

Mahina Expeditions offers offshore sail-training expeditions, offshore cruising seminars and boat purchase consultation.



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## Nautical Terminology

**Abaft** - behind the middle of the boat.

**Active sheet** - headsail sheet that is taking the strain.

**Aft** - at or towards the back of the boat.

**Abeam** - off the side(at right angle) to the boat.

**Batten** - a thin slat that slides into a pocket on the mainsail, helping it to hold shape.

**Bear away** - to turn away from the wind.

**Beating** - a course sailed upwind.

**Bight** - a loop of line.

**Bitter end** - the end of the line.

**Block** - a pulley on a boat.

**By the lee** - sailing downwind with the wind the same side as the boom.

**Cleat off** - secure a line to a cleat in correct manner.

**Close reach** - sailing with wind forward of beam. 70 degrees from bow.

**Course** - direction the boat is steered according to the compass.

**Current** - horizontal movement caused by wind and/or tide.

**Dead downwind** - sailing with the wind right behind.

**Depower** - remove power from sails by luffing or making them flatter. Done to reduce heeling.

**Draft** - depth keel from water surface.

**Ease** - to let out a line in a controlled manner.

**Ebb** - out going current.

**Fall off** - to turn away from the wind.

**Fend off** - push off.

**Flake** - to lay out a line using large loops to keep it from getting tangled.

**Flood** - incoming current.

**Kicker** - block and tackle system to hold boom down - vang.

**Lazarette** - aft deck locker.

**Lazy sheet** - the headsail sheet that is not under load - windward side

**Lee helm** - boats tendency to turn away from wind.

**Leech line** - cord that prevents flutter on sail edge.

**Leech** - the after edge of a sail.

**Leeward** - the side or direction away from the wind.

**Let go** - totally release a line.

**Luffing** - the fluttering of a sail.

**Make fast** - cleat or tie off a line.

**Mast pulpits** - stainless steel guard rail at the mast.

**Painter** - line attached to the bow of the dinghy.

**Pulpit** - stainless steel guard rail at the bow Ready about - command given prior to tacking.

**Rode** - line or chain attached from the boat to the anchor.

**Secure a line** - cleat or tie off a line.

**Slot** - gap between mainsail and headsail.

**Snubber** - line secured to chain to take shock.

**Stand-on vessel** - vessel with right of way.

**Tacking** - command given while tacking.

**Tail** - the end section of a line.

**To tail** - to control a line from a winch or cleat.

**Telltails** - yarn on a sail to indicate sail trim.

**Tender** - dinghy.

**Traveler** - track and car that controls the sideways movement of the boom.

**Upwind** - towards the wind.

**Vang** - block and tackle system to hold boom down - kicker.

**VMG** - velocity made good.

**Give-way vessel** - vessel required to give way when on collision course.

**Gybe ho** - command given before gibing.

**Hard over** - helm turned as far as possible in one direction.

**Head up** - to turn towards the wind.

**Heading** - the boats direction according to the compass.

**Helms a lee** - command given when helm is turned during a tack.

**Hockle** - kink in a line.

**Hoist** - to pull a line to lift an object.

**Weather helm** - boats tendency to turn towards wind. Occurs when overpowered.

**Windward** - towards the wind.

**Working sheet** - headsail sheet being used to trim the sails.

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