ABBREVIATIONS GUIDE (ALPHABET SOUP)

By Glen Sherman, Riverhead, NY
Peconic Bay Power Squadron
http://www.pbps.us/civic/info/alphasoup.html

We are bombarded with acronyms both technical and non-technical. This list should help you sort out which are important to the safe operation of your vessel. The definitions and/or explanations provided are brief and you can learn much more about each one.

121.5MHz - The homing frequency transmitted by EPIRBs & PLBs
406MHz - The distress signal frequency transmitted by EPIRBs
ABYC - American Boat and Yacht Council - trade organization
AFRCC - Air Force Rescue Coordination Center
AIS - Automatic Identification System - sends ship ID over VHF + info from GPS
AIS 1 - 161.975 MHz (Channel 87B)
AIS 2 - 162.025 MHz (Channel 88B)
ALR - Alarm
AM - Amplitude Modulation - radio transmission format
AMI - American Maritime Industries
AMSL - Above Mean Sea level
AMTOR - AMateur Teleprinting Over Radio - older data transmission standard
AMVER - Automated Merchant Vessel Reporting system
ANSI - American National Standards Institute
ARPA - Automatic Radar Plotting Aid
ARQ - Automatic Repeat reQuest (Modem data confirmation)
ATN - Aids To Navigation
AWA - Anchor Watch Alarm
Biedou - Chinese version of GPS
BIIT - Built-In Integrity Tests
BS - Base Station
CB - Citizens Band - low cost AM radio popular in 1970s can be used by everyone
CDMA - Code Division Multiple Access - cell phone standard
CO - Carbon Monoxide
COG - Course Over Ground (also called Track)
COLREGS - COLLision REGulationS - International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea
COSPAS - Space System for Search of Vessels in Distress - a Russian acronym
CPA - Closest Point of Approach between vessels (predicted by RADAR or AIS)
CSTDMA - Carrier Sense Time Division Multiple Access
DASS - Distress Alerting Satellite System
DCPA - Distance at Closest Point of Approach
DGNSS - Differential Global Navigation Satellite System
DGPS - Differential GPS - GPS with error correction from land sites
DSC - Digital Selective Calling - how VHF radios send distress or other calls
DSM - Digital Sounder Module - interprets signals for sounders or fishfinders
EBL - Electronic Bearing line - bearing to a target on an electronic display
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECDIS</td>
<td>Electronic Chart Display and Information System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECS</td>
<td>Electronic Chart System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIEIO</td>
<td>What you sing after &quot;Old MacDonald had a farm&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMC</td>
<td>ElectroMagnetic Compatibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPIRB</td>
<td>Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon - offshore safety equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETA</td>
<td>Estimated Time of Arrival - time to next (also ETE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETE</td>
<td>Estimated Time En route - time to next (also ETA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCC</td>
<td>Federal Communications Commission - the guys who make the rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FM</td>
<td>Frequency Modulation - radio transmission format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRP</td>
<td>Fiberglass Reinforced Polyester - what &quot;fiberglass&quot; boats are made of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRS</td>
<td>Family Radio Service - small handheld version of GMRS type unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSK</td>
<td>Frequency Shift Keyed modulation - data transmission format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galileo</td>
<td>Not the person, but European version of GPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDOP</td>
<td>Geometrical Dilution Of Precision - GPS accuracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOSAR</td>
<td>Geostationary Earth Orbiting Search And Rescue (satellites)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHz</td>
<td>GigaHertz (1000 MHz or a frequency of 1,000,000,000 cycles per second)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLONASS</td>
<td>Russian version of GPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMDSS</td>
<td>Global Maritime Distress &amp; Safety System - receives signal from EPIRB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMRS</td>
<td>General Mobile Radio Service - the modern day CB radio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNSS</td>
<td>Global Navigation Satellite System (GPS, GLONASS, Galileo, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOES</td>
<td>Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPRB</td>
<td>Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon with built in GPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPRS</td>
<td>General Packet Radio Service - data transmission over cell phone network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>Global Positioning System - satellite based location and tracking system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSM</td>
<td>Global System for Mobile communications - cell phone standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HF</td>
<td>High Frequency (3-30 MHz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIN</td>
<td>Hull Identification Number - your boat has one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMS</td>
<td>Her / His Majesty's Ship - designation for ships from the UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IALA</td>
<td>International Assoc. of marine aids to navigation and Lighthouse Authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Inside Dimension or Diameter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEN</td>
<td>Integrated Digital Enhanced Network - cell phone standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>International Electrotechnical Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMO</td>
<td>International Maritime Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INMARSAT</td>
<td>International Maritime satellite Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/O</td>
<td>Inboard/Outboard - engine inboard, drive unit outboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iOS</td>
<td>iPhone Operating System - also used for other Apple portable devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>Internet Protocol - Numbered address of a device on a network or the internet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITU</td>
<td>International Telecommunications Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kHz</td>
<td>KiloHertz (1000 Hertz or a frequency of 1000 cycles per second)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCD</td>
<td>Liquid Crystal Display - technology for information display on a flat panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LED</td>
<td>Light Emitting Diode - solid state (no filament) light producing device</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEOSAR</td>
<td>Low Earth Orbiting Search And Rescue (satellite)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMR</td>
<td>Land Mobile Radio, 380.0-399.9 MHz for land based use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LORAN</td>
<td>LOnge-Range radio Aid to Navigation - locates position &amp; course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LR</td>
<td>Long Range</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LUT - Local User Terminal
MCC - Mission Control Center
MEO - Medium Earth Orbiting (satellite)
MEOSAR - Medium Earth Orbiting Search And Rescue (satellite)
MF - Medium Frequency band (300-3000 kHz)
MFD - Multi Function Display -displays info from many devices on a single screen
MFI - Multi-port Fuel Injection -a type of engine technology
MHz - MegaHertz (1000 kHz or a frequency of 1,000,000 cycles per second)
MMSI - Maritime Mobile Service Identity -the ID number your DSC radio sends
MOB - Man Over Board -hopefully this will never happen to you
MSI - Maritime Safety Information
MSD - Marine sanitation Device -head, holding tank, porta-potty, etc.
MSLD - Maritime Survivor Locating Device (man-overboard beacon)
MUF - Maximum Usable Frequency
NASBLA - National Association of State Boating Law Administrators
NAVTEX - NAVigation radio TeLEX -local safety info on 518 or 490MHz (text message)
NBDP - Narrow Band Direct Printing -another term for Radio Telex
NDRS - National Distress and Response System
NIOSH - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health -sets standards
NM - Nauticle Mile = to 1 minute of Latitude, 1852 meters or about 6076 feet
NMEA - National Marine Electronics Association
NMMA - National Marine Manufacturers Association -trade organization
NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration -weather. charts, etc.
NWS - National Weather Service
NYDEC - N.Y. Department of Environmental Conservation
OD - Outside Dimension or Diameter
OK - Old Kinderhook -Pres. Martin Van Buren's nickname, now sign of approval
PACTOR - Modern combination of PACket radio & amTOR (Radio modem standard)
PFD - Personal Floatation Device -life jackets, throwable rescue aids
PLB - Personal Locator Beacon -a small EPIRB for your life jacket
PWC - Personal Water Craft -Jet Ski, Wave Runner, etc.
Q-Z - Quasi-Zenith, Japanese version of GPS
RACON - Radar Beacon
RADAR - Radio Detection And Ranging -scans above the surface for objects
RAIM - Receiver Autonomous Integrity Monitoring
RCC - Rescue Coordination Center
RDF - Radio Direction Finder -used to get a bearing on a radio navigation beacon
RF - Radio Frequency
RIB - Rigid Inflatable Boat -this inflatable has a fixed hard bottom
RO - Reverse Osmosis -method for making drinking water from lake or sea water
ROT - Rate Of Turn
RTCM - Radio Technical Commission of Maritime Service
RTE - Abbreviation for Route (also RADAR Target Enhancer)
RTTY - Radio TeleTYpewriter -a method of transmitting text
RX - Receive
SAME - Specific Area Message Encoding -lets NOAA radio users hear their area only
SAR - Search And Rescue
SARSAT - Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking
SART - Search And Rescue Transponder (shows up on RADAR to guide rescuers)
SC101 - North American standard for DSC
SCUBA - Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus -what divers use
SEND - Satellite Emergency Notification Device (can send text messages)
SMS - Short Message Service
SOG - Speed Over Ground
SOLAS - Safety Of Life At Sea -marine standards recommendations
SONAR - SOund Navigation And Ranging -scans below the surface for objects
SOS - Save Our Ship -Distress call in light or radio pulse ( ... - - - ... )
SOTDMA - Self-Organizing Time Division Multiple Access
SSB - Single Side Band -extra channels on your VHF radio
SWR - Standing Wave Ratio
TCPA - Time to Closest Point of Approach
TDMA - Time Division Multiple Access (cell phone standard)
TX - Transmit
UGC - User Generated Content (i.e. user entered electronic chart updates)
UHF - Ultra High Frequency (300 MHz -3 GHz)
USB - Upper Side Band (in VHF radio communications)
USB - Universal Serial Bus -computer data communication protocol
USCG - United States Coast Guard
USMCC - United States Mission Control Center
USPS - United States Power Squadron
UTC - Universal Time Coordinated (also UT)
VDL - VHF Date Link
VDR - Voyage Date Recorder
VHF - Very High Frequency (30-300 MHz), 156-163 MHz is used for marine radio
VHF CH16- VHF channel for hailing and voice emergency calls
VHF CH70- VHF DSC data channel (includes a Mayday feature)
VHF CH87- VHF AIS channel #1
VHF CH88- VHF AIS channel #2
VMG - Velicity Made Good - speed toward waypoint
VMRS - Vessel Movement Reporting System
VPIRB - VHF Position Indication Radio Beacon transmits GPS info via DSC
VRM - Variable Range Marker -RADAR display rings that measure distance
VTS - Vessel Traffic Service - Traffic control in busy or large harbors
WAAS - Wide Area Augmentation System -GPS with error correction from land sites
WGS84 - World Geodetic System (chart standard) + the year of the standard
Wi-Fi - Wireless Fidelity -high speed wireless data connection
WWV - Call sign for national atomic clock broadcast on 2.5, 5, 10, 15 & 20 MHz
XTE - Cross Track Error (also XTK) -distance off course
XTK - Cross Track Error (also XTE) -distance off course