

M

magnetic compass; an instrument that indicates direction relative to the earth's magnetic poles

main air compressor; a device which fills main air bottles

main engine; the engine used as the primary propulsion unit

main engine emergency controls; controls used to operate the main engine in emergency situations

maintenance; keeping in good condition by repairs, clearing etc.

make a lee; to protect from the wind and tide by standing on the windward side of e.g. a pilot boat

malfunction; a failure in the proper functioning

mammal; a warm blooded, hairy animal of the class Mammalia, which feeds milk to its young

manganese; a grey-white metallic element, used in the process of making steel

mangrove; a tropical tree, found near water, whose twisted roots grow partly above ground

manhole; an opening in the cover, deck or tank through which a member of the crew can enter inside

manifold; a system of pipes, pumps and valves designed for operating together

manifold flange; a flange to which the shore loading arms or hoses are connected

manifold valve; a valve at the ship and shore interface used to route the cargo to the desired pipeline

manmade; made by humans rather than occurring in nature

manoeuvrability; the act of turning and directing objects

manoeuvrable; easy to direct

manoeuvring; movement in a certain direction

marina; a small port that is used for pleasure craft

marine; related to the sea or sea transport

marine ecosystem; the complex of living organisms in the ocean environment

marine environment; the air, water, and land on Earth, which can be harmed by man's activities

marine VHF Radiotelephone; a telephone for providing general communications in accordance with GMDSS requirements

mariner; a seaman, sailor, seafarer

mark; a seamark or a landmark

mark buoy; a warning buoy

MARPOL; International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships

mast; a vertical spar for supporting sails, rigging, flags etc.

master; see: master mariner

master mariner; Ship's Captain

master valve; a valve which separates tanks in fore-and-aft direction

Master's Certificate; the certificate of competency for master of a ship (of 3000 GT or more), issued by the national maritime or transport authority and recognized according to IMO STCW Convention 1978/1995

Master's ticket; see: Master's Certificate
mate; a deck officer on board a merchant ship
Mayday; a distress signal, a signal sent by a vessel in distress
Mayday relay; the passing of an emergency message from a vessel in distress by another ship or station
Meet her!; an order given to the helmsman to check the helm, (SMCP) check the swing of the vessel's head in a turn
merchant; a person or organization that buys and sells goods
MERSAR; Merchant Ship Search and Rescue Manual
microbial population; a number of very small living things which form a group i.e. a population
micro-organism; an organism which is microscopic
Midships!; a standard wheel order to put the rudder in the zero position
midship(s); the centre of the vessel
mid-deck tanker; a tanker having an additional deck intended to limit spills if the tanker is damaged, also: mid-height deck tanker
miles per hour; a unit of speed of a vessel
mist; thin fog produced by very small drops of water gathering in the air, visibility between 1000 and 2000 m
misty; foggy
mitigate; to reduce the harmful effects of something, to make something less harmful or bad
mixed general cargo; goods packed in different cases, boxes, bags, barrels etc.
MMSI; (in GMDSS system) Maritime Mobile Service Identity
moisture; water causing a slight wetness or dampness
monitor; to regularly check and watch something (a situation) carefully in order to discover what is happening
moor; to secure a boat by means of ropes or wires made fast to the shore, or to a buoy or anchor
mooring; holding a ship in place by cables or chains or by anchors
mooring berth; a place where a ship can moor
mooring bitts; vertical fittings of steel or iron or wood, a double bollard for mooring
mooring buoy; warping buoy
mooring line; mooring rope or cable
moratorium; a stopping of an activity for an agreed amount of time
motorship; a ship propelled by an engine
m.p.h; see: miles per hour
MRCC; Marine Rescue Co-ordination Centre
m/s; see: motorship
M.T.; Mean Time, Greenwich Mean Time
mud; wet and sticky earth
multi-purpose vessel; a ship which can be used for different purposes
muster list; 1. a list of crew and passengers and their functions in distress or drill 2. a list of all alarms on board ship

muster station; an assembly station, where the crew and passengers gather for purposes of checking

mutation; the way in which genes change and produce permanent differences or a permanent change in an organism, or the changed organism itself

N

nail; to use a nail to repair or build an item

natural disaster; an event caused by nature which results in great harm, damage or death, or serious difficulty

natural resources; useful or valuable things that exist in nature and can be used by people, e.g. oil, trees etc.

nautical chart; a sea map showing the contours of the land and the depths below the sea level

nautical mile; a unit of distance used at sea equal to 6080 feet or 1852 metres

navigable; of a route that can be navigated

navigable waters; water areas that can be navigated

navigating bridge; a place on board ship that houses all the navigation instruments

navigation; art and skill of steering the ship and taking the ship safely from one point (port) to another

navigation light; a coloured source of illumination on a waterborne vessel, used to signal a craft's position, heading, and status

navigation mark; a pilotage aid which identifies the approximate position of a maritime channel, hazard and administrative area to allow boats, ships and seaplanes to navigate safely

navigational aid; a device intended to assist navigators in determining their position or safe course, or to warn them of dangers or obstructions to navigation, e.g. seamarks and landmarks, charts and navigation instruments

Navtex; a form of electronic mail for Maritime Safety Information including the weather reports and weather forecasts

nickname; an informal name, especially given by friends or relatives, usually based on the person's name or character

nitrogen; a tasteless or colourless gas which is largely part of the atmosphere of the Earth, also: NOX

non-point source pollution; the opposite of point source pollution, where discharges occur to a water body at a single location (= man-made contaminants)

not under command; a vessel which through exceptional circumstances is unable to manoeuvre and thus unable to keep out of the way of other ships, also: NUC

Note of Protest; a written declaration by the Master of circumstances beyond his control that might have given rise to suspecting damage to the ship and the cargo, also when in breach of charter party terms (undue delay etc.)

Notices to mariners; an official publication of the hydrographic office of the navy about navigation safety, maintenance of the fairways, lights, buoys etc.

noxious; harmful or poisonous

nozzle; a tube-like device at the end of a pipe, or a hose, by which a stream is directed

NUC; see: not under command

nucleus; the central part of an atom, usually made up of protons and neutrons or the essence of something (e.g. group of people or things which are the most important part of something)

numbness; state of a body part in which the power of feeling or moving is weakened or lost

nut; a small piece of metal with a threaded hole for screwing on to a bolt

O

OBO; see: oil/bulk/ore carrier

obstruction; an object such as a wreck that blocks the fairway or route

ocean; a great body of water that surrounds the land masses on the earth

odds and ends; different elements of different types, usually small and unimportant or of little value

Officer of the Watch; an officer on duty

off station; (of buoys) not in charted position, also: off-station

offshore; away from or at a distance from the coast

offshore structure; a structure which is at a distance from the coast

oil carrier; a tanker, tankship

oil clearance; removal of oil film from the surface of the sea, oil skimming from the surface of the water

oil drilling rig; a large installation drilling for oil at sea

oil exploration; searching for and discovering oil

oil product; product refined from crude oil

oil seep; the slow moving or spreading of oil as it is released from something

oil slick; a layer of oil that is floating over a large area of the surface of the sea, usually because an accident has caused it to escape from a ship or container

oil spill; an amount of oil unintentionally fallen or flowed over from a container

oil spillage; see: oil spill

oil tanker; a ship for the carriage of crude oil and its products

oil terminal; an industrial facility for the storage of crude oil and oil products

oil water separator; a device which separates oil from bilge water

oil/bulk/ore carrier; a vessel for the carriage of oil, ore or other bulk cargoes

oily residues; an oily substance that remains after a chemical process or oily parts that remain after the rest of the substance has gone

on duty; on watch

on even keel; the bow and the stern of the vessel are at the same level

on-scene commander; a person in charge of the rescue operation on the spot, also: OSC

OOW; see: Officer of the Watch

open sea; deep sea

operate; to function, serve, work

operation; a process of working

operational; functioning, ready for use

OPRC; (International Convention on) Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-

operation

ore; natural substance from which metals and non-metallic materials can be extracted

ore and coal carrier; a vessel for the carriage of ore and coal in bulk

ore carrier; a vessel for the carriage of ore

organism; any living system

OS; Ordinary Seaman, ordinary rating

OSC; see: on-scene commander

out of order; not functioning

out-bound; a vessel leaving the port or fairway and going to sea

over; word signaling the end of a turn in an exchange or transmission

overboard; over the ship's side

overhaul; a thorough examination and repair if necessary

overhauling; a thorough examination for good working order

overtake; to come up from behind and pass

overtime; additional working time beyond the usual time

oxygen; a colourless gas present in the air on Earth needed by people, animals and plants to breathe

ozone layer; a layer of air and ozone high above the Earth, which protects the Earth from harmful ultraviolet sunlight