

You may have wondered from time to time, what are the differences between a bay, an inlet, an estuary, a sound, a cove, a gulf, a bight and a fjord? You probably said to yourself, really. . .who cares? But the need to know for anyone living on an island, or owning property and visiting on occasion, may come in handy proving that you "belong" to the sea!

- A BAY is a recessed coastal body of water directly connected to the ocean.
- An INLET is a small arm of the sea reaching a short distance inland.
- An ESTUARY is the tidal mouth of a river, where the incoming tide meets the river.
- A SOUND is an ESTUARY large enough to be traversed by ships.
- A COVE is a small, sheltered BAY on the coast of an ocean.
- A GULF is a large INLET from the ocean into the land mass and may have a relatively narrow opening.
- A BIGHT is a curve or recess in an otherwise straight coastline.
- A FJORD is a long narrow deep INLET of ocean between high cliffs. (Also, an all-you-can-eat Scandinavian buffet!)

Remember: If you can't entertain yourself in the winter on Chincoteague, you are in deep trouble!