

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**bait** – natural attractant added to a hooks to catch fish, including live and dead baitfish, crabs, crayfish, worms, eels, insects, mussels, clams, chicken livers, corn kernels, dough balls, squid and shrimp.

**bay** – a part of an ocean or lake that indents the shoreline.

**bobber** – see “float”.

**bow** – the front end of a boat.

**brook** – a stream that is smaller than a creek.

**buoy** – a floating object anchored in water to warn of a hazard; composed of various shapes and colors and often equipped with a bell or light.

**capacity plate** – notice provided by a boat’s manufacturer and mounted in a conspicuous location indicating passenger, fuel and gear weight limits, maximum horsepower and other limits, depending on the type and size of the boat.

**creek** – a natural stream of water that is often a tributary of a river.

**dehooker** – a small tool, consisting of a handle attached to a metal rod with curved end, that is used to safely remove hooks from the lip, mouth, throat and esophagus of fish, sea turtles, marine mammals and sea birds without touching or removing them from the water.

**float** – a device used to suspend bait at a predetermined depth in order to keep it off the waterway bottom and to signal by bobbing when a fish takes the bait; also know as “bobber.”

**habitat** – the native environment where a plant or animal naturally grows or lives.

**helm** – the wheel or tiller by which a boat is steered.

**hypothermia** – condition of sub-normal body temperature (less than 95° F) which boaters and anglers must be aware of in case of accidental immersion in water.

**fin** – any of several wing-like, membranous organs on the body of a fish, dolphin, etc., that aid in swimming, turning and balancing.

**gill** – the organ for breathing for most animals that live in water, including fish, lobsters and clams, ranging from simple saclike to complex feathery protrusions from the body.

**gulf** – an area of ocean, larger than a bay, that extends into land .

**hook** – a metal wire device shaped like a “J” that has an opening or eye at one end to which the line is tied and a point at the other end to catch the fish.

**inlet** – a narrow strip of water extending into land from a larger body of water or running between islands.



**island** – a land mass, smaller than a continent, that is fully surrounded by water.

**jig** – a type of lure that attracts fish by jiggling up and down in the water.

**lake** – an inland body of water, usually fresh, that is larger than a pond and is generally formed by some obstruction in the course of flowing water.

**line** – specialized "string" used for fishing, most commonly made of nylon monofilament.

**lure** - any artificial item designed to attract fish and fitted with hooks, including hard plastic or wood lures (or plugs), soft plastic imitations, large offshore skirted baits, metal spoons, lead-head lures (jigs), bladed lures, spinners and spinnerbaits.

**nautical chart** – a graphic representation of a marine area that is essential to safe navigation, including elements such as the coastline formation, water depth, rise and fall of tides, navigational dangers, buoy and floating marker locations and other details.

**ocean** – the great saltwater body that covers 71% of the Earth's surface; any of its five principal divisions: the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic or Antarctic Ocean.

**plug** – a type of lure made of wood or hard plastic, shaped and colored to resemble food that fish naturally like to eat.

**pollution** – harmful chemical or waste material discharged into the water or environment.

**pond** – a body of water smaller than a lake, often formed artificially.

**port** – the left-hand side of a boat as a passenger faces forward.

**reel** – a mechanical device that winds up and lets out fishing line and is attached to a rod; comes in styles designed for specific types of fishing such as Casting, Spinning, Spincast and Fly.

**river** – a natural stream of water that is larger than a creek and empties into an ocean, lake or another river.

**rod** – a long lever, usually made of fiberglass, graphite or composite materials, that is used to catch fish; comes in different styles for specific types of fishing and usually includes a reel-holding clamp and guides through which the line runs.

**sea** – a large body of salt water wholly or partly enclosed by land; sometimes applied to very large bodies of fresh water.

**sinker** – a weight, preferably lead-free, that is attached to a fishing line to help it sink beneath the water's surface.



**starboard** – the right-hand side of a boat as a passenger faces forward.

**stern** – the rear end of a boat.

**stream** – a current of water that flows continuously in a line.

**strike** – any "hit" by a fish taking a lure or bait.

**sun protection factor (spf)** – a measure of protection in lotions, sprays, oils, etc. against the sun's rays, ranging from 1 to 90; spf of 30 = wearer can remain in sun 30 times longer without burning.

**tackle box** – a box or bag with special compartments and features to hold terminal tackle, lures, hooks, and other fishing gear.

**tributary** – a stream or river that flows into a lake, larger river, etc.

**watershed** – the region drained by a river or river system; the land territory where all water that is under it or drains off it goes into the same place.

— takemefishing.org —



**PASSPORT TO  
FISHING &  
BOATING**

FISHING & BOATING SAFETY FOR FAMILIES