

Harpswell Sound & Harbor

In strong northwest gales, if you cannot weather the Green Islands and are anxious to gain a harbor, the one most easy of access is Harpswell, 10 miles East of Portland.

When off Cape Elizabeth, you will have in sight the column or landmark on **Little Mark Island**, bearing from the Cape Lights NE $\frac{1}{2}$ E, distance 13 miles. You may run for this Column, when bearing between the N by E $\frac{1}{2}$ E & NE $\frac{1}{2}$ E, till within a mile of it. You must then give Whale Rock (which bears SW by W from the Column a half mile distance) a berth of a quarter or even a mile if you choose. This rock is always several feet above high water, only a few yards, in extent, and of an uneven broken surface, bold all round it within a cable's length distance.

After passing this rock, you may run along the South East side of Little mark Island, at the distance of a cable's length, or even two thirds of a mile if you choose. But when near the island on which the column stands your course up Harpswell Sound is NE $\frac{1}{4}$ E. Continue this course three & a half miles, [which] brings you to harbor of Harpswell, making in on the larboard hand in a deep cove, and directly opposite the north east end of **Baileys Island**, or what is generally known as Wills Strait, [which] may be known by being the first opening you have on the starboard hand in running down the sound. On the eastern shore of thos strait there is a fishing stand, with a white house & two or three stores & a wharf. NNW from these buildings is the Harbor of Harpswell.

In running into this harbor or cove, give the sandy point on the larboard hand a berth of a cable's length. After passing this point an eighth of a mile in a NNW direction (on your starboard hand there is nothing in the way) you have safe anchorage from 8 to 5 fathom, a fourth or a half mile from the maine shore, opposite a wharf with a white store on it.

In running down the sound, you have from 10 to 12 fathoms. If you wish for a pilot or other assistance, by heaving to & displaying your colours, a boat will immediately come to your assistance. This harbor in very severe weather is frozen over, but the Sound has seldom frozen over.

From the column on little Mark Island, ENE two miles distance, is Mackerel cove. [It is] on the northwest side of Baileys Island, which island makes the south eastern side of Harpswell Sound. Vessels in any manner disabled, or without Cables & Anchors, may ground at the head of this cove on the flats without injury. The depth of water in this cove is from 10 to 3 fathom, very soft bottom. About halfway up the cove is the best place to anchor, and by its being very narrow tis best to move your vessel. But this cove is not fit for large vessels to enter unless they are much disabled.

From the column E $\frac{1}{2}$ N. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distance is Turnip Island, off which $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile in a W by N direction lays Turnip Island ledge. It shows itself at half tide, this ledge, is not in the way running into the sound from the westward. [43216]

The south point of **the island of Jaquish** bears from the column E $\frac{1}{2}$ S, distance 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. **Turnip Island** and its ledges lies from Mark Island in a line with the north part of Jaquish, and in running down the sound they appear in connection with Jaquish. [43216]

Vessels that fall in a mile or two to the eastward of Halfway rock, with a strong southerly wind, may run for Harpswell Sound by bringing the southern point of Jaquish to bear from N by E to N.W, and pass a quarter or a half mile to the south & west of it, taking care of Turnip Island ledge, before you bare up the sound. [43216]