

- Cuddy.** A small, partitioned space for storage under the foredeck.
- Dagger board.** A shaped plate that lowers vertically below the boat by sliding up and down, and that can be removed completely from the boat, unlike a **centerboard**, which is hinged below the boat's **hull**.
- Ditty bag.** A small bag for carrying or stowing small articles.
- Downhaul.** A tackle or rope to hold down a sail or **spar**. Used to adjust tension along the leading edge of the sail.
- Draft.** The depth of the **hull** from the waterline to the lowest point of the **keel** (or of the **centerboard** when lowered).
- Dry rot.** Decay in wood caused by fungus, usually stemming from poor ventilation.
- Ease.** To slacken.
- Embark.** To go on board.
- Fairlead or fairleader.** An ring, an eye, or sometimes a block used to guide a rope in the right direction; usually associated with **jib sheets**.
- Faking down.** A method of coiling rope so that each **fake** (flat coil) overlaps the preceding one and is free to run out rapidly.
- Fathom.** A nautical measure equal to 6 feet.
- Fender.** Canvas, wood, rope, or plastic (vinyl) used over the side to protect a boat's sides against chafing (rubbing against the dock).
- Flemishing down.** Coiling a line flat on deck in concentric circles so that the line will not blow or wash off easily.
- Floors.** Short timbers bolted across the **keel** to frames for added structural strength.
- Fluke.** The flattened end of an anchor arm; the end of a hook.
- Foot.** A sail's lower edge.
- Fore.** At or toward the boat's **bow**.
- Fore and aft.** In a line with the **keel**.
- Forestay.** A wire that leads from the **mast** to the **bow**.
- Forward.** In front of.
- Foul.** Not clear; jammed.
- Frame.** The skeleton of a boat.
- Freeboard.** The part of a boat that is out of the water.
- Furl.** To gather up and secure a sail or awning.
- Gaff.** A **spar** that the head of a sail is attached to.
- Go about.** To turn the boat's **bow** through the wind.
- Gooseneck.** A fitting used to hold the **boom** to the **mast**.
- Ground tackle.** The anchor and anchoring gear.
- Gudgeon.** A support for a **rudder**.
- Gunwale.** The upper edge of a boat's side or rail (pronounced GUN'Nl).
- Guy.** A steadying rope.
- Halyard.** A line used for hoisting sails.
- Hank.** A ring around a stay.
- Hatch.** An opening through the deck or cabin to the area below.
- Head.** A sail's top corner. A boat's toilet.
- Headsail.** A sail set forward of the foremost **mast**.
- Heave.** To throw (as a line ashore); the rise and fall of a vessel on water.
- Heave in.** To pull (as on an anchor line).
- Heaving line.** A light line attached to a heavier line and thrown to a pier or other vessel. Can be used to make a rescue.
- Heel.** The angle a boat tips at when sailing.
- Helm.** The device with which one steers.
- Helmsman.** The person who steers.
- Hike out.** To sit out hard on the edge of the boat to keep the boat flat in a strong wind.
- Hull.** The main body or shell of the boat. Does not include deckhouses, flying bridges, etc.
- In irons.** To be headed into the wind and not bear one way or another.
- Inland Rules.** The Rules of the Road, enacted by Congress, that govern the navigation on inland waters of the United States.
- In stays.** To be headed into the wind with all sails shaking.
- Jetsam.** Things that sink when thrown overboard. (**Flotsam** floats.)
- Jib.** A triangular sail **set forward** of the **mast**.
- Jibe** (sometimes spelled **gybe**). To bring a sailboat from one **tack** to the other by swinging its stern through the wind.
- Jib sheet.** The line by which the angle of the **jib** is controlled.
- Keel.** The boat's "backbone."
- Knot.** A measure of speed on the water equal to one nautical mile (6,076 feet) per hour.
- Lanyard.** A rope **made fast** to an article.
- Lee.** The side opposite that from which the wind blows; the opposite of **weather**.
- Lee helm.** A condition in which a boat tends to swing **leeward** unless held on course.
- Leeboard.** A shaped plate similar to a **centerboard**, but secured over the side of a small boat or sailing canoe.
- Leech.** The **after** edge of a **fore-and-aft** sail.
- Leeward.** The direction away from the wind (pronounced LOO'ard).
- Limber holes.** Holes in floor timbers or frames that allow bilgewater to drain into the lowest part of the **hull**.