Block Island Sound and Approaches
NOAA Chart 13205

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
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.

For latest Coast Pilot excerpt visit the Office of Coast Survey website at http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/searchbychart.php?chart=13205

(Selected Excerpts from Coast Pilot)

Block Island Sound is a deep navigable waterway forming the eastern approach to Long Island Sound, Fishers Island Sound, and Gardiners Bay from the Atlantic Ocean. The sound is a link for waterborne commerce between Cape Cod and Long Island Sound. It has two entrances from the Atlantic; an eastern entrance from Rhode Island Sound between Block Island and Point Judith, and a southern entrance between Block Island and Montauk Point. The sound is connected with Long Island Sound by The Race and other passages to the southwestward, and with Fishers Island Sound by several passages between rocky reefs from Watch Hill Point to East Point, Fishers Island.

(4) The north shoreline of Block Island Sound and Fishers Island Sound from Point Judith to New London is generally rocky and broken with short stretches of sandy beach. Many inlets and harbors, especially in the vicinity of Fishers Island, afford harbors of refuge for vessels. Most of the rocks and shoals near the channels are marked with navigational aids.

The southern part of Block Island Sound is bounded by Block Island on the east, the eastern extremity of Long Island, and Gardiners Island on the west. Plum Island and Fishers Island are at the western end of the sound.

Westward of Gardiners Island, enclosed between the northeastern and eastern ends of Long Island, are Gardiners Bay, Shelter Island Sound, Little Peconic Bay, and Great Peconic Bay. This area is well protected but generally shallow, and is not suited for deep-draft vessels. The shoreline is marked by many indentations and shallow harbors. These waters are much used by commercial fishing vessels and small pleasure craft because of the protection afforded and the many anchorages.

Block Island North Reef is a sand shoal with depths of 14 feet or less extending 1 mile northward from Sandy Point at the north end of Block Island. The shoal should be avoided by all vessels; its depths change frequently, and its position is also subject to a slow change. It is practically steep-to on all sides, so that soundings alone cannot be depended on to clear it. A lighted bell buoy is 1.5 miles northward of the point.

Southwest Ledge, 5.5 miles west-southwestward of Block Island Southeast Light, has a least known depth of 21 feet and is marked on its southwest side by Southwest Ledge Lighted Bell Buoy 2. Rocky patches with least depths of 27 and 29 feet extend 1.5 miles northeastward from the ledge. The sea breaks on the shoaler places on the ledge in heavy weather.

Several other dangers that must be guarded against are northward and westward of Southwest Ledge Lighted Bell Buoy 2. These dangers are: 33-foot sounding, marked by a lighted buoy, about 2.2 miles 280° from the lighted bell buoy; and two obstructions, cleared to a depth of 35 feet, about 0.75 mile north of the lighted bell buoy.

The deepest passage in the southern entrance to Block Island Sound is just westward of Southwest Ledge and has a width of over 2 miles; this is the best passage for deep-draft vessels. In heavy weather vessels desiring to enter the sound westward of Block Island should pass westward of Southwest Ledge Lighted Bell Buoy 2, taking care to pass clear of the rocky ledge.

Between the inner patch of rocks and the shoals, which extend 0.9 mile from Block Island, is a channel 1.3 miles wide, with a depth of about 34 feet. Vessels using this channel should round the southwest end of Block Island at a distance of 1.5 miles. It is not advisable to use this passage during heavy weather.

The entrance between Point Judith and Block Island is used by vessels coming from the bays and sounds eastward to Long Island Sound. The route generally used is through The Race. Tows of light barges and vessels of 14 feet or less draft sometimes go through Fishers Island Sound, especially during daylight with a smooth sea. This entrance is clear with the exception of Block Island North Reef and the numerous large boulders extending about 4 miles south-southeastward of Point Judith. The coast from Point Judith nearly to Watch Hill should be given a berth of over 1 mile, avoiding the broken ground with depths less than 30 feet.

Pt. Judith Harbor of Refuge, Currents.—The tidal currents in the Harbor of Refuge have a velocity of about 0.7 knot at the south entrance. The currents off the west entrance are rotary, with a velocity of 0.5 knot.

U.S. Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center
24 hour Regional Contact for Emergencies

RCC Boston Commander
1st CG District (617) 223-8555
Boston, MA
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
BLOCK ISLAND SOUND
AND APPROACHES

Mercator Projection
Scale 1:80,000 at Lat. 41°
North American Datum of 1983
(World Geodetic System 1984)

SOUNDINGS IN FEET
AT MEAN LOWER LOW WATER

Additional information can be obtained at ngs.noaa.gov.
For Symbols and Abbreviations see Chart No. 1
COLREGS: International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972
Demarcation lines are shown thus: ————

CAUTION
Limitations on the use of radio aids to marine navigation can be found in the
U.S. Coast Guard Light Lists and National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Publication 117.
Radio direction-finder bearings to commercial broadcasting stations are subject to error and
should be used with caution.
Station positions are shown thus:
(accurate location) (approximate location)

CAUTION
Temporary changes or defects in aids to navigation are not indicated on this chart. See
Local Notices to Mariners.
During some winter months or when endangered by ice, certain aids to navigation are
replaced by other types or removed. For details see U.S. Coast Guard Light List.

HEIGHTS
Heights in feet above Mean Lower Low Water.

AUTHORITIES
Hydrography and topography by the National Ocean Survey, with additional data from the Corps of Engineers, Geoscience Survey, and U.S. Coast Guard.

Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.

Scale: 1:80,000

See Note on page 5.
Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.

Printed at reduced scale. SCALE 1:120,000 See Note on page 5.
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Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.
The outlined areas represent the limits of the most recent hydrographic survey information that has been evaluated for charting. Surveys have been revised in this diagram by date and type of survey. Channels maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are periodically reassessed and are not shown on this diagram. Refer to Chapter 1, United States Coast Pilot.
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 updates (LNM and NM corrections) — http://ocsdata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/inquiry.aspx?frompage=ContactUs
Chart and chart related inquiries and comments — 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

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.