Puget Sound
NOAA Chart 18440

A reduced-scale NOAA nautical chart for small boaters

When possible, use the full-size NOAA chart for navigation.

- Complete, reduced-scale nautical chart
- Print at home for free
- Convenient size
- Up-to-date with Notices to Mariners
- Compiled by NOAA’s Office of Coast Survey, the nation’s chartmaker
Published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Ocean Service Office of Coast Survey www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov 888-990-NOAA

What are Nautical Charts?

Nautical charts are a fundamental tool of marine navigation. They show water depths, obstructions, buoys, other aids to navigation, and much more. The information is shown in a way that promotes safe and efficient navigation. Chart carriage is mandatory on the commercial ships that carry America’s commerce. They are also used on every Navy and Coast Guard ship, fishing and passenger vessels, and are widely carried by recreational boaters.

What is a BookletChart™?

This BookletChart is made to help recreational boaters locate themselves on the water. It has been reduced in scale for convenience, but otherwise contains all the information of the full-scale nautical chart. The bar scales have also been reduced, and are accurate when used to measure distances in this BookletChart. See the Note at the bottom of page 5 for the reduction in scale applied to this chart.

Whenever possible, use the official, full scale NOAA nautical chart for navigation. Nautical chart sales agents are listed on the Internet at http://www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov.

This BookletChart does NOT fulfill chart carriage requirements for regulated commercial vessels under Titles 33 and 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Notice to Mariners Correction Status

This BookletChart has been updated for chart corrections published in the U.S. Coast Guard Local Notice to Mariners, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Weekly Notice to Mariners, and, where applicable, the Canadian Coast Guard Notice to Mariners. Additional chart corrections have been made by NOAA in advance of their publication in a Notice to Mariners. The last Notices to Mariners applied to this chart are listed in the Note at the bottom of page 7. Coast Pilot excerpts are not being corrected.


(VSelected Excerpts from Coast Pilot) Puget Sound, a bay with numerous channels and branches, extends about 90 miles S from the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Olympia. The N boundary of the sound is formed, at its main entrance, by a line between Point Wilson on the Quimper Peninsula and Point Partridge on Whidbey Island; at a second entrance between West Point on Whidbey Island, Deception Island, and Sares Head on Fidalgo Island; at a third entrance, at the S end of Swinomish Channel between Fidalgo Island and McGlinn Island. Puget Sound was named by George Vancouver for Lieutenant Peter Puget, who explored the S end in May 1792. Deep-draft traffic is considerable in the larger passages, and small craft operate throughout the area. Unusually deep water and strong currents characterize these waters.

Navigation of the area is comparatively easy in clear weather; the outlying dangers are few and marked by aids. The currents follow the general direction of the channels and have considerable velocity. In thick weather, because of the uncertainty of the currents and the great depths which render soundings useless in many places, strangers are advised to take a pilot.

The Marine Exchange of Puget Sound, located in Seattle, has a Vessel Monitoring/Vessel Reporting service which tracks the arrival of a vessel from a time prior to arrival at the pilot station to a berth at one of the Puget Sound ports. Constant updates of the ship’s position and estimated time of arrival are maintained through a variety of sources. This information is available to and is passed to the vessel’s agents and to other interested activities. These services continue until the vessel passes the pilot station on her outbound voyage.

Other services offered by the Marine Exchange include a daily newsletter about future marine traffic in the Puget Sound area, communication services, and a variety of coordinative and statistical information. The office monitors VHФ-FM channels 20 for Grays Harbor traffic, 9 for Strait of Juan de Fuca traffic to Protection Island, and 20 for Puget Sound traffic from Protection Island, 24 hours a day. The Marine Exchange may also be contacted by phone, 206-443-3830 or toll free 800-562-2856.

Vessel Traffic Service Puget Sound, operated by the U.S. Coast Guard, has been established in the waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Rosario Strait, Admiralty Inlet, Puget Sound, and the navigable waters adjacent to these areas. (See 161.1 through 161.155, chapter 2, for regulations, and the beginning of chapter 12 for additional information.)

Regulated navigation area.-Due to heavy vessel concentrations, the waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the San Juan Islands, the Strait of Georgia, and Puget Sound, and all adjacent waters, are a regulated navigation area. (See 165.1 through 165.13 and 165.1301, chapter 2, for regulations.) Floating logs and deadheads or sinkers may be encountered anywhere in Puget Sound; caution should be exercised.

Currents.—In The Narrows current velocities exceed 5 knots at times. At the N end of The Narrows the current sets N most of the time on the E side of the passage and S most of the time on the W side. (See Tidal Current Tables for daily current predictions for a midstream position near the N end of The Narrows and details of the current movement at other locations; these tables and the Tidal Current Charts, Puget Sound, Southern Part, should both be consulted for details of the complicated currents of this area.)

Caution.—The channel through Balch Passage is only about 100 yards wide between the 10-fathom curves, and the scale of the chart is small. Vessels should stay carefully in midchannel, traffic permitting.
Lateral System As Seen Entering From Seaward
on navigable waters except Western Rivers

PORT SIDE
ODD NUMBERED AIDS

- GREEN LIGHT ONLY FLASHING (2)
- FLAShING OCCULTING QUICK FLASHING ISO

PREFERRED CHANNEL
NO NUMBERS – MAY BE LETTERED
PREFERRED CHANNEL TO STARBOARD TOPMOST BAND GREEN

PREFERRED CHANNEL
NO NUMBERS – MAY BE LETTERED
PREFERRED CHANNEL TO PORT TOPMOST BAND RED

COMPOSITE GROUP FLASHING (2+1)

STARBOARD SIDE
EVEN NUMBERED AIDS

- RED LIGHT ONLY FLASHING (2)
- FLASHING OCCULTING QUICK FLASHING ISO

For more information on aids to navigation, including those on Western Rivers, please consult the latest USCG Light List for your area. These volumes are available online at http://www.navcen.uscg.gov
Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.
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FISHING AND HUNTING STRUCTURES:
Unconfined fish and wildlife harvesting devices and structures such as fish traps, pound nets, cast nets, and duck blinds, some submerged, may exist in the area of this chart, particularly in the near shore area. Mariners should proceed with caution.

WARNING
The prudent mariner will not rely solely on any single aid to navigation, particularly on floating aids. See U.S. Coast Guard Light List and U.S. Coast Pilot for details.

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NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
COAST SURVEY

Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.
VHF Marine Radio channels for use on the waterways:
Channel 6 – Inter-ship safety communications.
Channel 9 – Communications between boats and ship-to-coast.
Channel 13 – Navigation purposes at bridges, locks, and harbors.
Channel 16 – Emergency, distress and safety calls to Coast Guard and others, and to initiate calls to other vessels. Contact the other vessel, agree to another channel, and then switch.
Channel 22A – Calls between the Coast Guard and the public. Severe weather warnings, hazards to navigation and safety warnings are broadcast here.
Channels 68, 69, 71, 72 and 78A – Recreational boat channels.

Getting and Giving Help — Signal other boaters using visual distress signals (flares, orange flag, lights, arm signals); whistles; horns; and on your VHF radio. You are required by law to help boaters in trouble. Respond to distress signals, but do not endanger yourself.

Distress Call Procedures
- Make sure radio is on.
- Select Channel 16.
- Press/Hold the transmit button.
- Clearly say: “MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY.”
- Also give: Vessel Name and/or Description; Position and/or Location; Nature of Emergency; Number of People on Board.
- Release transmit button.
- Wait for 10 seconds — If no response Repeat MAYDAY call.

HAVE ALL PERSONS PUT ON LIFE JACKETS!

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/

Quick References
Nautical chart related products and information — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov
Interactive chart catalog — http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml
Chart and chart related inquiries and comments — http://ocsdata.nco.ncoa.gov/idrs/inquiry.aspx?frompage=ContactUs
Chart updates (LNM and NM corrections) — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/updates/LNM_NM.html
Coast Pilot online — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/cpdownload.htm
Tides and Currents — http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov
Marine Forecasts — http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/home.htm
National Data Buoy Center — http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/
NowCoast web portal for coastal conditions — http://www.nowcoast.noaa.gov/
National Hurricane Center — http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/
Pacific Tsunami Warning Center — http://ptwc.weather.gov/
Contact Us — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/contact.htm

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This Booklet chart has been designed for duplex printing (printed on front and back of one sheet). If a duplex option is not available on your printer, you may print each sheet and arrange them back-to-back to allow for the proper layout when viewing.

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