Charts SAN 127, 128.

4.3 GENERAL

1. The coast between Great Fish Point and the mouth of the Groot- Keirivier is mostly sandy with occasional rocky outcrops. There are high cliffs along the last ten miles before Cape Morgan is reached. The whole of this coast is backed by high ground, with prominent rounded grassy hills. Unlike the coast described in the previous chapter there is little afforestation close to the coastline.

2. Several large rivers reach the sea along this stretch, the most important being the Buffalo River at the mouth of which the Port of East London is situated.

Chart SAN 59, 84 (INT 7540), 127, 128.

3. Between Great Fish Point and Port St. Johns the width of the continental shelf decreases from about 17 miles off the former to a mere 5 miles off the latter. The Agulhas Current runs roughly parallel to the coast and is strongest in the vicinity of the shelf edge, as defined by the 200 m isobath.

4. Off East London the current occasionally attains rates of up to 5 knots, but the average rate during spring and autumn varies between 3 and 3.5 knots. During the summer and winter it is usually slightly weaker. After southerly gales have been blowing, onshore sets of up to 1 knot may be expected, particularly between East London and Cape Morgan. Because of this possibility, if visibility closes down, ships on the northward run who have been keeping close inshore to avoid the full force of the current, should haul to seaward keeping within soundings of between 80 and 90 m (but see section 4.6.91 concerning Cape Morgan).

5. Ships on the southward run normally keep further to seaward to take advantage of the current, but when a fresh NE wind is blowing with a falling barometer, and a change to SW winds has been forecast within the next 12 hours, they should stand in towards the 100 m line in order to avoid possible damage from Abnormal Waves (see *Sailing Directions Volume I Section 3.6.15)*.

Chart SAN 127

4.4 GREAT FISH POINT TO KEISKAMMA POINT

(Reference points 1 to 2).

1. The coastline between these two points is sandy but fringed with rocky outcrops in places. Grassy plains, intersected by ravines, generally are found behind the beaches but between the Mgwalana River and Keiskamma Point, a distance of some 13 miles, the coast is backed by narrow ridges of densely wooded sand ridges faced with bare sand which stretches almost up to their summits.

2. Several foul and shoal areas extend seaward for considerable distances off this coast and mariners are advised to keep a good distance off.

3. Shipwrecks. From the Kariegarivier to Hood Point there have been 38 recorded strandings and wrecks which have not been salvaged.

4. From Hood Point to the Groot- Keirivier Mouth over 97 strandings. The wreckage of few, however, have stood the onslaught of the heavy swells which pound the Wild Coast.

5. Between Great Fish Point (33° 32' S, 27° 07' E) and the mouth of the Great Fish River, which enters the sea some 2.25 miles to the NE, the land immediately behind the sandy coast is a comparatively low, grassy plain. Little Fish Point, 0.5 mile to the NE is rocky and shelving. Close within it there is a bush-covered summit, 45 m high, which is partially faced with bare sand.

6. Another Rocky Point, 9 m high, lies 1.5 miles NE of Great Fish Point. It is sandy but fringed with rocky ledges and foul ground extends seaward from it for some 2 cables. There is a possible landing place on a small rock-free beach close north of the point. A rock, which dries 1.5 m and upon which the sea nearly always breaks, lies 9 cables NE of Great Fish Point and 2.5 cables offshore.

7. From seaward the position of the Great Fish River (33° 30' S, 27° 08' E) is apparent from the gap in the coastline made by the ravine through which it flows. In clear weather this gap, when bearing NW, appears in line with undulating downland some 15 miles distant, with the high mountains of the Grahamstown district further inland to the westward. A wide road bridge, some 8 cables upstream, can also be seen on this bearing.

8. The mouth of the river is always open. It flows through a wide expanse of sand, running strongly close to its eastern shore and past Rocky Point (see below) thus causing a confused sea across its entrance. The bar itself is apparently clear of rocks and it is possible for high-powered light draught boats to cross, but this should not be attempted without local knowledge. After rain, or when the river is in spate, a strong current carries topsoil some distance to seaward, and the reddish discolouration often stretches SW as far as Kowie Point. The reddish water seldom extends in a NE direction because the east-going counter current is not often experienced off this part of the coast.

9. Rocky point, at the eastern entrance to the Great Fish River, has three dark 7 m high rocks lying close off it. To seaward of these, awash and submerged rocks extend for about 2 cables and there is foul ground to seaward of the bar. The sea breaks heavily in the vicinity.

10. Waterloo Bay is entered between Rocky Point and Stalwart Point, 4 miles to the NE. Between the two points the shore is generally sandy and clear of rocks with the exception of a patch of rocky ledges at the blind mouth of the Old Woman's River, an insignificant stream 7 cables NE of the river mouth, and another patch midway between the two points. The coastal ridge behind the beach rises steeply to heights of over 80 m. It is faced with bare sand which extends almost to its bushy summits.

11. Maitland Hill (176 m), the higher of two grassy peaks lying 2.5 miles inland from the head of the bay, is visible from most directions and is a good mark for identifying the locality.

12. A dangerous rock, having a depth of 2.7 m over it, lies some 11 cables ENE of Rocky Point and 5 cables offshore. As a rule the sea only breaks over this rock during moderate or heavy weather.

13. Waterloo Bay, named after the schooner WATERLOO which was wrecked there in 1848, being exposed to southerly and easterly winds and swells, cannot be recommended as an anchorage. However, should it be necessary for any reason to do so, ships should not anchor in less water than 16 m. During her survey in 1938, HMSAS AFRICANA used to anchor in a depth of 16.5 m, fine sand, with Great Fish Point light bearing 242° and Maitland Hill bearing 350°. The holding ground here was good but, because of the prevailing swell, very uncomfortable. Safe anchorage further from the shore can be obtained in depths of 25 m, coarse sand.

14. Landing by surf boat may be effected in favourable weather in the bight between the rocks off Rocky Point and Old Womans River. This would be preferable to attempting a landing over the Great Fish River bar.

15. Stalwart Point (33°28' S, 27°13' E) may be identified by a prominent dark hill, 113 m high, which lies one mile NW of it. The point itself is sandy with some bush covered sand dunes behind it. It is fringed with low-water rocks and shoal rocky ground extends off it, and off the coastline for a further 1.5 miles to the NE, for distances of up to 8 cables to seaward. The point should be given a wide berth.

16. The blind mouth of the Mpekweni River lies just under 2 miles NNE of Stalwart Point. It may be recognised by a group of holiday chalets on its eastern bank and by the road bridge which crosses the river about 3 cables upstream. A dark, bush-covered hill, 39 m high and faced with bare sand, is situated 4 cables SW of the mouth. The coast from the Mpekweni River mouth trends NE for some 6 miles to the mouth of the Bira River. It is generally sandy but fringed in places with rocky ledges some of which continue seawards as submerged reefs.

17. The mouth of the Mtati River, which is generally open, lies 1.75 miles NE from that of the Mpekweni River and the mouth of the Mgwalana River another mile further on in the same direction. This latter has only a narrow and shallow channel reaching the sea on most occasions. Occasionally these rivers come down in spate and strong floods wear deep channels over the sand. The coastal road crosses both rivers near their mouths, but only the bridge over the Mgwalana is visible from seaward. A dangerous submerged wreck lies 11 cables NE of the river mouth.

18. Hogg'sback, (33° 25' S, 26° 16' E) a 79 m high bush-covered hill, lies between the two rivers and 7 cables inland.

19. It is between these two rivers that the most extensive of the above-mentioned submerged reefs extends seaward for about 5 cables. The sea breaks heavily outside this reef for a considerable distance.

20. The 3 mile sandy stretch between the Mgwalana and Bira Rivers is backed by a heavily wooded coastal ridge rising steadily to heights of over 100 m close SW of the Bira River.

21. The Bira River (33° 23' S, 27° 20' E) generally has its mouth closed, but a high bare sand dune on its western side and a small holiday settlement on its eastern side serve to identify the locality. Mount Wright, a prominent round-topped grassy hill, 165 m high, lies 3.5 miles WNW of the mouth.

22. Madagascar Reef, named after the coaster MADAGASCAR which grounded there in 1858, some 5 cables in length and lying 5 cables off the shore close eastward of the Bira River mouth, consists of rocks drying 1 m and also awash and submerged rocks over which the sea always breaks. The boiler of a wreck can be seen inshore.The 20 m isobath lies 2 cables outside this reef.

23. From the Bira River mouth as far as Keiskamma Point, 9.5 miles further NE, the coast is a sandy beach, fringed with rocks in places. In bad weather the sea breaks heavily off this coast and there is no recommended anchorage.

24. The Gqutywa and Ngculura Rivers, both of which have blind mouths, lie 2 and 2.5 miles respectively NE from the mouth of the Bira River. Off the mouth of the Ngculura River submerged rocks extend from rocky ledges for a distance of 2 cables offshore. Porcupine Kop (33° 18.7' S, 27° 21.7' E), 139 m high, lies some 3 miles northward of the latter river mouth. Unlike most of the other summits at similar distances inshore in this area, it is heavily wooded with dark vegetation. This together with Pato's Kop (33° 13.5' S, 27° 19.0' E), a flat-topped, grassy hill, 279m high and lying 8.5 miles NNW of the river mouth, may help to identify the locality.

25. A submerged reef, over which the sea always breaks heavily, extends for 5 cables seaward from a position some 3 miles NE of the Gqutywa River mouth. A rock awash lies some 12 cables SW of Keiskamma Point and 2 cables offshore, and from this a chain of submerged rocks extends SW parallel to the coast for a distance of 7 cables. Heavy surf occurs in this vicinity and there is no lee between this reef and the beach. The blind mouth of the Mtana River lies 1 mile further to the SW of the reef; in common with most of the rivers in this part of the coast, the position of this river may be identified by the wooded ravine through which it flows through the thickly wooded coastal ridge. This ridge is partially faced with sandy intrusions and increases in height towards a bluff, 96 m high, one mile westward of Keiskamma Point.

26. Keiskamma Point (33° 18' S, 27° 29' E)(Reference point No. 2), a low sandy point fringed with rocks, extends for some 2 cables SE from a prominent bush-covered sand dune, 29 m high, which, when viewed at a distance from the westward, resembles an islet. A sand spit, with depths of less than 10 m over it, extends for some 6 cables SE from the point. Heavy surf occurs over this shoal water when a moderate swell is running.

Chart SAN 127

4.5 KEISKAMMA POINT TO HOOD POINT

(Reference points 2 to 3).

1. This stretch of coast is generally composed of sandy beaches which, like those further to the westward, are fringed intermittently with rocky ledges. Several large rock outcrops also occur. The coastal ridges immediately behind the beaches are usually bush-covered except for the last 5 miles or so west of Hood Point where, in built-up areas, considerable clearing has taken place. Inshore of these coastal ridges, high open grassland, intersected with the ravines of several rivers, is the predominating feature of the terrain.

2. The Keiskamma River mouth (33° 17' S, 27° 30' E) is prominent when viewed from seaward because of the wide expanse of flat sand SW of its entrance. Behind the flat sand, about 0.5 mile from the entrance, the coastal ridge ends in a bushy hill, 65 m high, upon the lower slopes of which a group of houses may be seen. The river itself reaches the sea through a channel, about 50 m wide and always open, which runs close to steeply wooded banks on its NE side. Within the mouth the river opens out into a wide basin with extensive marshy saltings to the south of which, obscured from seaward, is the settlement of Hamburg. A line of drying rocks, extending from the beach on the NE side, almost closes the entrance, leaving a very narrow clear passage. Shallow draught, high-powered boats may use the entrance in fine weather, preferably at low water when the rocks may be seen, but passage should not be attempted without local knowledge. In bad weather breakers off the entrance extend seaward for over 0.5 mile.

3. No difficulty should be experienced in identifying the river which, with its sandy entrance and the low-lying valley behind it, is the most prominent one on this part of the coast. Other marks which may assist in identifying it are Pato's Kop (see section 4.4.24), Hamburg North (166 m), a conspicuous bare conical hill 3.5 miles west, and Mount Vale (33° 10' S, 27° 26' E) (281 m), a prominent dark coloured bluff 7.5 miles NNW respectively of the river mouth.

4. Between the mouth of the Keiskamma River and that of the Tyolomnqa River nearly 6 miles to the NE, the beach is fringed with rocks except for a mile-long stretch starting about 1.5 miles from the Keiskamma River. It is backed by high bush-covered sand dunes. The mouth of the Ngqinisa River, some 2.5 miles from the Keiskamma River, is insignificant, but that of the Kiwane River, 0.75 mile further on and which is open at high water, may be distinguished when viewed from the south because of the narrow ravine with steep, wooded sides through which it runs.

5. Behind the rock-fringed beach between the Kiwane and the Tyolomnqa Rivers there is a belt of thickly wooded country backed by a conspicuous grassy ridge of which Chalumna Hill (33° 14' S, 27° 33' E), 130 m high, at the SW end, is the higher of two rounded summits, that at the NE end being 123 m high.

6. Eastward of the conspicuous grassy ridge the Tyolomnqa (Chalumna) River (33° 14' S, 27° 35' E) enters the sea close to its western bank. The mouth is generally open at high water but closed at low water by a sand bar. Both sides of the entrance are heavily wooded. Off the eastern entrance a sandy spit extends in a SSW direction to the narrow mouth. A prominent sandy streak extending from the beach almost to the wooded summit at the eastern entrance will assist in identifying the locality. The mouth itself is clear of rocks but rocky ledges fringe the beach either side of it.

7. Kayser's Beach, a growing seaside resort, is situated about 1.75 miles NE of the Tyolomnqa River mouth. The houses along the summit of the coastal ridge are visible from seaward. There is a sandy beach by the blind mouth of a small creek, otherwise the shore is generally rock-bound. The remains of the CAPE ST FRANCIS, a 73 tonne trawler stranded in November 1963, may be seen on the rocks in the vicinity. From the promontory itself drying and submerged rocks extend seaward for some 3.5 cables. The sea breaks heavily over this reef during bad weather.

8. To the westward of the resort, a distance of about 0.5 mile from the shore, there is a water tower which is visible from seaward.

9. Between Kayser's Beach and the mouth of the Ncera River (33° 10' S, 27° 40' E), 4 miles to the NE, the coast is sandy and fringed with rocks which, in places, extend seaward as reefs.

10. Christmas Rock, 2 miles NE of Kayser's Beach, is a prominent 9 m high outcrop on the high water line of a small sandy indentation at the head of which is a small stream with a blind mouth known as Lilyvale Creek. Submerged rocks extend seaward from the outcrop for a further 3 cables. Close to the western entrance of the creek there are bare sand dunes backed by a prominent bushy-topped conical hill, 79 m high.

11. A tall *red and white banded* Cellular Telephone Mast has been established on a 143 m high hill approximately 2.5 miles N by W of Christmas Rocks. It displays *Red Obstruction lights* at night.

12. The coast between Christmas Rock and the mouth of the Ncera River is, except for two small clear beaches, fringed

with rocky ledges. At a distance of one mile SW of the mouth there is a reef of submerged rocks which extends for 7 cables offshore. The sea breaks heavily in the vicinity. Very little of the remains of the 998 tonne coaster FRONTIER, wrecked in September 1957, may be seen close to the blind mouth of a small stream midway between the reef and the Ncera River. Within the beach the wooded coastal ridge rises to heights of over 65 m.

13. The mouth of the Ncera River (33°10' S, 27°40' E) is always open, but the river normally becomes a mere trickle at low water. A sandy spit forms the western side of the entrance. Rocky ledges extend in a SW direction from the eastern side; bush-covered dunes rise from these ledges up to a 48 m high wooded summit.

14. There are two small sandy stretches 0.5 and 0.75 mile, respectively, NE of the Ncera River mouth. The first of these, known as Leonard's Bay, might provide reasonable landing during SW winds, particularly at low water when the reefs on the SW side give good protection from swells.

15. Kidd's Beach, a well-known holiday and fishing village 34 km by road from East London, is situated on the south bank of the Mcantsi River whose blind mouth lies some 2 miles NE of the Ncera River mouth. The village can be seen from seaward when viewed from the NE across the wide expanse of sand at the entrance to the river. It is effectively obscured from other directions by the high, bush-covered sand dunes to the south of it, and by the wooded banks of the lower reach of the river itself. The bar across the mouth can be used to beach small boats in calm weather, but care would have to be taken to avoid rocky outcrops.

16. A prominent Water Tower stands on a low hill approximately 1 mile to the west of the town. It has a *red obstruction light* at night.

17. The 2 mile stretch of sandy coast between the mouths of the Mcantsi and Gxulu Rivers is comparatively free of fringing reefs, but a rock awash lies midway between the two mouths and some 3 cables offshore. The coastal ridge, rising to heights of up to 60 m, is densely wooded.

18. The Gxulu (Igulu) River (33° 07' S, 27° 44' E) has an extensive lagoon at its mouth which, though normally closed by a wide sand bar, is overflowed at high water. A submerged reef, lying some 2.5 cables to seaward of the mouth, would render any attempt at landing somewhat precarious. Iqulu Hill, 129 m high, is covered with bush and lies just over a mile to the westward of the mouth. There is a small holiday settlement on the east bank about 3 cables upstream of the mouth but it is not prominent.

19. From the mouth of the Gxulu River for 2.5 miles in an ENE direction to the mouth of the Goda River the coast is again fringed with rocky ledges and the submerged reef mentioned in the previous section extends for some 6 cables along the coast from the Gxulu River. The bush-covered coastal ridge, which is faced with sand, increases in height to the eastward from a 54 m summit on the east bank of the Gxulu to one of 102 m close to the west bank of the Goda.

20. The mouth of the Goda River (33° 06' S, 27° 46' E) is also open at high water. Its position is indicated by the bluff headlands to the east of its entrance which rises to a rounded grassy summit, 113 m high, and also by two further summits, 129 m and 138 m high, at distances of 8 and 12 cables respectively N by W of the headland. These three summits are prominent from all directions. When viewed from the SW a few buildings may be seen on the west side of the 113 m summit. The bluff headland is fringed with rocks which extend seaward as a submerged reef for nearly 3 cables.

21. A sandy spit, backed by bush-covered sand dunes, marks the western entrance to the river.

22. About 0.75 miles to the NE of the headland the coastal bush has been cleared for the purpose of developing the village of Winterstrand.

23. Between the rocky headland to the eastward of the Goda River and Cove Rock, some 2.5 miles to the ENE, the coast is sandy and fringed with low water rocks except for a 0.5 mile clear stretch to the westward of the Hlozi River some 7 cables westward of Cove Rock. This river is inconspicuous but its position is indicated by Rockyclyffe-on-Sea, a small group of bungalows situated 2 cables inland on its left bank at the edge of the wooded coastal range.

Chart SAN 84 (INT 7540), 1027 (INT 7541)

24. Cove Rock (33°05' S, 27°49' E), a conspicuous quoin-shaped rock, 27 m high, with a notch in the middle, lies at the extremity of a 4 cables wide expanse of gently shelving sand which extends from Bisserton Hill, a conspicuous dark, bushy-topped sand dune, 86 m high. To the south and east of the rock there are rocky ledges upon which the sea usually breaks heavily.

25. When seen from a distance Cove Rock resembles an islet and, with Bisserton Hill in the background, it provides an unmistakable landmark. A small bay situated close north of the rock, and open to the NE, would appear to provide good

landing during SW winds.

26. Various superstitious beliefs have, from time to time, been associated with Cove Rock. Early last century a witch-doctor named Makana visited the rock with the intention of raising the spirits of his ancestors from the sea so that they could drive out the white man from the land. Because of its somewhat sinister appearance, and because of the number of ships wrecked in the vicinity, the rock was originally known as "The Coffin".

27. Between Cove Rock and Hood Point, some 4.5 miles to the NE, the coast is fringed with rocks but there are no off-lying dangers. Within the coast there is comparatively low-lying, pleasant grassy land with occasional built-up areas. In marked contrast to the terrain further westward, most of it has been cleared of bush and there are a few bare sand dunes.

28. At the blind mouth of the Hickman's River, situated 12 cables NE of Cove Rock, there is a certain amount of bush. Close westward of the mouth there is a short stretch of beach clear of rocks where landing could be effected in calm weather. It could also be effected at Leach Bay, a lead through the rocky ledges some 2 cables NE of the mouth, and at Fuller's Bay, a slight indentation midway between Cove Rock and Hood Point, which has a sandy beach at its head. Fuller's Bay may be distinguished from seaward by a group of holiday bungalows behind the beach.

29. A radio mast, (32° 56' S, 27°49' E) 49 m high and standing on an elevation of 293 m, is situated 9 miles northward of Cove Rock. *Red obstruction lights* are exhibited half way up and at the top of this mast.

30. Hood Point (33° 02' S, 27° 54' E)(Reference point No. 3) is a round point with low sandy cliffs fringed with rocky ledges. High grass grows between the cliffs and the coastal road running close to them.

31. A light is exhibited, at an elevation of 55 m from a round white tower, 19 m in height, situated on grassland 2 cables within Hood Point.

32. The East London Industrial area lies on the West bank of the Buffalo River and numerous conspicuous factories and buildings can be observed on the crest of the ridge when viewed from the South or the South West.

Chart SAN 84 (INT 7540), 128

4.6 HOOD POINT TO THE GROOT- KEIRIVIER MOUTH

(Reference points 3 to 4)

1. Between these two points there is more open grassland than further to the westward but, apart from at the beaches of East London itself and at the holiday resorts close to the mouths of the rivers, the coast is wilder and more rocky. A series of rocky points alternate with these sandy beaches, and off some of them submerged reefs extend seaward for considerable distances. Because of heavy surf there are few reasonable landing places along this stretch.

2. Between East London and Port Edward the width of the continental shelf decreases from about 13 miles off the former to a mere 5 miles off the latter. The Agulhas Current in the area runs roughly parallel to the coast with the axis of its strongest flow near the edge of the continental shelf at a depth of some 200 m. Off East London the current is usually at its strongest, occasionally attaining rates of up to 5 knots, but the average rate during spring and autumn varies between 3 and 3.75 knots. During summer and winter it is usually weaker. After southerly gales have been blowing onshore, sets of up to 1 knot may be encountered, particularly between East London and the Groot- Keirivier. Because of this possibility, if visibility closes down, ships on the northward run, who have been keeping close inshore to avoid the full force of the current and possibly benefit if the counter current is running, should haul to seaward keeping within soundings of between 80 and 90 m (but see section 4.6.91 concerning Cape Morgan). Ships on the southward run normally keep further to seaward to take advantage of the current but, when a fresh NE wind is blowing with a falling barometer, and a change to SW winds has been forecast within the next 12 hours, they should stand in towards the 100 m line in order to avoid possible damage from Abnormal Waves (*see Sailing Directions Volume I, section 3.6.15).*

3. Wrecks. Between Hood Point and Kei River Mouth there have been 95 recorded strandings where the vessels were not salvaged.

Chart SAN 1027 (INT 7541)

4. A beach, composed mainly of broken shell and fringed with rocky ledges, extends between Hood Point and the root of the Breakwater one mile to the NE at the southern entrance to the Buffalo River. Shoal water, as defined by the 10 m contour, extends seaward for up to 0.5 mile in places. Heavy breakers occur here, especially after SW gales.

5. Railway sidings and the residential area of West Bank, lying close within the shore, extend for some 6 cables from the south bank of the river. A conspicuous Grain Elevator, 71 m in height and close to the root of the South Breakwater, is the first building to be raised when approaching East London; it also shows up well on radar. It should not be mistaken for the Port Control buildings.

EAST LONDON

6. East London, the principal city of the Border district of the Eastern Cape Province, had an approximate total population of 724 312 in 2007.

7. In November 1836, Lieutenant John Bailie, Royal Navy, landed from the brig KNYSNA, anchored off the mouth of the Buffalo River, and hoisted the British flag on the summit of Signal Hill. A small monument commemorating the event is situated near the present Port Office. No record exists of any other vessel calling until 1847, during the Frontier Wars, when the river entrance was surveyed and found suitable for landing troops. In the same year Fort Glamorgan was built in the area now known as West Bank and the town grew up around it; the Governor of the Cape, Sir Harry Smith, changed the name from Port Rex, as it was originally called, to East London. The old name is preserved in various organisations. After the rail terminus was constructed the present city grew up around it.

8. The Port of East London comprises an outer anchorage and the harbour within the breakwaters at the mouth of the Buffalo River. The limits of the port, over which Transnet National Ports Authority has jurisdiction, are as follows: bounded on the southward by a line drawn from Hood Point in a 115° direction for 1.5 miles; on the northward by a line drawn from Nahoon Point in a 115° direction for 1 mile; on the eastward by a line joining the extremities of the above lines; on the westward along the foreshore between high and low water marks between Hood Point and Nahoon Point, including the whole of the tidal area within the Buffalo River, together with the wharves, jetties, harbour works and all harbour lands vested in the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

9. The *Port Regulations emanating from the Ports Act of 2005* for the Harbours of the Republic of South Africa are to be observed by the masters of all ships calling at East London. Ships not having a copy of these regulations may request a copy from their agents.

10. The recommended anchorage, clear of the harbour entrance leading line (see section 4.6.27), is in a depth of about

30 m, fine sand bottom, 8 cables eastward of the South Breakwater light (33° 01.6' S, 27° 55.5' E). In fine, settled weather ships might anchor closer to the light on the same bearing, but on no account closer than 5 cables or in less water than 25 m, and then only if remaining at anchor for a short while.

11. The above anchorages are not comfortable ones, being considerably exposed, and ships generally lie broadside on to the swell, rolling and straining on their cables, the holding ground is not good and when a strong southerly set of the Agulhas Current is being experienced vessels have been known to drag their anchors.

12. There is a small ship anchorage, in 15 m of water, in a position 1 mile NE of the South Breakwater light and 3 cables clear of the leading line. This should only be used in fine weather.

13. Heavy swell is frequent during the winter months when breakers often extend out to the 15 m line. Rollers seldom occur during the summer months, though more often than not there is a swell across the harbour entrance.

14. Tidal streams within the harbour are slight and do not affect ship handling. Off the South Breakwater a strong current generally sets in a SSW direction, except after heavy SW gales, when a counter current may set in a NNE direction towards Eastern Beach. Ships awaiting a pilot should give the South Breakwater a wide berth, and not approach closer than 2 miles.

15. There are three fresh water dams situated in the upper reaches of the Buffalo River. A strong current is occasionally experienced in the harbour when these overflow.The turning of ships in the Turning Areas can be affected by this current. Debris coming down with the river can also affect the water intakes of ships.

16. At the anchorage, the current normally sets SW at rates of up to 2.5 knots, but in calm weather or during SW winds the surface drift is retarded and may even set to the eastward, seldom attaining a rate of 0.5 knot.

17. Mariners are warned that, sometimes after southerly or SE gales, exceptionally strong inshore sets may be experienced in this vicinity.

18. Pilotage is compulsory for merchant vessels entering, leaving or shifting berth within the harbour. Ships must give advance notice of their ETA to East London VTS when 10 miles from the South Breakwater Light through VHF Radio on Channel 16 (working Channel 12). VHF Radio Communication with East London VTS may be affected by the land if the vessel is close inshore south of the harbour. Consequently there may be a delay in making contact. The Pilot Boarding Place is in a position 072° 2.2 miles from the South Breakwater Light. Mariners are warned that great care should be taken when approaching the Pilot Boarding Place during NE'ly wind conditions as this will increase the effect of the SW'ly current. A vessel may find herself in an awkward situation if she closes the breakwater too closely before the pilot boards as the set may cause her to drift past the end of the breakwater and a round turn and/or backing may be needed to make the Approach Channel.

19. East London VTS is situated in the Port Control Building on the summit of Signal Hill, originally known as Timeball Hill, the high ground immediately north of K and L Berths.

EAST LONDON HARBOUR

20. The harbour is situated at the mouth of the Buffalo River, being protected by two breakwaters, of which South Breakwater (33° 01.6' S, 27° 55.5' E) extends for some 940 m in an E by N direction. The other, East Breakwater, extends for some 370 m in a SE direction from the end of the wharf area on the north bank.

21. The Buffalo River is tidal for some 3.5 miles from its mouth. Just over a mile from the harbour entrance two bridges cross the river. Above these the river is shallow and navigable only by small craft.

22. Lights.

An *occulting red* light is exhibited, at an elevation of 16 m, from a *white* tower at the head of South Breakwater, and a nautophone is also sounded in restricted visibility.
A *quick flashing white light*, obscured between the bearings of 224° to 044° through west, is exhibited from the root of the breakwater 3 cables to the WSW.
A *quick flashing green light* is exhibited, at an elevation of 11 m, from a *white tower* at the head of East Breakwater.
Fixed green lights are exhibited from the SE corner of L Berth and I Berth.
Three *fixed red* lights are exhibited from the quays on the southern side of the river.

23. The Approach Channel is marked by leading lights which, when in line, bear 249.75°. The front *fixed red* light, (33° 01.7' S, 27° 54.9' E) exhibited at an elevation of 22 m from a *white triangular daymark,* is situated at the NE end of the Oil

Tanker Berth, 1.5 cables SW of the East Breakwater light. The rear *occulting white* light, exhibited at an elevation of 38 m from an *orange diamond daymark*, is situated on the conveyor belt building of the Grain Elevator. A Conspicuous *red* and *white banded* mast 43 m high is situated 6.4 cables further inland is very slightly open to the right of the transit and serves as a useful guide when making the approach.

24. Silting occurs seasonally in the entrance between the two breakwaters and to the north and east of South Breakwater head, and soundings of as little as 8 m have been found close southward of the leading line abreast the two lights on the breakwater, but the approach channel itself is kept dredged to depths as reflected on chart SAN 1027 (INT 7541). Since the seaward side of South Breakwater was reinforced with dolosse, it appears from a study of dredging returns that less filtration of sand takes place through the older blocks forming the foundation of the breakwater.

25. The Lower Turning Basin is entered between the light at the SE corner of L Berth and the front leading light. The turning basin close westward of this entrance has a diameter of 366 m and is kept continually dredged to a depth of 10.7 m.

26. From seaward up the river, the berths on the northern bank are as follows:

27. K and L Berth extends for 506 m in a WNW direction from its SE corner, with a depth alongside of 10.7 m. The quay is used for container vessels.

28. I Berth extends for 132 m in a WNW direction.

29. G and F Berths, a continuation of I Berth in the same direction, is 360 m in length. These berths accommodate general cargo and passenger vessels.

30. The depths alongside I, G and F Berths vary between 8.5 and 9.8 m.

31. C Berth, about 1.5 cables W by N from F Berth, is 200 m in length and has a depth of 10.7 m alongside. The berth is mainly used for port vessels, but can also accommodate passenger vessels.

32. The Repair Quay is about 120 m W by N from C Berth. It is 110 m in length and has a depth of 9.1 m alongside.

33. Latimers Landing, about 2 cables west of C Berth and close downstream of the eastern of the two bridges crossing the river, is 110 m in length with a depth of 6.1 m alongside.

34. There are no cranes at C Berth or Latimers Landing.

35. Between C Berth and Latimers Landing is the Princess Elizabeth Graving Dock, which was opened by Queen Elizabeth ll, the then 21 year old Princess, during the Royal Tour in 1947.

The dimensions of the dock are as follow:

Overall length 200.0 m (210 m in emergency)
Length on keel blocks 191. 3 m
Length on bottom 198.5 m
Width at coping 31.2 m
Width at entrance top 27. 2 m
Maximum width at bottom 22.9 m
Depth over entrance sill at MHWS 10.2 m
Depth over inner sill at MHWS 10.2 m
Maximum beam of vessels 24.8 m

36. The dock is equipped with one 4 tonne crane, one 5 tonne crane and two 15 tonne cranes.

37. The turning basin off the entrance to the dock has a diameter of 229 m and is dredged to a depth of 9.1 m.

38. The berths on the southern bank downstream from the eastern bridge are as follows:

39. N and R Berths (West Quay), which is some 230 m E by S from the bridge and opposite C Berth, is 559 m in length, with depths of from 8.5 to 10.7 m alongside.

40. S and T Berth in the Lower turning basin is 388 m in length. It has no cranes . It is the dry bulk berth and has a depth of 10.7 m alongside.

41. The Tanker Berth, to the north of the Grain Elevator, extends in a NE direction for 259 m, with a dredged depth of 10.4 m alongside. Oil tankers up to 204 m in length can be accommodated at the berth.

42. Port Facilities

All wharves and quays are connected to the general railway system.
Cranes are available at most of the quays as described in the previous sections.

43. Tugs

Two large Z Peller tugs.
One work boat/pilot launch.

44. Only Diesel Oil can be provided at most berths using rail or road tankers.

45. Water is available at all berths.

46. Large repairs to hull, engines and boilers can be undertaken at the dry dock.

47. There are three hospitals in the city.

48. The National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) Station No 7 and the SAPS Water Wing operates at East London.

49. Communications. East London is connected to the general railway, telegraphic and telephonic systems. There is regular communication by sea with other South African ports. The Airport is on the south side of the river some 10 km from the city.

50. That part of the city of East London which is north of the river stands on a wide plateau, at an elevation of about 60 m. High-rise buildings have obscured the spires of the City Hall and the Wesleyan Church from most directions. Formerly these were conspicuous. A large number of prominent buildings have been erected in the last few years and many more are in the construction stage. Identifiable conspicuous marks at present are the Grain Elevator the Port Office, the Kennaway Hotel and the silo of the Kaffrarian Steam Mills (KSM) and a Radio Tower, 97 m high, painted in *red* and *white bands* and situated some 10 cables NW of the Port Office, which exhibits *red* air obstruction lights.

51. Between East Breakwater and the closed mouth of the blind Inkyanza River, 1.25 miles to the NNE, the coast is fringed with rocks except for two sandy beaches.

52. Orient Beach, the first of these, is clear of off-lying rocks for a distance of one cable northward of the root of the breakwater. The second, Eastern Beach, is clear of rocks for a distance of 0.75 cables to the southward of the river mouth. Orient Beach, normally free from heavy breakers, is a well-known bathing beach. It is backed by the buildings of a prominent pavilion and the Lifesavers Observation Tower, which has a flagstaff on its roof. Eastern Beach, which is more exposed to the prevailing surf, is not recommended for bathing, except in flat calm weather, because of a treacherous north-running under-tow.

53. There are several prominent hotels along the seafront, of which the Kennaway Hotel, midway between the two beaches, is the most conspicuous. This hotel in line with the silo of the Kaffrarian Steam Mills bearing 309° provides a useful clearing transit for a small vessel of less than 70 m in length bound from the south wishing to enter the harbour or to proceed to the small ship anchorage. By keeping the two buildings in line, or the silo open to the right of the hotel, the shoal and disturbed water off the head of South Breakwater will be avoided.

54. A foul area, 4.5 cables N by W of South Breakwater head and 2 cables offshore, should be avoided by shipping. It is marked on the chart by a danger circle of one cable diameter. This is where the 16 000 tonne ORANJELAND was wrecked on 13 August 1974. The wreck has been dispersed, but parts may still remain on the sea-bed.

55. Off the mouth of the Inkyanza River the sand of Eastern Beach extends for about 3 cables eastward inside the rocky ledges which are covered at high water. The land eastward of the river rises to a wooded ridge of over 60 m in height. A conspicuous narrow patch of sand extends from the beach almost to the summit of Sand Kop (87 m), some 4.5 cables NE of the mouth.

56. To seaward of the rocky ledges mentioned above, and at a distance of about 2 cables offshore, there are three isolated rocks with less than 2 m of water over them.

57. At about a mile ENE of the Inkyanza River mouth there are rugged cliffs behind a narrow strip of sandy beach within

the rocky ledges. A channel between the rocks leads to a cave, known as Bats Cave, at the base of these cliffs. At certain states of the tide there is a blow-hole here through which the sea gushes with considerable force. Just under half a cable offshore from the cave there is a 5 m bare rock which serves to identify the locality.

58. From Nahoon Point (33°00' S, 27°57' E), 2.5 miles NE of the entrance to East London harbour, a rocky bank, comprised of above water, awash and submerged rocks, extends eastward and southward for a distance of 4.5 cables out to the 10 m line. The sea breaks heavily over this area which should be given a wide berth.

59. Behind the sandy beach within the rocks off the point, the ground rises sharply to a bush-covered summit 34 m in height. Close northward of this summit there is a prominent white building from which *red air obstruction lights* are exhibited.

60. A light is exhibited, at an elevation of 69 m, from a *white* tower with a *red band* over a building some 4 cables westward of the point. This building is difficult to see during the day, being surrounded by comparatively thick bush.

DIRECTIONS FOR APPROACHING EAST LONDON

61. From the south-westward, after having identified the conspicuous combination of Cove Rock and Bisserton Hill (33° 04.8' S, 27° 49' E) ships should not approach the coast within 2 miles, or in less water than 65 m, until close to the port. Having passed abeam of Hood Point lighthouse, the Grain Elevator and the head of South Breakwater, course should be altered to steer for the Pilot Boarding Place. If wishing to proceed up harbour and awaiting the arrival of the pilot, ships should heave-to or anchor to the NE of the clearing line described in section 4.6.53.

62. From the north-eastward, after having identified the coast in the vicinity of the Black Beacon (32° 51' S, 28° 07' E), some 15 miles NE of the port, ships should keep at least 2.5 miles off the coast until past the foul ground off Nahoon Point. The conspicuous Grain Elevator will show up well standing alone on the end of the land, after that, the conspicuous Kennaway Hotel bearing 270°is recommended as a good mark for approaching the harbour.

Chart SAN 84 (INT 7540), 128, 1027 (INT 7541)

63. The Nahoon River enters the sea 7 cables northward of Nahoon Point (32° 59.8' S, 27° 57.1' E). Its mouth is normally open, a shallow stream running through a wide expanse of sand. On the west bank near the mouth there is a prominent brick building. Inside the mouth both banks are built-up and wooded. The sandy beach eastward of the mouth is fringed with rocks.

64. The mouth of the Qinira River is situated about a mile NE of the Nahoon River. It is normally closed but it would appear that it might open during flash floods. Within the mouth the river opens out into a wide lagoon. Bonza Bay Hill (67 m), 4 cables W by S of the mouth, is a prominent bush-covered hill partially faced with sand. Bonza Bay, a settlement 0.75 mile upstream on the west bank, is somewhat obscured by the coastal range when viewed from the eastward. A rock awash lies 5 cables SSE from the Qinira River mouth. The beach in the immediate vicinity of the Qinira River mouth is free from fringing rocks but there is a dangerous submerged rock, which has less than 2 m of water over it, situated 6 cables to the eastward and some 3 cables offshore.

65. The coastal ridge between the Nahoon River and Danger Point (32° 58' S, 27° 59' E), some 2 miles further to the NE, is steep, wooded and generally faced with sand. The highest summits either side of the Qinira River ravine are Bonza Bay Hill (see above) to the west, and an elevation of 63 m behind Danger Point, 1 mile E by N of the mouth. This point is low, sandy and fringed with rocky ledges. A reef, which dries 0.2 m, lies some 3.5 cables off the point. It is fairly steep-to on the seaward side and falls away to depths of 20 m within a distance of 2 cables. Heavy surf occurs in the vicinity.

66. The coast between Danger Point and Gonubie Point (32°57' S, 28°02' E), 3 miles to the ENE, is fringed with rocky ledges outside of which the depths are irregular. In bad weather heavy surf extends for over 3 cables offshore. Within the coast the land is comparatively low with sparse bush for the first 2 miles, thereafter the urban development of the town of Gonubie has spread westward from the point. At the point itself there is a large white building, and close westward of it there is a large red-roofed building which is prominent when viewed from the southward and eastward, but which merges with the other buildings when viewed from the NE. A prominent TELKOM *green* painted Mast is erected in the town 7.5 cables west of the point. *Red* air obstruction lights are displayed.

67. The Gqunube River enters the sea 0.5 mile northward of Gonubie Point. Rocky ledges extend for half the distance between the point and the mouth. A sandy bight in the northern part affords a boat's landing in calm weather. A swimming bath and pavilion on the rocky part, and a Lifesavers' Lookout Tower on the sandy part of the stretch, are prominent, from close inshore a brown wooden walkway will be seen stretching from the parking area close to the point right onto the beach at its high water mark. This walkway has been erected to facilitate rehabilitation of the dunes which are both high and well covered though streaked with slumps where the vegetation has been eroded. Behind these dunes the roofs

of a number of houses may be seen. On the north bank there are cliffs, and there is a steep wooded bluff, backed by grassland, at the entrance. The river itself is always open, though at low water it becomes a mere trickle running close to the cliffs on the north bank. At other times the entrance is extensively used by ski-boats, and when there is no heavy swell the passage is comparatively safe. The local fishermen have erected marks in the river to indicate the limits of the sandbars. These are moved as and when the river changes its course. Entry to the river is limited to high tide only. Entry can be effected on most days of the year but this should not be attempted by the inexperienced without local assistance.The river is tidal for about 3 miles upstream.

68. Kwelera Point (32° 55' S, 28° 05' E) 3 miles NE of Gonubie Point, is a low grassy point from which a reef of awash and submerged rocks extends in an ESE direction for some 4 cables. Sharp Peak (77 m) is covered with dark bush, providing a prominent mark close to the coast 8 cables to the westward of the point. To the NE of Sharp Peak is the holiday resort of Kwelera consisting of a cluster of bungalows close to the shore. Rocky ledges covered at high water alternate with several rock-free sandy stretches along the shore between the Gqunube River and Kwelera Point. The mouth of the Kwelera River is situated some 3 cables NW of the rounded Kwelera Point. It is generally open and the stream runs along the southern bank close to the point. It provides a good passage for ski-boats. A wide expanse of sand extends across the mouth from the wooded northern entrance.

Chart SAN 84 (INT 7540), 128

69. The Bulura River enters the sea some 12 cables NE of the Kwelera River mouth. Its mouth is wide and is almost completely blocked by a drying reef running right across it leaving only a narrow channel close to the eastern entrance. This channel is normally open. A sandy beach forms the head of Glengariff Bay at the western entrance to the river. Bolegha Hill (74 m), a conspicuous, dome-shaped dark wooded hill, lies close within the western entrance. It is partially faced with sand on its eastern side. A sandspit, fringed with rocky ledges, marks the eastern entrance to the river. The presence of a reef with breakers extending well over 5 cables offshore lie to the east of the river mouth. The area is backed by a bush-covered hill 44 m high.

70. Between the mouths of the Kwelera and Bulura Rivers there is a sandy beach. Except for a few short stretches it is fringed with low-water rocks. From the northern entrance point of the Kwelera River this beach is backed by a narrow wooded strip for about 3 cables, thereafter there is open grassland as far as Bolegha Hill.

71. From the mouth of the Bulura River a rock-bound sandy coast extends for some 3 miles in a N by E direction to Reef Point (32° 51' S, 27° 07' E) from which two rocky projections, with a sandy beach between them, extend seaward for about 2 cables. Submerged rocks, with less than 2 m of water over them, extend off the point for at least 4 cables and the sea breaks heavily in the vicinity.

72. Black Beacon (32° 51' S, 28° 07' E), a conspicuous tripod beacon, 16 m high, stands at the summit of a 99 m high grassy ridge 4 cables within Reef Point. Just inland of the beacon a *red and white banded mast* belonging to a cellular telephone company has been erected. It shows up well and has *red* obstruction lights. Between this ridge and the sandy beach there is a belt of thick bush.

73. Ships calling at East London normally call in when abeam the black beacon.

74. Between Reef Point and Cape Henderson (32° 47' S, 28° 12' E), some 6.5 miles to the NE, the coastal ridge is high, bushy and faced with sandy intrusions at intervals. Within the coastal ridge grasslands rise to elevations of more than 120 m. The sandy beach along this stretch is generally free from off-lying rocky ledges, except where described otherwise, but generally there is a continuous heavy surf which extends seaward for up to 3 cables.

75. The mouth of the Cintsa River, situated some 14 cables northward of Reef Point, is closed by a wide expanse of sand on either side of which are bush-covered sandhills. The central part of this beach between the point and the river mouth is fringed with rocky ledges for about 6 cables. Cintsa Bay West is a small holiday resort in the dunes close NE of Black Beacon. The buildings of this resort are not prominent but can be seen when viewed from the eastward. Cintsa Mouth East, a settlement on the north bank of the river, can only be seen from the southward.

76. The mouths of the Cefane and Kwenxura Rivers, situated 1.75 and 2.75 miles respectively NE of the Cintsa River mouth, are both generally closed. The summit of Viskop (151 m), a dome-shaped grassy hill between the two rivers, lies 4 cables inland.

77. The closed mouth of the Nyarha River, one mile to the westward of Cape Henderson, has prominent sandy patches either side of it, which make it easier to identify than the mouths of the Cefane or Kwenxura Rivers. Close to the western entrance there is a bushy hill, 64 m high, which is faced with sand half way to its summit. This is a prominent feature as there is not another sandhill of note between here and the Groot- Keirivier. On the grassy plains to the westward of the river there are a number of isolated bushy patches.

78. Cape Henderson (32°47' S, 28°12' E) appears as a bluff rising fairly steeply from a rocky shore to a grassy summit of 151 m, five cables inland. The sandy beach to the westward of the cape is free from off-lying rocks.

79. From Cape Henderson to the mouth of the Haga-Haga River, some 3 miles to the ENE, the coast is rocky except for a small sandy bay, at the head of which there are a few thatched buildings, one mile WSW of the mouth. The headland on the western side of this bay rises steeply to an elevation of 141 m . A patch of submerged rocks, over which the sea breaks heavily in bad weather, lies off the bay, its outermost edge being some 3 cables offshore.

80. Midway between the above mentioned small bay and the southern entrance to the Haga-Haga River the village of Haga-Haga lies at the summit of the coastal ridge, and close to the entrance there are group of holiday bungalows and a prominent hotel behind low cliffs which are fringed with flat rocky ledges. The name "Haga-Haga", picked out in white stones, is visible from close seaward on the hillside behind the village when ships approach from the south.

81. The mouth of the Haga-Haga River (32° 46' S, 28° 15' E) is normally closed with a wide expanse of hard sand suitable for four- wheel drive vehicles. Bush-covered sand dunes, up to 55 m in height, mark the northern entrance. Except during bad weather the surf off the sandy mouth is not heavy and ski-boats can operate from it without much difficulty.

82. From the mouth of the Haga-Haga River a rock-fringed beach extends eastward for 0.75 mile to Flat Point, behind which there is considerable housing development. Thereafter the coast changes direction to the NE for 1.75 miles to the mouth of the Mtendwe River. Within the coast there is a narrow belt of bush backed by grassland which rises gradually to an elevation of 111 m at about 6 cables inland. There is a red-roofed farm house surrounded by a clump of trees on this summit.

83. The Mtendwe River (32° 45' S, 28° 17' E) has a narrow mouth which is normally open, but shallow. A small sandy beach at the mouth, and the bushes either side of it which are darker than elsewhere in the vicinity, may help to identify the locality. A red-roofed house, two pine trees and a few rondawels are situated close within the mouth, but these are by no means prominent. On the skyline 2.5 miles NNW of the river mouth there is a prominent clump of trees on a summit of 169 m.

84. A rocky coast stretches in an E by N direction from the Mtendwe River mouth to Black Rock Point, so called because of the black above-water rocks at its extremity. These, in contrast to the light grassy slopes within the point, are prominent when viewed from the south or east. Close northward of Black Rock Point there is a slight indentation at the head of which there is a boulder strewn beach. In calm weather it might be possible for a small boat to land here.

85. The Quko River enters the sea just under a mile NE by N of Black Rock Point. Its mouth is nearly always open and the river is tidal for about 1.5 miles upstream. The KuMqotwane River joins the main river on its eastern bank some 3 cables north of its mouth. Viewed from the south the wide mouth, with high grassy hills either side of it, is prominent. The grassy headland at the eastern entrance rises to a domed summit 64 m high. To the east of this headland there is a valley separating it from the heights further eastward. A small rock-bound bay lying at the southern end of this valley has a few holiday bungalows at its head.

86. The coast from the Quko River mouth to Morgan's Bay at the mouth of the Inchara River, 2 miles to the NE, is rock-bound and backed by rugged cliffs up to 57 m height. Five cables eastward of the Quko River mouth a cluster of above-water rocks extends about a cable offshore. Within the coast a grassy ridge attains a height of 97 m some 4.5 cables inland and at a distance of 6 cables from the Quko River mouth.

87. The mouth of the Inchara River is closed and provides an easy crossing, hard sand, for four-wheel drive vehicles. The village of Morgan's Bay extends westward from the mouth for a distance of about 0.5 mile. It is conspicuous from seaward, the most prominent buildings being the hotel and a white house at the summit of the high ground immediately behind the village.

88. Cape Morgan (32°42' S, 28°22' E), one mile to the eastward of the Inchara River mouth, is broad, low and fringed with rocky ledges. The wooded ridge within it rises steeply at first to a bluff, then slopes gradually to a summit of 115 m at a distance of about 0.5 mile inland. Viewed from seaward this ridge is conspicuous and appears dark in colour.

89. A light is exhibited at an elevation of 61 m from an aluminium framework tower with a square daymark, 12 m in height, at the summit of the bluff mentioned above. A *white* painted pump house on the waterline below the bluff, is prominent. 8.5 Cables NNW of the light a *green* painted TELKOM Mast has been erected which displays *red* obstruction lights, it is prominent when viewed both from the NE and SE or when vessels are well offshore.

90. Between the Inchara River mouth and the cape, a reef of above-water and awash rocks extends for some 4 cables southward. Two shoals, each with a least depth of 5.5 m over them, lie 7 cables SW of the cape. Care should be taken not to mistake the breakers over the rocks closer to the shore for those over these outer shoals, as the sea seldom

breaks over them except during moderate to bad weather. A shoal, with a least depth of 8.8 m over it, lies 0.75 mile SSW of the cape, and foul ground within the 10 m line extends for up to one mile SW of it.

91. Mariners are advised to give Cape Morgan a wide berth, particularly at night. In any case northbound ships will not benefit much by hugging the coast as the counter current is seldom encountered here.

92. During June 1978 a South African Naval vessel, proceeding across the main Agulhas Stream from a position close to the 50 m isobath the edge of the continental shelf some 14 miles ESE of Cape Morgan, experienced a current of 4.4 knots, an unusually strong set for the time of the year.

93. Between Cape Morgan and the mouth of the Groot- Keirivier, some 2 miles to the NNE, the beach is fringed with rocky ledges extending up to a cable offshore. Half way along this stretch is the closed mouth of the Cwili River. During calm weather, landing may be effected close NE of the mouth at a small sandy beach, backed by a sand patch, which is clear of off-lying rocks. Should a boat wish to land, allowance must be made for the tidal stream flowing into or out of the Groot- Keirivier. Close inshore of this landing place the flood stream sets fairly strongly to the NE and the ebb to the SW.

94. The position of the Cwili River is indicated by a few white buildings on its north bank, and by the holiday resort of Whispering Waves, a prominent group of white rondawels close to the southward. Keikop (270 m), a prominent round-topped hill 4 miles NNW of the Groot- Keirivier mouth, is the highest hill in the vicinity, and is visible from most directions. Between the Cwili River and the Groot- Keirivier the village of Kei Mouth , with its white houses, is conspicuous

95. The Groot-Keirivier Mouth (32° 40’ S, 28° 23’ E)(Reference point No 4) is about 0.5 cable wide and is always open. There are wide stretches of sand on either side of the mouth, but within the entrance the river is deep, running between steeply wooded banks. It is tidal for about 6 miles. The flow from the river is strong, particularly on the ebb, and the breakers over the outer bar are formidable, making the crossing seldom practicable and always dangerous. It should not be attempted, even in ski-boats, without local knowledge. The nature of the bar is unstable and the position of the channel is liable to considerable change.

96. Between the southern entrance to the river and the village of Kei Mouth the ground rises sharply to a conical, bush-covered hill 52 m high. The northern entrance is low-lying at first rising to a dark wooded summit, 42 m high, some 3 cables to the NE. Within the coast the ground rises steadily to greater heights on both banks.

97. Snag Rocks, a group of above-water rocks, the highest and furthest seaward of which is 3 m high, lies between 4 and 7 cables S by E of the river mouth and 2.5 cables offshore. From this group a chain of awash and submerged rocks extends for a further 3 cables in a NE direction. The sea breaks heavily over all these rocks, and between them and the river entrance. In bad weather broken water extends for at least 3 cables outside them.

98. In an emergency, temporary anchorage, sand and mud bottom, may be obtained to the eastward of Snag Rocks in depths of from 20 to 30 m, though cognaisance should be given to the current position of the outer sand bar to the river.

99. Tidal streams in the vicinity of the Groot- Keirivier are only felt close inshore, setting NE during the flood and SW during the ebb. At a distance of about 6 cables offshore a current setting SW at a rate of 1.5 knots is normally experienced. During light westerly winds, discoloured water from the river sometimes extends NE for over half a mile, its edge being clearly defined.

100. The Groot- Keirivier forms the SW boundary of the old Transkei. It is the traditional home of most of the Xhosa speaking peoples. It has a coastline of 135 nautical miles and a total area of some 43 000 square kilometres. The Mtamvuna River forms its NE boundary with the Province of Kwa-Zulu Natal.