TILLAMOOK BAY BAR HAZARDS

CROSSING THE BAR

The bar is the area where the deep waters of the Pacific Ocean meet with the shallower waters near the mouth of the bay.

The sea is normally calm.

REGULATED NAVIGATION AREA

The Coast Guard has established a Regulated Navigation Area. If the yellow lights on this sign are flashing, a restriction has been placed on recreational and uninsured passenger vessels crossing the bar. In accordance with 33 CFR 157.215, the U.S. Coast Guard has the authority to restrict all recreational and uninsured passenger vessels from crossing the bar when hazardous conditions exist. Failure to comply with posted bar restrictions may result in a maximum civil penalty of $5,000.

WARNING SIGN LOCATIONS

White diamond shaped signs with an orange border and flashing amber lights indicate a “ROUGH BAR.” The signs are located at the Coast Guard meetings in Garibaldi and at the Coast Guard watch tower in Pirlouit at the base of the North Jetty. An additional warning sign is located at the boat ramp in Garibaldi. This sign is blue in color and has amber flashing lights that read, “WARNING WHEN FLASHING, BAR RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT. Tune to 1610 AM. When the amber lights are flashing on any of the warning signs, hazardous conditions are present and a bar restriction is in place. Mariners should tune in to listen to the restriction information.

ROUGH BAR

TIDES

Tides are the vertical rise and fall of the water and tidal current is the horizontal flow of the water. There are roughly four ebb tides each day in the Pacific Northwest. Tidal movement toward the shore or upstream is the flood current. Movement away from the shore or downstream is the ebb current. The period between the two is known as slack water. Tidal currents may gain tremendous velocity, particularly when the ebb current is augmented by river runoff.

It is extremely dangerous to get caught on the bar during strong ebb current. Even on days that are relatively calm, fast moving ebb can create bar conditions that are too rough for small craft.

Always know the stage of the tides.

Avoid getting caught on the bar during an ebb tide. It is normally best to cross the bar during slack water or on a flood tide when the sea is normally calm.

EMERGENCIES

VHF-FM Radio: Channel 16

If in distress (threatened by grave and imminent danger):

1. Make sure radio is on.
2. Select Channel 16.
3. Press/hold the transmit button.
4. Speak slowly and clearly and say “MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY.”
5. Give the following information:
   - Vessel Name and/or Description
   - Nature of Emergency
   - Position and/or Location
   - Number of People Aboard
6. Release the transmit button.
7. Wait for 10 seconds. - If no response, repeat “MAYDAY” call. If not in immediate danger, switch to CH 22 and follow the same steps as above, except do not use the word “MAYDAY.”

BOATING SAFETY TIPS

- Check Weather, Tide, and Bar Conditions - The latest Information Can Be Heard on 1610 AM
- File a Float Plan With Friends/Relatives
- Don’t Overload Your Boat
- Wear Your Life Jacket
- Carry Flares and a VHF-FM Radio
- Stay Well Clear of Commercial Vessels
- Have Anchor With Adequate Line
- Boat Seber

“Within seconds of seeing the wave, the boat flipped. The fact that I had my life jacket on kept me alive.”

Gordon Davis
Survivor

TILLAMOOK BAY BAR

COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL DIVING

Commercial and recreational diving is popular in Tillamook Bay. Boaters and divers should exercise extra caution to ensure their safety on the water.

A rigid replica of the alpha flag must be displayed on boats engaged in diving operations whenever these vessels are restricted in their ability to maneuver by the divers. The flag should be at least one meter high, and visible all around the vessel. The “downer flag” - a red flag with a diagonal white stripe, is a recognizable sign that a diver is operating in the area, but its display is not required by law.

Drivers who see either the alpha flag or the downer flag should be aware that a diver is in the area and should slow down their vessels. If you must approach an area where a diver is operating, turn off your motor, be quiet, or slow down to idle speed and proceed cautiously.

Likewise, people engaged in diving do not have authority to block the channel or restrict navigation. Please dive responsibly.

More Boating Safety Information: www.uscgboating.org and www.bayoregon.com

Boating and Vessel Safety Check Information: www.uscgax.org/130/1300/ updated as models change. Check information only.
TILLAMOOK BAY DANGER AREAS

A. Bar area. The area within a 1 NM radius of the Tillamook Bay jetty tips is considered the bar area. This area is considered hazardous, and mariners should exercise extreme caution when transiting in or near the bar area. The water runs from four to six knots on average, and is very strong. Boats proceeding out should stay in the channel east of the seaward end of the breakwater and carefully evaluate the bar. The bar area is constantly changing.

B. North Jetty. Approximately 100 yards of the seaward end of the North Jetty is submerged. This area is immediately adjacent to the jetty and is extremely dangerous and should be avoided. About the last 150 yards of the outer tip of the North Jetty is curving toward the Tillamook Bay Channel. Do not proceed north or south until you are well clear of the submerged jetties (approximately 200 yards seaward of the jetty tip).

C. Middle grounds. Shoaling makes this area unpredictable and hazardous; it should be avoided.

D. South Jetty. About 200 yards of the outer end of the South Jetty is submerged. Extreme caution must be exercised when transiting the area.

Tillamook Bay Channel lies just south of the North Jetty. Boaters are urged to navigate with extreme caution as this channel changes constantly. The Sector Light marks the correct location of the navigable channel only when between the jetties. The Sector Light should not be used to make an approach to the Tillamook Bay Bar since it runs directly over some hazardous areas west of the jetty tips. The preferred route of transit is through the “North Hole” which is the deep water area that runs north to south, between the submerged rocks on the end of the North Jetty and red 62 nun buoy.

NOTE: This is a demonstration map. Consult official NOAA Chart 18558 at their website, http://coastdata.nos.noaa.gov/BookletChart/PacificCoastBookletCharts.htm.