

# Little River Harbour (Breton Cove)

**CHS Chart No:** 4367 – Flint Island to Cape Smoky†

**Amenities:** Dockage, launch ramp, water, fuel (diesel only), swimming beach  
Fees apply for dockage.

## **Description:**

Little River harbour is a convenient stopover for those making an early entrance or late exit to/from the Great Bras d'Or Channel, being the nearest well-protected harbour on the ocean side, and is a pleasant stopover for those cruising the coast of Cape Breton Island. A fine, sandy beach on the south side of the southern breakwater is a popular swimming spot in summer. The harbour is quite shallow and is best suited for boats with a draught of 5 feet or less.

The harbour is managed by the Little River Harbour Authority.  
Harbourmaster: Wendell Murphy (902) 929-2262

However, it is first and foremost a fishing harbour, and cruisers should avoid entering, except in an emergency, during 'lobster season', which generally runs from the second Saturday in May to the second Wednesday in July, but may vary (see website for latest info). This is a very congested harbour during that period. Lobster fishers are usually under way before first light and back, having hauled their traps, by early afternoon.

**There are lobster pounds located in the harbour. Vessels should refrain from discharging sewage even AFTER the lobster fishing season has closed. A portable toilet is usually located on the wharf.**

**What's in a name?** Although it is generally referred to as Little River, the name Breton Cove is also used by some, although Breton Cove is about 0.6 nm to the north (This is spelled Briton Cove on the nautical chart and in the Sailing Directions.). To confound things further, the Little River entry range is listed as the Breton Cove Range, and the fairway buoy, **KN**, as the 'Breton Cove light and bell buoy' in the List of Lights, yet the inner light on the breakwater is referred to as the 'Little River Inner'.

## **Navigation:**

Tidal range on a 'Large tide' is about 4.4 feet. Use tidal predictions for Sydney.

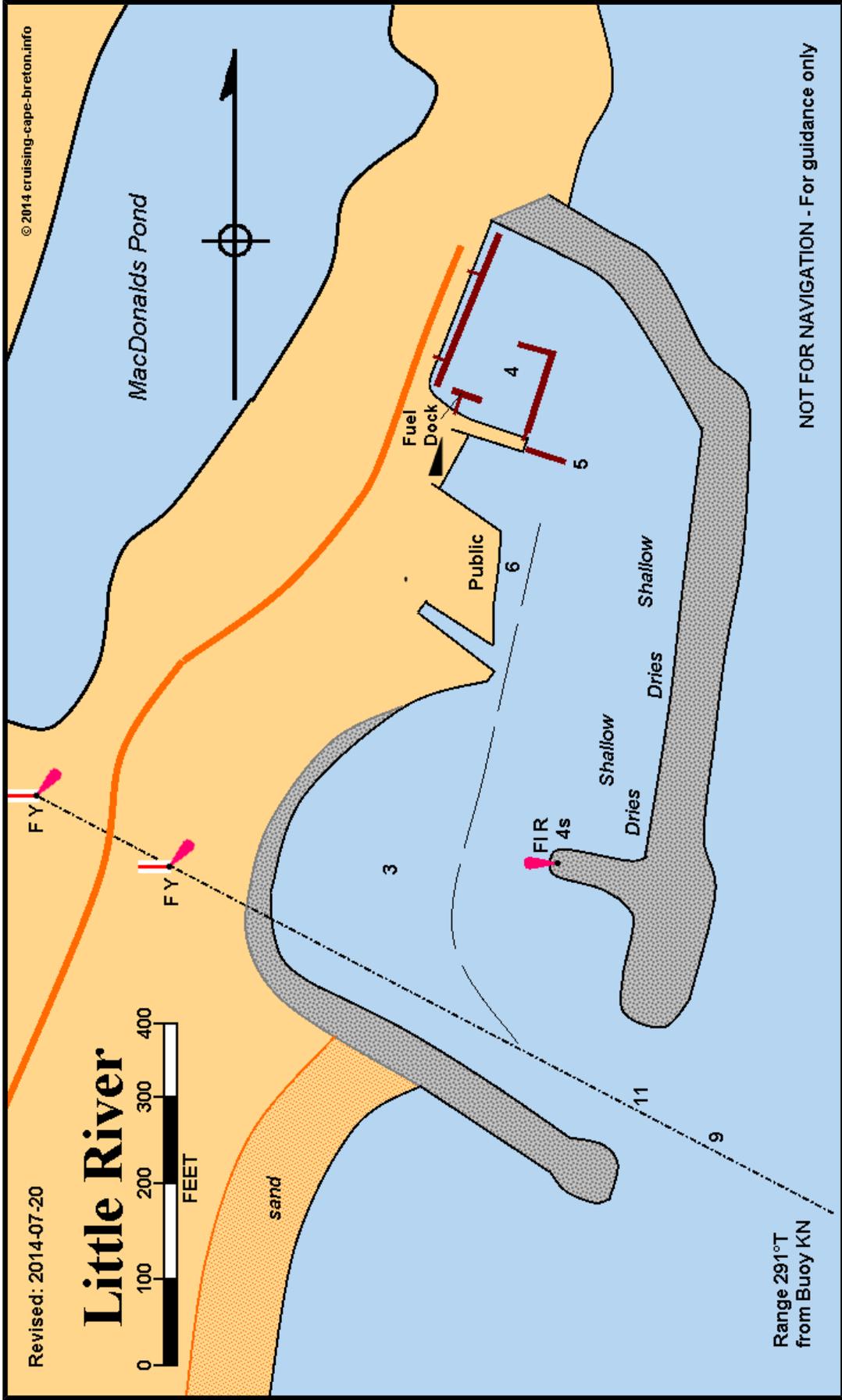
Fairway light and bell buoy, **KN** (4626.5/6026.8), moored 0.6 nm off the entrance puts one on the range leading into the harbour, on a bearing of 291T. When inside the breakwaters favour the west side of the harbour as the seaward side is shoal, and shoaling occurs close to the small groyne. Boats with up to five-foot draft can use the Public wharf. The floating wharves generally have only 4 feet of water. There is no space to anchor.

**Update September 2012:** Dredging was carried out in summer of 2012 to remove silting near the small inner groyne on the east breakwater.

Revised: 2014-07-20

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† Spelled 'Smokey' on terrestrial maps, the nautical charts and Sailing Directions consistently show it as 'Smoky', which is probably the 'proper' spelling since there is no such word in the English language as 'smokey'. Smokey is US slang for a highway trooper or patrol car, and derived from Smokey the Bear. It seems highly unlikely that this majestic cape would be named after a cartoon bear!



Revised: 2014-07-20

# Little River



Range 291°T  
from Buoy KN

NOT FOR NAVIGATION - For guidance only