Newburyport Harbor and Plum Island Sound
NOAA Chart 13282

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=13282

(Selected Excerpts from Coast Pilot)

Merrimack River is the largest river in the eastern part of Massachusetts. It is the approach to the cities of Newburyport and Haverhill, and to the towns of Amesbury, Merrimacport, Groveland, and Bradford. The river is used by vessels of 6-foot draft at high water up to Haverhill and about 12-foot draft at high water to Newburyport. The head of navigation is at the dam just above Broadway Bridge in Lawrence, 25.7 miles above the mouth. The river is seldom entered for refuge and has virtually no commercial traffic.

Small craft may enter when the sea is smooth and on a rising tide, following the buoys. The river cannot be entered during a heavy sea. The outer ends of the jetties are awash at high water.

In 1979, the Coast Guard provided the following information to assist the mariner in crossing the bar when outbound from the Merrimack River.

The bar area between the beach and Bell Buoy 2, both north and south of each jetty, is subject to breaking seas, particularly on an ebb tide with easterly winds. The ebb tide runs out of Merrimack River from 3 to 6 knots. Boats should proceed slowly out the channel, evaluating the bar well inside of the two breakwaters. If decision is made to cross, proceed all the way out beyond the breakers and do not attempt to turn around if the bar is breaking.

The area southward of the outer 240 yards of the submerged north jetty and the channel is a shoaling sand bar subject to constant change in depth. This area and a portion of the channel just south are extremely hazardous. Avoid crossing the sunken jetty or sandbar, and use caution in the channel to the south of it.

Ocean swells meeting an outgoing tide in the river mouth result in breaking seas. The most dangerous period is from about 1 hour before low water and 1 hour after low water. Even on the calmest days the tidal conditions may be such that small boats will be endangered at this period. Boatmen should learn the stages of the tide when local conditions are the most favorable for bar crossing.

Due to the sandy nature of the river bottom, one can expect unannounced changes in the bar shoals depending upon prevailing winds and currents. These changing bars and shallow areas may not be marked on the charts.

Channels.–Merrimack River is entered through a Federal project that provides for a channel 15 feet deep through the bar between two jetties at the entrance, thence 9 feet deep in the marked channel to the highway bridge at Newburyport, about 3 miles above the jetties. (See Notice to Mariners and latest editions of the chart for controlling depths.) From Newburyport to Deer Island, in 2004-2006, controlling depth was 7 feet, thence 1.2 feet (2.3 feet at midchannel) to Haverhill.

In 1978, numerous obstructions and shoaling were reported in the channel between the bridge at Groveland and Haverhill. In 1986, a submerged obstruction was reported in the center of the channel near Merrimack River Buoy 53 in about 42°48'44"N., 71°00'03"W. In 1987, shoaling to an unknown depth was reported in the vicinity of Merrimack River Lighted Buoy 8.

The jetties extend from both points at the entrance out to the bar and are difficult to see at high water, particularly at night and in periods of low visibility. About 240 yards of the outer end of the north jetty is submerged at high water.

Anchorage.–Newburyport

Newburyport the usual and best anchorage is in the channel about 400 yards below the highway bridge, favoring the north side of the channel and keeping clear of the two charted cable areas. The current is reported to run strongest along the south shore here. The holding ground is good.

The yacht club maintains guest moorings as do many of the service facilities and marinas. Numerous private moorings are maintained off Newburyport and in the upper river as far as Haverhill. They are under control of the harbormasters at Newburyport, Amesbury, and Haverhill. Public floats are along the south side of the river at Newburyport, about 0.2 mile west of Merrimack River Coast Guard Station. In 1979, 8 feet was reported alongside the floats. Berthing is under the control of the Newburyport harbormaster.

Dangers.–Endangered North Atlantic right whales have been reported swimming in shallow waters off of Plum Island and Ipswich, 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
This BookletChart was reduced to 75% of the original chart scale. The new scale is 1:26666. Barscales have also been reduced and are accurate when used to measure distances in this BookletChart.
Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.
NOTE X

Within the 12-nautical mile Territorial Seas, established by Presidential Proclamation, some Federal laws apply. The Three Nautical Mile Line, previously identified as the outer limit of the territorial seas, is retained as it continues to depict the jurisdictional limit of the outer seas. The Three Nautical Mile Natural Resource Boundary off the Gulf coast of Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico, and the Three Nautical Mile Line elsewhere remain in most cases the outer limit of Federal fisheries jurisdiction and the outer limit of the jurisdiction of the states. The 24-nautical mile Contiguous Zone and the 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone were established by Presidential Proclamation. Unless fixed by treaty or the U.S. Supreme Court, these maritime limits are subject to modification.

SOUNDINGS IN FEET

NO DISCHARGE ZONE
(See note 2)

RIGHT WHALE CRITICAL HABITAT
(precautionary area; 50 CFR 226.203, 224.103c; see note A) 115

It is illegal to approach any right whale anywhere closer than 500 yards.
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/idsr/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

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