WaveLingo

TERM	DEFINITION
Amplitude	The amplitude is equal to one-half the wave height or the distance from either the crest or the trough to the still-water line
Breakers	Waves that break into foam when they hit the shore
Closed Out	When a wave breaks along its length all at once, making it unsurfable
Crest	The highest point of the wave
Fetch	Distance over which the ocean wind is blowing
Fjord Tsunami	Waves that travel through a narrow channel of ice or rock, usually caused by large pieces of ice or rock falling into the water
Frequency	The number of waves per second
Ocean Waves	Waves made by winds blowing over and against the surface of the water, creating a rhythmic pattern
Sea	Irregular patterns of waves with peaks in the same area of the wind wave formation (like the *Perfect Storm*)
Still-Water Line	The level of the ocean if it were flat without any waves
Surf	Waves that crash ashore with a loud noise
Swell	Long ocean waves formed by winds blowing over a distant area of ocean (fetch), that travel rapidly over the surface, having a uniform and orderly appearance characterized by regularly spaced wave crests.
Tidal Wave	Misconception! Ocean wave height is not affected by tides (though tides do play a role in how waves break at the beach). For extraordinarily large waves see “tsunami.”
Trough	The lowest point of the wave
Tsunami	Gigantic waves caused by earthquake, volcanic activity at the bottom of the ocean, or water displacement due to a large object hitting the water.
Wave	A disturbance or variation that transfers energy progressively from point to point in a medium and that may take the form of an elastic deformation or of a variation of pressure, electric or magnetic intensity, electric potential, or temperature; A moving ridge or swell on the surface of a liquid
Wave Face	The height of the breaking wave at its highest point.
Wave Height	The distance between the trough and the crest
Wavelength	The distance measured from crest to crest
Wave Period	The time taken for two wave crests to pass a fixed point.
Whitecaps	Waves as white water, caused by strong winds pushing the water off the tops of swells

Definitions excerpted from:

- Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, http://pao.cnmoc.navy.mil/educate/neptune/quest/wavetide/anatomy.htm
- Mississippi State University, Dept of Geosciences, http://www.msstate.edu/dept/geosciences/CT/TIG/WEBSITES/RESEARCH/Joan_Roueche/#PARTS%20OF%20A%20WAVE
- Marine Meteorological Glossary (National Dutch Meteorological Society), http://www.knmi.nl/~koek/glossary.html
- Merriam-Webster Online, http://m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary
- *The World Stormrider Guide*, Antony Colas, 2001, Low Pressure Ltd. Publishing