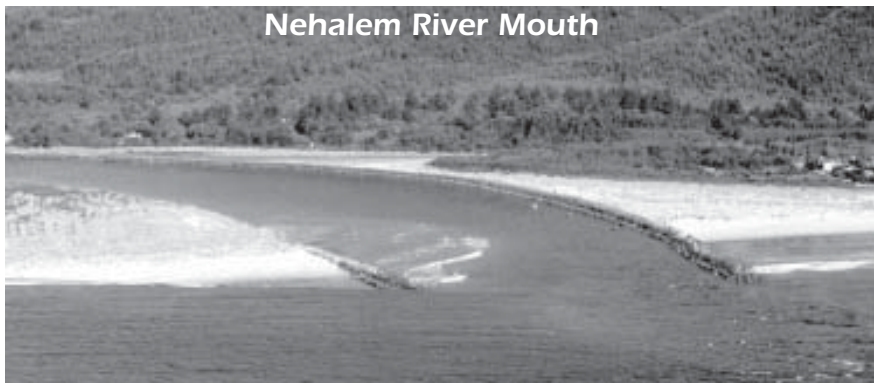


NEHALEM

Ocean Salmon... Safely



www.boatoregon.com



Nehalem River Mouth

Nehalem River Bar

DANGER AREAS

A. Crab Rock. Crab Rock is located about 150 yards southeast of Jetty Fisheries Resort docks and is a hazard to small boats when it is covered by water. The hazard is sometimes marked by a privately maintained red buoy just westward of the rock. If the buoy is present, stay to the right of it when outbound and to the left when inbound.

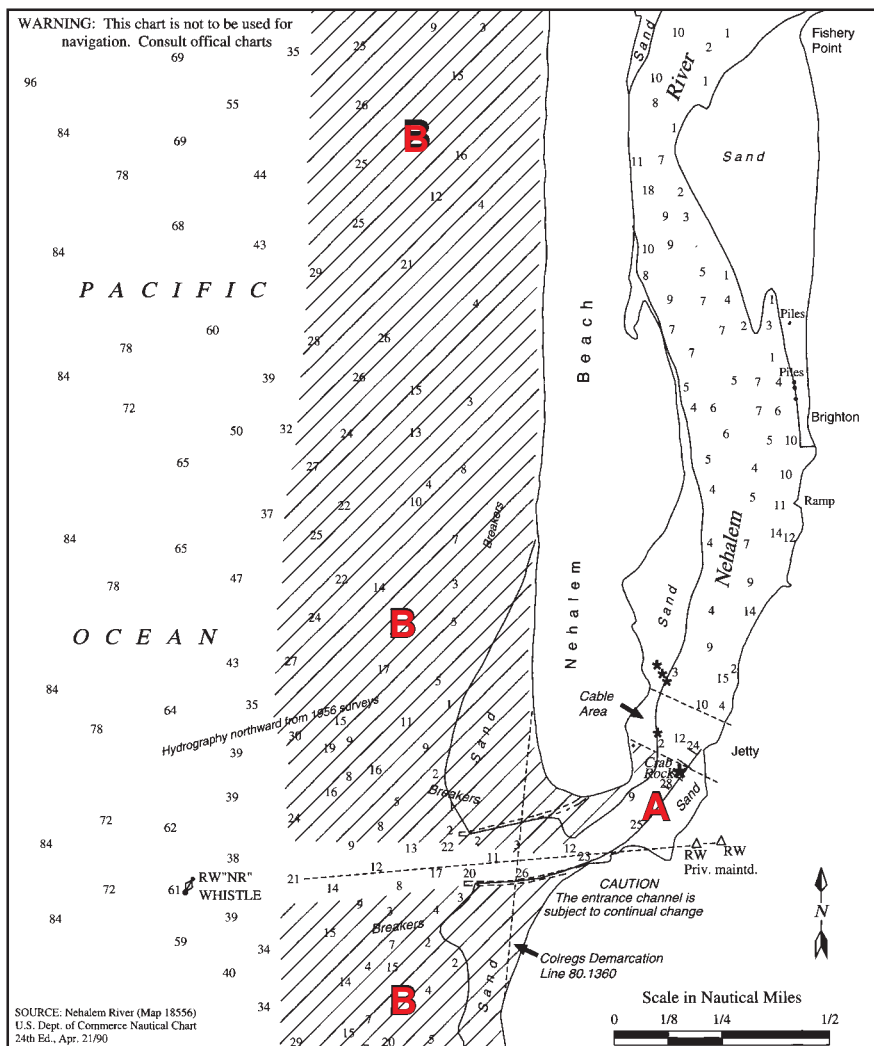
B. Bar area. The entire area between the beach and the 30-foot curve is bar area and breaks on the ebbing current. The safest channel across the bar is subject to frequent change. Boaters proceeding out should stop just inside the entrance and carefully evaluate the bar. If the bar is breaking, do not cross. If you decide to cross, pick the calmest area and proceed, but do not attempt to turn around if the bar is breaking.

ENTRANCE

The best water is close to the south jetty. The channel seaward of the jetties is continually shifting, and familiarity is needed to cross it safely. The range markers, therefore, do not necessarily show the exact channel and are also obstructed by trees.

BAR CONDITION REPORTS

During the summer, the Coast Guard broadcasts bar conditions on VHF channels 16 and 22 only when a Coast Guard boat is patrolling the area.



Boating Safety Tips

- ✓ Check Weather, Tide, and Bar Conditions
- ✓ File a Float Plan With Friends/Relatives
- ✓ Wear Your Life Jacket
- ✓ Carry Flares and a VHF-FM Radio
- ✓ Have Anchor with Adequate Line

Ocean Salmon... Safely provides safety information to anglers pursuing ocean salmon. With preparation, proper equipment and good skills, you can enjoy excellent fishing on Oregon's coast. Please review the following information about this estuary and accessing the ocean safely.

For more detailed information, request a copy of the "Boating in Coastal Waters" guide from the Oregon State Marine Board, or check the Marine Board website.

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 a river. Most accidents and deaths that occur on coastal bars are from capsizing.

Improper loading and/or overloading are major causes of capsizings. Improperly/overloaded boats have less stability and less freeboard, which can allow seas to break into the vessel, causing the boat to become even less stable.

Boats are more likely to capsize when crossing the bar from the ocean because the seas are on the stern and the boater may have less control over the vessel.

Boaters must make sure the bar is safe prior to crossing. Check with other boaters or the Coast Guard to find out the condition of the bar.

If you are caught on a rough bar running in:

- ✓ Make sure everybody aboard is wearing a personal flotation device.
- ✓ Keep the boat square before the seas.
- ✓ Keep the boat on the back of the swell. Ride the swell and stay clear of the following wave.

Avoid sudden weight shifts from passengers or gear moving around in the boat. If possible, have passengers lie down as near the centerline of the boat as possible.

Do not allow the waves to catch your boat on the side (beam). This condition is called broaching, and can easily result in capsizing.

Rough Bar Advisory Signs

Be aware of the location and status of rough bar advisory signs. These signs are 6ft by 6ft white, diamond shaped daymarks, with the words "ROUGH BAR" in black letters. Two alternating amber lights on the signs are activated when observed seas on the bar exceed 4 feet in height and are considered dangerous.

DO NOT CROSS THE BAR WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE FLASHING!

If the lights are not flashing, there is no guarantee that sea conditions are favorable.

Coastal bars may be closed to recreational boats when conditions on the bar create a hazardous condition. Failure to comply with the closure may result in voyage termination, and civil and/or criminal penalties. The regulations are enforced by Coast Guard boarding teams.

Tides

Tides are the vertical rise and fall of the water and tidal current is the horizontal flow of the water.

There are roughly two tides each day in the Pacific Northwest.

Tidal movement toward the shore or upstream is the flood current. Movement away from shore or downstream is the ebb current. The period between 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 a strong ebb current. Even on days that are relatively calm, a fast moving ebb can create bar conditions that are too rough for small craft.
- ✓ Always know the stage of the tide!
- ✓ 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 seas are normally calmest.

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 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**, follow the same steps as above, except do not use the word "MAYDAY."

Make Sure Everybody is Wearing a Life Jacket!

Telephone: 911

Tell the operator that you have a marine emergency. Be ready to provide the same information required in item number 5 of the mayday call.