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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION TO BOATING TERMINOLOGY

The nautical field has developed its own jargon to describe the equipment, methods, and manoeuvres of nautical activities. Transport Canada has its own definitions for some nautical terms. This chapter introduces you to the meanings of boating terminology that you will encounter on a Transport Canada operator competency test. In addition, definitions of the terminology used in this course can be found on the [Glossary](#) page.

The seven chapters of this study guide contain the information that you must know to pass a Transport Canada Boating Safety Test in order to obtain your Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC).

This chapter contains the following sections:

- 1.1 [General Terminology](#)
 - 1.2 [Vessel Terminology](#)
 - 1.3 [Directions and Sectors When Afloat](#)
 - 1.4 [More Nautical Terminology](#)
 - 1.5 [Acts and regulations Affecting Pleasure Craft Operators in Canada](#)
- [Chapter 1 Review Quiz](#)
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[Appendix 1-2 –Equivalent Training List](#)

1.1 GENERAL TERMINOLOGY



Pleasure craft – Pursuant to Transport Canada policy, a **pleasure craft is defined as any type of watercraft used exclusively for pleasure and not for carrying passengers or goods for hire.**

Pleasure craft come in all shapes and sizes (canoes, kayaks, sailboats, motorboats, cabin cruisers, Seadoos, jet skis, etc.).

Seadoos and jet skis are referred to as **personal water craft** (PWCs) and are considered to be power-driven (motorized) pleasure craft.

Proof of Competency – According to the *Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations (COPCRs)*, regardless of age or nationality all persons must carry proof of competency whenever operating any type of motorized pleasure craft on any Canadian waters (other than the waters of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut). Original proof of competency (not a photocopy) must be carried on board when operating a motorized pleasure craft anywhere in Canada (proof of competency is not required for vessels without motors). Failure to carry proof of competency risks a significant fine (usually \$250 or more).

The most common proof of competency is the **Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC)**.



Pleasure Craft Operator Card – The Pleasure Craft Operator Card is not a government-issued license; it is a certificate issued by a privately-owned accredited course provider (ACP) that confirms that the holder passed a Transport Canada Boating Safety Test. Thus, obtaining a PCOC is much like earning a certificate from a drivers' education school, the driver's education certificate is *not* a license.

Like any certificate, the Pleasure Craft Operator Card is good for life; it does not have to be renewed annually and it cannot be suspended. By contrast, the police *can* suspend or revoke your provincial driver's permit for improper operation of any powered vehicle (including a pleasure craft, an all-terrain vehicle, or a snowmobile).

Proof of competency can take any of four forms:

1. **Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC)**;
2. Proof that you successfully completed a boating safety course in Canada before April 1, 1999 (i.e.: you have a boating safety certificate issued before 1999);
3. A completed boat rental safety checklist (temporary proof); or
4. Alternative acceptable proof of competency.

Alternative Acceptable Proof of Competency – If you hold any certificate on Transport Canada’s “*List of Certificates of Competency, Training Certificates, and other Equivalencies as Proof of Competency*”, then you already meet the requirements of the *Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-99-53/>) of the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-10.15/>) for proof of competency, and you just need to make sure you carry the original documentation or a copy of the certificate onboard when operating a motorized pleasure craft. See Transport Canada’s web site for a list of equivalent proofs of competency: <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-courses-pcoc-list-marine-safety-certif-1323.htm>

You can also obtain information by telephone via Service Canada at 1-800-267-6677.

Certificates for boating safety courses completed before April 1, 1999 are also recognised as proof of competency. Thus, if you successfully completed a boating safety course prior to the COPCRs coming into effect (i.e.: prior to April 1, 1999) and you have proof, then that course certificate is accepted as proof of competency.

Foreign residents visiting Canada – The *Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations* (the COPCRs; which require you to carry proof of competency) along with the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* and its regulations apply to any person of any age or nationality who operates a powered pleasure craft on any Canadian waters (other than the waters of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut).

If you are a non-resident visiting Canada with your foreign-registered or foreign-licensed motorboat, then you are not required to carry proof of competency on board as long as your boat is in Canada for less than 45 days.

If you do require proof of competency (because your boat will be in Canada for more than 45 days or because you wish to operate a powered pleasure craft that is licensed or registered in Canada) then you may do so using an operator card or similar proof of competency issued by your home state or country. Either way, you must keep some type of proof of competency (Canadian or foreign) on board with you at all times.

Registering or Licensing Your Vessel

In Canada, most vessels must be either licensed with Transport Canada or registered with Transport Canada. Whether or not you will license or register your vessel depends on its type, size, and the size and type of its motor.

Pleasure Craft Licensing – All pleasure craft of all sizes equipped with one or more primary propulsion motors totalling 7.5 KW (10 hp) or more must be licensed. A pleasure craft license identifies a vessel but does not imply ownership or title. A Bill of Sale is required for conclusive proof as to who owns a vessel. **No citizenship or residency restrictions apply to pleasure craft licensing but the vessel must be licensed in Canada if it is principally operated and maintained in Canada. A Pleasure Craft License is not for you the operator, it is for your boat and it is valid for 10 years.**

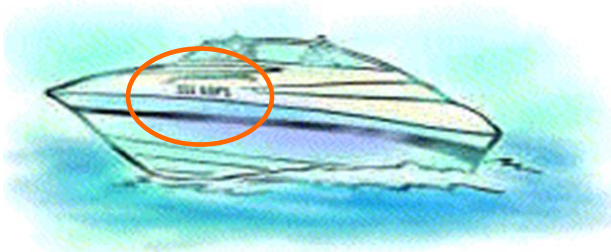
1. Getting a Pleasure Craft License Application Form - There are three ways you can obtain an easy-to-use **Pleasure Craft License Application Kit**:

1. Online at the Office of Boating Safety's web site:
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-menu-1362.htm>
2. At a Service Canada Centre (see list at the Service Canada web site):
<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/cgi-bin/hr-search.cgi?app=hme&ln=eng>
3. Through a regional branch of the Office of Boating Safety (see their web site):
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-contactus-menu-2982.htm>

2. Submitting Your Pleasure Craft License Application Form – To obtain a free **Pleasure Craft License** for your boat, there are two ways that you can submit your Pleasure Craft License application form:

- **Online:** To submit online, go to this web site:
http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-paperwork-paperwork_boat_licence-3212.htm
- **By mail:** To submit by mail, your completed application form, along with proof of vessel ownership, and a signed copy of a valid piece of government-issued identification should be mailed to this address:
Pleasure Craft Licensing Centre
P.O. Box 2006
Fredericton, NB, E3B 5G4

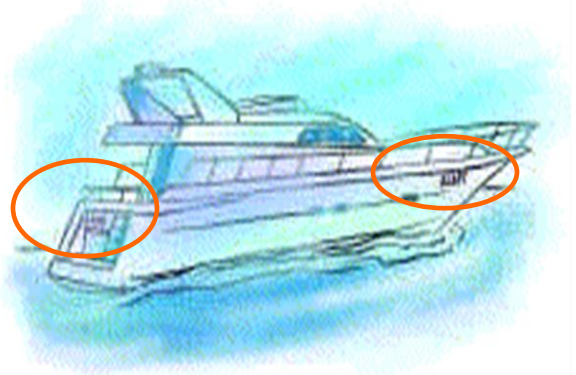
The Pleasure Craft License for your pleasure craft (or a good quality copy of the license) must be carried onboard whenever and wherever the vessel is operated in Canada.



When you receive your boat's **Pleasure Craft License** in the mail, the form will indicate **your vessel's Pleasure Craft Licence number**, which must be displayed above the waterline on both sides of the bow in block letters and numbers that are at least 7.5 cm (3 in) in height. The colour of the letters and numbers should contrast with the colour of the hull.

Vessel Registration - Registration is the legal documentation of vessel ownership, similar in nature to the title system applicable for a house. Registration is voluntary for a pleasure craft and is executed by an application to Transport Canada. To register a vessel, you must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada. A Canadian corporation or a foreign corporation may also register a vessel in Canada.

The registered name must be displayed on both sides of the bow. And both the name and port of registry must be displayed on the stern. The registration number and tonnage must be displayed inside the hull. Both the bow and stern registration numbers must be displayed above the waterline in block letters and numbers that are at least 10 cm (4 in.) in height and that contrast with the colour of the hull.



To learn more about pleasure craft licensing or vessel registration, please:

- go to: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-menu-1362.htm>; or
- send an e-mail to: obs-bsn@tc.gc.ca; or
- contact Service Canada by telephone at 1-800-267-6687.

Ownership information – Make sure that you carry current proof of ownership (Pleasure Craft License, Vessel Registration, and Bill of Sale, etc.) with you onboard whenever operating your pleasure craft. You should also be mindful of the fact that the vessel ownership information that you carry must be kept up to date (meaning that you must obtain updated records from Transport Canada if the name or address of the owner changes).

The owner may operate the pleasure craft for 90 days after the date of change of name or address, before the owner receives the new license updated with the correct name or address. However, during this period, the owner must carry on board documents establishing the date of change of name or address, documents setting out the new name or address, and the previous license in need of updating. **Note:** A pleasure craft's license alone is not accepted as proof of ownership when entering the United States (or returning to Canada). Thus, ensure that you are carrying up-to-date proof of ownership (ex.: Pleasure Craft License or Vessel Registration plus a Bill of Sale, etc.) for your pleasure craft.

Hull Serial Number – All pleasure craft (with or without a motor) used in Canada must display on their hull a hull serial number (HSN). No character of the HSN is to be less than 3.2 cm (1 ¼ in.) in height or width. The HSN is 12 digits in length (beginning with the manufacturer's code) and must be permanently marked on the exterior upper starboard corner of the boat's transom.

Hull serial numbers are used extensively by police to facilitate the recovery of stolen vessels. Pursuant to the *Small Vessel Regulations* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/sor-2010-91/page-1.html>) of the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*, no person shall alter, deface or remove a hull serial number. If your vessel does not have a hull serial number, one can be obtained from the manufacturer. If the owner is unable to obtain an HSN from the manufacturer, then the owner is not required to take any further action but may be asked to demonstrate that they made reasonable attempts to obtain an HSN.



Commercial Vessel - A commercial vessel is any vessel that is used to earn revenue. Commercial vessels include water taxis, tour boats, freighters, tankers, ferries, fishing boats, tugboats, and excursion boats.

Power-driven vessel - A power-driven vessel is one that is propelled by any type of engine or machinery (including steam engines and electric trolling motors). All operators of power-driven pleasure craft must obtain a PCOC and carry it on board.



Sail-Driven Vessel - Any vessel under sail provided that propelling machinery, if fitted, is not being used. Thus, even if a sailboat has its sails raised, it is considered to be a power-driven vessel whenever it is being propelled by a motor and, thus, it must obey the *Collision Regulations of the Canada Shipping Act, 2001* (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1416/) for power-driven vessels. Also, **the operator must carry proof of competency if the sailboat is fitted with a motor. The PCOC must be carried even when under sail without the motor in operation.**

1.2 VESSEL TERMINOLOGY

Vessel – According to the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*, a vessel is a boat, ship, or craft that is designed, used, or capable being used solely or partly for navigation in, on, through or immediately above water, without regard to method or lack of propulsion.

Hull - The hull of a vessel is the main body of a vessel, from the deck down. It should be thought of as an empty shell; it does not include equipment or fittings pumps, motors, cabins, or bilges.

Bow - The bow is the front end of a vessel.

Stern - The stern is the back (aft) end of a vessel.

Beam - Technically, the beam is the width of a vessel at its widest point. The widest point of a hull is traditionally at the midpoint between the bow and the stern. Thus, “beam” came to be the nautical term for the part of the vessel midway between a vessel’s bow and stern.

Draft - The draft is the minimum depth of water that a vessel requires to float freely. It is approximated as the distance between the water surface and the lowest point of a vessel. On a boat equipped with an outboard motor, the draft is usually the distance from the surface of the water to the bottom of the lowest point on the outboard motor (i.e.: the bottom of the skeg). You need to know the draft of your boat so that you may refer to marine charts to determine which waters are deep enough for your boat.

Freeboard – Freeboard is the distance from the lowest point of a vessel's gunwales down to the surface of the water. A vessel with a high freeboard (i.e.: high gunwales) is difficult to re-board from the water without the aid of re-boarding equipment.

Gunwale - The gunwale (pronounced "gunnel") is the top of the side of a vessel’s hull.

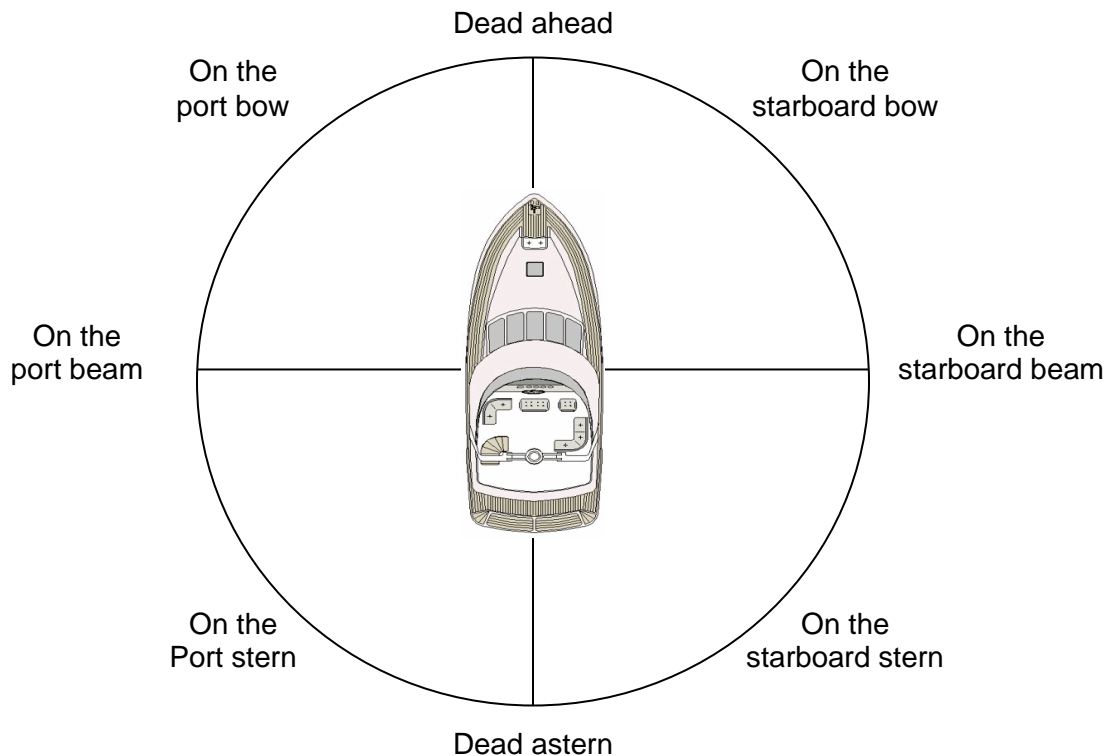
Length Overall - The length overall of a vessel is the distance from the foremost point on the hull (above or below the waterline) to the aft-most point on the hull (above or below the waterline). When a regulation is applied to a vessel based on its length, the regulation is referring to the “length overall” as defined here.

Waterline (design) – The design waterline of any vessel is a line corresponding to the surface of the water when the vessel is afloat, carrying a normal load, and on an even keel. The design waterline is often indicated with a horizontal line painted on the exterior of a vessel’s hull.

1.3 DIRECTIONS AND SECTORS WHEN AFLOAT

Port Side - The port side is the side of a vessel that is on one's left side when facing forward while on board.

Starboard Side - The starboard side is the side of a vessel that is on one's right side when facing forward while on board.



Ahead - Ahead refers to a direction directly in front of a vessel.

Abaft – Aft indicates that something is behind something else. If an object is located behind the port beam, then one says that it is “abaft” the port beam.

Aft – Like the term abaft, the term aft also indicates a direction toward the stern. If one is moving to the stern of a vessel, then one is going “aft”.

Abeam – Abeam means a perpendicular direction that is straight out from the middle of the vessel on either side. For example, a direction straight out from the left-hand side at the middle of a vessel is referred to as "on the port beam".

Astern – Astern is a direction directly behind a vessel. The term "dead astern" means directly behind the vessel.

1.4 MORE NAUTICAL TERMINOLOGY

Operate – The term “operate” means the action of controlling the speed and course of a pleasure craft.

Operator - The operator of a vessel is the person in command of the craft. This is an important distinction to make. Thus, when you borrow a boat and take it out on the water, you (not the person you borrowed it from) are the operator. Under Canadian regulations, the operator of a pleasure craft is responsible for its condition, how it is operated, and the safety of all on board.

Navigational aid

Aid to navigation



Aids to Navigation - Aids to navigation are systems, structures, or devices that are **external** to a vessel and that aid the operator in navigation, indicate safe routes, and warn of obstacles or dangers. Aids to navigation can include such things as buoys, day beacons, and lighthouses. “Aids to navigation” should not be confused with “navigational aids”.

Navigational aids – Navigational aids are shipboard tools (such as a radar system, sonar system, GPS, compass, sextant, or marine charts) that aid in determining one’s position and setting course.



Wash - Wash is the loose or broken water left behind by a boat as it moves through water and includes the churned water thrown aft by the propeller (i.e. propeller wash). Just as an airplane can create prop wash when sitting on the ground, a vessel does not have to be moving through the water in order to create wash.

Wake - **The wake of a vessel is the disturbed water and waves around and behind a vessel that are set in motion by its passage through the water.** Thus, a vessel must be moving through the water in order to create a wake. Similarly, an airplane must be moving through the air to create a wake.

A large wake can be more than just a nuisance; it can cause damage to property.

You are always responsible for your wake and any damage that it causes to property. You should always operate your pleasure craft in a fashion that minimizes the impact of its wake.

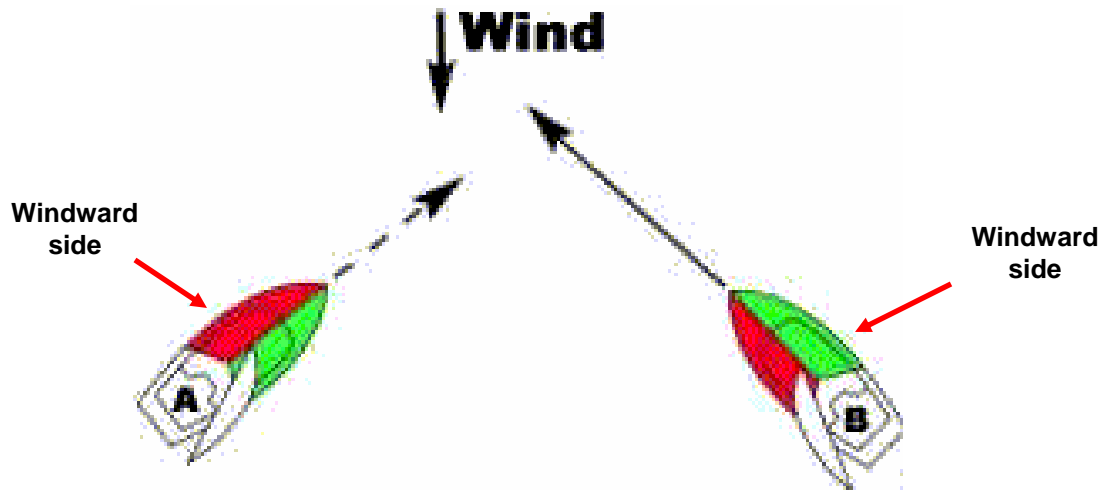
Fenders - Fenders are various devices (usually hollow cylinders made of plastic) that are hung from the side a vessel to prevent surface damage to the vessel when it rubs against a dock or against another vessel.

Seaworthy - A vessel is considered seaworthy if the hull is undamaged and appropriate for the type of sea condition, the engine size does not exceed the allowable maximum for that vessel, the vessel is not overloaded, and all equipment is in good working order. Knowingly operating a vessel that is not seaworthy (i.e.: overloaded or fitted with an engine that is too large) is a criminal offence.

Underway - Underway means that a vessel is not at anchor, tied to a dock, or pulled up on shore; i.e. a vessel is considered to be underway if it is afloat and free to move.

Windward - Windward means upwind or a direction into the wind. It is the direction from which the wind is blowing. The windward side of an island is the side onto which the wind blows.

Windward side of a sail-driven vessel - The windward side of a sail-driven vessel is the side of the vessel that is opposite to the side on which the mainsail is being carried.



Leeward - Leeward means downwind; the direction *in* which the wind is blowing. The leeward side of an island is the side that is sheltered from the wind.

1.5 ACTS AND REGULATIONS AFFECTING PLEASURE CRAFT OPERATORS IN CANADA

The major acts, regulations, and codes affecting pleasure craft operators in Canada are:

- *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*
 - *Small Vessel Regulations*
 - *Collision Regulations*
 - *Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations*
 - *Charts and Nautical Publications Regulations*
 - *Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations*
- *Criminal Code of Canada*

An act (or statute) is a law. Any code, guideline, regulation, or practice enabled in an act is also a law. Thus, the above list of regulations enabled under the Canada Shipping Act, 2001 is not a list of “good ideas”, “guidelines”, or “recommendations”. It is a list of **laws** and failure to comply with them will result in penalties.

End of Chapter 1



Chapter 1 Review Quiz

The questions included in the following quiz are not sample questions taken from actual tests. They are provided merely to acquaint you with the breadth and depth of knowledge required to pass a Transport Canada Boating Safety Test. Merely memorizing these questions and answers will not be adequate preparation to pass the Boating Safety Test; you must acquire an understanding of the material contained in all seven chapters of this free course. Every topic in this course is a potential test question.

QUESTIONS

Select the response that best answers the

1. **How is the term “pleasure craft” defined by Transport Canada?**
 - a.) a vessel that does not carry passengers or goods for remuneration
 - b.) any type of cruise ship with overnight cabins
 - c.) an excursion boat catering to private parties or events
 - d.) any type of charter vessel

2. **What is a PCOC?**

3. **Which of the following is a violation of the *Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations*?**
 - a.) Failing to make fast to a dock
 - b.) Speeding
 - c.) Failing to carry a PCOC
 - d.) Failing to aid someone in trouble

4. **What term refers to the width of a vessel?**
 - a.) breadth
 - b.) camber
 - c.) beam
 - d.) straddle

5. **What type of pleasure craft must be licensed?**

6. **What types of pleasure craft must be registered?**

7. **What is the minimum action that you must take if you choose not to license your pleasure craft?**

8. **If you are in your boat and you see something in the water that is off your port beam, you are seeing something that is:**
 - a.) straight out from the middle of the vessel on the left side
 - b.) straight out from the middle of the vessel on the right side

-
- c.) straight ahead of the vessel
 - d.) directly behind the vessel
- 9. What does the term abaft mean?**
- a.) a direction from the stern
 - b.) a direction toward the stern
 - c.) the stern
 - d.) just in front of the stern
- 10. What term refers to a device to protect the side of a vessel?**
- a.) fender
 - b.) bumper
 - c.) shock absorber
 - d.) pad
- 11. What is an operator of a pleasure craft?**
- a.) an assistant or crew member on a pleasure craft
 - b.) a passenger on board a pleasure craft
 - c.) the person in charge of a pleasure craft
 - d.) the person who starts the motor
- 12. What term refers to the body of a vessel from the deck down, exclusive of rigging, superstructure, and equipment?**
- a.) cabin
 - b.) cargo hold
 - c.) bilge
 - d.) hull
- 13. What is a power-driven vessel?**
- a.) any vessel propelled by an internal combustion engine
 - b.) any vessel propelled by a steam engine
 - c.) any vessel propelled by an electric motor
 - d.) any of the above
- 14. On a pleasure craft, what does the term draft refer to?**
- a.) bilge depth
 - b.) the minimum depth of water required by a boat to float
 - c.) the distance from the waterline to the lowest point on the vessel
 - d.) both b.) and c.) are correct
- 15. Why do you need to know your vessel's draft?**
- a.) to know how much water to pump from the bilge
 - b.) to use a marine chart to determine what areas are safe for your boat
 - c.) to know how much paint to buy when it is time to paint the hull
 - d.) to know how much freeboard will protrude above the water

- 16. What is an aid to navigation?**
- 17. What is a navigational aid?**
- 18. What is the difference between an aid to navigation and a navigational aid?**
a.) an aid to navigation is external to a boat; a navigational aid is not
b.) a navigational aid is external to a boat; an aid to navigation is not
c.) aids to navigation include charts and radar; navigational aids do not
d.) navigational aids include buoys and beacons, aids to navigation do not
- 19. Define wake.**
a.) burial at sea
b.) water sprayed from a passing boat
c.) waves that are set in motion by a boat's passage through water
d.) loose or broken water left behind by a boat as it moves along
- 20. Define wash.**
a.) undertow created by strong currents
b.) water sprayed from a passing boat
c.) waves that are set in motion by a boat's passage
d.) loose or broken water left behind by a boat as it moves along
- 21. What is Transport Canada's definition of a sail-driven vessel?**
a.) any vessel propelled by sails
b.) any vessel with a mast
c.) any vessel propelled by sails provided that propelling machinery, if fitted, is not being used.
d.) any vessel that has a sail raised
- 22. On a sail-driven vessel, what term is used for the side of the vessel that is opposite to the side on which the mainsail is carried?**
a.) starboard side
b.) port side
c.) leeward side
d.) windward side
- 23. What term describes the motion of a vessel that is neither at anchor nor made fast (tied) to a dock or the shore?**
a.) all stop
b.) underway
c.) becalmed
d.) adrift

- 24. Define the term waterline as it refers to a boat**
- a.) The black-coloured line on the side of a boat's hull
 - b.) The limit line marked on the inside of a bilge that indicates when pumping is required.
 - c.) The line corresponding to the surface of the water when the vessel is afloat, carrying a normal load, and on an even keel.
 - d.) The line corresponding to the surface of the water when the vessel is afloat and carrying no load.
- 25. Where is the port side on a pleasure craft?**
- a.) The side that is on one's left side when one is facing forward
 - b.) The side that is facing a dock
 - c.) The side that is facing a port
 - d.) The side that is on one's right side when one is facing forward
- 26. What is the freeboard of a pleasure craft?**
- a.) The side that is on one's left when facing forward
 - b.) Distance from the deck to the water at the deck's highest point above the water
 - c.) Distance from the deck to the water at the deck's lowest point above the water
 - d.) A board like appendage used as a rudder
- 27. What does the term "length overall" mean?**
- a.) The distance from the bow to the transom
 - b.) The length of the tarp on a boat
 - c.) The distance from the foremost part of the hull to the rearmost
 - d.) The length of a vessels hull at the waterline
- 28. Where should you display your boat's Pleasure Craft License number?**
- 29. What is something that one should verify before taking a pleasure craft to the United States?**

ANSWERS

1. a.)
2. The Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) is the most common proof of competency in Canada. It is a certificate issued by an accredited course provider (ACP) that confirms that the holder passed a government-accredited boater test.
3. c.) According to the *Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations* (COPCRs) of the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*, regardless of age or nationality all persons must carry proof of competency whenever operating any type of motorized pleasure craft on any Canadian waters (other than the waters of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut).
4. c.)
5. a.) In Canada, most vessels must be either licensed or registered. Whether or not you will license or register your vessel depends on its type, size, and the size and type of motor. All pleasure craft of all sizes equipped with one or more primary propulsion motors totalling 7.5 KW (10 hp) or more must be licensed.
6. A pleasure craft that has not been licensed must be registered with Transport Canada. Registration is the legal documentation of vessel ownership, similar in nature to the title system applicable for a house. Registration is voluntary for a pleasure craft and is executed by an application to Transport Canada. To register a vessel, you must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada. A Canadian or foreign corporation may also register a vessel in Canada.
7. If you choose not license your vessel with Transport Canada, then you must ensure that is it registered with Transport Canada; licensed or registered, one or the other.
8. a.)
9. b.)
10. a.)
11. c.)
12. d.)
13. d.)

14. d.)
15. b.)
16. Aids to navigation are systems, structures, or devices that are external to a vessel that aid the operator in navigation, indicate safe routes, and warn of obstacles or dangers. Aids to navigation can include such things as buoys, day beacons, and lighthouses. "Aids to navigation" should not be confused with "navigational aids".
17. Navigational aids are shipboard tools (such as a radar or sonar system, compass, sextant, or marine charts) that aid in determining position and setting course.
18. a.)
19. c.)
20. d.)
21. c.)
22. d.)
23. b.)
24. c.)
25. a.)
26. c.)
27. c.)
28. Your vessel's Pleasure Craft Licence number must be displayed above the waterline on both sides of the bow in block letters and numbers that are at least 7.5 cm (3 in) in height. The letters and numbers should contrast with the colour of the hull.
29. To avoid being denied entry at the border, verify entry requirements for bringing your craft to the United States. For instance, make sure that you have proof of ownership. Note that a pleasure craft's license number alone is NOT accepted as proof of ownership when entering the United States (or when returning to Canada). Thus, ensure that you are carrying up-to-date proof of ownership (ex.: Pleasure Craft License, Vessel Registration, Bill of Sale, etc.) for your pleasure craft.

Appendix 1-1**Glossary of Terms****A**

Abaft – Abaft indicates that something is behind something else. If an object is located behind the port beam, then one says that it is “abaft” the port beam.

Abeam – At right angles to the centerline of the boat but not on board the boat. Abeam means a perpendicular direction that is straight out from the middle of the vessel on either side. For example, a direction straight out from the left-hand side at the middle of a vessel is referred to as “on the port beam”.

Abeam to port – When one says that an object in the water is abeam to port, one means that the object is straight out from the port beam.

Abeam to starboard – When one says that an object in the water is abeam to starboard, one means that the object is straight out from the starboard beam.

Aboard – On or within the boat

Above deck – On the deck of a boat (not above the deck – see “Aloft”)

Aft – Like the term abaft, the term aft also indicates a direction toward the stern. If one is moving to the stern of a vessel, then one is going “aft”.

Aground – Touching or stuck on the bottom

Ahead – Ahead refers to a direction directly in front of a vessel.

Aids to Navigation – Aids to navigation are systems, structures, or devices that are external to a vessel and that aid the operator in navigation, indicate safe routes, and warn of obstacles or dangers. Aids to navigation can include such things as buoys, day beacons, and lighthouses. “Aids to navigation” should not be confused with “navigational aids”.

Alee – Away from the direction of the wind (opposite of windward)

Aloft – Above the deck of a boat

Amidships – In or at the point midway between the bow and the stern

Anchor – An anchor is a heavy object that is attached to a rope or chain and used to moor a vessel to the bottom. Typically, an anchor has a metal shank with a ring at one end for the rope and a pair of curved and/or barbed flukes at the other

Anchor rode – A vessel is attached to its anchor by the rode, which is made of chain, cable, rope, or a combination of these.

Astern – In back of a boat, opposite of “ahead”. Astern is a direction behind a vessel. The term "dead astern" means directly behind the vessel.

Athwartships – At right angles to the centerline of the boat.

Aweigh – Refers to the position of an anchor when it is raised clear of the bottom.

B

Beam – Technically, the beam is the width of a vessel at its widest point. The widest point of a hull is traditionally at the midpoint between the bow and the stern. Thus, “beam” came to be the nautical term for the part of the vessel midway between a vessel’s bow and stern.

Bearing – The direction to an object, expressed two ways:

- 1) As a true bearing as shown on a chart; or
- 2) As bearing relative to the heading of your boat.

Below – Beneath the deck

Bilge – The bottom part of the inside of a ship or boat.

Bitter End – The outboard end of a line attached to a boat. Or the inboard end of an anchor rode.

Bow – The front end of a boat.

Bow line – A line attached to the bow of a boat

Bowline – A knot used to form a temporary loop in the end of a line

Bridge – The control station from which a vessel is steered and its speed is controlled.

Bulkhead – A vertical partition separating two compartments in a vessel

Buoy – An anchored float used for marking a position on the water or a hazard or a shoal and for mooring.

C

Capsize – To turn upside down.

Cast off – To let go.

Catamaran – A boat with two hulls arranged side by side.

Chart (nautical) – A nautical chart is map (a graphic representation) of a marine areas and adjacent shorelines and land areas. Depending on the scale of the chart, it may show depths of water and heights of land (topographic map), natural features of the bottom, details of the shoreline, navigational hazards, locations of natural and human-made aids to navigation, information on tides and currents, local details of the Earth's magnetic field, and human-made structures such as harbours, buildings, and bridges.

Chine – A chine is the line where the bottom of a boat curves up and turns into the side of the boat (i.e.: it is intersection between the bottom of a boat and sides of the boat).

Chock – A fitting through which anchor or mooring lines are led. It is usually U-shaped to reduce chafe on the line.

Cleat – A fitting to which lines are tied on (made fast). The classic cleat to which lines are made fast is approximately anvil-shaped.

Coaming – A vertical piece around the edge of a cockpit, hatch, etc. to prevent water on deck from running below.

Coil – To lay a line down in circular turns.

Cockpit – An opening in the deck from which the boat is handled.

Commercial vessel – A commercial vessel is any vessel that is used to earn revenue. Commercial vessels include water taxis, tour boats, freighters, tankers, ferries, fishing boats, tugboats, and excursion boats.

Course – The direction in which a boat is being steered.

Current – The horizontal movement of water.

D

Dead ahead – Directly ahead of the vessel.

Dead astern – Directly aft of the vessel.

Deck – A permanent covering over a compartment, hull or any part thereof.

Dinghy – A small open boat that is often used as a tender for a larger craft.

Displacement – The volume of water which is displaced by a floating vessel and which is equal in weight to the vessel's weight.

Displacement vessel – A type of vessel with a hull that plows through the water, displacing a weight of water equal to its own weight, and does not plane but instead continues to plow, even at the craft's maximum speed.

Dock – A pier or a wharf for mooring boats.

Downwind – The direction in which wind is blowing.

Draft – The depth of water a boat draws. The draft is the minimum depth of water that a vessel requires to float freely. It is approximated as the distance between the water surface and the lowest point of the vessel. On a boat equipped with an outboard motor, the draft is usually the distance from the surface of the water to the bottom of the lowest point on the engine (i.e.: the bottom of the skeg). You need to know the draft of your boat so that you may refer to marine charts to determine which waters are deep enough for your boat.

E

Ebb – A receding current

F

Fathom – A unit of measure that is equal to six (6) feet.

Fender – A cushion, placed between boats, or between a boat and a pier, to prevent damage. Fenders are various devices (usually hollow cylinders made of plastic) that are hung from the side a vessel to prevent surface damage to the vessel when it rubs against a dock or against another vessel.

Flare – A type of distress signal.

Flood – A incoming current.

Fluke – The palm of an anchor.

Following sea – An overtaking sea that comes from astern.

Fore and aft – In a line parallel to the keel.

Forepeak – A compartment in the bow of a small boat.

Forward – Toward the front of a boat.

Fouled – When a piece of equipment is jammed, entangled, or dirty.

Freeboard – Freeboard is the minimum vertical distance from the surface of the water to a boat's gunwale. A vessel with a high freeboard (i.e.: a deck that is high above the water) is difficult to re-board from the water without the aid of re-boarding equipment.

G

Galley – The kitchen area of a boat.

Gangway – The area of a ship's side where people board and disembark.

Gear – A general term for ropes, blocks, tackle and other equipment.

Give-Way Vessel – The vessel that according to the Rules of the Road must yield in meeting, crossing, or overtaking situations.

Ground tackle – A collective term for the anchor and its associated gear.

Gunwale – The gunwale (pronounced "gunnel") is the top edge of a boat's sides.

H

Hard chine – An abrupt intersection between the bottom and the side on a boat hull.

Head – A marine toilet.

Heading – A direction or bearing. The direction in which a vessel's bow points at any given time.

Headway – The forward motion of a boat. Opposite of sternway.

Hitch – A knot used to secure a rope to another object or to another rope, or to form a loop or a noose in a rope.

Hold – A compartment below deck in a large vessel, used solely for carrying cargo.

HSN – All pleasure craft (with or without a motor) used in Canada must bear a hull serial number (HSN). No character of the HSN is to be less than 3.2 cm (1 ¼ in.) in height or width. The HSN is 12 digits in length (beginning with the manufacturer's code) and must be permanently marked on the exterior upper starboard corner of the boat's transom.

Hull – The hull is the main body of a boat, from the deck down. It should be thought of as an empty shell; it does not include equipment or fittings (pumps, motors, pumps, cabins, bilges, etc.)

I

Inboard - More toward the center (inside) of a vessel.

Inboard motor – A motor fitted inside a boat.

J

Jacob's ladder – A rope ladder, lowered from the deck, as when pilots or passengers come aboard.

Jetty – A structure, usually masonry, projecting out from the shore; a jetty may protect a harbor entrance.

K

Keel - The centerline of a boat running fore and aft; the backbone of a vessel.

Knot - A measure of speed equal to one nautical mile (6,076 feet) per hour.

Knot - A fastening made by interweaving rope to form a stopper, to enclose or bind an object, to form a loop or a noose, to tie a small rope to an object, or to tie the ends of two small ropes together.

L

Lee – The side of a vessel or land mass that is sheltered from the wind.

Leeward – The direction away from the wind. Opposite of windward. Leeward means downwind; the direction in which the wind is blowing. The leeward side of an island is the side that is sheltered from the wind.

Leeway – The sideways movement of the boat caused by either wind or current.

Length overall – The length overall of a vessel is the distance from the foremost point on the hull (above or below the waterline) to the aft-most point on the hull (above or below the waterline). When a regulation is applied to a vessel based on its length, the regulation is referring to the “length overall” as defined here.

Life jacket – A life jacket is a flotation device that is designed to keep a person face-up in the water, even when that person is unconscious.

Line - Rope and cordage used aboard a vessel.

Log - A record of courses or operation. Also, a device to measure speed.

Lubber's line - A mark or permanent line on a compass indicating the direction forward parallel to the keel when properly installed.

M

Midship – Also referred to as amidships, midship is approximately in the location equally distant between the bow and stern.

Mooring – An arrangement for securing a boat to a mooring buoy or a pier.

N

Nautical mile – One minute of latitude; approximately 6,076 feet - about 1/8 longer than the statute mile of 5280 feet.

Navigational aids - Navigational aids are shipboard tools (such as a radar system or a sonar system, GPS, compass, sextant, or marine charts) that aid in determining one's position and setting course.

O

On the port stern – Off the port stern (sometimes termed “off the port quarter”) means

On the starboard stern – Off the starboard stern (sometimes termed “off the starboard quarter”) means

Operator – The operator of a vessel is the person in charge of the craft. This is an important distinction to make. Thus, when you borrow a boat and take it out on the water, you (not the person you borrowed it from) are the operator. Under Canadian regulations, the operator of a pleasure craft is responsible for its condition, how it is operated, and the safety of all on board.

Outboard – Toward or beyond the boat's sides.

Outboard motor – A detachable engine mounted on a boat's stern.

Overboard – Over the side or out of the boat.

P

Personal water craft – Seadoos and jet skis are referred to as personal water craft (PWCs) and are considered to be power-driven (motorized) pleasure craft.

Pier - A loading platform usually extending into the water at an angle perpendicular to the shore extending at an angle from the shore.

Planing - A boat is said to be planing when it is essentially moving over the top of the water rather than through the water.

Planing vessel – A boat with a hull that is designed to plane at high speed.

Pleasure craft – According to Transport Canada, a pleasure craft is any type of watercraft used exclusively for pleasure and not for carrying passengers or goods for hire.

Pleasure Craft Operator Card – The Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) is not a government-issued license; it is a certificate issued by a privately owned accredited course provider (ACP) that confirms that the holder passed a government-accredited boater test. Anyone operating a motorized pleasure craft in Canada must carry proof of competency.

Port side – The port side is the side of the boat that is on your left side when you are standing in the boat and facing forward.

Power-driven vessel – A power-driven vessel is one that is propelled by any type of engine or machinery (including steam engines and electric trolling motors). All operators of power-driven pleasure craft must obtain a PCOC and carry it on board.

Proof of competency – According to the Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations (COPCRs), regardless of age or nationality all persons must carry proof of competency whenever operating any type of motorized pleasure craft on any Canadian waters (other than the waters of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut). Original proof of competency (not a photocopy) must be carried on board when operating a motorized pleasure craft anywhere in Canada (proof of competency is not required for vessels without motors). Proof of competency can take any of four forms:

- Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC);
- Proof that you successfully completed a boating safety course in Canada before April 1, 1999 (i.e.: a boating safety certificate issued before 1999);
- A completed boat rental safety checklist (temporary proof); or
- Alternative acceptable proof of competency.

The most common proof of competency is the Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC).

Q

Quarter – The sides of a boat aft of amidships.

Quartering sea – A sea coming on a boat's quarter.

R

Rode – A vessel is attached to its anchor by the rode, which is made of chain, cable, rope, or a combination of these.

Rope – Rope is the term for cordage as it is purchased at a store. When put to use on a boat, rope is referred to as line.

Rudder – A vertically-oriented plate or board that is used for steering a boat.

Running lights – Lights that are required to be shown on boat when it is underway between sunrise and sunset.

S

Sail-driven vessel – Any vessel under sail provided that propelling machinery, if fitted, is not being used. Thus, even if a sailboat has its sails raised, it is considered to be a power-driven vessel whenever it is being propelled by a motor and, thus, it must obey the Collision Regulations for power-driven vessels. Also, the operator must carry proof of competency if the sailboat is fitted with a motor. The PCOC must be carried even when under sail without the motor in operation.

Seaworthy – A vessel is considered seaworthy if:

- The hull is undamaged and the boat is appropriate for the type of sea condition in which it is being used;
- The engine size does not exceed the allowable maximum for that vessel;
- The vessel is not overloaded; and
- All equipment is in good working order.

Knowingly operating a vessel that is not seaworthy is a violation of the *Criminal Code*. Thus, if one operates a boat that is overloaded or that is fitted with an engine that is too large, then one is guilty of a criminal offence.

Scope – Scope is the ratio of the length of the anchor rode in use to the vertical distance from the bow of the boat to the bottom. Anchoring with sufficient scope (i.e.: sufficient anchor rode) brings the direction of strain on the anchor line close to parallel with the bottom. In good weather and calm water, the scope ratio should range between 6 to 1 and 7 to 1. In poor weather or in strong currents, the rode ratio must be increased (i.e.: more anchor line must let out).

Sea room – A safe distance from the shore or other hazards.

Ship – A larger vessel usually thought of as being used for ocean travel.

Sounding – A measurement of the depth of water.

Starboard side – The side of the boat that is on your right side when you are standing in the boat and facing forward.

Squall - A sudden, violent wind often accompanied by rain.

Stand-on vessel – That vessel which has right-of-way during a meeting, crossing, or overtaking situation.

Starboard-side – The right side of a boat when looking forward.

Stem - The forward most part of the bow.

Stern – The aft end (back-end) of a boat.

T

Tender – A tender is a boat used to service or support other boats or ships, generally by transporting people or supplies to the ship and vice versa.

Tide - The periodic rise and fall of water level in the oceans.

Tiller - A bar or handle for turning a boat's rudder or an outboard motor.

Transom – The stern cross-section of a square-stern boat.

Trim – The fore and aft balance of a boat.

U

Underway – Underway means that a vessel is not at anchor, tied to a dock, or pulled up on shore; i.e. a vessel is considered to be underway if it is afloat and free to move. If a vessel is not moored, not at anchor and not aground, then it is underway.

Upwind – A direction into the wind, toward where the wind is coming from.

V

Vessel – A vessel is any type of waterborne craft (other than a seaplane) that is capable of being used as a means of transport.

V-bottom – A hull with a cross-section in the shape of a "V".

W

Wake – The wake of a vessel is the disturbed water and waves around and behind a vessel that are set in motion by its passage through the water. Thus, a vessel must be moving through the water in order to create a wake. Similarly, an airplane must be moving through the air to create a wake.

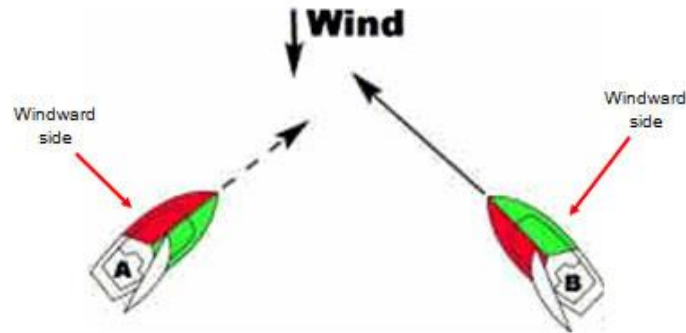
Wash – Wash is the loose or broken water left behind by a boat as it moves through water and includes the churned water thrown aft by the propeller (i.e. propeller wash). Just as an airplane can create prop wash when sitting on the ground, a vessel does not have to be moving through the water in order to create wash.

Waterline (design) – The design waterline of any vessel is the line corresponding to the surface of the water when the vessel is afloat, carrying a normal load, and on an even keel. The design waterline is often indicated with a horizontal line painted on the exterior of a vessel's hull.

Way – The movement of a vessel through the water such as headway, sternway or leeway.

Windward – Windward is a direction into the wind. It is the direction from which the wind is blowing. The windward side of an island is the side onto which the wind blows.

Windward side of a sail-driven vessel – The windward side of a sail-driven vessel is the side of the vessel that is opposite to the side on which the mainsail is being carried.



X

Y

Yaw – To swing or steer off course

Z

Appendix 1-2

List of Certificates of Competency, Training Certificates and other Equivalencies accepted as Proof of Competency when Operating a Pleasure Craft

Certificates of competency, training certificates and equivalencies directly pertaining to the operation of a vessel are recognized as proof of competency when operating a boat fitted with a motor that is used for recreational purposes.

The current list (see below) contains over 90 such professional certificates, courses, and equivalencies.

If you hold any certificate on this list, you qualify to obtain a Pleasure Craft Operator Card from freecourse.ca without first writing a Transport Canada Boating Safety Test.

List of Certificates of Competency, Training Certificates and other Equivalencies accepted as Proof of Competency

Under the Marine Certification Regulations:

1. Master Mariner
2. Master Intermediate Voyage
3. Master Local Voyage
4. First Mate Intermediate Voyage
5. First Mate, Local Voyage
6. Watch keeping Mate, ship
7. Restricted Watch keeping Mate, ship
8. Watch keeping Mate, MODU/Surface
9. Watch keeping Mate, MODU/Self-elevating
10. Watch keeping Mate, MODU/Inland
11. Master, Ship of not more than 350 tons, gross tonnage, or tug, local voyage
12. Master, Limited
13. First Mate, Limited
14. Fishing Master, First Class
15. Fishing Master, Second class
16. Fishing Master, Third Class
17. Fishing Master, Fourth Class
18. Certificate of service as master of a ship of not more than 1600 tons, gross tonnage
19. Certificate of service as master of a fishing vessel of not more than 100 tons, gross tonnage
20. Bridge Watchman
21. Proficiency in Fast Rescue Boats
22. Master, limited for a pleasure yacht of more than 20 m in length
23. Master, limited for a short run ferry
24. Master, limited for an intermediate run, ferry
25. First Mate, limited for a short run ferry
26. First Mate, limited for an intermediate run ferry

Under the Marine Personnel Regulations:

1. Master Mariner
2. Master, Near Coastal

3. Master 3000 Gross Tonnage, Near Coastal
4. Master 500 Gross Tonnage, Near Coastal
5. Master 3000 Gross Tonnage, Domestic
6. Master 500 Gross Tonnage, Domestic
7. Master 150 Gross Tonnage, Domestic
8. Master, Inland Waters
9. Master, Ship of not more than 350 tons, gross tonnage, or tug, home trade voyage
10. Master, Ship of not more than 350 tons, gross tonnage, or tug, inland waters voyage
11. Certificate of Service as Master of a Steamship of not more than 350 tons, gross tonnage
12. Master, Long Run Ferry
13. Master, Intermediate Run Ferry
14. Master, Short Run Ferry
15. First Mate, Inland Waters
16. First Mate, Long Run Ferry
17. First Mate, Intermediate Run Ferry
18. First Mate, Short Run Ferry
19. Master, Limited for a Vessel of 60 Gross Tonnage or More
20. Master, Limited for a Vessel of less than 60 Gross Tonnage
21. Master 3000 Gross Tonnage, Domestic limited to a near coastal voyage, Class 2 if the voyage is a "minor Waters Voyage" as defined in the Canada Shipping Act, in the version that was in force immediately before coming into force of the Act
22. Chief Mate
23. Chief Mate, Near Coastal
24. Watch keeping Mate
25. Watch keeping Mate, Near Coastal
26. Chief Mate 500 Gross Tonnage, Domestic
27. Chief Mate 150 Gross Tonnage, Domestic
28. Chief Mate, Limited for a Vessel of 60 Gross Tonnage or More
29. Chief Mate, Limited for a Vessel of less than 60 Gross Tonnage
30. Second mate, Inland Waters
31. Fishing Master, First Class
32. Fishing Master, Second Class
33. Fishing Master, Third Class
34. Fishing Master, Fourth Class
35. Certificate of Service as Master of a Fishing Vessel of less than 60 gross Tonnage
36. Certificate of Service as Watch keeping Mate of a Fishing Vessel of less than 100 Gross Tonnage
37. Fishing Master
38. Fishing Master, Restricted
39. Fishing Mate
40. Watch keeping mate, Fishing
41. Proficiency in Fast Rescue Boat
42. Bridge Watch Rating
43. Offshore Installation Manager, MOU/surface
44. Offshore Installation Manager, MOU/self-elevating
45. Barge Supervisor, MOU/surface
46. Barge Supervisor, MOU/self-elevating
47. Watch keeping officer of a fishing vessel of not more than 150 gross tonnage and less than 24 metres in overall length
48. 48.Watchkeeping Mate of a fishing vessel of less than 24 m in length overall
49. 49.Certificate of service as Watch keeping Mate of a fishing vessel of less than 24 metres in length

Under the Masters and Mates Examination Regulations:

- 1.Master, Foreign-going
- 2.Master, Foreign-going Certificate of Service
- 3.Master Home Trade, First Mate Foreign-going
- 4.Master, Home Trade

5. Master, ship not more than 350 tons, gross tonnage, or tug, home trade or inland waters
6. Master, ship of not more than 350 tons, gross tonnage, or tug, home trade voyage
7. First Mate, Foreign-going
8. First Mate Home Trade, Second Mate Foreign-going
9. First Mate, Home Trade
10. Second Mate, Foreign-going
11. Watchkeeping Mate
12. Second Mate, Home Trade
13. Master, ship of not more than 350 tons, gross tonnage, or tug, home trade voyage
14. Master, ship of not more than 350 tons, gross tonnage, or tug, inland waters voyage
15. Certificate of Service as Master of a steamship not more than 350 tons, gross tonnage
16. Second Mate, Inland Waters
17. Master, Minor Waters

Training Certificates:

1. Basic Safety and Operator Proficiency for Small Non-Pleasure Craft in Sheltered Waters (MED A4) issued under the *Marine Certification Regulations*.
2. Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP) training certificate issued under the *Marine Personnel Regulations* or an SVOP card issued by Transport Canada.

Other Equivalencies:

1. Proof of at least seven fishing seasons, with no two of those seasons occurring in the same year, as master of a fishing vessel of up to 15 gross tonnage or not more than 12 m in overall length, acquired before July 1, 2007 in the form of a signed declaration or a Transport Canada card that is issued for the signed declaration. (Subsection 212 (8) of the *Marine Personnel Regulations*).
2. Small Vessel Operator – Commercial/Fishing Vessels issued by the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland.
3. Basic Safety For Fish Harvesters (5 Days) issued by the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board of Newfoundland and Labrador.
4. Proof of at least seven fishing seasons, with no two of those seasons occurring in the same year, as officer in charge of deck watch of a fishing vessel of up to 15 gross tonnage or not more than 12 m in overall length, acquired before July 1, 2007 in the form of a signed declaration or a Transport Canada card that is issued for the signed declaration. (Subsection 212 (8) of the *Marine Personnel Regulations*)

Canadian Coast Guard endorsements, certificates and training courses:

1. Coast Guard Watch keeping endorsement or Coast Guard Watch keeping Certificate
2. Coast Guard Command endorsement or Coast Guard Command Certificate
3. Coast Guard Small Vessel Command endorsement or Coast Guard Small Vessel Command Course Certificate
4. Fast Rescue Craft Course
5. Rigid Hull Inflatable Operator Training
6. Small Craft Operator - Advanced /RHIO
7. Small Craft Training
8. Small Craft Operator – Basic

Department of National Defence Certificates

1. Upper Deck Watch keeping
2. Destroyer Navigating Officer
3. Surface Ship Command
4. Patrol Vessel Command
5. Bridge Watch keeping

6. Deep Draught Officer or Fleet Navigating Officer
7. Minor War vessel or Surface Ship Command (after 1997)
8. Royal Canadian Navy Boat Coxswain Course

Note:

A PCOC does not normally qualify a person to operate a commercial vessel. Some smaller commercial boats may rely on the Pleasure Craft Operator Card training in lieu of other commercial-vessel training. The type of small commercial vessel that may rely on the PCOC in lieu of commercial-vessel training is: a smaller commercial vessel [less than 8 metres (26 ft.) in length] that is carrying less than six passengers, and is operating in protected waters. Note: all members of the crew, not just the operator (driver), of such a vessel must be carrying a valid PCOC.