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The Words *Naviface* and *Oxyty*¹

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It is amazing that English-speaking scientists and seamen have muddled along without a noun for the all-important *interface between atmosphere and ocean*, sometimes designated with the phrase "air-sea interface," more often with the vague phrase "sea surface." For clarity and economy of expression, a single word is needed for this floor of the atmosphere and ceiling of the ocean. Because this interface is the discontinuity on which ships float, I propose the noun *naviface* and the adjective *navifacial*, both similar in pronunciation to *navigate*. The roots come from Latin *navis*, ship, and *facies*, face.²

No suggestions are offered here, but nouns are also needed for two other interfaces: the interface between ocean and lithosphere; and the interface between atmosphere and lithosphere.

Another desideratum, not of such wide application but common in oceanography, is a word for the *concentration of dissolved oxygen*—a word like salinity. The noun proposed is *oxyty*. (Unfortunately, as in chlorinity, the roots come from both Greek and Latin.) This word has proved convenient and acceptable during a trial of several years in our group.

For a line of uniform *oxyty*, Adrov (1967) has used the noun "isoxxygen." A better version is probably *isooxygen*, proposed to me by both Dr. L. H. N. Cooper and Dr. Bruce A. Taft. The adjective meaning constant or uniform in *oxyty* is *isooxygenic*. These words correspond in sense to isotherm and isothermal.

The word *oxycline*, for a layer of maximum downward decrease in *oxyty*,

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2. I introduced the word *naviface* in a talk entitled "Comments on oceanic leveling" at the Symposium on Mean Sea Level, International Association of Physical Oceanography, Washington, D. C., 13 April 1967.

has already been used by Tabata (1965: 372, "oxy-cline") and Bary (1966: 673). The word *oxystad*, for a layer of relatively small vertical change in oxyty, was proposed by Seitz (1967).

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