

GLOSSARY OF NAVAL ARCHITECTURE

TERMINOLOGIES & DEFINITIONS

(CONCISE EDITION)

1 Introduction

The following notes contain an abridged alphabetical glossary of terminologies and definitions relevant to naval architecture but it should not be considered exhaustive. It should be noted that in certain cases the definition in the naval architectural context may differ from that in the seafaring or other context. Wherever possible the lecturer has attempted to ensure agreement with IMO and class society definitions.

It should be further noted that many definitions contained herein are only concise versions. Such cases will be elaborated upon or clarified during further studies undertaken by the undergraduate within this subject and others during the course.

2 Alphabetic Glossary of Terminologies

A



Symbol used by Lloyd's Register of Shipping (LR) to denote that a vessel was constructed under the supervision of LR surveyors in accordance with its Rules and Regulations.

100 A1	Character used in Lloyd's Register denoting that a sea-going vessel is constructed of steel and is classed with LR.
ABS	American Bureau of Shipping; (American classification society).
ACV	Air cushion vehicle. (Hovercraft)
Administration	As used in international (e.g., IMO) conventions: the government of the state in which a vessel is registered.
Aft	At, or towards the stern of a vessel. (Opposite to <i>forward</i> .)
Aft peak tank	A tank or compartment located abaft the aftmost watertight transverse bulkhead above propeller(s) and rudder (often used for fresh water or sea water ballast).
Alleyway	A vessel's internal passageway or corridor.

Alongside	The position of a vessel when securely moored on a berth in port.
Amidships	(1) Midway (midpoint) between port and starboard sides of a vessel. (2) The midway point between the forward and aft perpendiculars.
AMSA	Australian Marine Safety Authority.
Anchor	A heavy steel device (of variable design) so shaped as to grip the sea bed to hold a vessel or offshore installation in a desired position.
Anchor cable	Chain or wire connecting a vessel to its anchor(s).
Anode	(1) The electrode at which oxidation occurs. (2) Zinc ingot attached to the immersed hull preventing corrosion of the steel.
Antifouling (paint)	A marine paint composition containing toxic ingredients preventing or retarding marine underwater growth on the hull of a vessel.
Appendage(s)	Objects protruding from the underwater section of a hull; e.g., bilge keels, rudders, stabilising fins, shaft brackets, etc.
Astern	The backward direction in the line of a vessel's centreline. (Opposite to <i>ahead</i> .)
Auxiliary (machinery)	Vessel's machinery other than the main engine(s); e.g., generators, fuel separators, etc.
Azimuth thruster	Marine screw propulsor designed to rotate 360° in the horizontal plane about a vertical axis.
B	
Ballast	Liquid or solid mass loaded by a vessel to improve stability and trim characteristics and to increase propeller immersion. Temporary ballast is usually sea water stored in dedicated tanks. Permanent ballast (if required) is usually solid lead castings.
Barge	Flat-bottomed shallow-draft vessel, towed or self-propelled, customarily used in canals and ports.
Baseline	A horizontal and longitudinal datum (reference) line, usually taken at the inner surface of the keel plating, to which all vertical measurements are referred. [Alt. <i>moulded baseline</i> .]
Beam	(1) The registered breadth of a vessel, measured at the outside of the hull amidships, or at its greatest breadth. (2) A transverse structural member supporting a deck and/or strengthening a hull.

Bed plate	The upper surface plating of a foundation platform of an engine or deck installation to which that equipment or machinery is permanently attached.
Berth	(1) A location in which a vessel is moored or secured alongside a wharf. (2) Allotted accommodation in a vessel.
Bilge	(1) Intersection or curved transition of bottom and sides of a hull. (2) Lowest points within hull compartments where liquids may accumulate.
Bilge bracket	Vertical transverse plate located beneath side frames in the area of the bilge and between inner and outer bottoms.
Bilge keel	Non-retractable elongated longitudinal fin protruding from the bilge used to reduce rolling.
Bilge strake	Line of shell plating at the bilge between bottom and side plating.
Bits	Twin stout posts welded to the deck to which mooring lines are fastened.
Body plan	Drawing consisting of 2 end views of a hull showing cross-section form, deck line curvature, and projections (as straight lines) of waterlines and buttock lines.
Bollard	The equivalent of a vessel's mooring bits used onshore (i.e., on a wharf).
Boot-topping	Durable paint coating applied to a hull between the light and loaded waterlines.
Bossing	Hydrodynamically faired outboard portion of hull plating surrounding and supporting propeller shafting. In a single-screw vessel the bossing is integral to a centreline skeg.
Bow	The forward end or region of a hull.
Bow door	Watertight hinged door in the fore end of a Ro-Ro vessel through which vehicles and cargo may be loaded or discharged.
Bow thruster	A propulsor installed near the bow to provide a transverse thrust component enhancing manoeuvrability.
Bracket	Plate used to rigidly connect 2 or more intersecting structural members.
Breadth	Beam or width of a hull or superstructure.
Breasthook	Horizontal plate brackets of generally triangular form connecting port and starboard side stringers and bow plating at the stem.

Bridge	Elevated centre dedicated to the control and navigation of the vessel. [Alt. <i>Navigating bridge</i> or <i>wheelhouse</i> .]
Bridge wing(s)	Lateral (open or enclosed) extension(s) to a vessel's bridge to permit direct vision beyond the hull side.
Bulk cargo	Cargo shipped in loose condition and of a homogeneous nature. (Includes fluid cargoes.)
Bulk carrier	Vessel designed for the transportation of dry loose homogeneous cargoes in bulk in self-trimming holds and constructed to sustain the heavy concentrated weight distribution of the cargoes.
Bulkhead	(1) A vertical <i>structural</i> partition dividing a vessel's interior into various compartments for strength and safety purposes; (termed <i>strength bulkhead</i>). (2) Term applied to vertical partition walls (non-structural) subdividing the interior of a vessel into compartments.
Bulkhead deck	Uppermost deck at which transverse watertight bulkheads terminate.
Bulwark	Barrier of stiffened plating at the outboard edge of the main or upper deck to prevent or inhibit entry of the sea. Bulwarks may be additionally employed at the forward edges of superstructure decks in lieu of safety railings as a barrier to wind and spray.
Bureau Veritas	French classification society. (Abbr. BV)
Buttock line	Line depicted on a lines plan showing the intersection of the hull moulded surface with a vertical plane parallel to the centreline.
Butt weld	Full penetration weld joint of 2 plate edges meeting end-to-end.
C	
Cabin	Room or compartment for the accommodation of marine personnel or passengers.
Cable layer	Vessel designed for the laying and repair of seabed telecommunication cables.
Cable locker	Compartment located forward to store the anchor cable.
CAD/CAM	Computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing
Camber	Transverse convex curvature of exposed decks to accelerate run-off.

Cant frame	Hull side frame not aligned perpendicular to the vessel's centreline.
Capstan	Steel warping drum rotating on a vertical axis for the handling of mooring lines and optionally anchor cable.
Car carrier Cargo door	Vessel designed for the delivery transportation of road vehicles. Watertight door in the hull side through which cargo may be loaded or discharged.
Casing	Bulkheads enclosing upper engine room volume.
Cathodic protection	Sacrificial or impressed current system of corrosion protection of hull, tanks and piping.
CCS	China Classification Society (People's Republic of China)
Cellular container ship	Container vessel having specially designed vertical cell guides for the accommodation of standard size containers thereby precluding movement and lashing.
Centreline	The longitudinal vertical plane of a vessel.
Chain locker	[refer <i>cable locker</i> .]
Chemical carrier (Tanker)	Vessel designed specifically for the transportation of volatile, poisonous or corrosive liquids in specially constructed tanks.
Classification societies	Organisations which set standards for design and construction of vessels and integral machinery amongst much else.
Coaming	Raised rim of vertical plating around a hatchway to prevent entrance of water, the upper edge of which forms a sealing surface with the hatch-lid or cover.
Cofferdam	Narrow compartment (void space) between 2 transverse bulkheads or floors, to separate incompatible contents or spaces.
Collision bulkhead	The forward-most transverse watertight bulkhead ranging from the bottom of the hull to the bulkhead deck to prevent flooding of compartments aft in the event of collision.
Compartment	Enclosed space usually with watertight bulkheads, doors or hatches.
Complement	The complete crew of a vessel.
Container vessel	Vessel designed specifically for the transportation of standard size containers within the hull and on deck.
Continuous welding	Uninterrupted line of welding along the entire interface.

Counter	The overhanging stern section of a hull extending abaft the aft perpendicular or propeller aperture.
Crew boat	Fast strongly constructed craft for the transportation of offshore oil rig personnel.
D	
Davit(s)	Radial or hinged or telescopic launch/recovery and housing installations for survival craft.
Deadlight	Steel or alloy cover plate fitted internally to portholes for protection against water ingress in case of glass failure.
Deadrise	Transverse inclination of the hull bottom from keel to bilge. [Alt: <i>rise of floor.</i>]
Deck height	Vertical distance between moulded lines of 2 adjacent decks. [Alt: <i>deck interval.</i>]
Deck stringer	Strake of deck plating at outboard edge. [Alt: <i>stringer strake.</i>]
Deep tank	Tank (usually for fuel) having significant depth (typically spanning more than 1 deck interval).
Derrick	Obsolete form of lifting appliance employing a hinged boom, king post(s) and running wires for control.
Design draft	Draft at which a vessel is designed to carry its contract deadweight.
Det norske Veritas	Norwegian classification society (DnV)
Diesel generator	Alternator (generator) directly powered by a diesel prime mover producing AC electrical power.
Displacement	All-inclusive mass or weight of vessel measured in tonnes, and equal to the mass of water displaced.
Docking plan	Detailed structural plan and profile of the lower hull structure required for correct location of the vessel in dry docking.
Double bottom	Structural configuration employing a complete watertight inner bottom deck above the hull bottom plating, extending from the collision bulkhead to the aftmost watertight bulkhead.
Double skin	Double watertight hull construction, usually referring to hull sides but may include double bottom structure.

Draft (or draught)	Depth to which a hull is immersed.
Draft marks	Numbers marked on the hull side forward, aft (and amidships on large vessels) indicating the draft.
Dredger	Vessel designed for the removal of sea bed alluvial sediment.
Drill ship	Vessel designed for sea bed drilling operations.
Dry bulk	Cargo shipped in a dry state and in bulk; e.g., grain, cement.
Dry dock	(1) Large basin with sealing caisson for the repair and maintenance of vessels. (2) General term for basin dry docks, floating docks or lift platforms for the maintenance and repair of vessels.
Duct	Vertical or horizontal large cross-section conduit through which piping, cabling, or fluids may be conducted.
Duct keel	Longitudinal passage within the double bottom, usually on the centreline, extending from the collision bulkhead to the engine room, through which ballast, bilge, fuel and hydraulic piping may be conducted and providing access to double-bottom spaces.

E

Electro-hydraulic	Term given to hydraulic actuation systems where the hydraulic pressure is produced by electrically driven pumps and controlled via solenoids. [refer <i>hydraulics</i> .]
Endurance	Maximum time period (indicated in hours or days) that a vessel can operate unreplenished while performing its intended role.
Engine control room	Space adjacent to engine room from where engine room systems may be controlled and monitored.
Engine room	Primary machinery space containing a vessel's propulsion prime movers.
Ergonomic	Permitting or accounting for efficiency of physical effort.
Even keel	Condition when forward and aft drafts are identical.

F

Factory ship	High endurance vessels designed for processing and packing whale or fish resources off-loaded by smaller whaling or fishing vessels.
---------------------	--

Fender	Portable or fixed resilient protection against impact or chafing of areas of the upper hull.
Ferry	Vessel used to convey passengers and/or vehicles on a regular schedule between 2 or more points.
Flag State	The nation in which a vessel is registered and which holds legal jurisdiction as regards operation of the vessel, at home or abroad.
Flange	(1) Plate section at right angles to the web of a structural section. (2) Circular plate sections at pipe ends enabling a bolted connection.
Flare	Outward curvature or widening of the hull above the waterline present in the bow section (of a conventional bow) to avoid shipping water. (Angle of flare is measured from the vertical.)
Floor	Vertical transverse full-breadth plating between inner bottom and bottom shell plating.
Flush deck hatch	Hatch in a deck with no coaming.
Flush deck ship	Vessel having an upper deck extend continuously from bow to stern.
Focsle	[refer <i>forecastle</i> .]
Forebody	That part of a hull forward of amidships.
Forecastle	Raised and enclosed forward superstructure section of the hull.
Foredeck	Foremost section of exposed main deck.
Forefoot	The transitional region between stem and keel.
Fore peak tank	Tank (often for ballast/trimming) forward of the collision bulkhead.
Forest product carrier	Vessel designed for the transportation of processed timber with large hatchways simplifying stowage and transfer of cargo.
Forward	Towards or at the fore end of a vessel. (Abbr. Fwd or For'd.)
FPSO	Floating production, storage and offloading vessel.
Frame	Vertical structural component supporting and/or stiffening hull side plating and maintaining the transverse form.
Frame station(s)	Points at which transverse frames (or floors) are located, indicated on the baseline, numbered from zero at the aft perpendicular and terminating at or beyond the forward perpendicular. Stations abaft the aft perpendicular are numbered negatively.

Freeboard	Vertical measurement from the vessel's side amidships from the load waterline to the upperside of the freeboard deck.
Freeboard deck	The uppermost complete deck exposed to weather and sea, which has permanent means of weathertight closing of all openings in the exposed part, and below which all openings in the vessel's sides are fitted with permanent means of watertight closing.
FRP	Fibre-reinforced plastic
Funnel	External fairing through which exhaust ducting is conducted.
G	
GA	General arrangement.
Galley	Kitchen compartment aboard a vessel.
Gantry	High level structure supporting a traversing lifting appliance.
Garboard strake	Strake (line) of shell plating immediately adjacent to the keel (centreline) plating.
Gas carrier	Tanker designed for the transportation of liquefied gases.
General arrangement	Highly detailed plan drawings of the general layout of a vessel.
General cargo	Mixed packaged cargo other than bulk, gaseous or containerised.
Germanischer Lloyd	German classification society. (Abbr. GL.)
Girder	(1) Longitudinal continuous member with a vertical web providing support of deck beams. (2) Longitudinal continuous vertical plating on the bottom of single- or double-bottomed vessels.
Gross registered tonnage	A formula-derived measure of the internal (enclosed) volume of a vessel less certain excluded spaces. (Stated in volumetric tons where 1 ton = 100 ft ³ , 2.8317 m ³ .) (Abbr. grt.)
Guarantee period	Generally a 12-month period following formal delivery of a newly built vessel in which all defects arising in respect of the vessel's performance are the responsibility of the constructor.
Gunwhale	Timber capping the uppermost strake in a wooden vessel.
Gusset plate	Bracket plate positioned in a horizontal or near-horizontal plane.

H

Handymax	Dry bulk carrier of 35 – 50,000 tonnes deadweight, popular for full efficiency, flexibility and low draft (<12 m).
Hatch	Opening in a deck providing access for cargo, personnel, stores, etc.
Hatch coaming	Raised rim of vertical plating around a hatchway to prevent entrance of water, the upper edge of which forms a sealing surface with the hatch-lid or cover.
Hawse pipe	Steel pipe duct through which the anchor cable is led overboard.
Head	(1) The bow of a vessel. (2) Term given to toilet facilities usually in the smaller craft context.
Heavy-lift vessel	Vessel designed specifically for the loading/discharge and transportation of very heavy cargoes.
Heel	Inclination of a vessel to one side. [Alt: <i>list.</i>]
Hopper barge	Barge designed with a single hopper type hold for the transport of bulk cargo and where the cargo is discharged (dumped) through the bottom of the vessel.
Hopper tank	Lower side ballast tank in a bulk carrier, shaped and positioned to create a hopper form to the cargo hold.
Hovercraft	Vessel designed to ride on a cushion of air formed by down-thrusting fans.
Hull	The main body or primary part providing global strength, buoyancy and hydrodynamic qualities of a vessel.
Hull girder	Combined hull structure contributing to the longitudinal global strength of a hull; treated as analogous to a girder.
Hydrofoil	High-speed craft with immersed foils for developing hydrodynamic lift at speed and a consequential reduction in resistance.
Hydrographic vessel	Vessel designed for the survey of seabed topography, currents, etc., relevant to marine navigation.
Hydroplane	Rotatable lateral fin providing vertical directional control for submersible craft.
Hydrostatic test	A pressure test employing a static head of water applied to various compartments or components of a vessel.

I

IACS	International Association of Classification Societies.
Ice breaker	Vessel designed for transiting sea ice or for the purpose of creating a channel in polar or winter ice for the passage of other vessels.
IMO	International Maritime Organisation. UN body with the purpose of determining standards for all aspects of maritime industry imposed via Conventions, Codes, Protocols and recommendations which are adopted by resolution.
Inner bottom	[refer <i>double bottom</i>] [Alt: <i>tank top</i> .]
Intercostal	Pertaining to structural members fabricated in separate parts which are aligned between continuous orthogonally intersecting members.
J	
Jib	The arm or boom of a crane providing the reach (working radius).
Jumbo derrick	A derrick designed with a very high lifting capacity, often installed on heavy-lift vessels.
Jumboising	The conversion of a vessel to increase displacement by means of a mid-length transverse cut and the installation of a new section.
K	
Keel (plate)	Lowest longitudinal strake of plating along the bottom centreline of the hull.
Keel block(s)	Support block(s) located beneath the keel strake which are employed during dry-docking of a vessel.
Keelson	Longitudinal vertical member above the keel to which frames are attached. (Wooden construction.)
Knee	Outdated term for a bracket connecting a deck beam and side frame.
Knot	One nautical mile per hour (1.852 km/h, 0.5144 m/s).
Knuckle	Abrupt change in direction of hull surface or structure.
KR	Korean Register of Shipping; (Korean classification society).

L

Landing craft	Flat-bottomed shallow-draft vessel designed to beach, with a bow and/or stern ramp for the transfer of cargo/payload.
Landing ship dock	Large naval vessel capable of carrying small landing craft and amphibious vehicles, despatched via a floodable stern dock within the hull. (Abbr. LSD.)
Lifeboat	(1) Rigid-hulled survival craft deployed from a parent vessel. (2) SAR craft.
Lifting gear	The lifting equipment (i.e., cranes) for loading and discharging operations.
Lightening hole	Large hole cut in a structural member to reduce its weight.
Lightship	The vessel condition without any form of deadweight aboard (incl. fuel and ballast).
Limber hole	Small hole or slot cut in a structural member to permit the drainage of liquid.
Liner	Vessel (over 1000 grt) operating on a regular route between ports according to a particular schedule.
Lines plan	Plans indicating the hull form via the inclusion of waterlines, buttock lines and section lines shown on profile, plan and end views.
List	[refer <i>heel</i> .]
LNG carrier	Vessel designed to transport natural gas in liquefied form.
LPG carrier	Vessel designed to transport petroleum gas in a form of butane or propane.
Lloyd's Register of Shipping	British classification society. (Abbr. LR.)
LMC	Lloyd's Register Machinery Certificate.
Longitudinal	Stiffener section used for plate stiffening aligned fore and aft.
Long ton	1.016 tonnes or 2 240 lb.
LR	Lloyd's Register of Shipping (British classification society).
M	
Machinery	Term covering main engines, auxiliary engine room machinery (e.g., pumps, compressors, etc.,) in addition to other installed plant

(e.g., hydraulics, air-conditioning plant, lift machinery, etc.,) and deck machinery (e.g., mooring winches, windlasses, etc.).

Magazine Internal space dedicated to the storage of munitions (shells, surface-to-air missiles, etc.) in a naval vessel.

Main deck The main continuous deck or principal deck of a vessel

Main mast The principal mast of a vessel.

Midships Identical meaning(s) as amidships. [refer *amidships*.]

Midship section Fully dimensioned sectional drawing of both hull and superstructure principal structural members at the midships station.

Mooring line Ropes used for securing a vessel to shore bollards.

Moulded breadth Greatest breadth of a hull measured between inner surfaces of the side shell plating.

N

Nautical mile Unit of distance used in marine navigation. (International nautical mile = 1.852 km, 6076.12 ft, 1.1508 land miles.) The international nautical mile is equivalent to the average linear distance over 1 minute of latitude arc at 45° latitude at sea level. (Abbr. nm.)

Net registered tonnage A formula-derived measure of the internal (enclosed) volume in a vessel except spaces for machinery, navigation and accommodation. Net tonnage is always less than the gross tonnage. (Stated in volumetric tons where 1 ton = 100 ft³, 2.8317 m³.) (Abbr. nrt.)

O

OBO [Oil-bulk ore (carrier)] Vessel designed for the transportation of oil and/or bulk ores.

Offsets Dimensional co-ordinates of a hull form, (referenced to the moulded baseline, centreline and transom or AP) usually presented in tabular format.

Oil tanker Vessel designed for the transportation of liquid hydrocarbons in bulk.

P

Pallet	A flat wooden or plastic platform onto which cargo may be strapped or lashed which simplifies handling via cranes and forklift vehicles.
Pallet carrier	Cargo vessel specially designed or adapted for the transportation of pallet-borne cargoes.
Panamax	Market category of vessels notionally at the dimensional limits for transiting the Panama canal.
Panting stringer	Horizontal deep-web side structural member used for strengthening bow structure prone to panting loads.
Parallel midbody	Midship portion of a hull within which the longitudinal contour is unchanged.
Passenger vessel	A vessel which carries more than 12 passengers.
Permanent ballast	Ballast material (usually solid material) which cannot be discharged or transferred by pump or by other means and which is used for attaining design draft and trim.
Pillar	Vertical column used to provide support to overhead deck structure.
Pintles	Vertical pins or bolts that serve as a pivot axis for a rudder.
Pipe layer	Vessel designed for the laying of pipelines on the sea bed.
Pitching	The oscillatory vertical motion of a vessel forward and aft in a seaway.
Platform deck	Deck which does not contribute to the overall longitudinal strength of a vessel.
Port	(1) Pertaining to the left-hand side of a vessel. (2) Term used for small windows in the marine context.
Poop deck	Raised short deck at the stern.
Port of Registry	Port in the country under whose flag a vessel is legally registered.
Port State Control	The examination of vessels for compliance with IMO Conventions and resolutions by state authorities.
Product tanker	Tanker designed for the transportation of a variety of hydrocarbon and chemical liquids with elaborate pumping and safety systems.
Propeller	Bladed propulsor generating thrust via the creation of hydrodynamic lift forces in the direction of vessel motion.
Pusher tug	Tug designed for or engaged in pushing barges from behind.

Q

Quadrant Quadrant-shaped flat plate assembly mounted horizontally on top of a rudder stock for to which steering cables/chains are attached in vintage vessels or small craft.

Quarter deck Full-width raised hull section and deck extending from the aft shoulder to the stern.

R

Rake Inclination from the vertical.

Railing(s) Horizontal parallel tubing forming a safety barrier at edges of decks.

Ramp Hinged platform permitting the loading/discharge of vehicles or movement between decks of vehicles aboard Ro-Ro vessels.

Range The maximum distance a vessel is capable of attaining at its normal service speed without refuelling.

Reach The horizontal distance that a crane or lifting appliance can cover, measured from its axis of rotation.

Refrigerated vessel Vessel designed for the transportation of refrigerated perishable cargoes in which the hold spaces are refrigerated and insulated.

Research vessel Vessel designed for oceanographic or fisheries research.

Reserve buoyancy Watertight volume of a vessel above the waterline.

RIB Rigid inflatable boat.

Ride control System(s) employing active hydrodynamic foils or deflectors installed to vary the attitude and vertical motions of the hull in high-speed vessels.

RINA (1) Royal Institution of Naval Architects. (2) Registro Italiano Navale (Italian classification society.)

Rise of floor [refer *deadrise*.]

Ro-Ro Roll-on Roll-off. Method of cargo transfer between vessel and shore in which cargo is driven on/off using fork-lift, prime-mover/trailer combinations, etc.

Roll	The transverse angular motion of a vessel.
Ro-Pax	Vessel designed with combined Ro-Ro and passenger capacity.
Rudder	Vertical control surface generating lift or reactionary forces for the directional control of a vessel.
Rudder stock	Vertical shaft connecting the rudder to the steering actuating system.
S	
Sacrificial anode	Anode of zinc attached to the immersed parts of a hull to prevent deterioration of the hull steel through electrochemical reaction.
Salvage tug	Large powerful and manoeuvrable vessel designed to tow and assist vessels needing assistance due to grounding, sinking or fire.
Scantlings	Set of dimensions of a vessel's structure. (Structural dimensions.)
Section	(1) General term for an extruded or fabricated structural member. [Alt: <i>profile</i> .] (2) Transverse vertical plane through the hull perpendicular to the centreline.
Sheer	Upward longitudinal curvature of the upper deck.
Sheer strake	The uppermost strake (line) of side shell plating immediately adjacent to the strength deck.
Shell plating	Plating forming the hull side and bottom outer surfaces.
Short ton	American ton (2000 lbs). 0.9072 tonnes.
Shuttle tanker	Moderate sized tanker designed for the regular short-haul transport of oil between FPSO vessels or single point mooring buoys and coastal refinery terminals.
Skeg	Centreline (or twinned) fin-form continuation of the lower afterbody integrated into the hull primarily for directional stability and for support in dry-dock.
SNAME	Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (USA).
Sounding	Measured depth of liquid contents in a tank.
SPC	Self-polishing copolymer antifouling paint.
Specifications	Specified details relating to the performance, operating conditions, construction and quality of an engineered item.

Spreader	Beam or beam structure temporarily attached to and spanning the extremes of an item being lifted.
Stabiliser(s)	Protruding hydraulically-activated fin(s) which reduces roll amplitude through oscillatory action creating alternating lift vectors phased to counter roll.
Stability	The state or ability of a vessel afloat to recover equilibrium of trim and heel at sea.
Stanchion	Vertical structural supports of bulwarks and safety railings.
Starboard	Pertaining to the right-hand side of a vessel.
Static load	Structural loading of constant magnitude and application.
Steering flat	Compartment above the rudder(s) containing the vessel's steering actuation system(s).
Stem	The centreline apex area of the bow formed by curvature of plating or a solid bar section.
Stern	The aftmost (rear) part of a vessel.
Stern door	Watertight horizontally-hinged door integral to the transom on a stern-loading Ro-Ro vessel.
Stern ramp	Stern- (transom) mounted hinged platform located to permit the loading/discharge of vehicles aboard a Ro-Ro vessel.
Stern thruster	A propulsor installed near the stern to provide transverse a thrust component enhancing manoeuvrability.
Stern tube	Sealed and sleeved gland and bearing(s) for through-hull propeller shafting where the shaft penetrates the hull structure.
Stiffener	Linear structural section attached or integral to flat (planar) structure to prevent buckling and reduce bending deflections.
Strake	Continuous longitudinal line of plating.
Stringer	Longitudinal deep-web member used to provide support of web frames in the transverse framing system of hull side structure.
Stringer plate	[refer <i>deck stringer</i> .] [Alt: <i>stringer strake</i> .]
Strut	Support structure (with streamlined cross-section) for propeller shafting in a multi-screw vessel. [Alt: <i>shaft bracket</i> .]

Superstructure	(1) General term for sections of a vessel constructed on and above the upper or main decks of a vessel. (2) A more restrictive term under the International Convention on Load Lines, (1966): detached enclosed structure on the freeboard deck and extending transversely to within 4% of the breadth from the vessel's sides.
Swash bulkhead (plate)	Longitudinal or transverse perforated bulkhead (baffle) fitted in a tank to reduce the surging of the contents.
SWL	Safe working load; certified load limit applied to lifting appliances and gear.
T	
Tank top	[refer <i>double bottom</i> and <i>inner bottom</i> .]
TEU	Twenty-foot equivalent unit. A standard of measurement used in container transport based on the dimensions of a container 20 ft long × 8 ft wide × 8.5 ft high; (6050 × 2440 × 2590 mm).
Transom	Square-ended stern.
Transverse	(1) Alignment perpendicular to the centreplane of a vessel. (2) Deck beam.
Trawler	Fishing vessel designed for operation involving the towing of submerged nets.
Trim	The longitudinal attitude of a vessel, i.e., the difference between forward and aft drafts.
Trunk	Vertical space or passage formed by bulkheads or casings extending 1 or more decks providing access or through which piping or cabling may be conducted.
Tug	Small powerful and highly manoeuvrable vessel designed for towing, assisting and manoeuvring larger vessels in port or restricted waterways.
Tumblehome	Inward curvature or slope of hull sides above the waterline. (Obsolete feature.)
Tween-deck	Intermediate deck within a cargo space above the lower hold and below the upper deck.

U

ULCC	Ultra large crude carrier. Tanker of deadweight greater than 320,000 tonnes.
USL	Uniform Shipping Laws (Australian federal code for the design, construction and stability of vessels.)
V	
Ventilator	Installation or nacelle for the intake or exhaust of ventilation air for enclosed spaces.
Visor	Single-section outer bow door on a Ro-Ro vessel.
VLCC	Very large crude carrier. Tanker of deadweight between 160,000 and 320,000 tonnes.
Void space	Enclosed space (often watertight) intentionally left empty; (e.g., cofferdam).
W	
Watertight	Capable of preventing the ingress of water under a head of water likely to occur in the intact or damaged condition.
Weather deck	Uppermost hull deck exposed to the weather at all times.
Weathertight	Capable of preventing the ingress of water in any wind and wave conditions up to those specified as critical design conditions.
Web frame	Transverse side frame with deeper web, spaced at multiples of main frame stations for the provision of extra strength.
Winch	Geared rotary machine used for handling of lines, wires, etc.
Windlass	Winch designed for the raising and lowering of an anchor.
Wing tank	Ballast or cargo tank adjacent to the hull side.
X	—
Y	
Yacht	Private or charter vessel designed for pleasure cruising, racing, etc. propelled by wind or power.
