Laguna Madre –
Middle Ground to Chubby Island
NOAA Chart 11306

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
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.


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.


**Selected Excerpts from Coast Pilot**

From San Luis Pass to the entrance to Matagorda Bay at Pass Cavallo, the coast trends for 80 miles in a general SW by W direction. From Pass Cavallo it curves gently SW for 100 miles to latitude 27°N, where the trend is S; thence it curves gently a little E of S for 58 miles to the mouth of the Rio Grande. Throughout its whole distance the coast encloses a chain of shallow bays or lagoons, some of considerable size. These are separated from the Gulf by long, narrow islands and peninsulas which are generally low and sandy, with few natural distinguishing marks.

**Laguna Madre** is a shallow body of water extending S from Corpus Christi Bay for a distance of 100 miles. Depths range from zero to 9 feet with reefs and mudflats throughout. The Intracoastal Waterway traverses Laguna Madre from Corpus Christi Bay to Port Isabel, Tex.

**Padre Island**, a low, barren, storm-swept strip of sand beach, separates Laguna Madre from the Gulf. Most of the island is part of the Padre Island National Seashore and subject to the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Interior’s National Park Service.

A natural fishing reef is 1.5 miles offshore about 15.6 miles N of Port Mansfield jetties. Another natural fishing reef is 4.5 miles offshore about 11.2 miles N of the jetties.

**Port Mansfield**, 70 miles S of Corpus Christi Bay, is a commercial fishing and popular sport fishing and recreational center, and a base for oil exploration in Laguna Madre. A water tank at the town is prominent.

**Vessels should approach Port Mansfield through the Port Mansfield Safety Fairway. (See 166.100 through 166.20, chapter 2.)** An 8.6-mile dredged channel leads from the Gulf, from a point 78 miles S of Aransas Pass and 31 miles N of Brazos Santiago Pass, through a jetted entrance and a land cut across Padre Island, and thence across Laguna Madre to a turning basin at Port Mansfield. A shrimp-boat basin and a small-craft basin extend S from the SW and SE corners of the turning basin, respectively. (See Notice to Mariners and latest edition of charts for controlling depths.) The entrance to the dredged channel is marked by a light off the ends of the N and S jetties in ruins. The channel is marked by lights and daybeacons.

**Anchorages.**--Vessels may anchor off the entrance to Port Mansfield on either side of the safety fairway. Port Mansfield, under the jurisdiction of the Willacy County Navigation District, has a port director; a **harbormaster** assigns berths. There are berthing facilities, open storage space, and a transit shed with covered storage space. The basins have been bulkheaded, and vessels up to 128 feet can be berthed at finger piers in the shrimp-boat basin. There are about 200 berths in the small-craft basin.

A **speed limit** of 4 knots is enforced in the harbor.

**Baffin Bay**, extending W from **Mile 579.5W**, is a commercial and sport fishing area, and the site of oil exploration and drilling. A marked private natural channel with reported depths of 2 feet in 1982, extends W up Baffin Bay for about 14 miles to a small-craft facility at Riviera Beach on the N side of the entrance to Laguna Salada. Minor services and a launching ramp are available at the facility. Strangers are advised to keep in the marked channel because of the many sunken rocks and other obstructions in the bay. A privately marked natural channel with reported depths of 6 feet in 1982, extends 4 miles farther up Laguna Salada to a boat basin and boatyard. The boatyard that builds boats can handle craft up to 50 feet or 20 tons using a large trailer for hull and engine repairs. Gasoline, diesel fuel, water, electricity, and a launching ramp are available during daylight.

Between **Miles 587.6W** and **611.9W**, the waterway passes through **Land Cut**, a long cut in the sand and mud of Laguna Madre.

**Port Mansfield**, 1 mile W of **Mile 629.8W**, has berths, gasoline, diesel fuel, and limited marine supplies. (See chapter 11 for more complete information.)

At **Miles 643.9W** and **644.5W**, **Arroyo Colorado Cutoff** leads W from the waterway and joins Arroyo Colorado to form a route to **Rio Hondo** and **Port Harlingen**. (See chapter 11 for more complete information.)
NOAA's navigation managers serve as ambassadors to the maritime community. They help identify navigational challenges facing professional and recreational mariners, and provide NOAA resources and information for safe navigation.

For additional information, please visit nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/service/navmanagers.

To make suggestions or ask questions online, go to nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/inquiry. To report a chart discrepancy, please use ocsdata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/discrepancy.aspx.

Lateral System As Seen Entering From Seaward on navigable waters except Western Rivers

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.
CAUTION
Many uncharted rocks exist in Laguna Madre.

CAUTION
WARNING CONCERNING LARGE VESSELS
The "Rules of the Road" state that recreational boats shall not impede the passage of a vessel that can navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway. Large vessels may appear to move slowly due to their large size but actually travel at speeds in excess of 12 knots, requiring a great distance in which to maneuver or stop. A large vessel's superstructure may block the wind with the result that sailboards and sailboats may unexpectedly find themselves unable to maneuver. Bow and stern seas can be hazardous to small vessels. Large vessels may not be able to see small craft close to their bows.

RULES OF THE ROAD
(MARINE)
Motorcraft have the right of way in almost all cases. Sailboats and motorboats, that is, all craft in length shall not impede the passage of a vessel which can navigate only inside that channel.
A motorcraft, being overtaken, has the right of way. Motorcraft approaching head to head or nearly so should sound a warning signal.
When motorcrafts approach each other at right angles or obliquely, the boat on the left has the right of way in most cases.
Motorcrafts must keep to the right in narrow channels when safe and practicable.
Motorcrafts are required to become familiar with the complete text of the Rules of the Road in U.S. Coast Guard publication "Navigation Rules."

NOAA encourages users to submit inquiries, discrepancies or comments about this chart at http://www.navoics.navy.mil/gsaf/hs/contact.htm.
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.

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/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/)

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!

Quick References

- Nautical chart related products and information — [http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov](http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov)
- Chart updates (LNMs and NM corrections) — [http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/updates/LNM_NM.html](http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/updates/LNM_NM.html)
- Contact Us — [http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/contact.htm](http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/contact.htm)
- Twitter — For the latest news from Coast Survey, follow @NOAAcharts

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.