

Pirate Harbour

CHS Chart No: 4302 – Strait of Canso

Amenities:

None. The nearest store, restaurants and fuels are in Aulds Cove, some 9 km away.

Description:

Pirate Harbour is located on the western shore of the Strait of Canso, across from the pulp mill, approximately half way between Bear Head and the Canso Causeway locks. The harbour provides good protection except from winds from NNE to ENE, and has good holding in mud and silt.

The only obstructions within the harbour are three rock piles, which are the remains of wharf cribs, located on the SE shore of the harbour near where Susie's Island connects to the mainland. The outermost rock pile breaks at low tide and north swells. There are also rocks close inshore along the western side of Susie's Island.

There are several private moorings within the harbour. Good anchorage can be found between the outermost mooring and Susie's Island, as well as toward the head of the harbour from the two outermost moorings. Depths should be watched as the harbour does gradually shoal towards the head.

A sheet pile wharf located on the outermost western shore of the harbour is privately owned and is in a poor state of repair. Immediately adjacent to this wharf is a marine depot of Superport Marine Services. This is a base for several workboats that provide assistance and services to larger shipping within the Strait of Canso area. This base can be quite busy at times, day and night. Great caution should be exercised in anchoring in the outer reaches of the harbour as this will be within the normal routes of these work boats. If you do anchor there ensure that your vessel is well lit and visible.

Pirate Harbour is so named as it had been a base for pirates/privateers, rumoured to have been John Paul Jones. Local lore is that one such vessel was based here and overwintered at least one year. The harbour provided excellent cover to monitor vessels transiting the straits. The harbour had been originally named Neptune Cove.

Local residents, some of whom are members of the yachting community, are generally pleased to provide assistance and help to transient and visiting boaters.

Navigation:

The approach to the harbour is free of obstructions, with the exception of some rocks, close inshore of Susie's Island.

The harbour shoals quickly from deep water along a line roughly between the sheet pile wharf on the western side to the mid point of Susie's Island to the South East. Depths after the shoaling are 12 to 15 feet, these decreasing fairly evenly to 0 feet near the head of the harbour.

Use tidal predictions for Point Tupper. Tidal range on a 'large tide' is 6.5 feet.

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