Cape Cod Bay
NOAA Chart 13246

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.

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=132

(Coast Pilot)

Cape Cod Bay is contained between the peninsula of Cape Cod, on the east and south, and the mainland of Massachusetts on the west. Between these limits the bay is about 20 miles in diameter with depths ranging from 10 to 32 fathoms, except close to the shore and in its southeasterly part. Race Point, the northwesterly extremity of Cape Cod, is the eastern point; and Gurnet Point, on the north side of the entrance to Plymouth Bay, is the western point of the entrance to Cape Cod Bay. Within the limits of Cape Cod Bay are several harbors, including those of Plymouth on the western shore, Sandwich and Barnstable on the southern shore, and Wellfleet and Provincetown on the eastern shore. It is also the approach to Cape Cod Canal, which connects Cape Cod Bay with Buzzards Bay.

The shallow harbors of Cape Cod Bay, such as Plymouth, Barnstable, and Wellfleet, usually are closed to navigation by ice a part of each winter. This ice, together with the ice that forms in the shallower parts of Cape Cod Bay in severe winters, is driven by the winds out into the bay. There it masses into heavy fields or windrows, sometimes as much as 10 feet or more thick, making navigation in parts of the bay unsafe or impractical.

Deep-draft vessels entering Cape Cod Bay from the northward should pass eastward of the lighted whistle buoy which is about 7 miles northeastward of Brant Rock and well east of the extremity of the broken bottom extending over 4 miles offshore in this direction. Between Rocky Point and Manomet Point, there are several outlying rocks which will be avoided by giving the shore a berth of 1 mile. The shore is backed by high wooded hills, the most conspicuous of which is Manomet Hill, 390 feet high. Manomet Point is a bluff about 2.4 miles southeast of Rocky Point. Also prominent is the large rectangular reactor housing of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, about 0.4 mile southeastward of Rocky Point. This basin is hazardous to approach in heavy weather since seas break over the breakwaters.

8334.60 Cape Cod Bay south of Wellfleet Harbor, Mass.; naval aircraft bombing target area. (a) The danger zone. A circular area with a radius of 1,000 yards having its center on the aircraft bombing target hulk James Longstreet in Cape Cod Bay at 41°49’46”N., 70°02’54”W.

Barnstable Harbor, Dangers.–The south side of the harbor is very foul with covered rocks and ledges, most of which are unmarked; extreme caution should be exercised if heading for the yacht club without local knowledge. Several rocks near the channel leading to the yacht club are marked by private seasonal buoys; these aids should not be taken as marking the entrance to Maraspin Creek.

Wellfleet Harbor, Dangers.–Extensive shoals are in the entrance. Billingsgate Shoal extends 5.5 miles westward of Billingsgate Island, on the western side of the entrance to the harbor. The island is covered at high water. A lighted bell buoy marks the southwest end of the shoal. Numerous sunken wrecks are south and west of the shoal; mariners are advised to exercise caution.

The approach channel into Wellfleet outer harbor leads between the shoals and is narrow in places, but it is marked by unlighted and seasonal lighted buoys and is easily followed in daytime in clear weather. The breakwater that protects the inner harbor is reported to cover at extreme high tides. Bush stakes mark the clam and oyster flats in the inner harbor.

Provincetown Harbor, Dangers.–Shank Painter Bar, which extends to a maximum distance of 0.6 mile offshore between Race Point and Wood End Lights, rises abruptly from deep water. Wood End Bar is the continuation of the shoal that makes sharply into Wood End. A lighted bell buoy is about 0.6 mile southwestward of Wood End Light. A 2,500-foot stone breakwater is about 300 yards southeastward of the end of the town pier at Provincetown. The breakwater extends northeastward from a point in 42°02’45”N., 70°10’55”W., approximately parallel to the shoreline. The east and west ends of the breakwater are each marked by a light. Strangers should exercise caution when operating in the area.

Caution.–Shipping should keep a sharp lookout when navigating in the vicinity of Race Point, especially during periods of darkness and low visibility, because of the numerous fishing craft which operate in the area. There are large fish weirs in the harbor.
Lateral System As Seen Entering From Seaward
on navigable waters except Western Rivers

PORT SIDE
ODD NUMBERED AIDS

- GREEN LIGHT ONLY
- FLASHING (2)
- 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)

STARBORD SIDE
EVEN NUMBERED AIDS

- RED LIGHT ONLY
- FLASHING (2)
- 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

To make suggestions, ask questions, or report a problem with a chart, go to https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/customer-service/assist/
This chart has been corrected from the Notice to Mariners (NTM) published weekly by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) issued periodically by each U.S. Coast Guard district to the dates shown in the lower left hand corner. Chart updates corrected from Notice to Mariners published after the dates shown in the lower left hand corner are available at nauticalcharts.noaa.gov.

Printed at reduced scale. SCALE 1:80,000. See Note on page 5.
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.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/inquiry.aspx?frompage=ContactUs
Chart updates (LNMs 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

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.

NOAA’s Office of Coast Survey The Nation’s Chartmaker