San Juan Channel
NOAA Chart 18434

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=18434

(Selected Excerpts from Coast Pilot)
The waters of the San Juan Islands embrace the passages and bays N of the E end of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. These passages are used extensively by pleasure craft, especially in summer. Some tugs and barges use the larger passes. Automobile ferries, operated by the State of Washington, are on regular round-trip runs from Anacortes through Thatcher Pass, Harney Channel, Wasp Passage, San Juan Channel, Spieden Channel, and across Haro Strait to Sidney, B.C. The island ferry landings are at Upright Head, Lopez Island; on the E side of the entrance to Blind Bay, Shaw Island; Orcas, Orcas Island; and Friday Harbor, San Juan Island. Oceangoing vessels normally use Haro and Rosario Straits and do not run the channels and passes in the San Juan Islands. Many resorts and communities have supplies and moorage available for the numerous pleasure craft cruising in these waters. Well-sheltered anchorages are numerous.

Haro Strait and Boundary Pass form the westernmost of the three main channels leading from the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the SE end of the Strait of Georgia; it is the one most generally used. Vessels bound from the W to ports in Alaska or British Columbia should use the Haro Strait/Boundary Pass channel, as it is the widest channel and is well marked. Vessels bound N from Puget Sound may use Rosario Strait or Haro Strait; the use of San Juan Channel by deep-draft vessels is not recommended. A Vessel Traffic Service has been established in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, E of Port Angeles, and in the adjacent waters. (See 161.1 through 161.55, chapter 2, for regulations, and the beginning of this chapter for additional information.)

The International Boundary between the United States and Canada passes through Haro Strait and Boundary Pass. In accordance with the Cooperative Vessel Traffic Service, the United States and Canada, in cooperation with industry and the British Columbia Coast Pilots have established a Special Operating Area at the intersection of Haro Strait and Boundary Pass in the vicinity of Turn Point Light (48°41'18"N., 123°14'12"W.). This special area will help reduce the risk of incidents between both commercial and recreational vessels transiting the boundary waters of Haro Strait and Boundary Pass. For the boundaries and rules regarding the Special Operating Area, see Cooperative Vessel Traffic Service (CVTS) earlier in this chapter.

Rocky Middle Bank, with a least depth of 10 fathoms, is in the S approach to Haro Strait. The bank is about 3.5 miles long, and the least depth is in its NE part and 5.7 miles SW of Cattle Point Light on the southernmost tip of San Juan Island. Heavy tide rips, dangerous to small craft, form in the vicinity of this bank in bad weather.

Beaumont shoal, covered 9 fathoms, lies 3 miles NW of the NW corner of Middle Bank and is marked by a lighted buoy. A second small bank with a least depth of 7 fathoms lies 1 mile to the north. In bad weather, heavy tide rips form over these banks.

San Juan Island, the largest of the group, is about 13 miles long, rugged, and partly wooded. Mount Dallas, the highest of several hills on the island, rises abruptly from the middle of the W side to a height of 1,080 feet. In most places the shores are free of outlying dangers. The N end of the island is indented by several small bays that, with the exception of Roche Harbor, are shoal and of no commercial importance. From Eagle Point, the W shore of San Juan Island trends NW and forms the E side of Haro Strait. This shore is steep-to and rocky, and beyond 400 yards offshore it is free of danger; however, the depths off this shore are too great for anchoring.

Kanaka Bay, a small cove used by fishing boats, is 2.5 miles NW of Eagle Point.

Lime Kiln Light (48°30'57"N., 123°09'08"W.), 55 feet above the water, is shown from a 25 foot white octagonal tower attached to a building on the W side of San Juan Island. Two dwellings are about 150 yards SE of the light. Rocks awash lie close inshore about 1 mile SE of the light. Smallpox Bay and Andrews Bay, 1.5 miles NW of Lime Kiln Light, offer protection for small craft from N and E weather.

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

RCC Seattle Commander 13th CG District (206) 220-7001 Seattle, WA
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 1:33333. Barscales have also been reduced and are accurate when used to measure distances in this BookletChart.
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Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.

Printed at reduced scale. See Note on page 5.

Use NOAA electronic navigational charts for the most up-to-date information.

7th Ed. Apr. 2020; Last Correction: 6/25/2019; Cleared through:
NW: 39800 (11/1/2020), NW: 39800 (12/31/2020), CHS: 04200 (05/06/2020)
UNDINGS IN FATHOMS
(FATHOMS AND FEET TO 11 FATHOMS)

Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.

Published at Washington, D.C.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
COAST SURVEY

Printed at reduced scale. SCALE: 1 : 25,000
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.

**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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**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!

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