

Harbor Guide

PROVINCETOWN

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Welcome to Historic Provincetown Harbor

cover art: Nancy Whorf, Wharf, Day's Catch On the Beach, 2001, courtesy: Bertha Walker Gallery

In November of 1620, the Mayflower sailed into the protected arm of Cape Cod – Provincetown's beautiful natural harbor. Although the Pilgrims stayed only five weeks, the harbor has been host to visitors from far and wide ever since. Throughout the 1700's and 1800's, the harbor was home to fishing fleets, schooners, clipper ships, pirate ships, and the U.S. Navy. Today, the harbor is a port for the United States Coast Guard, the Provincetown-based commercial fishing fleet, non-commercial fishing boats, visiting pleasure craft, harbor cruise boats, and passenger ferries (operating from May to October) connecting Provincetown to Boston and Plymouth. In addition to the above vessels, Provincetown is home to a large and popular Whale Watching Fleet, which capitalizes on the harbor's proximity to the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

What makes Provincetown Harbor such an attraction? Its clean waters, indigenous shellfish and marine life, bordering wetlands, rare birds and the unique architecture of the town bring thousands of visitors. The harbor sees the heaviest use during the months of July and August when as many as 500 vessels may be moored or on anchor on any given day.

Maintaining Provincetown's pristine waters requires the careful cooperation of Provincetown's residents and visitors alike. Enjoy your visit!

Helpful Information

Emergency: 911
 Police: Non emergency (508) 487-1212
 Fire: Non emergency (508) 487-0345
 Harbormaster Vessel Pumpout Requests (508) 487-7030
 VHF 09, 12 & 16
 Coast Guard (508) 487-0077
 VHF 09 & 16

HEALTH SERVICES
 Outer Cape Health Services (508) 487-9395
In Case of Emergency Call 911

MARINAS
 Provincetown Marina (508) 487-0571 VHF 09
 Flyer's Moorings (508) 487-0898 VHF 11

TAXI SERVICES
 Cape Cab (508) 487-2222
 Jody's Taxi (508) 487-0265
 Mercedes Cab (508) 487-3333
 Queen Cab (508) 487-5500

AIRPORT SERVICES
 Cape Air 1-800-352-0714
 Provincetown Municipal Airport (508) 487-0241

BUS SERVICES
 SERVICE TO POINTS OUTSIDE OF PROVINCETOWN
 Plymouth & Brockton (508) 745-0387
 Plymouth & Brockton provides daily service to major terminals in Massachusetts (Boston and Hyannis) and to Providence, Rhode Island. Schedules are available at the Provincetown Chamber of Commerce (508) 487-3424

LOCAL BUS SERVICE
 See detailed description for the Provincetown Shuttle.

BIKE RENTALS
 Arnold's 329 Commercial Street (508) 487-0844
 Galeforce Bike Rentals 144 Bradford St. Ext. (508) 487-4849
 Ptown Bikes 42 Bradford Street (508) 487-8735

BOAT YARDS
 Flyer's Boat Shop 131 A Commercial Street Boat sales, rentals, repairs (508) 487-0898 VHF 11

Provincetown Marina, Fisherman's Wharf (508) 487-0571 VHF 09

TOURISM OFFICES
 Chamber of Commerce (508) 487-3424
 Provincetown Business Guild (508) 487-2313
 Provincetown Tourism Office - Town Hall (508) 487-7000 x536

MARINE SUPPLIES/HARDWARE STORES
 Lands End Marine Supply 337 Commercial Street (508) 487-0784
 Conwell Lumber Co. 21 Conwell Street (508) 487-0150

The Provincetown Shuttle & Flex Route Connection

The Provincetown Shuttle provides inexpensive and personalized service for residents and visitors. Major points of departure are the Municipal Parking Lot at the head of MacMillan Pier, Herring Cove Beach, and Truro Center. Pick up spots are frequent on the major routes connecting these sites. The shuttle also provides service to Harry Kemp Way (location of Outer Cape Health Services) and to the Pilgrim Monument & Provincetown Museum. All buses are handicapped accessible and have provision for carrying a limited number of bicycles. Most routes run on a 30-minute cycle from early morning until mid-night (beach shuttles run until sunset). Detailed schedules are available at the Chamber of Commerce Building and on the buses.



Funded by Provincetown Tourism Fund



Provincetown Town Hall Art Collection
 260 Commercial Street, (508) 487-7000
 www.provincetown-ma.gov

Whydah Pirate Museum
 MacMillan Pier, (508) 487-8899



WHALE WATCHING
 Provincetown has become a leading center for whale watching on the East Coast. There are several fleets with boarding from MacMillan Pier and Fisherman's Wharf Marina.

BIKE TRAILS
 The National Seashore has eight miles of paved bike trails through forest and dunes connecting the major beaches.

ATTRACTIONS

BEACHES
Provincetown Harbor: All of Provincetown's beaches are open to the public, with ample access to the beach from Commercial Street. These access points include many town landings and are specifically marked for public use.
Herring Cove Beach: This beach may be reached by bike, car, foot, and shuttle bus.
Race Point Beach: This beach may be reached by bike, car or shuttle bus.

GALLERIES
 Provincetown is the oldest continuing art community in our country. The gallery district once confined to the East End of Commercial Street has expanded to other areas of town. Two major art centers operating year-round are the Provincetown Art Association and Museum at 460 Commercial Street and the Fine Arts Work Center at 24 Pearl Street.

DUNE TOURS
Art's Dune Tours: Located on the corner of Commercial and Standish Streets.

TROLLEY RIDES
 Provincetown Trolley, departing from in front of Town Hall, gives an overview of Commercial Street and the beaches.

CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS
Fine Arts Work Center
 24 Pearl Street, (508) 487-9960
 www.fawc.org

SHOPPING
 Provincetown has countless unique shops specializing in fine jewelry, antiques, and apparel. These stores are open until late at night for your shopping convenience.

Pilgrim Monument and Museum
 High Pole Hill Road, (508) 487-1310
 www.pilgrim-monument.org

THEATER
 Provincetown continues its proud heritage as the birthplace of American Theater. Year round theater groups as well as seasonal companies offer a variety of productions advertised in Provincetown's weekly newspaper and at public sites throughout the town.

PAAM, Provincetown Art Association & Museum
 460 Commercial Street, (508) 487-1750
 www.paam.org

RESTAURANTS
 Casual and formal dining is available everywhere in Provincetown, featuring fresh seafood and delicacies to tempt every palate.



Provincetown Public Library
 356 Commercial Street, (508) 487-7094
 www.ptownlib.com

NIGHTLIFE
 Provincetown has many nightclubs, cabarets, piano bars, and discos. Featured performers and hours are well advertised. Licensed street performers entertain young and old, especially in front of Town Hall.

WEST END **EAST END**

Streets shown: WEST VINE, NOCKERSON, COTTAGE, MECHANIC, TREMONT, SOBER, NIKKINS, PIANSAN, MONTELEONE, CONANT, ATLANTIC, CENTRAL, WINTHROP, COLTRANE, CARVER, MASONIC, GOSNOLD, RYDER, STANDISH, FREEMAN, CENTER, JOHNSON, ARCH, PEARL, LAW, WASHINGTON, DYER, YOUNG'S CT, LOVETT'S CT, KILEY CT.

Key locations: Boat Ramp, Coast Guard Pier, Provincetown Moorings (rental) VHF 09, Flyer's Moorings (rental) VHF 11, Fisherman's Wharf Marina, Chamber of Commerce, MacMillan Pier, Harbor Master's Office, Public Restrooms, Fuel Dock, Ferry Terminal, Dinghy Docks, Private Moorings, Breakwater, Provincetown Fairway, Coast Guard Fairway, NO ANCHORAGE.

SHOAL LEVELS
 6ft, 12ft, 18ft

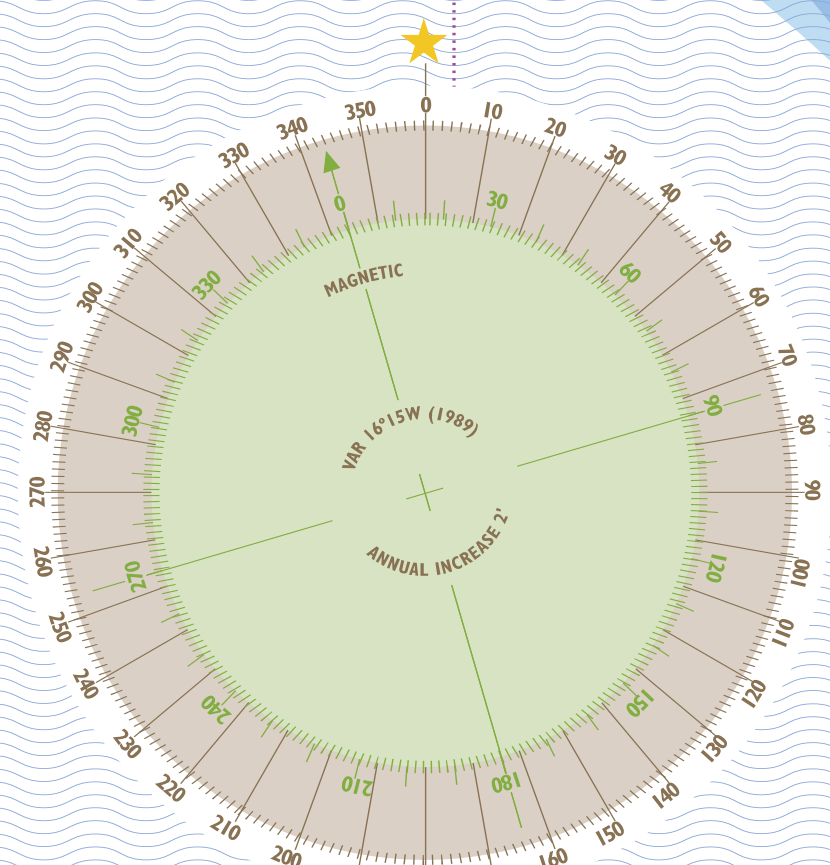
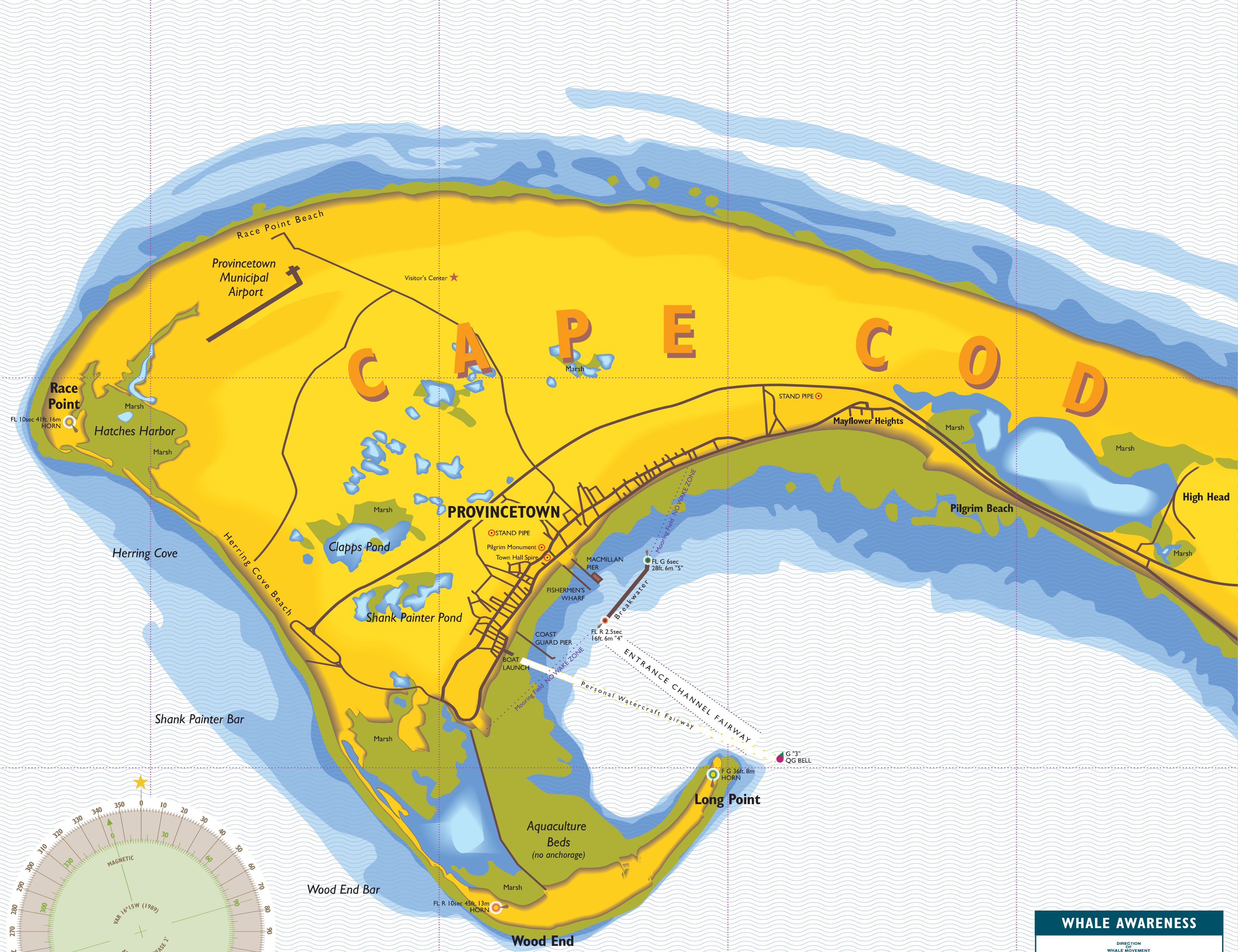
Anchorage available outside of mooring fields and behind Long Point. Please allow for 10 Foot Tidal range.

- MacMillan Pier**
 Harbor Master (508) 487-7030
 The Harbor Master's Office and Public Restrooms are located at the end of MacMillan Pier. Request Vessel Pump-Outs on VHF 12
- Local Fishing Fleet & Loading Dock**
 No Transient Tie-ups
- Whale Watch Fleet**
 Whale watch boats run from April late October (weather permitting) Most boats offer morning, afternoon, and sunset cruises. Humpback, minke, blue fin, and right whales are numerous in the waters off Cape Cod. In addition, white-sided dolphins and rare birds can also be seen off our coastline.
- Dolphin Fleet**
 (800) 826-9300
- Portuguese Princess**
 (800) 442-3188
- Bay State Cruise Company**
 This company offers passenger ferry service from Provincetown to Boston. (508) 487-9284, http://boston-ptown.com
- Boston Harbor Cruise Lines**
 This company offers passenger high-speed ferry service and an afternoon whale watch. (617) 227-4321, www.bostonharborcruises.com
- Boat Rental**
 Flyer's Boat Rental (508) 487-0898
- Charter Fishing Boats**
 Call Harbormaster's Office @ (508) 487-7030 for a listing of available charters
- Excursion Schooners & Harbor Tours**
 Bay Lady (508) 487-9308
 Schooner Hindu (888) 66-HINDU
 Viking Princess (508) 487-7323
- Free Transient Dinghy Dock**
 (up to 7 hours)
- Courtesy Float/Fresh Water & Garbage Drop**



Blessing of the Fleet by William L'Engle
 Collection of the Town of Provincetown, MA
 Gift of Lucy L'Engle

At the height of the whaling and other commercial fishing industries, Provincetown had more than 50 piers along its waterfront. Those that survived the decline of the large-scale commercial fishing and the natural disasters such as the Portland Gale of 1898 became major attractions for artists who painted the colorful fishing fleet and Portuguese fishermen. Many of these paintings are on display in the Provincetown Town Hall, which is open to the public.



SHOAL LEVELS	
6h	12h
12h	18h

Reproduced from NOAA Chart #13249
NOT FOR NAVIGATION

PROVINCETOWN HARBOR
Formed by a turn in the northern end of the sandy hook of Cape Cod, the harbor has a diameter of about two miles. Because of its sizable anchorage area in depths of 12 – 57 feet and its excellent holding ground, the harbor is considered one of the best harbors on the Atlantic Coast. Fishermen and sailors find protection here in gales from any direction. Marina services are available at Fishermen's Pier. Moorings may be rented at the following: Flyer's Boatyard (508) 487-0898 VHF 09 and Provincetown Marina (508) 487- 0571 VHF 09.

ENTERING THE HARBOR
The approach and entrance to the harbor are free of dangers and are marked by three lights: Race Point Light on the extreme easterly tip of the Cape, flashing white every ten seconds, Wood End Light at the southern point of the Cape's final curve, flashing a warning red every ten seconds, and Long Point Light at the harbor entrance, a steady welcoming green. Other landmarks include the Pilgrim Monument (a slim granite structure reaching to 348 feet above the water), two stand pipes about 0.2 mile westward, and a steel tank 1.5 miles northeastward of the monument. A 2,500-foot stone breakwater is about 300 yards southeastward of the end of MacMillan Pier. The breakwater extends northeastward from the point approximately in 42 02 '45 N70 10'55W, parallel to the shoreline. The east and west ends of the breakwater are each marked by a light. Caution must be exercised when operating in this area. Numerous fishing vessels work out of Provincetown throughout the year. During the summer, floats are set out that are capable of mooring vessels up to 40 feet. Larger vessels must tie up at permanent piers. Anchorage inside the breakwater is reported to be fair to poor due to a mud bottom and much debris. The marina at Fisherman's Wharf Marina maintains 40 moorings on the west side of the harbor. Moorings and berthing in the harbor are under the control of the harbormaster, who has an office at the end of Macmillan Pier. The harbormaster monitors VHF-FM channel 16, 24 hours a day. The Captain of the Port, Boston, has established a fairway 100 yards wide extending from 42 02' 00" N., 70 09' 35" W. to 42 02'43" N., 70 11'01" W., and in the area extending about 100 yards around the piers in Provincetown Harbor. Anchorage is prohibited in this fairway. Provincetown Coast Guard Station is about 0.4 miles southwest of the pier. The finger pier northeastward of the Coast Guard pier is in ruins. Mariners should exercise caution while navigating in the area. Personal watercraft are prohibited in Provincetown Harbor. Personal watercraft may be launched from the ramp at Good Templar Place, but they must stay within a channel marked by yellow buoys taking them outside the harbor to Long Point and beyond.

MARINE ADVICE FOR PROVINCETOWN HARBOR
You must immediately notify the US Coast Guard if your vessel discharges any oil or hazardous substances in the water. Report the following information: Location, Source, Size, and Color. (800) 424-8802.

Monitor the weather. Provincetown weather can change quickly. Expert navigation skills may be required to negotiate dense fog, both inside and outside the protection of the harbor. Please observe the state and federal laws requiring that all children under 12 and all non-swimmers wear Type I life jackets and that there is one for every passenger on board at all times. Divers and snorkellers must float or fly a Divers Flag. Children under 16 need a certificate to operate a motorboat having a 25 horsepower or more. For more information, call the State Environmental Office.

The following laws regarding the use of alcohol must be observed. No person shall operate any vessel on the waters of the Commonwealth while such person is under the influence of intoxicating liquor, marijuana, narcotic drugs, depressants or stimulant substances, as defined under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 94C. Be familiar with the prevailing winds on Cape Cod. The prevailing winds in the summer are from the southwest. From late fall through winter winds average westerly and northwesterly. Northeasterly winds (Nor Easterers) are frequent in winter. Know the tides: High tide to low tide is every six hours and varies by 10ft. on average. Note the channel buoys. They point the direction that currents run and offer a helpful tool to boaters. Channel Harbor speed is less than 6 MPH. NO WAKES, PLEASE!

Shellfish Regulations:
Check with Shellfish Constable (508) 487-3707 for the latest information regarding shell fishing regulations: Lobster harvesting is regulated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and requires a license and specific equipment. Mussels may be taken without a permit at the West End Breakwater (see map). Sea worms and periwinkles may be taken year round without a permit. Bay scallops, quahogs, and clams may be taken only with the permission of the shellfish constable who will post times, amounts, size limitations, and locations. You are required to obtain a permit. Permits may be obtained at the Town Hall (Town Clerk's Office). As shellfish areas are rotated to allow juveniles time to develop into legal size, it is important to observe the shellfish regulations. The Shellfish Constable monitors all of the areas.

