

DEPOE BAY BAR INFORMATION

DANGER AREAS

A. **NORTH REEF:** Once a boat has cleared the entrance, any waters to the north are hazardous until Depoe Bay Entrance Lighted Bell Buoy 2 is reached. The sea breaks from the northwest and southwest at the same time, so this area must be avoided at all times.

B. SOUTH REEF: Better known as "Flat Rock", this area lies just south of the channel. Breakers are almost always present. Boats coming from the south should never use this area as a short cut to the channel. This area should be avoided at all times.

C. CHANNEL FROM DEPOE BAY ENTRANCE LIGHTED BELL BUOY 2 INBOUND (APPROXIMATELY 1000 YARDS): The passage into and out of Depoe Bay is unusually short and difficult. The Coast Guard recommends studying it before attempting to operate a boat in it. Because the north and south reefs are so close to the channel, this area sometimes becomes very hazardous. During adverse conditions, breakers from the north reef will cross the channel and run into the entrance. When this condition exists, it is better to stand by at the entrance buoy until the Coast Guard advises it is safe to enter or is there to escort boats in. An important rule at Depoe Bay: **Never fish between the entrance and Depoe Bay Entrance Lighted Bell Buoy 2.**

DEPOE BAY CHANNEL: Depoe Bay Channel has been widened from 35 feet to 50 feet to make passing less dangerous. The channel has a depth of 7 feet at mean low water. Under normal conditions, small craft can enter and leave the harbor with little difficulty. Even under good conditions, however, the area between the breakwater and the bridge should be navigated with extreme caution. The channel has a “dog leg” under the bridge that obstructs a vessels view of inbound or outbound vessels. The local charter fleet monitors VHF FM Channel 80 and it is standard practice for vessels to make a broadcast on this channel when inbound or outbound. Under adverse conditions, only mariners thoroughly familiar with the channel should attempt to enter this harbor. Depoe Bay has a flood lighted entrance. It should not be entered at night, unless the boat operator is well acquainted with the channel entrance and range lights.

REGULATED NAVIGATION AREA WARNING (ROUGH BAR) SIGN: The Coast Guard has established a Regulated Navigation Area Warning Sign with two flashing yellow lights 25 feet above the water, visible by outbound vessels, on a building on the north side of the entrance channel. There is also a new warning sign with two yellow flashing lights located at the south end of the harbor at the public boat ramp. If the yellow lights on this sign are flashing, a restriction has been placed on recreational and uninspected passenger vessels crossing the bar.

BAR CONDITION REPORTS: Recorded weather and bar conditions reports are available by calling (541) 765-2122 or contact Coast Guard Station Depoe Bay on VHF-FM Channel 16. Additionally, within a three mile radius from the Coast Guard station a continual broadcast is on radio station 1610 AM containing bar conditions, bar restrictions, and local weather. An additional warning sign is located at the entrance to the boattramp that when the amber lights are flashing you are directed to listen to 1610 AM for more information on the restriction.

