



Major changes are coming for boaters who purchase paper nautical charts of U.S. coasts and the Great Lakes. Effective April 13, 2014, the federal government will no longer print the traditional lithographic nautical charts. NOAA continues to provide the nation’s nautical charts in a variety of forms — and we will start to provide full-size nautical chart PDF (Portable Document Format) files on a trial basis. We continue to support entrepreneurs who use NOAA nautical charts in developing new navigation products and services.

NOAA PDF charts

nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/pdfcharts

**FREE, ON A
3-MONTH TRIAL BASIS!**

NOAA will make printable PDFs of all charts available for free, on a trial basis, from October 22, 2013 to Jan 22, 2014. These PDFs will be up-to-date for the date it is downloaded. Anyone can get the PDF nautical charts printed at the printer of their choice.

“Our concern is making sure that boaters, fishing vessels, and commercial mariners all have the most accurate, up to date nautical chart that is available,” explains Capt. Shep Smith, chief of NOAA’s Coast Survey Marine Chart Division.
“Advancements in digital and electronic technologies now put more accurate charts at the mariners’ fingertips faster, and with less expense, than was possible years ago.”

Official NOAA Print-on-Demand nautical charts

nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/pod/POD.htm

Millions of boaters are increasingly relying on the ease of purchasing “Print-on-Demand” (POD) charts that contain corrections released in the weekly Notice to Mariners up to the actual date of printing. POD charts are tolerant of water and UV damage and stand up to repeated folding, writing, and erasing.

Certified NOAA POD charts meet carriage requirements for vessels required to carry marine charts under 33 CFR 164.01 and 33 CFR 164.33.

Electronic navigational charts

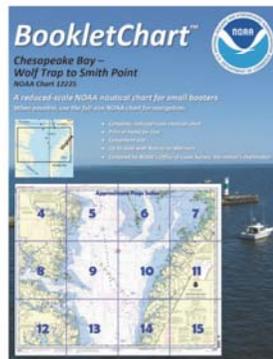
nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/enc/index.htm

The NOAA ENC® is produced from a vector database of features. It supports real-time navigation as well as collision and grounding avoidance. ENCs are used by many computer navigation programs and mobile apps, as well as ECDIS. They are updated with weekly Notice to Mariners corrections and are available for free download from the Coast Survey website.

BookletCharts

Nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/Bookletchart.htm

NOAA provides PDFs of BookletCharts, which are nautical charts in booklet form, downloadable for printing from home computers. Convenient and free!



Raster navigational charts

nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/raster/index.htm

The NOAA RNC® is a geo-referenced digital image of the traditional paper chart, used in a variety of electronic charting systems. RNCs are updated with weekly Notice to Mariners corrections and are available for free download from the Coast Survey website.

IS YOUR CHART INACCURATE? Report discrepancies

NOAA’s Office of Coast Survey is the nation’s chartmaker, responsible for charting over 3.5 million square nautical miles of U.S. coastal waters and the Great Lakes. Using four NOAA ships (three equipped with small boats for near shore work), six 28-foot survey boats, a 57-foot research vessel, and private contractors, Coast Survey acquires hydrographic data to update the nation’s nautical charts. But it isn’t enough to keep up with constantly changing seafloors and coasts. We need your help.

Report chart discrepancies at nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/discrepancy

nauticalcharts.noaa.gov