



# NEWPORT PADDLE SAFETY GUIDE

**Be Aware and Prepare!** Popular paddling guidebooks cite eight paddling zones in Newport's waters. Each has hazards, and conditions change often. **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO.** Click map or zone name for info.

## NEWPORT PADDLE HAZARDS



## HAZARD ZONE INFO

**Zone 1: Washington Street Driftways**

**Zone 2: Newport's Inner Harbor**

**Zone 3: King Park/Wellington Road**

**Zone 4: Fort Adams/Brenton Cove**

**Zone 5: Coasters Harbor Marina NAVSTA Newport.**

**Zone 6: Narragansett Bay Open Water**

**Zone 7: King's Beach Fisherman Parking Area and South Shore**

**Zone 8: Easton's Beach**

**Master These 10 Rules of Safer Paddling**



# PADDLE SAFE. PADDLE SMART.

Here are eight safety rules to help you paddle more safely.  
Since your kayak or SUP is a VESSEL, the first four are THE LAW.

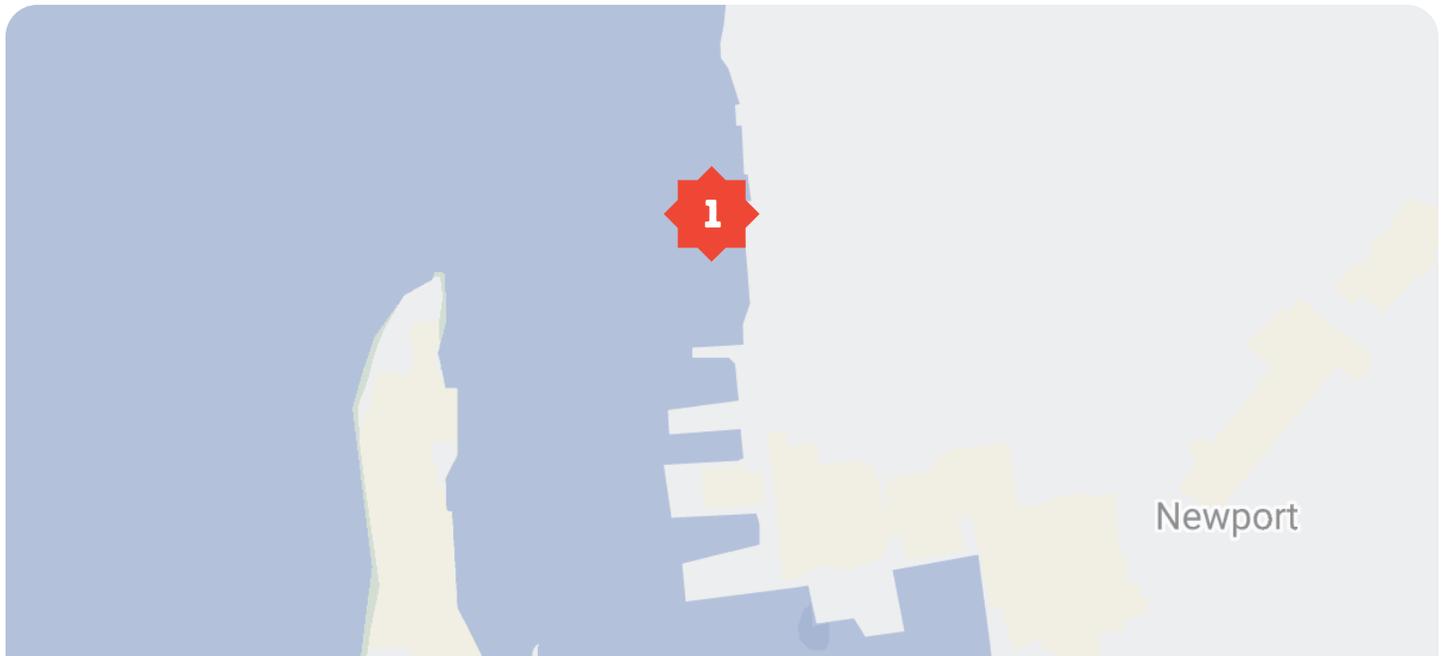
**REMEMBER:** Every paddle and paddler is different.

Always plan for specific conditions, skill, health and more.





## ZONE 1: WASHINGTON STREET DRIFTWAYS



The public access points along Washington Street access the Point mooring field. Water conditions at launch depend on wind speed, wind direction and other factors. Hazards include heavy boat traffic, tidal surge and small waves at the shoreline. Weather can change rapidly. Wind and waves often get stronger throughout the day. A paddle SOUTH takes you under the Goat Island bridge and into Newport Harbor (Zone 2). A paddle NORTH takes you under the Newport Bridge and into the Coaster's Harbor Marina (Zone 5).

A paddle WEST takes you into the OPEN WATER (Zone 6) of Narragansett Bay. Wind and waves get much stronger once you pass by the Goat Island light. There can also be strong tidal currents. All paddling on the west side of Goat Island should be by experienced, well-equipped paddlers ONLY.

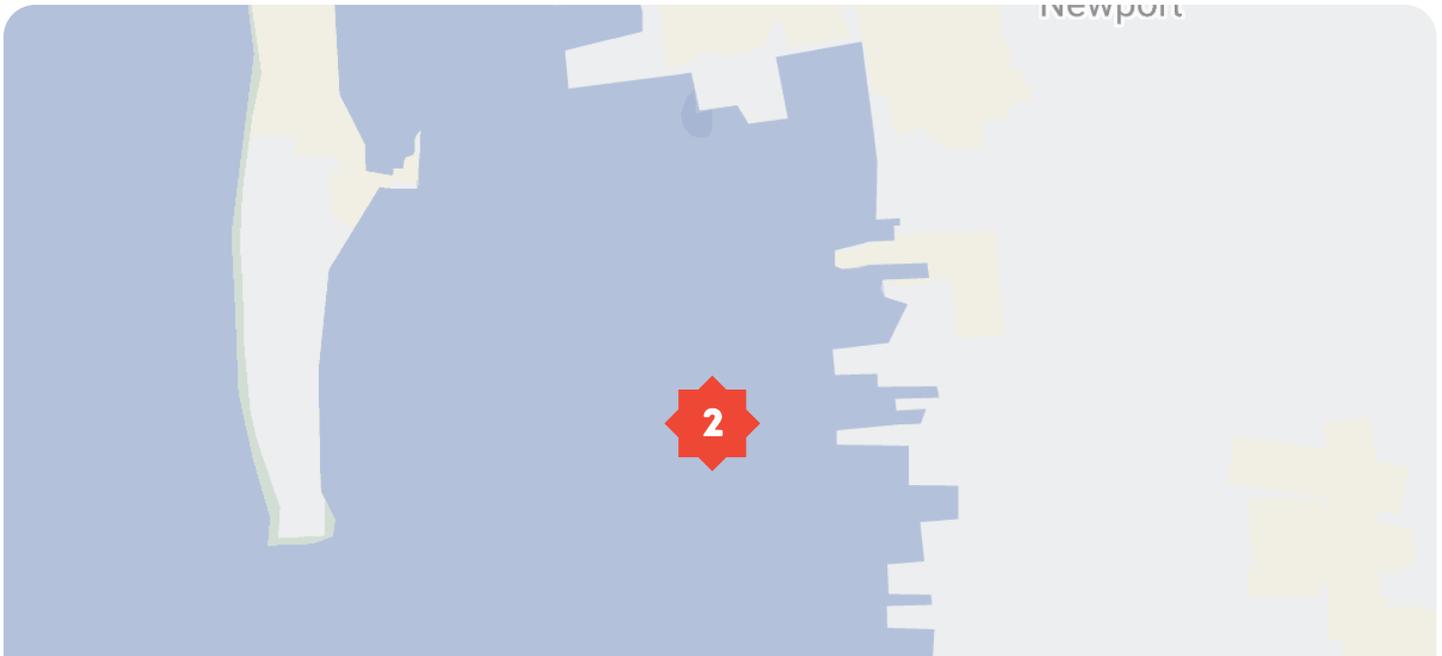
### SAFETY TIPS

- ▶ Follow all basic paddling safety tips.
- ▶ Do not go under the Goat Island bridge in the main channel, stay to the side, out of the way of boats.
- ▶ Do not go into open water unless you are experienced and equipped.
- ▶ Boat ramps and rocks can be slippery, use caution and wear proper foot coverings.





## ZONE 2: NEWPORT'S INNER HARBOR



Paddlers enter the inner harbor by paddling in from Zones 1, 3 or 4) or through paddlecraft rental companies. The inner harbor is a large, rectangular mooring field bordered by active boating channels. It can be paddled clockwise or counterclockwise.

The harbor poses specific hazards. These include heavy boat traffic, changeable weather, and limited beaching points.

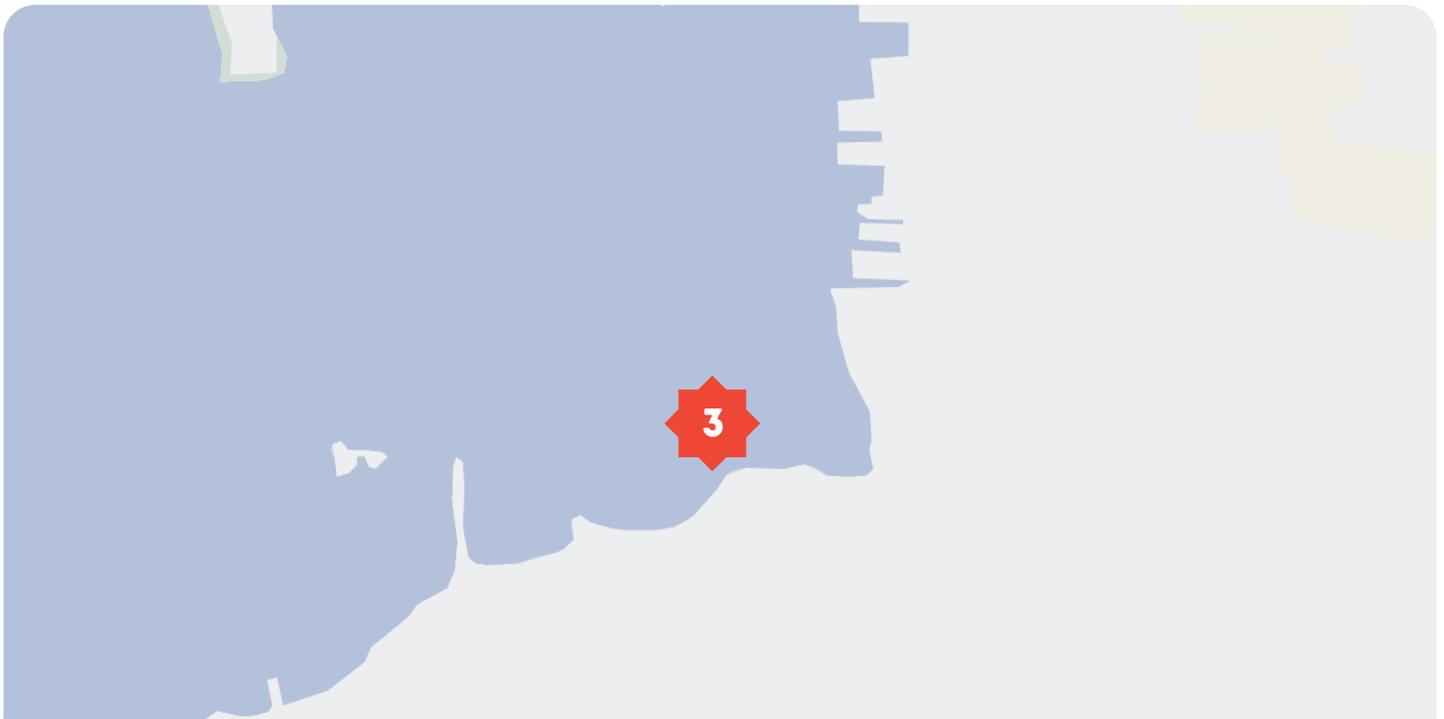
### SAFETY TIPS

- ▶ Follow all general safety tips.
- ▶ Paddlers should avoid paddling in the boating channels that surround the mooring field. Paddle at the edge of the mooring field, outside of the channel.
- ▶ Be alert for sound signals used by boats: one horn blast means “I am entering the channel”. Three horn blasts means “I am operating astern propulsion.”
- ▶ When crossing a channel, do not assume you will be given right of way.
- ▶ Look both ways, allow plenty of distance between you and oncoming boats.
- ▶ When waiting for a boat to pass, stop paddling and raise your paddle over your head with both hands to signal your intent to wait.





## ZONE 3: KING PARK/WELLINGTON ROAD



This area lies to the south of the inner harbor, and south of the main channel for boats entering Newport harbor. Launch areas include beachfront and a boat ramp. Hazards include boat traffic and changeable weather. A paddle NORTH takes you across the main channel into the inner harbor. Paddles EAST and/or WEST take you along the shoreline. Eventually a paddle WEST will take you into OPEN WATER (Zone 6).

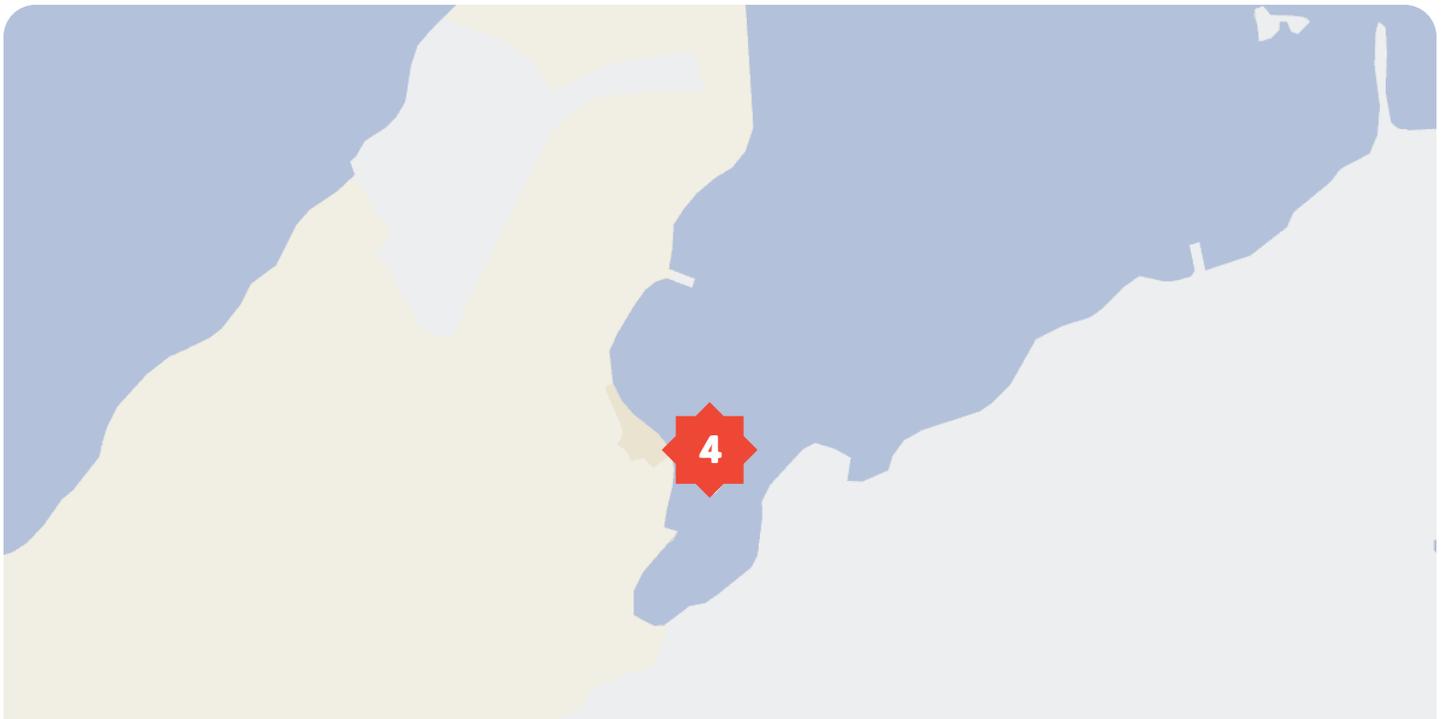
### SAFETY TIPS

- ▶ Follow all general safety tips.
- ▶ Always be aware of boat traffic.
- ▶ Use extreme caution when crossing the main channel.
- ▶ Do not assume you will be given right of way.
- ▶ Look both ways, allow plenty of distance between you and oncoming boats.
- ▶ When waiting for a boat to pass, stop paddling and raise your paddle over your head with both hands to signal your intent to wait.
- ▶ Do not paddle in open water unless experienced and equipped.





## **ZONE 4: FORT ADAMS/BRENTON COVE**



Brenton Cove is a sheltered cove and mooring field. Fort Adams is adjacent to several busy boating channels, a mooring field and the open water of Narragansett Bay. A paddle EAST will follow the shoreline (Zone 3). A paddle NORTH crosses the main boating channel into Newport harbor (ZONE 2). A paddle WEST puts you in the OPEN WATER (Zone 6) of Narragansett Bay.

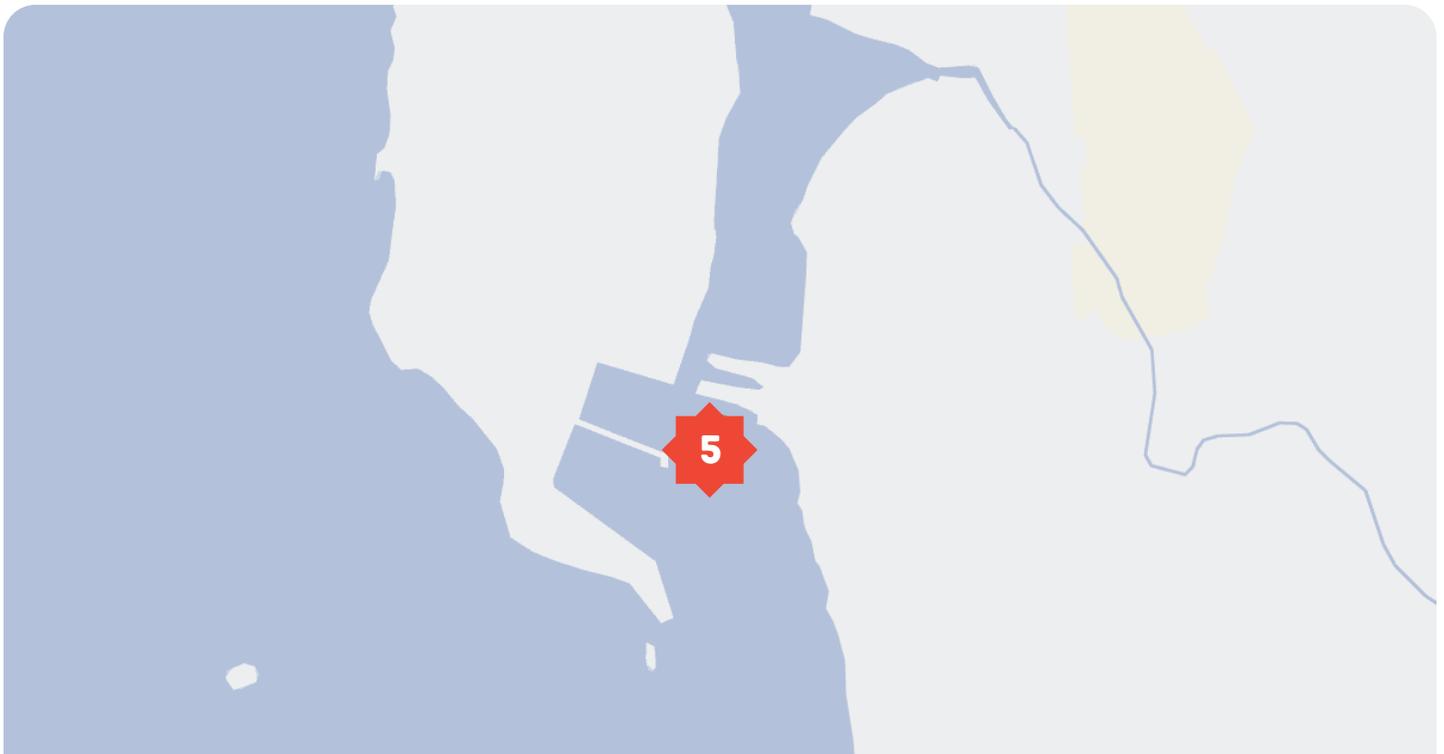
### **SAFETY TIPS**

- ▶ Follow all general safety tips.
- ▶ Be alert for boat traffic and avoid paddling in main boating channels.
- ▶ When crossing a boating channel do not assume you will be given right of way.
- ▶ Look both ways, allow plenty of distance between you and oncoming boats.
- ▶ When waiting for a boat to pass, stop paddling and raise your paddle over your head with both hands to signal your intent to wait.
- ▶ Do not paddle in open water unless experienced and equipped.





## **ZONE 5: COASTERS HARBOR MARINA/ NAVSTA NEWPORT**



Coasters Harbor Marina is on US Naval Station property. A paddle SOUTH transits the Point Mooring Field (Zone 1) and beyond to Newport Harbor (Zone 2). A paddle WEST enters the open water of Narragansett Bay (Zone 6.) **DO NOT** paddle NORTH onto restricted naval station property. Observe all restricted access buoys and keep your distance from the shoreline on the west side of Coasters Island.

### **SAFETY TIPS**

- ▶ Follow all general safety tips.
- ▶ **Be alert for boat traffic and avoid paddling in main boating channels.**
- ▶ **When crossing a boating channel do not assume you will be given right of way.**
- ▶ **Look both ways, allow plenty of distance between you and oncoming boats.**
- ▶ **When waiting for a boat to pass, stop paddling and raise your paddle over your head with both hands to signal your intent to wait.**
- ▶ **Do not paddle in open water unless experienced and equipped.**





## ZONE 6: NARRAGANSETT BAY OPEN WATER



Open water lies to the WEST of all Zones 1-5. This open water is often much rougher, windier and subject to tidal current than the more sheltered zones. Marine traffic is also traveling at much higher rates of speed. Sailing races are frequent. Large vessels with little to no ability to maneuver may be encountered. Open water should **ONLY BE PADDLED BY EXPERIENCED, FULLY EQUIPPED PADDLERS.**

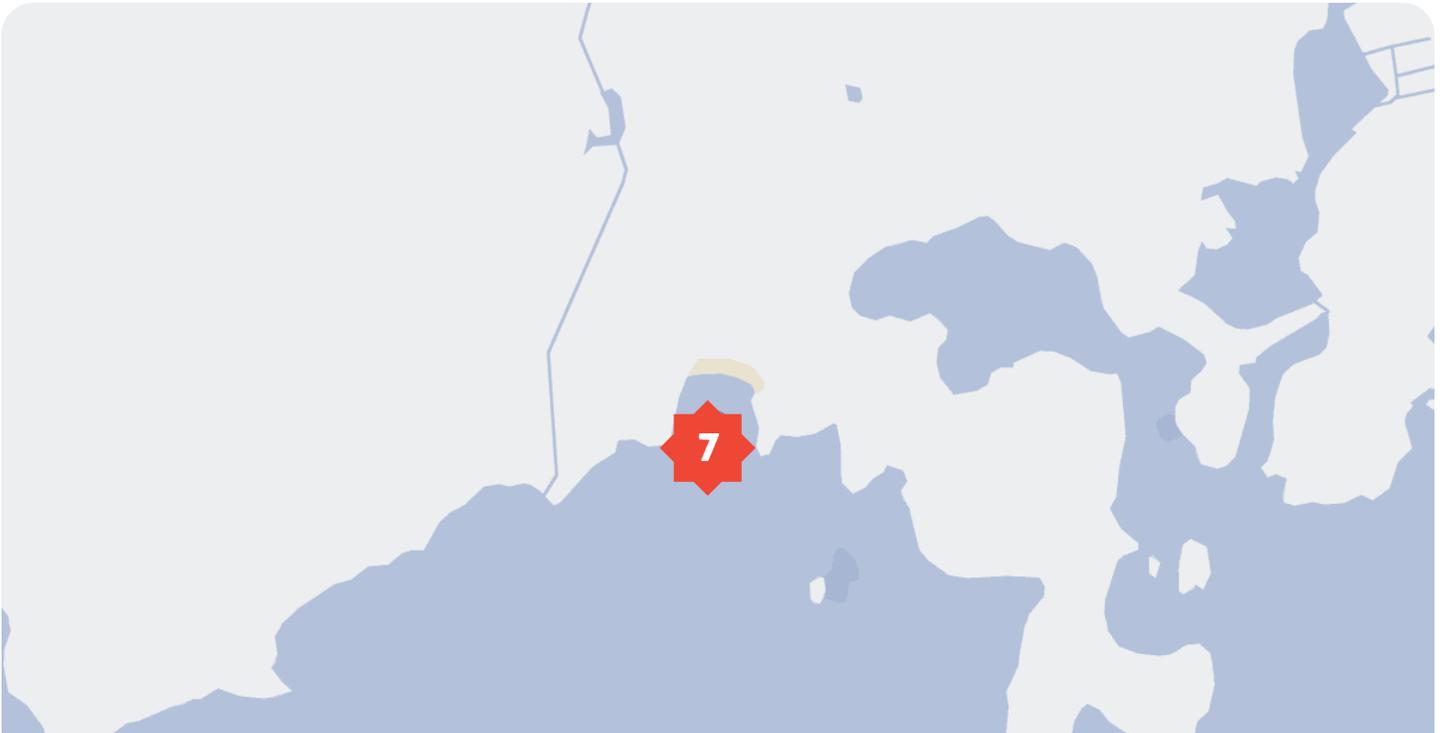
### SAFETY TIPS

- ▶ Follow all general safety tips.
- ▶ Be prepared and equipped for capsize and self-rescue.
- ▶ Do not attempt this paddle in an open recreational kayak.
- ▶ Paddle in a kayak with a spray skirt, bulkheads and/or flotation bags.
- ▶ Helmets are recommended.
- ▶ Anticipate wind, weather and tidal conditions, which often change during the day.
- ▶ Be alert to vessels traveling at high speeds, avoid heavy traffic.
- ▶ When crossing a boating channel do not assume you will be given right of way.
- ▶ Look both ways, allow plenty of distance between you and oncoming boats.
- ▶ When waiting for a boat to pass, stop paddling and raise your paddle over your head with both hands to signal your intent to wait.





## **ZONE 7: KING'S BEACH FISHERMAN PARKING AREA AND SOUTH SHORE**



This is an access point along Ocean Drive and the south shore. It has recently seen an increase in kayak anglers. This is a rocky shoreline with full exposure to the open water of the ocean. There is always significant tidal swell and the surf is often rough. Wind and waves can change rapidly and can become severe. Rocks are challenging to navigate. Only the most experienced and well-equipped paddlers should explore these waters.

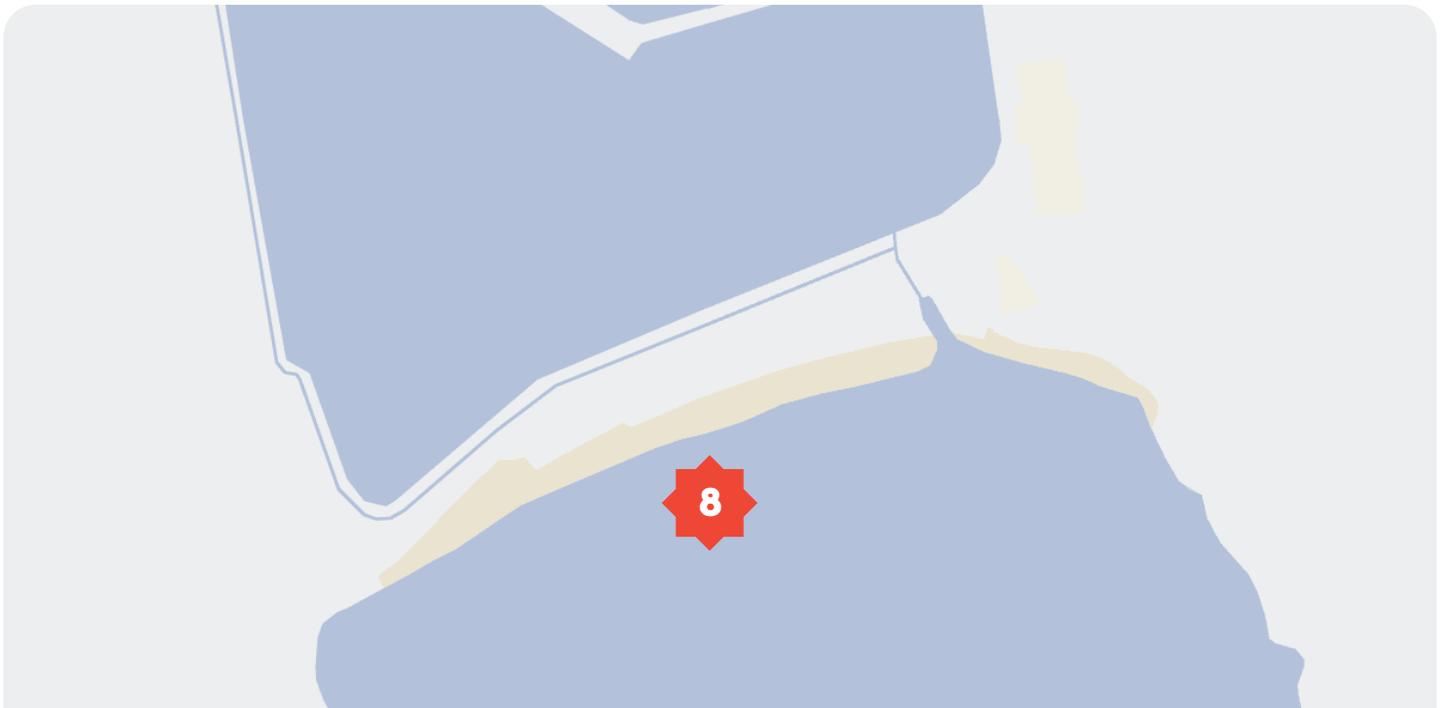
### **SAFETY TIPS**

- ▶ Follow all basic safety tips.
- ▶ Do not attempt this or any open ocean paddle if you are not highly experienced.
- ▶ Carry all safety gear, including PFD, paddle float, phone/radio, sound signal.
- ▶ Be able to self-rescue.
- ▶ Do not attempt this paddle in an open recreational kayak.
- ▶ Paddle in a kayak with a spray skirt, bulkheads and/or flotation bags.
- ▶ Helmets are recommended.





## ZONE 8: EASTON BEACH



Observe all beach rules about when and where paddlecraft can be enjoyed. A paddle SOUTH takes you into the open water of Easton Bay. A paddle EAST or WEST follows the surf line and ends at rocky shoreline. Specific hazards include rapidly changing wind and wave conditions, paddling in surf and tidal surge and waves at rocky shorelines and outcroppings.

### SAFETY TIPS

- ▶ Follow all general paddling safety tips.
- ▶ Surf paddling takes special skills to avoid capsize and injury in all but wave-free conditions.
- ▶ Do not attempt open ocean paddling without the proper experience, gear and paddlecraft.
- ▶ Carry all safety gear, including PFD, paddle float, phone/radio, sound signal.
- ▶ Do not attempt this paddle in an open recreational kayak.
- ▶ Paddle in a kayak with a spray skirt, bulkheads and/or flotation bags.
- ▶ Helmets are recommended if you intend to explore rocky shoreline.





**IN AN EMERGENCY**



**In the event of an emergency, quickly make yourself, fellow paddlers and paddlecraft as secure as possible, then SUMMON HELP:**

- ▶ **By sound: 3 long whistle or horn blasts while waving arms or paddle overhead**
- ▶ **By visual distress signal: distress flag, smoke, flare, mirror flash, light**
- ▶ **By radio: Use Channel 16 for harbormaster and Coast Guard**
- ▶ **By phone: Dial 911**

## **PADDLING RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The U.S Coast Guard considers kayaks and SUPs to be VESSELS. This means you must comply with many of the federal and state rules and regulations that apply to small boats. THESE ARE:

- ▶ **Life jackets WORN at all times**
- ▶ **Sound signal aboard**
- ▶ **Visual distress signal aboard**
- ▶ **White light used dusk to dawn**

## **THE NEWPORT PADDLE SAFETY PROGRAM**

The Harbormaster team invites YOU to be a part of the safe paddling community. To learn about classes, events, safety materials, volunteer opportunities and more, contact: Mark Marosits

**NewportPaddles@cityofnewport.com**

