industry generally and with particular reference to those used in the superyacht sector.

There are separate sections for forecasting and meteorological terms, the names of winds, and signal flags.

This glossary is intended as an introductory guide for those seeking to enter the industry and as reference for those already employed within the industry.

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Döhle Yachts was founded over ten years ago as the large yacht services and support group of Döhle Private Clients Limited. We are part of one of the world's largest shipping companies, Peter Döhle Schiffahrts-KG, which employs over 4,800 seafarers on over 450 vessels, so we understand ships and the sea.

We now provide a comprehensive range of services to many of the best known, most valuable and admired yachts in the world.

In the years that Döhle Yachts has been operating we have earned a reputation for providing the highest quality service, support and solutions to the superyacht industry.

Our mission from the start was to be a trusted partner supporting those involved in owning, operating, crewing and managing superyachts, leaving the Captain to run the vessel without the distraction of onerous administration and time consuming paperwork. The result is that owners and their guests can enjoy the yacht to the fullest extent in the certain knowledge that a highly valuable asset is managed in an efficient, cost effective and discrete manner.

We believe that we have succeeded in our mission as our compliance, technical and administrative personnel have received praise, not only from those involved with the day-to-day running of yachts, but also from Flag States, Captains and clients.

Abaft	Towards the stern.
Abeam	At right angles to the keel of the vessel.
About	Change the course of a vessel by tacking.
Active Route	Route used to determine navigational information such as cross track error, estimated time of arrivals, distance to next waypoint.
Actual Depth	The true depth of water as opposed to a predicted depth. Tidal height from table added to the charted depth.
Aft	Towards stern of the vessel.
AFC (Automatic Frequency Control)	Radar tuning.
AFFF (Aqueous Film Forming Foam)	For firefighting.
Aground	Touching or fast on the bottom.
Ahead	In a forward direction.
AIS (Automatic Identification System)	Automatic near-shore tracking system required on vessels of more than 300GT.
AIS GPS Antenna Offset	Same as the GPS Antenna Offset, except the GPS is wired into the AIS system and the AIS is used as the positioning device via the pilot plug.
Alee	Away from the direction of the wind (opposite of Windward).
Aloft	Above the deck.
Amidships	In or towards the centre of the vessel.
Anemometer	Instrument to measure wind speed.
Anchor Buoy	A buoy secured by a line to an anchor to indicate position of anchor on bottom.
APA (Advance Provisioning Allowance)	A deposit paid by a charterer to cover expenses not included in a charter fee, such as fuel, food, beverages, mooring fees, visa fees, harbour fees, park fees and taxes.
ARPA (Automatic Radar Plotting Aid)	A marine radar with Automatic Radar Plotting Aid capability can create tracks using radar contacts. The system can calculate the tracked object's course, speed and closest point of approach (CPA), thereby knowing if there is a danger of collision with the other ship or landmass.
Apparent Wind	The direction and speed of the wind felt by the crew – combination of the true wind and that created by the motion of the vessel.
Astern	Towards the back of the vessel, also: to move astern... go backwards.
Astronomical Twilight	Astronomical twilight is defined to begin in the morning, and to end in the evening when the centre of the Sun is geometrically 18 degrees below the horizon. From the end of astronomical twilight in the evening to the beginning of astronomical twilight in the morning, the sky (away from urban light pollution) is dark enough for all astronomical observations.

Athwartships	From side to side of the centreline of the vessel.
Automatic Pilot	An instrument that controls automatically a vessel's steering gear to enable her to follow a pre-determined track through the water.
AVIT (Audio Visual and Information Technology Engineer)	Responsible for maintaining all aspects of entertainment systems, computer/server systems and communications.
Aweigh	The position of the anchor as it is raised.
Azimuth	The horizontal angular distance from a reference position to a celestial body, usually measured clockwise in degrees from due south.
Azimuth Compass	An instrument employed for ascertaining position of the sun with respect to magnetic north. The azimuth of an object is its bearing from the observer measured as an angle clockwise from true north.
BA	Breathing Apparatus
Backstay	A wire support for the mast – usually running from the head of the mast to the stern.
BACO	BA Control Officer.
Ballast	Liquid or solid weight added to the vessel to increase stability.
Bareboat Charter	Vessel contract where charterers take over all responsibility for the operation of the vessel and expenses for a certain period of time, and appoints his own master and crew and pays all running expenses.
Barometer	Instrument for measuring atmospheric pressure.
Barometric Gradient	The rate at which atmospheric pressure rises or falls.
Barque	Sailing vessel with at least three masts.
Batten Down	To secure hatches and loose objects.
BCR (Bow Cross Range)	Collision avoidance - the safe distance at which you can cross in front of the other ship.
BCT	Bow Crossing Time
Beam	Maximum breadth of a vessel.
Beam Reach	Sailing with the wind coming across the boat's beam.
Beam Sea	Sea striking a vessel at right angles to the keel.
Beam Wind	A wind at right angles to a vessel's course.
Bear Away	Alter course away from the direction of the wind.
Bearing	The direction of an object from an observer, measured in degrees. A bearing can be measured relative to true north or magnetic north. Bearings can also be measured relative to the heading of the boat, called a relative bearing.

Beat	Sailing against the wind by tacking – sailing a zigzag course towards the wind.
Beaufort Scale	The scale describing wind force in which winds are graded by the effect of their force. Devised by Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort in 1808.
Belay	To make fast to a bollard or cleat.
Below	Beneath the deck.
Bilge	Lowest interior part of a vessel's hull.
Bight	The part of a rope or line between the end and the standing point on which the knot is formed.
BIMCO	Baltic and International Maritime Council.
Binnacle	Support for the compass.
Bitter end	The last part of a rope or chain.
BLEVE	Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapour Explosion
Block	Pulley made of wood, metal or other material.
Boat Hook	A shaft with a fitting at one end shaped to facilitate use of putting a line over a piling, or recovering an object overboard, or for fending off.
Boatswain	See Bosun.
Bobstay	Wire stay underneath the bowsprit.
Boom	Spar that supports the foot of the sail.
Boom Vang	Block and tackle or hydraulic ram that controls the angle of the boom.
Bosun	One step up from a Deckhand, also can be known as Lead Deckhand, Senior Deckhand.
Bow	Forward end of the vessel.
Bow Line	The line from the vessels bow to shore when docked.
Bowline	Knot used to form a temporary loop in a line.
Bow Sprit	Spar extending forward from the bow of a sailing yacht.
Bow Thrusters	A propeller at the lower sea-covered part of the bow of the ship, which turns at right angles to the fore-and-aft line and thus provides transverse thrust as a manoeuvring aid.
Bright Work	Polished metal and/or varnished woodwork.
Broach	Turn sideways to wind.
Broad Reach	The point of sailing between a beam reach and a run when the wind blows over the quarter.
Broker/Brokerage	Companies/agents which sell yachts.
BST	British Summer Time.
BTW	Bearing to Waypoint
Bulkhead	Vertical dividing partition inside the vessel – for structural, fire retardant, water containment of space division.
Bulwark	Vertical extension above deck level to keep water out.
Bunker	Fuel tank, or to take on fuel.

Buoy	A floating object marking the navigable limits of channels, sunken dangers, isolated rocks, telegraph cables etc.
Burdened Vessel	The vessel which according to the “rules-of-the-road” must give way to the Privileged vessel – also known as “Give way”.
Burgee	A flag bearing the colours or emblem of a sailing club, typically triangular.
Cable	One tenth of a nautical mile – 185.2 metres.
Cabotage	The carriage of goods or passengers for remuneration taken at one point and discharged at another point within the territory of the same country.
Cardinal Marks	Buoyage marks indicating the direction of safe water with reference to the cardinal points.
Cardinal Points	The four main points of the compass, North, East, South and West.
Captain	Person ultimately in charge of the vessel. Sometimes referred to as “The Master”.
Capstan	Winch used to wind in anchor and tighten lines.
Cast Off	To let go.
Catamaran	Twin hulled vessel.
Celestial Navigation	A method of navigating by referring to the stars or other objects in the sky.
Celestial Sphere	An imaginary sphere with the earth at its centre, on whose surface the stars, planets and other heavenly bodies appear to be situated.
CET	Central European Time.
Chafing Gear	Cloth or tubing wrapping used to protect a line from chaffing.
Chain Plate	Fitting used to attach stays to hull.
Chandler	Person or company who deals in the selling of provisions and equipment.
Charter Company/Broker	Companies/agents which promote and manage yachts for charter bookings on behalf of the owner.
Chart Datum	Permanently established surface from which soundings or tide heights are referenced; usually low water.
Chart Object	Objects are the basic pieces of data and/or information that, when brought together, make a chart. A chart object is embedded into the chart and can be, for example, a submarine cable, light, landmark or contour line.
Chart Projection	A way to represent the spherical earth on a flat chart. The most common chart projection in marine navigation is Mercator.
Chart Quilting	A technique used to combine electronic charts to form larger charts.

Chart Scale	On a chart, scale indicates a graduated range of values forming a standard system for measuring distances on the chart.
Chronometer	A very accurate clock or watch that is used for determining a vessels longitude. Also used for timing between waypoints.
Classification Societies	(Sometimes just referred to as "Class") are non-governmental organisations in the shipping industry. They establish and maintain standards for the classification of vessels, including yachts, and supervise construction according to these standards. They also carry out surveys of vessels to ensure compliance to these standards.
Chef	In addition to food preparation and cooking the chef will be expected to arrange for the selection and purchase of all provisions.
Chief Engineer	The Chief Engineer is in charge of the engineering department and is responsible for its safe and efficient operation. He/she reports directly to the Captain and manages the Engineers, Electricians and ETOs.
Chock	Fitting through which anchor or mooring lines are led.
Cleat	Fitting to which lines are made fast.
Clew	The aft most corner of a triangular sail. On a mainsail the outhaul is attached to the clew. On Genoa's the sheets are attached to the clew.
Close-hauled	A vessel beating as close to the wind direction as possible.
CMG (Course Made Good)	The course over the ground. The direction in which the vessel is actually travelling as opposed to the direction in which it is pointing.
COFR (Certificate of Financial Responsibility)	Applies to vessel operators who have demonstrated their ability to pay for clean-up and damage costs as required by the Oil Pollution Act.
Companionway	A stairway or ladder leading from one deck to another.
Compass Course	The course to steer which has been corrected for current, variation, and deviation.
Close Hauled	Sailing as close to the wind as possible with the sheets hauled aft and all sails drawing.
Close Reaching	Sailing with the wind between close hauled and reaching.
Clove Hitch	A knot for temporarily fastening a line to a spar or piling.
Coaming	A vertical extension above deck to prevent water entering the cockpit.
COG (Course Over Ground)	The actual path of a vessel with respect of the seabed, measured in degrees.
Coil	To lay a line, or hose, down in circular turns.

COLREGS (Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea)	Published by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Captains and Deck Watchkeeping Officers must know the rules and be aware of the correct action to take in the event of a close encounter.
Come About	To change course so as to be sailing at the same angle but with the wind on the other side.
Companionway	Entrance to the cabins, usually including the steps down to the cabin.
Compass	Device used in navigation that always points to magnetic north.
Compass Rose	A graphical display, usually printed on Charts, used for direction measurement. It consists of two or three concentric circles marked in degrees (and fractions of degrees). The outer circle is aligned with 0° pointing to true north. The compass rose displays the magnetic declination for the position at its centre.
Complement	The number of officers and crew employed upon a vessel for its safe navigation and operation.
Conning Position	Position on the bridge with a commanding view of the ship and its position used by navigators when manoeuvring and controlling the ship.
COSWP (Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen)	The Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen provides guidance on improving health and safety on board vessels and articulates how statutory obligations should be fulfilled. Intended primarily for merchant seamen of UK registered vessels, other than fishing and pleasure craft. Published by the MCA.
CPA (Closest Point of Approach)	The true bearing and distance of the closest approach of one vessel to another.
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
Cross Bearing	Using LOPs from several navigational aids or marks to obtain a position fix.
CSO (Company Security Officer) Required for ISPS.	The person ensuring that a ship security assessment is carried out; that a ship security plan is developed, submitted for approval, and thereafter implemented and maintained; and who liaises with port security officers and the ship (on board) security officer.
CTS	Course to Steer.
Cunningham	Control that adjusts the position of the draft in a sail by changing the tension on a sail's luff.
Cutter	Single masted fore-and-aft vessel having an inner staysail and outer jib.
Datum Shift	The quantified difference between two horizontal Chart Datum systems.
Davits	Small cranes used to lower or raise boats and items from deck to water level.
Day Work	Part time work on a vessel – usually involves cleaning, sanding, painting, varnishing etc.
Dead Ahead	Directly ahead.

Dead Astern	Directly Aft
Dead Reckoning	Also known as Deduced Reckoning. Method of estimating the position of a vessel without astronomical observations by applying previously determined position, course and distance travelled.
Deckhand	This is the basic entry level for almost all who want to start in the superyacht industry, certainly for those who wish to progress up the ladder to become a Captain.
Deckhead	Interior ceiling – underside of overhead deck.
Deck/Stew	Crewmember who combines the duties of a Steward/ess and Deckhand – usually on smaller vessels.
Declination	The angular distance to a point on the celestial sphere measured north and south from the celestial equator along the hour circle.
Depth Sounder	Electronic depth-finding instrument, measuring the time a sound wave takes to go from the vessel to the bottom and return, then displaying the result in feet, fathoms, or metres.
Deviation	Difference between magnetic and compass bearing... the compass errors caused by metallic or magnetic objects on board the vessel.
dGPS (Differential GPS)	Enhancement to Global Positioning System that provides improved location accuracy, from the 15-metre nominal GPS accuracy to about 10 cm in case of the best implementations.
Dinghy	A small boat, often carried or towed for use as a vessel's boat by a larger vessel. Utility dinghies are usually rowboats or have an outboard motor, but some are rigged for sailing.
Dip	A correction to be applied to sextant attitudes to compensate for height of eye above sea level.
Displacement	The weight of water displaced by a vessel, thus a vessel's weight.
Dodger	A screen erected to protect the cockpit of a sailing yacht from spray – usually fabric.
Doldrums	The Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (or ITCZ) a belt of very still air between 5 degrees north and 5 degrees south of the equator. See Horse Latitudes/ITCZ.
DOP (Dilution of Precision)	See GDOP.
Downhaul	Line used to pull a spar – such as a spinnaker pole or a sail.
DPA (Designated Person Ashore)	Required for ISM to provide a link between the yacht's owner and those on board at the highest level of management. The DPA monitors the safety and pollution-prevention aspects of the yacht's operation and ensures adequate resources and shore support are supplied. The IMO sets minimum education standards for this position.
DR (Dead Reckoning)	The process used to determine (and plot) the current position of a vessel, using the last known position, course and speed.

DRABC (Danger? Response? Airway? Breathing? Compressions?)	CPR Mnemonic.
Draft	Depth of water a vessel draws.
Drift	The speed in knots of the effect of current or tide on a vessel's progress.
Drying Height	The height above chart datum, on a chart, of any areas which are uncovered at low water.
DRBL (Dynamic Range Bearing Line)	A tool to display the range and bearing to a fixed point (light house, rock, etc.), which updates as the vessel moves.
DSC (Digital Selective Calling)	A standard for sending pre-defined digital messages via the medium frequency (MF), high frequency (HF) and very high frequency (VHF) maritime radio systems. It is a core part of the Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS).
DTW	Distance to Waypoint.
Dunnage	Packing material for the protection of cargo.
Duration of Tide	The time between high and low water, normally just over 6 hours.
Ebb	Receding current.
EBL (Electronic Bearing Line)	An electronic means of measuring the radar bearing of a target with a rotating radial line on the radar screen.
ECDIS (Electronic Chart Display Information System)	Alternative to paper charts. Required by IMO and SOLAS beginning in mid-2012. Vector charts are the chart databases for ECDIS.
EGNOS (European Geo-stationary Navigation Overlay System)	The first pan-European satellite navigation system. It augments the US GPS satellite navigation system and makes it suitable for safety critical applications such as flying aircraft or navigating ships through narrow channels.
EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency)	The Agency provides technical assistance and support to the European Commission and member States in the development and implementation of EU legislation on maritime safety, pollution by ships and maritime security.
ENG1	MCA approved medical certificate. Required for all crew on commercial superyachts.
Engineer	The Engineer is in charge of the engineering department and is responsible for its safe and efficient operation reporting to the Captain - on larger yachts reports to the Chief Engineer.
Ensign	Principal flag or banner flown by a vessel to indicate her nationality.
ENT	Evening Nautical Twilight.
EP (Estimated Position)	Position which has been adjusted to allow for Set and Drift.

EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon)	Transmits the device's position at 406MHz to satellites for rescue purposes. They are part of the GMDSS protocol.
ERT	Emergency Response Team.
ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival.
ETO (Electronic Technical Officer)	ETOs and/or Electricians are generally employed on larger superyachts where the Engineering department comprises around 4 or 5 crew.
Eye of the Wind	Direction from which the true wind is blowing.
Eye Splice	A closed loop or eye at the end a line, rope, cable etc. It is made by unravelling its end and joining it to itself by intertwining it into the lay of the line.
Fair Lead	Opening used to run lines through to prevent chaffing.
Falling off	Turn away from the direction of the wind.
Fathom	Six feet.
Fender	bumper/cushion used to keep vessels banging together in port or when moored.
Fid	Tool used by riggers to splice lines.
Figure-of-Eight Knot	A knot in the form of the figure eight. Placed at the end of a line to prevent the line from passing through a block or grommet.
First Point of Aries	A point on the celestial sphere which is used as a reference point, it is in fact where the 'Ecliptic' and the Celestial Equator cross.
First/Second Officer	Most yachts have a First Officer, the larger yachts employ a Second and indeed on very large yachts a Third Officer. The First Officer is sometime referred to as the Chief Officer or Chief Mate.
Fitting-out	The period after a vessel is launched during which all the remaining construction of the ship is completed and she is readied for sea trials and delivery to her owners.
Fix	A position verified by reference to bearings take off a known point such as a conspicuous land mark.
Flags	See Maritime Signal Flags guide at the end of this glossary.
Flag Hoist	A number of signal flags strung together to convey a message. See Maritime Signals Flags at the end of this glossary.
Flag State	The sovereign territory where a vessel is registered. Each state has a designation authority that inspects and certifies its vessels. For example, US-flagged yachts are under control of the United States Coast Guard.
Flank Speed	The maximum speed of a vessel.
Flood	An incoming current/tide.

Flotsam	Floating debris resulting from a shipwreck.
Fluke	The palm of an anchor.
Flush Deck	An upper deck of a vessel that extends unbroken from stem to stern.
Forecastle	Forward or part of the upper deck. Pronounced; Fo'c'sle.
Following Sea	Sea that comes from astern.
Foot	Bottom edge of a sail.
Fore	At or towards the vessel's bow.
Fore and Aft	In a line parallel to the vessel's keel.
Foremast	Vertical spar that is most forward.
Forepeak	Compartment farthest forward in the bow of the boat. Often used in the bow of a vessel. Mostly used for stowage and can be used for crew accommodation.
Foresail	Sail set immediately before the mast.
Forestay	Wire or rod support for the mast running from the bow sprit or foredeck to a point on or near the top of the mast.
Forward	Towards the bow of the vessel.
Fouled	Equipment that is jammed or entangled.
Freeboard	Distance between deck and waterline.
Furling	Stowing a sail on the boom by folding and then lashing with ties. Also known as Flaking.
FTC (Fast Time Constant)	Circuit in radar for rain clutter.
Gaff	Free swinging spar attached to the top edge of a sail.
Galley	Kitchen.
Gangway	The area at the vessels side where people embark or disembark.
Genoa	A large Staysail.
GBAS (Ground Based Augmentation System)	A system that provides differential corrections and integrity monitoring of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS). GBAS provides navigation and precision approach service in the vicinity of the host airport (approximately a 23 nautical mile radius), broadcasting its differential correction message via a very high frequency (VHF) radio data link from a ground-based transmitter. i.e.: dGPS.
GDOP (Geometric Dilution of Position)	A term used in satellite navigation and geomatics engineering (the discipline of gathering, storing, processing, and delivering geographic information) to specify the additional multiplicative effect of navigation satellite geometry on positional measurement precision. Also known as DOP.
Geographical Position	In celestial navigation it is the point on the earth's surface directly beneath the Zenith.

Give Way Vessel	The vessel which must yield in meeting, crossing or overtaking situations.
GM (Metacentric Height)	Measurement of the initial static stability of a floating body. It is calculated as the distance between the centre of gravity of a ship and its metacentre.
GMDSS (Global Marine Distress and Safety System)	A radio-based communications protocol mandated by IMO to increase safety and improve rescue operations. Equipment requirements are based on area of operation rather than tonnage. It also mandates a redundant means of signalling distress. Vessels under 300GT are exempt. A GMDSS operator license is required.
GMT (Greenwich Mean Time)	See UT.
GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System)	Satellite system that is used to pinpoint the geographic location of a user's receiver anywhere in the world.
Going About	Action of changing sailing vessels course when the wind is ahead, by steering the vessel through the wind.
Gooseneck	Mechanical joint that connects the boom to the mast.
Goosewing	To set the foresail and mainsail on opposite sides when running before the wind. Also Gullwing.
Grab Rails	Handhold fittings mounted on cabin tops and sides for safety when moving about the vessel.
Greenwich Meridian	The Prime Meridian it is the 0° longitude line, it is referred to as the Greenwich Meridian because it passes through the Royal Observatory at Greenwich in the UK.
Ground Tackle	Anchor and its associated gear.
GPS (Global Positioning System)	Satellite system that provides location and time information in all weather conditions.
GRP	Glass Reinforced Plastic e.g. fibreglass.
GRT	See GT.
GT (Gross Tons)	Generally expressed as 'Gross Registered Tons' (GRT) before 1994, it is a function of the cubic volume of all enclosed spaces from keel to funnel expressed in tons, with 100 cubic feet equalling a ton. It is a capacity index for determining manning, safety and other requirements governed by IMO. GT is not the ship's displacement.
Guardrail	Wire between the pulpit and the pushpit running through or joined to the stanchions.
Gullwing	See Goosewing.
Gunwale	Upper edge of the side of a vessel.
Guy	Line used to control the end of a spar.
Gybe	Alter course with the wind astern, so that the stern of the vessel goes through the wind and the boom passes from one side to the other. Sometimes spelled Jibe.

Gyrocompass	A non-magnetic compass which finds true north by using a fast spinning wheel and friction forces in order to exploit the rotation of the earth.
Halyard	Rope or wire attached to the head of a sail for hoisting or lowering.
Hanks	Clips for securing a foresail to a stay.
Hard Aground	A vessel which has gone aground and is incapable of re-floating under her own power.
Hatch	An opening, usually rectangular, in a vessel providing access into the next compartment.
Hauling Wind	Pointing the vessel towards the direction of the wind.
Hawser	Large strong rope or cable used for towing purposes and for securing or mooring vessels.
Heading	The direction in which a vessel is pointed at any given moment. Heading may be relative to true north or magnetic north.
Headway	The forward motion of a vessel.
Heads	Foremost part of the vessel and/or toilets.
Headsails	Any sail forward of the foremast.
Headstay	A forward stay.
Heave-to	A way of slowing a vessels forward progress, as well as fixing the helm and sail positions so that the boat does not actively have to be steered. A vessel is "Hove-to" when the foresail is backed – on the opposite to the mainsail – as close to the wind as possible.
Height of Eye	The height of a sextant user's eye above sea level, needed to add as a correction to a site reduction.
Heel	A vessel's angle to horizontal – to lean over to one side.
Helm	Steering system – wheel.
Helmsman	Person who is steering the vessel.
HELP (Heat Escape Lessening Position)	A way to position oneself to reduce heat loss in cold water.
Horse Latitudes	See Doldrums and ITCZ.
Hitch	Knot used to secure a rope or other object or rope – or to form a loop or a noose in a rope.
Horizon	The apparent line, for an observer where the earth's surface and the sky meet.
Horizon Glass/ Horizon Mirror	Glass mirror on a sextant it allows the observer to view the horizon at the same time as a reflection of whatever is showing in the Index Mirror.
Hull	Body of the vessel.
IALA	International Association of Lighthouse Authorities

ICLL (International Convention on Load Lines)	The development of the International Convention on Load Lines can be traced by to the United Kingdom in the 1870s as an attempt to prevent merchant ships from being overloaded. The present International Convention on Load Lines was drawn up in 1966 and adopted by the International Maritime Organisation. The regulations take into account the potential hazards present in different zones and different seasons and ensures, amongst others, the design of a robust hull that can cope with adverse sea states, the weathertight and watertight integrity of the vessel, adequate drainage of any water on deck,
ICS (International Code of Signals)	An international system of signals and codes for use by vessels to communicate important messages regarding safety of navigation and related matters. Signals can be sent by flaghoist, signal lamp (“blinker”), flag semaphore, radiotelegraphy, and radiotelephony. The International Code is the most recent evolution of a wide variety of maritime flag signalling systems. Sometimes referred to as Interco. See flags at the end of this glossary.
Ehic (European Health Insurance Card)	EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. The EHIC allows the holder to get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover the holder for treatment that is needed to allow the holder to continue a stay until the planned return. It also covers the holder for treatment of pre-existing medical conditions and for routine maternity care, as long as you’re not going abroad to give birth. The EHIC is valid in all European Economic Area (EEA) countries, including Switzerland.
ILO (International Labour Organisation)	The organisation which drafted and agreed the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC)
IMO (International Maritime Organisation)	The United Nations agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships.
Index Mirror	The mirror at the apex of a sextant frame which pivots with the index arm.
International Date Line	Imaginary line in the Pacific Ocean at which the date changes.
Interpolation Tables	Almanac tables to estimate value between the tabulated results.
IRPCS (International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea)	See COLREGS.
Isolated Danger Mark	Buoyage marks indicating a hazard, a such as a wreck directly below the mark.
ISM (International Safety Management)	A SOLAS requirement adopted by all Flag States for all yachts in commercial service. It has 13 points for operation of the yacht and contingency plans for emergencies.

ISPS (International Ship and Port Facility Security)	Establishes protocols for risk assessment and security threats in ports and mandates formal security plans by both the Port State and visitors to the Port State.
ITCZ (Intertropical Convergence Zone)	The area encircling the earth near the equator where the northeast and southeast trade winds come together. Often known as the “Doldrums”.
Jacobs Ladder	A rope ladder.
Jetsam	Objects that have been thrown overboard from a vessel.
Jib	Foresail, set before the Staysail.
Jib Lead	Block or Fairlead through which the jib sheet passes.
Jib Sheet	Line that controls the jib.
Keel	The principal structural member of a vessel, running lengthwise along the centre line from bow to stern, to which the frames are attached.
Ketch	Sailing vessel with two masts.
Kicking Strap	A rope and tackle that exerts a downward pull on the boom to help adjust the shape of the Mainsail.
Knot	A unit of speed equal to one nautical mile (1.852 km) per hour, approximately 1.151 mph. See Nautical Mile.
Landfall	The approach to or sighting of land after an ocean passage.
Lashing	A rope used for securing any movable object in place.
Lateral Marks	Buoyage indicating the edge of a safe water channel.
Latitude	The distance north or south of the equator measured in degrees.
Lazarrete	Storage locker, usually towards stern of vessel.
Lazy Jack	Light lines from the topping lift to the Boom.
Lead	Reference to the direction in which a line goes.
Lead (or Senior) Deckhand	This role, one step up from a Deckhand, is known by several titles: Lead Deckhand, Senior Deckhand or Bosun.
Lee/Leeward	The side sheltered from the wind.
Leech	Back edge of a sail.
Leeway	The amount of drift motion to leeward of an object floating in the water caused by the component of the wind vector that is perpendicular to the object’s forward motion.
Leg	A straight line between two Waypoints.
Line(s)	Ropes or cordage.
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas.
LOA	Length Overall.

Log	A record of the vessels course and/or operation
Longitude	The distance in degrees east or west of the Greenwich meridian.
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas.
Log Book	Book in which the vessel's navigation and progress are recorded.
Longevity	Term used by recruitment agencies describing a crewmember who has proven long-term commitment to a job – or seeks a long-term position.
LOP (Line of Position)	May be derived from celestial observations or observation of terrestrial objects whose location is known.
LORAN-C (Long Range Navigation)	A hyperbolic radio navigation system which allows a receiver to determine its position by listening to low frequency radio signals transmitted by fixed land-based radio beacons. Originally developed by the United States during World War II.
LRIT (Long Range Identification and Tracking)	IMO requires all passenger ships and all cargo ships on international voyages to report their positions to their flag administration at least four times a day. This is generally done automatically via satellite service providers.
Lubber's Line	A mark or line on a compass indicating the direction forward parallel to the keel.
Luff	Forward edge of a sail. The flapping edge of a sail caused by the vessel heading too close to the wind – or because the sail is not trimmed tight enough.
Luffing	Altering course toward the wind.
Luxury Yacht	Another term for a Superyacht.
LY3 (Large Yacht Code 3)	LY3 sets safety and pollution prevention standards appropriate for pleasure or sport yachts over 24m or 150GT in commercial use and carrying no more than 12 passengers. It establishes an upper limit for governance by this code at 3,000GT and easier parameters for short-range yachts (within 60 miles of the coast).
Magnetic Bearing	An absolute bearing using magnetic north.
Magnetic Compass	Instrument used for navigation which aligns with the earth's magnetic field thus indicating the direction of magnetic north.
Magnetic Declination or Variation	The angle between magnetic north and true north. Variation is considered positive east of true north and negative when west.
Magnetic Deviation	The amount by which a ship's magnetic compass needle points to one side or the other of magnetic north.

Magnetic North	The direction towards the magnetic north pole.
Main Mast	Tallest mast of the vessel.
Main Sheet	Line that controls the main boom.
Make Fast	Secure a line.
Making Way	When a vessel is moving under its own power.
Marlin Spike	Tool for opening the strands of a rope when splicing.
Mast Step	Fitting into which the base of a mast is placed.
Mainsail	Sail set behind the Mainmast.
Mark	Sea marks are used to indicate channels, dangerous rocks or shoals, mooring positions, areas of speed limits, traffic separation schemes, submerged shipwrecks, and for a variety of other navigational purposes.
MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships)	This not only covers oil spills but also pollution from chemicals, garbage and sewage.
Master	Another term for the Captain.
Mate	See OOW.
MCA (Maritime and Coastguard Agency)	Implements the UK government's maritime safety policy in the UK and among its Red Ensign partners to prevent the loss of life on the coast and at sea.
Megayacht	A very large superyacht.
Mercator Projection	A cylindrical map projection presented by the Flemish geographer and cartographer Gerardus Mercator in 1569. It became the standard map projection for nautical purposes because of its ability to represent lines of constant course, known as rhumb lines or loxodromes, as straight segments which conserve the angles with the meridians.
Meridian	Line of longitude, the imaginary great circles on the surface of the earth which converge at the poles and have their centre at the centre of the earth.
MES (Marine Escape System)	e.g. Shute into life raft.
MGM (Marine Guidance Note)	Issued by MCA.
Midships	Equidistant from bow to stern.
MIN (Marine Information Note)	Issued by MCA, intended for more limited audience than MGMS.
Mixology	Experience in mixing cocktails.
Mizzen	Fore and aft sail flown from the Mizzen Mast.
Mizzen Mast	The third mast, or the mast immediately aft of the main-mast.
MLC (Maritime Labour Convention)	Establishes UN rules concerning the safety and well-being of seafarers, including yacht crew.

MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identity)	A series of nine digits which are sent in digital form over a radio frequency channel in order to uniquely identify ship stations, ship earth stations, coast stations, coast earth stations, and group calls.
M-Notices	See; MGM, MIN and MSN.
MOB	Man Overboard!
MY	Motor Yacht.
MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)	Agreements signed to Port State Control organisations.
MRCC (Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre)	A Maritime Rescue Sub-Centre or MRSC is a special type of Rescue Co-ordination Centre dedicated exclusively to organizing search and rescue in a maritime environment. A MRSC usually is subservient to a RCC and is used to take the workload for a particular geographic area within the SRR: "search and rescue region of responsibility".
MSN (Merchant Shipping Notice)	These convey mandatory information that must be complied with under UK legislation.
Muster List	Notice on board detailing tasks in case of emergency.
Muster Station	Place to assemble in emergency.
MV	Motor Vessel.
Nautical Almanac	Publication containing tide tables, astronomical ephemerals etc.
Nautical Mile	One minute of latitude - 1852 metres. See Knot.
Nautical Twilight	During nautical twilight, the horizon is clearly visible, but artificial lighting must be used to see terrestrial objects clearly. Nautical twilight is defined to begin in the morning, and to end in the evening, when the centre of the sun is geometrically 12 degrees below the horizon. In general, nautical twilight ends when navigation via the horizon at sea is no longer possible.
NM	Nautical Mile.
NAVSTARS (Navigation Satellites with Time And Ranging)	USA GPS.
Neap Tides (Neaps)	Lowest tides in the tidal range.
Net Tonnage	The number of tons of cargo which a vessel can carry when loaded in salt water to her summer freeboard marks.
NIR (New Inspection Regime)	See THETIS
NOA (Notice of Arrival) / NOD (Notice of Departure)	Electronic advance notice to Port States of arrival of ships from foreign ports. Typically applies to vessels over 300GT or recreational vessels over 45m. Each country establishes its own NOA and NOD.
NOx (Nitrous Oxide)	Amounts of this exhaust gas are regulated by MARPOL Annex VI, as it creates acid rain. Emission standards apply to engines greater than 130kW. It also establishes Emission Control Areas with stricter guidelines. The Baltic and North Seas were the first such control areas, with North America and the US Caribbean phasing in from 2010 to 2014.

NRT	Net Registered Tons.
NTVRP (Non Tank Vessel Response Plan)	For vessels operating in US waters of 400GT or larger. This is a written plan to reduce risk and mitigate damage for an oil spill. Similar to MARPOL regulations for Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (SOPEP).
NUC	Not Under Command.
OOW (Officer of the Watch)	This is generally considered to be the next step after Lead Deckhand, to get to this position you will likely have 4-5 years' experience on board a superyacht. Can be known as the Mate.
OSC (On-Scene Co-ordinator)	US term: Federal OSCs are the federal officials pre-designated by United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Coast Guard to coordinate response resources.
Outhaul	Control line that pulls the mainsail clew to the end of the boom, tightening the foot of the sail.
Painter	The bow line of a tender or dingy is towed or made fast.
Parallax	Apparent differences in the positions of objects viewed along different lines of sight.
Passage Plan (PYC) Passenger Yacht Code	Written plan of a proposed voyage. The Code of Practice applies to pleasure yachts of any size, in private use or engaged in trade, which carry more than 12 but not more than 36 passengers and which do not carry cargo. Introduced in 2010 by the Red Ensign Group.
Passarelle	Walkway ashore, gangway.
Payout	To feed a line over the side of a vessel.
Pilotage Plan	Navigation plan for a passage.
Pinch	Sailing too close to the wind so that the sails are not properly filled and the vessel losses way.
P&I – Protection and Indemnity Insurance	A form of international maritime insurance provided by a P&I Club, a mutual insurance association that provides risk pooling, information and representation for its members, typically ship-owners, ship-operators or demise charterers.
Planing	A vessel is planing when it is effectively moving over the top of the water rather than through it.
Port	Left side of the vessel.
Porthole	An opening in a ship's side normally round for admitting light and air.
Port Tack	When a vessel sails with the main boom to starboard and wind hits the port side first.
Port State	The sovereign territory a vessel is visiting.

Port State Control	Control via inspection of a foreign-flagged vessel voluntarily docked in another sovereign state's waters. When Flag States fail to remove substandard vessels from commerce, Port State Control can, enforcing rules adopted by the IMO. Inspections for compliance with safety and environmental standards are carried out by a Port State Control Officer (PSCO) who must be able to communicate with the crew in English.
Position Line	See LOP.
PPI (Plan Position Indicator)	The most common type of radar display.
Privileged Vessel	A vessel which has right of way.
PSCO (Port State Control Officer)	Carries out Port State control inspections in accordance with the Paris MoU and/or by the maritime authority of the port state and acts under its responsibility.
Pulpit	Metal framework at the bow or stern providing safety railing and serves as an attachment for lifelines.
Pushpit	Pulpit located at the stern.
Purser	This is a role that is normally required on the larger yachts. Required experience includes; accountancy skills, administration, personnel management, and crew payroll.
Quarter	Sides of the vessel aft of Midships.
Quarter Deck	A raised deck behind the main mast of a sailing vessel.
Quarterming Sea	Sea coming on the vessel's quarter.
Rake	Masts inclination from vertical – usually slightly towards Aft.
Range	Distance at which a light or mark can be seen from sea level. Also the difference between the height of low water and high water.
Range Markers	Marks or lights which when in line indicate a safe channel. Also known as Transit Markers.
RCC (Rescue Co-ordination Centre)	A primary search and rescue facility in a country that is staffed by supervisory personnel and equipped for co-ordinating and controlling search and rescue operations.
Reacher	High-clewed Genoa used when reaching in heavy winds.
Reaching	Sailing with the wind on the beam.
Ready About	Order to prepare for coming about.
Relative Bearing	A bearing relative to the direction of the vessel.
Reefing	Reducing sail area.
Reef Knot	Knot used to join two lines. Also known as a Square Knot.
Reef Points	Horizontal line of light lines on a sail. May be tied to the boom to reduce the area of the sail during high winds.

Red Ensign	A flag that originated in the 17th century as a British Ensign flown by the Royal Navy and later by the British Merchant Navy. It is the civil ensign of the UK.
Red Ensign Group	The group of Flag States that fly the Red Ensign. It comprises of the United Kingdom, its Crown Dependencies (Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey), and UK Overseas Territories (Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, St Helena, and the Turks Caicos Islands) all of which operate shipping registers.
Representative Person	It is a requirement of registry for a vessel of more than 24m to be either resident in the State of Registry, or if not resident, to appoint a Representative Person for the yacht. The function of a Representative Person is to provide a formal and responsible point of contact in the Flag State for yachts. This responsibility can vary from Flag to Flag.
Rhumb Line	In navigation, a rhumb line (or loxodrome) is a line crossing all meridians of longitude at the same angle, i.e. a path derived from a defined initial bearing. That is, upon taking an initial bearing, one proceeds along the same bearing, without changing the direction as measured relative to true or magnetic north.
Riding Turn	Occurs when the turns of the sheet around the winch drum become crossed and jam.
Rigging	Lines that hold the masts.
Roach	Area of mainsail that extends beyond a straight line to the head of the Clew.
Rode	Anchor line and/or chain.
Roller Reefing	Reduces the area of a sail by rolling it around a stay, mast or boom.
Rotation	A crew position which is rotated between crew members. i.e.; giving time off/holiday.
R/T	Radio/Telephone
Rub Rail	Thickened member at the rail running the length of the vessel, protects the hull when alongside a pier or another vessel.
Rules-of-the-Road	Regulations to prevent collisions between vessels.
Run	Allowing a line to run freely.
Running	To sail with the wind aft.
Running Backstay	Stay that supports a mast from aft.
Running Fix	Advancing a LOP or previous line of position forward to a current line of position. A fix based on two separated bearings of the same fixed object and the distance run between the bearings.
Running Lights	Lights required to be shown on vessels underway at night.

Running Rigging	Adjustable portion of the rigging used to control sails and equipment.
SAR	Search and Rescue.
SARSAT	Search and Rescue Satellite-aided Tracking.
SART (Search and Rescue Transponder)	A self-contained, waterproof transponder intended for emergency use at sea. These devices may be either a radar-SART, or a GPS-based AIS-SART (Automatic Identification System SART).
SEA (Seafarers Employment Agreement)	The MLC introduced the Seafarers Employment Agreement. Every seafarer working on a commercial yacht will need to have a Flag State approved SEA between themselves and the yacht owner, or the representative of the ship owner/ yacht owner. This is a major change replacing any existing employment contracts, and it will also mean there is no longer a requirement for crew agreements and signing-on articles, as a SEA replaces both of these. Seafarer Definition of a seafarer by MLC: "A seafarer means any person, including the master, who is employed or engaged or works in any capacity on board a seagoing ship to which MLC 2006 applies". ("Temporary Occasional Crew" may not necessarily fall under this category.)
Sea Cock	A valve on plumbing or drainpipe between vessel's interior and sea.
Sea Room	Safe distance from shore or other hazard.
Sea Trial	The testing phase of a vessel usually the final step in her construction.
Sextant	Instrument used to measure angular distances, like the altitude of the sun, moon and stars for navigation.
SBAS	Satellite Based Augmentation System i.e. sdGPS
SCBA	Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. Usually abbreviated to BA.
sdGPS	Satellite Differential GPS.
Schooner	Sailing vessel with at least two masts.
Screw	Propeller.
Scuppers	Deck drains.
Secure	To make fast.
SEEMP	(Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan) - There is a mandatory requirement for all vessels of 400gt and above to complete and maintain a Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan. This is required by Regulation 22 of Annex VI of the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973.
Set	To hoist a sail.
Shackle	U shaped piece of metal with eyes in the ends – closed by a shackle pin.
Sheet	Rope attached to the clew of a sail with which the sail is trimmed.

Shroud	Wires that support the mast athwart vessels.
Signal Flags	See guide at the end of this glossary.
SIT (Spontaneous Ignition Temperature)	The lowest temperature at which a substance will ignite itself without the presence of a spark or flame. Also known as Autoignition temperature.
Slack	Not fastened.
Slack Water	Interval at high and low water where the stream ceases momentarily before changing direction.
Sloop	Sailing vessel with one mast.
SMC	Search and Rescue Mission Controller.
SMG (Speed Made Good)	Actual speed over the ground as opposed to through the water.
SMS (Safety Management System)	See ISM.
SOG (Speed Over Ground)	The actual speed of a vessel with respect to the seabed.
SOLAS (International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea)	This international treaty adopted after the Titanic disaster requires flag states to ensure their ships comply with safety standards for construction, equipment and operation. While its navigation chapter applies to all vessels, it general does not apply to pleasure yachts not engaged in trade. If engaged in trade and over 500GT, then regulations apply.
SOPEP (Shipboard Oil Pollution Plan)	Regulation 37 of Annex I of MARPOL requires that all ships of 400 tons gross tonnage or more carry an approved shipboard oil pollution plan.
Sounding	Measurement of depth of water.
Sous Chef	Junior or Crew Chef.
SOx (Sulphur Oxide)	An air pollution factor created from burning high sulphur fuels. It combines with NOx to form acid rain and its reduction in exhaust gases is mandated by use of low sulphur fuels.
Spar	Pole or beam.
Spindrift	Spray from cresting waves.
Spinnaker	Large balloon shaped sail used forward of the Forestay when running or reaching.
Splice	To join ropes or wires by unlaying the strands and interweaving them.
Sponson	A projection from the side of a vessel for its protection.
Spreaders	Struts on mast that brace the shrouds.
Spring Tide	The rise and fall or range of the tide is greatest, occurring around the time of the full and new moon.
Spring Line	Line used when docking to prevent vessel moving forward or astern.
Squall	Sudden wind often with rain.
Square Knot	See Reef Knot.
SSO (Ship Security Officer)	Required for ISPS. This crew member is responsible for the on-board security plan and all security equipment.

SRR (Search and Rescue Region of Responsibility)	See MRCC.
SSP (Ships Security Plan)	A plan developed to ensure the application of measures on board a vessel in accordance with ISPS.
Stanchions	Upright metal posts to which guardrails are attached.
Standing Rigging	Rigging used to support the spars.
Stand-on Vessel	Vessel which has right of way in meeting, crossing or overtaking situations.
Starboard	Right side of the vessel.
Starboard Tack	Tack on which the wind strikes the starboard side first and the boom is out to port.
Stay	Wires that support the mast fore and aft – Forestay and Backstay.
Staysail	Triangular sail immediately forward of the mast.
STC (Sensitivity Time Control)	Used to attenuate the very strong signals returned from nearby ground clutter targets in the first few range gates of a radar receiver.
STCW (Seafarers Training, Certification and Watchkeeping)	The basic safety training is known as Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW). This safety training was developed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The full course comprises four modules/certificates: Personal Survival Techniques - Fire Fighting and Fire Prevention - Elementary First Aid - Personal Safety and Social Responsibility. Some privately operated yachts may accept applicants who have not yet completed STCW training, however there is also a growing trend even within this category of vessel to employ STCW Crew. Mariners on yachts under 200GT operating within 200 miles offshore are exempt, except if they make foreign voyages.
Step	A recess into which the fell of the mast is placed.
Steerageway	The minimum speed at which a vessel will answer the helm.
Stern	Rear of the vessel.
Stern Line	Docking line leading from the stern.
Stew	Short for Steward or Stewardess.
Steward/ess	The job of a Steward or Stewardess on a superyacht is to ensure the guests have the best possible experience on board and that the yacht is kept immaculate.
Stew/Cook (or Chef)	Crewmember who combines the duties of a Steward/ess and Chef - usually on smaller vessels.
Stew/Deck	Crewmember who combines the duties of a Steward/ess and Deckhand – usually on smaller vessels.
Storm Jib	Very small foresail for heavy weather.
Storm Trysail	Small and strong sail set without a boom in heavy weather in place of the Mainsail.

Stow	To put items in correct place.
STW	Speed through the water.
Superyacht	Term used to describe a motor or sailing yacht over 24 metres in length.
Swim Deck/Platform	Deck at aft of vessel for guests to swim from and recreational vessels to be launched.
Swath	The area covered by a vessel while underway.
SY	Sailing Yacht
Synoptic Charts	Diagrammatic representation of weather data, summarised and overlaid on a chart.
Tack	Turning a sailing vessel so that the bow passes through the eye of the wind.
Tacking	Making a course to windward by repeatedly going about.
Taffrail	Rail at stern of the vessel.
TCPA	Time to Closest Point of Approach.
Tell-tales	Small lengths of fabric sewn through a sail near the luff and leech to allow the air flow over the sail to be checked.
Tender	Small boat used to ferry passengers to shore or to another vessel.
Territorial waters	Defined by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, is a belt of coastal waters extending at most 12 nautical miles (22.2 km; 13.8 mi) from the baseline (usually the mean low-water mark) of a coastal state. The territorial sea is regarded as the sovereign territory of the State.
THETIS (The Hybrid European Targeting and Inspection System)	On 1st January 2011 the Paris MOU introduced a new Port State Control inspection regime which affects commercial yachts. This regime is called “The Hybrid European Targeting and Inspection System”, or “THETIS”, also known as the “New Inspection Regime” (NIR).
Tidal Race	Where the tidal stream creates confused and sometimes dangerous water.
Tidal Stream	Horizontal flow of the tide.
Topping Lift	Line or wire used to support the boom when the mainsail is not hoisted.
Toy Box	Slang for compartment where such items as personal watersports equipment is stored.
TPA (Thermal Protection Aid)	Clothing used to prevent heat loss – onset of hyperthermia.
TPL (Transferred Position Line)	Used to chart position when only one or two charted positions are visible along the coast – also known as Running Fix.
Track	Plotted course of a vessel.

Transit	Two fixed objects in lined up by an observer.
Transit Fix	Method of lining up charted objects to obtain an LOP.
Transit Markers	Marks or lights which when in line indicate a safe channel. Also known as Range Markers.
Transom	The stern panel of the vessel.
Traveller	A slide which travels on a track and is used for altering sheet angles.
Trim	To adjust the angle of the sails and/or the relationship between a vessels draughts fore and aft.
True Bearing	An absolute bearing using true north.
True North	The direction of the geographical North Pole.
True Wind	The direction and speed of the wind felt when stationary.
TYG (Time to Go)	Time to go to Waypoint.
UKHO	UK Hydrographic Office
Underway	When a vessel is in motion.
USCG (United States Coast Guard)	Responsible for operations and regulations as they relate to yacht safety for US-flagged vessels and vessels operating in US waters.
US Coastguard Qualship 21	In 2001 the U.S. Coast Guard launched a program intended to reward operators of quality ships. Aimed at non-US-registered vessels that visit U.S. ports, Qualship 21, as the program is named, promised reductions in Port State control examinations and streamlined inspection procedures to vessels meeting its criteria. A similar program is being considered for US registered vessels.
UT (Universal Time)	The time standard commonly used across the world since 1972. It is used to synchronize time across internet networks. It is also used by meteorologists the aviation and marine industries, and is informally known as Zulu Time to avoid confusion about time zones and daylight saving time.
Vang	Devise used to pull the boom down.
Variation	See Magnetic Variation.
Vector	Mode of chart screen presentation using lines with specified direction and magnitude.
VHF (Very High Frequency)	Radio band.

VMG (Velocity Made Good)	Speed made good parallel to intended track.
VRM (Variable Range Marker)	A ring measuring on a radar screen A variable range marker device for use with a PPI radar with digitized video displayed in non-real time.
WAAS (Wide Area Augmentation System)	US sdGPS.
Warp	To move a vessel by hauling on a line or cable that is fastened to an anchor or pier.
Watch	The day at sea is normally divided into six four-hour periods.
Waybill	A document that acts as a receipt for the goods and evidence of the contract of carriage.
Waypoint	The co-ordinates of an intermediate point on a route or line of travel.
Weather Side	The side of the boat on which the wind is blowing,
Windward	The direction from which the wind is coming (opposite of Leeward).
Working up	Training/preparing a vessel.
WPT	Waypoint
XTE (Cross Track Error)	Distance off intended track at right angles to track.
Yankee	Foresail flying above and forward of the jib.
Yaw	To steer or swing off course when running with a quartering sea.
Yawl	A two-masted sailing craft similar to a sloop or cutter but with an additional mast (mizzenmast) located well aft of the main mast, often right on the transom, or aft of the rudder post if the vessel has an inboard hung rudder.
Zebec	A small three-masted vessel of the Mediterranean, formerly much used by corsairs and later employed in commerce.
Zulu Time	See UT.

The Beaufort Wind Force Scale

Beaufort	Wind Speed (Kts)	Wind Speed (km/hour)	Sea State
0 Calm	0-1	0	Sea like a mirror, wave height 0m
1 Light Air	1-3	2-5	Ripples but without foam crests. Wave height 0.1m
2 Light Breeze	4-6	6-12	Small wavelets. Crests have a glassy appearance and do not break. Wave height 0.2m
3 Gentle Breeze	7-10	13-20	Large wavelets. Some white caps. Wave height 0.6m
4 Moderate Breeze	11-16	21-30	Small waves. Fairly frequent white caps. Wave height 1m
5 Fresh Breeze	17-21	31-40	Moderate waves, many whitecaps. Chance of some spray. Wave height 2m
6 Strong Breeze	22-27	41-50	Large waves begin to form, the white foam crests are more extensive everywhere. Probably some spray. Wave height 3m
7 Near Gale	28-33	51-61	Sea heaps up and white from breaking waves blown in streaks in the direction of the wind. Wave height 4m
8 Gale	34-40	62-74	Moderately high waves of greater length. Crests begin to break into spindrift. In the tropics categorised as a Tropical Storm. Wave height 5.5m
9 Strong Gale	41-47	75-89	High waves. Dense foam streaks along the direction of the wind. Crests of waves begin to topple and roll over. Spray may affect visibility. Wave Height 7m
10 Storm	45-55	90-103	Very high waves with long overhanging crests. Foam is blown in dense white streaks. The surface of the sea takes on a white appearance. The tumbling of the sea becomes heavy. Visibility affected. Wave Height 9m
11 Violent Storm	56-63	104-119	Exceptionally high waves, The sea is completely covered with long white patches of foam lying along the direction of the wind. Wave crests are blown into froth. Wave Height 11.5m
12 Hurricane	64-71	120+	The air is filled with foam and spray. Sea completely white with driving spray. Visibility very seriously affected. Wave Height 14m+

Glossary of Marine Forecast Terms

Gale Warnings

Gale	Winds of at least Beaufort force 8 (34–40 knots) or gusts reaching 43–51 knots
Severe Gale	Winds of force 9 (41–47 knots) or gusts reaching 52–60 knots
Storm	Winds of force 10 (48–55 knots) or gusts reaching 61–68 knots
Violent Storm	Winds of force 11 (56–63 knots) or gusts of 69 knots or more
Hurricane Force	Winds of force 12 (64 knots or more) Note: The term used is 'hurricane force'; the term 'hurricane' on its own means a true tropical cyclone.
Imminent	Expected within six hours of time of issue
Soon	Expected within six to 12 hours of time of issue
Later	Expected more than 12 hours from time of issue

Visibility

Very Poor	Visibility less than 1,000 metres
Poor	Visibility between 1,000 metres and 2 nautical miles
Moderate	Visibility between 2 and 5 nautical miles
Good	Visibility more than 5 nautical miles

Movement of Pressure Systems

Slowly	Moving at less than 15 knots
Steadily	Moving at 15 to 25 knots
Rather Quickly	Moving at 25 to 35 knots
Rapidly	Moving at 35 to 45 knots
Very Rapidly	Moving at more than 45 knots

Pressure Tendency in Station Reports

Rising (or falling) more slowly	Pressure rising (or falling) at a progressively slower rate through the preceding three hours
Rising (or falling) slowly	Pressure change of 0.1 to 1.5 hPa in the preceding three hours
Rising (or falling)	Pressure change of 1.6 to 3.5 hPa in the preceding three hours
Rising (or falling) quickly	Pressure change of 3.6 to 6.0 hPa in the preceding three hours
Rising (or falling) very rapidly	Pressure change of more than 6.0 hPa in the preceding three hours
Now rising (or falling)	Pressure has been falling (rising) or steady in the preceding three hours, but at the time of observation was definitely rising (falling). Note: 1 hPa = 1 millibar

Wind

Wind Direction	Indicates the direction from which the wind is blowing
Becoming Cyclonic	Indicates that there will be considerable change in wind direction across the path of a depression within the forecast area
Veering	The changing of the wind direction clockwise, e.g. SW to W
Backing	The changing of the wind in the opposite direction to veering (anticlockwise), e.g. SE to NE

Sea State

Smooth	Wave height less than 0.5 m
Slight	Wave height of 0.5 to 1.25 m
Moderate	Wave height of 1.25 to 2.5 m
Rough	Wave height of 2.5 to 4.0 m
Very Rough	Wave height of 4.0 to 6.0 m
High	Wave height of 6.0 to 9.0 m
Very High	Wave height of 9.0 to 14.0 m
Phenomenal	Wave height more than 14.0 m

Glossary of Meteorological Terms and Names of Winds

Abrolhos	Squall frequent wind that occurs from May through August between Cabo de Sao Tome and Cabo Frio on the coast of Brazil.
Adiabatic	Changes in temperature caused by the expansion (cooling) or compression (warming) of a body of air as it rises or descends in the atmosphere.
Advection	The horizontal transport of air, moisture, vorticity or other atmospheric properties; commonly used in describing the transport of moisture and temperature.
Alize	North-easterly wind across central Africa and the Caribbean.
Alizé	Wet, fresh northerly wind across west central Africa.
Alto cumulus Clouds	Medium level fleecy grey clouds.
Altostratus Clouds	Medium level opaque layer grey cloud.
Amihan	North-easterly wind across the Philippines
Anabatic Wind	Wind caused by warm air rising up a slope to be replaced by cooler air, as opposed to katabatic descending winds.
Anticyclone	Body of air in which the atmospheric pressure is higher than the pressure in the surrounding air; a high or high pressure area.
Apparent Wind	The direction and speed of the wind felt by the crew – combination of the true wind and that created by the motion of the vessel.
Auster	See Ostria.
Austru	A east or southeast wind in Romania.
Barber Pole	A thunderstorm updraft with a visual appearance including cloud striations that are curved in a manner similar to the stripes of a barber pole.
Backing	Relates to time trend and wind direction; backing winds trend counter-clockwise and are indicative of cold air advection.
Bali Wind	A strong east wind at the eastern end of Java.
Barat	A heavy northwest squall in Manado Bay on the north coast of the island of Celebes, prevalent from December to February.
Barber	A strong wind carrying damp snow or sleet and spray that freezes upon contact with objects.
Bayamo	Violent wind on Cuba's southern coast.
Beaufort Scale	The scale describing wind force in which winds are graded by the effect of their force. Devised by Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort in 1808.
Bentu de Soli	An east wind on the coast of Sardinia.
Blizzard	Winter storm conditions of sustained winds that cause major blowing and drifting of snow, reducing visibility.
Blocking High	High pressure area (anticyclone), often aloft, that remains nearly stationary or moves slowly compared to west-to-east motion. It blocks the movement eastward movement of low pressure areas (cyclones) at its latitude.

Blustery	Gusty winds that accompany cold weather.
Bora	North-easterly from eastern Europe to north-eastern Italy.
Breezy	Wind in range of 20-30 kph. In warm temperatures.
Brickfielder	A wind from the desert in Southern Australia.
Brisk	Wind in range of 20-30 kph. In cold weather.
Brisa, Briza	A northeast wind which blows on the coast of South America or an east wind which blows on Puerto Rico during the trade wind season.
Brisote	The northeast trade wind when it is blowing stronger than usual on Cuba.
Brubu	A name for a squall in the East Indies.
Bull's Eye Squall	A squall forming in fair weather, characteristic of the ocean off the coast of South Africa.
Calima	Dust-laden south to south-easterly wind blowing in the Saharan Air Layer across the Canary Islands.
Calm	Absence of apparent motion in the air.
Caju	Stormy gale-force north-westerly in the Atlantic coast of Brazil.
Cape Doctor	Dry south-easterly wind that blows on the South African coast in summer.
Carpinteiro	Strong south-easterly wind along the southern Atlantic coast of Brazil.
Ceiling	The height of the lowest layer of broken or overcast clouds.
Celsius	Temperature scale where zero is the freezing point of water and one hundred is the boiling point.
Cers	Strong, very dry north-easterly wind in the bas-Languedoc region in southern France.
Chinook	Warm dry westerly wind off the Rocky Mountains.
Chubasco	A violent squall with thunder and lightning, encountered during the rainy season along the west coast of Central America.
Churada	A severe rain squall in the Mariana Islands during the northeast monsoon.
Cierzo	Cool north/north-westerly wind on Ebro Valley in Spain – also Mistral.
Cirrocumulus Clouds	High level fleecy clouds, sometimes called “Herring Bone” or “Mackerel” clouds.
Cirrostratus Clouds	High level translucent clouds, often cause “halo” effect round sun and moon.
Cirrus Clouds	High level ice crystal clouds, threadlike.
Clear	Appearance of the sky when it is without clouds, or less than ten percent of the sky is covered by clouds.
Cloudburst	A sudden, intense rainfall that is normally of short duration.
Cloudy	Usually more than 60% cloud cover.
Cold Air Funnel	Funnel cloud or sometimes a small, relatively weak tornado that can develop from a small shower or thunderstorm when the air aloft is unusually cold.

Cold Front	Leading edge of a cold air mass as it moves toward warmer air; its movement is characterised by a drop in temperature and humidity after the front passes.
Cold Low	Low pressure system with cold air mass from near the surface to all vertical levels.
Combined Seas	The interaction of wind waves and swell; the combined seas height is equal to the square root of the sum of the squares of the wind waves and swell.
Condensation	The occurrence of vapour transforming into a liquid.
Conduction	The transfer of heat between bodies that are in contact.
Confluence	Pattern of wind flow in which air flows inward toward an axis oriented parallel to the general direction of flow. It is the opposite of diffluence.
Convection	The transfer of heat within a gas or liquid by their movement.
Contrastes	Winds a short distance apart blowing from opposite quadrants, frequent in the spring and fall in the western Mediterranean.
Convergence	Atmospheric condition that exists when the winds cause a horizontal net inflow of air into a specified region. Divergence is the opposite.
Cordonazo	Name applied locally to southerly hurricane winds along the west coast of Mexico. It is associated with tropical cyclones in the south eastern North Pacific Ocean.
Coromell	A night land breeze prevailing from November to May at La Paz, near the southern extremity of the Gulf of California.
Corona	Disk of light surrounding the sun or moon; this is a result of the diffraction of light by small water droplets.
Cumulus Clouds	Low to high level fluffy clouds can tower up to 13k.
Cumulonimbus Clouds	Lower to middle level towering clouds, can precede thunderstorms.
Cyclone	Body of air in which the pressure is lower than that of the surrounding air; a low or low pressure area.
Diablo	Hot, dry, offshore wind from the northeast in the San Francisco Bay.
Dense Fog	Fog in which the visibility is usually less than 400 metres.
Depression	Region of low atmospheric pressure that is usually accompanied by low clouds and precipitation.
Dew	Water droplets on an object at or near the ground formed from condensation of water vapour from the surrounding air.
Dew Point	The temperature to which a certain amount of air must be cooled in order for saturation to occur (a cloud or fog to form).
Diffluence	Pattern of wind flow in which air moves outward away from a central axis that is oriented parallel to the general direction of the flow. It is the opposite of confluence.
Divergence	The spreading out of winds.
Doldrums	The Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (or ITCZ) a belt of very still air between 5 degrees north and 5 degrees south of the equator.
Downburst	Vertical or nearly vertical downward burst of strong winds at ground level, usually associated with a thunderstorm.

Downdraft	Column of generally cool air that rapidly sinks to the ground, usually accompanied by precipitation as in a shower or thunderstorm.
Draft	Small gusty air current that can move upwards or downwards rapidly.
Drizzle	Form of precipitation that consists of water droplets less than 0.5mm.
Dry	Free from rain.
Ebb Tide	Outgoing tide.
Elephanta	Strong southerly or south-easterly wind on the Malabar coast of India.
El Nino	Great warming of the equatorial waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean.
Etesian	Northerly summer wind of the Mediterranean, especially over the Aegean Sea.
Euros	Greek name for a rainy, stormy southeast wind.
Evaporation	The process of a liquid changing into a vapour or gas.
Extended Outlook	Basic forecast of general weather conditions three to five days in the future.
Eye of the Wind	Direction from which the true wind is blowing.
Fair	Weather in which there is less than 4/10ths of opaque cloud cover and no precipitation; and there is no extreme visibility, wind or temperature conditions.
Fall Wind	Strong, cold, downslope wind.
Fahrenheit	Temperature scale in which the freezing point of water is 32 degrees and the boiling point is 212 degrees.
Fetch	Area in which waves are formed by a wind with an approximately constant speed and direction.
Fine	No rain or other precipitation – snow etc.
Flood Tide	The incoming tide.
Flurry	A flurry or snow shower is a snowfall that suddenly stops and starts and changes rapidly in intensity; the accumulation and extent of the snow are limited.
Fog	Water that has condensed close to ground level, producing a cloud of very small droplets.
Föhn	A warm dry wind on the lee side of a mountain range, whose temperature is increased as the wind descends down the slope.
Fremantle Doctor	Afternoon sea breeze from the Indian Ocean which cools Perth, Western Australia during summer.
Freeze	When a liquid reaches zero degrees Celsius.
Freezing Fog	Suspension of numerous minute ice crystals in the air, or water droplets at temperatures below zero degrees Celsius which reduces horizontal visibility; also called ice fog.
Freezing Rain	Rain that freezes on contact with objects such as a vessel's deck, trees, cars and roads, forming a coating or glaze of ice.
Front	Boundary or transition zone of two air masses; if cold air advances and replaces warmer air the front is a cold front, and if warm air advances and replaces cooler air the front is a warm front.

Frost	The formation of thin ice crystals on the ground or other surfaces; frost develops under conditions similar to those of dew.
Funnel Cloud	Funnel shaped cloud that extends from a cumulus or cumulonimbus cloud; this cloud is related to a rotating column of air that is not in contact with the ground.
Gale	Very strong wind. (See Beaufort Scale)
Gilavar	South wind in the Absheron Peninsula of the Azerbaijan Republic.
Gregale	North-easterly wind from Greece.
Gust	Brief sudden increase in wind speed.
Habagat	South-westerly wind across the Philippines.
Haboob	A strong wind and sandstorm (or dust storm) in the northern and central Sudan, especially around Khartoum,
Hail	Precipitation in the form of balls of ice produced by liquid precipitation, freezing and being coated by layers of ice as it is lifted and cooled in strong updrafts of thunderstorms.
Halny	Wind in northern Carpathians.
Halos	Rings or arcs that seem to encircle the sun or moon and are the result of the refraction of light through the ice crystals that make up cirrus clouds.
Harmattan	Dry, dusty trade wind blowing off the Sahara Desert across the Gulf of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands.
Haze	Fine dry or wet dust particles suspended in the that reduce visibility.
Helm Wind	North-easterly wind in Cumbria, England
High Pressure Area	Area of high pressure that is usually characterized by clear skies and fair weather carried by sinking air; winds rotate clockwise around and outward from the centre of the high.
Horse Latitudes	Subtropical regions where anticyclones produce settled weather.
Humidity	The amount of water vapour present in the air.
Hurricane	A severe tropical storm in the Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and Eastern Pacific.
Hygrometer	Instrument used to measure humidity.
Ice Storm	Liquid rain falling and freezing on contact with cold objects creating ice build-ups of 1/4th inch or more that can cause severe damage.
Intermittent Rain	Rain that stops and starts repeatedly, although not as abruptly or as frequently as showers.
Inversion	An increase in temperature with height, a reverse of the normal cooling with height.
Iridescence	Brilliant patches of green or pink sometimes seen near the edges of high- or medium-level clouds.
Isobar	The line of equal pressure denoted on surface weather maps.
Jet Stream	Zone of strong winds concentrated in a narrow band in the upper atmosphere.
Kali Andhi	Violent dust squalls that occur before monsoon in the north-western parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plain region of the Indian Subcontinent.

Karaburan	“Back storm”- a Spring and Summer Katabatic wind of central Asia.
Katabatic Wind	The generic term for downslope wind flowing from high elevations of mountains, plateaus, and hills down their slopes to the valleys or plains below.
Khamsin	South-easterly from north Africa to the eastern Mediterranean.
Khazri	Cold north wind in the Absheron Peninsula of the Azerbaijan Republic.
Knik Wind	A strong southeast wind in the vicinity of Palmer, Alaska, most frequent in the winter.
Kona	Southeast wind in Hawaii, replacing trade winds, bringing high humidity and often rain.
Košava	Strong and cold south-easterly wind in Serbia.
La Nina	Cooling of the equatorial waters in the Pacific Ocean.
Les Suêtes	Western Cape Breton Highlands, high speed south-easterly winds.
Levanter	A strong easterly wind of the Mediterranean, especially in the Strait of Gibraltar, attended by cloudy, foggy, and sometimes rainy weather especially in winter.
Levantera	A persistent east wind of the Adriatic, usually accompanied by cloudy weather.
Levanto	A hot south-easterly wind which blows over the Canary Islands.
Leveche	A warm wind in Spain, either a Foehn or a hot southerly wind in advance of a low pressure area moving from the Sahara Desert. Called a Sirocco in other parts of the Mediterranean area.
Libeccio	South-westerly wind towards Italy.
Lightening	Any form of visible electrical discharges produced by thunderstorms.
Lodos	South-westerly wind towards Turkey.
Loo	Hot and dry wind which blows over plains of India and Pakistan.
Low Pressure Area	An area of low pressure usually characterized by clouds of precipitation caused by rising air; often related to inclement weather such as winds flowing counter clockwise and into the centre of the low.
Mainly Cloudy	More than half cloud cover.
Mainly Sunny	Sunny with some cloud cover.
Maestro	Northerly wind in the Adriatic Sea.
Marin	South-easterly from Mediterranean to France.
Matanuska	A strong, gusty, northeast wind which occasionally occurs during the winter in the vicinity of Palmer, Alaska.
Mean Temperature	Average of a series of temperatures taken over a period of time.
Meteorology	Study of phenomena of the atmosphere and all the processes that take place in the atmosphere and their relationships with processes at the surface of the earth.
Microclimate	Local climate that differs from the main climate around it.
Millibar	The scientific unit used in measuring and reporting atmospheric pressure.
Minuano	Southern Brazilian wind.

Mist	Very fine water droplets at ground level that occur in air with a halo.
Mistral	Cold, dry northerly from central France and the Alps to Mediterranean.
Monsoon	Mainly south-westerly winds combined with heavy rain in various areas close to the equator.
Muggy	Colloquial term descriptive of warm and especially humid weather.
Nashi	A northeast wind which occurs in winter on the Iranian coast of the Persian Gulf.
Nigeq	A strong wind from the east in Greenland.
Nimbostratus Cloud	Grey to dark rain clouds.
Norte	A strong cold north-easterly wind which blows in Mexico and on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico.
Nor'easter	Strong storm with winds from the northeast on the north eastern coast of the United States and the east coast of Canada.
Nor'wester	Wind that brings rain to the West Coast, and warm dry winds to the East Coast of New Zealand's South Island, caused by the moist prevailing winds being uplifted over the Southern Alps.
Norther	A cold strong northerly wind in the Southern Plains of the United States, especially in Texas, which results in a drastic drop in air temperatures.
Oe	Faroe Islands whirlwind.
Offshore Wind	Wind blowing from land to the sea.
Onshore Wind	Wind blowing from sea to land.
Ostria	A warm southerly wind on the Bulgarian coast.
Ostro	Southerly wind in the Mediterranean.
Overcast	When more than 90 percent of the sky is covered with clouds.
Pampero	Very strong wind which blows in the Pampa, Argentina.
Papagayo	Periodic wind which blows across Nicaragua and Costa Rica and out over the Gulf of Papagayo.
Partly Cloudy	When there is more than 30 percent but not more than 70 percent cloud cover.
Passat	Medium strong, constant blowing wind at sea in tropical areas.
Plough Wind	Straight line wind which precedes thunderstorms or thunderstorm clusters.
Precipitation	All forms of water that fall from the sky and reach the ground.
Pressure	Measure of the weight of the air, that is usually measured with a barometer in meteorology.
Prevailing Wind	The direction from which the wind blows most frequently in any location.
Puelche	Wind on the western slope of the Andes in south-central Chile.
Rain	Liquid water droplets that fall from the atmosphere, having diameters greater than drizzle.
Rashabar (or Rashaba)	Strong wind in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.
Relative Humidity	Amount of water vapour in the air as compared to the percent of the amount of water vapour it would take to saturate the air.

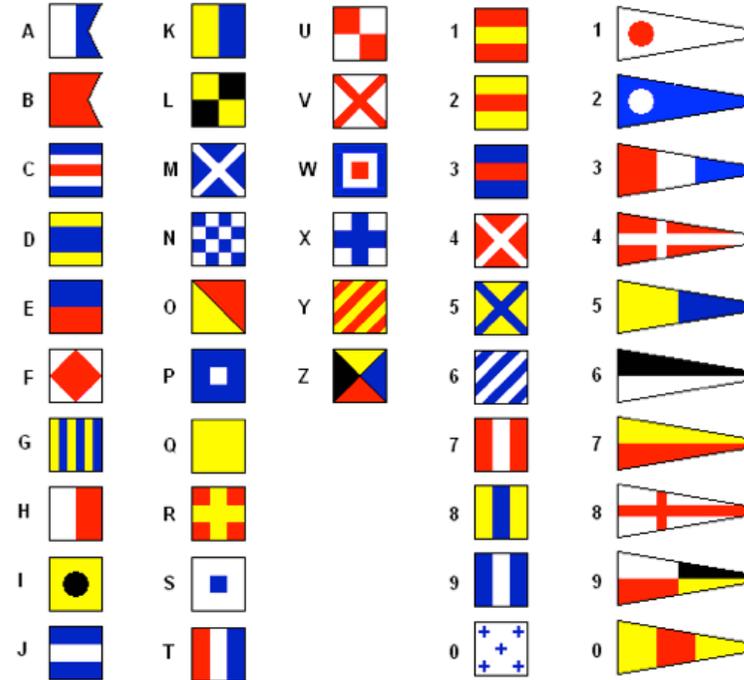
Ridge	Elongated high pressure area in the atmosphere that lies between two low pressure areas.
Santa Ana Winds	Strong, hot, dry wind blowing out into San Pedro Channel from the southern California desert through Santa Ana Pass.
Saturation	A condition of the atmosphere in which a certain volume of air holds the maximum water vapour it can hold at a specific temperature.
Sea Breeze	A coastal breeze that blows from sea to land during daytime in summer, that is caused by warm air rising over land and being replaced by cooler air from over the sea.
Shamal	A summer north-westerly wind blowing over Iraq and the Persian Gulf, often strong during the day, but decreasing at night.
Sharki	A south-easterly wind which sometimes blows in the Persian Gulf.
Shower	Type of precipitation that has a stopping-and-starting nature or rapid changes in intensity; and occurs when the atmosphere is unstable.
Simoom	Strong, dry, desert wind that blows in the Sahara, Israel, Jordan, Syria, and the desert of Arabia.
Sirocco	Southerly from north Africa to southern Europe.
Sleet	Mixture of rain and snow that fall when the temperature is around the freezing level.
Smog	Mixture of smoke and fog; a natural fog contaminated by industrial pollutants.
Snow	Frozen precipitation composed of ice particles in complex hexagonal patterns.
Snow Flurries	Light snow showers, usually of an intermittent nature.
Snow Squalls	Intense, but of limited duration, periods of moderate to heavy snowfall, accompanied by strong, gusty surface winds.
Southerly Buster	Rapidly arriving low pressure cell that dramatically cools Sydney, Australia during summer.
Sou'wester	Strong wind which blows from the southwest.
Squall	A sudden, sharp increase in wind speed which is usually associated with active weather, such as rain showers, thunderstorms, or heavy snow.
Squamish	Strong, violent wind occurring in many of the fjords of British Columbia.
Stable Air	Air with little or no tendency to rise, that is usually accompanied by clear dry weather.
Stationary Front	The boundary between cool and warm air in which neither air mass is advancing.
Storm Surge	Rise above the usual water level along the shore that is the result of strong onshore winds and/or reduced atmospheric pressure; the actual surge height is the difference of the observed water level minus the predicted tide.
Storm Track	Path that a low pressure area follows.
Stratus Clouds	Low layer grey clouds, often brings drizzle and can cause hill fog.
Stratocumulus Clouds	Low level banks of dark to grey clouds.
Subtropical Storm	Low pressure system that develops in subtropical waters.
Sudestada	Strong offshore wind from the Southeast in Uruguay.
Sundowner	Strong offshore wind off the California coast.

Sumatra	A squall with violent thunder, lightning, and rain, which blows at night in the Malacca Straits,
Supercell Thunderstorm	A severe thunderstorm whose updrafts and downdrafts are in near balance allowing the storm to maintain itself for several hours.
Supersaturation	The condition which occurs in the atmosphere when the relative humidity is greater than 100 percent.
Taku	A strong, gusty, east-northeast wind, occurring in the vicinity of Juneau, Alaska,
Tehuano	Periodic wind which blows across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in southern Mexico and out over the Gulf of Tehuantepec.
Thunderstorm	Storm with lightning and thunder produced by a Cumulonimbus cloud, usually producing gusty winds, heavy rain and sometimes hail.
Tidal Piling	This happens when unusually high water levels occur as the result of an accumulation of successive incoming tides that do not completely drain due to opposing strong winds and/or waves.
Tornado	Violent, rotating column of air extending from the ground to a thunderstorm.
Trade Winds	The Trade Winds are the prevailing pattern of easterly surface winds found in the tropics, within the lower portion of the Earth's atmosphere, in the lower section of the troposphere near the Earth's equator. The Trade Winds blow predominantly from the northeast in the Northern Hemisphere and from the southeast in the Southern Hemisphere,
Tramontane	Cold north-westerly from the Pyrenees or north-easterly from the Alps to the Mediterranean, similar to Mistral.
Tropical Air	Air mass that has warm temperatures and high humidity and develops over tropical or sub-tropical areas.
Trough	Elongated relatively low pressure area between two high pressure areas
Typhoon	A severe tropical storm in the Western Pacific.
Vardar	A cold wind blowing from the northwest down the Vardar valley in Greece to the Gulf of Salonika.
Vendavel	Westerly through the Strait of Gibraltar.
Viento de Levante	Easterly through Strait of Gibraltar.
Virga	Rain falling from a cloud that evaporates before reaching the ground.
Vorticity	The tendency of a moving gas or liquid to rotate around an axis, forming a vortex.
Waterspout	A column of rapidly spiralling air that develops over warm, usually shallow, water in seas or large lakes.
Warm Braw	A Foehn wind in the Schouten Islands north of New Guinea.
Warm Front	Narrow transitions zone separating advancing warmer air from retreating cooler air. The air behind a warm front is warmer and typically more humid than the air it is replacing.
Water Vapour	Water substance in a gaseous state that comprises one of the most important of all the constituents of the atmosphere.
Weather Synopsis	Description of weather patterns affecting a large area.
Westerlies	The prevailing west-to-east winds of the middle latitudes of both hemispheres on Earth.

White Squall	A sudden, strong gust of wind coming up without warning, noted by whitecaps or white, broken water; usually seen in whirlwind form in clear weather in the tropics.
Williwaw	A sudden blast of wind descending from a mountainous coast to the sea, in the Strait of Magellan or the Aleutian Islands.
Willy-willy	A tropical cyclone in Australia, especially in the southwest.
Wind	The horizontal movement of air relative to the earth's surface and is caused by variations in temperature and pressure.
Wind Aloft	The wind speeds and wind directions at various levels in the atmosphere above the area of surface weather observations.
Wind Chill	The additional cooling effect resulting from wind blowing on bare skin.
Wind Direction	The direction from which the wind is blowing.
Wind Shear	The change in wind direction; vertical wind shear is the change in wind speed with height.
Wind Wave	Wave that is caused by the action of wind on the surface of water.
Wiresonde	An atmospheric sounding instrument that is used to obtain temperature and humidity information between ground level and height of a few thousand feet.
Yellow Wind	A strong, cold, dry west wind of eastern Asia that blows across the plains during winter and carries a yellow dust from the desert.
Youg	Hot wind during unsettled summer weather in the Mediterranean.
Zephyr	A light wind.
Zonal Wind	The wind or wind component along the local parallel of latitude.
Zonda	Wind on the eastern slope of the Andes in Argentina.

The information and descriptions in this booklet have been compiled and produced using the best information and sources available. It is intended purely for guidance. No responsibility is accepted by Döhle Private Clients Limited for any inaccuracy of information from external sources contained in this booklet.

Maritime Signal Flags



Special Meanings of Individual Flags

a (alpha) = Diver Down; Keep Clear
 b (bravo) = Dangerous Cargo
 c (charlie) = Yes
 d (delta) = I am manoeuvring, keep Clear
 e (echo) = Altering Course to Starboard
 f (foxtrot) = I am disabled
 g (golf) = I require a Pilot
 h (hotel) = Pilot on Board
 i (india) = Altering Course to Port
 j (juliet) = I am on Fire; Keep Clear
 k (kilo) = I wish to Communicate
 l (lima) = Stop your Vessel Instantly
 m (mike) = I am Stopped

n (november) = No
 o (oscar) = Man Overboard
 p (papa) = I am About to Sail
 q (quebec) = I Request Clearance to Port, Vessel Meets Health Regs.
 r (romeo) = Preparing to Replenish at Sea
 s (sierra) = I am Going Astern
 t (tango) = Keep Clear of Me
 u (uniform) = You are Running into Danger
 v (victor) = I Require Assistance
 w (whiskey) = I Require Medical Assistance
 x (x-ray) = Stop Your Intentions
 y (yankee) = I Am Dragging Anchor
 z (zulu) = I Require a Tug



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