

Portland Harbor

Those that are bound to Portland and have made the land to the south and westward of **Cape Elizabeth**, if they have a leading wind & in a vessel of fifteen or more feet of draught water, they may bring **the north eastern Light on said Cape** to bear from N by W to NE by N & run for it till within a quarter, a half, or three fourths of a mile of the extreme point of the Cape; then a NNE course, distance two miles to clear **Broad Cove Rock** and **Trundys Reef** or till **the Light-house on Portland head** bears NNW $\frac{1}{2}$ W, when they may run for the entrance of the harbor with safety, leaving the Light-house on the larboard hand, at any distance between a cable's length & the third of a mile. When abreast of the Light-house at a cable's length distance, your course is N by W. distance two miles to the **Black buoy on Spring-Point-ledge**. In running from the Light-house to this buoy, you have from 12 to 9 fathoms, generally a bottom of shelving rock, lightly covered with clay & mud, and not considered as good holding ground.

When abreast of the black buoy, which bears NW by W from the southwest point of House Island, distance a half mile, you will open to view the town & wharfs. From the buoy the course is NW by W three fourths of a mile to the red buoy on **Stanfords ledge** (this ledge is seen before low water). Leaving this buoy also on the larboard hand, at the distance of 50 yards, or double that distance if low water, you may then run west, a half or $\frac{3}{4}$ mile and anchor opposite the wharfs in 3 to 5 fathoms, good bottom & safe from every wind.

This harbor, above Stanfords ledge, is one & a half mile in length and varying in breadth from three fourth to a half mile, with a depth of water from 3 to 5 fathoms, good holding ground, and void of rocks of every description, except near the south eastern shore.

Many not well acquainted with the harbor, have the impression that a bar extends across its entrance. This is not the case. Ships of the largest burthen may enter the harbor and approach the eastern shore of Mount Joy neck within a cable's length, and from this part called Fish Point, they may carry to sea a depth not less than 9 fathoms.

The foregoing directions are sufficient with a leading wind, but in the event of a contrary one, and you are under the necessity of beating in, other precautions are necessary. If at the distance of 5 miles without Cape Elizabeth, and without the range of the rock called **Hue & Cry**, you may stretch if you choose, from **Wood Island** to Seguin Island. But when within four miles of the Cape you must be careful of this reef, as it has but $2\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms over it at low water. This reef extends NE and SW, the shoal part of it is about 40 yards in extent, but the broken ground NE & SW of this reef is nearly a half-mile in length, with from 5 to 7 fathoms, and in rough weather the sea breaks over it with great violence.

When within the range of this reef stretching to the westward, tack ship as soon as the lights on Cape Elizabeth bear NW by W. But in standing to the eastward there is no danger till said lights bear W.S.W. or Portland Light W by N except **Bullwark Ledge**.

From Portland light-house SE $\frac{1}{2}$ E, one and a fourth mile distance, there is a small rock called Bell Rock, with 20 feet over it at low tides, at which times the kelps may be seen on it. All round it and near to it you have from 7 to 10 fathoms rocky bottom. It shows a heavy breaker in gales of wind.

As you approach Portland light-house, plying into the harbor with a north westerly wind, and when within or to the northward of Trundys Reef, you may stretch in to the cove, to the south & westward of the light, till it bears north before you tack, more especially with an ebb tide; in stretching to the north & eastward, tack when the light bears W by N. until you are within the range of **Ram Island** and its ledges. The south breaker of this island bears from Portland Light ENE $\frac{1}{2}$ E and the north point of said island NE by E, each at the distance of one mile & a fourth. This is a low island the fourth of a mile in length, has but few trees on it and those are on the N.E end; surrounded on every side except the NW with a ragged, broken, rocky shore. From the south as well as from east point, breakers extend off nearly a fourth of a mile in rough weather.

In running in for Portland Harbor, this island is not soon noticed, as it appears connected with **Bangs' Island**, till you are near up with Portland light. North east, from the north point of Bangs' Island one third of a mile distance, there is a small round rock with 3 fathoms on it at low water, White Head, bearing from it NW a half mile, with bold water all round it.

The shore near Portland light-house is bold, but between Maiden cove, which bears from the light NW by N two thirds of a mile, and Simontons cove, there are rocks, nearly showing themselves at low tides, extending in two particular places 150 yards from the shore. It is best not to anchor here.

Simontons cove is NNW from Portland Light, one mile and three fourths. There are ledges, lying off a short distance north from the south east point of this cove. They jare seen before low water. Many fishing craft anchor in this cove, but vessels of a larger class may as well if the wind permits run within **House Island**, where they will find good & safe anchorage.

Bangs' Island, on your starboard hand running in, the south west point of which bears from the Light-house N by E three-fourth of a mile. This is a low point and must have a birth of a cable's length. NNW from this point at the distance of 100 yards, there is a ledge showing itself at very low tides and the ground continues shoal at a half cable's length west of it, and the kelps are seen at that distance at low Spring tides.

After passing this point & ledge, the shore of Bangs' Island is bold till you come to the cove on the north west side of the island, where there is a wharf or landing place. Here some scattering rocks lie off a short distance.

White Head is the north eastern bluff of this island. With the wind at NE and an ebb tide, no square rigged vessel can enter the harbor of Portland by the light-house channel. But the

passage by White Head is easy of access with a NE wind, tho' narrow between the two ledges N of the Head. On the ledge nearest to the Head, there is placed a **Spindle & Ball** which you must leave on your larboard hand running in, at the distance of 20 or 25 yards. The other ledge [is] N of this, distance 80 yards, and the depth between them at low water is 4 ½ fathoms.

After passing the Spindle, run W ½ S directly for the north part of Bangs' Island (over which point you will see Cape Elizabeth meeting house) till you are within twice the length of your vessel of this point, thence a NW by N course and eighth of a mile (leaving a small rocky island on your starboard hand). You may anchor in 5 or 7 fathoms water, or you may run west midway between Bangs' and House Island, & round the SW point of the latter and up to the town, provided you can weather the black buoy on Spring point ledge. If not, you had better anchor between Bangs' & House island, midway the passage, bringing the Block-house to bear from W to NW. Here you have good holding ground.

Hog Island Roads. Frequently vessels run for Portland with the intention of making a harbor only. In this case, they may after passing Portland light-house run N by W, distance one and a half mile, then a NE course between Bangs' & House Islands, distance one mile in to Hog Island Roads, where there is good & safe anchorage in 3 to 5 fathoms.

Husseys Sound. If at the distance of half a mile from the Cape, a N by E ¼ E course made good will carry you to the entrance of the Sound, then by giving the East point of Peaks Island a cable's length berth (for this is a foul rocky point) 'tis then necessary to make your course good north to enable you to clear the shores of Long Island & the nubble at the west end of that island.

In this Sound, anywhere between **Pumpkin & Cow Islands**, you have good and safe anchorage from 5 to 7 fathoms. The best anchorage is NW from Pumpkin Island. Vessels, more particularly those in the coasting business, frequently sail into Husseys Sound and thence into Hog Island Roads.

Green Islands. Pass to the southward of the outer Green Island at the distance of a fourth of a mile, or as much farther as you choose, but when near these islands a NW ½ W course runs you into Hussey Sound up with Pumpkin Island. Or you may run within or to the northward of the outer Green Islands when coming from the Eastward. By giving the NE point of the great Green Island a birth of an eighth of a mile, you have a passage of a third of a mile in width. This passage is made by the two outer Green Islands on the south and the reef extending SW from the inner Green Island, which lies near to Jewel's Island. When you run thro' this passage, or even to the southward of the two islands and are hauling in for the entrance of Husseys Sound, be careful of a small ledge call'd the Hussey, with only 9 feet on it at low water, bearing N.W. by W. one mile distance from the Great Green Island, and SE from Pumpkin Island. The marks for this ledge is the outer part of Ram Island dry ledge, in range Portland Lighthouse, and the Eastern point of Overset Island in range with the middle of Cow Island.

The two outer Green Islands are the fourth of a mile apart and bear NW and S.E. of each other. [They are] connected by a rocky bar. The southern island is about 20 yards in diameter, the other a fourth of a mile in length, each of them about 20 feet above the sea, no trees on either. The southern point extends off & shows a breaker in rough weather an eighth of a mile; and from off the NE point of the largest island there is a rock at a cable's length distance with 5 feet on it at low water, bearing NNE from the north point.

The inner Green Island bears NE from the other two, distance one & a half mile. This is a small low island without trees, and on every side except the NW surrounded with rocky points & reefs. From the SW end, a reef runs SW towards the other Green Islands, three fourths of a mile in length, which generally shows itself at low water.

Between the S.W. point of the reef, and the two outer Green Islands, is the passage already described, a fourth of a mile or more in width, having 6 fathoms at low water. In between the inner Green Island and the SW point of Jewels Island [is] a passage, having 5 fathoms water, but is narrow & ought not to be attempted by a stranger, as the rocky points of those two islands nearly interlock each other.