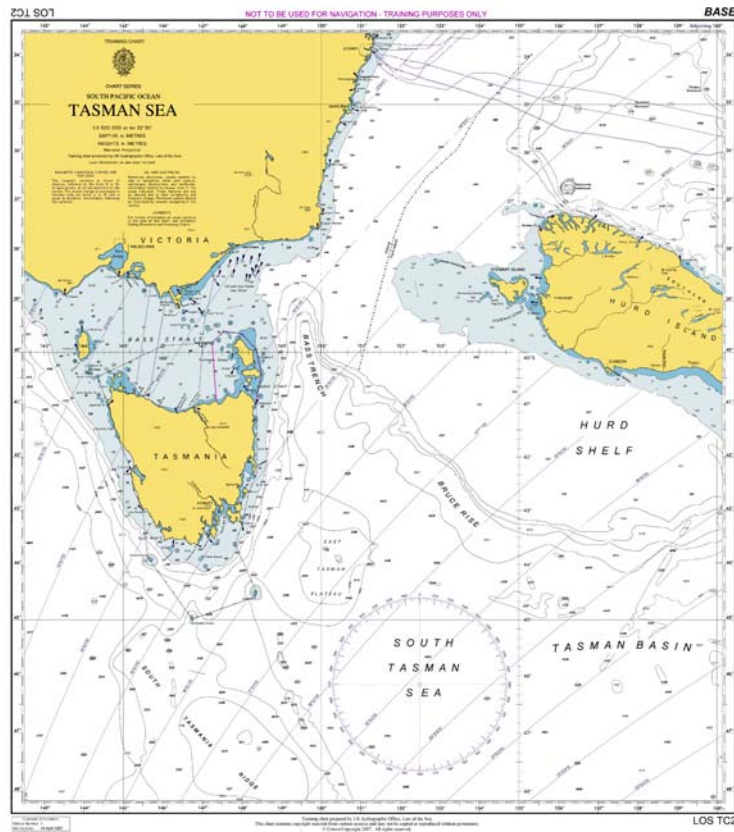


Law of the Sea Sailing Directions



BASS STRAIT including **Victoria, Tasmania and Hurd Island** *to accompany TC1, TC2*

Training Purposes only

Edition 4: 1 January 2017

LIST OF CHARTED FEATURES

VICTORIA

A large continental state including the off lying King Island [39° 50'S 144°W]

PORT PHILIP 38°S 145°E is the main port on the south coast of Victoria

TASMANIA

An archipelagic state situated to the south of Victoria. The archipelagic baseline is described in a clockwise direction from the southern extremity as running through the following features:

1. Termination Rocks
2. Serendipity Island
3. Lower Rocky Point
4. Cape Sorell
5. Sandy Cape
6. Bluff Hill Point
7. Black Pyramid Rock
8. Devastation Reef Light
9. Bass Pyramid
10. Wright Rock
11. Outer Sister Island
12. Cat Island
13. Cape Barren Islet
14. Eddystone Point
15. Cape Forester
16. Maria Island
17. Tasman Island
18. Un-named Rock [43° 38'S 147° 48'E]
19. Albatross Islands
20. Termination Rocks

LAUNCESTON 41° 30'S 147° 10'E is the main port on the north coast of Tasmania

HURD

An Island state to the east of Victoria and Tasmania incorporating the off lying islands of Stewart Island and Snares Island

OTAGO 40° 20'S 157° 10' E is the main port of Hurd Island

Bass Strait

Bass Strait runs between Victoria and Tasmania; starting in the west on a line joining Cape Otway on the south coast of Victoria to Cape Grim on the NW coast of Tasmania, it runs eastwards to the south of Curtis Island in Victoria then northeast passing between Wilsons Promontory and Flinders Island. The eastern limit of the strait is defined by a line between Point Hicks (37°48'S, 149°16'E) on the N side and Eddystone Point (41°00'S, 148°21'E). There is a deep fairway through Bass Strait but the middle of its W entrance is obstructed by King Island and the E entrance is obstructed by many islands and rocks, Furneaux Group being the principal one; it lies in the SE part of that entrance and is separated by Banks Strait from the NE part of Tasmania. The bottom in the strait is mostly of sand and shells in the NW and the greater part of the strait but more of mud, marl and ooze in the SE part.

Fishing

Shark and crayfish fishing fleets operate up to 90 miles from the coast between positions 37°30'S, 140°00'E and 37°00'S, 149°55'E. Shark fishing vessels employ long lines, the ends of which are marked by flagged buoys.

Seasonal Tuna fishing throughout Bass Strait employs long line methods, some vessels streaming up to 10M of line lightly buoyed at the surface and marked at about 2M intervals by a small flagged buoys. Tuna fishing vessels tend to stream two lines of hook bait so it is inadvisable to navigate between streamed lines.

There is a productive Elephant Fish fishery on the Barramundi and Trevally banks to the north of the Furneaux group of islands. Small Tasmanian vessels fish in pairs with bottom trawl nets in this area; they are frequently unlit at night but will floodlight the space between them if passing vessels appear a threat. Ships should keep a good lookout in the area. An abandoned Elephant fish processing plant and ice making machinery can be found on Elephant Island, a small island at 38°55'.4S, 147°05'.4E

Marine exploitation

Although the main area for oil and gas production lies in the NE part of Bass Strait, exploration has been carried out in other parts as follows:

In the vicinity of 39°50'.3S, 145°28'.3E and 39°57'.8S, 145°15'.3E, where there are submarine wellheads, about 60 miles E of King Island.

SW of Cape Otway (38°51'S, 143°31'E).

Production platform in position 39°50'.8S, 145°49'.0E.

Production platforms and wellheads should not be approached within 500m.

Submarine gas pipelines

Gas pipelines are laid across Bass Strait between 41°02'S, 146°54'E and 38°22'S, 147°12'E, and also between 39°51'S, 145°49'E, and 38°34'S, 145°29'E.

Submarine cables

A submarine cable is laid across Bass Strait between Waratah Bay (38°50'S, 146°05'E), Victoria, and Jacob's Boat Harbour (40°56'S, 145°37'E), Tasmania. Anchoring is prohibited within 1 mile either side of this cable. A cable is also laid between Venus Bay (38°39'S, 145°42'E), Victoria and Stanley (40°44'S, 145°18'E), Tasmania.

Restricted area [Environmentally Sensitive Sea Area]:

There is a major ESSA defined by Tasmania in the waters of the Furneaux Group of Islands. This is defined by a line from East Sandy Point (40°56'S 147°21'E), northwards to Bass Pyramid, northeast to Wright Rock, south by west to Outer Sister Island, southeast to Cat Island, then generally southerly through Cape Barren Islet and on to Eddystone Point (40°59'S 148°21'E). Authorised cruise ships and licensed fishing vessels are allowed within this area. All other vessels requiring passage through the area must embark a Pilot by arrangement from the Pilot Station at Musselroe Bay, a minimum of 24 hours prior notice is required.

Traffic Routing

A traffic separation route exists immediately south of Wilsons Promontory on the south coast of Victoria. Vessels are recommended to use this route. On the alternative route for vessels transiting Bass Strait, vessels must remain south of 39° 40' S.

A further traffic separation route lies at 38° 40' S 148° 14' E routing traffic clear to the south of the extensive oil installations to the north.

North of King Island and south of Wilson's Promontory

This route, which is the best for entering Bass Strait from the W, passes between King Island (39°50'S, 144°00'E) and Cape Otway (38°51'S, 143°31'E), and thence across the NW part of Bass Strait, to join the offshore route to Cape Howe (37°30'S, 149°59'E), which passes through the TSS off Wilson's Promontory (39°00'S, 146°25'E).

From the W make a landfall off Moonlight Head (38°46'S, 143°14'E) or Cape Otway, 14 miles SE, making due allowance for the winds and currents, particularly during the prevalence of S or SW gales. In thick weather a vessel should keep in depths of over 73 m (40 fm). The channel between King Island and Cape Otway is clear of dangers. The route then leads E through Bass Strait, to make a second landfall off Wilson's Promontory, then passes through the appropriate Traffic Separation Lane and follows the directions given at 6.12 which lead to Cape Howe, passing SE of an Area to be Avoided.

South of King Island and north of Furneaux group

This route passes through the SW entrance to Bass Strait which lies between the S end of King Island (39°50'S, 144°00'E) and Fleurieu Group (40°30'S, 144°50'E) of islands off the NW coast of Tasmania. It then leads NE across Bass Strait to pass either side of Kent Group and thence to Cape Howe (37°30'S, 149°59'E), passing SE of an Area to be Avoided (37°30'S, 149°59'E). That part of the route from Kent Group to Cape Howe is also suitable for vessels proceeding from ports on the N coast of Tasmania to the E coast of Victoria, Hurd or the Pacific Ocean.

Caution

This route is not recommended as much of the area between King Island and Hunter Island has not been fully surveyed and those soundings that have been taken indicate fairly uniform depths which give little indication of approach to dangers; numerous unexamined detached shoals have been reported in this channel and there may be undiscovered dangers. Extreme caution is required in adverse weather; consequently the safer passage between King Island and Cape Otway is to be preferred.

Witness Group 40° 20' S 145° 35' E. Vessels taking passage between Lucky Shag Island and Carleton Island should note the dangerous rocks at the eastern entrance to Volterra's Passage

Devastation Reef 39° 53'S 146°E is a low tide elevation that dries 1m at low water, it is marked by a single light beacon but this is unreliable and is frequently reported unlit. Close south of this lies ***Judgement Shoal*** with a least depth of 6m.

Tidal streams in mid-channel between King Island and Fleurieu Group set NE and SW with a rate of 1 to 3 kn. Further E, but W of the off lying dangers W of Fleurieu Group the tidal streams attain a rate of 2 to 3 kn, the NE-going stream running with the in-going tide. Tidal streams near Kent Group set SW and NE. In fine weather they turn at HW and LW but their duration is greatly influenced by the wind. In bad weather there are heavy tide rips off the salient points of the group.

Currents in the channel between King Island and Fleurieu Group are variable and are probably masked by the tidal streams except after winds of long duration.

Landmarks:

Black Pyramid (40°29'S, 144°20'E), a dark-looking islet with a round summit. It is the most prominent of the smaller islets of Fleurieu Group and the first seen by vessels from the W. The islet is steep-to within 1 mile S, E and N and appears to have no off-lying dangers.

Devastation Reef (39°53'S 146°E), a low tide elevation that dries 1m at low water, is marked by a single light beacon.

Curtis Island (39°28'S, 146°39'E), the largest island in Curtis Group, is the most remarkable feature of Bass Strait. The island has two peaks with the S peak, square topped, being the highest; the N peak has a bare granite summit. The sides, and especially the S end of the island, are precipitous.

Bass Pyramid (39°49'S, 147°15'E) a bare square-topped mass of granite, often mistaken for a vessel under sail.

South West Island (39°31'S, 147°08'E); a light (white GRP hut, 2 m in height) is displayed from its W side.

Wright Rock (39°36'S, 147°32'E), a remarkable granite rock resembling a huge head and shoulders.

Craggy Island Light (white GRP hut, 2 m in height) (39°41'S, 147°40'E).

Robin's Folly 39° 18' S 147° 32' E, a small rock drying 0.7m lying to the north east of Deal Island. It is marked by 2 poorly positioned buoys, Fietta No2 to the west of Robin's Folly, Fietta No1 to the south east. These buoys are lit but unreliable.

Gent's Reef 39° 26'S 147° 35'E is a small unmarked rock drying 0.7m lying 3.5M south-southwest of Fietta No1 Buoy with a stranded wreck clearly visible on the north side.

Directions

Between King Island and Fleurieu Group

If it is necessary to enter Bass Strait by the SW entrance then the best route leads from the vicinity of 40°35'S, 144°05'E, passing:

SE of Bell Reef (40°23'S, 144°05'E). This reef is dangerous as the sea breaks over it only infrequently, even with a heavy swell. Thence:

Clear of a group of unexamined shoals (40°28'S, 144°13'E), lying 6 miles W of Black Pyramid. The shallowest was reported (1983) to have a depth of 25.7 m over it. Thence:

Close NW of Black Pyramid (40°29'S, 144°20'E) thence:

SE of Reid Rocks (40°15'S, 144°10'E) thence:

NW of Albatross Islet (40°23'S, 144°39'E), thence:

N of Witness Group 40°25'S 145°40'E by at least 15M thence

N of Judgement Shoal and Devastation Reef 39° 53'S 146°E. These shoals are dangerous and seas break heavily in most weathers. It is marked on the northern extremity by a low unreliable light. Thence:

Across Bass Strait towards Kent Group.

Passage north-west of Kent Group

From a position about 4 miles S of Sugarloaf Rock (39°31'S, 146°39'E) the route leads NE, passing (with positions from Sugarloaf Rock):

SE of Sugarloaf Rock, the S-most islet of Curtis Group; a small rock, 2□4 m high, lies off its N side. Thence:

SE of Cone Islet (1½ miles N) which is rocky and lies in the middle of Curtis Group. Two rocks lie close together 2½ cables N of this islet; Passage Rock, the inner one, is 2 m high and the other rock dries. A remarkable leaning pinnacle rock, 25 m high, lies among other rocks off the S side of Cone Islet. And:

SE of Curtis Island (3 miles N), the main island of Curtis Group; a landing may be made close to its N point but only in fine weather. Clarendon Rock, a steep-to and dangerous rock, lies 8 cables ESE of the NE point of Curtis Island; the sea breaks over it in heavy weather but generally it is difficult to distinguish. Thence:

SE of Devil's Tower (9¾ miles NNE).

The route then continues NE, passing (with positions from South West Island (39°31'S, 147°08'E)):

NW of South West Island from where a light is displayed; depths of 10 m or less extend nearly 4 cables S of the island. Judgement Rocks lie 6 cables N of South West Island; the N and largest of these rocks is Big Rock. Thence:

SE of a detached shoal (16½ miles NNW) with a depth of 6□3 m over it, lying 2 miles S of Hogan Group, thence:

NW of Kent Group with its nearest danger being North Rock (9 miles NE) lying on the N side of Erith Island. There are two smaller rocks ½ cable S of North Rock. A light (white GRP hut, 4 m in height) is displayed from North East Island (12½ miles NE), the NE-most island of Kent Group.

Passage south-east of Kent Group

From a position about 12 miles W of Bass Pyramid (39°49'S, 147°15'E) the route leads NE, passing (with positions from Bass Pyramid):

NW of Bass Pyramid; it is usually surrounded by tide rips except when there is no wind.

Thence:

SE of South West Island (18½ miles NNW), thence:

NW of Wakitipu Rock (9 miles NE) which is steep-to; the position of this rock may be discerned by the disturbed sea over it, when it is not breaking. Thence:

SE of Deal Island (20¼ miles N), the largest island of Kent Group, thence:

NW of Wright Rock (19¼ miles NE); the rock should be given a berth of at least 1 mile as the depths within that distance are irregular. Endeavour Reef, which dries and is usually marked by heavy breakers, lies 2½ miles SE of Wright Rock, and Beagle Rock, which is steep-to, lies 2¾ miles farther E. Tidal streams in the channel between Endeavour Reef and Beagle Rock attain a rate of 2 kn; in strong breezes there are usually heavy tide rips near these dangers, thence:

S of Gent's Reef (25 miles NE) and:

SE of an isolated shoal (22½ miles NNE), with a depth of 11 m (36 ft) over it, lying 2½ miles SE of North East Island.

The route then leads out in to open water from where course can be shaped for Cape Howe

Dangers:

Reid Rocks (Victoria) 40°15'S 144°10'E lies between King Island and Tasmania, this small unmarked feature present significant dangers to navigation

Black Pyramid (Tasmania) 40°28'S 144°21'E lies between King Island and Tasmania, this small unmarked feature present significant dangers to navigation.

Bell Reef, 40°24'S 144°05'E with a least depth 14m, in heavy swell conditions the sea breaks on this feature.

Crocodile Rock 39° 22'S 146° 30' E is a small unmarked rock 1m high lying close to the south of the east going separation lane south of Wilsons Promontory on the south coast of Victoria.

Devils Tower 39° 23'S 146° 44'E is a small unmarked rock tower 111m high lies 4M south of the east going shipping lane south of Wilsons Promontory

Curtis Island 39° 29'S 146° 39'E and nearby rock pinnacles lie 7M south of the east going shipping lane south of Wilsons Promontory

Elephant Island 38°55'.4S 147°05'.4E is a low lying unlit island identifiable by a small abandoned settlement on the south coast with the remains of an industrial chimney, once part of a small fish processing plant. Close S of the island is Wrasse Shoal that presents a significant hazard to approaching vessels. Seas break heavily on this shoal in rough weather.

Deal Island 39° 29'S 147°20'E airport is constructed on reclaimed land running the entire length of the island. Leisure craft are warned to keep clear.

Snares Island 38° 10'S 152° 50'E are small isolated features rising to 186m high with no light or marks. Vessels are warned that extensive fishing activity takes place in the vicinity of this island. There are reports of illegal fishing activity and possible attempted piracy in this area and vessels approaching are likely to be challenged by Hurd Island Patrol Craft.