

(235) The fixed bridge of the Oregon Coast Highway crossing Alsea Bay, a mile inside the entrance, has a clearance of 66 feet.

(236)

COLREGS Demarcation Lines

(237) The lines established for Alsea Bay are described in **33 CFR 80.1335**, Chapter 2.

(238) The 11.5-mile coast between Alsea Bay and Yaquina Bay is nearly straight, and consists of a low sand beach backed by dunes at each end with bluffs up to 100 feet high between; the land behind is low and wooded with areas of second-growth timber. Rocks covered 2 to 4 fathoms extend almost 2 miles offshore. **Seal Rocks**, abreast the highest part of the bluffs about 5 miles north of Alsea Bay entrance, extend up to 0.5 mile offshore for 2 miles; the tallest is 20 feet high.

(240) **Stonewall Bank**, 17 miles southwest of Yaquina Head Light and 14 miles offshore, is 9 miles long in a north direction and 2.5 miles wide. There is a least depth of 13 fathoms on the bank. An unmarked submerged obstruction is close southwest of Stonewall Bank in about 44°29.8'N., 124°24.9'W.

(241) **Yaquina Head**, 32.5 miles north of Heceta Head, is distinguished by two conical hills covered with grass. The outer one is 356 feet high and the inner 390 feet high, with a low saddle between them. The extremity of the point, which projects about a mile from the general trend of the coast, is broken and rocky, but comparatively low. One mile inland from the point, the grass-covered land changes to a dense forest and the hills rise rapidly. Two covered ledges lie north of the point 0.6 mile from the beach. There is a covered rock and considerable kelp about a mile south of the point. A patch of rocks that uncovers 8 feet is about a mile north of Yaquina Head Light. South to Yaquina Bay, the coast consists of broken yellow cliffs, bordered on the south part by broad sand beaches.

(242) **Yaquina Head Light** (44°40'36.3"N., 124°04'46.0"W.), 162 feet above the water, is shown from a 93-foot white conical tower on the flat bench projecting at the west extremity of the head.

(243) **Yaquina Reef** and its continuation north is a ridge of hard sand and rock covered 4 to 25 feet and marked by breakers. The reef extends from the submerged outer end of the north jetty and parallel to the shore to Yaquina Head. The submerged wreck of the ship JOHN ASPIN is about 0.65 mile north from the outer end of the north jetty.

(244) **South Reef**, with a least depth of 12 feet, is a continuation of Yaquina Reef, the two being separated by the entrance channel.

(245)

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(246) **Yaquina Bay** entrance is 4 miles south of Yaquina Head Light. The bay is a tidal estuary, the harbor itself being merely the widening of **Yaquina River** just inside the entrance.

(247) The north point of Yaquina Bay entrance is a sandy bluff, 120 feet high. A lighthouse and a Coast Guard lookout tower are on the high part of the point. When viewed from the northwest, the circular lighthouse tower on the roof of a two-story frame dwelling obscures the lower portion of the lookout tower. The south entrance point is a low sand beach backed by dunes rising to 150 feet.

(248) The entrance to Yaquina Bay is protected by jetties 330 yards apart. The long north jetty, with the outer 100 yards submerged, extends out to Yaquina Reef. A seasonal sound signal is near the seaward end of the south jetty and a light is about 200 yards inside the seaward end. A lighted whistle buoy is 1.5 miles southwest of the entrance. The channels are marked by lighted ranges, lights, and buoys. Between the jetties, numerous submerged rocks lie along the outside of the charted entrance channel limits.

(249) During the summer, when the swell is approximately parallel with the coast, the bar is comparatively smooth, being partially sheltered by Yaquina Head. In winter, however, the heavy west swell makes the bar very rough. A smooth bar and a favorable tide are necessary for large vessels leaving Yaquina Bay.

(250)

Coast Guard

(251) The Coast Guard has established Yaquina Bay Entrance Regulated Navigation Area Warning Sign (44°37'29"N., 124°03'27"W.), at the Coast Guard station on the north side of the river at Newport. The sign is 22 feet above the water and diamond-shaped, painted white with an international orange border, with the words *ROUGH BAR*. The sign is equipped with four quick flashing lights that will be activated when the bar is restricted to recreational and uninspected passenger vessels. Vessel operators are cautioned, however that if the lights are not flashing, it is no guarantee that sea conditions are favorable.

(252)

A **heavy weather flag**, a square RED flag with a square BLACK center, will be displayed on a pole that is located on the western corner of the Coast Guard station and is visible to mariners from both directions to indicate that winds 48 knots and above are forecast for the area. Display of flags is required from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. Weather flags are flown at select Coast Guard stations to supplement other weather notification sources. Light signals corresponding to these flags are not displayed at night. (See illustration, Chapter 1.) In all cases mariners should rely upon National

Weather Service broadcasts as their primary source of government provided weather information.

(253)

COLREGS Demarcation Lines

(254) The lines established for Yaquina Bay are described in **33 CFR 80.1340**, Chapter 2.

(255)

Channels

(256) A **Federal project** provides for a 40-foot entrance channel, thence 30 feet from the first turn in the channel to and in the turning basin at McLean Point, thence 18 feet to Yaquina, thence 10 feet to Toledo at the head of the project. Controlling depths may be considerably less than these project depths. (See Notice to Mariners and latest editions of the charts for controlling depths.)

(257) At the entrance to Yaquina Bay and River, the buoys cannot be relied upon to indicate the best water, and in the river, depths are subject to frequent change. Recreational boaters unfamiliar with the area are advised to contact the Coast Guard on VHF-FM channel 16 or telephone 541-265-5381 for the latest bar conditions, advisory, or to arrange an escort when unfamiliar with bar conditions. Professional mariners desiring to enter Yaquina Bay and River should employ a pilot or someone with local knowledge.

(258) A fixed highway bridge across the channel, about 1.3 miles above the entrance, has a clearance of 129 feet. **Yaquina Bay Coast Guard Station** is on the north side of the bay, 400 yards northeast of the bridge.

(259) NOAA's **Marine Operations Center-Pacific** operates a pier on the south side of Yaquina Bay, one-quarter mile east of the highway bridge, which serves as the shipbase for the Administration's Pacific Fleet. The north face of the pier has a 520-foot berth, 260-foot berth and another 520-foot berth, from west to east, with 24 to 27 feet alongside. The east end of the south face of the pier has a 230-foot berth with 22 to 26 feet alongside. The berths are marked by four private lights. There is a 215-foot floating dock inshore at the east end of the pier. The waters inside the pier are restricted to authorized traffic only. To report emergencies or suspicious activity at this pier contact the Facilities Manager at (541) 867-8735.

(260) **Newport**, just inside the north entrance point, is the principal town on the bay and river. The town has a considerable fishing industry with several small fish-processing plants. Lumber, logs, paper and plywood, either barged from upper river mills or delivered by truck, are shipped from the wharves at **McLean Point**, just east of Newport.

(261)

Currents

(262) The current velocity is about 2.4 knots on the flood, and 2.3 knots on the ebb, in Yaquina Bay entrance. Near Newport docks the velocity is about 0.5 knot. Off Yaquina, and 1 mile south of Toledo, the velocity is about 1.4 knots. (See the Tidal Current Tables for predictions.)

(263)

Pilotage, Yaquina Bay

(264) Pilotage is compulsory for all foreign vessels and U.S. vessels under register. Pilotage is optional for U.S. vessels in the coastwise trade that have onboard a pilot licensed by the Federal Government for these waters. Pilotage for Yaquina Bay is available from Coos Bay Pilots Association. See Pilotage, Coos Bay, indexed as such, earlier this chapter for details.

(265) Pilots usually board vessels about 0.5 mile west of Yaquina Bay Approach Lighted Whistle Buoy Y (44°35'52"N., 124°06'47"W.).

(266)

Towage

(267) Tugs are available from Toledo and Coos Bay.

(268)

Quarantine, customs, immigration and agricultural quarantine

(269) Newport is a customs port of entry. (See Vessel Arrival Inspections, Chapter 3.)

(270) **Quarantine** is enforced in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Public Health Service. (See Public Health Service, Chapter 1.)

(271)

Wharves

(272) There are two deep-draft wharves in Yaquina Bay. The wharf at McLean Point, about 1 mile east of the highway bridge has two berths. Berth 1, just north of the turning basin, has 465 feet of berthing space, 30 to 32 feet reported alongside, and a deck height of 21 feet. Berth 1 was reported under construction until June 2011. Berth 2 (barge dock), just northeast of the turning basin, has 250 feet of berthing space, 25 feet reported alongside, and a deck height of 15 feet. A concrete Ro/Ro extension connected to Berth 2 has 140 feet of berthing space in line with Berth 1, 30 feet reported alongside, and a deck height of 14 feet. Logs, lumber, plywood, and paper are shipped from both berths. The wharf is owned and operated by the Port of Newport.

(273)

Small-craft facilities

(274) The Port of Newport operates a boat basin on the south side of the bay about 350 yards east of the bridge. The basin is protected to the north and west by jetties marked on the outer ends by a daybeacon and a light, respectively. A dredged entrance channel leads through the jetties, thence south along the west jetty turning east at the foot and terminating at a boat ramp at the head of the boat basin. In 2008, the controlling depth was 6 feet. Gasoline berths, diesel fuel, electricity, water, ice, and a pumpout facility are available. Hull, engine, and shaft repairs can be made. Facilities can be contacted on VHF-FM channel 12 by hailing the Port of Newport South. The Port of Newport Internet address is *portofnewport.com*.

(275) The Port of Newport operates a commercial moorage on the north shore about 0.7 mile above the highway bridge; a marina is also in this area. The moorage