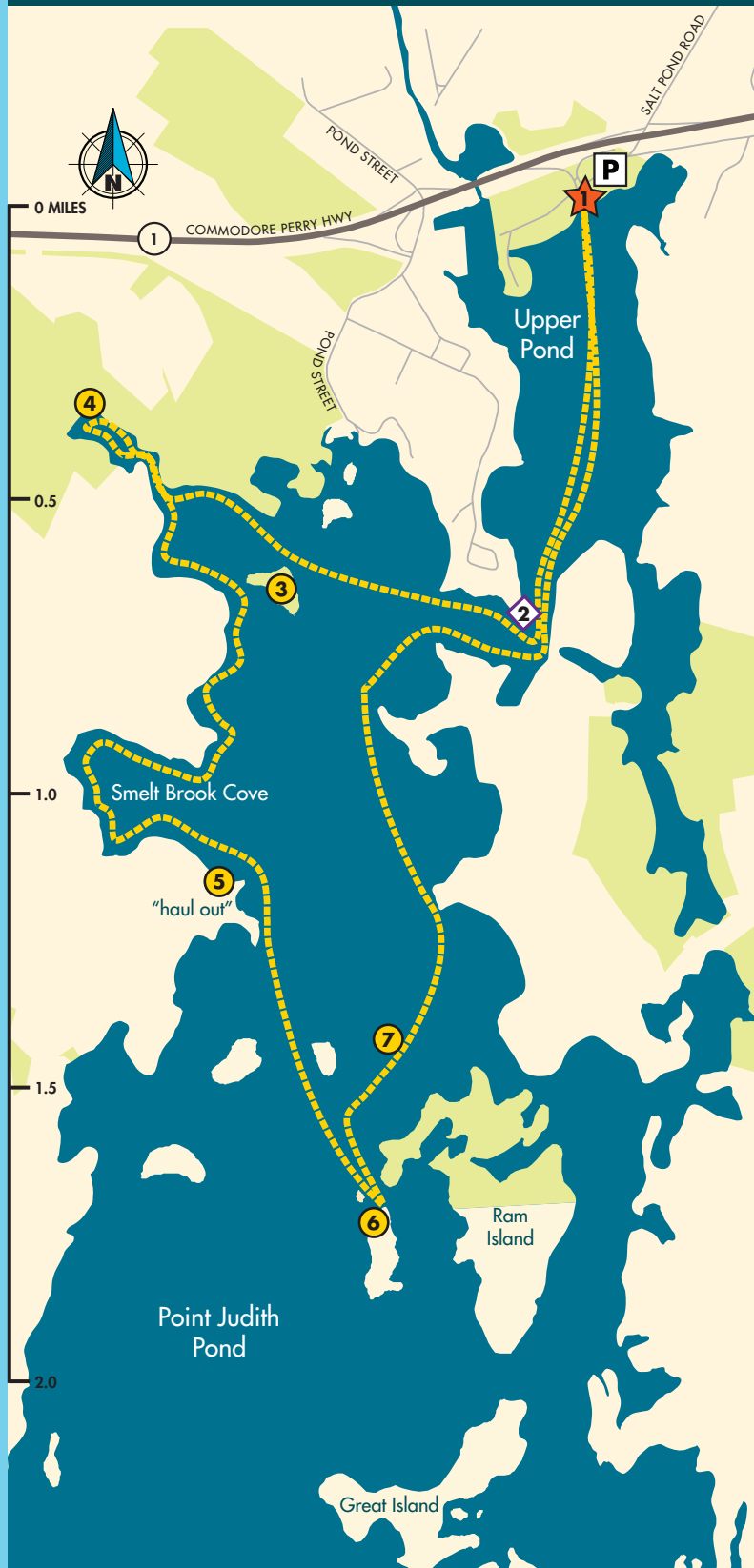


SALT PONDS COALITION: POINT JUDITH POND (AKA SALT POND)



MAP LEGEND			
	WATER ACCESS		PARKING
	WATER		WATER TRAIL ROUTE
	CAUTION		ROADS
	POINTS OF INTEREST		CONSERVATION LAND

LEVEL	Beginner/Intermediate (wind)
START/END	Marina Park, 134 Salt Pond Road, South Kingstown
RIVER MILES	5.5 mile loop
TIME	2 hours for loop
DESCRIPTION	Flat Water
SCENERY	Coastal woodland, salt marsh, birds and islands
ACCESS	Boat launch

MARINA PARK TO MID POND

Point Judith Pond offers wonderfully diverse scenery ranging from woodlands in the north to barrier beach in the south. Further south you may encounter more boat traffic, so we like paddling from Marina Park at the north end of the pond. Leaving the ramp you will be in a fairly congested marina environment. Around the docks to the right is a small cove where the Saugatucket River flows into the upper pond. Paddling south, you pass through a mooring field before breaking out into more open water. After about 3/4 mile you enter The Narrows , which curves to the right. In The Narrows everyone gets squeezed into a narrow channel, so be alert for motorboats and their wakes, and be aware that bigger boats don't have much room to maneuver. Also be aware that wind conditions outside of The Narrows might be different than in the upper pond.

From The Narrows, angle northwest across the pond. Passing just north of Cummuck's Island will put you on a straight line toward a lovely cove and Whaley's Pots, where in days of old locals would build stone walls across the narrow opening to trap buckies (alewives), white perch and smelt that entered the lagoon to spawn. Paddling into this hidden spot is fun and scenic.

Exit the "pots" and hug the western shoreline for scenic exploring and to avoid boat traffic. The location marked "haul out" is where fishermen, up through the 1950s, used small boats to set seine nets and haul them onto the beach for stripers and flatfish.

From the point just south of the haul out area, paddle southeast to Jonathan's Island which is a good place to get out and stretch your legs. After a rest, head north back toward your launch site. Shortly you may encounter workers on Moonstone Oyster Farm going about their business. If they are not too busy, they may explain the workings of the farm for you. Continue north, favoring the eastern side of the pond to avoid boating traffic, and then retrace your path through The Narrows and back to the launch.



POINT JUDITH POND

Point Judith Pond is bordered by the towns of Narragansett and South Kingstown and runs from the mouth of the Saugatucket River to the sea at the Port of Galilee. Abundant resources support both recreational and commercial fishing, as well as pleasure boating. There are many beautiful places for paddlers to explore.



SOUTHERN RHODE ISLAND SALT PONDS

Point Judith Pond is the second largest of the South County salt ponds. It is a classic estuary as the Saugatucket River empties to the sea. The other southern RI salt ponds are coastal lagoons. Point Judith Pond displays a wonderful contrast in scenery – from a bustling marina complex, to wooded countryside, past small islands and on down to the largest commercial fishing port in the state. The Port of Galilee is the fourth largest fishing port in New England, as well as the home of the ferry to Block Island. Kayakers are advised to avoid the marina traffic along Snug Harbor (west side of the southern end of the pond) and Galilee (east side of the southern end of the pond). Point Judith Pond has many small undeveloped islands to explore. Several of the islands

once had small fishing shacks and others had summer homes, all were destroyed by the Hurricane of 1938. Prior to '38 several small oyster leases were active. Today there are two major aquaculture operations in Point Judith Pond. The pond supports a commercial and very large recreational shellfishery for clams, quahaugs, as well as oysters and scallops in season.

The safest kayak paddles are along the South Kingstown side of the pond. For kayakers wanting to explore more of the pond, paddle east of Jonathan and Ram Island to East Pond, east of Great Island. There is a state launch ramp at Bluff Hill Cove for those who wish to leave a car Marina Park and another down pond.



DIRECTIONS

Marina Park South Kingstown is a town facility that is open to the public year-round. Kayaks can be dropped at the launch ramp or carried over from the nearby parking lot.

From Route 1 north: Take the Salt Pond Road exit (across Route 1 from from South County Hospital). Turn right at the end of the ramp and drive about 100 yards. The boat ramp is on your left, parking on your right.

From Route 1 south: Take the Salt Pond Road exit. Go left at the end of the ramp and drive about ¼ mile, passing under the highway. The boat ramp is on your left, parking on your right.

ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET AND CARRY A WHISTLE OR OTHER SOUND PRODUCING DEVICE, PREFERABLY ATTACHED TO YOUR LIFE JACKET. PADDLERS SHOULD CHECK WATER LEVEL AND TIDES, WEATHER, AND WATERWAY CONDITIONS PRIOR TO EVERY TRIP. REMOVE WHAT YOU BRING, CLEAN UP MORE IF YOU CAN. PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY. REPORT ANY PROBLEMS YOU ENCOUNTER TO SOUTH KINGSTOWN HARBOR MASTER AT 401-783-3321 AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IF APPROPRIATE.



Salt Ponds Coalition (SPC), incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in 1985, is the oldest continuously operating volunteer marine water-quality monitoring program in the nation. SPC conducts public outreach programs and works to focus legislative and regulatory attention on protecting our valuable salt pond resources for the benefit of wildlife and people. www.saltpondscoalition.org

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) protects and preserves Narragansett Bay and its watershed through partnerships that conserve and restore natural resources, enhance water quality and promote community involvement. NBEP supports the RI Blueways Alliance which is dedicated to creating a comprehensive water trail network to link Rhode Island's rivers, lakes and ponds to Narragansett Bay and to the rivers in Massachusetts that flow into the bay. The trail will be used to promote safety, conservation, recreation and economic development. www.ExploreRI.org



Watershed organizations throughout the Narragansett Bay watershed showcase paddling opportunities on downloadable paddle maps. The full list of maps is available at ExploreRI.org.

