

NAVIGATION IN CHICHESTER AND LANGSTONE HARBOURS

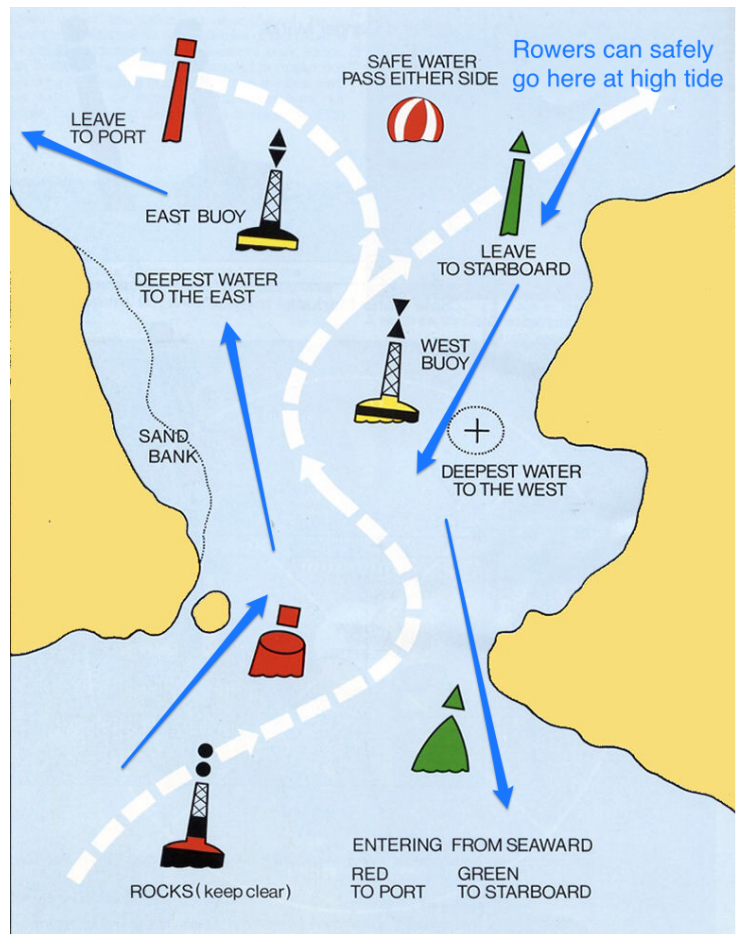
When rowing in our local waters it is vital to know where the many shallows and other underwater hazards are. The harbours are well marked with posts and buoys.

The main channels are indicated by posts with red cans on the port (left) side and green cones on the starboard (right) side, always from the point of view of a boat going up harbour.

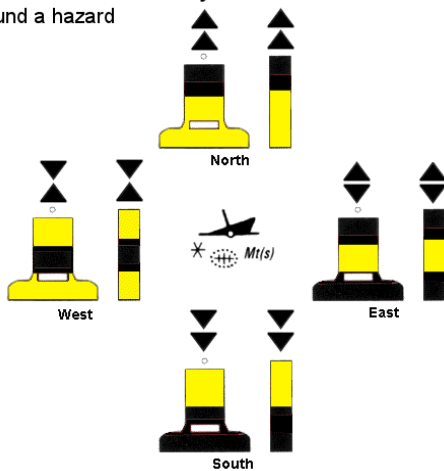
Shallows are marked by buoys or posts with pairs of cones on top.

Rowing boats have very shallow draft so coxswains can safely steer just outside the main channel when the tide is right. Indeed, it is good practice because it keeps you clear of larger boats that are restricted to the deeper water and if you are rowing against the tide it keeps you out of the main current.

When out of the main channel, check the depth of water regularly and keep a sharp eye out for obstructions ahead. Areas of shallow water are marked at the cardinal points (north, south, east, west) indicated by black cones. It is worth memorising them - the north and south cardinals have both cones pointing up and down respectively, like the arrows on a compass rose. The west cardinal marker has the cones pointing inwards to form a waist - think 'westy-waisty'. The east cardinal is the other one.



Arrangement of Cardinal Marker Buoys around a hazard



Yellow buoys or posts, sometimes with crosses on top, are special marks usually placed by sailing clubs for racing purposes.

Isolated hazards such as wrecks are shown by a post or buoy with red and black stripes and two black balls on top, known as Dennis the Menace marks. Steer well clear of them.

