

Compilation of Anchorages in SW Florida

Document is a compilation of information found from cruisers net and Florida Sea grant publications.

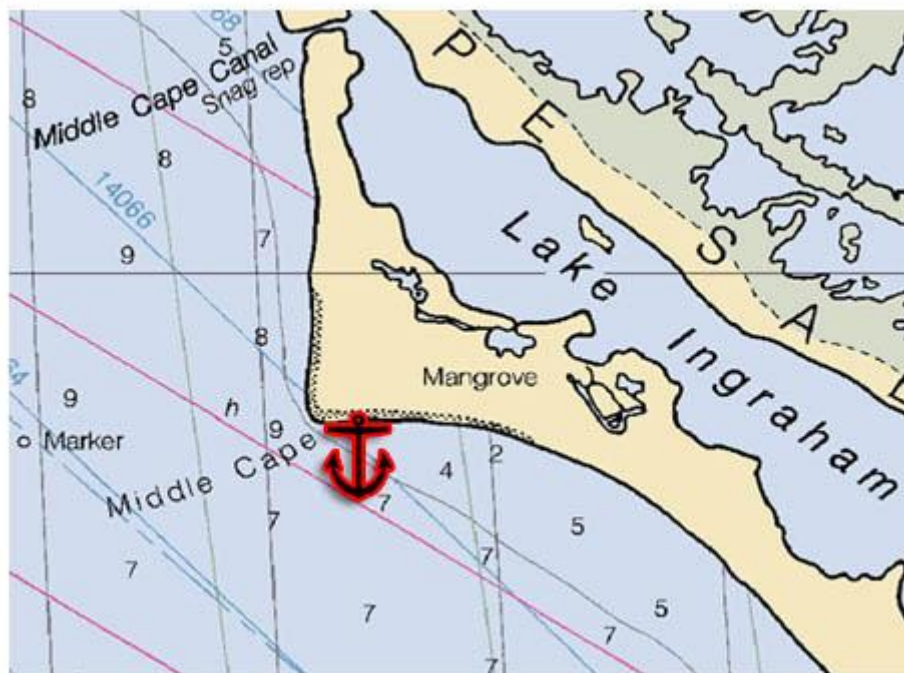
CAPE SABLE TO OTTER LIDO KEY ANCHORAGES (Armands circle)

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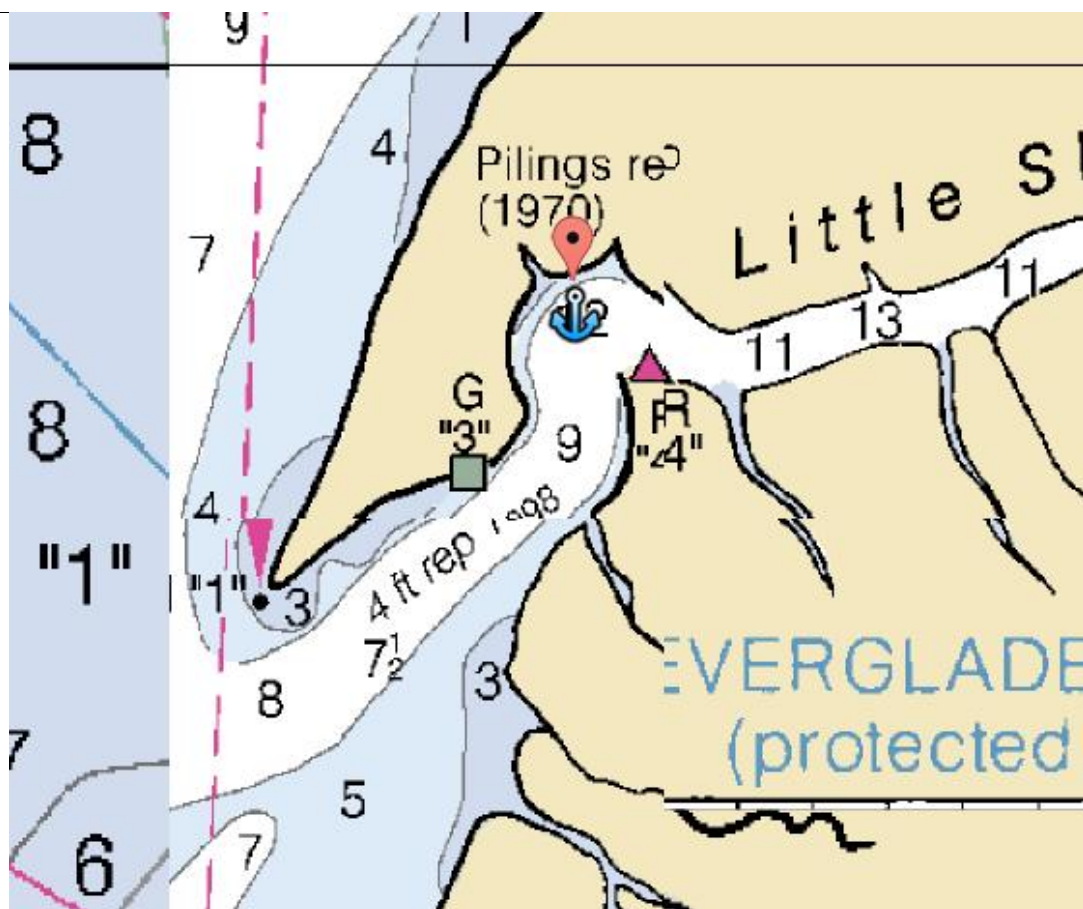
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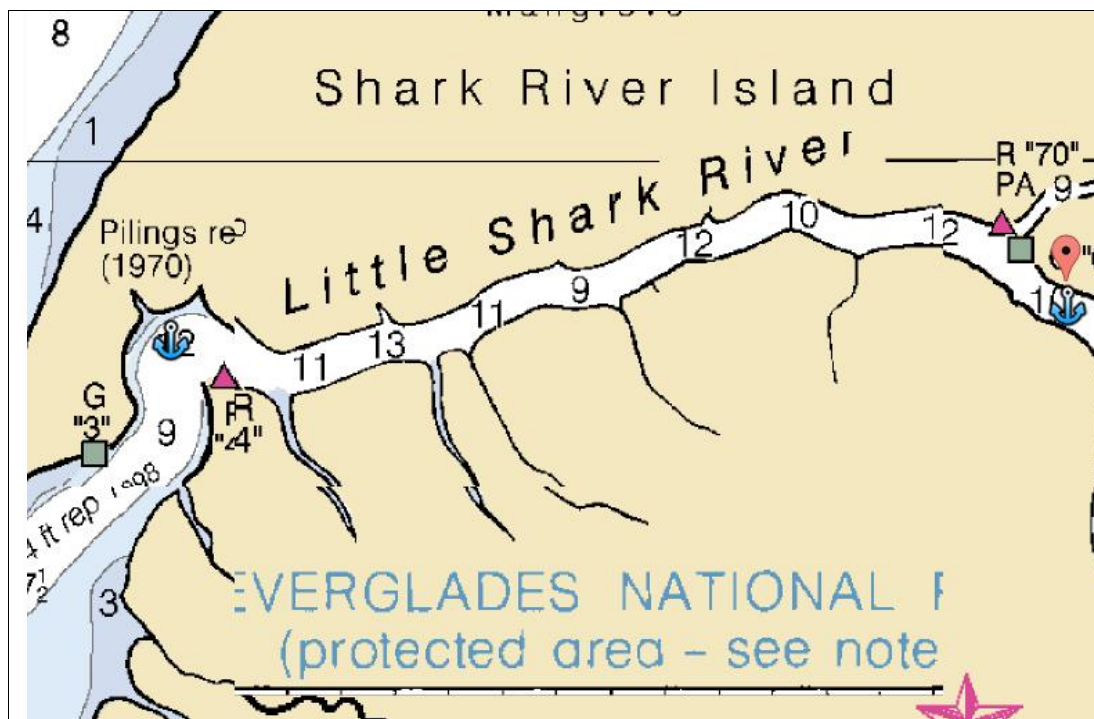
Cape Sable to Punta Rassa Cove Anchorages



1. Cape Sable Anchorages 
Lat/Lon: near 25 09.569 North/081 08.623 West (North of Middle Cape)
 near 25 09.284 North/081 08.417 West (South of Middle Cape)
 Location: discovered on the waters northwest and south of Middle Cape
 Minimum Depth – 7 feet
 Minimum Depth: 6 to 8 feet
 Swing Room: unlimited
 Foul Weather Shelter: poor, fair weather and light airs anchorage ONLY



2. Little Shark River Outer Anchorage 
Lat/Lon: near 25 19.677 North/081 08.801 West
 Location: northwest of unlighted daybeacon #4
 Minimum Depth 5 ½ feet
 Minimum Depth: 5 1/2 feet
 Swing Room: sufficient room for vessels as large as 48 feet
 Foul Weather Shelter: excellent, great foul weather hidey hole
A little buggy", fast currents



There is plenty of water in Little Shark River, but not near the southeast bank at low tide. G"3" and R"4", the anchor was in ~7 feet of water at high tide. Strong SE wind predicted, so we put out plenty of scope. The next morning the anchor was in ~3 feet of water (low tide)

3. Little Shark River Southern Fork Anchorage ⚓⚓⚓
Lat/Lon: near 25 19.736 North/081 07.132 West
 Location: lies southeast of unlighted daybeacon #69
 Minimum Depth: 5 foot approach depths, but 9 foot depths in the anchorage
 Swing
 Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 40 feet
 Foul Weather
 Shelter: Excellent, only very strong northwesterly winds should be a problem here



4. Little Shark River Upper Anchorage ⚓⚓⚓
Lat/Lon: near 25 20.268 North/081 06.983
 Location: will be found to the west-northwest, west of unlighted daybeacon #68
 Minimum Depth: 5 foot approach depths, but 6-foot depths in anchorage
 Swing
 Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 45 feet
 Foul Weather
 Shelter: Very good, except during strong northwestern winds



5. New Turkey Key Anchorage 

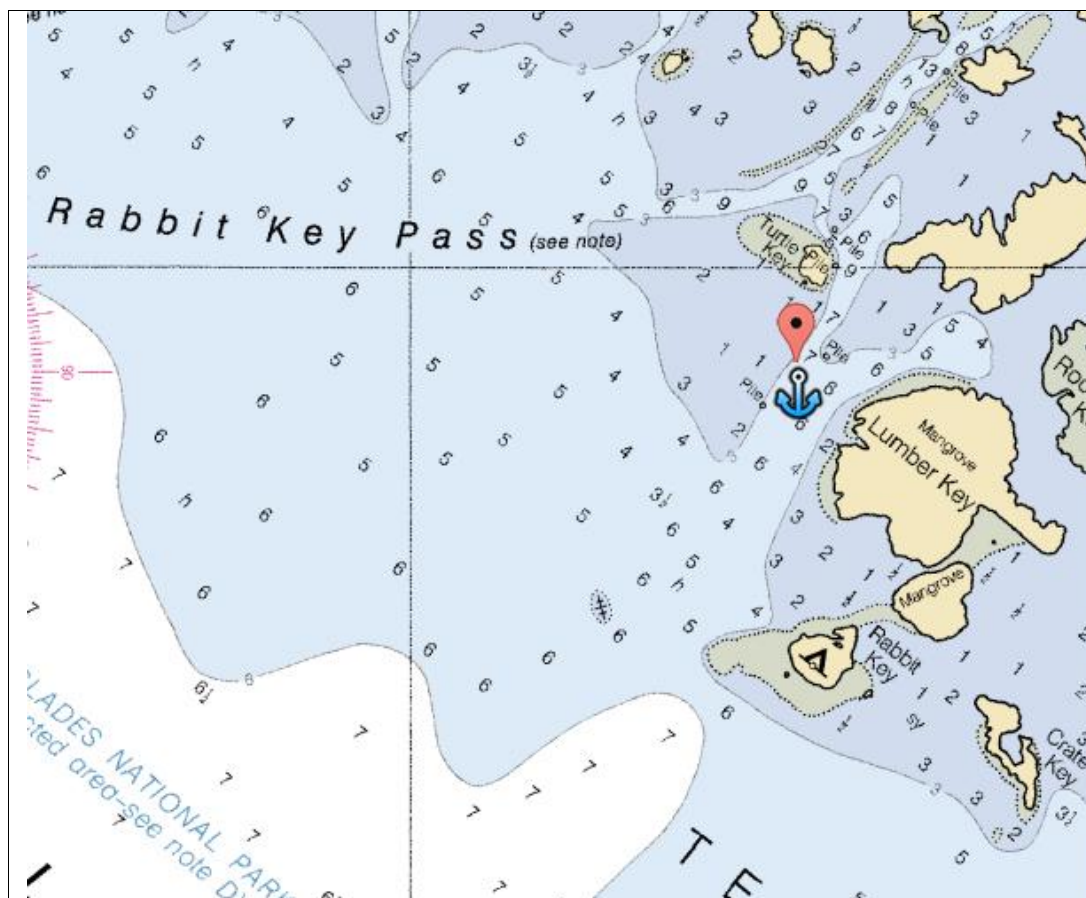
Lat/Lon: near 25 38.984 North/081 16.759 West

Location: discovered on the wide band of charted 6- and 8-foot waters off the eastern and northeastern sides of New Turkey Key. Minimum Depth 4-foot approach depths, but 6-foot depths in the anchorage.

Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 36 feet.

Foul Weather Shelter: fair to good, but open to northern southern winds.

We anchored here on a calm night a swung a little to close to shore and found ourselves aground at low tide (we draw 3'9")



6. Lumber Key

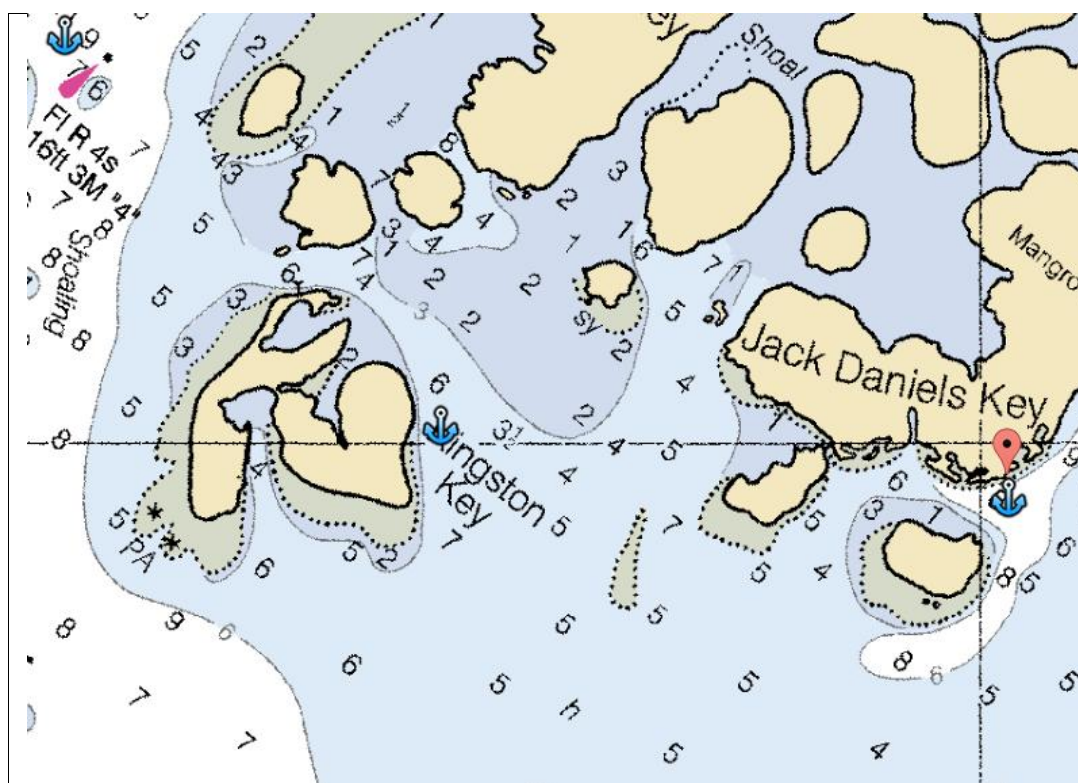


Anchorage

Lat/Lon: near 25
45.627 North/081
22.835 West

Location: lies off the
western banks of
Lumber Key
Minimum Depth: 4-6
feet

Swing Room:
sufficient swinging
room for boats as
large as 48 feet
Foul Weather
Shelter: fair, but
open to western,
northwestern and
southwestern winds



7. Jack Daniels Key

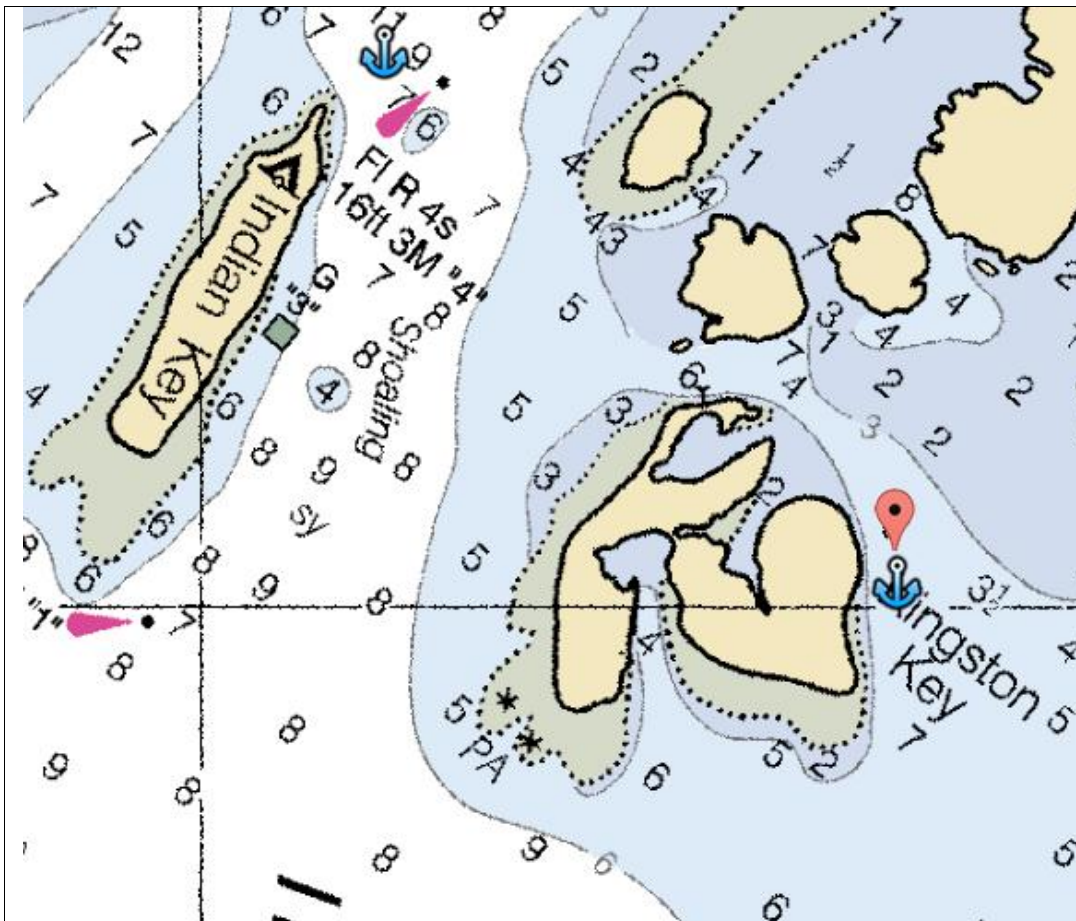


Anchorage

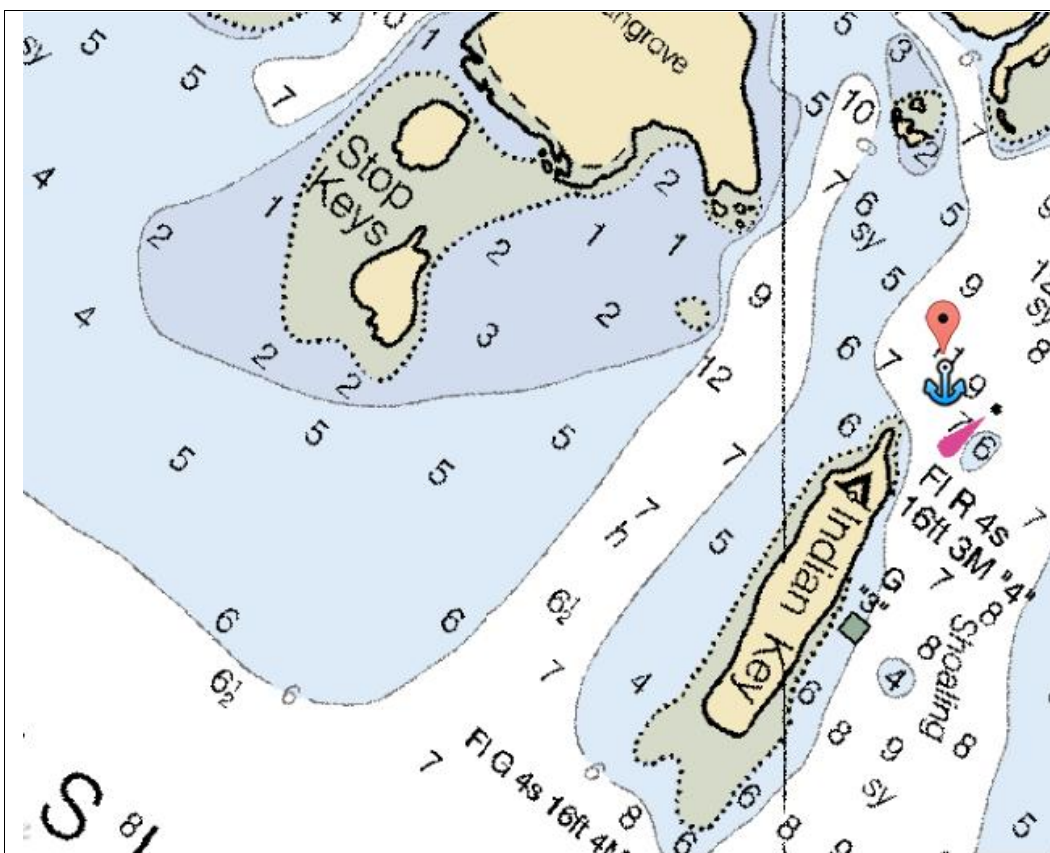
Lat/Lon: near 25
47.882 North/081
25.931 West

Location: found on
the waters southeast
of Jack Daniels Key
Minimum Depth: 5-
feet

Swing
Room: sufficient
swinging room for
vessels as large as
40 feet
Foul Weather
Shelter: good, but
somewhat open to
southern and
southeastern winds

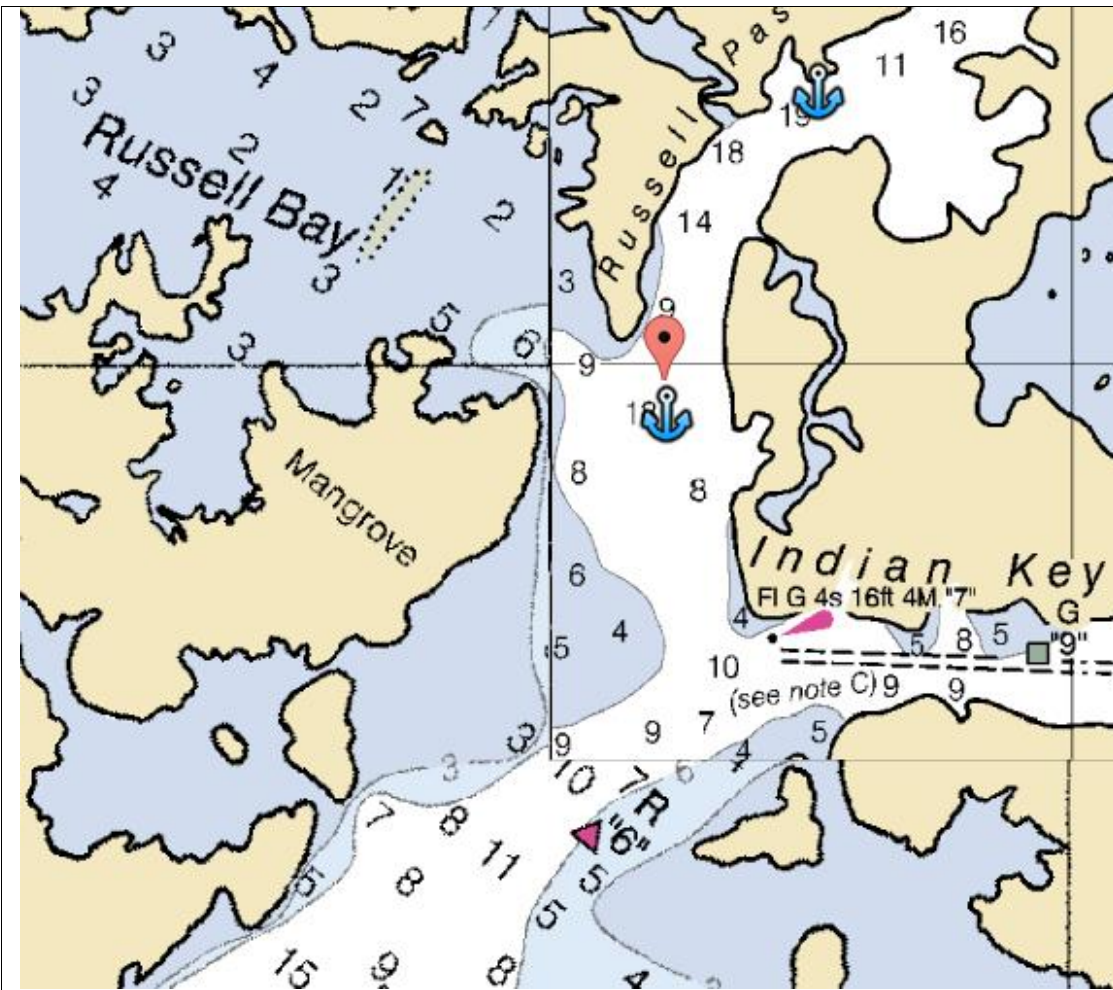


8. Kingston Key 
Anchorage
Lat/Lon: near 25
48.005 North/081
27.011 West
 Location: lies off the eastern shores of Kingston Key
 Minimum Depth: 6-feet
 Swing
 Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 50 feet
 Foul Weather Shelter: Good, but open to southwestern winds




9. Indian Key
Anchorage
Lat/Lon: near 25
48.673
North/081
27.728 West
 Location: will be discovered southeast of the sandspit, off Indian Key's northeasterly tip
 Minimum Depth: 6-feet
 Swing
 Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 55 feet
 Foul Weather Shelter: very good, but a bit open to strong southern winds



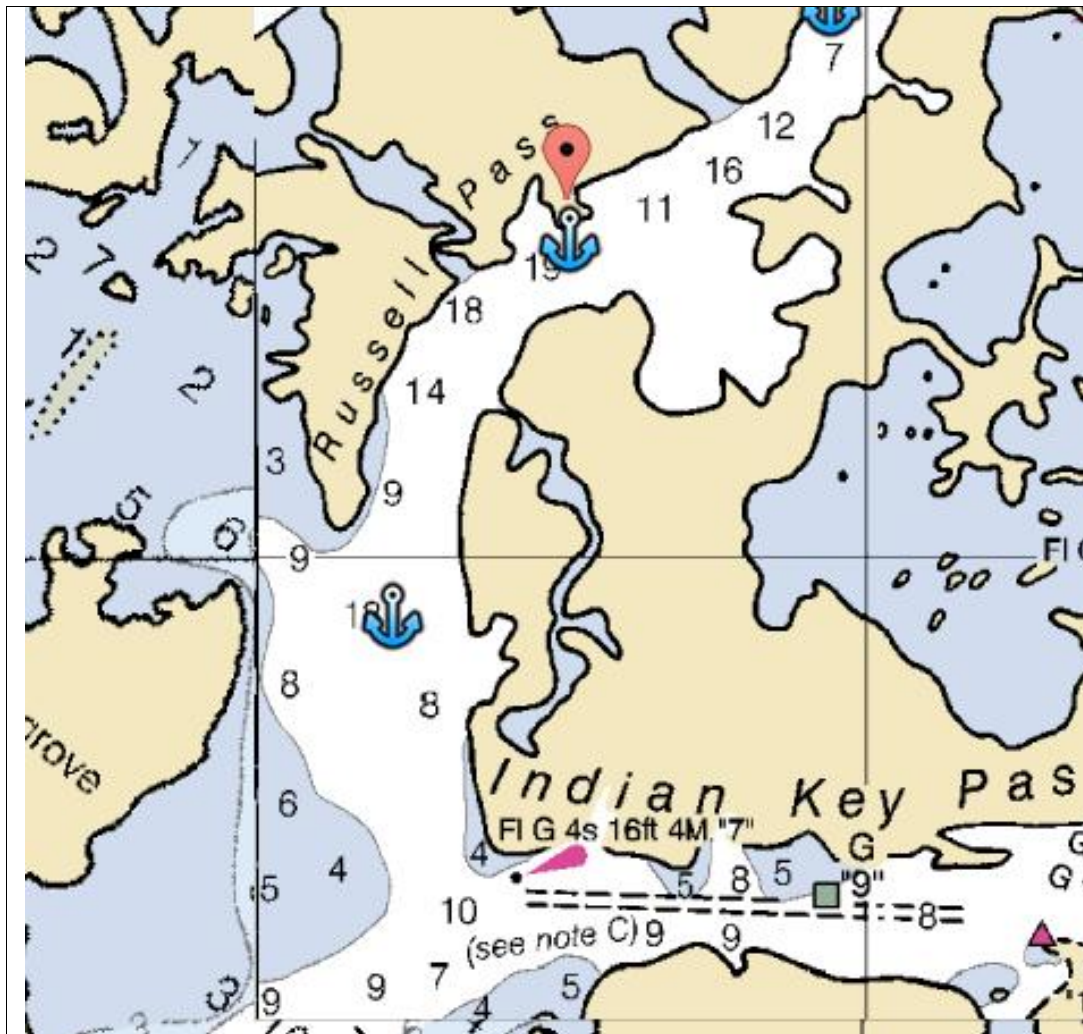


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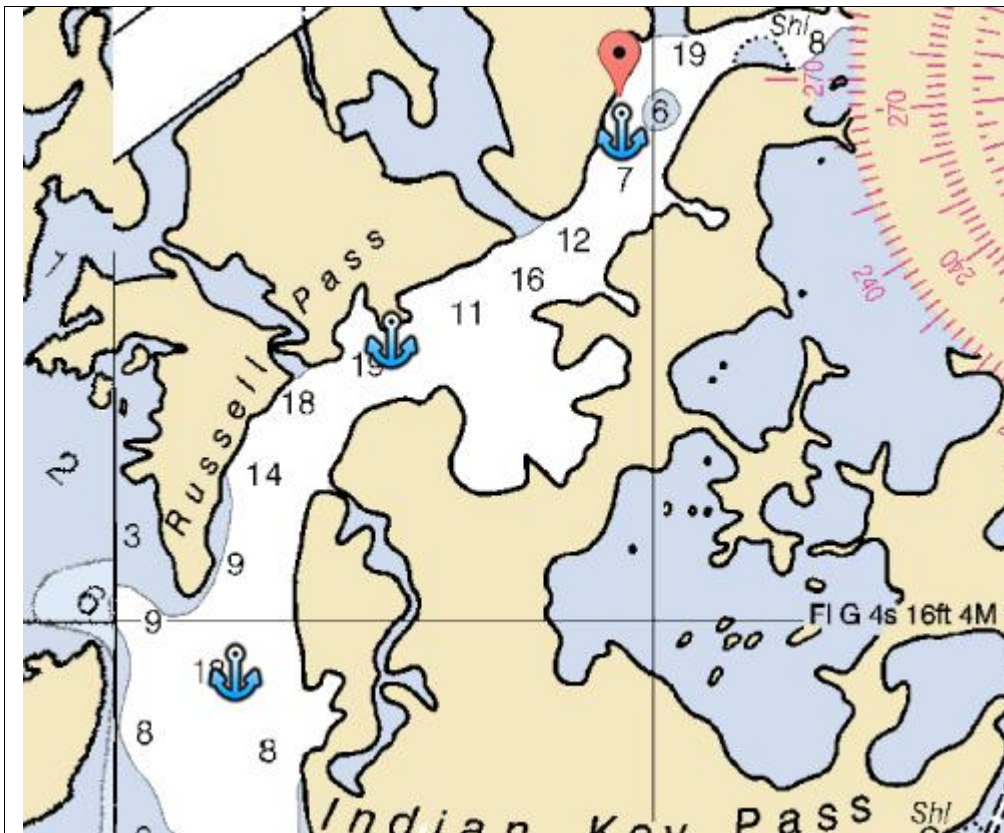
**Russell Pass
Southern
Anchorage**
**Lat/Lon: near 25
49.917
North/081
26.516 West**

Location: found on the waters of charted Russell Pass which opens into the northern flank of the Indian Key-Everglades City channel, southwest of flashing daybeacon #7
Minimum Depth: 7-feet
Swing Room: almost unlimited
Foul Weather Shelter: very good, but somewhat open to strong southern winds

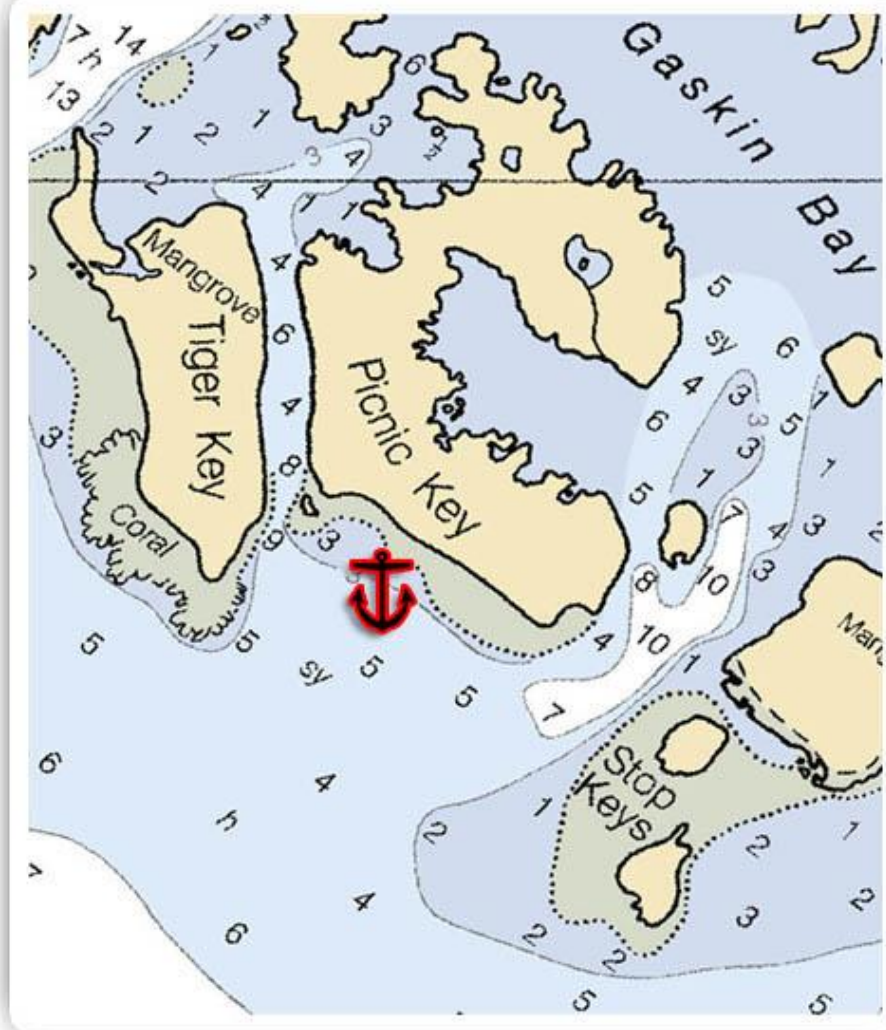
current in these passes can be pretty strong.



11. **Russell Pass Middle Anchorage** 
Lat/Lon: near 25 50.303 North/081 26.317 West
 Location: found on the waters of Russell Pass just short of the large, shallow cove cutting into the southeasterly banks
 Minimum Depth: 7-feet
 Swing
 Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 50 feet
 Foul Weather Shelter: excellent, great foul weather hidey hole



12. Russell Pass 
Northern Anchorage
Lat/Lon: near 25 50.542 North/081 26.019 West
 Location: lies 200 yards southwest of the charted split in the stream
 Minimum Depth: 6-feet
 Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 45 feet
 Foul Weather Shelter: excellent, about as good as it gets



13. Picnic Key

Anchorage



Lat/Lon: near 25 49.278

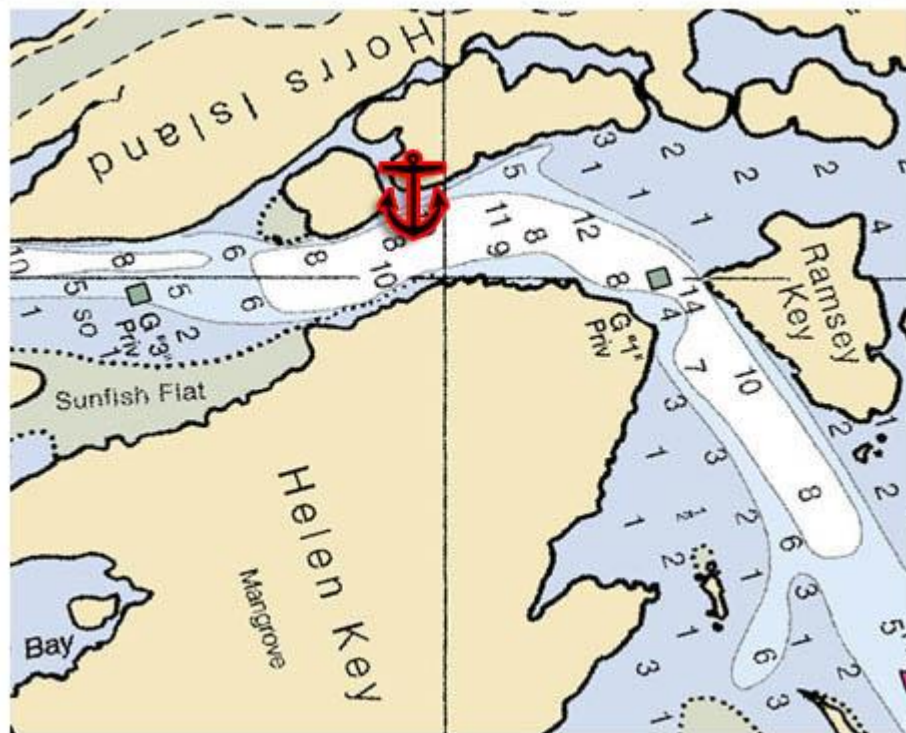
North/081 29.116 West

Location: found southwest of Picnic Key

Minimum Depth: 4 – 5-feet

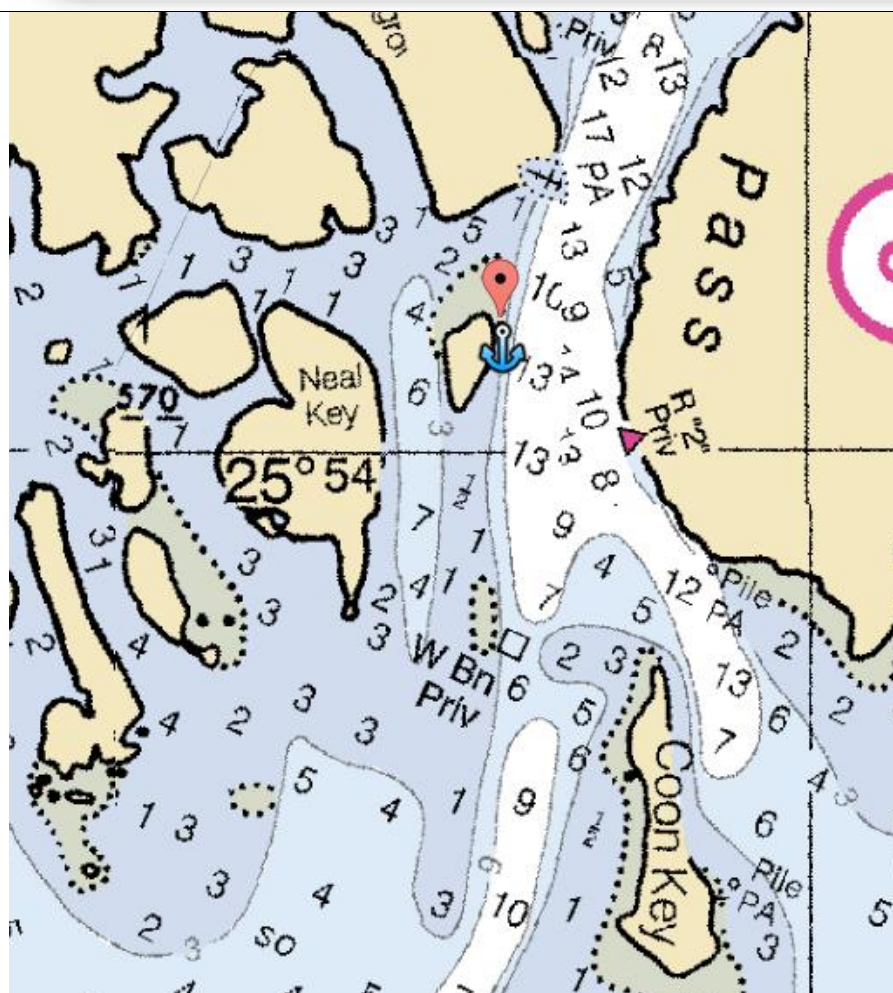
Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 50 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: fair, open to southern and southwestern winds



14. Caxambas Pass Anchorage
 Lat/Lon: near 25 54.129 North/081 39.953 West

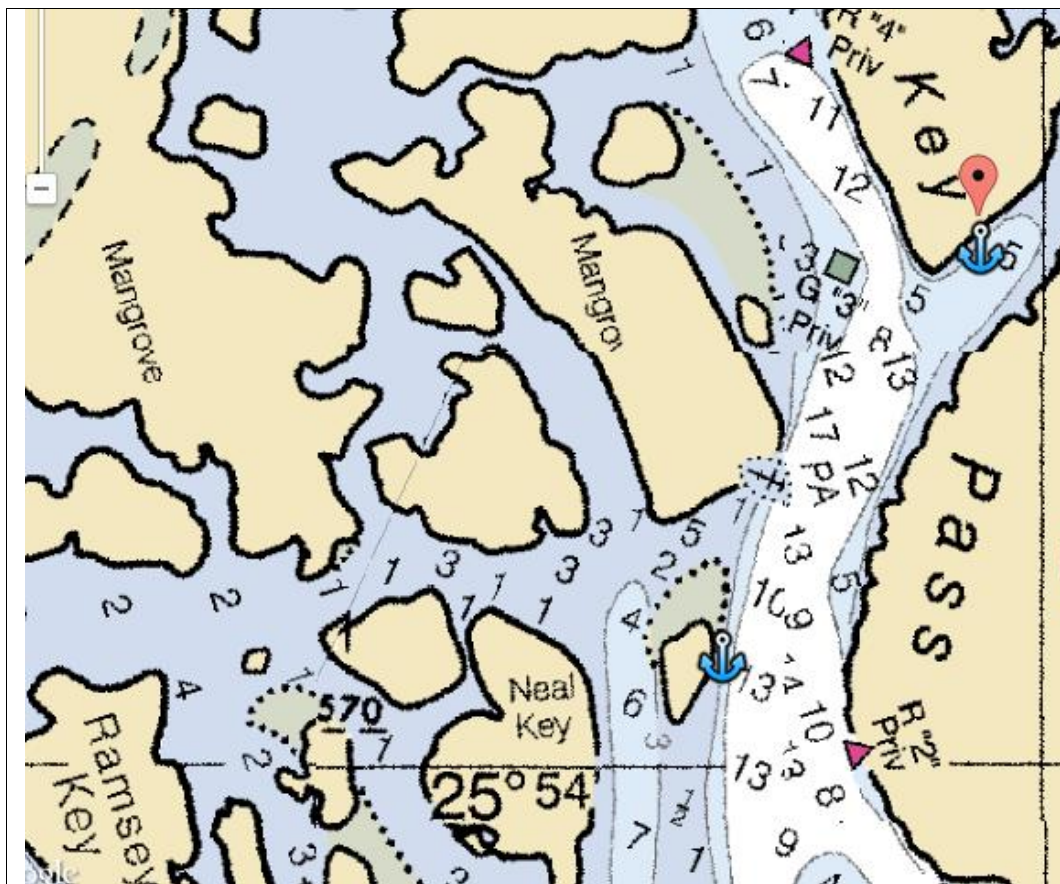
Location: will be discovered on the waters west of unlighted daybeacon #1 (west of Ramsey Key)
Minimum Depth: 5-foot approach depths, 6-foot depths in anchorage
Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 45 feet
Foul Weather Shelter: good, but a bit open to strong eastern winds



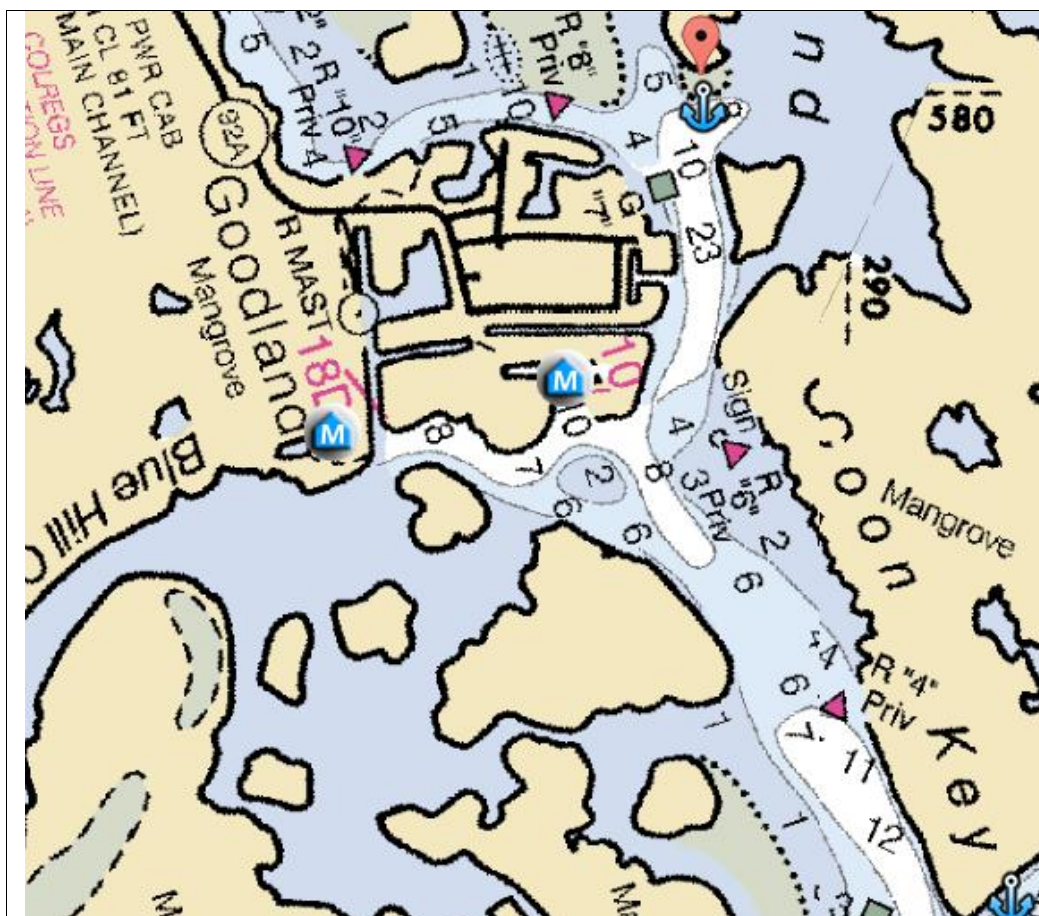
15. Coon Key Pass Anchorage
 Lat/Lon: near 25 54.115 North/081 38.433

Location: lies off the easterly banks of the small, unnamed island east of Neal Key and west-northwest of unlighted daybeacon #2
Minimum Depth: 10-feet
Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 55 feet
Foul Weather Shelter: fair, open to southern and southwestern winds

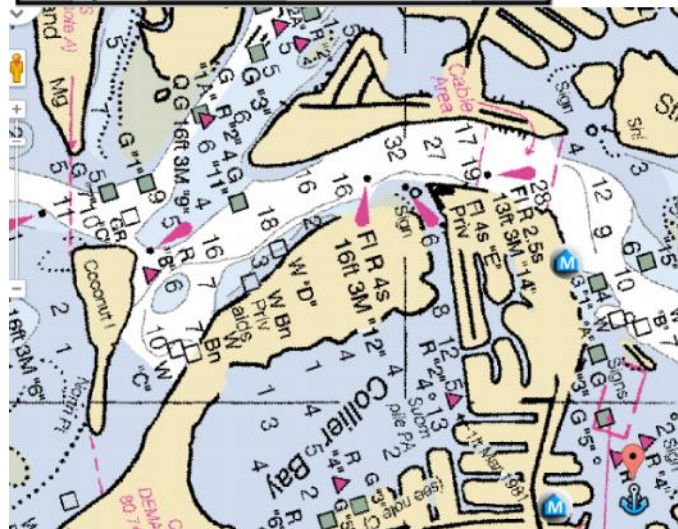
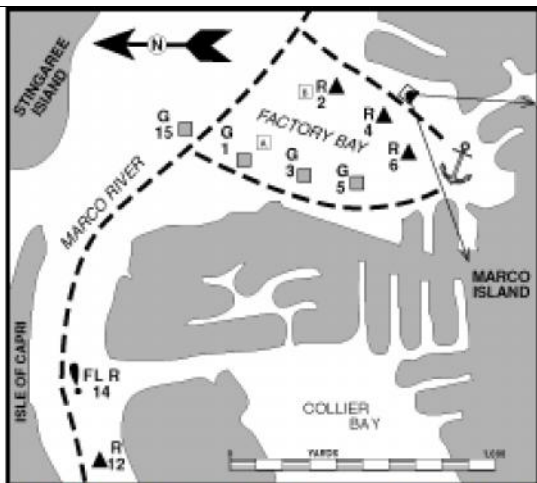




16. Tripod 
Key Sugar Bay Anchorage
Lat/Lon: near 25
54.633 North/081
38.072 West
 Location: found on the charted 5-foot offshoot leading to Sugar Bay, east of unlighted daybeacon #3
 Minimum Depth: 5-feet
 Swing
 Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 45 feet
 Foul Weather Shelter: excellent



17. Goodland Bay 
Anchorage
Lat/Lon: near 25
55.655 North/081
38.513 West
 Location: will be discovered on the charted patch of deeper waters northeast of unlighted daybeacon #7
 Minimum Depth: 5-6 feet
 Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 45 feet
 Foul Weather Shelter: very good



18. Factory Bay Anchorage **Lat/Lon: near 25 57.773 North/081** **43.447 West**



Location: lies southwest of unlighted daybeacon #6

Minimum Depth: 5 ½ feet

Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 48 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: good, but a bit open to strong northern winds

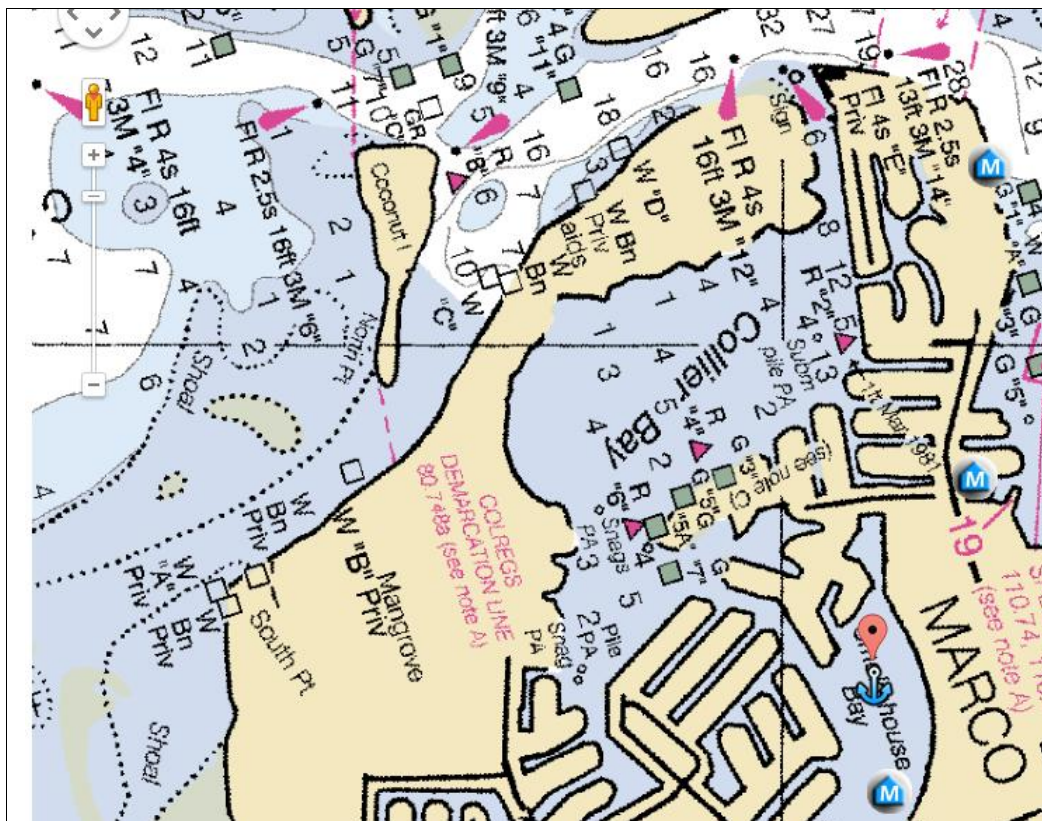
Factory Bay opens south from marker 15 in the Marco River. It is home to most of Marco Island's marina facilities and several restaurants.

It is served by two channels. The west channel is marked by daybeacons 1, 3 and 5. When entering this channel, keep the markers to port, and watch for strong ebb currents along the west shore. The east channel is equally well marked by daybeacons 2, 4 and 6. When entering this channel, keep the markers to starboard.

The anchorage lies at the southern end of Factory Bay. Charts also spell out a special anchorage here, but it is silted in to less than 2 feet and is not to be attempted. The middle of the bay is also badly shoaled and should be avoided.

Two marinas on Factory Bay offer overnight or temporary dockage with all power and water connections, mechanical facilities, gasoline and diesel fuel, ship's stores, showers and restaurants. All commercial establishments are located along the western channel.





18A



**Smokehouse Bay -
Marco Island
Anchorage**

Lat/Lon: 25 57.416

North/081 43.818 West

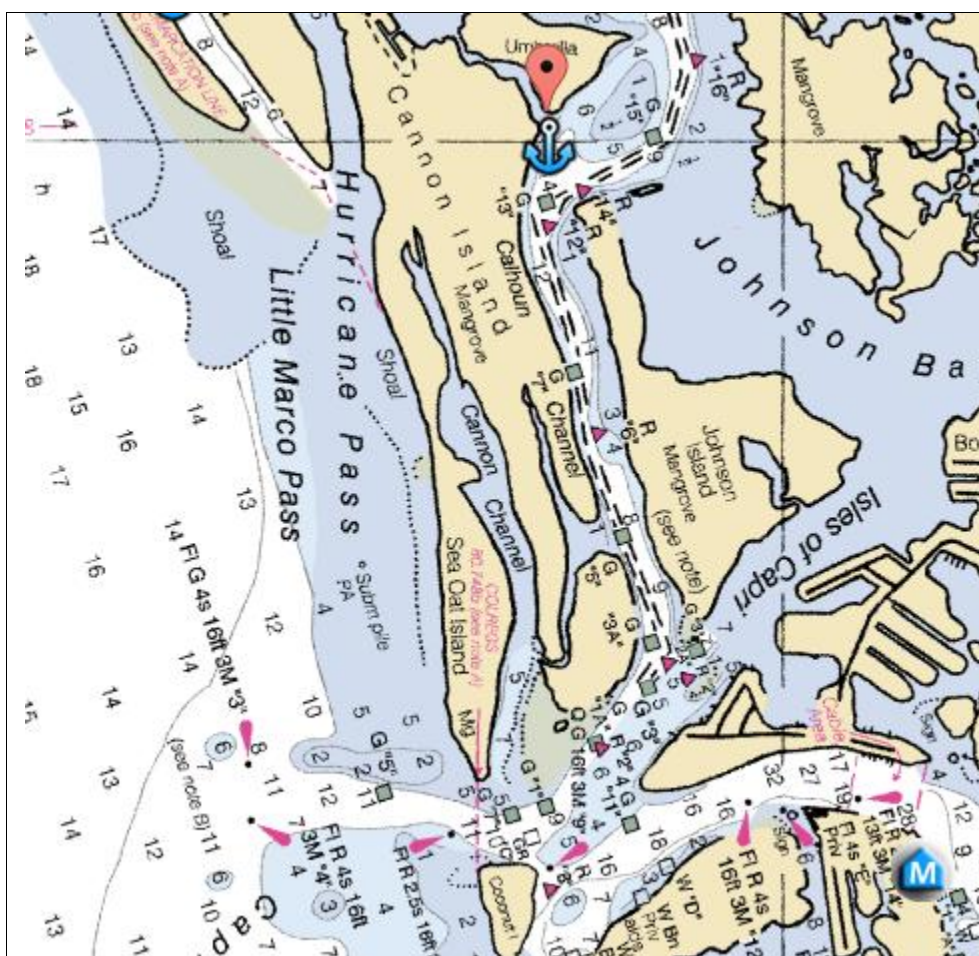
Location: entrance
channel cuts south from
the Marco Island -
Capri Pass channel
between markers #12
and #14

Minimum Depth: 4 1/2
feet

Swing Room: sufficient
room for vessels as
large as 48 feet

Foul Weather

Shelter: Very Good



**19. Johnson Bay
Anchorage**



Lat/Lon: near 25 59.952

North/081 44.569 West

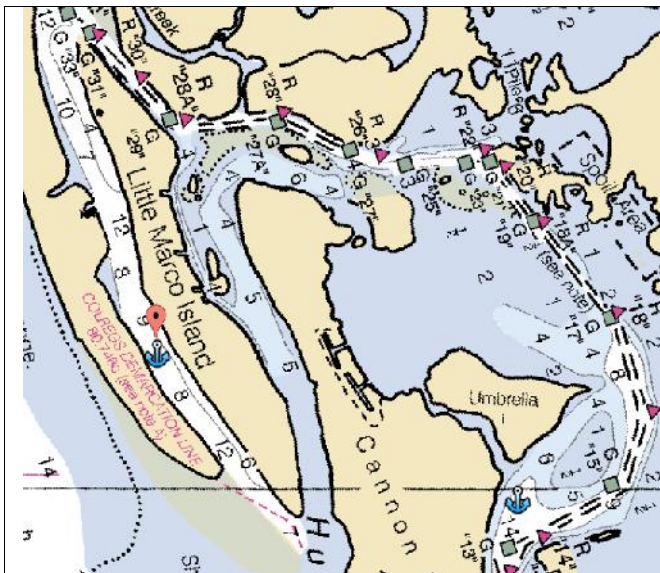
Location: found on the
charted deep water west-
northwest of the Marco to
Naples waterway's unlighted
daybeacon #14

Minimum Depth: 8-feet

Swing Room: sufficient
swinging room for vessels as
large as 40 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: good,
but strong eastern or
northeastern winds might be
a problem

*favor the south side of the channel as
shoaling to the north was pretty evident*



20. Little Marco Island Anchorage

Lat/Lon: near 26 00.305 North/081 45.539

West

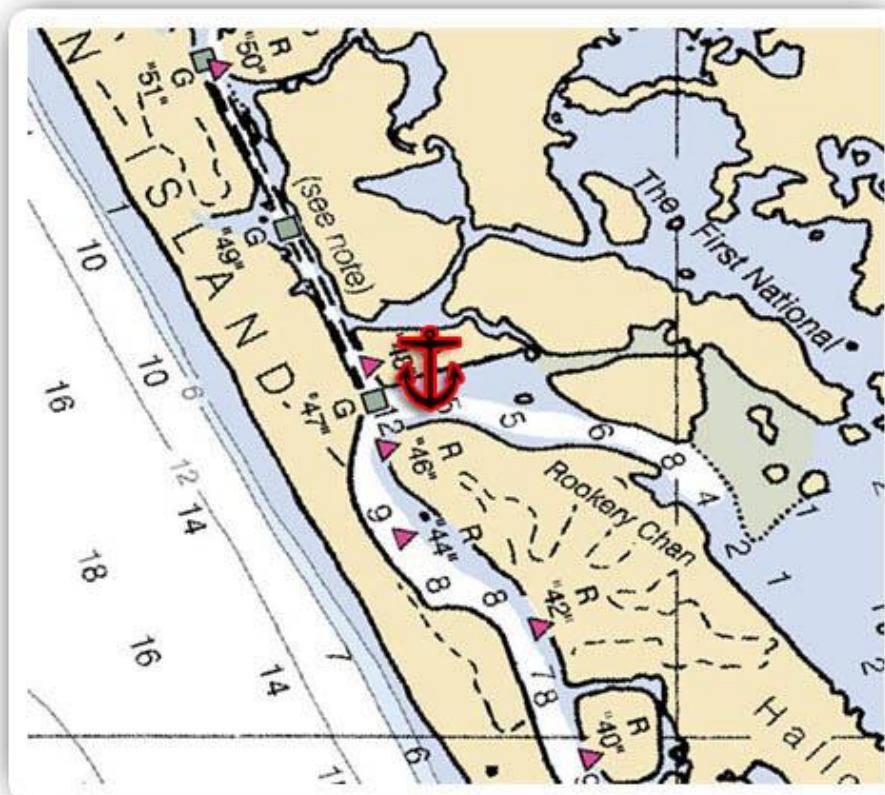
Location: found on the channel running back south beside Little Marco Island, south of unlighted daybeacon #33

Minimum Depth: 6 ½ feet

Swing Room: sufficient room for vessels as large as 40 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: excellent

This is a very quiet anchorage in the evening. Some shoaling of the long channel coming in



21. Rookery Bay Anchorage

Lat/Lon: near 26 02.546

North/081 46.456 West

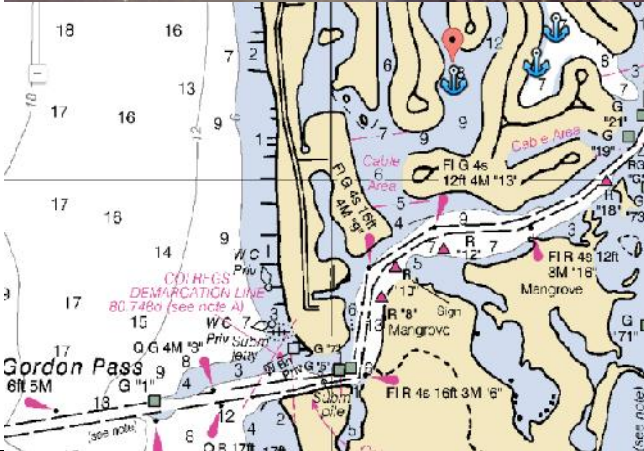
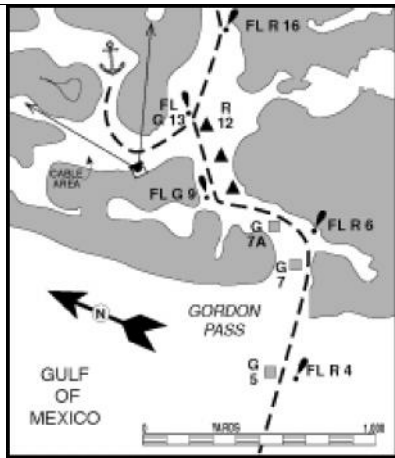
Location: lies on the charted 5-foot offshoot leading from the Marco to Naples waterway, to shallow Rookery Bay, opposite unlighted daybeacon #47

Minimum Depth: 5-feet

Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 38 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: very good





22. Gordon Pass Anchorage

Lat/Lon: near 26 06.200 North/081 47.675 West

Location: found northwest of Gordon Pass inlet's flashing daybeacon #13 5-foot minimum approach depths – 9-foot minimum depths in anchorage

Swing Room: virtually unlimited

Foul Weather Shelter: very good

West of marker 13 on Gordon Pass inlet begins a channel that leads to a series of canals lined by sumptuous homes. Minimum depths are 6 feet.

The channel can be reached from the Inland Waterway by heading west at marker 73 or from the Gulf through Gordon Pass.

As you round the point of land that lies east of the channel entrance, a bay-like area to the north offers 2 tempting anchorage, but it is a cable area, so pass it by.

Instead, continue to follow the shore to starboard, heading cast into the first offshoot north of the entrance. Here depths are 9 feet, until the stream turns north and opens out into a wide bay with 7-9 foot depths.

A small ocean freighter could anchor easily here, and protection from all winds is superb.

(use Chart 11430 for navigation)

7.1 statute miles from Little Marco Island, 3.2 statute miles to Naples City Anchorage





22A Doctors Pass

Lat 26°10.7'N / Lon 81°48.6'W

Minimum Approach Depth: 5 ft.

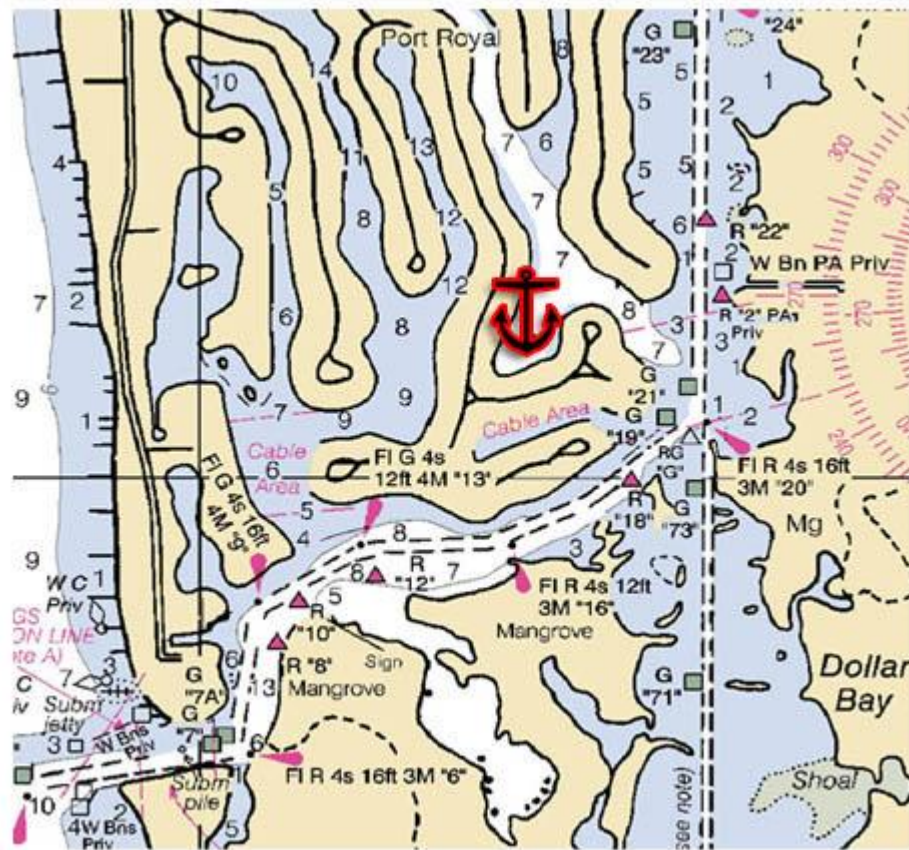
Depth In Anchorage: 6-9 ft.

Use Chart 11430 for Navigation

NOTE: the bay names used on NOAA chart 11430 Five nautical miles north of the Gordon Pass sea buoy is the Mo(A) "DP" sea buoy for Doctors Pass, a dredged and hardened channel leading east and north into a fine shelter (short stay) anchorage in Moorings Bay. As you turn north at the interior end of the pass, follow the western shore, holding to starboard the string of red marks defining the large shoal visible in the photograph.

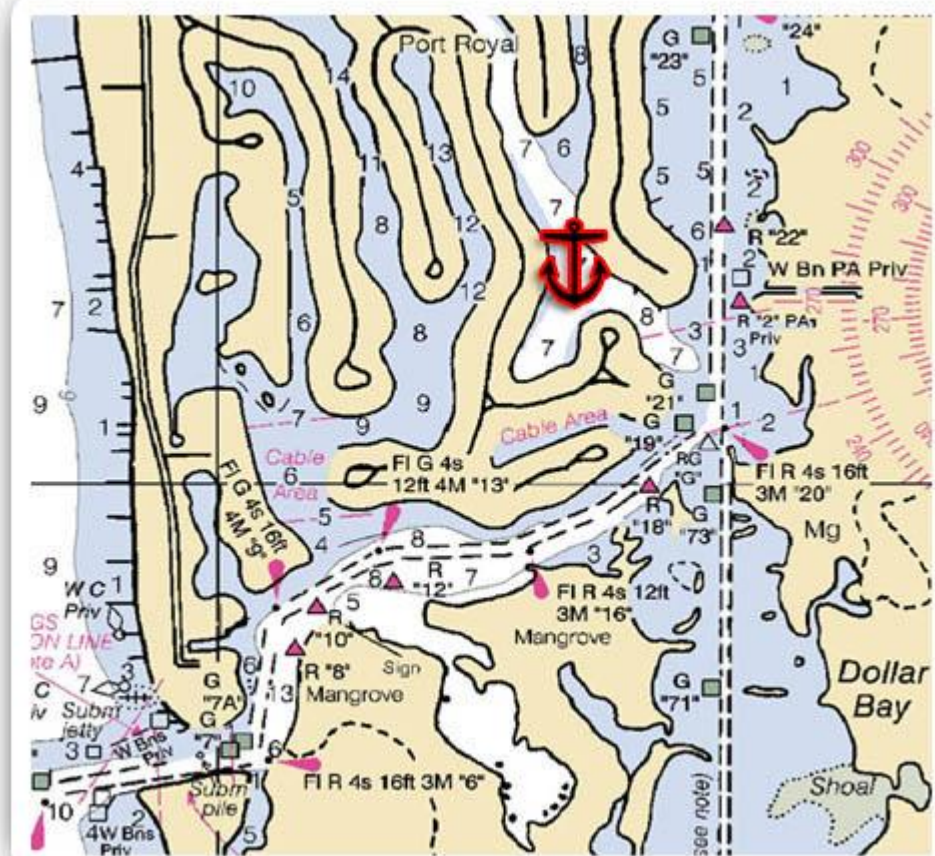
The anchorage lies to starboard beyond red 14; a large pool surrounded by private homes. Shelter should be excellent in all winds, with only slight exposure to southerlies.

There is no immediate shoreside access here. A short dinghy ride north under the bridge (13-foot vertical clearance) into Venetian Bay will bring you to a marina catering to gas powered boats with some supplies, three elegant restaurants, and several boutiques. A one-mile dinghy trip to the south, beyond the pass and under a bridge (9-foot vertical clearance) brings you to Hurricane Harbor Bay. Near the southern end of the bay, on the western shore, you will find Gulf Shore Square with a nice restaurant (breakfast and lunch only) and docks.



23. Port Royal Southern Offshoot Anchorage
Lat/Lon: near 26 06.239 North/081 47.468 West
 Location: will be discovered on the waters of the charted southerly offshoot of the large body of water, indenting the eastern banks of the Marco – Naples waterway, north of unlighted daybeacon #21
 Minimum Depth: 5 ½ foot entrance depths – 7-foot depths in anchorage
 Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 48 feet
 Foul Weather Shelter: excellent





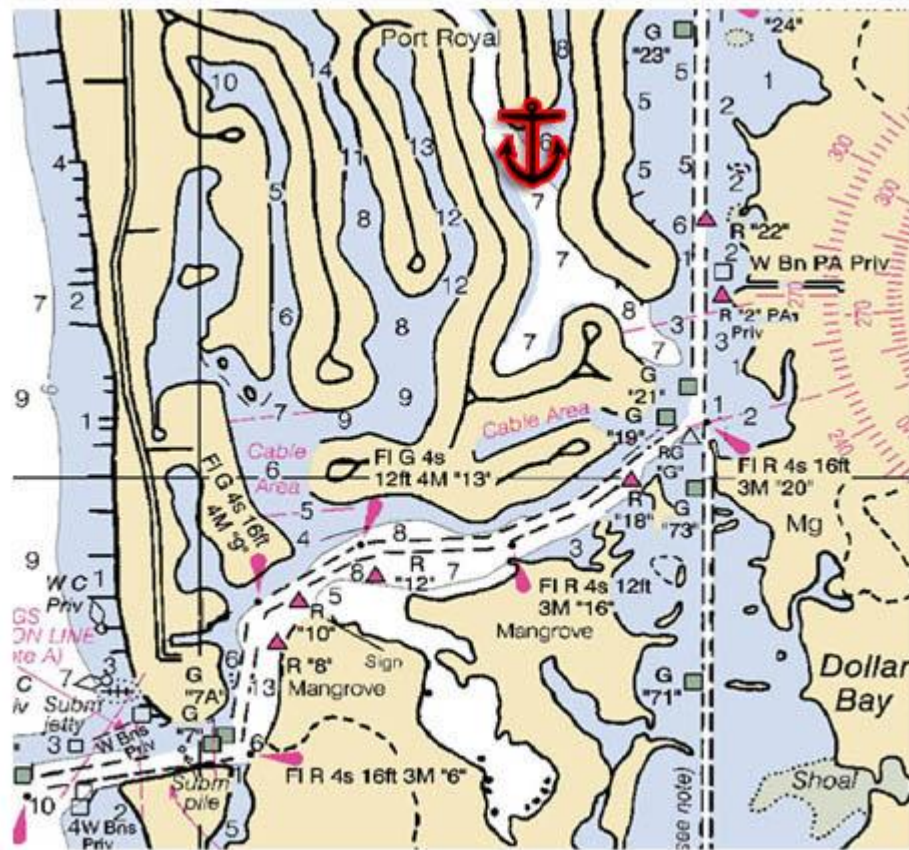
24. Port Royal	
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Entrance Anchorage

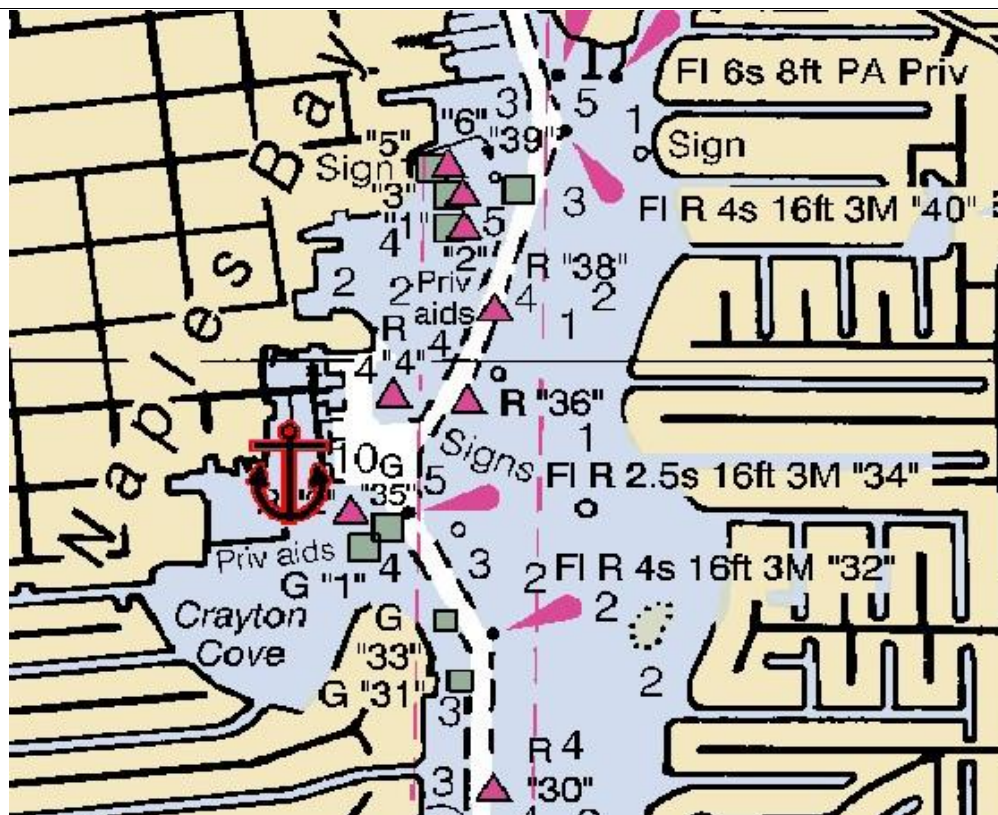
Lat/Lon: near 26 06.318

North/081 47.421 West

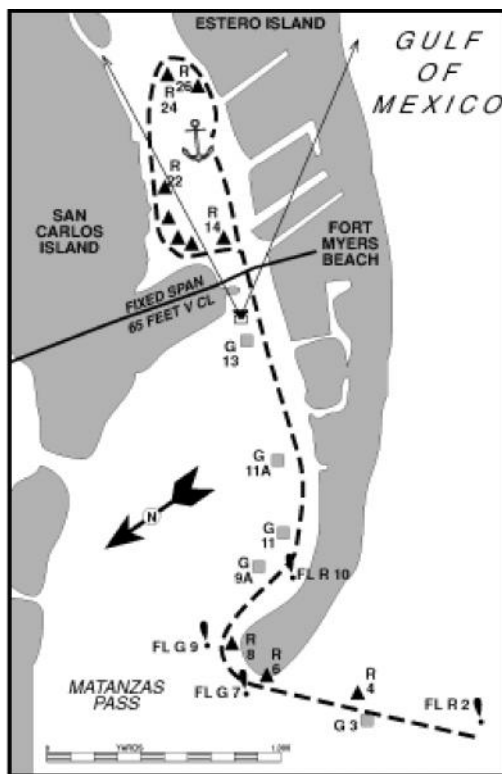
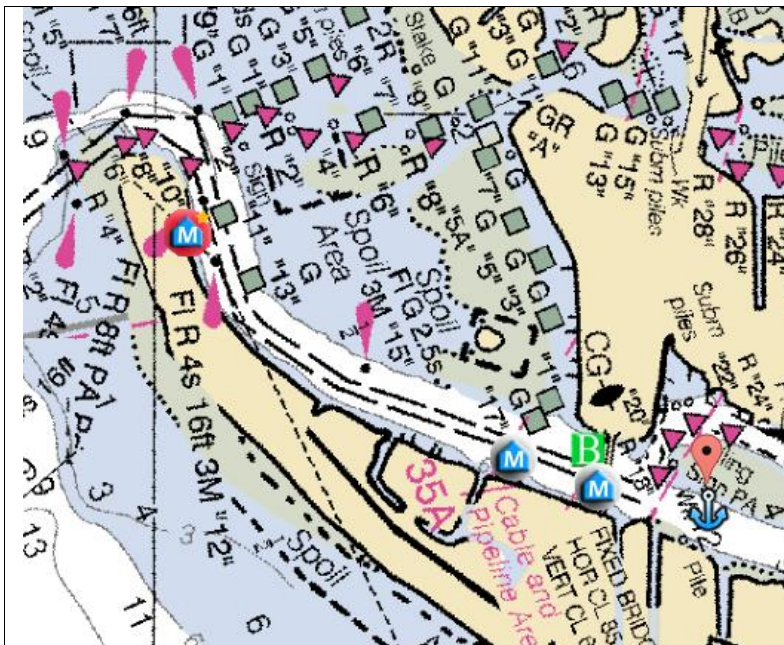
Location: found abeam of the toe of charted 7-foot water cutting to the southwest, on the large body of water, indenting the eastern banks of the Marco – Naples waterway, north of unlighted daybeacon #21
Minimum Depth: 5 ½ foot entrance depths – 7-foot depths in anchorage
Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 48 feet
Foul Weather Shelter: very good, but could be a bit open to strong southeasterly winds



24. Port Royal 
Northern Anchorage
Lat/Lon: near 26 06.514 North/081 47.473 West
 Location: will be discovered south of the charted split in the large body of water indenting the eastern banks of the Marco – Naples waterway, north of unlighted daybeacon #21
 Minimum Depth: 5 ½ foot
 entrance depths – 6-foot
 depths in anchorage
 Swing Room: sufficient
 swinging room for vessels
 as large as 48 feet
 Foul Weather
 Shelter: excellent



25a. Naples 
Mooring Field
Lat/Lon: 26 07.907 North/081 47.605 West
 Location: south of the Naples City Pier and west, northwest of marker #34
 Minimum Depth: 6 feet
 Special Note: mooring field managed by adjacent Naples City Dock – 12 mooring balls in field – we are told that half the field is usually available almost all the time for transients
 Swing Room: sufficient
 room for vessels as large as 38 feet
 Foul Weather
 Shelter: Good, only particularly strong eastern winds might be a problem



26. Fort Myers

Mooring Field



Beach

Lat/Lon: near 26 27.360 North/081 57.021 West

Location: lies east of the 65-foot Fort Myers Beach high-rise bridge

Minimum Depth: 3.5 feet

Comment: call the Matanzas Inn dock at 239-463-9258 to request a mooring; shoreside showers and laundromats available for those in the mooring field

Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 50'

Foul Weather Shelter: very good, slightly open to strong NW and SE winds this mooring field offers free mobile pump-out service. Call Matanzas Inn, 239-463-9258 or 239-463-7776, or VHF Channel 16.

This anchorage must be approached from the Gulf of Mexico through Matanzas Pass and under a 65 foot fixed bridge. It is not recommended to enter or leave this anchorage through the twists and shoals of San Carlos Pass.

Gulfward of the northwestern tip of Estero Island, at flashing red marker 2, begins the well marked channel leading around the island and east under the high rise bridge to Ft. Myers Beach.

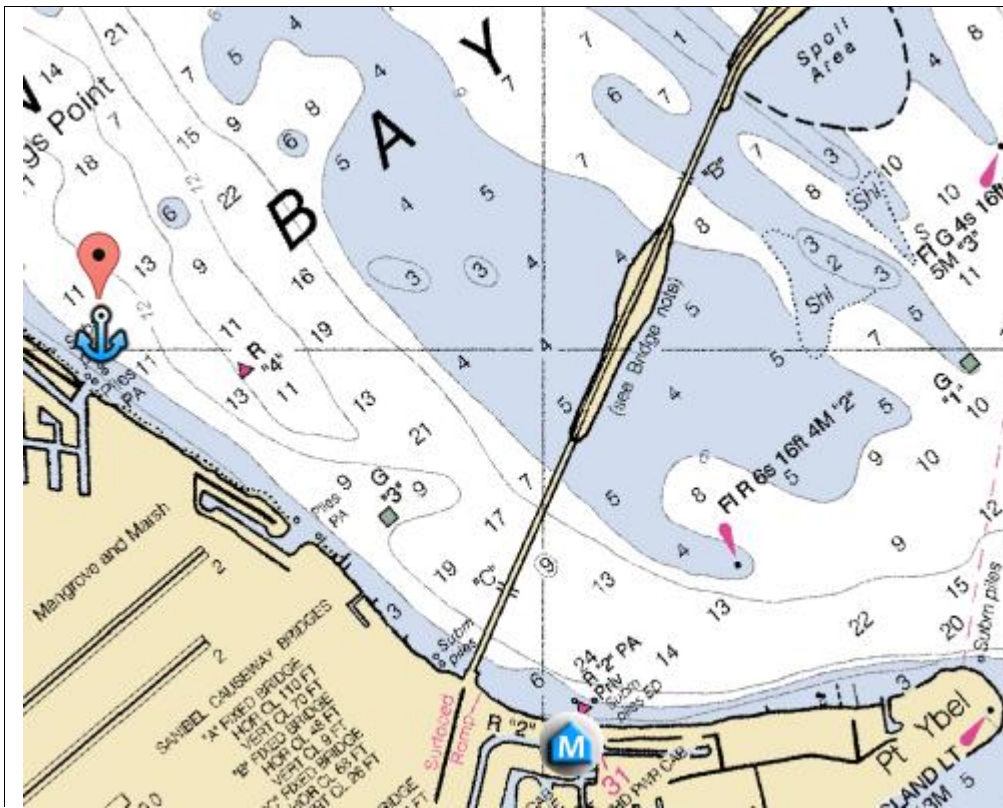
On the other side of the bridge, the channel turns north to skirt shoal water in the middle of the bay (clearly visible at low tide in the photo above.)

The anchorage lies to the south of the shoal, between markers 14 and 26. Keep red 14 to port to enter the anchorage directly, along Estero Island, or turn sharp left and follow the marked channel along San Carlos Island to red 24 and red 26 to enter the anchorage from the southeast.

A strong current that reverses direction with the tide runs through the anchorage, so use a Bahamian moor.

This is a well protected deep anchor-age, and all kinds of supplies and facilities are a short dinghy ride away.

21.2 Nautical miles from Doctor's Pass, 3.3 statute miles from Sanibel/Point Ybel, 6.9 statute miles to Punta Rassa.



27. Dixie Beach Anchorage



Lat/Lon: near 26 28.000

North/082 03.101 West

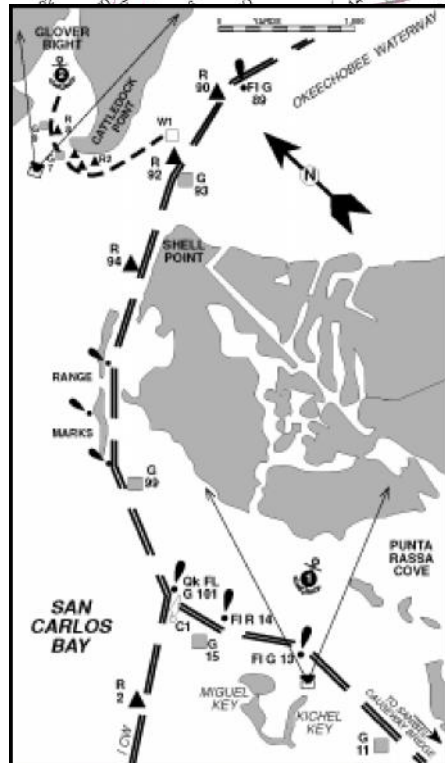
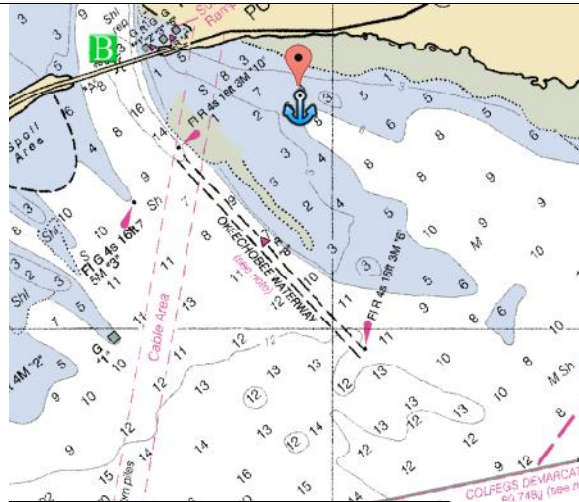
Location: found off charted Dixie Beach, flanking the southwesterly shoreline of the channel bordering the eastern and northeastern shores of Sanibel Island, between unlighted daybeacon #4 and flashing daybeacon #5

Minimum Depth: 8-feet

Swing Room: unlimited

Foul Weather

Shelter: poor, wide open to all but western and southwestern winds



28. Punta Rassa Anchorage



Lat/Lon: near 26 28.785 North/082 00.098 West

Location: will be discovered on the charted deep water of the approach channel leading to Punta Rassa, southeast of the high-rise section of the Sanibel Island Bridge and northeast of flashing daybeacon #6

Minimum Depth: 6-feet, but entry into this anchorage can be very tricky without the use of a GPS chartplotter

Swing Room: unlimited

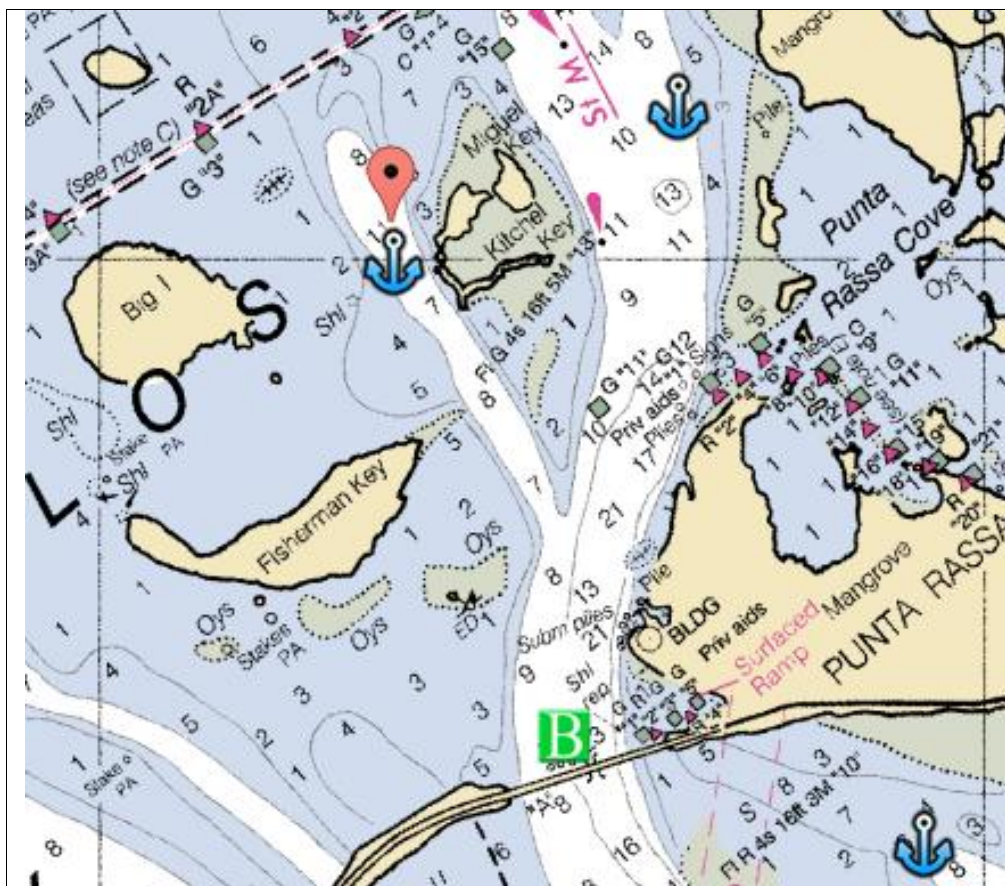
Foul Weather Shelter: poor, fair weather and light airs anchorage ONLY

Coming up the Caloosahatchee River from San Carlos Bay, turn hard to the northwest just past red 92 to enter the Glover Bight channel. Follow it around Cattle Dock Point to the right.

Anchor in the bay just past the marina (which has a ship's store, showers, a laundromat, pump-out and fuel). There's plenty of water, but watch out for the bars.

(use Chart 11427 for navigation)

6.9 statute miles from Matanzas Pass / Ft. Myers Beach, 3.8 statute miles to Glover Bight.



29. Kitchel-Miguel Key Anchorage



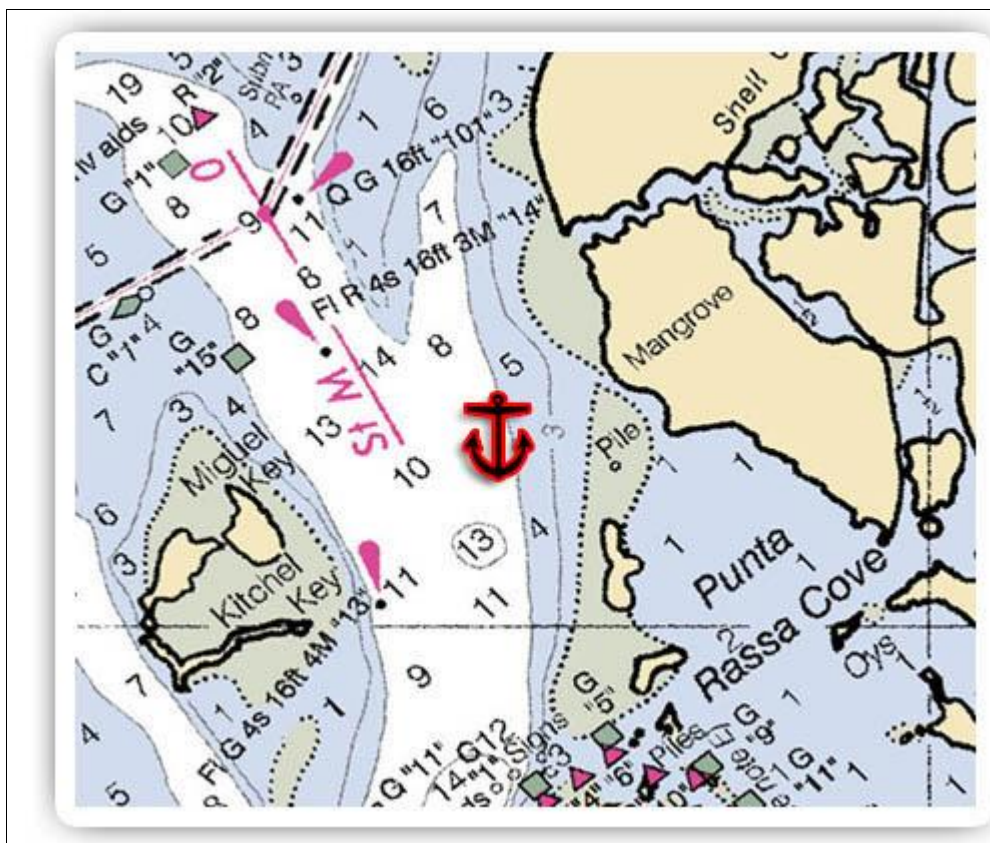
Lat/Lon: near 26 29.960 North/082 01.297 West

Location: lies north of the new, high-rise section of the Sanibel Island bridge, and near the southwesterly tip of Kitchel and Miguel keys

Minimum Depth: 7-feet, BUT entry without the use of a GPS chartplotter is not recommended

Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 36 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: fair to poor; open to northern, southern and northwestern winds



30. Punta Rassa Cove Anchorage

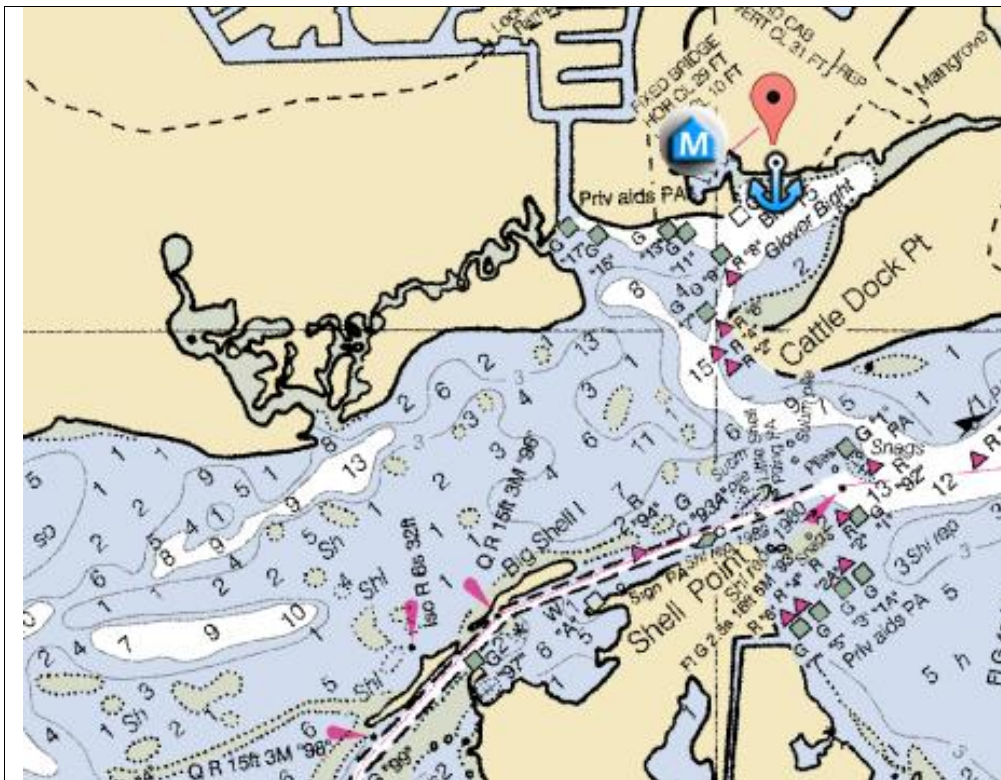


Lat/Lon: near 26 30.271 North/082 00.654 West

Location: will be found on the deep water east of the gap between flashing daybeacons #13 and #14, bordering on the western reaches of shallow Punta Rassa Cove (north of the new, high-rise section of the Sanibel Island Bridge)

Minimum Depth: 6-feet
Swing Room: unlimited

Foul Weather Shelter: poor, protected ONLY from eastern, northeastern and southeastern winds



31. Glover Bight Anchorage 

Lat/Lon: near 26 32.282 North/081 59.820 West

Location: lies on the northeasterly reaches of Glover Bight, northeast of unlighted daybeacon #9

Minimum Depth: 7-14 feet

Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 45 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: very good, but particularly strong southwestern winds might be a problem



38. Picnic Island Anchorage 

Statute Mile 2

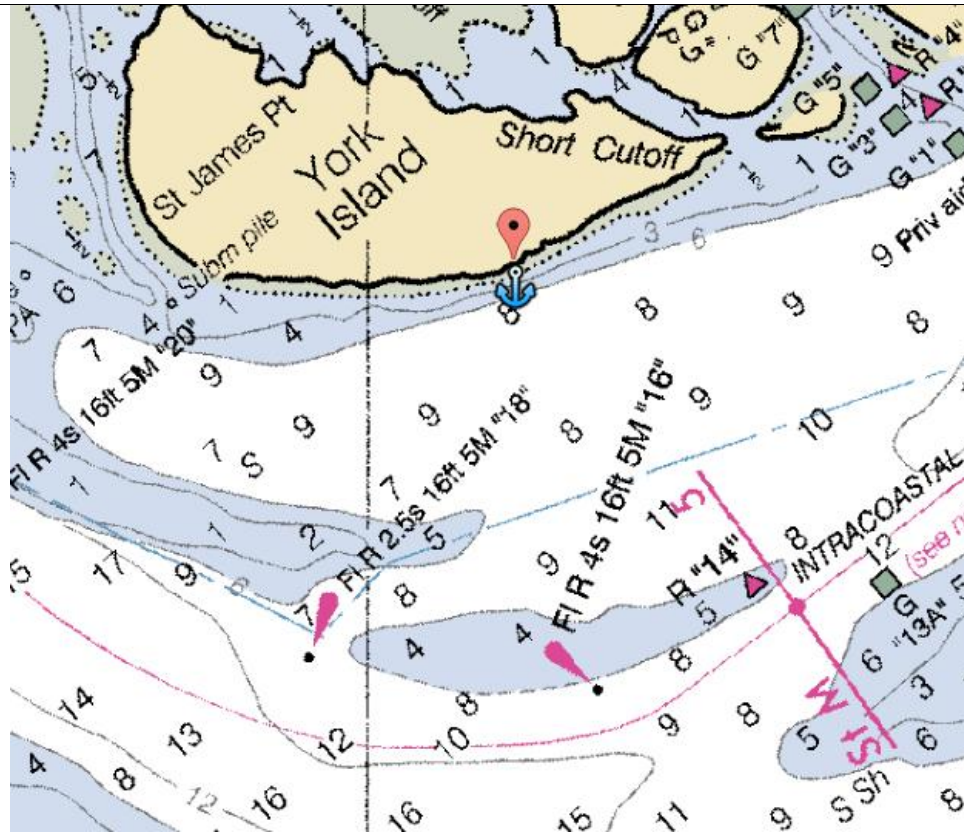
Lat/Lon: near 26 29.469 North/082 02.931 West

Location: found off the eastern and northeastern shores of Picnic Island, which itself lies just south, southeast of the ICW/Miserable Mile's unlighted daybeacon #8

Minimum Depth: 10 feet

Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 36 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: poor, fair weather and light airs anchorage only



39. York Island Anchorage

Statute Mile 5
Lat/Lon: near 26 29.038 North/082 05.731 West



Location: will be discovered off the southern shores of York Island, well northwest of the ICW's flashing daybeacon #13

Minimum Depth: 7-feet

Swing Room: unlimited

Foul Weather Shelter: fair, but wide open to southern, southeastern and southwestern winds

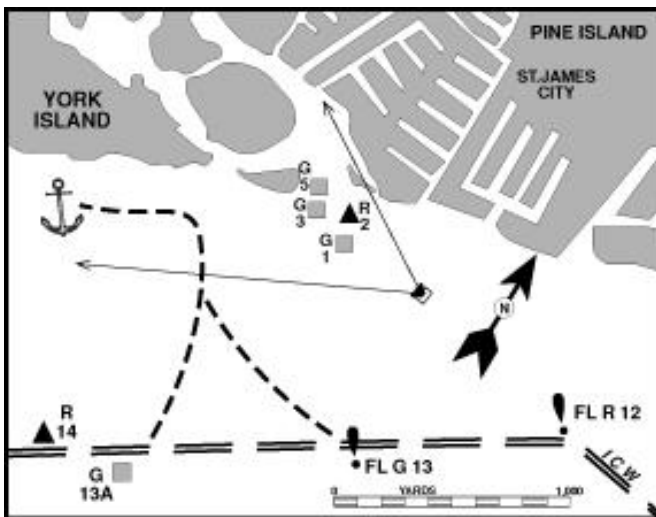
It is nice to know that after struggling through the "Miserable Mile", a pleasant day anchorage awaits at Sanibel, west of the bridge.

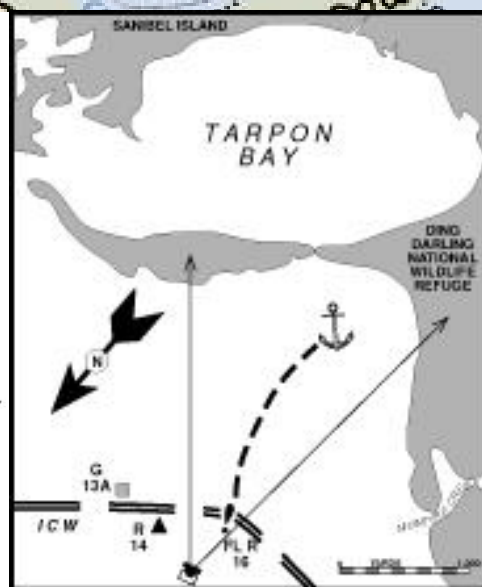
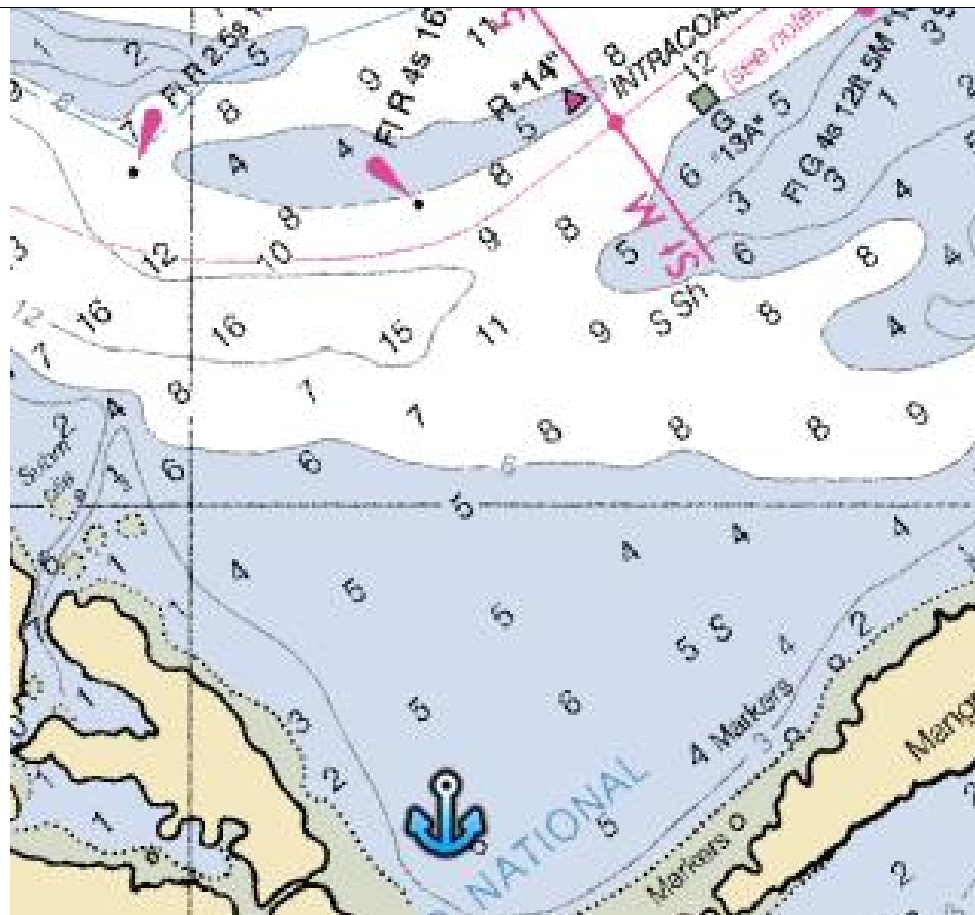
From the Intracoastal Waterway, just before marker 11, bear southeast toward marker 5 on the Sanibel Island channel. Be sure to pass this aid at least 50 yards to its northeasterly side because it marks a shoal building into the channel from the southwest.

Along the eastern edge of this shoal, from marker 5 south to Dixie Beach, is an anchorage offering 8-11 Feet or water. It is exposed to almost all winds and is recommended only for calm weather.

Stay close in to shore and away from boat traffic using the natural deep water channel running south to Pt. Ybel. Also, there is a strong current that sets both on the ebb and flood; a Bahamian moor is recommended.

(use Chart 11427 for navigation) Off mile 5.0 on the ICW: 3.5 statute miles from Sanibel -West of Bridge, 4.0 statute miles to Chino Island.





40. Ding Darling Anchorage



Statute Mile 5.5

Lat/Lon: near 26 27.495

North/082 05.532 West

Location: found on the waters of the mostly deep cove south of flashing daybeacon #16

Minimum Depth: 5 feet

Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 55 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: fair, open to northern, northeastern and northwestern winds

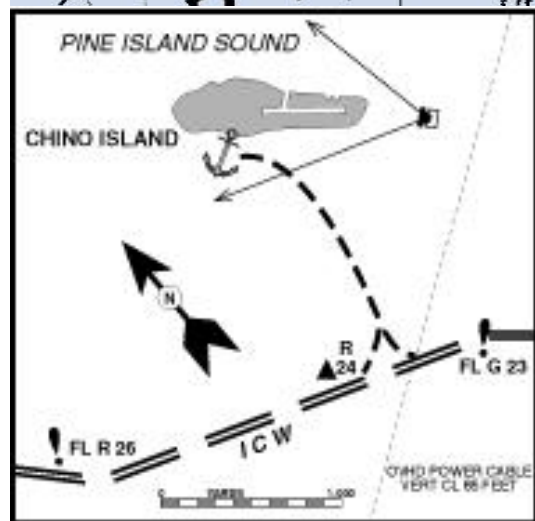
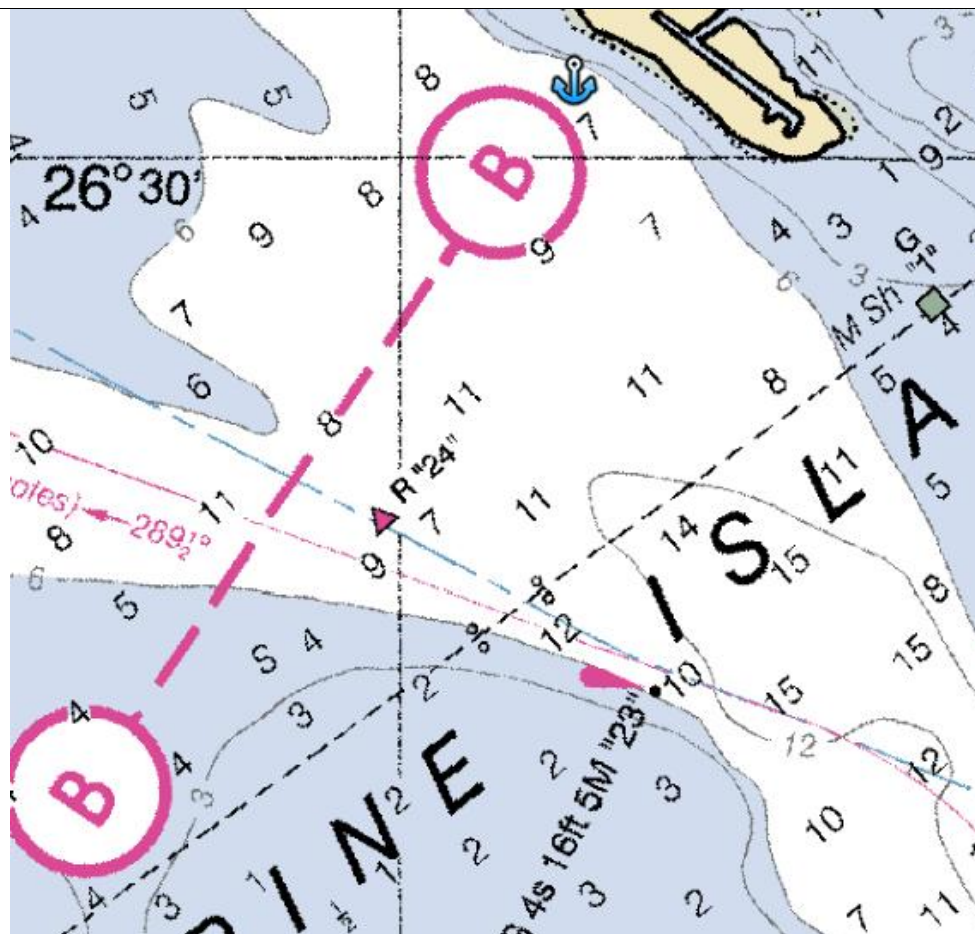
The wide and mostly deep cove south of flashing daybeacon 16 abuts the 5,000 acre Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Good depths of 5-1/2 to 6 feet run to within 200 yards of the banks. Look for small signs set atop equally small pilings, which denote the north boundary of the wildlife refuge. Best depths are to the north of these signs. Protection is excellent from all but northerly winds.

The shoreline around Tarpon Bay is in its natural state, and is worth extensive exploration by dinghy. Bicycle rentals are available in Tarpon Bay for exploring the five miles of roadway in the park. All plants and other natural resources are protected here. Do your part and do no damage.

These waters are under Sanibel's 48-hour anchoring limit, although a properly equipped vessel can get a permit from city hall for a longer stay.

(use Chart 11427 for navigation)

Off mile 5.0 on the ICW: 4.3 statute miles from Sanibel West of Bridge, 4.7 statute miles to Chino Island.



41. Chino Island Anchorage **Statute Mile 8** **Lat/Lon: near 26 30.086 North/ 082 07.718 West**



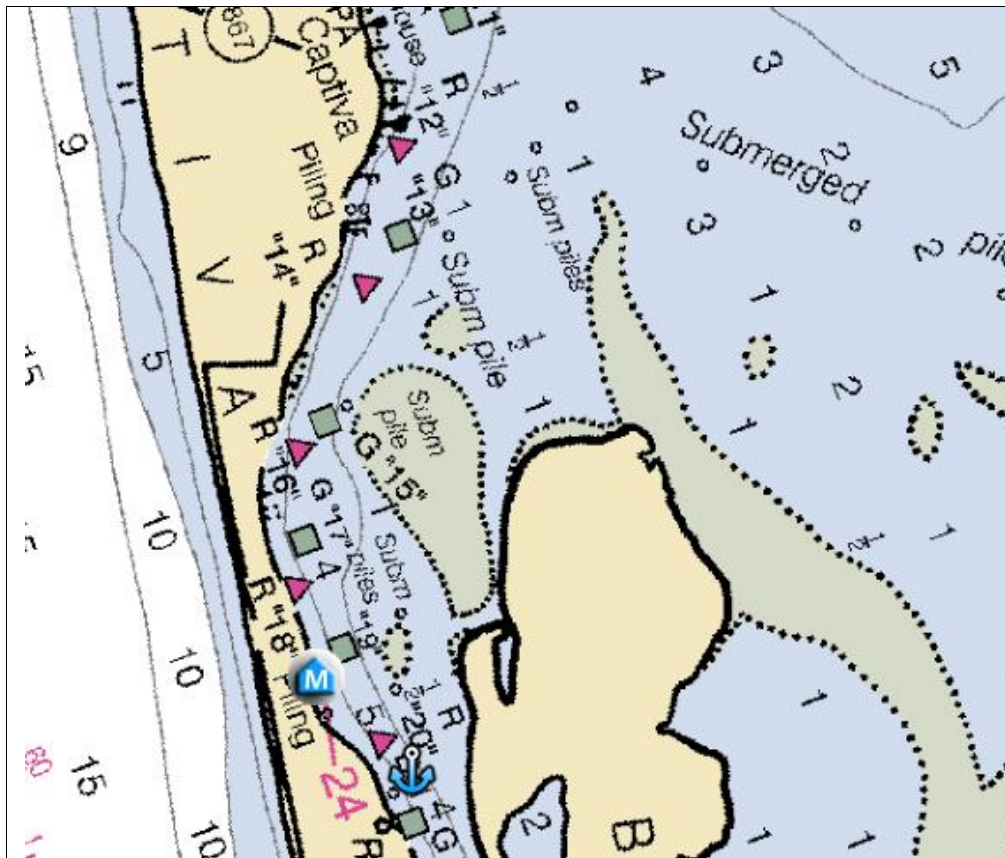
Location: lies off the southwestern shores of Chino Island, north, northeast of unlighted daybeacon #24
 Minimum Depth: 7 to 9 feet
 Swing Room: unlimited
 Foul Weather Shelter: fair, but open to southern, western, southwestern and northwestern winds
 North of marker 24, boaters can carry 7 feet of water to within 50 yards of the southwest shore of Chino Island.

The anchorage is well protected from north and northeasterly winds, but wide open to breezes from all other directions and to wakes from passing boats on the ICW.

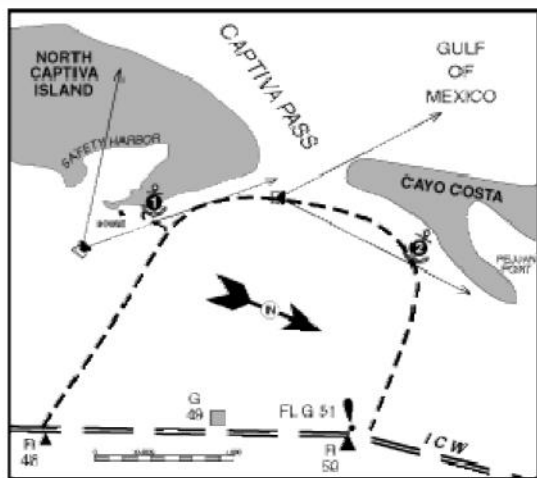
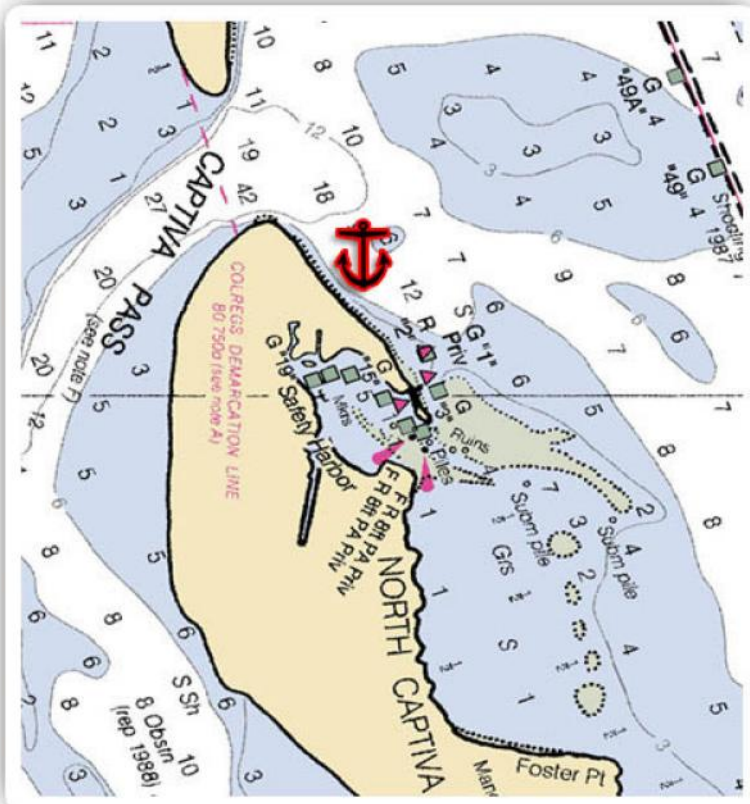
The shore is shrouded with lush vegetation, but the island is private, so it is not possible to go ashore.

(use Chart 11427 for navigation)

Off mile 8.3 on the ICW: 4.0 statute miles from York Island I St. James City, 7.5 statute miles to Roosevelt Channel/Tween Waters.



42. Roosevelt Channel Anchorage
Statute Mile 13
Lat/Lon: near 26 30.509 North/082 11.204 West
 Location: found near unlighted daybeacon #20
 Minimum Depth: 5-14 feet
 Special Comment: dinghy landing not allowed at nearby Tween Waters Marina
 Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for boats as large as 38 feet
 Foul Weather Shelter: good



43. Safety Harbor Anchorage Statute Mile 17

Lat/Lon: near 26 36.340 North/082 13.064 West

Location: lies off the southern flank of Captiva Pass, north of the charted channel leading to Safety Harbor

Minimum Depth: 6-12 feet

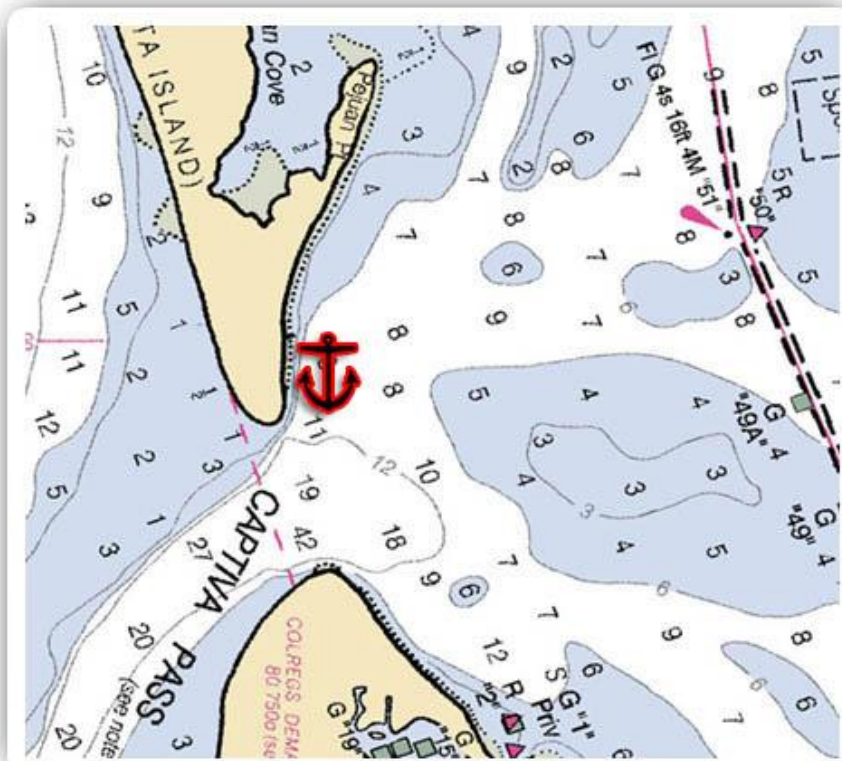
Swing Room: unlimited

Foul Weather Shelter: fair, open to eastern, northern and northeastern winds
This inlet between North Captiva Island and Cayo Costa is lovely and frustrating. The seaward passage is unmarked and full of shoals. Even the channel from the Intracoastal Waterway is flanked by unmarked shoals. But the interior reaches of Captiva Pass are deep and offer two delightful anchorages.

The first anchorage lies south from the deep water adjoining the easterly reaches of Captiva Pass, just around the point from an almost landlocked lagoon called Safety Harbor. This once secret refuge used to house a fishing village. It has now been destroyed, with the exception of one stilt house restored as a private home. Safety Harbor is being developed as a modern housing and condominium complex called the Safety Harbor Club.

The second anchorage, off the beautiful beach at the south end of Cayo Costa, a state park almost entirely in its natural condition, is popular with weekend boaters.

There are two ways in to these anchorages. From the south, set course from just south of marker 48 at a heading of about 280 and watch for a break in the trees. Stay lined up on the break until the entrance markers to Safety Harbor are abeam. Turn left toward the well-marked channel, then stop and anchor near shore just northwest of the stilt house. It used to be possible to go between the stilt house and the beach into Safety Harbor itself, but the passage has shoaled, making it impassable for all but shallow draft boats. Two restaurants, walking paths, beautiful beaches and a general store make dinghying around the point worthwhile.



44. Captiva Pass Anchorage Statute Mile 18.5

Lat/Lon: near 26 36.785

North/082 13.266 West

Location: found off the eastern side of Cayo Costa's southern tip
Minimum Depth: 8-feet

Swing Room: unlimited

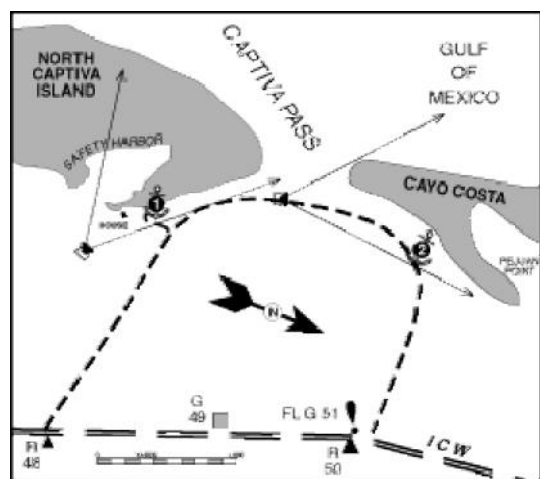
Foul Weather Shelter: fair, open to eastern, northeastern and southeastern winds

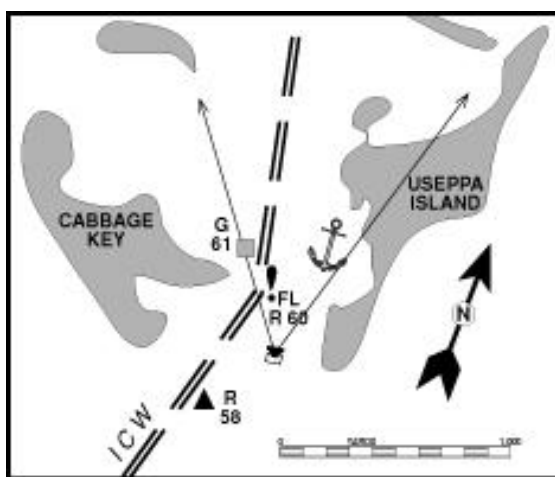
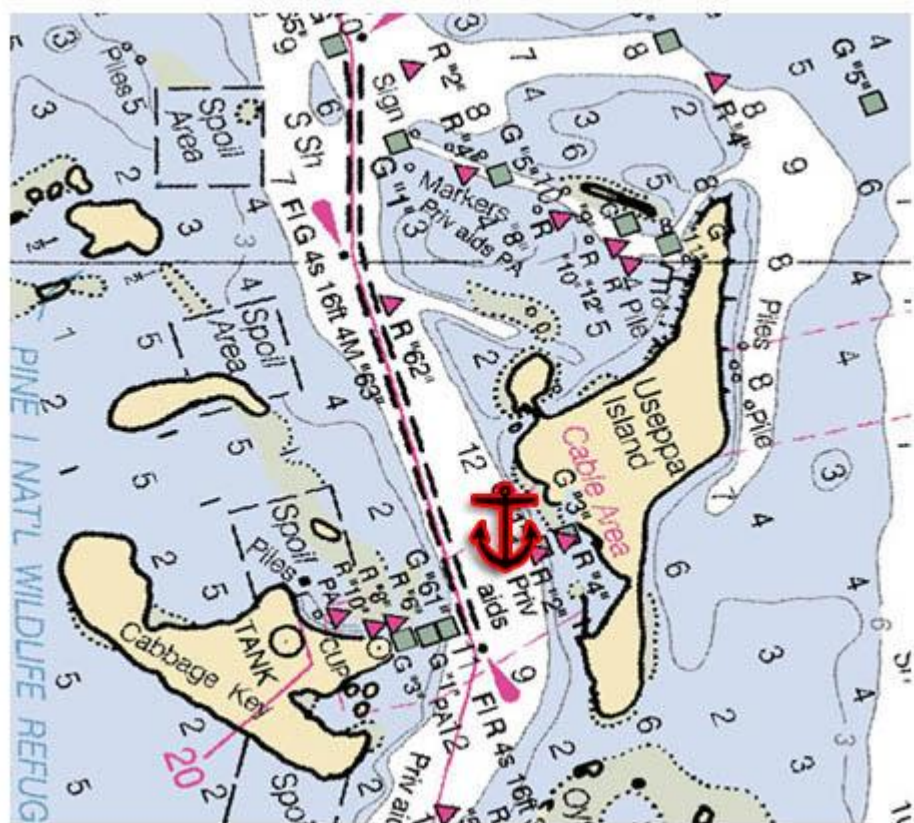
The northern route, to Cayo Costa, is more popular. Leave the ICW just north of marker 51 and curl back around to the west on a heading of about 270 to avoid the charted shoal southwest of 51. As the eastern banks of Cayo Costa come abeam, consider dropping anchor before entering the interior of Captiva Pass. Minimum 8 foot depths run to within 50 yards of shore.

In spite of its popularity, this anchorage does not provide sufficient shelter in heavy weather; tidal currents are strong at all times. Set the hook firmly before dinghying ashore.

(use Chart 11427 for navigation)

Off mile 18.6 on the ICW: 8.2 statute miles from Roosevelt Channel / Tween Waters, 3.8 statute miles to Useppa/Cabbage Key





(use Chart 11427 for navigation)

Off mile 21.6 on the ICW: 3.8 statute miles from Captiva Pass/Safety Harbor, 1.4 statute miles to Point Blanco. This anchorage lies near the ICW, and can be affected by wakes from powerboats, tugs and barges. A Bahamian moor is advisable to keep from swinging too widely.

Useppa is a private island; visitors are not welcome. There is not even a dinghy dock.

From the anchorage, it is a short trip by dinghy to the restaurant and docks on Cabbage Key, west of Green 61. The restaurant, inspiration for the song "Cheeseburger in Paradise," serves three meals a day in a unique atmosphere. The island offers a nature trail and has a rich history.

46. Useppa Island/Cabbage Key, Western Shore

Anchorage

Statute Mile 21.5

Lat/Lon: near 26

39.504 North/082

12.935 West

Location: lies east and northeast of unlighted daybeacon #61 and opposite the Cabbage Key Inn Channel

Minimum

Depth: 6-feet

Swing

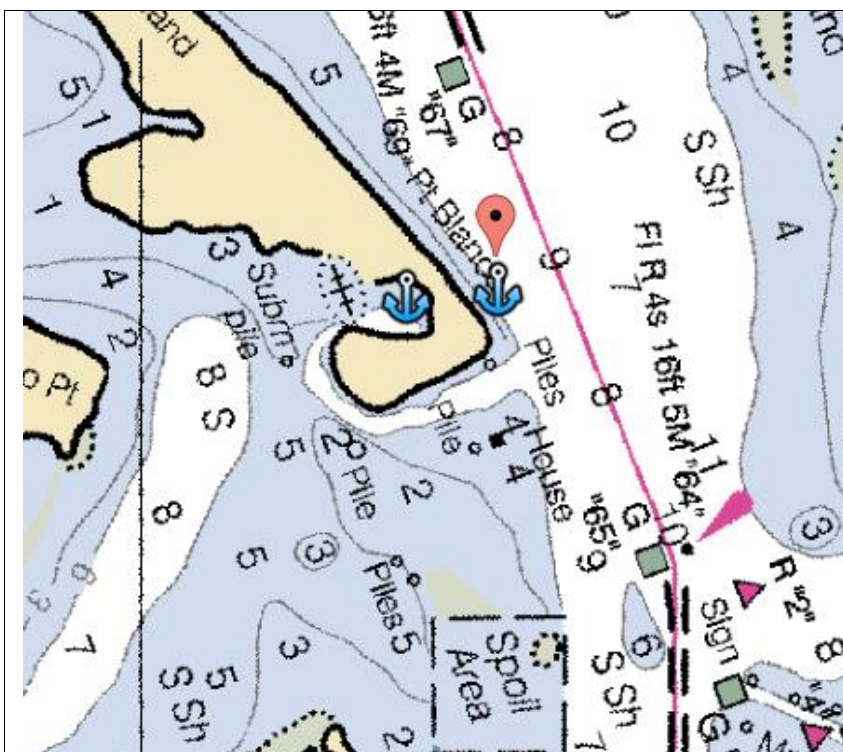
Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 45 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: good, except during times of strong northern or southern winds.

This open, deep-water anchorage lies northeast from marker 60.

Waters hold to minimum 6-foot depths within 75 yards of the island shoreline to the east; some depths are greater than those shown on the chart. There is good shelter from east,

northeast and southeasterly breezes, but only slight shelter from westerlies. Don't Anchor south of marker 60, where boat traffic is heavy around the south end of Useppa Island.



48. Punta Blanco Outer Anchorage

Statute Mile 23

Lat/Lon: near 26 40.681

North/082 13.488 West

Location: found on the deep waters off Point Blanco, north of flashing daybeacon #64 and unlighted daybeacon #65
Minimum Depth: 8-feet
Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 55 feet
Foul Weather Shelter: poor, protected ONLY from western and northwestern winds.

49. Punta Blanco Inner Anchorage

Statute Mile 23

Lat/Lon: near 26 40.673

North/082 13.616 West

Location: will be found on the charted bubble of deep water virtually surrounded by Punta Blanco

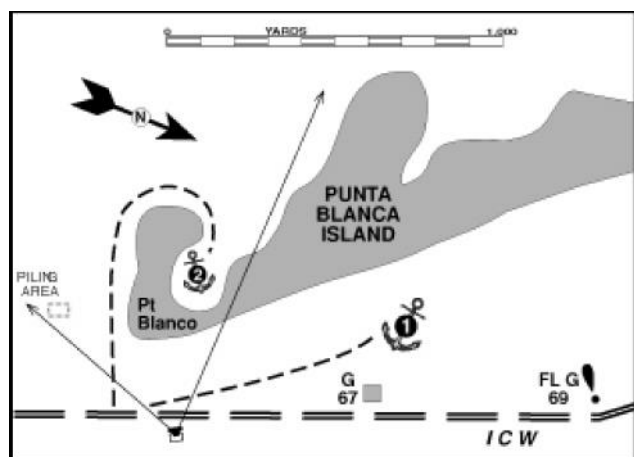
Minimum Depth: 4-6 feet, BUT even a slight mistake in the unmarked entrance channel can land you in 2 feet of water or less
Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 36 feet
In westerly winds, cruising craft of any size can anchor just off the Intracoastal Waterway in 8 foot depths off Point Blanco, west of marker 67.

Begin easing west of the ICW channel as the southeastern portion of Point Blanco comes abeam to the west, between markers 65 and 67.

Good water runs to within 75 yards of the shore, which is lined with tall Australian pines. Anchor between marker 69 and the point.

This anchorage is open to wakes from passing boats on the ICW, and is not recommended for heavy weather.

South of Point Blanco are some pilings, remnants of an old stilt house from the early days of commercial fishing in this area. (The house was still



South of Point Blanco are some pilings, remnants of an old stilt house from the early days of commercial fishing in this area. (The house was still present when this aerial photograph was made.) Between the shore and the pilings is a narrow but navigable channel.

Take this passage dead slow and watch the depth

sounder. Charts show enough water to enter, but local reports conflict, with as little as 4 feet possible, especially around the western point. Preliminary soundings from the



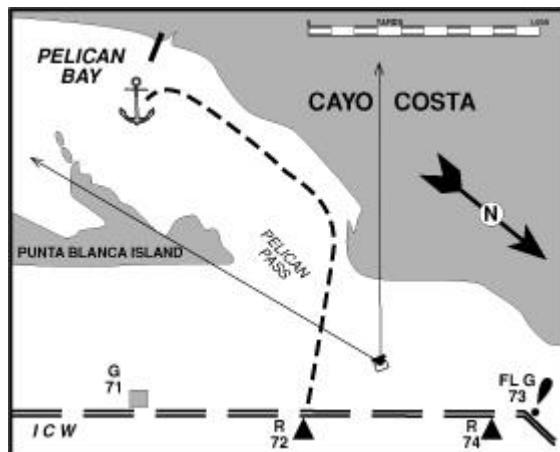
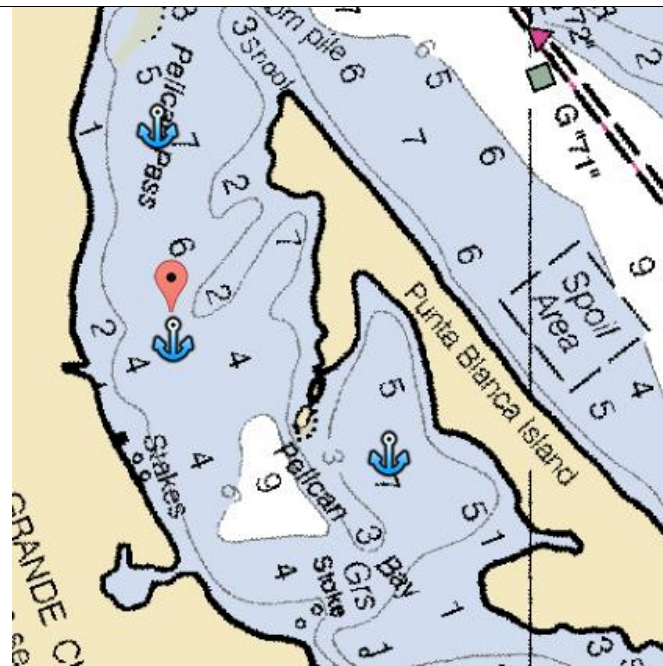
order.



In the anchorage itself, depths run 8-9 feet, with 5-8 foot depths to the southwest. Despite the demands of the approach channel, this is a popular spot, and crowding may require bow and stern anchors. (use Chart 11427 for navigation) Off mile 23 on the ICW: 1.4 statute miles from Useppa/Cabbage

Key, 3.1 statute miles to Pelican Bay.

present when this aerial photograph was made.)



51. Pelican Bay – Park Service Docks Anchorage Statute Mile 25

Lat/Lon: near 26 41.183 North/082 14.570 West

Location: found abeam of the park docks to the west
Minimum Depth: 4 ½-foot entrance depths, 5 to 5 ½ feet in anchorage

Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 40 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: good

Just south of Boca Grande Pass, west of marker 72, in Pelican flay, is an outstanding anchorage, one of the best in Pine Island Sound.

The water is shallow, but boats carrying 5 feet can enter by staying close to the Cayo Costa side to avoid the shoal building out from the northwest end of Punta Blanca Island. Inside, depths improve to 6 feet along a broad band. Come abeam of marker 72 and set a compass course of roughly 240 degrees through the northern third of Pelican Pass, staying to the Cayo Costa side. Curve slowly around to the south into the main body of the pass on its mid width. Consider anchoring northeast of the docks. From the docks south lie many unmarked shoals. Cayo Costa State Park maintains a fixed wooden dock along the western shore. There is a \$2 charge for landing in the park. Garbage may not be brought ashore; picnic tables and refuse cans have been removed from the dock area.

The bay is sheltered enough for light to moderate airs from almost any direction, but might not offer adequate protection in heavy weather.

Pelican Bay is surrounded by natural beauty, with undeveloped Punta Blanca Island to the east and Cayo Costa State Park to the west. There is virtually no development along the entire 7 mile length of Cayo Costa. The only human residents are park rangers. Unfortunately, their electric generator can be quite loud at night. The rangers run a tram from the dock across the island to the gulf, where there are picnic tables, campsites and rustic cabins with common bathrooms and running water, but no electricity. Hiking trails also are part of the park.

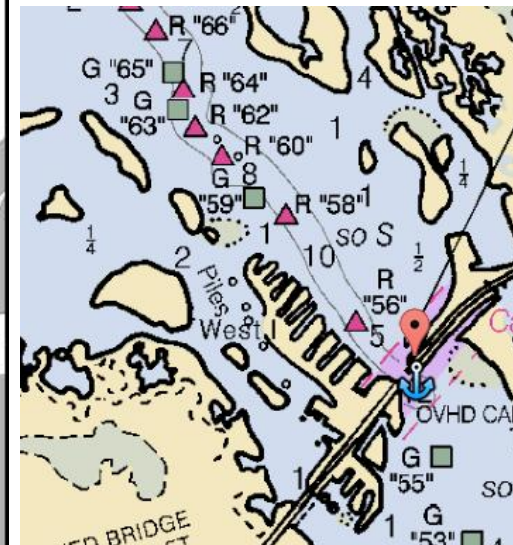
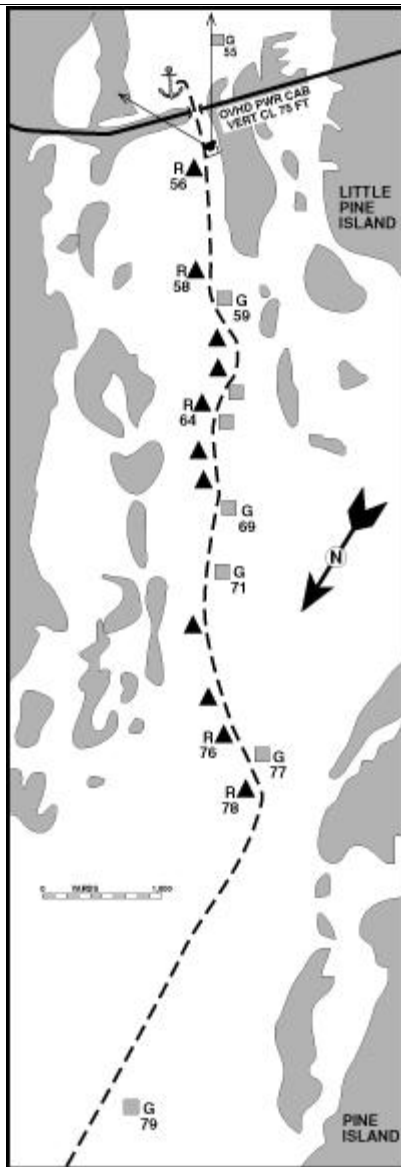
Cayo Costa and Punta Blanca are bird sanctuaries, harboring, among others, magnificent frigate birds, ospreys and bald eagles. Vegetation is lush. For almost their entire length, Cayo Costa's powdery gulfside beaches are utterly deserted.

The bay side of Cayo Costa is riddled with coves, some containing remnants of old fish houses. One, Murdock Bayou, leads to a watery tunnel through the mangroves that cuts the island nearly in two and empties onto the back side of a gulf beach.

(use Chart 11427 for navigation)

Off mile 24.8 on the 1GW: 3.1 statute miles from Point Blanco, 12.7 statute miles to Matlacha, 4.3 statute miles to Boca Grande, 19.7 statute miles to Punta

	Gorda.
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Minimum Approach Depth: 7 ft.
 Depth In Anchorage: 6 - 10 ft.
 (use Chart 11426 for navigation) 12.7 statute miles

37. Pine Island Matlacha Anchorage Lat/Lon: 26 37.892 North/082 03.987 West

Location: lies immediately south of the 9-foot Pine Island bascule bridge, which itself sits north of Matalache Pass's unlighted daybeacon #55
 Minimum Depth: 6 ½ feet
 Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 34 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: fair, open to southern winds

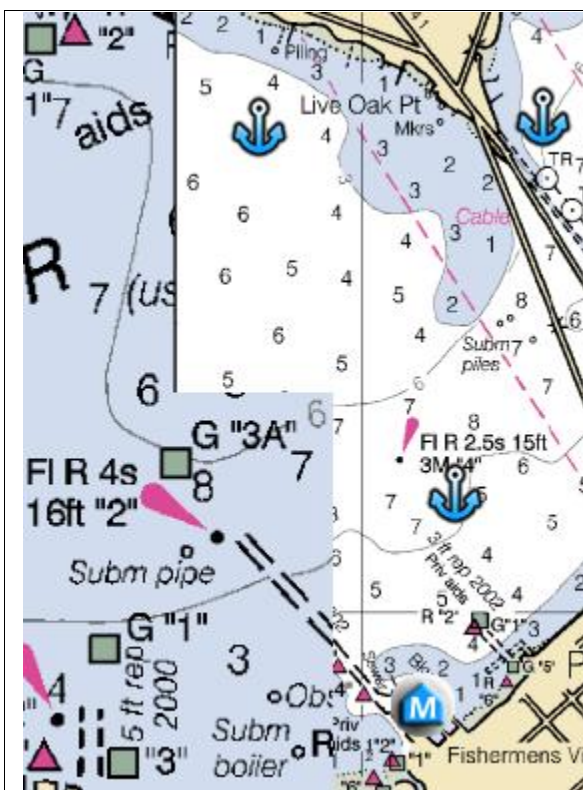
Beginning off Jug Creek Shoal at the north end of Pine Island, then curving from the west around the shoals off Bokeelia, a well marked, county-maintained channel leads south-southeasterly toward Matlacha. The channel is long and narrow, and must be shared with shrimpers. It passes beneath a bascule bridge and power line. The bridge answers to horn signals and opens from 7 AM to 7 PM seven days a week. The power line has recently been raised to a vertical clearance of 75 feet.

The anchorage lies to port just south of the bridge. Holding and protection are good in virtually all weathers. Soundings show plenty of water in the channel and at least 6 feet in the anchorage.

Keep 100 feet southeast of the building shown in the photograph. Best water extends to the southeast adjacent to the channel, and because of decreasing depths, it's best to stay well clear of other buildings on the north shore or the mangroves to the east.

The village of Matlacha offers ice, showers, heads, two picnic spots, trash pick-up, restaurants and an art gallery. The beauty salon even has its own dinghy dock. Please limit your stay to the capacity of your holding tank, since there is currently no pump-out facility available.

South of the anchorage area, waters shoal quickly toward the "Miserable Mile". It is not recommended to leave or enter the anchorage by this route.



61. Punta Gorda Waterfront Anchorage

Lat/Lon: near 26 56.233 North/082 03.720 West

Location: lies southeast of unlighted daybeacon #4 and just short of the high-rise Peace River bridges

Minimum Depth: 5-feet

Swing Room: unlimited

Foul Weather Shelter: fair, open to westerly winds

Waste Pump-out Availability: City of Punta Gorda, as of the fall of 2013, provides pump-out boat service to vessels in this anchorage



Rating:

60. Live Oak Point Anchorage

Lat/Lon: near 26 57.073 North/082 04.228 West

Location: lies northeast of #3 in the correctly charted 5- and 6-foot depths southwest of Live Oak Point

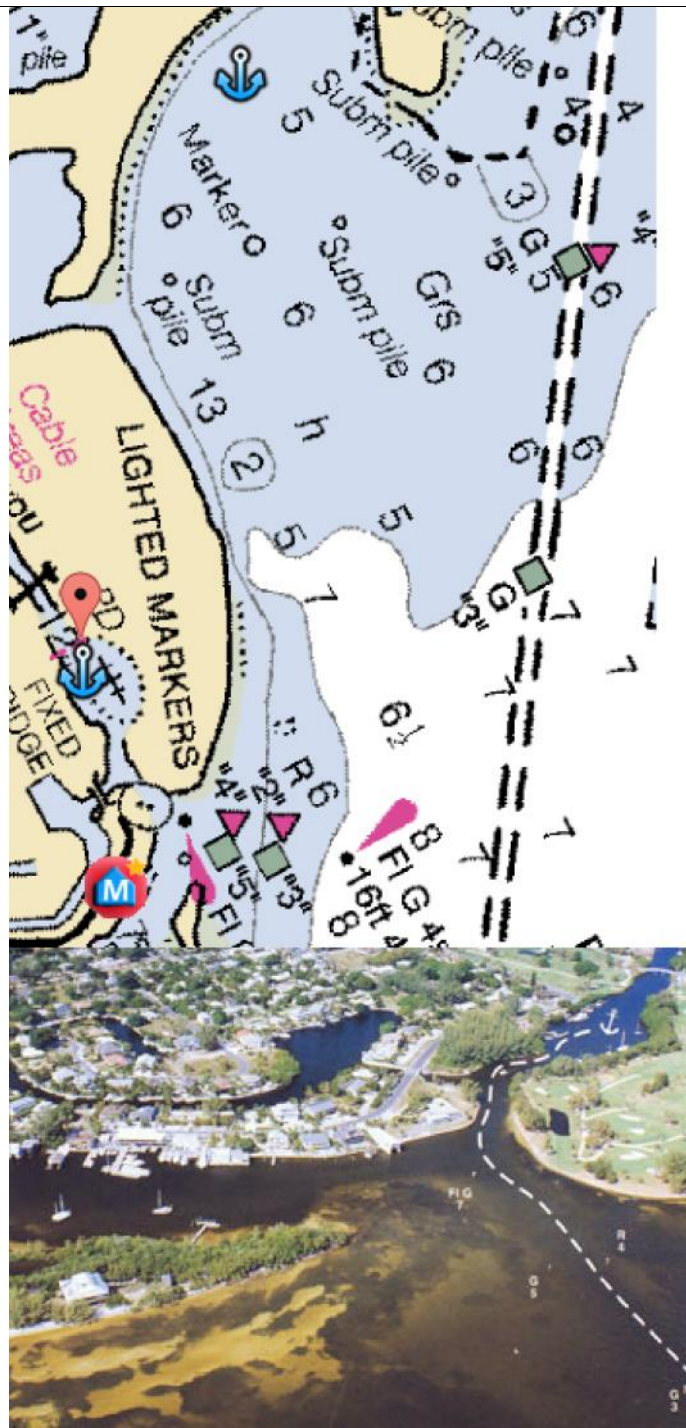
Minimum Depth: 5-6 feet

Swing Room: sufficient room for vessels as large as 55 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: fair, wide open to southwestern winds



Rating:



53. Boca Grande – Gasparilla Island Basin
Anchorage Statute Mile 28.5 Lat/Lon: near 26 45.084 North/082 15.404 West

Location: lies on the charted basin, north of the primary Boca Grand entrance channel, which itself lies west, northwest of the ICW's unlighted daybeacon #2

Special Note: local regulation may, or may not, limit anchorage to the southern 1/2 of the basin

Minimum Depth: 5-5 ½ feet

Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 36 feet – swing room can be limited in this anchorage by crowding and the presence of several derelicts

Foul Weather Shelter: excellent

Just north of marker 2 on the Intracoastal Waterway, turn west toward Gasparilla Island. Minimum depths are 7 feet, but there are a few unmarked shoals to avoid.

Abeam of marker 7, cut north through a narrow passage that leads into the wide basin that is part of Grande Bayou. In winter, a seaplane uses docks on the west side of the anchorage to pick up passengers. Keep a sharp eye out.

Minimum depths in the narrow passage are 5 feet, much deeper in the basin anchorage. Drop the hook near the center of the pond, back down toward the eastern shore and set a stern anchor as close to shore as possible. Tying directly to the mangroves is strongly discouraged, as damaging them is prohibited by law.

Shore access protocol in Grande Bayou has changed dramatically in recent years. Of the 10 slips on the west side, the five southernmost are reserved for the Pink Elephant restaurant - the northern five are reserved for visiting vessels.

From April through May, during the tarpon fishing season, all of the slips are reserved for fishing guide boats to load and unload passengers. If you bring a vessel or dinghy in for more than a few minutes you'll probably get a ticket.

The water in the northernmost slip, however, is often too little for anything but dinghies, so it may still be possible to come in there. Further north, the public land at the foot of 7th Street, near the low bridge, is being cleared of "exotic" vegetation and will again be available for dinghy landing.

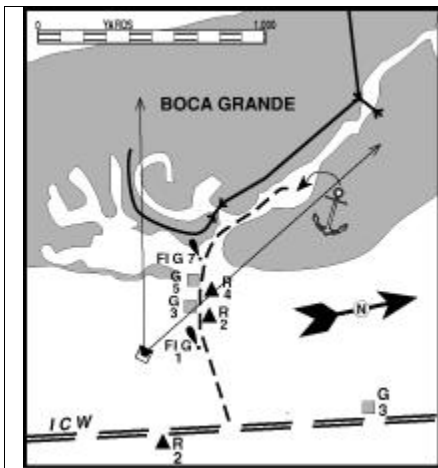
54. Jack Point - Gasparilla Island Anchorage
Statute Mile 29 Lat/Lon: near 26 45.792 North/082 15.196 West

Location: found in the mid-width of the large cove, west of the ICW's unlighted daybeacon #5

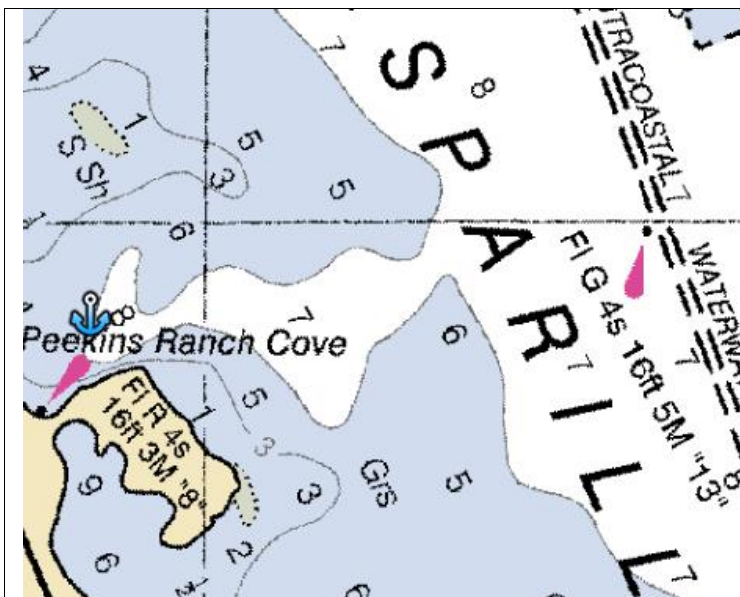
Minimum Depth: 4 1/2 feet

Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 50 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: good, but open to southern



and southeastern winds



55. Peekins Ranch Cove Anchorage
Statute Mile 32

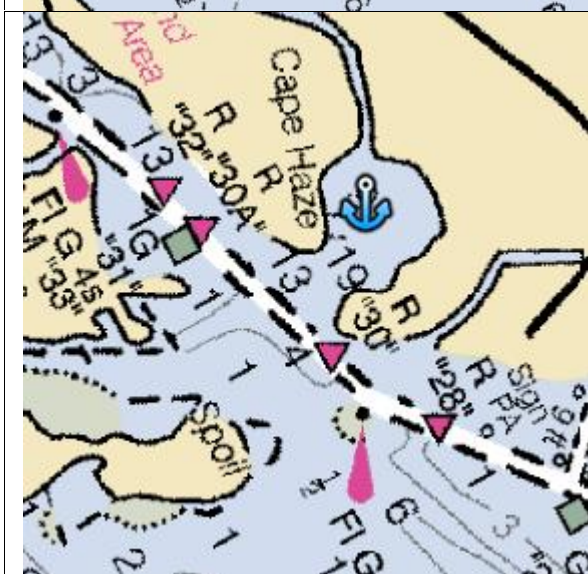
Lat/Lon: near 26 47.842 North/082 16.168 West

Location: lies west of flashing daybeacon #13

Minimum Depth: 6-feet

Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 40 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: fair, open to eastern, northern and northeastern winds



67. Cape Haze Anchorage
Statute Mile 36

Lat/Lon: near 26 50.706 North/082 17.184 West

Location: lies off the Waterway's northeastern banks northwest of unlighted daybeacon #30

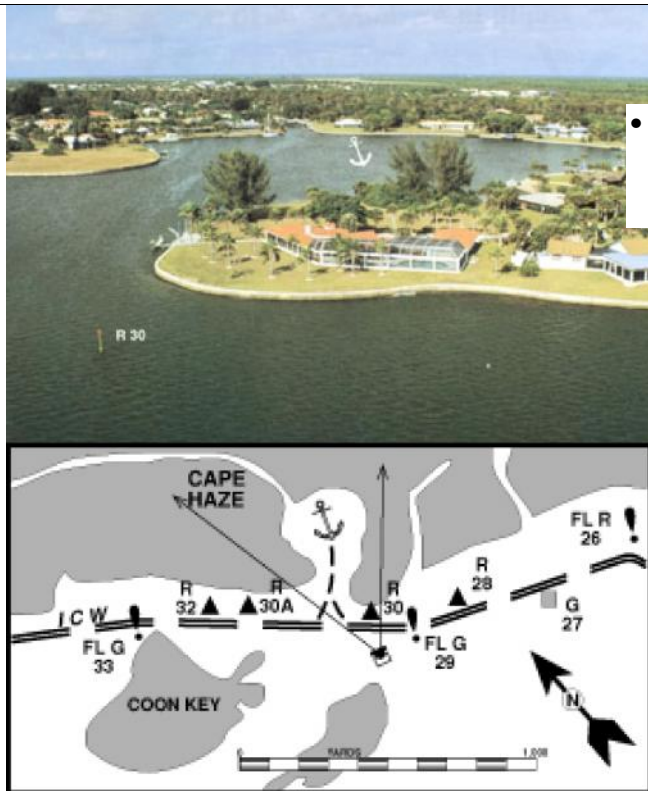
Minimum Depth: 8-feet

Swing Room: sufficient room for vessels as large as 45 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: excellent

At marker 30 on the intracoastal Waterway, a large cove indents the northeastern banks.

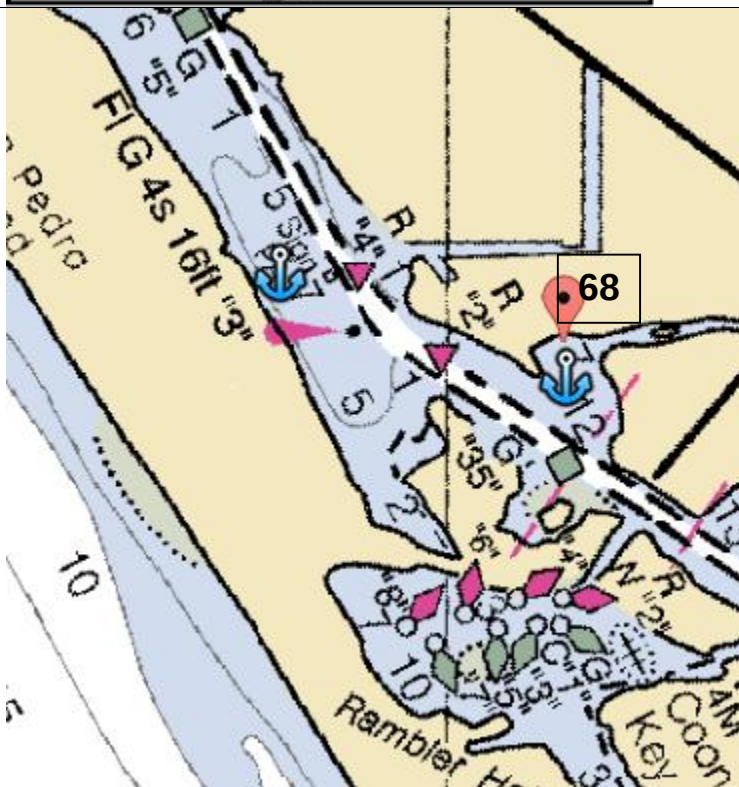
It features 7 foot minimum depths and enough swing room for boats up to 48 feet. It is well sheltered from virtually all breezes, but



(use Chart 11425 for navigation)

- Off mile 35.8 on the ICW: 8.3 statute miles from Boca Grande/Grande Bayou, 5.7 statute miles to Stump Pass.

the dredged bottom can present holding problems. The shore is lined with residential development, but is not unattractive. Best behavior is essential. Shoreside neighbors are in close proximity. The cove eventually leads to a small canal lined with private docks, but there are no facilities and no room to anchor along this stream.



68. Cove Anchorage

Statute Mile 36.5

Lat/Lon: near 26 51.061 North/082 17.831 West

Location: found on the waters of the large cove indenting the northeastern banks at unlighted daybeacon #35

Minimum Depth: 7-feet

Swing Room: sufficient swinging room for vessels as large as 42 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: excellent



69. Don Pedro Island Anchorage

Statute Mile 37

Lat/Lon: near 26 51.181 North/082 18.197 West

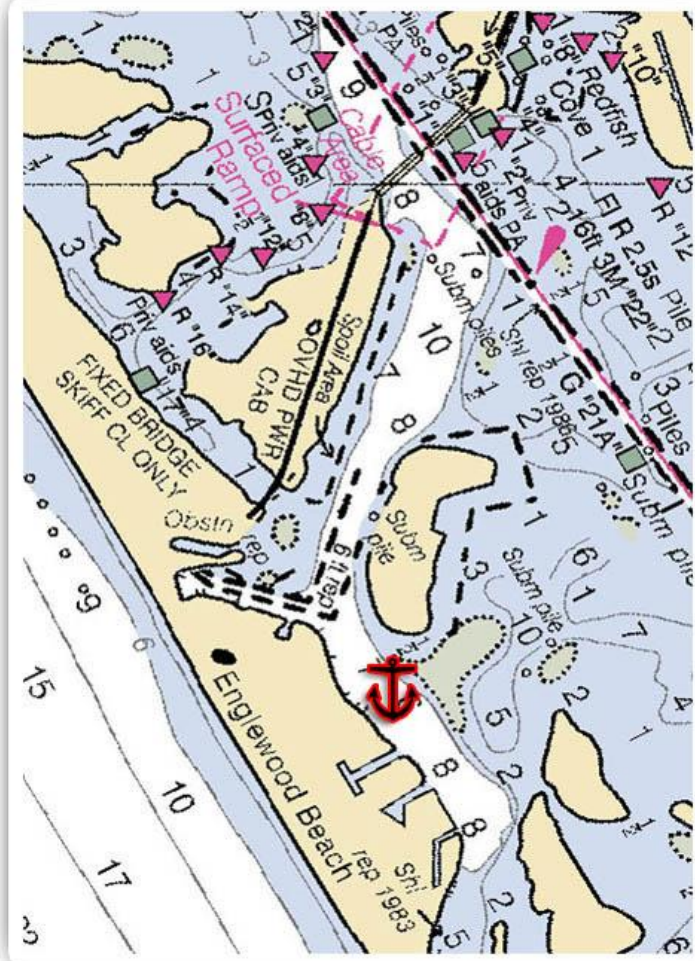
Location: found on the charted 7-foot waters west-southwest of unlighted daybeacon #4

Minimum Depth: 6-feet

Swing Room: sufficient room for vessels as large as 40 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: Good





70. Englewood Beach Anchorage

Statute Mile 43.5

Lat/Lon: near 26 55.191 North/082 21.268 West

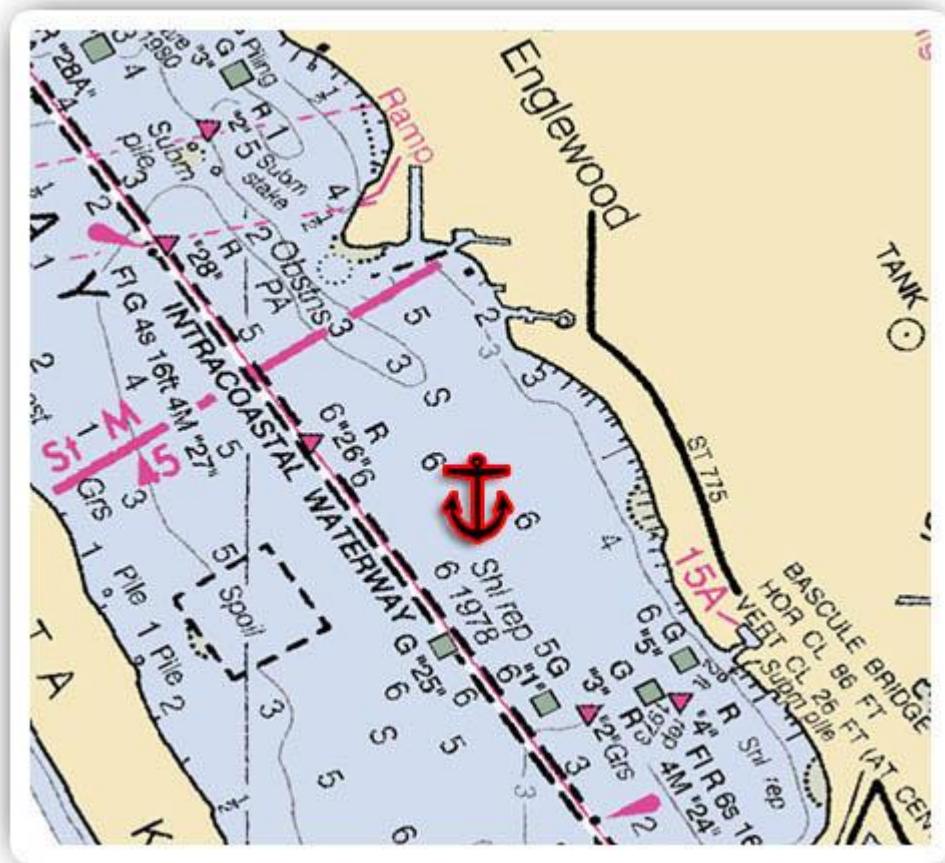
Location: will be discovered on the broad ribbon of deep water that stretches southwest, northwest of flashing daybeacon #22 (immediately southeast of the 26-foot bascule bridge)

Minimum Depth: 6-7 feet

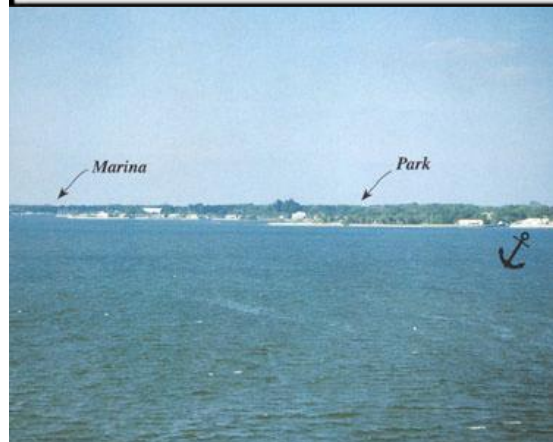
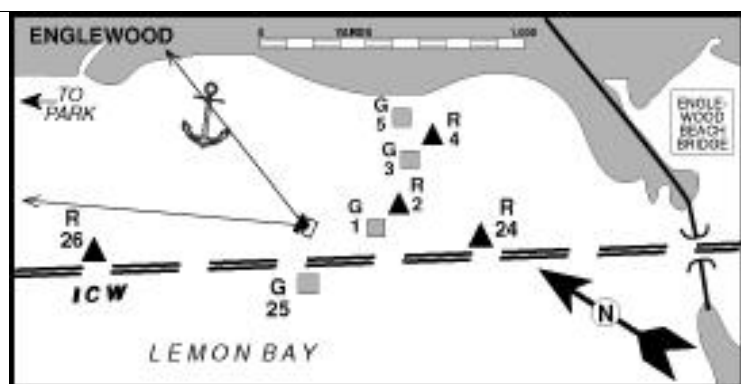
Swing Room: sufficient room for vessels as large as 38 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: very good





71. Englewood Anchorage
Statute Mile 44.5
Lat/Lon: near 26 56.964 North/082 21.627 West
 Location: lies between unlighted daybeacons #25 and #26
 Minimum Depth: 5 ½ feet
 Swing Room: unlimited
 Foul Weather Shelter: fair to poor, not the place to be caught in blustery winds



71A. Lemon Bay Lat 26° 56.8' N Lon 82° 21.6' W
Minimum approach depth: 6 ft.

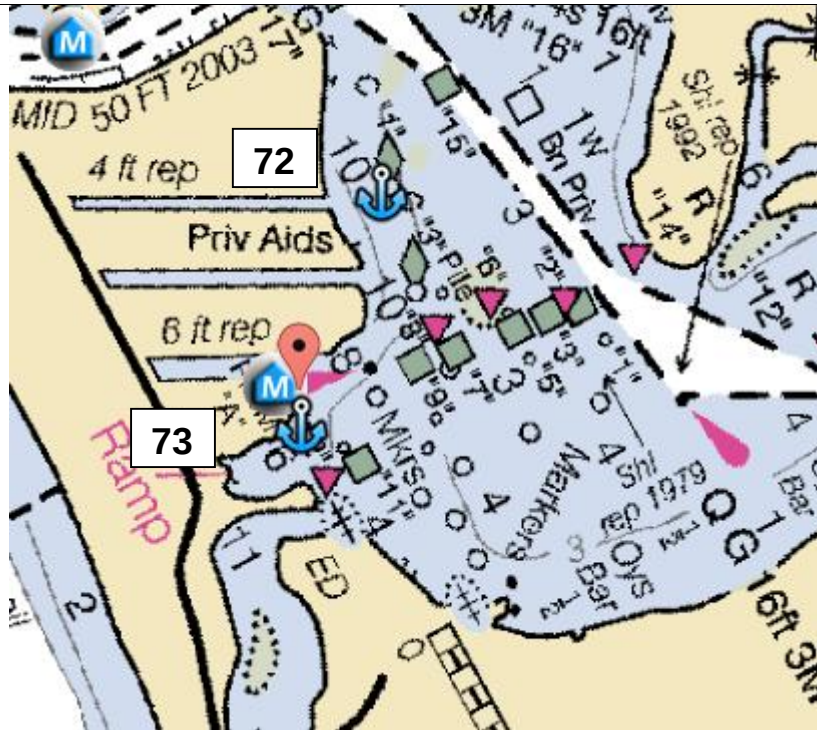
Depth In anchorage: 6 ft. Northeast of the Intracoastal Waterway, between markers 25 and 26, a wide pool with 6 foot charted depths spreads to within 100-150 yards of shore.

This anchorage runs southeast all the way back to the old Englewood Marina channel which outs northeast from the ICW at marker 24.

On the eastern shore, northeast of marker 28, is a public boat ramp, docks and a park accessible by dinghy from the anchorage. Further northwest along the ICW, at marker 30, a private channel leads to a marina and repair yard. No fuel is available.



(use Chart 11425 for navigation) Off mile 44.5 on the ICW: 2.5 statute miles from Englewood Bench, 13.6 statute miles to Venic/Higel Park. (use Chart 11425 for navigation)



72. Venice

Anchorage

Statute Mile 58.5

Lat/Lon: near 27 06.642

North/082 27.601 West

Location: found south of

unlighted daybeacon #17

Minimum Depth: 7-feet

Swing Room: sufficient room
for vessels as large as 34
feet

Foul Weather Shelter: good

Rating:

73. Venice - Higel

Park Anchorage

Statute Mile 58.5

Lat/Lon: near 27 06.509

North/082 27.652 West

Location: will be discovered

south of the Venice Yacht

Club, opposite the charted

southernmost, blunt-ended

cove

Minimum Depth: 6-feet

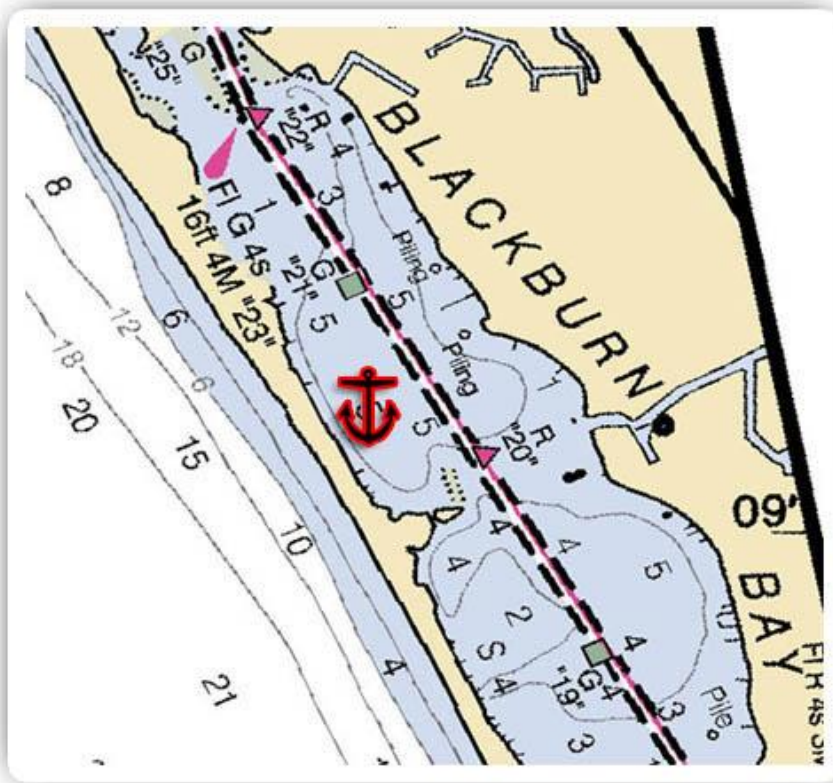
Swing Room: sufficient room
for vessels as large as 34
feet

Foul Weather Shelter: good

except in strong eastern

winds

Rating: **(STAY AWAY)**



74. Blackburn Bay Anchorage

Statute Mile 61.5

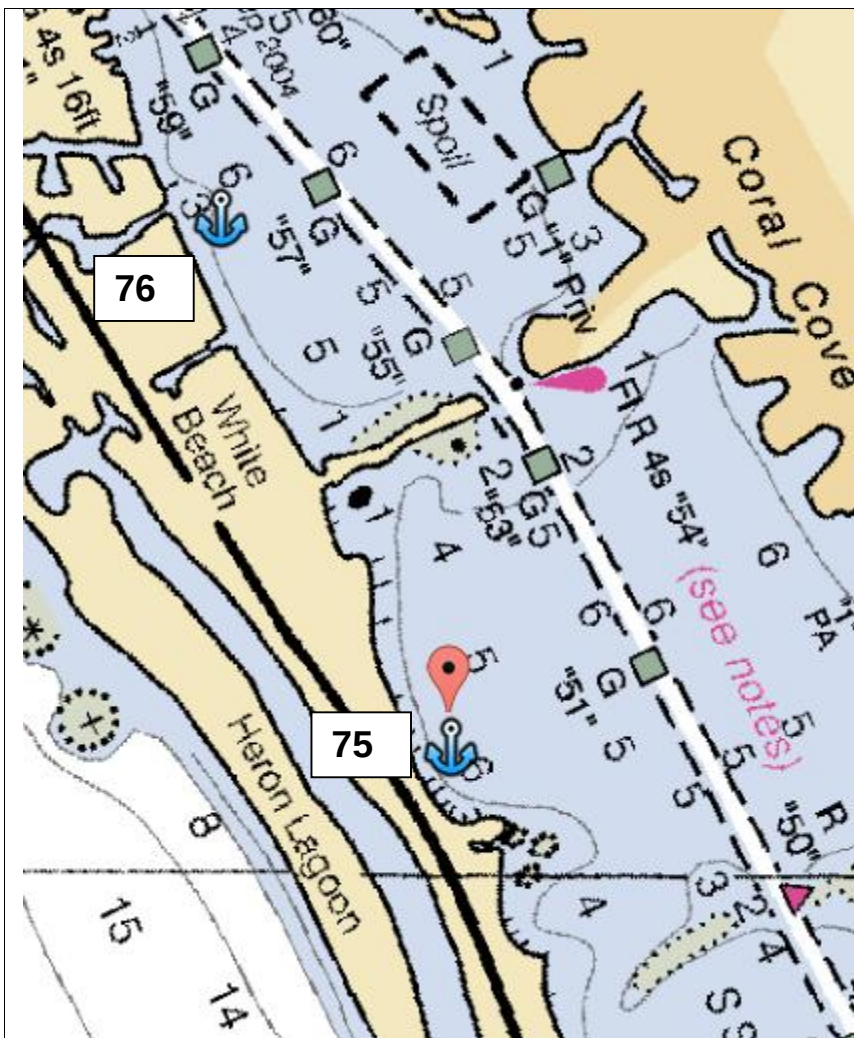
Lat/Lon: near 27 09.240

North/082 28.886 West

Location: found on the waters west of the ICW, between unlighted daybeacons #20 and #21
 Minimum Depth: 5-feet
 Swing Room: sufficient room for vessels as large as 50 feet
 Foul Weather Shelter: fair to good



Rating:



75. Little Sarasota Bay Anchorage
Statute Mile 67
Lat/Lon: near 27 14.122 North/082 31.270 West
 Location: will be discovered west of unlighted daybeacon #51
 Minimum Depth: 5 1/2 feet
 Swing Room: sufficient room for vessels as large as 55 feet
 Foul Weather Shelter: fair, somewhat hope to strong eastern and northeastern winds



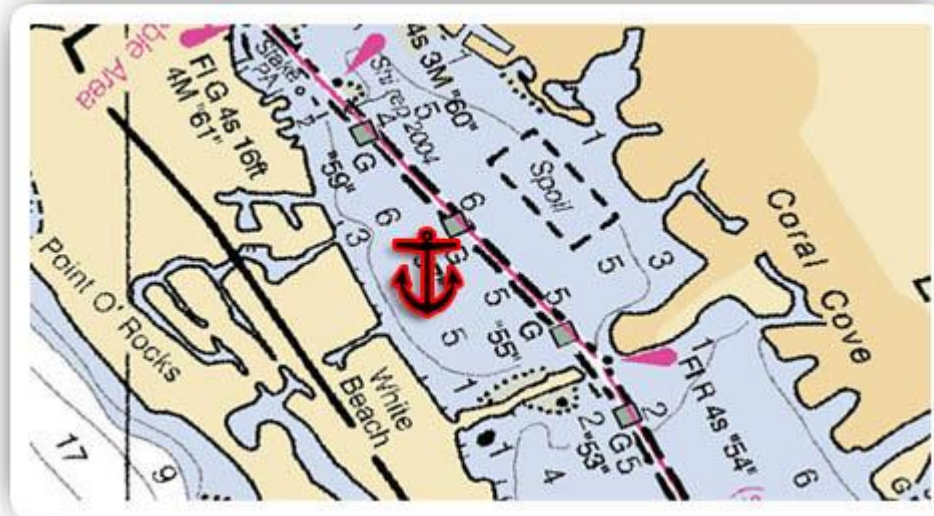
Rating:

76. White Beach Anchorage
Statute Mile 67.5
Lat/Lon: near 27 14.726 North/082 31.567 West

Location: lies south and west of unlighted daybeacon #57
 Minimum Depth: 5 1/2 feet
 Swing Room: sufficient room for vessels as large as 45 feet
 Foul Weather Shelter: good



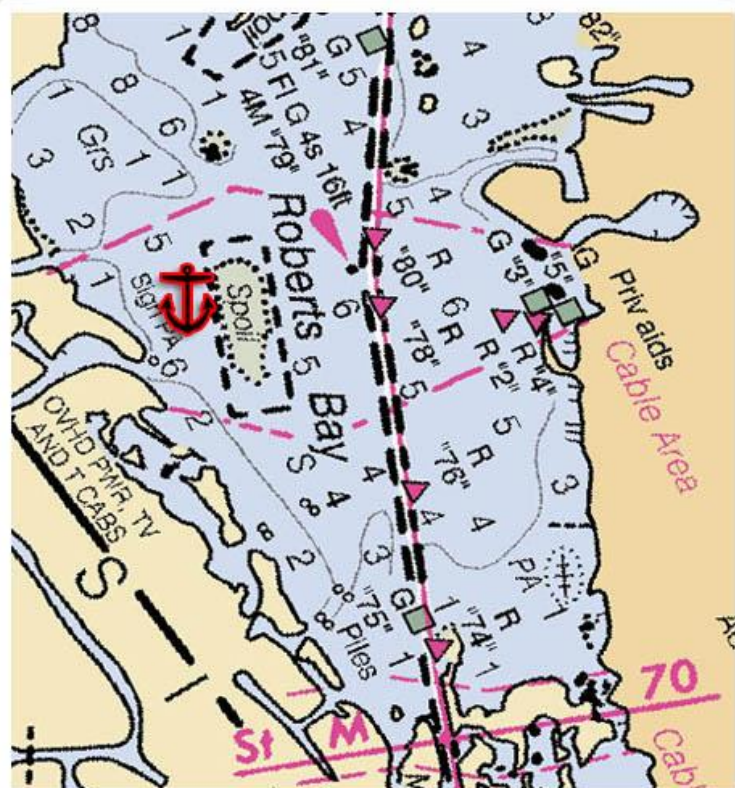
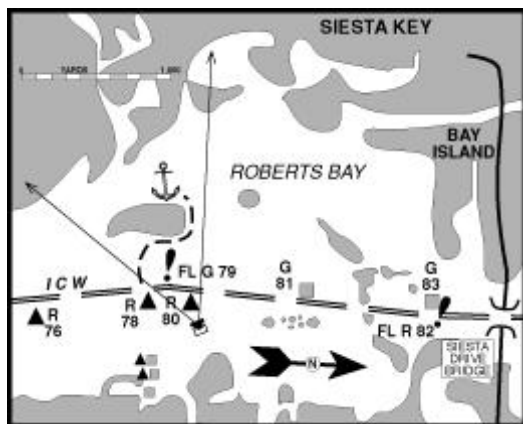
Rating:



76. White Beach Anchorage
Statute Mile 67.5
Lat/Lon: near 27 14.726 North/082 31.567 West
 Location: lies south and west of unlighted daybeacon #57
 Minimum Depth: 5 1/2 feet
 Swing Room: sufficient room for vessels as large as 45 feet
 Foul Weather Shelter: good



Rating:



78. Roberts Bay - Spoil Island Anchorage

Statute Mile 71

Lat/Lon: near 27 17.232 North/082 33.036 West

Location: found west of the charted "Spoil" island, which itself lies west of unlighted daybeacon #78

Minimum Depth: 4 1/2 to 5 feet

Swing Room: sufficient room for vessels as large as 40 feet

Foul Weather Shelter: goodThe charted spoil west of marker 78 on the Intracoastal Waterway is actually a well-wooded island.

To reach it, cut almost due west from marker 78 and point toward the center of the island dead ahead. Depths of 5 feet are shown completely around the island, so anchoring for various wind conditions should be possible.

This anchorage has developed some potential crowding. It has become a valued spot for water skiers as well as a general "water sports" area, including personal watercraft. Multiple signs designating the boundaries of the recreation area hamper the way in.

The anchorage is still quite usable, especially for shelter from easterlies and westerlies. In heavy weather, there will probably be few skiers or personal watercraft to bother you, but at other times be prepared for a little rock and roll. There is no development on the island, while a few private homes peek out from the Siesta Key shoreline to the west.

Vessels drawing a full 5 feet might want to bypass this anchorage and go on to Island Park, since heavy winds could reduce the amount of water available.

(use Chart 11425 for navigation)

Off mile 70.8 on the ICW: 12.8 statute miles from Venice/Higel Park, 4.0 statute miles to Big Pass/Otter Key, 3.3 statute miles to Sarasota/Bayfront Park.



There is plenty of swing room for even the largest pleasure craft,

The banks of Otter Key are undeveloped, but the shore of Lido Key is lined with sumptuous homes, private docks and sensitive residents. Best behavior is advised.

Bottom holding: **poor**

83. Otter-Lido Key
Anchorage Lat/Lon:
near 27 18.852

North/082 34.353 West
Location: found southwest of unlighted daybeacon #7 (on the approach channel leading to the Sarasota Yacht Club Minimum Depth: 5-13 feet Swing Room: sufficient room for vessels as large as 42 feet Foul Weather Shelter: excellent Approximately 1 mile southwest of ICW green 7, near marker 15A in Big Sarasota Pass, a broad channel breaks off to the north/northwest between Bird Key to the east and the shoals outlining Otter, St. Armand's and Lido keys to the west.

While fairly well marked, this channel and its offshoot into the Otter Key anchorage require caution.

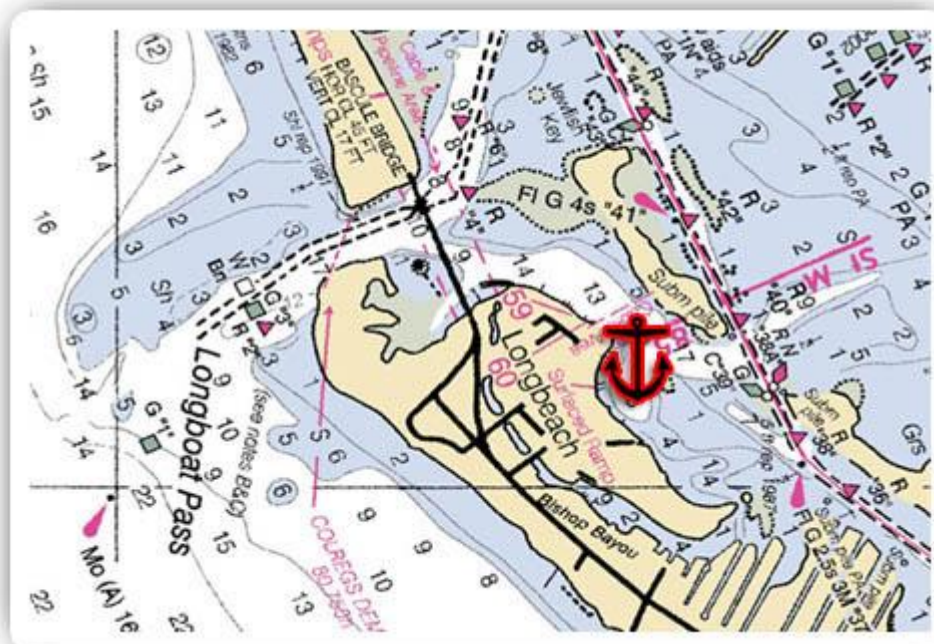
For best depths, cut north some 100 yards southwest of marker 16 on the Big Sarasota Pass channel and point to come abeam of the first aid on the Sarasota Yacht Club channel, marker 2, by about 20 yards to its west/southwestern side. Once abeam of 2, stay about 25 yards to port of subsequent marks.

About halfway between markers 4 and 6, a small 6 foot deep channel with shallow sea grass beds on both sides makes off to the west just south of Otter Key, then opens out into a deep pool.

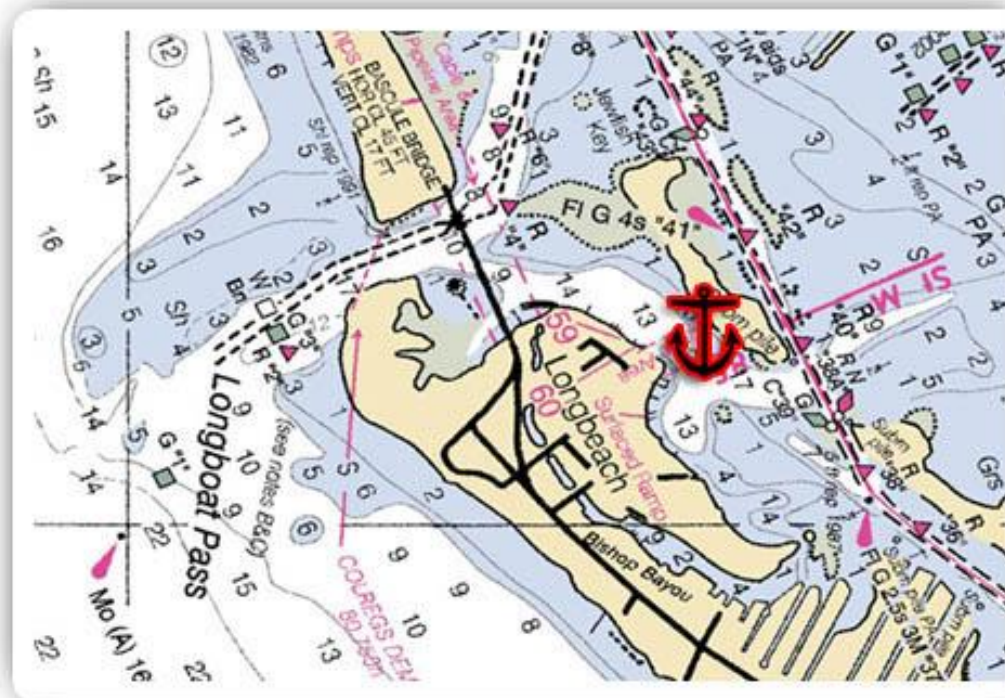
Turn into this channel, keeping the manatee sign and small piling to starboard. Head for the corner of the bulkheaded shoreline, then, when about 50 feet from the



comer, turn northwest into
correctly charted 9-13 foot



**86. Jewfish Key South
Side Anchorage**
Statute Mile 85
Lat/Lon: near 27 26.215
North/082 40.799 West
Location: found on the
tongue of charted 13-foot
water stretching south
into a cove hard by the
village of Longbeach
Minimum Depth: 9-feet
Swing Room: sufficient
room for vessels as large
as 50 feet
Foul Weather
Shelter: very good



**87. Jewfish Key
Anchorage**
Statute Mile 85
Lat/Lon: near 27
26.386 North/082
40.754 West
Location: will be
found on the deep
water behind (to
the southwest of)
the long, private
island southwest of
flashing
daybeacon #41,
known as Jewfish
Key
Minimum Depth: 9-
feet
Swing
Room: sufficient
room for vessels
as large as 55 feet
Foul Weather
Shelter: very good



