

MAP SHOWING SHORE AND OCEAN
FRONTING OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB
AT KAPUA, KEKIO, WAIKIKI, HONOLULU, OAHU

Scale 100 Yards

Where to Swim at Outrigger

By Shirleigh Clark

It's all there waiting to enjoy. Crystal blue water of the Pacific Ocean and the colorful sea life below.

To help you enjoy the ocean fronting the Club beach, Cline Mann has prepared the magnificent visual chart opposite of the waterways oceanside of the OCC.

It covers the area from Castle Surf to the Natatorium. It delineates the reefs you want to avoid when you're swimming and the Leaning Posts and Wind Sock you might want to use as milestones.

Cline has scaled the map so that 1 1/2 inches equals 100 yards.

A few of our well-known, experienced Club swimmers have provided comments and suggestions on where they like to swim.

Coordinating Director for Athletics, Diane Stowell, has this to say:

"Waikiki Bay is one of the most beautiful areas in which to swim and very convenient to get to. Out beyond the Wind Sock, turn right and swim along the reef area.

"It's beautiful with so many colored fish and sometimes rays and turtles.

"The boats usually do not come too close, but you should always be on the look out. Bathing caps in bright colors help but be aware. It is hard to see swimmers as they are so low in the water."

Bonnie Eyre, a regular early morning swimmer, suggests various swimming courses:

"Swim around the Hobies in front of the Club.

"Swim from the Club beach out to the Wind Sock and back.

"Swim from the front of Sans Souci

out to the Wind Sock and back."

She reminds members and guests that they swim at their own risk. The Club does not have lifeguards on duty, only beach attendants to assist with equipment.

"You should be an experienced swimmer because there are currents in this area. It is always best to swim with someone," she advises.

Another experienced roughwater swimmer, Jim Anderson, suggests these routes:

"Around the boat anchorage, loop around the Hobies.

"The distance from the end of the Colony Surf groin to the Wind Sock is about 1/8 mile, or a round trip of 1/4 mile.

"Swim around the Colony Surf Groin down to the Natatorium and back. For longer swims, go out to the Wind Sock, come in hugging the reef to the left, to the Natatorium wall, then along the beach, out to the Wind Sock and back to the Club Beach.

"There are lots of opportunities to view our sea life neighbors on the route around the Hobies and the Natatorium route."

Club Swimming Committee Chairperson Pam Zak warns swimmers to avoid reef areas during low tides. She also alerts swimmers to rocks in front of the Colony Surf groin that are dangerous during low tides.

"If you try to cut in over the rocks during low tide, you will get cuts," she says. "I know, it's happened to me."

She also says that there are lots of wana in that area.

Club swimmers who would like to participate in non-competitive group

swims are welcome to participate in 2K swims that are held every Saturday at 9 a.m. at Ala Moana Park.

"The swims are open to everyone and lots of fun," she adds. "If you don't know people to swim with, this is a good way to get to know some."

Pam also urged Club members to start swimming regularly so that they'll be in shape by November 27 for the annual Castle Swim from the Outrigger Waikiki Hotel to the Club.

"This is an all-OCC swim, so we really want our members to participate. We have great prizes and a terrific breakfast afterwards."

"If you'd like to know more about ocean swims, ask anyone on the Swimming Committee or leave a note for me at the Front Desk," she added.

So folks, it's all there waiting for you to enjoy. Just remember the power of the ocean and have respect.

