

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

Mariners and others interested in commerce and the preservation of life and property from loss by shipwreck on our coasts, are earnestly requested to give prompt information to the Inspectors, Engineers, or Superintendents of Lights, or to this Board, by direct communication, of cases in which lights are not lighted punctually at sunset and extinguished at sunrise, or in which they are not properly attended to during the night, or in which light-vessels and buoys are out of position, and of all cases in which the published instructions from this Board are not strictly executed, that the Board may, with as little delay as possible, apply the proper remedy, and prevent neglect of duty in matters connected with the lights, beacons, and buoys of the United States.

OFFICE LIGHT-HOUSE BOARD, WASHINGTON.

Masters of vessels and others are forbidden to make their vessels fast to buoys or stakes, or to use them for warping purposes. These aids are provided for the purpose of rendering navigation safe and easy to all mariners, and must not, therefore, be wilfully moved, injured, or interfered with by any one.

FOG-SIGNALS ON BOARD UNITED STATES LIGHT-VESSELS.

Notice is hereby given that, on and after the first day of January, 1859, vessels approaching or passing light-vessels of the United States, in foggy or thick weather, will be warned of their proximity by the alternate ringing of a BELL and sounding of a FOG-HORN on board of the light-vessels, at intervals not exceeding five minutes.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Office Light-house Board, Washington, D. C., October 5, 1858.

NOTE.

The day-beacons along the Florida Reefs, from FOWEY ROCKS, "P" to EASTERN SAMBO, "A," (between Cape Florida and Sand Key Light-houses,) are composed each of an iron shaft, thirty feet in height, erected on iron-pile foundations, distinguished by a vane, upon which one of the letters of the alphabet is shown in their regular order from "P" to "A" to Eastern Sambo inclusive, (from northward and eastward to southward and westward,) and from Eastern Sambo to west channel into Key West by other letters of the alphabet, and above it is a lattice-work hoop-iron cylinder or barrel.

The colors (white, black, and red) are used in painting each of these beacons to render them as striking to the eye of the mariner as possible, and so combined that no two adjacent beacons have the same colors upon like parts. Masters of vessels may ascertain their positions in latitude and longitude by referring to the list for these beacons as they are passed.

These beacons are placed on the most projecting and dangerous points on the Florida Reefs, and are, in general, from four to six miles from the seaward shores of the Florida Keys, and within half a mile, in every case, of the edge of the Gulf stream. The depth of water where these beacons stand does not exceed four feet at low tide.

These beacons may be approached from seaward within a few hundred yards; but it would be prudent at all times (and especially in light winds, or in threatening or bad weather) to give them a good berth.

In moderate weather, it frequently happens, (especially after easterly gales,) that the force and direction of the Gulf stream sets across the reefs, carrying the vessels imperceptibly into danger, although the course steered would, if made good, carry them well outside of all danger.

When one of these beacons is discovered to the eastward of a vessel, the master may be certain that he is between the Reefs and Keys, and most likely surrounded by shoals and dangerous rocks or reefs.

The Turtle Harbor and Coffin's Patches beacons differ in appearance from the other described beacons with letters of the alphabet, and will be found fully described in their proper places on the list.

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Pacific Reef Bea
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