The Sea

The coast, boats and sea animals, ships, tides, lifeboats and fishing, and the precise language of the sea and its law, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 29

go fishing · high tide · plain sailing

The coast *A1–A2*

sea	coast
beach	sand
wave	cliff
rock	rock pool
island	harbour
lighthouse	shell
swim	surf

go swimming, go sailing, go fishing (not go to fish)

On and in the sea *A1–A2*

boat	ship
sailing boat	fisherman
seagull	crab
fish	lobster
octopus	seal
dolphin	whale
go fishing	row

one fish, ten fish · ship (short i) ≠ sheep (long ee)

Ships, coast and tides *B1–B2*

On board: crew, skipper, coxswain, deck, bow, stern, port, starboard, anchor, lifejacket

The coast: coastline, bay, headland, estuary, pier, coastal erosion

Tides: high tide · low tide · the tide comes in / goes out · spring tides · neap tides

Fishing: trawler, net, the catch, quota, angler, fishmonger

Lifeboats: the RNLI (1824) · volunteer crews · launch the lifeboat · a shout · drift · run aground

*The **trawler** was **drifting** towards the **headland**, so the **crew launched the lifeboat**.*

port = left, starboard = right (facing the bow)

The sea, its law and its fish *C1–C2*

Register: maritime, naval, nautical, seafaring, offshore, inshore

Law of the sea: nautical mile (1,852 m), knot, territorial waters (12 nm), exclusive economic zone (200 nm), the high seas

Fisheries: overfishing, fish stocks, sustainable fishing, by-catch, selective gear, moratorium, marine protected area, aquaculture

Idioms: all at sea, plain sailing, make waves, test the waters, plenty more fish in the sea, the tide has turned, go overboard, rock the boat, between the devil and the deep blue sea, by and large

*Square-mesh panels have cut **by-catch**, and **by and large** the stock is recovering.*

twenty knots (not knots per hour)

At the harbour

- *The boats are coming in.*
- *Did you catch a lot today?*
- *The sea is too rough to go out.*
- *Always wear a lifejacket!*

Common mistakes

- ~~I went to fish.~~ → I **went fishing**.
- ~~ten fishes~~ → ten **fish**
- *naval* (navy) · *nautical* (ships, navigation)
- ~~20 knots per hour~~ → **20 knots**

Words with a past

- **mermaid**: Old English *mere*, sea
- **porpoise**: Latin *porcus* + *piscis*, pig fish
- **deck**: Middle Dutch *dec*, a roof or covering
- **halibut**: holy flatfish · **quay**: once spelled *key*

My new words

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