

## From Cape Elizabeth to Wood Island

Aldens Rock, bearing from the eastern light on Cape Elizabeth SE by E two miles & two thirds, and from the extreme point of the Cape, two & a half miles, has but four feet of water over it at low spring tides. The shoal part is only a few yards in extent, and south of it 40 yards is one other shoal, with 7 feet over it, with a depth of 2 ½ fathoms between them. West 100 yards of these shoals, there is 10 fathoms, and on the north eastern side of them, there is broken uneven ground with 4 to 8 fathoms of water at the distance of an eighth of a mile. Between this rock & Cape Elizabeth you will have 12, 15, 20 & 25 fathoms

S.S.E. ½ E from the same lighthouse one & a fourth miles lies the western part of Taylors reef. Here are two or three broken patches of uneven ground, extending NE & SW an eighth of a mile in length, having at low tide from 2 ½ to 5 fathoms, in rough weather it shows a heavy breaker. Between this reef and the Cape there is 8, 10, 15 and 20 fathom water.

Old Anthony, so call'd, is a small rock bearing from the lights on the Cape S by E ¼ E. distance two miles, with 3 fathom on it at low water, with a depth near to, and all round it of 10 fathoms.

Watch Ledge bears SW from the eastern point of Cape Elizabeth, distance two miles. This ledge extends from the eastern point of Richmonds Island east, is a half mile in extent, and generally shows itself at half tide; at low water the whole of it is seen. There is bold water near its outer point.

A half mile from the outer point of this ledge there are two small rocks, with 3 fathoms on them, one bearing East, and the other NE from the outer point of this ledge. There is also, south from the point of this ledge a half mile distance, one other rock with 5 fathoms on it. All these rocks show breakers in gales of wind. Near and all round them there is 10 fathoms water.

Cape Harbor is on the southwesterly side of Cape Elizabeth, one & a fourth of a mile from the lighthouses. This place is not much frequented except by those well acquainted. It is difficult to find safe anchor, as there are many sunken ledges. But few vessels, except the smaller class of fishermen, ever anchor here. McKinneys point makes the eastern point of this cove. Off said point are many sunken rocks at the distance of the fourth of a mile lying scattered in different directions.

Richmonds Island.

This Island, the south east point, bearing SW by W, two & a half miles from Cape Elizabeth lights, is in length nearly one & a half mile & its greatest breadth three fourth of a mile, has but few small trees, and those are on the SW end. On the high part of the island there is one house & two barns, which are frequently noticed as a landmark.

From the middle of the island and on the northwest side, there is a sand bar extending NNW, away to the Maine shore, which is nearly dry at low water. To the westward of this bar (by running round the SW end of the island) you have safe and good anchorage in 3 to 6 fathoms, bringing the SW point of the island to bear S or S by E between a half & the fourth of a mile distance. Here you have a good roadstead, except the wind is strong from the SSE to SW.

From the S.W. point of this Island NW  $\frac{1}{2}$  N, distance one mile, lies a small island called Ram Island. SE from it one fourth of a mile, there is a ledge which frequently discovers itself at low water. You must guard against this ledge in either beating in or out of this road. This Ram Island is in range with the SW point of Richmonds Island & the entrance of Spurwink river. This river has a bar at the entrance, almost dry at low water & is but seldom frequented by vessels. South westerly of this river, are many dangerous rocks lying some distance from the shore.

The Ledge Old Proprietor. This is a dangerous ledge & bears W  $\frac{1}{2}$  N from the SW end of Richmonds Island, distance two & a half miles, and lies ENE  $\frac{1}{4}$  E from the east point of Prouts neck, one & a fourth miles. The ledge shows itself at half tide. The passage between this ledge & Prouts Neck is dangerous, as the point of rock from the north eastern part of the neck extend off nearly a half mile. Avoid if possible, getting into this bay anywhere between Prouts Neck & the entrance to Spurwink.

Prouts Neck (a peninsula) has on its southeast side, as well as on the south & the west sides, bold water to near the shore, having a depth from 6 to 10 fathoms within a cable's length of the rocks. Good anchorage may be had by running round the west end of the Neck, bringing the western point of it to bear about SE distance the fourth of a mile in 6 to 3 fathoms, having the entrance of Scarboro' River bearing N by W. The river has a bar at its entrance, which is nearly dry at low tides & extends nearly a half mile from the entrance.

Straten & Bluff Islands. In running into the anchorage at Prouts Neck, you may pass on either side of those islands. They lie between the south & SSE from the western end of the Neck, at the distance of one & a half miles. Bluff Island is nearest the Neck one fourth of a mile in length, & full of trees, off the west point at no great distance lie some scattering rocks.

Straten Island is to the southeast of Bluff Island one fourth of a mile distance, no passage between them except for boats. This island is low, a half mile in length, [with] no trees or inhabitants on either of [them].

From about the middle of Straten Island, on the SE side a reef of rocks runs off SE by S, nearly a half mile, and in rough weather the breakers extend to that distance. Both the east & west end of this island is rocky at the distance of an eighth of a mile.

Between Prouts Neck & Bluff Island is a good passage, with 10 to 15 fathom. From the outer part of Prouts Neck to the outer part of Richmonds Island the course is due east & distance  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles and free from every danger.

Wood Island, bears from Cape Elizabeth Lights SW  $\frac{1}{2}$  W distance  $10\frac{1}{4}$  miles (Richmonds Island in range). On the eastern point of Wood island there is a revolving light, the lantern is 45 feet above the lowest of the sea. The east side of this island has a bold rocky shore. This island and Todds island on the east, Stage Island on the N.W, Gooseberry Island & Fletchers neck on the south, make what is called Winter Harbor.

This harbor can be entered by passing on either side of Wood Island. The most usual way is by running to the northward of Wood & Todds Islands. This latter island is quite small, has no trees, but one house & store on it, and is almost connected with the westward of Wood Island. There is a bar extending from one to the other which is nearly dry at low water.

From the SW side of Todds Island, a spit of land extends off SW a half cable's length.

When bound in to Winter Harbor from the eastward, with a fair wind, bring the monument on Stage Island SW by W & run for it. When near the last island, give the NE point a moderate berth, and when the monument bears between the W & NW anchor about midway between Stage & Todds Island in 5 to 3 fathom.

If you choose to run into the pool, continue your course about SW, leaving the Spindle & Ball that is placed on the Lobster rocks a half cable's length distance on your larboard hand  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the monument, will bring you to the entrance of the Pool abreast of Mr Cutts' wharf, where you may either make fast, or move your vessel in those narrows from shore to shore, where you will be secure from all winds. In running into the Pool, the passage is very narrow & the tide runs in and out quite strong. The depth at the entrance of the narrows is 12 feet at low water, full sea here the same time as at Portland.

You may always obtain a pilot for Winter Harbor, by displaying the usual signal, when within a few miles of Wood Island, if the weather is such that a boat can board you.

The passage in to Winter Harbor to the south & westward of Wood Island is narrow, and a stranger had best not attempt it, but should you be necessitated to go in this way, you may after having the light to bear within a point or two of the west, run for it, & pass to the southward of it a cable's length distance. When the Light bears north run about a west course, or midway the passage, having Gooseberry Island on the larboard hand at a short distance. When near up with Todds Island give the southwest land spit a berth a half cable's length, & after running past this spit anchor with the monument on Stage Island bearing between the W. and NW, in the same situation as if you had run in to the north & west Todds Island, as before described.

Stage Island, is the fourth of a mile in length, with a sand bar extending from it WSW to the Maine shore. On this island, near its center, there is a stone column or landmark, sixty feet in height, painted white, [which] is seen from every part of the bay between Richmonds & Wood Islands.

Between Saco River & Scarboro' there extends a long white sand beach, where there is a good depth of water to within a half mile of the shore, in gales of wind their is a heavy rolling surf on this hard sand beach. The beach east of Saco River is called Old Orchard.