

Company, which offers both rentals and guided tours for beginners and advanced kayakers. If renting a place, consider a weekly rental. They will deliver kayaks for an extra \$20 charge. (The East Boothbay Kayaking Company is on Rte. 96 in East Boothbay. You can call the company at (207) 633- 7140.

A kayak will come in handy for exploring Damariscove Island, which can only be reached by water. This 209-acre island was the home to Damerill's fishermen, who supplied cod to the starving settlers at Plymouth Plantation, well before the turkey-carving days. For years, stories about the ghost of Captain Richard Pattishall, beheaded by Native Americans in 1689, have captivated those who have wandered the island in the fog. In summer, the island is covered with wildflowers, raspberries and rugosa roses. The Island is owned by the Nature Conservancy; information can be found at boothbayharbor.com.

For a guided island experience with a great peek into the past, Burnt Island is the ticket. The three-hour tour, led by costumed guides, offers a look into the life of a lighthouse keeper and his family in the mid-20th century. The program, designed and run by the Maine Department of Marine Resources, and is offered twice daily.

Cap'n Fish's Whale Watching trips are on modern and comfortable crafts and ended the 2005 season with a

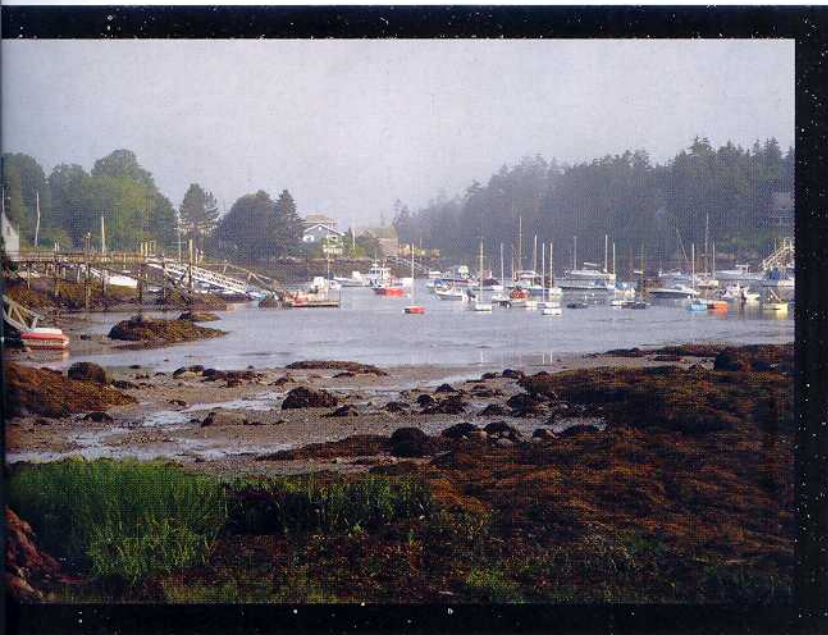
98 percent success rate of sightings. If you happen to be in that unlucky two percent, Cap'n Fish's offers a rain check for another trip. It can get cold out on the ocean, so dress in layers.

There is a saying in Maine that if you don't like the weather, wait five minutes and it will change. On the one rainy day we had, we spent time strolling and shopping in Boothbay Harbor. While there is an abundance of tacky tee shops, there are also some fine shops and galleries. Two of my favorites were the Abacus on 12 Mckown Street and Edgecomb Pottery Gallery on Route 27.

Perhaps because Cozy Cottage was so cozy, we shopped at farmers' markets and lobster co-ops and cooked at our rental home often; beating our own waterfront setting was hard to do.

We did, however, find two stellar restaurants, both on Southport Island. At the Newagen Inn on Route 27, the dishes were a wonderful blend of Asian and local catches from the ocean. The Lawnmeer Inn, also on Route 27, offers water views and a vast menu. The place was bustling and lively, so reservations, at least in July, are a must.

As a travel writer, I often write about places I wish I could keep a secret. Cozy Harbor Cottage is one. I absolutely will be back there next summer, if possible for two weeks. So be forewarned: book soon. **P**



DEPENDING ON THE  
TIDES, I COULD WATCH  
LOBSTERMEN GEAR UP OR  
FUTURE YACHTSMEN SAIL  
IN BATHTUB-SIZED CRAFTS.

Right to left: Kayaks at the ready; tools of the  
lobster trade; Cozy Harbor at low tide