

S-38.5 Dampier Cove

06/27/2023 Julie Thorndycraft

From Dampier Cove to...

[Simons Harbour \(S-34\)](#), 8 miles S

[Morrison Harbour \(S-42\)](#), 3 miles N

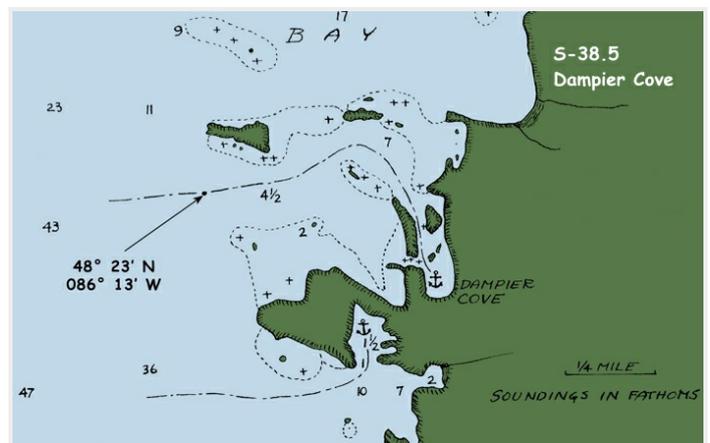
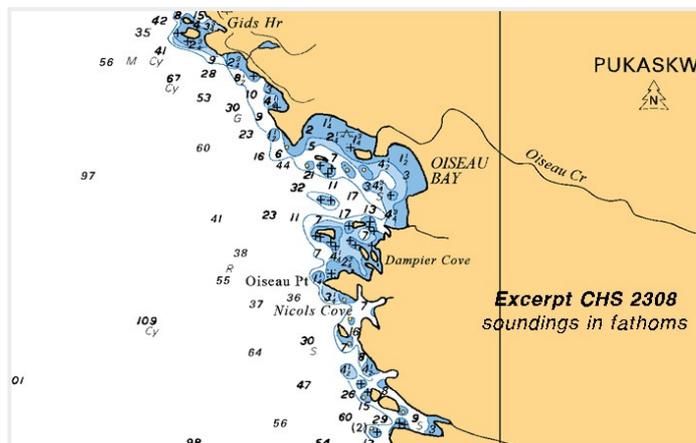
Dampier Cove quick reference...

Type of harbor	wilderness anchorage	Services	none
Location	48° 22.87' N, 086° 11.54' W	Light List numbers	none
Charts	CHS 2304, 2308	Dockage	no

Introduction

Dampier Cove is a beautiful wilderness anchorage in Oiseau Bay and large enough to hold numerous boats with ample space between. It is protected from all winds. It is generally preferable to [Nicols Cove \(S-37\)](#).

It is named after the Dampier family of Nipigon, who used to collect stray pulpwood and kept their converted fish-tug yacht in Rossport.



1) Excerpt CHS 2308. 2) Sketch of harbor by Colin A. MacMillan.

Approaches

From the south, there are no hazards after passing Stench Rock, northwest of Simons Harbour (see chart 2308 and [harbor report S-34](#)).

From the north, there are no particular hazards.

Entrance

The cove is located on the south side of Oiseau Bay and is a delightful, landlocked anchorage. Pay close attention to the sketch for entrance courses, noting the rocks and shoals.

With water levels at chart datum in 2010, 7 feet of water was found in the first narrow entrance to the anchorage, and 14 feet in the second. A prudent navigator should have a bow watch and proceed slowly.

The narrow passage between the islet and the point has plenty of water but you will see the shoals on both sides of your boat as you pass through the trough. The exceptionally clear water will magnify the shoals. You may want to use the dinghy to sound the entrance or look carefully from the flying bridge and compare with the accompanying air photos.

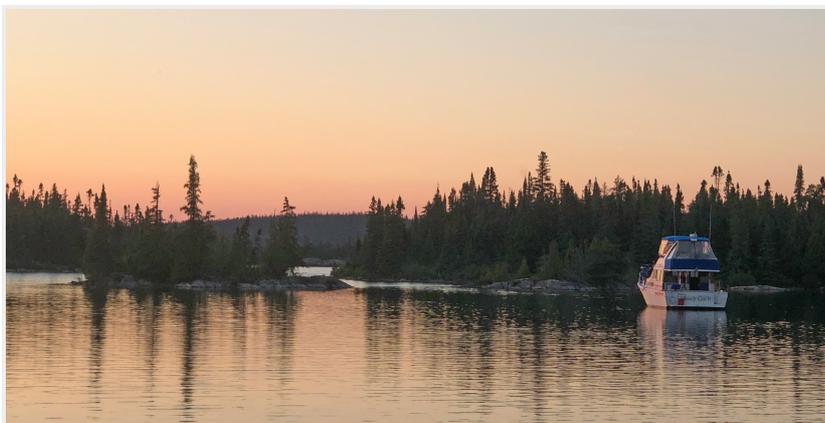


1) Dampier Cove from the north, looking south. 2) Looking northeast at Dampier Cove. Note the path in relationship to the small islet. Photos by G.L. Park and Dick Best.

Exploring

The area in and around Dampier Cove has excellent fishing. The water is so clear, you can see large Northern Pike swimming under your kayak or boat.

The Coastal Hiking trail passes on the east side of the Cove, and is easily accessed on the low rock bluff there. An easy 2 km hike north takes you to the broad sandy beach Oiseau Bay.



1) Along the south shore of the anchorage. 2) Looking north from inside the anchorage area, note that you leave the small islet on the left to port as you enter and starboard upon departure. Photos by Julie Thorndycraft.

Report by Ron and Bonnie Dahl, Colin MacMillan, Dave Steffens, Jennifer Bagley, Julie Thorndycraft and Daniel DeWeese

