Rappahannock River Entrance – Piankatank and Great Wicomico Rivers
NOAA Chart 12235

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

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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 correction charts 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)

Piankatank River is 11 miles northward of Wolf Trap Light. The entrance is between Cherry Point (37°31.0’N., 76°17.8’W.), at the north end of Gwynn Island, and Stingray Point, 2.5 miles to the northward. The entrance point is 45.3 miles above the Virginia Capes. Stingray Point Light (37°33’41”N., 76°16’12”W.), 34 feet above the water, is shown from a platform with a green and white diamond-shaped daymark on piles in depths of 6 feet 1.3 miles east of the point.

Traffic on Piankatank River consists of fish, shellfish, and shells. Drafts of vessels using the river are mostly 6 feet, but drafts up to 11 feet are on record. The river has depths of about 18 feet in the approach from northeastward through a buoied lane in the fishtraps, 16 feet or more to the fixed bridge 9 miles above the mouth, and 7 feet to Freeport, 13.5 miles above the mouth. Lights and buoys mark the lower 6 miles of the river channel.

During severe winters, the Piankatank River is sometimes closed by ice for short periods. Hull repairs can be made to medium-size vessels in Fishing Bay; gasoline and diesel fuel are available.

Jackson Creek, on the north side of Piankatank River 1 mile above the mouth, has a dredged entrance channel marked by a light and daybeacons. In 2010, the controlling depth was 3 feet in the right half of the channel with shoaling to 1 foot in the left half to Daybeacon 7, thence 3.2 feet (8.3 feet at midchannel) to Daybeacon 10; inside Jackson Creek, above Daybeacon 10, natural depths of about 8 to 9 feet were available in the middle of the creek channel. Stakes usually define the channel edges. Delaville is at the head of the north arm.

Hills Bay, on the south side of Piankatank River 2 miles above the mouth, has general depths of 14 to 20 feet, and is the approach to Queens Creek and Milford Haven.

Queens Creek, at the head of Hills Bay, is entered by a dredged channel that leads across the bar at the entrance and thence to a turning basin about 0.6 mile above the entrance. In 2009, the controlling depth was 6 feet in the entrance channel and basin. The channel across the bar and to the turning basin is marked by lights and daybeacons. A few broken piles that remain of the wooden jetty on the north side of the entrance are marked at the outer end by a daybeacon.

Milford Haven, the strait between Gwynn Island and the mainland to the southwestward, is entered from the head of Hills Bay. Traffic on the waterway consists chiefly of fish and shellfish carried in vessels drawing up to 7 feet. In 2010, a marked channel with a controlling depth of 1.4 feet in the left half and 8.2 feet in the right half of the channel, leads from Hills Bay to natural depths of 15 to 8 feet in Milford Haven. The jetty on Narrows Point, at the north side of the Hills Bay entrance to Milford Haven, is marked by a light. The highway bridge from the mainland to Gwynn Island has a swing span with a clearance of 12 feet in the north opening. (See 117.1 through 117.4, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

A marina on Gwynn Island just west of the bridge has gasoline, diesel fuel, supplies, and berths; hull and engine repairs can be made; lift, 40 tons, railway, 60-foot long. A public landing pier is on Gwynn Island just east of the bridge. Milford Haven Coast Guard Station is 0.2 mile east of the south end of the bridge.

Callis Wharf at Grimsead, on the Gwynn Island side of Milford Haven 0.7 mile from the jetty, has depths of 9 feet at the face. Gasoline, diesel fuel, and some other supplies are available. A marine railway on the southeast side of the entrance to Edwards Creek, 0.5 mile eastward of Callis Wharf, can handle boats up to 35 feet for hull repairs. A wharf at Cricket Hill, on the west side of Lanes Creek, opposite Edwards Creek, has gasoline, diesel fuel, and ice; depths of 8 feet are reported at the face.

Milford Haven can also be entered from Chesapeake Bay at the south end of Gwynn Island. This passage, known as The Hole in the Wall, has a reported controlling depth of about 4 feet and is used by small local boats, but is exposed to heavy seas. The passage is marked by lights, daybeacons, and a buoy. Local knowledge is recommended when transiting the passage.
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

**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
- GREEN LIGHT ONLY
- COMPOSITE GROUP FLASHING (2+1)

**PREFERRED CHANNEL NO NUMBERS — MAY BE LETTERED**
- PREFERRED CHANNEL TO PORT
- TOPMOST BAND RED
- RED LIGHT ONLY
- COMPOSITE GROUP FLASHING (2+1)

**STARBOARD SIDE EVEN NUMBERED AIDS**
- RED LIGHT ONLY
- FLASHING (2)
- FLASHING OCCULTING
- QUICK FLASHING ISO

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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.
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/

**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.ncd.noaa.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.