Gloucester Harbor and Annisquam River
NOAA Chart 13281

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

Approximate Page Index

4  5  6  7
8  9 10 11
12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19
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.


[Selected Excerpts from Coast Pilot]
The Annisquam River and Blynman Canal form a thorofare leading from the eastern part of Ipswich Bay, northwest of Cape Ann, to Gloucester Harbor, on the south side of the cape. Annisquam is a village and summer resort on the east side of Annisquam River just inside its north end. Lobster Cove, on the southeast side of the town, is the scene of much small pleasure-boat activity during the summer.

Prominent features.–Annisquam Harbor Light (42°39.7’N., 70°40.9’W.), 45 feet above the water, is shown from a white cylindrical tower with elevated walk to a dwelling on Wigwam Point at the east side at the northern entrance to Annisquam River. A red sector in the light from 180° to 217° covers the shoals on the eastern side of the approach to the bar channel from the north. A lighted bell buoy marks the approach, and a sound signal is at the light. Channels.–A marked channel with dredged sections across the bar at the northern entrance to Annisquam River and in the river and Blynman Canal leads from Ipswich Bay to Western Harbor at the north end of Gloucester Harbor; the project depth is 8 feet. This thorofare is narrow, but is adequately marked by lights, daybeacons, and buoys and is extensively used by small craft. Strangers should have no trouble getting through with a smooth sea and by the use of the chart. The bar at the northern entrance is difficult to cross in a heavy sea. The best time is on a rising tide.

Anchorages.–Craft anchor in the coves, creeks, or estuaries of the wayer or moor at the marinas. The entrance of Lobster Cove, near the north end of the waterway east of Annisquam, has been dredged as far as the bridge. In 1997, the entrance had depths of less than 1 foot in the south part, gradually deepening to over 5 feet at the north edge; thence general depths of 5 to 8 feet were available in the middle of the anchorage.

Dangers.–No special directions are necessary. The chart is the best guide. In passing from north to south in the Annisquam River and Blynman Canal, take care to avoid the unmarked rocky area covered 4 feet on the east side of the channel about 775 yards north of the Annisquam Harbor Light and 100 yards southeast of Buoy 3; a rock covered 2 feet on the east side of the river channel about 60 yards southwest of Annisquam Harbor Light; several rocks, submerged and awash, on the east side of the channel, marked by Daybeacon 7; a rock covered 4 feet, marked by a buoy, on the east channel edge about 125 yards northward of Annisquam Channel Light 25; and an unmarked rock that uncovers 1 foot on the southwest side of the southern entrance to Blynman Canal. In 1980, obstructions were reported in the vicinity of Annisquam River Channel Light 46.

Bridges.–About 2.5 miles south of Annisquam Harbor Light, State Route 128 crosses the waterway on a fixed span which has a clearance of 65 feet for a center width of 100 feet. About 0.7 mile southward of it, the railroad bridge has a 38-foot bascule span with a clearance of 16 feet. The bridgetender monitors VHF-FM channel 18A. At the southern end of the waterway, State Route 127 highway bridge has a 38-foot bascule span with a clearance of 8 feet. The bridgetender monitors VHF-FM channel 18A; call sign, WQA-834.

Currents.–Currents at Annisquam Harbor Light average 1.3 knots at strength. Tidal currents at the southern entrance to Blynman Canal average over 3 knots at strength, but greater velocities to 10 knots were reported in 1992 in the vicinity of Blynman Bridge (State Route 127). Mariner are advised to use caution when approaching the bridge. The Gloucester Chief of Police is also harbormaster for Annisquam River and Blynman Canal. The deputy harbormaster supervises the moorings and anchorages. A speed limit of 4 knots is enforced on the river and in Lobster Cove.

Small-craft facilities.–There is a marina on the west bank of Lobster Cove and several private float landings around the cove. Gasoline, diesel fuel, and water are available at the floats of the marina which have 12 feet reported alongside. Ice, provisions, and marine supplies are available. Overnight berthing is permitted, and guest moorings are maintained.

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

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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.
RADAR REFLECTORS
Radar reflectors have been placed on many floating aids to navigation. Individual radar reflector identification on these aids has been omitted from this chart.

POLLUTON REPORTS
Report all spills of oil and hazardous substances to the National Response Center via 1-800-424-8802 (toll free), or to the nearest U.S. Coast Guard facility if telephone communication is impossible (30 CFR 152).

Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.
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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!

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
- 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

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/

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.

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