

## 1.2 AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS

### 1.2.1 General

American government publications regarding hydrography, lights, buoys and beacons, landmarks, sailing directions, etc. are published by different organizations. The main ones are:

- The United States Coast Guard (USCG);
- The Office of Coast Survey (OCS);
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA);
- The National Ocean Service (NOS);
- The Defence Mapping Agency Hydrographic Center (DMHAC);
- The Army Corps Engineers;
- Etc.

### 1.2.2 Government publications issued by the United States Coastguard (USCG)<sup>1</sup>

#### 1.2.2.1 LIGHT LIST (PLATE IV).

These Lists of Light, called "Light List" cover the coasts of America including the Intracoastal Waterway, the island possessions, the Great Lakes (including both the Canadian and the United States shores) and the Mississippi River System.

There are seven volumes covering 17 Districts:

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| First District -Volume 1  | Maine to New Jersey. St. Croix River, Maine to Shrewsbury River, New Jersey  |
| Fifth District-Volume 2   | New Jersey to South Carolina. Schrewsbury River, New Jersey to Little River, South Carolina.   |
| Seventh District-Volume 3   | South Carolina to Florida. Little River, South Carolina to Econfina River, Florida (includes Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands). |
| Eight District (Gulf of Mexico)-Volume 4                          | Gulf of Mexico (Gulf Coast) Econfina River, Florida to Rio Grande, Texas.  |
| Eight District (Western Rivers)-Volume 5                          | Mississippi River System (includes bridges, landings, locks and dams).   |
| Ninth District -Volume 6  | Pacific Coast and Pacific Islands.   |
| Elevent, Thirteenth, Fouteenth and Seventeenth District -Volume 7 | Great Lakes. United States and Canada.   |

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1. The United States Coastguard is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation.

### 1.2.3 Government publications issued by the Office of Coast Survey (OCS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)<sup>1</sup>

#### 1.2.3.1 GENERAL

The Office of Coast Survey (OCS) is a component of the National Ocean Service which is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Office of Coast Survey has a long history as the oldest scientific organization in the United States, having its foundation as far back as 1807. Today the Office of Coast Survey is known for the useful and necessary navigational products which are required for the safe and efficient maritime commerce in and out of our Nation's ports.

As one of five NOAA Line Offices, NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) works to observe, understand, and manage the nation's coastal and marine resources. NOS measures and predicts coastal and ocean phenomena, protects large areas of the oceans, works to ensure safe navigation, and provides tools and information to protect and restore coastal and marine resources.

In providing these services, NOS works closely with its NOAA partners: the National Weather Service, Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, and NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations. Such partnerships are important to achieving a "one NOAA" vision. Partnerships can also bring a broader range of experience, knowledge, and skill to the table — to develop tools and services that benefit a greater number of people and solve complex resource management problems.

Please view a powerpoint presentation by Captain Roger L. Parsons, NOAA which explains NOAA's Navigation Services and NOAA's Role in Safe and Efficient Marine Transportation at: <http://www.freemarinecharts.com/>

#### 1.2.3.1.1 Publications

##### **A. Nautical charts for the American coasts and the islands in their possession.**

NOAA's Nautical Chart products are available in various formats.

- NOAA's Electronic Navigational Chart (NOAA ENC®) is a vector-based digital file containing marine features suitable for marine navigation. It is based on the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) S-57 standard. The

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1. The National Ocean Survey is part of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce.

NOAA ENC files are available free via the internet at: <http://nautical-charts.noaa.gov/mcd/enc/index.htm>

- NOAA's Raster Navigational Chart (NOAA RNC™) is a georeferenced, digital image of a paper chart which can be used in a raster chart system. The NOAA RNC™ files are available for free download via the internet at: <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/Raster/download.htm>
- NOAA's Nautical Chart, Print-on-Demand (POD) version is equivalent to the traditional paper chart with two significant enhancements. The POD charts are updated continuously with Notice to Mariner corrections, and are available four to six weeks prior to the traditional paper chart for new edition printings. Print-on-Demand versions are distributed by OceanGrafix, <http://www.OceanGrafix.com>
- NOAA's Notice to Mariners Chart Updates are available through a data-driven web site. The corrections are listed by chart and are updated as soon as the chart files are edited by NOAA cartographers. Chart Updates are available at <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/updates/index.htm>
- NOAA's Lithographic Nautical Charts are the traditional paper charts that are updated with each new edition. The paper charts are available from your local nautical chart agent, or by contacting the FAA Distribution Division at:

FAA Distribution Division, AVN-530  
National Aeronautical Charting Office  
Glen Dale, MD 20769  
Telephone: (301) 436-8301  
(800) 638-8972 toll free, U.S. only  
Fax: (301) 436-6829  
Email: [9-AMC-chartsales@faa.gov](mailto:9-AMC-chartsales@faa.gov)

NOAA's traditional paper chart distributed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and National Geospatial Agency (NGA) are available six to eight weeks after NOAA releases a New Edition. This is the time required to print and warehouse the traditional paper chart.

## B. Sailing directions

Coast Pilots which covers only American waters and the coasts of islands within them. NOAA's Coast Pilot® consists of a series of nautical books that supplements the nautical charts. They include a variety of information essential to marine navigation. The Coast Pilots are available on the internet for viewing or downloading at: <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/coastpilot.htm>

The following volumes cover areas as follows :

### *For the Atlantic Coast:*

- Coast Pilot 1 covers the coasts of Maine, New Hampshire, and part of Massachusetts, from West Quoddy Head in Maine to Provincetown in Massachusetts. Major ports are at Portsmouth, NH and Boston MA.
- Coast Pilot 2 covers the Atlantic coast from Cape Cod to Sandy Hook, embracing part of the Massachusetts coast and all of the coasts of Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York.
- Coast Pilot 3 covers the Atlantic coast from Sandy Hook to Cape Henry, including the New Jersey Coast, Delaware Bay, Philadelphia, the Delaware - Maryland - Virginia coast, and the Chesapeake Bay.
- Coast Pilot 4 covers the Atlantic coast of the United States from Cape Henry to Key West.
- Coast Pilot 5 covers the Gulf of Mexico coast of the United States from Key West, FL., to the Rio Grande. This area is generally low and mostly sandy, presenting no marked natural features to the mariner approaching from seaward. Coast Pilot 5 also covers Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

### *For the Pacific Coast:*

- Coast Pilot 6 covers the Great Lakes system, including Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, Michigan, and Superior, their connecting waters, and the St. Lawrence River. With the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, the system provides access by ocean going deep-draft vessels to the great industrial and agricultural heartland of the North American continent.
- Coast Pilot 7 covers the rugged United States coast of California, Oregon and Washington, between Mexico on the south and Canada's British Columbia on the north. Coast Pilot 7 also includes Hawaii and other United States territories in the South Pacific.

### *For Alaska:*

- Coast Pilot 8 covers the panhandle section of Alaska between the south boundary and Cape Spencer. In this volume, general ocean

coastline is only 250 nautical miles, but tidal shoreline totals 11,085 miles. No. 9 Cape Spencer to Beaufort Sea

Coast Pilot 9 deals with the Pacific and Arctic coasts of Alaska from Cape Spencer to the Beaufort Sea. General ocean coastline totals 5,520 nautical miles, and tidal shoreline totals 18,377 miles.

### *NOTES*

For more detailed information, see <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/coastpilot.htm>

For Current Electronic Coast Pilots and downloads, go to <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/cpdownload.htm>

### 1.2.4 Government Publications issued by the Defense Mapping Agency Hydro-graphic Center (DMAHC)<sup>1</sup>

- Charts used in the Navy may be prepared by the Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic/Topographic Center (DMAHTC), the National Ocean Service (NOS), the British Admiralty, or by other hydrographic agencies. Whatever the source, all charts used by the Navy are issued by DMAHTC. In this last portion of the chapter you will learn how determine chart coverage and select charts for any area in the world. How charts are numbered and the portfolio designations. The system used to correct charts and techniques used to make corrections. We will also discuss the chart ordering system.
- DMA Pub I-N The Defense Mapping Agency (DMA) Catalog of Maps, Charts, and Related Products is a four-part catalog published by the Defense Mapping Agency Office of Distribution Services (DMAODS). It provides a comprehensive reference of all DMA maps, charts, and related products available. It is organized as follows: PART I-AEROSPACE PRODUCTS PART 2-HYDROGRAPHIC PRODUCTS Volume I United States and Canada (Region 1) Volume II Central and South America and Antarctica (Region 2) Volume III Western Europe, Iceland, Greenland, and the Arctic (Region 3) Volume IV Scandinavia, Baltic, and USSR (Region 4) Volume V Western Africa and the Mediterranean (Region 5) Volume VI Indian Ocean (Region 6) Volume VII Australia, Indonesia, and New Zealand (Region 7) Volume VIII Oceania (Region 8) Volume IX East Asia (Region 9) Volume X Miscellaneous Charts and Publications Volume XI (SECRET) Classified Charts and Publications (U) Semiannual Bulletin Digest for Hydrographic Products Monthly Bulletin for Hydrographic Products (CONFIDENTIAL) Quarterly Bulletin for Classified Hydrographic Products (U) PART 3-TOPOGRAPHIC PRODUCTS PART 4-TARGET MATERIAL PRODUCTS 1-23.
- Nautical charts for foreign waters and coasts of the world.
- Lists of lights covering foreign coasts of the world (and limited parts of the American coasts) : List of Lights (Plate XI).

The following are to be taken into account :

Pub. No. 111 A and 111 B: The coasts of North and South America (only the sea-coast lights of the United States), the West Indies and the Hawaiian Islands

Pub. No. 112: Islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Australia, Asia and the east coast of Africa

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1. The Defence Mapping Agency Hydrographic Center is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defence.

Pub. No. 113: The west coast of Europe and Africa, the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and the Sea of Azov

Pub. No. 114: The British Isles, English Channel and North Sea

Pub. No. 115: Norway, Iceland and Arctic Ocean

Pub. No. 116: The Baltic Sea with Kattegat, Belts and Sund, and Gulf of Bothnia

- *Sailing Directions* which cover foreign coasts and coastal waters of the world. These are composed of forty-three publications of which there are eight Planning guides for ocean basin crossings and thirty-five En route directions for coastal waters and ports. The DMAHC publishes a special edition covering port facilities : Pub. No. 150 World Port Index.
- *Sailing Directions* for U.S. Navy use only, called Fleet Guides. There are also two publications which are of interest only to the armed forces and not for use in the merchant navy, fishery or yachting :  
Pub. No. 940: Atlantic Area Pub. No. 941: Pacific Area

### 1.2.5 Government publications issued by the Army Corps of Engineers<sup>1</sup>

Nautical charts of some American rivers, such as the Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee and their tributaries.

#### NOTES

1. As has been shown, in the United States nautical publications, also referred to as 'documents', are issued by a number of government departments, also known as 'agencies'. As well as the agencies mentioned above, the following bodies issue nautical publications :

The 'Naval Observatory', Department of the Navy.

The 'National Weather Service', NOAA, Department of Commerce.

The 'Naval Oceanographic Office', Department of the Navy.

Although their publications may also be of some use to the mariner, they are not dealt with in this book.

2. The USCG, NOS and DMAHC issue the following publications in addition to those already mentioned which may be of interest to mariners :

*Tides online*, NOAA, NOS. (<http://tidesonline.nos.noaa.gov/monitor.html> )

*Tidal Current Tables*, NOAA, NOS. ([http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide\\_pred.html](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide_pred.html) )

*Tidal Current Diagrams*, NOAA, NOS. Recreation Boating Guide, USCG.

*Emergency Repairs Afloat*, USCG.

*American Nautical Almanac*, Naval Observatory.

*Local Notices to Mariners*, USCG.

Etc.

3. It should be noted that the publications issued by the NOAA or NOS and USCG cover local American waters only while those issued by the DMAHC usually cover the whole world.
4. The titles will help to distinguish between national and international publications, for example :
  - the Light Lists and Coast Pilots cover American waters,
  - the List of Lights and the Sailing Directions cover foreign waters.

### 1.2.6 Private publications

Private publications issued in the United States of America are so numerous and diverse that it would be impossible to mention them in this book. Most of these publications can be found on the Web.

See for instance: <http://www.marinenavigationcd.com/sailing-directions-en->

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1. The Army Corps of Engineers is under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army.

[route.html](#) for Sailing Directions (enroute and Planning), United States Coast Pilots, Chart No.1 - Nautical Chart Symbols A abbreviations and Terms, etc.

## 1.7 COMMENT

The different types of nautical publication mentioned in this chapter are complementary.

The nautical charts show an area of the sea and the adjacent coast. They give guidance for safe navigation between various points. The position and characteristics of land and seamarks are depicted with great precision by means of symbols and abbreviations<sup>1</sup>. This data is usually sufficient for ordinary navigation but if more details are needed relevant nautical publications such as the lists of lights and sailing directions should be consulted.

The list of lights give a complete list and description of the land and seamarks fitted with a light. The British Admiralty list of lights mentions light-buoys with a height of over 6 m (20 ft.). Holland issues a list of buoys, as well as a list of lights, giving a concise description of the buoys and, at the same time, the side on which they should be passed in the various channels, approaches to ports, estuaries, etc. in which they are sited. The characteristics of the lights are, however, to be found in the list of lights. See Plate V for an extract of the Dutch List of Lights. The American Light Lists published by the Coast Guard provide information on buoys as well as on daybeacons whether or not they are fitted with a light. See also Plate VI for an extract of the French List of Lights and Plate VII for an extract of the Belgian List of Lights.

Sailing directions such as Pilot Books, give a description of the coast or of the harbours or both; sometimes with an illustration. They help considerably with recognition of land-marks on the coast, making a landfall or approaching or entering a harbour, especially when there is no pilot on board.

These documents also provide information concerning :

- a. dangers along the coast;
- b. buoyage;
- c. lights and beacons (most important for beacons without lights which are not mentioned in the list of lights);
- d. anchorage areas;
- e. pilot stations;
- f. harbour facilities (stores, provisions, victualling etc.);
- g. tidal streams;
- h. lifeboat stations;
- etc.

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1. See page XXX and following showing symbols and abbreviations used on British, French, American, Dutch and Belgian charts.

*NOTE*

Recently there has been more uniformity in the symbols and abbreviations used by various countries. This is clearly shown on page XXX and following, where extracts of symbols and abbreviations used in England, France, Belgium, Holland and America are illustrated.

The symbols and abbreviations shown on Belgian charts are already the 'International Symbols and Abbreviations' which will soon be used on international charts.

See also the following web sites:

Buoys: <http://www.freemarinecharts.com/>

Introduction to Navigation: <http://www.tpub.com/content/administration/14220/index.htm>