Solution: *Take To The Sea*

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Each of the constructed words should be a type of SHIP (APPRENTICE(SHIP), RELATION(SHIP), and so forth). The solution using all boats is unique against the whole of ENABLE and unique against SOWPODS words that are types of SHIPs:

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STEWARD    = STEEL  + TOWARD
APPRENTICE = APPLE  + TYRANNICAL + UPTAKE
SPACE      = STACK  + OPPOSE
RELATION   = RALLY  + NEGATIVE   + ADDITION
TOWN       = TOW    + INBORN
OWNER      = OWLET  + NOR
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S E
 T WARD
STEWARD

APP E
   R N IC
      T  E
APPRENTICE

S AC
 P  E
SPACE

R L
 E A I
    T ON
RELATION

T W
 O N
TOWN

OW E
  N R
OWNER
```

In the given order of the captain's boats and from bow to stern (left to right), the first letters of the boats to be combined spell out STATUS OR NATION, a clue phrase for the puzzle's solution: STATE.