

COQUILLE RIVER



The Coquille channel

About the harbor

The Coquille River flows into the ocean at the town of Bandon. Bandon was founded in 1874 by an Irish immigrant, George Bennett, who named it after his home town in County Cork. Bennett is also credited, or blamed, for importing a prickly, oily-sapped leguminous shrub known in Ireland as furze and in Oregon as gorse. It spread rapidly along the south coast, and its presence in and around Bandon contributed to the fire that burned the town to the ground in 1936.

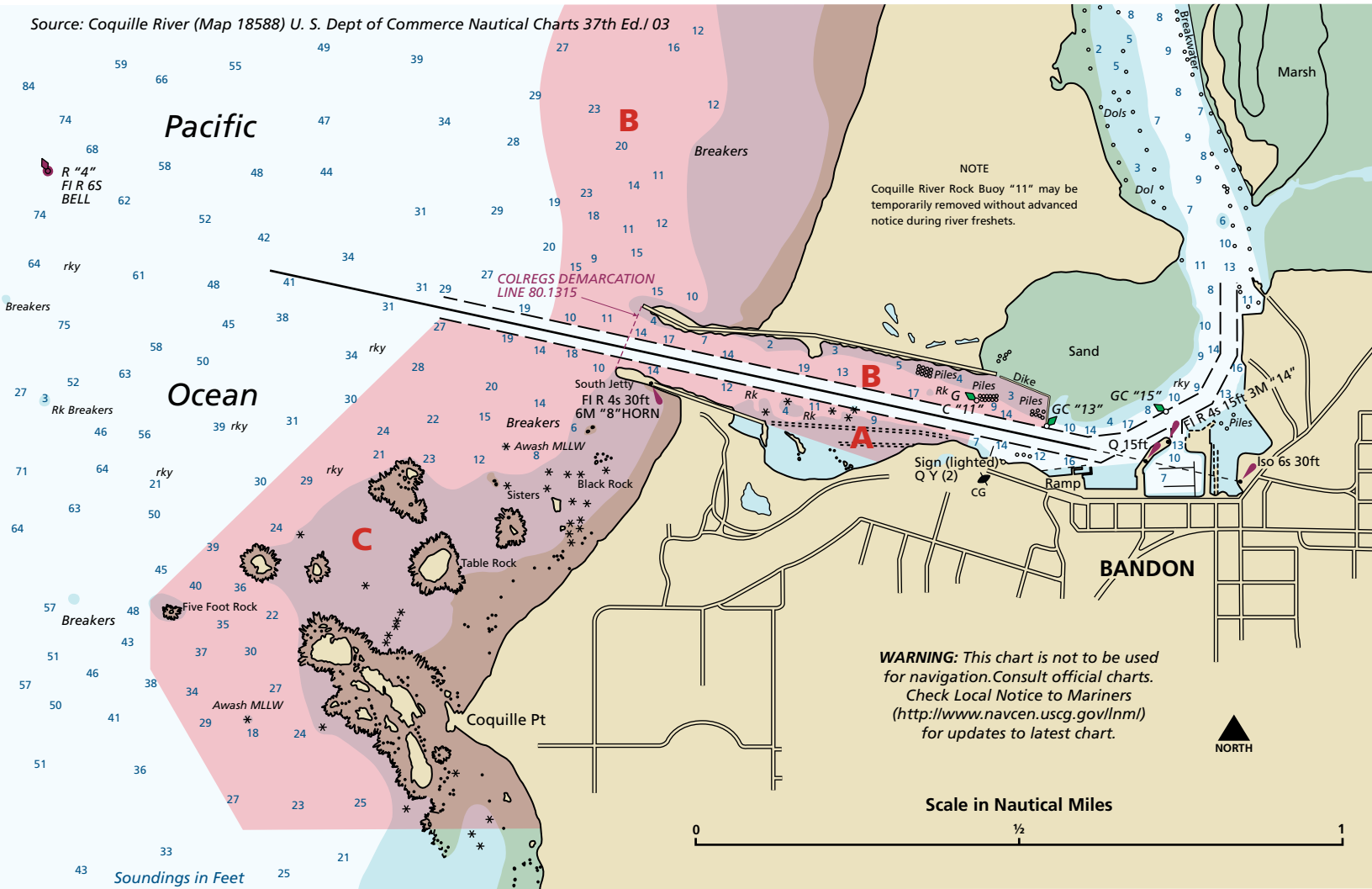
As with all Oregon coastal towns, Bandon's economic roots are in farming, fishing, logging, and lumbering. In the mid-1960s, however, it started calling itself Bandon-by-the-Sea, testifying to the town's blooming tourist industry.



Pulling a crab pot at Bandon



Source: Coquille River (Map 18588) U. S. Dept of Commerce Nautical Charts 37th Ed./ 03



NOTE
Coquille River Rock Buoy "11" may be temporarily removed without advanced notice during river freshets.

WARNING: This chart is not to be used for navigation. Consult official charts. Check Local Notice to Mariners (<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/lnm/>) for updates to latest chart.

Hazardous areas

A. South jetty. It is always dangerous to get too close to the end of a jetty. Because of prevailing northwest winds and the possibility of large breakers, give yourself plenty of room when passing the south jetty.

B. North jetty. Stay clear of the end because of continuous breakers. A shallow area with partly submerged rocks extends from the lighthouse to the end of the jetty. Large swells could put a boat onto the rocks.

C. South side of Coquille entrance. Very dangerous because of partly submerged rocks. Prevailing northwest winds during the summer, together with sea currents running to the south, could send a powerless boat onto the rocks.

Rough-weather advisories and information

- Coast Guard station at Charleston: (541) 888-3267.
- The rough-bar advisory sign is positioned 300 yards west of the Port of Bandon boat ramp on the south side of the channel.
- Steer a course that keeps the two range markers in line as you navigate the channel. The range markers are rectangular red daymarks with a white stripe.

What to do in and around Bandon

The tidy Port of Bandon boat basin, situated in a pleasant waterfront park, caters exclusively to recreational traffic. It is adjacent to one of the most colorful Old Towns along the coast, with restaurants, bars, candy stores, clothing boutiques, and gift shops aplenty.

Cranberries, a renowned local product, are available in many creative and prettily packaged incarnations. There is cranberry sauce, of course, but also cranberry jelly, marmalade, and fruit leather; chocolate-dipped cranberries; white-chocolate cranberry bark; jellied cranberry-nut confections; dried cranberry morsels; cranberry-nut trail mix; and inedibles such as cranberry candles, sachets, and soaps.

The Bandon Historical Society Museum features Indian artifacts, historical photos, and exhibits about the Coast Guard and the great 1936 fire. Spreading upriver from Highway 101 is the 300-acre Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, a good place to watch shore birds, migratory waterfowl, and raptors.

The Coquille estuary and lower river are popular for fall chinook and winter steelhead fishing and crabbing. Anglers fish for smelt, surfperch, and rockfish from the docks and jetties. South of the boat basin is a nice beach for walking, photographing wildlife, flying kites, or building sand castles. The 1896 Coquille River lighthouse, on the base of the north jetty, is accessible on foot from Bullards Beach

Offshore are several rocky islets that are part of the Oregon Islands Wildlife Refuge. The refuge comprises some 1,400 coastal islands, rocks, and reefs from Tillamook Head south to the California border. It provides breeding grounds for most of Oregon's 1.2 million seabirds.



Enjoying lunches out of the wind, sort of



Unearthly creatures at Bandon's waterfront park



Bandon's bronze turtle



The Coquille River Lighthouse

Coquille River attractions

- 1 Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge
- 2 South Jetty County Park
- 3 Coquille River Lighthouse
- 4 Bullards Beach State Park
- 5 Old Town Bandon
- 6 Bandon Historical Society Museum
- ? Visitor information

Boating facilities

- A Port of Bandon
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- B Bullards Beach Ramp
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