

Welcome to the Kachemak Bay Water Trail

The Kachemak Bay Water Trail is a 125-mile water trail that inspires exploration, understanding, and stewardship of the natural treasure that is Kachemak Bay.

Exploring the estuaries, coves, and fjords of Kachemak Bay will supply you with a lifetime of memories. Let's make all those memories good ones. Stay safe. Go when it is safe. And remember: **Always Wear A Life Jacket.**

Be Aware

To learn about tides, rock hazards, and safety information in the bay check out:

- NOAA Nautical Charts
- Coast Pilot 9
- US Aids to Navigation
- Alaska Boater's Handbook and the Kachemak Bay Supplement

Your Guide for *Safely* Navigating the Kachemak Bay Water Trail



EMERGENCY Communication

ON YOUR PERSON, carry communication devices (e.g., a marine VHF portable radio, cell phone in waterproof bag) and signaling devices (e.g., an emergency locator beacon, whistle, signal mirror). **Be prepared to handle emergencies yourself**, but if you need help contact:

- US Coast Guard on marine VHF Channel 16 or 800-478-5555 or 911
- Homer Harbor Master on marine VHF Channel 10 or 907-235-3160



Photo courtesy of Alaska State Parks

WEARING A LIFE JACKET IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SURVIVING A COLD WATER IMMERSION EVENT.



Photo courtesy of Brody Reid

Five of every six boating fatalities in Alaska involve sudden cold water immersion following capsizing, swamping, or a fall overboard. Each of the stages of cold water immersion (cold shock response, cold incapacitation, and immersion hypothermia) can result in drowning. Those not wearing a life jacket are at much greater risk.

Cold Water Kills

Kachemak Bay Water Trail

For more information:

Dave Brann, Co-Chair
Kachemak Bay Water Trail Steering Committee
PO Box 729
Homer, AK 99603
kbwt@homer.alaska.org
907-235-6018

Kachemak Bay State Park
Alaska State Parks, Homer Ranger Station
907-235-7024
Marine VHF Channel 16

Alaska Office of Boating Safety
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1380
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561
(907) 269-8706

USCG National Response Center 24-hour Hotline
1-800-424-8802



Tide changes can create strong currents (as much as 18 knots) at the mouths of major rivers and in narrow channels and inlets such as Halibut Cove Lagoon and China Poot Bay. The difference between the lowest and highest tides in a single day can be 28 vertical feet—higher than a 3-story building. In some areas, wind and currents can combine to form tide “rips” of large standing waves. Waves generated in tide rips can become steep and close with amazing speed. Avoid these areas until “slack” tide. Tide changes can leave boats high and dry or a long distance from the shore if anchored. Always secure boats when on the beach. The large tidal area on the north side of the bay requires proper timing if one plans on an easy beaching. Carry and reference tide tables before and during your trip.

Water in Alaska is cold, regardless of air temperature. Kachemak Bay is no exception. Paddlers should dress in consideration of the water and air temperature.

Weather can change rapidly, turning a calm sea into a heavy chop or large waves in a matter of minutes. Day breezes are common in the summer. These winds generally calm down by late afternoon or early evening. Be prepared to seek out the nearest sheltered area and wait for conditions to improve.

Rocks can be a hazard within the bay, such as off Aurora Lagoon, Neptune Bay, Sadie Point, and other areas.

Always Wear a life jacket. By law, children under the age of 13 must wear a life jacket in an open boat, on the deck of a boat, or when waterskiing. **File** a float plan. Describe the boat and equipment, names of persons on the boat, destination and route, date and time of return, and when and who to contact if overdue. Leave the float plan with a responsible party. To file an electronic float plan visit PledgeToLive.org.

Avoid alcohol. Many of Alaska's boating fatalities involve alcohol. In Alaska, the laws that define driving while intoxicated and the penalties upon conviction apply to boat operators too.

- **Make** and file a float plan
- Use the planner to find weather and tide reports and more
- Access NOAA nautical charts
- Use the pre-departure check list
- Check out types and uses of life jackets.
- **PLEDGE!** Make a pledge to your family to always wear your life jacket.

At the Pledge to Live website you can:

PledgeToLive.ORG



www.alaskaboatingsafety.org



Navigation Rules

The International Navigation Rules on Steering and Sailing apply on Kachemak Bay regardless of the type of vessel. Boaters must be constantly vigilant of their circumstances. All boaters at all times should do the following:

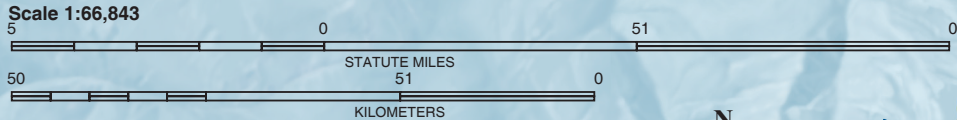
- Maintain a proper lookout
- Proceed at a safe speed, so that proper and effective action to avoid collision can be taken
- Be prepared to depart from the “Rules,” if necessary to avoid a collision



Legend

- Proposed Kachemak Bay Water Trail
- Trails
- Roads
- Unimproved Roads
- Kachemak Bay State Park Boundary

Map not intended for navigational purposes



Brochure produced with support from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, Alaska State Parks, Alaska Office of Boating Safety, and the Kachemak Bay Water Trail Steering Committee.
Map produced by Tibor G. Tóth, Tóth Graphix, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, and Alaska State Parks.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Nelson

Respect Wildlife

Kachemak Bay supports a myriad of birds and marine wildlife to observe. Respect birds and wildlife and give them plenty of room. A change in an animal’s behavior could mean that you are too close. For your safety in bear country, store your food well away from your tent.

To learn more about bear safety before your trip see the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s website on living with wildlife at: adfg.alaska.gov.



Photo courtesy of Jill Wheeler

