

## **GLOSSARY OF NAUTICAL TERMS AND EXPRESSIONS**

Abaft	At or towards the stern or after end of a ship
Abeam	On a line at right angles to a ship's length
AB	Able-bodied seaman – seaman (rating) that is able to steer the ship and keep a lookout
Aft	Towards or at the stern or rear
Astern	Towards the rear of the vessel; behind the ship
ARPA	Automatic Radar Plotting Aid – radar with built in computer that is capable of computing data of targets, e.g Course, Speed, Closest point of approach (CPA), Time of closest point of approach (TCPA) etc.
Bearing	The compass direction of an object or destination from the ship. Relative bearing is the direction relating to the ship with the bow 0 degrees and the stern 180 degrees. True bearing is the direction from the ship relating to true north with north being 0 degrees and south 180 degrees.
Berth	A margin of safety in the distance from which another ship or object is passed, as in "giving wide berth"
Bow	The forward end of a ship
Bridge	An enclosed above-deck area from which the ship is navigated and steered
Bridge wing	An open deck area on either side of bridge
Cable	One tenth of a nautical mile – about 185 metres
Cadet	A trainee officer
Chart	The equivalent of a map (ashore)
CPA	Closest point of approach (the distance at which one ship would pass the other ship)

Course	The prescribed compass direction in which a ship is being steered
Displacement	Weight of water displaced by a ship
DGPS	Differential Global Positioning System
ECDIS	Electronic Chart Display and Information System
Fix	A ship's position determined by Aids to navigation
Heading	Direction in which ship's bow is pointing at any instant
Helm	Wheel, by which a ship is being steered
Gross tonnage	A figure representing the total of all the enclosed spaces within a ship, arrived at by means of a formula which has as its basis the volume measured in cubic metres.
Knots	A unit of speed at sea, a nautical mile (1.852km) an hour.
Log	A record of all the activities onboard a ship; a device for measuring ship's speed and distance travelled
Master	The Captain of a vessel
Nautical Mile	A measure of distance used at sea, equal to 1.852 km
OOW	Officer on watch – officer on duty that is responsible for the safety of navigation
On the Bow	A direction of forty-five degrees or less from the bow
On the Quarter	A direction of forty-five degrees or less from the stern. May be port (left) or starboard (right)
Port	The left side of the vessel when viewed facing forward
Prolonged blast	Blast (from the ship's whistle) of between four to six seconds duration
Quarter	The part of a ship forward of the stern and abaft the beam

Collision Regulations (COLREGS)	The laws of navigation at sea which bear on safety and the avoidance of collision
Running lights	The usual navigation lights carried (displayed) when a ship is underway
SCMMS	Ship Control Monitoring and Management System
Ship's whistle	Any sound signalling appliance capable of producing the prescribed blasts and which complies with the specifications in Annex III of COLREG
Short blast	Blast (from the ship's whistle) of about one second duration
Starboard	The right side of a ship when viewed facing forward
Stern	The rear part of a ship
Tanker	Ship designed for the carriage of liquid in bulk which includes a wide variety of products, including crude oil, refined products and liquid gas
TCPA	Time of closest point of approach
TSS	Traffic Separation Scheme (Singapore Strait)
VMS	Voyage Management System
VTIS	Vessel Traffic Information Service