

TRACKER One Voice Glossary

Access Plate: An access plate or panel with a removable inset and is usually found in the splashwell that will allow access to the rigging area.

Actuator: The assembly in the coupler of a trailer that is equipped with brakes that activate the brakes on the wheels. The actuator is engaged by the transfer of the weight of the rig during braking by the tow vehicle. The surge that activates the actuator is how the name Surge Brakes was given to this braking system.

Adjustable Seat: This typically refers to a seat that has a slider built into the seat to allow front-to-rear adjustments of the seat.

Aerator: In a livewell system, the aerator is an electric pump that brings water from outside the boat into the livewell, then mixes air with the flow of water to increase the oxygen mix and help keep fish or bait alive and healthy.

Aft: Aft refers to the back of the boat, toward the transom. In many cases, it is used to describe anything that is behind the console or behind the middle (midship) of the boat.

Alpha® Drive: An popular outdrive offered by Mercury Marine® for use in sterndrive (I/O) applications.

Anodized: This is a process used on aluminum that seals the metal against the elements and protects against oxidation. Anodized aluminum has a very durable finish with a natural aluminum appearance. In many cases color, can be added when needed for specific needs.

Anti-Backsplash Transom: This design, typically a rounded area or extension to the transom, provides lift when a wave or backwash encounters the transom, preventing water from pouring onto the deck.

Backwash: Backwash refers to disturbed water caused by propeller action when the boat is reversing or stopped quickly.

Baitwell: This is a receptacle in a boat used to keep bait alive. It can have a removable insert for easy access to the bait.

Baitwell Insert: This is an insert in a livewell with a bucket to hold minnow or other live bait that require water. This provides the advantage of requiring only one plumbing system to operate both the livewell and the baitwell.

Battery Charger: An onboard system to keep batteries completely charged and ready for use. It must be operated from a 110V source. The charger will have a designation that indicates the number of banks, or batteries that the unit will charge, and the power of the charger (e.g., 2 banks, 4 amps). Some manufacturers list one number representing the total for all banks, while others list each power for each bank separately. The operator will want to know the power for each bank.

Beam: The beam is the width of the boat, measured at the widest point, perpendicular to the center line.

Bike Seat: This is a single bicycle-type seat that anglers use by leaning against rather than sitting on. Typically, a bike seat is located on the front fishing deck and has a taller pedestal. Also known as a butt seat. Bike seat is the preferred term.

Bilge: This is the lowest point in a boat's interior hull. It is also the part of the hull between the bottom and the topside.

Bilge Pump: This is a pump used to remove water that has accumulated in the bilge, or the bottom of the boat.

Bimini Top: This is a top, typically canvas supported by a series of metal supports or straps, that protects the cockpit area from sun and other elements. The Bimini top, unlike a convertible top, does not directly attach to the windshield.

BLIND DUCK®: This refers to the unique camouflage patterns offered on all TRACKER® GRIZZLY® boats. It is available in two patterns: Woodland and Grassland. The term also refers to a series of boats used to hunt waterfowl. These include popular hunting boat features as standard equipment.

Blower: This is an electric motor/fan designed to remove fumes from the engine compartment. Usually found on all inboard/sterndrive powered boats, it must be run several minutes prior to starting the engine and during times when the boat is operating at low speeds (e.g., No Wake or Idle zones) which limit the flow fresh air into the engine compartment.

Bolster Seat: The bolster seat has a built-in folding cushion that enables the operator to sit or lean in an elevated position for better visibility. Depending on the boat, the bolster seat may be offered as a separate cushion rather than a built-in folding version. Another use for the term applies to the back cushion in the bow area, which also is referred to as a seat bolster.

Bottom Width: One of the most important measurements of any boat, the bottom width is a large determining factor of stability and overall performance. Bottom width is measured from chine to chine.

Bow: This refers to the most forward section of the boat hull.

Bow Cover: This is typically a canvas covering for the entire bow cavity. It is also referred to as a tonneau cover. The bow cover also will help seal the cockpit from air, which is especially useful for operation in cooler times of the day.

Bow Eye: The bow eye is typically a metal loop located close to the front most part, or bow, of the boat. The bow eye is used to attach the trailer winch strap, which holds the boat firmly on the trailer.

Bravo Drive: Mercury Marine® offers Bravo outdrives in three basic classes (One, Two and Three). They are designed for higher horsepower and performance applications than the popular Alpha® outdrive. Each Bravo class offers special characteristics, typically more robust with successively higher class numbers.

Bulkhead: A wall or divider used to make compartments in the interior of a boat. Many of these are attached directly to the stringer and contribute to more robust structural support for increased hull strength.

Bunk: A bunk is the carpet-wrapped support on a trailer on which the running surface of the hull rests when the boat is on the trailer.

Butt Seat: See Bike Seat. Bike seat is the preferred term.

Canopy Top: This is the term used to describe the material or cloth portion of a pontoon top.

Capacity: This is the amount of weight the boat can support, expressed in either total pounds or the number of people that the hull will support. It is always calculated using the weight of the largest motor for which the boat is rated.

Capacity Plate: A placard affixed to the hull that states the total weight capacity and the maximum number of people for which the boat is rated.

Carpet Ounce: The carpet ounce is the measurement representing the thickness or density of the material per square yard. More ounces in a yard indicate a thicker material.

Cavitation: This takes place when the propeller breaks loose from the water, causing the engine to rev at a higher rpm because there is no resistance on the prop blade. It also can occur when the water hitting the prop is very turbulent and filled with air. When a prop cavitates, it loses its “bite” in the water and therefore its ability to propel the boat. Excessive cavitation can lead to premature propeller wear.

Changing Room: A pop up or portable screen that provides the privacy to change clothes or out of a wet swimsuit.

Chevron Ribs: The extruded ribs welded into the bow area of an aluminum boat at angles that look like the chevrons (stripes) used in military uniforms to designate rank. The function is to reinforce the bow where it impacts the water.

Chine: The intersection of the hull side and the hull bottom (running surface). A boat with a fully rounded bottom, like a canoe, has no chines. It is called a “hard” chine when the intersection has a pronounced angle and a “soft” chine when the transition is rounded or is less well-defined. A Reverse Chine has an angle that turns down past the horizontal.

Chine Walking: This condition exists when the boat rocks from side to side at a high rate of speed.

Cleat: A hardware device, or composite fitting, used to secure lines, sheets, halyards, etc. While they may be placed in several locations, cleats are typically found on the gunnel (gunwale) of fiberglass and aluminum boats and on the decks of pontoon boats.

Closed Cell Foam: The cells of this type of foam are closed or sealed to prevent them from absorbing water. Even when the surface is cut or interrupted, the foam will only be able to absorb water in the first or cut layer. Used for flotation and enhanced structural support, Closed Cell Foam is employed in all boats from TMG brands.

Closed Cell Tape: The tape used between each plank in aluminum pontoon decking to prevent water intrusion at the seams and help eliminate vibration that may be caused by the operation of the motor.

Coaming Bolster: These are upholstered cushions that usually are attached to the inside of the gunnel (gunwale) area for greater comfort or back support when leaning against the boat sides. Also called Coaming Pads.

Cockpit Cover: A custom-fit canvas that covers the entire cockpit, or the area between the windshield and transom. Cockpit covers also cover the entire windshield, preventing anyone from being able to see into the boat.

Composite: A term used to describe a material made from the combination of different elements, such as fiberglass and carbon fiber.

Composite Construction: Boat construction that uses composite materials. This is often used in reference to construction that does not include wood.

Composite Seat Frame: A seat frame or base made from rotomolded or injected plastics or composites which do not include any wood.

Compression: The stroke, or cycle, in an internal combustion engine during which the piston compresses the fuel mixture in the cylinder head just prior to ignition.

Console: The boat part which houses the steering wheel, instruments, switches and engine controls. Depending on the boat, the console may be made from fiberglass, composites, plastics or metal.

Corner Casting: This is a casting, usually from aluminum, that is applied to the corners of a boat.

Coupler: This is the section of the trailer that that “couples” the trailer to the tow vehicle. Typically, the coupler is welded to the trailer frame.

Cowling: Comparable to a hood on a car or truck, the cowling is the cover for a marine engine which can be removed for access to the power head.

Cranking Battery: This is the main battery that supplies the power to “crank” the engine. All boat functions other than the trolling motor are powered by the cranking battery.

Dual Console (or DC) Boat: A boat equipped with two consoles. The separate port and starboard consoles usually will have an acrylic windscreen instead of a walk-thru or wrap-around windshield.

Deadrise: The angle of a boat’s bottom at the keel relative to the horizontal. Compare a flat bottom boat with a 0-degree deadrise with a Deep V hull at 25 degrees. Deadrise can be measured at different points along the boat’s bottom, typically at the transom or the widest point.

Deck: This typically refers to the upper side of a boat, and may designate different areas, depending on the boat type: the floor (deck) of a pontoon boat, the entire upper side of a sport or deck boat and the raised flat surfaces of a fishing boat (fishing decks).

Deep V Hull: A hull design featuring a running surface with a deeper V angle, or higher deadrise, from bow to stern. This hull design produces a smoother, drier ride in rougher water.

Depth Finder: An archaic term for a sonar device that is now an integral function of virtually all fishfinders and graphs. Avoid this term. Use fishfinder for inexpensive electronics devices that find fish, but do not have higher functions like GPS and chartplotting.

Displacement: The volume/weight of water displaced by the floating hull, or the volume of water that would occupy the area beneath the waterline. Displacement determines whether an object will float. Displacement is often referenced in boats that do not plane or actually ride on top of the water.

Divided Livewell: A livewell with a divider to keep the catches of two anglers separate.

Trailer Jack: A device located near the front of the trailer and equipped with a crank to easily raise or lower the trailer tongue to hook/unhook the trailer and tow vehicle. Most trailer jacks have a wheel at the end which rests on the ground and some will pivot out of the way, making the process easier and more convenient.

Double Bimini: A double Bimini top significantly expands the area protected from the sun and other elements. It is available on many models, especially pontoons.

Draft: Draft refers to the distance below the waterline of the lowest-hanging part of the boat. This measure defines the minimum water depth needed to operate the boat and is valued by shallow-water anglers. Smaller draft measurements translate to being able to operate in shallower water. Draft is affected by overall weight, distribution of weight and whether the engine is in or out of the water.

Drain Plug: The most important part of every boat. The drain plug is located on the transom at the keel, or lowest part of the boat exterior. Its purpose is to provide an outlet for water that accumulates in the boat. The drain plug must be in place and secure before the boat is put in the water, otherwise water will come into the boat through the drain outlet.

Drive-On Trailer: A trailer designed to allow the boat to be driven onto it during loading, or driven off it for launching. Also known as a “bunk” type trailer. All TRACKER trailers are drive-on, though securing the boat to the trailer must be performed manually.

Dry Storage: Storage compartments in a boat designed to prevent contents from getting wet.

Dual Steering: Steering system using two cables to connect the steering wheel to the engine. It is typically found on boat with high horsepower, such as V6 outboards.

ECT: Emissions Control Technology.

EFI: Internal combustion engines with Electronic Fuel Injection inject the optimal fuel/air mixture directly into the combustion chambers without the use of carburetors.

ELPT: This designates engines with (E) Electric Start, (L) Long shaft, (PT) Power Tilt. See Mercury Acronyms.

ELPTO: This designation refers to TwoStroke, carbureted engines. ELPTO indicates an engine with (E)lectric start, (L)ong shaft (20"), (P)ower trim and tilt, (O)il injection.

Expanded-Back Vinyl: A durable vinyl used in boat furniture which has a knitted back and delivers a quality feel or "hand" to the upholstery.

Extended Motor Pod: A motor pod used on outboard-powered pontoons, which extends behind the deck of the boat, creating additional usable room on the pontoon deck. Depending on the model, the pod may include a built-in fuel tank.

Extrusion: A very strong and durable form of aluminum used in gunnels, keels and chines. An extrusion is made by forcing molten aluminum through a die, which delivers a specialized shape with strengthening qualities.

EZ Lube Hubs: Trailer wheel hubs with a special design that forces grease to the inner bearings and then to the front bearing for easier maintenance and longer life.

Fishfinder: An electric device (sonar) that uses sound waves to indicate the depth of water underneath the boat, as well as to graphically illustrate the bottom, structure and the presence of fish. Many units also indicate the surface temperature of the water.

FourStroke: A type of internal combustion engine which delivers one power stroke for every four strokes of the piston. They are very friendly to fisheries and the environment in general, since they burn cleaner than traditional carbureted TwoStroke engines.

Freeboard: The distance from the water level to the upper edge of the boat side.

Fuel Gauge: A device that shows the approximate level of fuel in the fuel tank.

Fuel Injected (EFI): Any of several methods by which fuel is vaporized and sprayed into the engine cylinders for combustion. Fuel injection systems are typically cleaner burning as well as more fuel efficient.

Full Enclosure: A boat cover that completely encloses the deck of a pontoon boat. It is also called a camper enclosure.

Fuse Panel (Automotive Style): A type of fuse panel commonly used in the automobile industry which features plug-in fuses, color coded based on amperage, for easy replacement.

GALVASHIELD®: A TRACKER-exclusive multistep coating applied to trailer frames which delivers the protection of galvanized steel with the good looks of powder-coat paint.

Gas Vent: The vent on the side of the boat or in the fill cap that allows the release of air from the fuel tank, allowing fuel to flow in freely and unrestricted by trapped air during refueling.

Gauge: A reference to the thickness of aluminum used in boat construction, or the thickness of wiring used in electrical systems.

Gelcoat: A material used to provide a high-quality finish on the visible surface of a fiber-reinforced composite material, such as a fiberglass hull.

Glass Matting: Fiberglass material used in construction of a fiberglass boat.

Graph: A generic term for multifunction marine electronics.

Gunnel: The top surface of the edge of the boat. "Gunwale" is the traditional spelling, but is still pronounced "gunnel".

Helm: The steering apparatus of the boat, e.g., steering wheel, tiller. The person who steers the boat is called the helmsman.

Holeshot: In boating, this refers to the time it takes for a boat to go from dead stop to on-plane under full acceleration.

Hot Foot™: A foot-controlled throttle used in a boat which enables the operator to keep both hands on the steering wheel.

Hull: The watertight body of a boat, consisting of a running surface and hull sides which define the interior of the boat.

HYDROSTEP® Strakes: These are the trademark strakes on a TAHOE® boat which enable its agile performance and smooth, dry ride.

I/O (Inboard/Outboard): See Sterndrive.

Jack Plate: An assembly for mounting an outboard motor which enables repositioning the motor for improved performance. Moving the motor back of the transom accesses undisturbed water for overall better performance. Raising the motor can produce higher

top end or better operation in shallow water. A water pressure gauge is mandatory in order to avoid running the engine out of water in either case. A jack plate can be manually adjustable or automatically adjustable with hydraulics.

Keel: The very bottom, or lowest part, of the hull that runs front to back the full length of the boat. Also a flat structure extended beyond the hull bottom for greater control and stability.

KeelGuard®: Material applied to the keel for added strength and protection.

Kicker: A small outboard motor, usually 9.9HP or 15HP, often used in reference to a secondary outboard used for trolling. More common in larger boats and bigger northern water.

Lifting Strake: A distinct longitudinal shape in the running surface (pontoon logs also) which runs fore and aft and is designed to improve performance.

Livewell: A tank in a boat which can be filled with water to store live fish and bait which is often aerated to extend the life of its contents. More advanced livewells will have oxygen generators and pump-out systems

Longitudinal: Refers to the directional alignment of a boat structure which is applied parallel to the boat center line, from bow to stern, as in longitudinal stringers.

Lower Unit: The lower half of an outboard, consisting of the drive gears, propeller shaft and propeller.

Macerator: A system on a boat that chops up waste, fish guts or toilet debris, into pieces for disposal. A macerator pump moves the waste through the macerator and overboard.

Mercury Acronyms: M=Manual start; L=Long shaft; E=Electric start; H=Tiller handle; GA=Gas assist; O=Oil injection; PT=Power trim; XL=Extra long shaft (25"); C=Counter rotation

Modified V Hull: The type of hull used in boats that operate primarily in shallower water. The hull on these boats typically has a V starting at the bow to cut through the waves, and then gets progressively flatter aft, or to the back of the boat. The flatter hull bottom aids stability.

Navigation Lights: Green (starboard) and red (port) Required by regulations in all states.

Outboard Motor Support: A device that supports the raised outboard motor as the boats sits on its trailer. It is removed when the boat is launched and replaced after it is

pulled out of the water. Also known as a transom saver, as it helps prevent damage to the transom during travel.

NMMA Certified: A boat that is designed and built to meet, and often exceed, strict quality and safety standards established by the U.S. Coast Guard and the American Boat & Yacht Council. Certification to these standards is assured through rigorous inspection performed by third parties at the direction of the National Marine Manufacturers Association.

On Plane: Describes a boat running with only the rear 25% (approximately) of the hull in the water. A high performance bass boat will run on plane with only a small portion of the rear hull in the water.

Outboard Engine: An internal combustion engine designed to be mounted on the transom of boat.

Outdrive: Also termed as a sterndrive, I/O, or inboard/outboard. This refers to a propulsion system that combines an inboard engine with an outboard driveshaft and propeller.

Pad: Usually found on performance bass boats, the pad is a flattened area of the aft running surface along the keel which combines with the chines to aid in producing a quick holeshot and higher top-end speed. When properly trimmed at speed, the forward end of the running surface lifts above the water and the boat runs essentially on its pad, which varies in width and length from boat to boat.

Pitch: The theoretical distance a propeller advances through the water in one revolution, assuming no slip. Also, the repeated rise and fall of a boat's bow through waves.

Plane: See On Plane.

Planing: Skimming over the surface of the water rather than through the water.

Porpoising: A boat moving through the water by hopping across the surface like a porpoise. This is caused by either improper trim, poor weight distribution or bad design.

Port: The left side of the boat when in the boat and looking forward, or anything to the left side of the boat.

Power-Trac™ Transom: The exclusive offset transom design of the TRACKER® Revolution™ Hull. It feeds undisturbed water to the prop for faster holeshots and better overall performance.

Pro Trim®: A trim switch that allows the operator to engage the trim function of the motor without removing his/her hands from the steering wheel.

Propeller: A rotating device, with two or more blades, that acts as a screw in propelling a vessel.

Pump-Out System: A boat livewell feature that enables the emptying of water in the livewell through the activation of an electric pump.

Rake: The angle of a particular part of a vessel, e.g., the mast or bow or hull side. Also, the angle of the propeller blade in correspondence with the propeller shaft.

Recirculating Livewell: A livewell with an electric pump that takes the water from the livewell and pumps it through a spray head to introduce more oxygen into the water. Once the livewell has water in it, this feature can be operated at any time.

Reverse Chine: A distinctive longitudinal shape in the running surface of a boat which is angled or curved downward past the horizontal at the outer edges to deflect water and keep the boat interior dry when underway. The chines also bite into the water as the boat turns, providing agile and secure maneuvering.

Revolution™ Hull: The exclusive TRACKER® boat hull design, which is guaranteed to be the smoothest ride available in any aluminum boat. It features a modified V shape that is sharper at the bow to slice through waves, a flatter aft for greater stability, and a Power-Trac™ Transom for enhanced performance.

Rotomolded: A process for manufacturing hollow parts from plastic or composite. It involves a hollow mold which is rotated as molten material disperses evenly and adheres to the mold sides.

Rub Rail: The railing or bumper applied to the exterior edge of a boat to prevent damage from minor collisions with a dock or other structure. Rub rails are made from a variety of materials, such as aluminum, plastic or vinyl.

Rudder: A flat surface extending below the bottom of the boat aft which rotates in response to the steering wheel or tiller controls to steer the boat in the desired direction. Found on sailboats or inboard boats with fixed propellers.

Safety Lanyard: A short cord that attaches the ignition safety switch to your wrist or personal flotation device. It stops the engine if the driver moves suddenly from the helm position.

Splashwell: The well or recess directly in front of the engine that is designed to catch any water that may come over the transom and allow it to drain overboard.

Sponsons: Projections which extend the hull dimension at or below the waterline and serve to increase flotation or add lift when underway. In a NITRO boat, sponson refers to extensions beyond and on both sides of the transom on many models. The sponson provides lift when the boat is brought off plane and is the main foundation for the NITRO anti-backwash transom. The anti-backwash transom acts to keep the interior of the boat dry from the backwash created when the boat slows quickly and comes off plane.

Starboard: The right side of the boat when looking forward, or anything off to the right side of the boat.

Step-Thru Transom: A transom design which enables easy access from the rear of the boat into the cockpit.

Stern: The rear portion of a boat.

Sterndrive: Also known as an inboard/outboard or outdrive. It's a propulsion system that combines an inboard engine with an outboard driveshaft and propeller. Not to be confused with Inboard—a propulsion system with an engine inside the boat, a shaft to the fixed propeller, and steering by a rudder.

Strake: A defined longitudinal shape in the running surface of a boat designed to convey desired performance characteristics.

Stringer System: The backbone of the hull. The stringer system is a series of supports that will support the running surface of every boat.

Surge Brakes: A braking system used in trailers which applies brakes in response to the transfer of weight of the rig during braking by the tow vehicle. The name Surge Brakes is derived from the surge that activates the system.

Thru-Hub Exhaust: Exhaust gasses that flow through a barrel or outer hub instead of over the blades of the propeller.

Transducer: An electronic sensing device which provides data for the depth sounder and/or speedometer.

Transom: The transverse part of the stern, or back of the boat.

Transverse: Indicates the direction a structure or element is running. Transverse indicates the structure is running from gunnel to gunnel or side to side.

Trim: To adjust a boat's horizontal running angle by directing the outboard or sterndrive's thrust up or down. This is accomplished by a mechanism that tilts the engine/outdrive. Also, the way a boat floats in relation to the horizon; bow up, bow down or even.

Trim Gauge: This gauge indicates the amount of Trim or angle of the engine. The gauge monitors the angle to prevent an over-trimmed situation that could cause water loss to the engine.

Trim Tabs: Trim tabs are small surfaces connected to the trailing edge of a larger control surface and used to control the trim of the controls. By adjusting trim tabs the operator can minimize the manual adjustments required to maintain the desired position.

Trolling Battery: A heavy-duty battery used to power our trolling motors. These batteries have a slower discharge rate to prolong a day of active fishing.

Trolling Motor: A small, usually electric, motor used to propel small boats, such as flats boats or bass boats, as they troll for fish.

Tubular Frame: The shape of the steel frames used in trailers manufactured by Tracker Marine Group. The steel is formed into a tube or box which creates a strong frame using lighter material.

Two-Piece Hull: The exclusive hull construction used in building TRACKER® Deep V boats which produces a hull with the same thickness material on the hull bottom as the hull side. Most competitor boats feature construction with a different thickness between the hull bottom and hull side.

Vacuum Formed: Refers to a manufacturing process which forms parts by heating materials to a pliable state and then using a vacuum to pull the material over a mold. The process enables unique designs and detail in the finished part.

VERSATRACK®: Refers to an accessory mounting system used on many of our aluminum boats. The VERSATRACK® system employs a special slotted extrusion along the inside of the gunnels which accepts rod holders and a variety of other accessories.

Walk-Thru: Windshield See WT Boat.

WT Boat: WT indicates the model has a (W)alk-(T)hru windshield with a folding center hatch and is constructed using tempered safety glass.

Z-Bars: Refers to Z-shaped extrusions which perform as floor joists to support the deck of a SUN TRACKER® pontoon boat.