



# OREGON'S NON-NAVIGABLE COASTAL RIVERS AND BAYS

## NECANICUM RIVER

The Necanicum enters the ocean at the town of Seaside. While its small estuary offers opportunities for crabbing, fishing, sightseeing, and quiet paddling, **its bar is dangerous. Do not cross at any time**

Haystack Rock, off Cannon Beach just south of Tillamook Head, is a nesting site for tufted puffins, western gulls, pelagic cormorants, and pigeon guillemots. Use binoculars to view the birds from a respectful distance. Green herons and wood ducks can sometimes be spotted on the mainland shore.



## NETARTS BAY

There are rich sport fishing and crabbing opportunities inside this shallow bay, sheltered by a 5-mile-long sand spit stretching north from Cape Lookout. **The bar is dangerous. Do not cross at any time.** If you're navigating inside the bay, beware of the strong ebb current near the mouth, especially if you are rowing or paddling.



## CAPE KIWANDA

Neither a river nor bay, the sheltered beach south of Cape Kiwanda near Pacific City is renowned for its dory fishing fleet. Skippers launch their flat-bottomed boats directly into the surf in the lee of the wind-sculpted sandstone headland. It's a colorful tradition, even more splendid when viewed from the ocean, but boaters should remember that the dories are at the mercy of the surf as they launch and land. Stand off and give them plenty of room.





## NESTUCCA BAY

Pacific City's dory fleet got started in the 1920s partly because of the unpredictability of Nestucca Bay's bar, four miles to the south. The bay's shoals and sandbars are just as shifty today. **Do not cross its bar.** If you're out at sea, navigate a mile or two south to Bob Straub State Park, and you might spot a few dozen harbor seals lounging on the sand.



## SALMON RIVER

The Salmon enters the ocean just south of Cascade Head. **Shallow water and breaking waves make it dangerous. Do not cross.** Over its lower few miles the river wanders through salt marsh, ideal for exploring in a canoe or kayak. The Salmon enters the ocean just south of Cascade Head. Over its lower few miles the river wanders through salt marsh, ideal for exploring in a canoe or kayak.



## SILETZ BAY

The Siletz enters the ocean south of the town of Taft. **Do not cross the bar.** Ebb currents at the shallow entrance can reach 5 to 7 knots. Boaters inside the bay should be wary navigating near the mouth.

## ALSEA BAY

The Alsea River flows into the ocean at Waldport, passing under a concrete-arch bridge that is almost as graceful as the one it replaced in 1991. The old 1936 bridge, designed by Conde B. McCulloch, is gone, but a few of its decorative elements are preserved in a small park at the northwest end of the new span. **The bar is unstable. Do not cross it.** Boaters are advised not to enter or exit the bay. When navigating inside, beware of strong ebb currents near the mouth.



## PORT ORFORD

Port Orford is a small harbor in the shelter of a south-jutting promontory. There is no river mouth and hence no bar; boats enter and exit directly from the Pacific Ocean. The harbor is protected from summer northwestly winds but wide-open to winter southerlies. There is one jetty on the north side of the harbor, and Battle Rock (named for an 1851 skirmish that took place there between would-be settlers and Indians) serves as a breakwater to the south. There is no boat ramp, but the Port of Port Orford operates a hoist and offers transient moorage. A visitor center is a short walk from the waterfront.



## WINCHUCK RIVER

The little Winchuck River enters the Pacific just north of the California border. **Its bar is dangerous. Do not cross it.** The river has populations of chinook, steelhead, and trout. Bank fishing is permitted inside the river's mouth, but fishing from a boat is prohibited.

