Buoys That Make Sounds

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There are three types of buoys that make noise based on wave motion.

The whistle or horn buoy has a whistle operated by air trapped and compressed in an open-bottomed chamber by the rising and falling water level caused by natural wave. Due to its sound, it is sometimes called a groaner,

The bell buoy has a single bell that is struck by a hammer that is induced by wave motion.

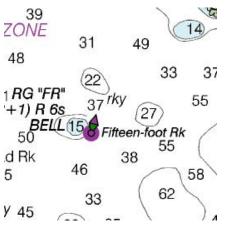
The gong buoy has multiple bells, of different tones, that are struck by hammers.

The bell and gong terminologies are often mixed up.

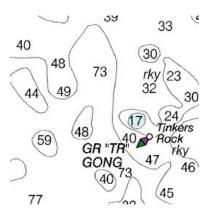
There is no significant to the type of sound in most areas. Different sounds are used in areas with several noise making buoys, so you can differentiate between them in low visibility. In some areas, gongs are on the left returning side of a channel and bells are on the right side.

If the buoy is in an area with no waves, it may have a battery operated horn.

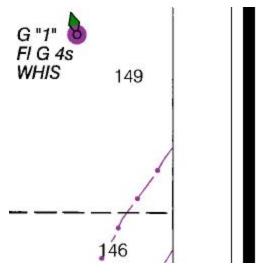
The chart will tell you what type of sound to expect to hear. See examples below.







Gong Buoy



Whistle Buoy