

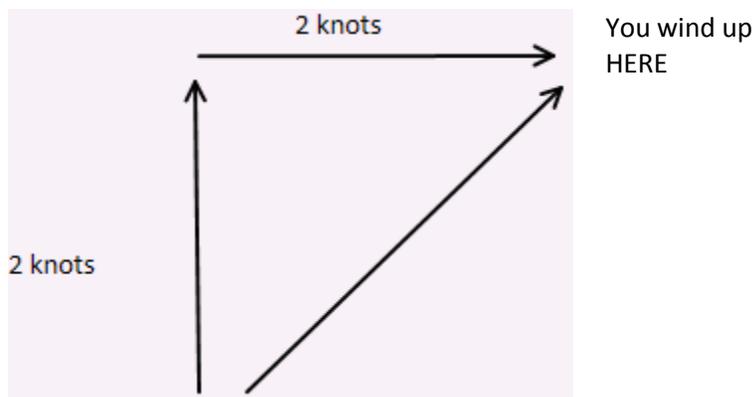
Maggie Fischer Memorial Cross Bay Swim

This year we will have a strong incoming tide at the start of The Swim. The tide will be flowing at about 2 knots from west to east. In other words, standing on the beach in front of the Lighthouse, the tide will be moving from left to right.

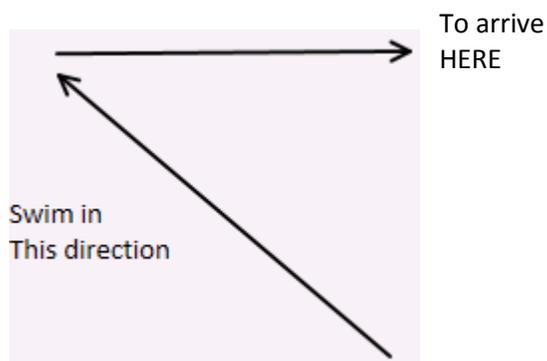
If you try to swim directly to the first marker on the course, you will be drawn far off course by the tide.

For example:

If you swim at 2 knots and the tide is at 2 knots from left to right, for every foot you go forward, the tide will push you one foot right. Visualize it this way:



You counteract the effect of the tide by swimming into the tide at the same angle:



You already know approximately how fast you swim, but you can only guess at the tide speed. The tide will also change over the course of the event. Only at the very beginning is the tide at right angles to your desired path. The tide will continue to push you off course even after the first marker, but to a much lesser degree as you go through the course. Consider picking a point to sight against on Sexton Island for the beginning of the swim depending on your speed until you get to Farm Shoal. Slower swimmers should pick a point further West into Sexton Island based on the information above. Once on Farm Shoal stand up and gauge the current against your legs to then set your next angle until you are past Sexton Island and the current begins to push more from behind. It is up to you and your kayaker to find the proper line to reach the first marker and beyond. Good luck and enjoy the ride!

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To illustrate this, here is a view from the top of the Lighthouse looking north towards Sexton Island. You and your kayaker must decide where to sight on Sexton Island in order to arrive at the correct mark. Everyone's offset angle will be different, depending on swim speed and tidal current.

