

PUB. 126
SAILING DIRECTIONS
(ENROUTE)



PACIFIC ISLANDS



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NINTH EDITION

NW and SE edges of the reef come out into points. The sides of the reef drop off steeply on all sides.

The existence of a possible uncharted reef was reported in 1983. The approximate position is 2°21'S, 175°19'E. This position is approximately 47 miles SSW of Winslow Reef.

A W set was reported in the vicinity of Winslow Reef.

An uncharted reef was reported lying about 30 miles SE of Winslow Reef in position 1°51'S, 174°34'W.

Baker Island (0°13'N., 176°28'W.), about 275 miles NNW of McKean Island, is nearly flat, but rises to an elevation of 6.1m at its SW extremity. At this point there is a steep, sandy beach which extends some distance N; elsewhere, the island is fringed by a coral reef. On the N and E sides of the island an extensive shoal, with depths of less than 7.3m in places, extends about 0.8 mile. The surf breaks heavily on the E side and the SW extremity of the island. The W side of the island is to leeward under prevailing wind conditions.

Winds from the E predominate throughout the year. From December to May, the prevailing winds are sometimes interrupted by W winds and bad weather.

Regulations.—Baker Island is a National Wildlife Refuge under the administrative responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The refuge extends outward to the 3-mile limit. Entry into the refuge without a permit is prohibited except in an emergency. Permits must be obtained from the Refuge Manager, Hawaiian/Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, P.O. Box 50167, Honolulu, HI 96850.

There is no sheltered anchorage. Vessels lie off the island and discharge to landing craft. The fringing coral reef surrounding Baker Island makes landing difficult. The S point of the island can be used for landing when winds are from NE.

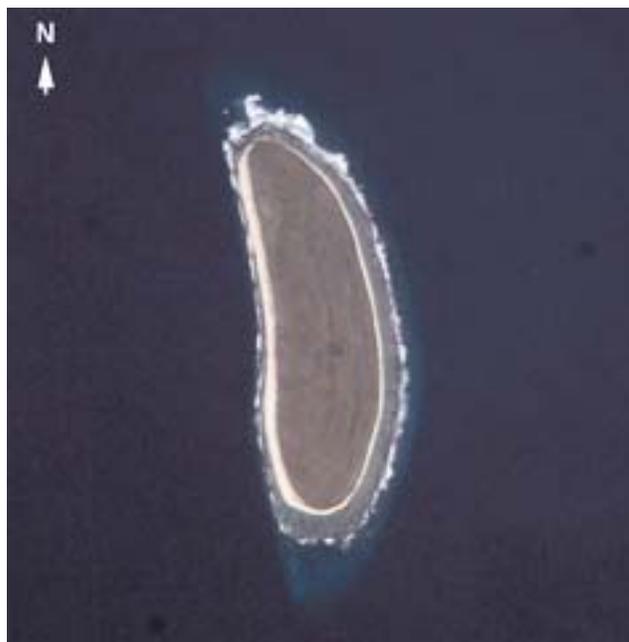
Caution.—Tangent bearings of the island are unreliable.

4.13 Howland Island (0°48'N., 176°38'W.), about 38 miles NNW of Baker Island, is a low flat island devoid of vegetation other than a few stunted trees. It is ringed by a relatively flat coral reef almost completely exposed at LW extending out to about 0.1 mile, except on the W side where the reef averages about 73m in width. Outside of this reef is a coral shelf extending about 0.3 to 0.5 mile on the N, E, and S sides, and about 0.1 mile on the W side. The depths on this shelf vary between 5.5 to 21.9m.

A broad, sandy, and in some places, gravelly beach slopes upward at a slight angle on the W side of the island. On the windward, or E side, there is practically no beach and the island rises abruptly from the reef to an average height of 3.7m, with the highest point about 5.5m in the N part. Amelia Earhart Daybeacon is situated near the center of the W side of the island.

Winds—Weather.—Winds from the E predominate year round. From December to May, the prevailing winds are sometimes interrupted by W winds and bad weather.

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NASA Image (2004)

Howland Island

Boulevard, P.O. Box 50167, Honolulu, HI 96850.

Anchorage.—A vessel anchored (1966) about 0.4 mile from the N end of the island, in 22.8m, with the E tangent of the island bearing 144°, the W tangent bearing 185°, and the daybeacon bearing 167.5°. A vessel anchored (1967) about 0.3 mile NNE of the N end of the island, in 11.9m, with the E tangent of the island bearing 153°, the W tangent bearing 213°, and the daybeacon bearing 176°, distant 1 mile.

The Tokelau Islands

4.14 The Tokelau Islands, comprises three atolls, namely Atafu Island and Nukunonu Atoll (Nukunono Atoll), to the NW, with deep channels between, and Fakaofu, to the SE; they lie about 241 miles S of the Phoenix Island group. A W set at a rate of about 1 knot has been experienced in the vicinity of the group in the months of June and September.

Caution.—Fish Aggregating Devices have been moored 0.4 to 0.5 mile W of the atolls. Vessels should exercise caution when within the vicinity.

Atafu Island (8°32'S., 172°31'W.) is an atoll consisting of a number of islets lying on a triangular-shaped reef which encloses a lagoon. The reefs surrounding the atoll are mostly steep-to. The islets are covered with coconut, pandanus, and low trees. A conspicuous clump of casuarina trees is located on the S islet of the atoll. Masts, 21m high, stand on the S side of Atafu Island, the NW island of the atoll. There is a passage, S of the island, into the lagoon that lighters can use.

Landing can be effected at the S end of the NW islet. It is difficult to land except within 2 hours of HW.

Caution.—In 1977, a shoal was reported 133 miles ENE of Atafu in position 7°47'S, 170°23'W.