

BOAT-WORK

EXPRESSIONS AND ORDERS USED WHEN HANDLING PULLING BOATS

The following expressions and orders are arranged in no particular sequence, and each must be viewed in conjunction with all the others.

It should be noted that in every case where an order is given to the crew or any member of it while they are pulling, the order should be given when the blades are in the water and one more stroke should be given before the order is carried out.

- “Oars!”** The position of ‘attention’ in a pulling boat. The oars are held at right angles to the boat, parallel to the surface of the water, the blades horizontal. Bodies should be upright and arms slightly bent.
- “Shove off!”** The boat is shoved away from the ship or jetty, usually bows first, the bowman using the wooden end of his **boathook**.
- “Give way together!”** The crew, taking their time from the stroke oar, commence pulling.
- “Way enough!”** This is the order to stop pulling. In double-banked boats, other than those being used as sea boats, the oars are ‘tossed’. In single-banked boats, other than sea boats, the crew lie back, allowing the loom of the oar to pass over their heads, and the blade to go aft. (See expression “Boat oars”.)
- “Toss your oars!”** Only done in a double-banked boat. The oars are brought to a vertical position, blades fore and aft.
- “Oars down!”** This is the executive order for coming to the position of ‘oars’. If necessary it can be used for port or starboard oars only.
- “Ship your oars!”**
or
“Oars ready!” The oars are placed in the ‘crutches’ in a single-banked boat, or the ‘rowlocks’ in a double-banked boat
- “Boat your oars!”** In a double-banked boat the oars are laid fore and aft in the boat with the *blades for’ward* and outboard of the crew.
In a single-banked boat the oars are lifted out of the crutches, and laid fore and aft in the boat, *blades aft* and outboard of the crew (see “Bows”; in a single-banked boat the only oar laid with the blade forward is the bowman’s).

- “Bows!”*** This is an order given preparatory to coming alongside, for the bowman to lay in his oar, and man his **boathook**. In a double-banked boat the bowmen toss their oars together, touch the blades (termed ‘Kissing ‘), and boat them by sliding the looms aft, amidships in the boat. In a single-banked boat, the bowman lifts his oar out of the crutch and boats it by sliding the loom aft.
- “Hold water!”*** This order is given when it is desired to take way off the boat. The blades of the oars are held firmly in the water, at right angles to the boat.
- “Back together!”***
“Back starboard!”
“Back port!” This order is given when it is desired to move the boat astern, or turn her short round. The oars referred to are given the opposite motion through the water to when ‘giving way’.
- “Feather”*** The oars are said to be feathered when the blades are fore and aft.
- “Fenders in!”***
or
“Fenders out!” Each member of the crew is responsible that there is nothing hanging over the side of the boat in his immediate vicinity. When coming alongside fenders are put out on the side that is liable to rub. On leaving the ship or jetty they are immediately brought inboard.

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