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Glossary of terms and definitions related to inland water transport

Terms related to inland water transport used in the national standards and documents of member States of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and in the glossary of the Danube Commission

Note by the secretariat

Mandate

1. This document is submitted in line with the programme of work of the Transport subprogramme for 2020 (ECE/TRANS/2020/21, chapter IV, table, section A, para. 11) adopted by the Inland Transport Committee at its eighty-second session (25–28 February 2020) (ECE/TRANS/294, para. 136).
2. At its sixty-third session, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport requested the secretariat to prepare a draft glossary of terms related to inland water transport for consideration at the fifty-seventh session of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/210, paras. 97 and 98). At its informal meeting held on 29–30 June 2020, SC.3/WP.3 took note of the progress made in preparing the glossary and requested the secretariat to continue this work.
3. The annex to this document contains some terms and definitions related to inland water transport that could be included in the draft glossary. They are drawn from the national standards of ECE member States and the glossary of the Danube Commission.



Annex

Terms used in the national standards and documents of ECE member States and in the glossary of the Danube Commission for inclusion in the draft ECE glossary

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Source</i>
1 Spur (jetty, spurdyke, transverse dyke)	Hydraulic structure built from the bank of a stream in a direction transverse to the current to regulate the flow and protect the banks and the foundations of hydraulic structures from scouring .	(1)
2 Riffle	Shallow rapids in [an open channel] a river , where the water surface is broken into waves by totally or partly submerged obstructions.	(1)
3 Headwater section (upper pond)	Stretch of the waterway that is directly above a water-retaining structure.	(2)
[Headwater section	River section located in a zone of influence of damming.]	(3)
4 Flood mark in the spring	A bank mark used on free-flowing rivers to indicate submerged banks, islands, promontories protruding into the river channel, etc.	(2)
5 Inner harbour	The innermost landward part of a harbour which is the area which affords the maximum protection from the elements and includes the facilities accommodating ships, berths, quayside, etc.	(2)
6 Wintering	Temporary laying-up of a vessel during the navigational off-season. The vessel is moored at the equipped berth or in a specially designated place (a winter harbour or a winter shelter).	(2)
7 Significant wave height of <i>n</i> per cent probability	The average of the heights of the <i>n</i> per cent of the total number of waves having the greatest heights, measured between wave trough and wave crest, observed over a short period.	(2)
8 Follow in line (in the wake of other vessel)	To move in a line (row) of vessels when they follow one after another along the heading line.	(2)
9 Canal	Artificially created open watercourse in an earthen cutting or embankment.	(4)
10 Indicator of river kilometres	A detailed schematic plan of a river, containing the locations of all elements necessary for safe navigation, including ports, harbours, hydraulic structures, waterway marking, bridges, ferry services with kilometre marks and other information relevant to navigation.	(2)
11 Boot basin (haven, harbour)	A small port basin, usually with a narrow entrance, located inside the harbour.	(2)
12 Spit (sandspit)	Low and narrow deposition bar connected to the bank at one end and protruding into the sea (river, lake) at the other.	(2)
13 Freeze-up	[Formation of ice cover on a water surface due to seasonal cooling.]	(5)
	[Process whereby the ice run in flowing water is replaced by stable ice cover.]	(3)
14 Low water period (low water season, dry weather period)	[Period characterized by a low water flow, low water level and arising from a decrease in river nourishment, consisting exclusively of groundwater contribution.]	(2)
[Shallow water	Phase of the hydrological regime on a certain river section, when a water level hinders safe passage of vessels with a draught of 2.5 m and more.]	(3)

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Source</i>
15	Navigational off season (navigational off-season)	[The period between two navigation seasons.] (2)
		[The period during which inland waterways are closed to navigation.] (2)
16	Navigation sign	Installation in the form of visual coastal or floating sign with or without equipment for the generation and distribution of light, sound and radio signals to ensure and facilitate vessel traffic as well as to protect the waterway and its infrastructure or the sea. (3)
17	Navigational season (navigational period)	The period during which the inland waterways are open for navigation. (2)
18	Inclined plane (water slope)	Engineering structure for transporting vessels between water at two different elevations (levels) by means of caissons, cradles, slings or water slopes. (2)
19	Unfavourable (river) section	A river section, where navigation is hindered due to minimum parameters that are not consistent with the recommended ones and/or due to other obstacles. (3)
20	Port operator (quay operator)	Transport organization operating the port or quay, goods operations (including trans-shipment), servicing of vessels or other vehicles and (or) services for passengers and their luggage. (2)
21	Bay bar (barrier beach, offshore bar)	Spit separating a liman or lagoon from the sea or lake. (2)
22	Floating dock	A ship-repair facility intended for lifting a vessel from the water, repairing (or transporting) it, and putting it afloat. (2)
23	Floating jetty	Berthed vessel or floating structure fixed to the shore or in the roadway of an inland waterway, designed for mooring and berthing of vessels and manufacturing operations. (4)
24	Usable length of a lock	Distance between the chord of the falling upper gates* and the lower gate recesses. (3)
25	Usable width of a lock	Minimum lateral distance between two chamber walls. (3)
26	Rapids	[An abrupt/sloped rocky section in the river bed with an increased flow rate, formed as a result of a step erosion of the river bed.] (2)
		[Reach of a stream where the flow is very rapid and turbulent, and where the surface is usually broken by obstructions, but has no actual waterfall or cascade.] (1)
27	Point bar	[Bar attached to the inner bend of the river.] (6)
		[Alluvium accumulation near the inner bend of a meandering river.]
28	Turning basin (Manoeuvring basin)	1. A basin located between docks and port channels or fairways, with special provisions for the safe performance of rotating manoeuvres of ships to allow them to enter port channels, change course or align in port with the use of their own thrusters or with the help of tugboats. [The diameter of a turning basin should correspond to 150% of the length of the largest vessel to use its area.] (7)
		2. Expansion of the canal for turning of vessels. (2)

* Translator's note: this term may require some editing by the Committee.

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Source</i>
29 River bed (riverbed)	[Lowest part of a river valley shaped by the flow of water and along which most of the sediment and runoff moves.]	(1)
	[Bed formed by the flow of the river, along which run-off is carried without flooding the flood plain.]	(4)
30 Ice concentration	The ratio [expressed in tenths*] describing the amount of the [sea] water surface covered by ice as a fraction of the whole area being considered . It can be expressed:	(8)
	(a) In tenths as a fraction of the whole area being considered;	(8)
	(b) Using a scale of 0 to 10, based on a visual assessment: 0 means that no floating ice is present; 10 means close ice without water gaps.	(2)
31 Slipway	Structure for the construction or repair and launch of a vessel.	(2)
32 Midstream (channel line)	A part of the river flow with the maximal flow rate and depth (usually in the middle of the river).	(2)
33 Riffle	[A narrow or rapidside (stepped) section of the river with a great depth and rapid flow, often with waves, whirlpools and water mass ejections from the bottom to the surface.]	(2)
34 Shipowner (owner of the vessel, vessel owner)	A natural or legal person operating a vessel for the purpose of navigation on his, her or its own behalf, regardless of whether he, she or it is the owner of the vessel or uses it on any other legal basis.	(2)
35 Gate (lock gate)	Movable enclosing structures located at both ends of the lock chamber, which allow the entry and exit of vessels and seal the chamber during lockage.	(2)
36 Canalization of rivers	[Means of increasing the depth of waterways by creating pools using dams and connecting them with locks.]	(2)
	[A set of dredging, remedial and sweeping works and the construction of locks, which significantly changes the dimensions and the shape of the fairway on a river.]	(2)

References

- (1) World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), *International Glossary of Hydrology* (WMO-No. 385), 2012
- (2) National standards and regulations of ECE member States
- (3) Danube Commission, *Glossary of the Danube Navigation*, 2015
- (4) ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2018/15-ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2018/5
- (5) WMO, *International Meteorological Vocabulary* (WMO-No. 182), 2nd ed., 1992
- (6) Danube STREAM project consortium, *Basic Danube Glossary*, 2019
- (7) ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2018/4
- (8) WMO, *WMO Sea-Ice Nomenclature* (WMO-No. 259), 1970–2014