GLOSSARY

ANGLING—Sliding across the face of a wave, either right or left.
BACKWASH—The rush of water down the slope of the beach after a wave has run up the beach.
BAGGIES—Much too large swim trunks, worn as a fad by younger surfers.
BAILING OUT—A planned escape from the surfboard, just before the surfer would be wiped out.
BALSAS WOOD—A soft, light, porous wood from South America, used for surfboards before foam and fiberglass.
BELLYBOARD—A short surfboard propelled mainly by swimfins. Called a PIAPA in Hawaii.
BIG GUN—An eleven-foot or longer surfboard specially designed for large waves.
BLOWN OUT—A surfing word with two meanings: (1) surf that has been wind-whipped sufficiently to make it unridable, (2) what happens when offshore winds blow a surfer off the top of a wave and down the back side.
BOMBOARA—An Australian word that refers to a big wave that breaks outside the normal surf line.
BOTTOM TURN—A swinging turn made at the bottom or well below the crest of a wave.
BOWL—The rising of a wave caused by rolling over a shallow portion of the bottom. The rising of the bottom causes the wave to break somewhat harder and faster.
CATALYST—The agent which causes the resin used in surfboard building to harden.
CHANNEL—A spot of deep water where the surf doesn't usually form; a good place to paddle out.
CHOPPY—A ruffled water surface caused by winds. A sea state prior to the formation of whitecaps.
CLIMBING—Angling up the face of a wave toward the crest.
CLOSE-OUT—A wave or series of waves that curls over all at once and can't be ridden, or when the waves become too big to ride.
GLOSSARY

HUMPING—Waves rising up suddenly just before breaking, used sometimes to refer to big waves.

INSHORE—The place in the water just off the beach and inside the break.

INSIDE—The surfing area nearest the beach.

KELP—Seaweed that floats on the surface though the roots are anchored to the bottom.

KICK OUT—Pushing down on the tail of the board to lift and turn the nose over the top of the wave.

LEFT SLIDE—Riding a wave to the surfer’s left.

LOCKED IN—Firmly set in the curling portion of the wave with water holding down the tail of the board.

LINES—A series of waves rolling in with some consistency.

OUTSIDE—The area beyond where the surf is breaking. Also the yell or warning which means a wave is coming.

OVER THE FALLS—Driven down with the breaking part of the wave, toward the bottom, with force.

PADDLEBOARD—A hollow wooden (or very light foam) elongated surfboard used primarily to travel across the water. Most paddleboards are awkward in the surf.

PAIPO BOARD—The Hawaiian term for bellyboard, a short surfboard.

PEAK—The highest part of the wave.

PEARL—A surfboard “pearls” when the nose drops enough to dig in and slow or stop the board.

PIER BREAK—Waves that break next to or under a pier, sometimes used when a pier actually starts a wave breaking.

PIG BOARD—A surfboard with a pointed nose and a broad tail.

PIN TAIL—A surfboard with a long tapering stern which comes almost to a point.

POLYURETHANE—The most common type of foam used in surfboard construction.

POP-OUTS—Mass-produced surfboards of low quality.

POUNDERS—Crashing, unridable waves.

PULL OUT—Ending the ride and getting off the wave by steering the board over, or through, the face of the wave.

QUASIMODO—Riding forward in a hunched-over position; named after the Hunchback of Notre Dame.