

Peninsula Paddling



Best Time of Year:

June through September

Cost:

No permits are necessary, however there may be fees for launching or camping at individual sites

Bring:

kayak or canoe, life jacket, tide table, dress for cold water, camera, binoculars, sunscreen

Directions:

See map on reverse for boat access points

For More Information:

Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Bureau
1-800-451-2542 or funbeach.com

Willapa Water Trail
c/o Larry Warnberg
P.O. Box 43
Nahcotta, WA 98637

Washington State Parks
(360) 902-8551

Port of Ilwaco
(360) 642-3143

Port of Peninsula at Nahcotta
(360) 665-4547

Seven rivers and many creeks drain into Willapa Bay. Exploring these meandering and mostly tidal streams is great fun and the opportunities for viewing wildlife are numerous. Paddling on the Bay shore, you are likely to see seals, sea lions, and a variety of birds. We sometimes find juvenile gray whales summering over in the Bay; Orcas and Great White Sharks are rare. While you won't find any dolphins, lucky paddlers may sight a Harbor Porpoise.

Enjoy viewing the thousands of acres of oyster beds, but look and don't touch. Beware the sharp shells, which can gouge boat hulls and slice bare feet and note that the beds are mostly private and unavailable for public harvest. There are a number of quality seafood markets and eateries locally which will gladly serve you.

Many rare plant species can be found in the region, notably in Leadbetter Point State Park and on pristine Long Island. Throughout the trail, please use only established campsites and avoid crushing plants with your boats or shoes. "Leave No Mark."

Boating on Willapa Bay can be a most enjoyable experience or, as too many paddlers have discovered, a frightening nightmare. Follow the following safety tips when boating in Willapa Bay:

- [1] Wear your lifejacket
- [2] Be aware of the tides. Most of Willapa Bay is a mud flat and becoming stuck could leave you stranded - a serious hazard. Always carry a tidebook and plan your trip accordingly.
- [3] Dress for cold water, regardless of the weather forecast. Regardless of the weather or time of year, the waters of Washington State can remain in the 50's year-round.
- [4] File a float plan. Include specific information on your routes and destination and be sure to tell a friend or family member where you are going and when you will return.
- [5] Take a boating education course. Learn rescue and survival equipment and techniques.
- [6] Use NOAA chart #18504 for Willapa Bay.
- [7] Contact State Parks for a free Washington Boater's Guide and contact us for a current copy of the Willapa Bay Water Trail map.

More 

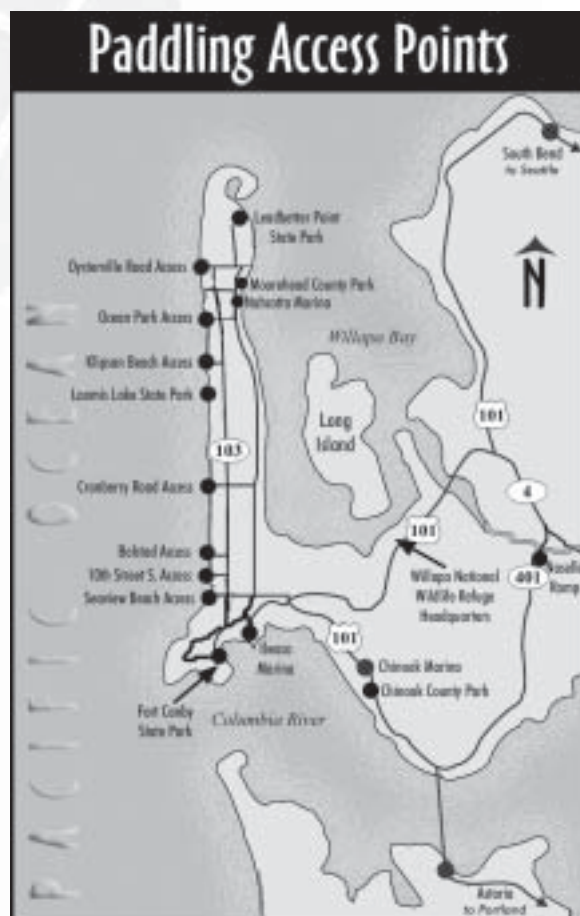


Peninsula Paddling

- continued -



- Port of Peninsula (Nahcotta Marina): Boat launching, toilets, campsite.
- Moorehead County Park: Local businesses collaborate to provide boat launching (at high tide), primitive campsites, and information. Ask for Washington Water Trails Association volunteers Larry Warnberg or Andy Wiegardt.
- Leadbetter Point National Wildlife Refuge: Many hiking trails (see our information sheet), good shoreline boating at high tide, toilets, no camping, beach access for boat launching (100 yard carry). Bay Center is 5 miles due east across Willapa Bay. Crossing should be done only with planning and care.
- Ocean Park Access: Restrooms, restaurants, gas, shopping and other facilities. Automobile access to beach (which is a State Highway; see our information sheet for more info).
- Klipsan Beach Access: Automobile access to beach.
- Loomis Lake State Park Access: Restrooms, picnic areas, hiking trails, fishing.
- Cranberry Road Access: Automobile access to beach.
- Bolstad Access: Restrooms, restaurants, gas, shopping, lodging, and other facilities. Boardwalk and paved Discovery Trail through the Dunes (see our info sheet). Automobile access to beach except Memorial Day through September 15.
- 10th Street S. Access: Restrooms, restaurants, gas, shopping, lodging, and other facilities. Boardwalk and paved Discovery Trail through the Dunes. Automobile access to beach except Memorial Day through September 15.
- Seaview Beach Access: Restrooms, restaurants, gas, shopping, lodging, and other facilities. Automobile access to beach (southward only between Memorial Day through September 15).
- Fort Canby State Park: Restrooms, picnic, RV and tent camping, many hiking trails, boat launch.
- Port of Ilwaco (Ilwaco Marina): Restrooms, RV and tent camping, boat launch, restaurants, gas, shopping, lodging, and other facilities.
- Port of Chinook: Restrooms, RV and tent camping, boat launch, restaurants, gas, shopping and other facilities.
- Chinook County Park: Restrooms, picnic areas. Day use only.
- Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters: Restrooms, boat ramp, maps, access to the Naselle River and to the south end of Willapa Bay. Primitive campsites on Long Island (see our info sheet on Long Island for more information).
- Naselle Ramp: boat launch



Much of the information for this sheet comes from Willapa Water Trails

