Baranof Island – Snipe Bay to Crawfish Inlet

NOAA Chart 17328

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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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.


Snipe Bay, indenting the W coast of Baranof Island, has its entrance about 18 miles NW of Cape Ommaney and 1.8 miles N of Kekur Point. The bay is deep and clear except for the rocks close to the shore at the entrance. The islets off the SE entrance point are wooded. A group of islets is close to the NW entrance point. About 1.4 miles within the entrance in the SE shore is a sheltered bight with 35 fathoms in the middle. At the head of Snipe Bay are two short branches. A conspicuous waterfall empties into the head of the N branch. Depths of 31 fathoms were obtained in the small bight S of the NE branch.

Snipe Head, the NW entrance point of Snipe Bay, is a conspicuous straight-topped headland.

Sandy Bay, 3 miles N of Snipe Bay, extends in a NNE direction and divides into two arms 0.8 mile from the entrance; a long narrow arm extends N and a second arm extends E. Good anchorage may be had in 22 to 24 fathoms at the NE head of the E arm off the waterfall. About 0.8 mile within the arm a group of islets extends off the N shore. Pass well S of these to avoid a 1½-fathom spot, not marked by kelp or showing any surface indication, which is about 0.1 mile S of the islands. Anchorage may be had either in the bight W of the islands or in the arm that extends NW from the E arm. A 7½-fathom spot in the middle of the entrance causes the seas to pile up dangerously in SE weather.

The Third Kekur, a conspicuous conical rock islet, is 1.6 miles NNW of the NW entrance point of Sandy Bay.

Close Bay consists of an open bight and a lagoon that can only be entered on the flood. Several breakers are off the NW point of the entrance.

Whale Bay has its entrance between Point Lauder and North Cape. It extends in a NE direction for about 4 miles, where it divides into two arms, Great Arm and Small Arm.

Point Lauder, low and wooded, about 15 miles NNW of Redfish Cape, is the SE point of the entrance to Whale Bay.

North Cape (56°36’N., 135°08’W.), the NW point of the entrance to Whale Bay, 4 miles NW of Point Lauder, is an island close to shore with three hills on it. The middle hill is the highest.

Still Harbor, at the entrance to Whale Bay, is about 1.5 miles N of Point Lauder. The entrance, about 0.1 mile wide, is N of Tikhia Islands, the chain of rocky islets that extend NNW from the point NE of Point Lauder. The NE shore at the entrance is foul.

About 1 mile above the entrance to Still Harbor, a group of islets and rocks extend from the SW shore, restricting the channel to about 150 yards. A rocky ledge extends about 250 yards from the NE shore toward the north point of the 30-foot island that is close to the SW shore, about 1.2 miles from the entrance. The only anchorage is at the head of the harbor, and even there the swell is felt in heavy weather; this anchorage is not recommended.

Port Banks has its entrance about 2.7 miles NE of Still Harbor. A submerged rock on which there is a depth of 1¾ fathoms is about 0.5 mile N off the W point of the entrance; it is reported to break in a moderate swell. Deep water surrounds this rock.

(38) It is recommended that vessels bound for Port Banks steer midchannel courses until clear of the off-lying dangers, then head into Port Banks, favoring the E shore. The Makhnati Islands can usually be identified in thick weather; they furnish a good leading mark for clearing the off-lying 1¾-fathom rock. It is reported that breakers extend from this rock to the SW point of the entrance during very heavy weather; under such conditions it is probably better to make Rakovoi Bay. After the 50-foot islet at the entrance to Port Banks is passed, the only obstruction is the small rocky islet, 6-foot high, 1.1 mile from the entrance. Pass to the E of this islet. About 0.4 mile beyond, the bay widens and forms a basin that has depths of about 15 fathoms. Good anchorage in depths from 8 to 20 fathoms, mud bottom, may be had in Port Banks which is used extensively during the fishing season.

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

RCC Juneau Commander
17th CG District
Juneau, Alaska
(907) 463-2000
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
Within the 12-nautical-mile Territorial Sea, established by Presidential Proclamation, some Federal laws apply. The Three Nautical Mile Line, previously identified as the outer limit of the territorial sea, is retained as it continues to depict the jurisdictional limit of the other laws. The 12-nautical-mile Territorial Boundary of the Gulf coast of Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico, and the Three Nautical Mile Line elsewhere remain in most cases the inner 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 Proclamations. Unless fixed by treaty or the U.S. Supreme Court, these maritime limits are subject to modification.

SOURCE DIAGRAM

The outlined areas represent the limits of the most recent hydrographic survey information that has been evaluated for charting. Surveys have been bandied in this diagram by date and type of survey. Channels maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are periodically measured and are not shown on this diagram. Refer to Chapter 1, United States Coast Pilot.
Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.
In general the land is densely wooded up to an elevation of about 1500 feet. Above that the woods decrease in density with the elevation.

CONTOURS
The contour lines are H-h shapes, stretched to afford the navigator a general idea of the character of the land forms. They should not be relied upon as lines of equal elevation.

WARNING
The prudent mariner will not rely solely on any single aid to navigation, particularly on floating aids. See U.S. Coast Guard Light List and U.S. Coast Pilot for details.
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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.

**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 (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

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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.

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