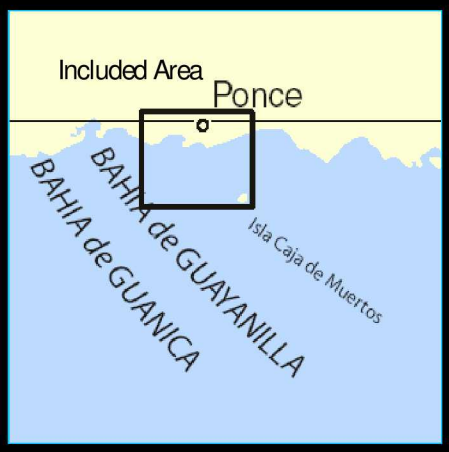
BookletChart™

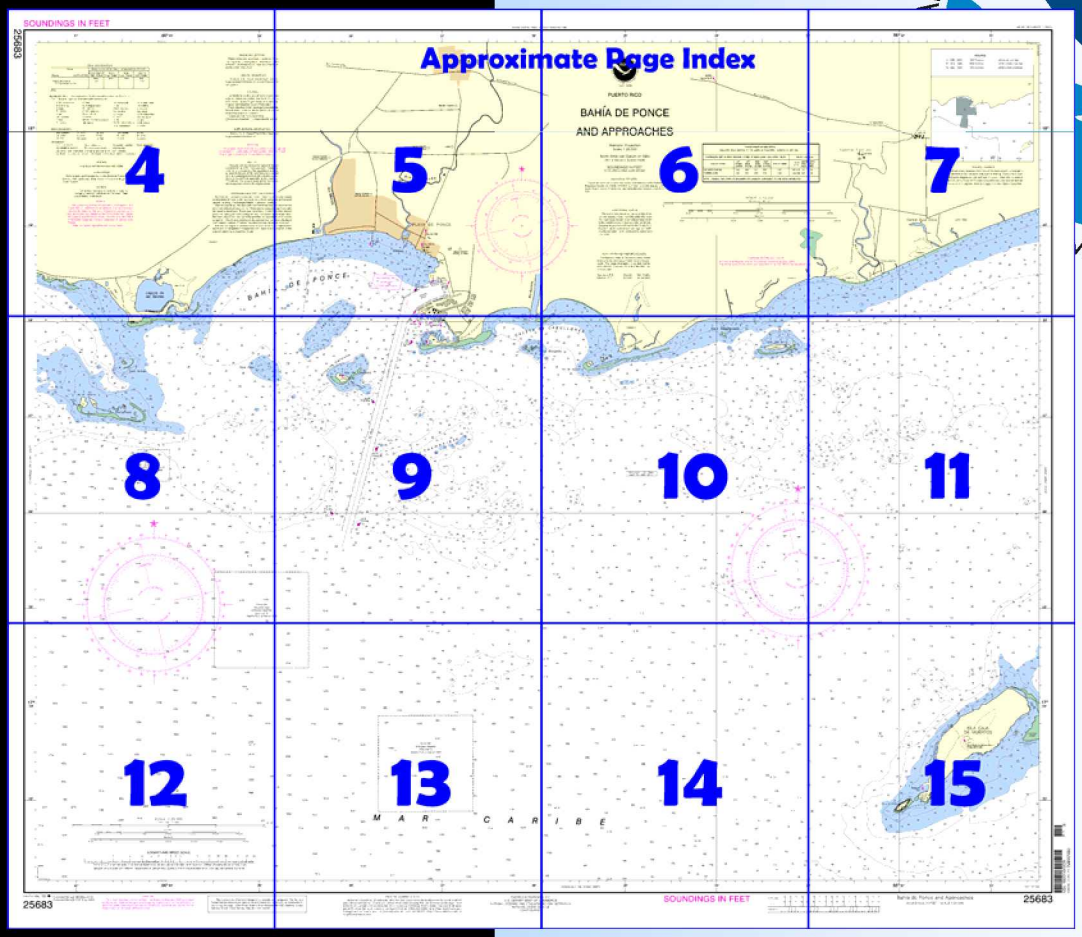
Bahia De Ponce and Approaches

(NOAA Chart 25683)



A reduced scale NOAA nautical chart for small boaters. When possible, use the full size NOAA chart for navigation.

- ☑ *Complete, reduced scale nautical chart*
- ☑ *Print at home for free*
- ☑ *Convenient size*
- ☑ *Up to date with all Notices to Mariners*
- ☑ *United States Coast Pilot excerpts*
- ☑ *Compiled by NOAA, the nation's chartmaker.*



Home Edition (not for sale)

Published by the
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
Office of Coast Survey
www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov
301-713-2770

What are Nautical Charts?

Nautical charts are a fundamental tool of marine navigation. They show water depths, obstructions, buoys, other aids to navigation, and much more. The information is shown in a way that promotes safe and efficient navigation. Chart carriage is mandatory on the commercial ships that carry America's commerce. They are also used on every Navy and Coast Guard ship, fishing and passenger vessels, and are widely carried by recreational boaters.

What is a BookletChart™?

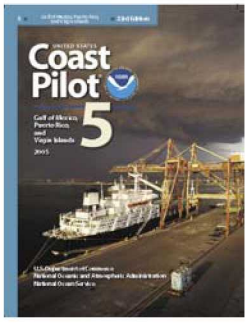
This BookletChart is made to help recreational boaters locate themselves on the water. It has been reduced in scale for convenience, but otherwise contains all the information of the full-scale nautical chart. The bar scales have also been reduced, and are accurate when used to measure distances in this BookletChart. See the Note at the bottom of page 5 for the reduction in scale applied to this chart.

Whenever possible, use the official, full scale NOAA nautical chart for navigation. Nautical chart sales agents are listed on the Internet at http://www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov.

This BookletChart does NOT fulfill chart carriage requirements for regulated commercial vessels under Titles 33 and 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Notice to Mariners Correction Status

This BookletChart has been updated for chart corrections published in the U.S. Coast Guard Local Notice to Mariners, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Weekly Notice to Mariners, and, where applicable, the Canadian Coast Guard Notice to Mariners. Additional chart corrections have been made by NOAA in advance of their publication in a Notice to Mariners. The last Notices to Mariners applied to this chart are listed in the Note at the bottom of page 7. Coast Pilot excerpts are not being corrected.



[Coast Pilot 5, Chapter 13 excerpts]
(515) **Isla del Frio**, 4.3 miles NNW of Isla Caja de Muertos and 0.4 mile offshore, is surrounded by a 0.4-mile-long reef that is steep-to on the S edge.
(516) **Bahia de Ponce**, 43 miles W of Punta Tuna Light and 32 miles E of Cabo Rojo Light, is the most important commercial harbor on the S coast and one of the three leading ports of Puerto Rico. The harbor is protected from the prevailing E trade winds by Punta Penoncillo and Isla de Gata with their surrounding reefs, but it is exposed to the S causing a swell at times in the anchorage. The port facilities are in the E part of the 3.5-mile-wide bay, which is surrounded by shoals and reefs; the N part of the bay shoals to less than 18 feet within 0.4 mile of the shore in places.
(520) The principal entrance is E of Isla de Cardona. A Federal project provides for a 600-foot-wide entrance channel 36 feet deep, then an inner channel 200-foot-wide 36 feet deep leading to an irregular shaped turning basin, with a 950-foot turning diameter adjacent to the municipal bulkhead.
(521) The entrance channel is marked by a **015**° lighted range, lights, and buoys; do not confuse the rear range light with the flashing red radio tower lights back of it. A 0.2-mile-wide channel between Isla de Cardona and Las Hojitas is sometimes used by small vessels with local knowledge.
(522) The usual anchorage is NE of Isla de Cardona in depths of 30 to 50 feet, although vessels can anchor in 30 to 40 feet NW of Las Hojitas. A small-craft anchorage is NE of Las Hojitas in depths of 18 to 28 feet. A well-protected anchorage for small boats in depths of 19 to 30 feet is NE of the yacht club on Isla de Gata. A comfortable anchorage with little swell during ordinary weather in depths of 18 to 30 feet can be found in **Caleta de Cabullones,** the bight E of Isla de Gata.
(523) Bahia de Ponce is not safe as a hurricane anchorage because it is exposed to the S. The nearest hurricane anchorages are at Bahia de Jobos, 28 miles E, Bahia de Guayanilla, 8 miles W, and Bahia de Guanica, 16 miles W.
(524) **Bajo Tasmanian**, an extensive bank on the E side of the principal harbor entrance, is about a mile long with several spots of 16 to 18 feet. The W part of the bank extends close to the range line and has depths as little as about 20 feet.
(525) The bank on the W side of the entrance extends almost to Isla de Cardona and has general depths of 28 to 48 feet, but there are several spots of 18 to 23 feet within an area 0.5 mile SW of the island.
(526) **Bajo Cardona** extends 600 yards ESE from Isla de Cardona with depths of 12 to 16 feet. A bare reef on which the sea breaks extends 300 yards NE of the island; depths of 11 to 14 feet continue in the same direction for 200 yards.
(527) A reef bare at low water and steep-to extends 300 yards W and SW from Isla de Gata. The sea always breaks on the outer side of this reef.
(528) It is reported that with an E wind of 25 knots or more, the mud from the reef off Isla de Gata discolors the water across the channel to Isla de Cardona and beyond making the channel off the piers at Punta Penoncillo appear shoal.
(529) Other unmarked shoals and reefs are dangerous in approaching Bahia de Ponce through any of the inshore passages. A reef with four islets extends 0.4 mile from shore to Punta Cabullones, 2.5 miles E of Isla de Cardona. The reef is steep-to, and the sea breaks on the S side. **Roca Ahogado,** a bare rock in the middle of Caleta de Cabullones, has shoal water of 4 to 18 feet extending up to 0.2 mile from it.
(530) **Las Hojitas,** NW of Isla de Cardona, is 0.8 mile long in a NE direction with a small patch awash near the SW end. The reef has depths of 2 to 11 feet and is steep-to E and NE of this patch.
(532) **Isla de Ratones,** on the W entrance to Bahia de Ponce and a mile offshore, is a low island with a reef that bares at low water extending a mile ESE of it. **Cayo Arenas,** 0.5 mile E of Isla de Ratones, is surrounded by a reef and shoals that extend up to 200 yards from its shore. Crooked channels with a least depth of 10 feet are between these islands and the shore; they should be used only with local knowledge.
(540) A Commonwealth Captain of the Port with an office at Playa de Ponce enforces the local rules and regulations for Bahia de Ponce.
(541) The municipal pier and wharf on Punta Penoncillo are administered by a board with a dock superintendent in charge. The municipal pier on the SE side is 450 feet long and has depths of 26 to 30 feet along both sides; transit sheds and pipelines for water, molasses, and bulk cement are on the pier. Immediately NW of the pier is a 63-foot-wide loading ramp which slopes to about 1 foot above the water.
(545) A maneuvering basin extends 250 yards N of the municipal wharf, the northerly limits marked by buoys. In September 1971, the basin had depths of 24 to 30 feet with shoaling to lesser depths in the E end.
(546) Most supplies are available at Ponce. If necessary, additional supplies can be brought in by truck from San Juan in a few hours. Freshwater, bunker C oil, and diesel oil are available at the municipal pier; gasoline is available by truck.

Table of Selected Chart Notes

Corrected through NM May 30/09
Corrected through LNM May 26/09

HEIGHTS

Heights in feet above Mean High Water.

CAUTION

Temporary changes or defects in aids to navigation are not indicated on this chart. See Local Notice to Mariners.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Consult U.S. Coast Pilot 5 for important supplemental information.

NOTE S

Regulations for Ocean Dumping Sites are contained in 40 CFR, Parts 220-229. Additional information concerning the regulations and requirements for use of the sites may be obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). See U.S. Coast Pilots appendix for addresses of EPA offices. Dumping subsequent to the survey dates may have reduced the depths shown.

Mercator Projection
Scale 1:20,000

North American Datum of 1983
(World Geodetic System 1984)

SOUNDINGS IN FEET
AT MEAN LOWER LOW WATER

CAUTION

Limitations on the use of radio signals as aids to marine navigation can be found in the U.S. Coast Guard Light Lists and National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Publication 117.

Radio direction-finder bearings to commercial broadcasting stations are subject to error and should be used with caution.

Station positions are shown thus:
⊙(Accurate location) o(Approximate location)

RADAR REFLECTORS

Radar reflectors have been placed on many floating aids to navigation. Individual radar reflector identification on these aids has been omitted from this chart.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Consult U.S. Coast Guard Light List for supplemental information concerning aids to navigation.

HORIZONTAL DATUM

The horizontal reference datum of this chart is North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83), which for charting purposes is considered equivalent to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84). Geographic positions referred to the Puerto Rico Datum must be corrected an average of 7.120" southward and 1.379" eastward to agree with this chart.

NOAA WEATHER RADIO BROADCASTS

The NOAA Weather Radio stations listed below provide continuous weather broadcasts. The reception range is typically 20 to 40 nautical miles from the antenna site, but can be as much as 100 nautical miles for stations at high elevations.

San Juan, P.R.	WXJ-69	162.40 MHz
Maricao, P.R	WXJ-68	162.55 MHz

NOTE A

Navigation regulations are published in Chapter 2, U.S. Coast Pilot 5. Additions or revisions to Chapter 2 are published in the Notice to Mariners. Information concerning the regulations may be obtained at the Office of the Commander, 7th Coast Guard District in Miami, Florida, or at the Office of the District Engineer, Corps of Engineers in Jacksonville, Florida.

Refer to charted regulation section numbers.

WARNING

The prudent mariner will not rely solely on any single aid to navigation, particularly on floating aids. See U.S. Coast Guard Light List and U.S. Coast Pilot for details.

POLLUTION REPORTS

Report all spills of oil and hazardous substances to the National Response Center via 1-800-424-8802 (toll free), or to the nearest U.S. Coast Guard facility if telephone communication is impossible (33 CFR 153).

AUTHORITIES

Hydrography and topography by the National Ocean Service, Coast Survey, with additional data from the Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Coast Guard.

SOURCE DIAGRAM

The outlined areas represent the limits of the most recent hydrographic survey information that has been evaluated for charting. Surveys have been banded in this diagram by date and type of survey. Channels maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are periodically resurveyed and are not shown on this diagram. Refer to Chapter 1, United States Coast Pilot.

CAUTION

This chart has been corrected from the Notice to Mariners (NM) published weekly by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) issued periodically by each U.S. Coast Guard district to the dates shown in the lower left hand corner. Chart updates corrected from Notice to Mariners published after the dates shown in the lower left hand corner are available at

COLREGS, 80.738a (see note A)

International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972.
The entire area of this chart falls seaward of the COLREGS Demarcation Line.

NOTE X

Within the 12-nautical mile Territorial Sea, established by Presidential Proclamation, some Federal laws apply. The Three Nautical Mile Line, previously identified as the outer limit of the territorial sea, is retained as it continues to depict the jurisdictional limit of the other laws. The 9-nautical mile Natural Resource Boundary off the Gulf coast of Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico, and the Three Nautical Mile Line elsewhere remain in most cases the inner limit of Federal fisheries jurisdiction and the outer limit of the jurisdiction of the states. The 24-nautical mile Contiguous Zone and the 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone were established by Presidential Proclamation. Unless fixed by treaty or the U.S. Supreme Court, these maritime limits are subject to modification.

PLACE		Height referred to datum of soundings (M		
NAME	(LAT/LONG)	Mean Higher High Water	Mean High Water	Mea Low Wa
		feet	feet	feet
Playa de Ponce	(17°58'N/66°37'W)	0.8	- - -	- - -

Dashes (- - -) located in datum columns indicate unavailable datum values for a tide station. Real-time water le tide predictions, and tidal current predictions are available on the Internet from http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.go

(May 2009)

This nautical chart has been designed to promote safe navigation. The National Ocean Service encourages users to submit corrections, additions, or comments for improving this chart to the Chief, Marine Chart Division (N/CS2), National Ocean Service, NOAA, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282.

ABBREVIATIONS (For complete list of Symbols and Abbreviations, see Chart No. 1.)

Aids to Navigation (lights are white unless otherwise indicated):

AERO aeronautical	G green	Mo morse code	R TR radio tower
Al alternating	IQ interrupted quick	N nun	Rot rotating
B black	Iso isophase	OBSC obscured	s seconds
Bn beacon	LT HO lighthouse	Oc occulting	SEC sector
C can	M nautical mile	Or orange	St M statute miles
DIA diaphone	m minutes	Q quick	VQ very quick
F fixed	MICRO TR microwave tower	R red	W white
Fl flashing	Mkr marker	Ra Ref radar reflector	WHIS whistle
		R Bn radiobeacon	Y yellow

Bottom characteristics:

Blds boulders	Co coral	gy gray	Oys oysters	so soft
bk broken	G gravel	h hard	Rk rock	Sh shells
Cy clay	Grs grass	M mud	S sand	sy sticky

Miscellaneous:

AUTH authorized	Obstn obstruction	PD position doubtful	Subm submerged
ED existence doubtful	PA position approximate	Rep reported	

(21) Wreck, rock, obstruction, or shoal swept clear to the depth indicated.
(2) Rocks that cover and uncover, with heights in feet above datum of soundings.

PRINT-ON-DEMAND CHARTS

NOAA and its partner, OceanGrafix, offer this chart updated weekly by NOAA for Notices to Mariners and critical corrections. Charts are printed when ordered using Print-on-Demand technology. New Editions are available 5-8 weeks before their release as traditional NOAA charts. Ask your chart agent about Print-on-Demand charts or contact NOAA at 1-800-584-4683, http://NauticalCharts.gov, help@NauticalCharts.gov, or OceanGrafix at 1-877-56CHART, http://OceanGrafix.com, or help@OceanGrafix.com.

SOUNDINGS IN FEET

25683

41′ 66° 40′ 39′

18°

59′

58′

TIDAL INFORMATION

PLACE		Height referred to datum of soundings (MLLW)		
NAME	(LAT/LONG)	Mean Higher High Water	Mean High Water	Mean Low Water
		feet	feet	feet
Playa de Ponce	(17°58′N/66°37′W)	0.8	- - -	- - -

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Bn beacon
C can
DIA diaphone
F fixed
Fl flashing
G green
IQ interrupted quick
Iso isophase
LT HO lighthouse
M nautical mile
m minutes
MICRO TR microwave tower
Mkr marker
Mo morse code
N nun
OBSC obscured
Oc occulting
Or orange
Q quick
R red
Ra Ref radar reflector
R Bn radiobeacon
R TR radio tower
Rot rotating
s seconds
SEC sector
St M statute miles
VQ very quick
W white
WHIS whistle
Y yellow

Bottom characteristics:

Blds boulders
bk broken
Cy clay
Co coral
G gravel
Grs grass
gy gray
h hard
M mud
S sand
Oys oysters
Rk rock
Sh shells
so soft
sy sticky

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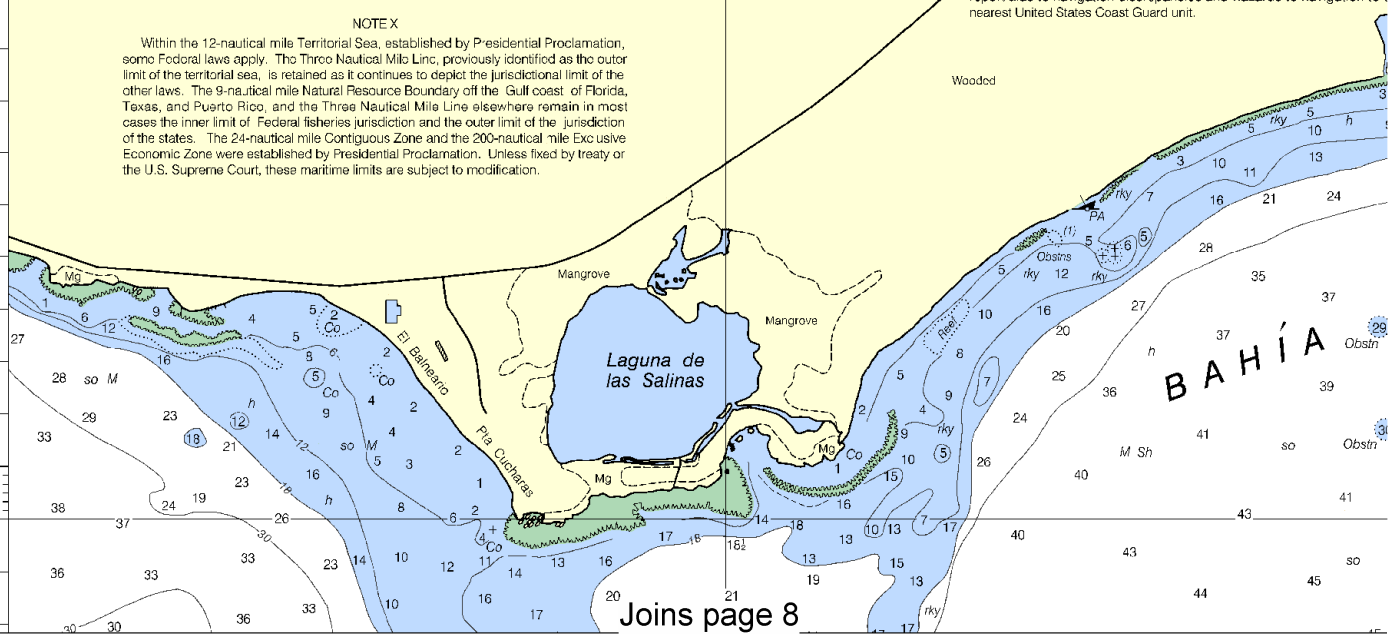
HURRICANES AND TROPICAL STORMS

Hurricanes, tropical storms and other major storms may cau considerable damage to marine structures, aids to navigation and moor vessels, resulting in submerged debris in unknown locations.

Charted soundings, channel depths and shoreline may not reflect acti conditions following these storms. Fixed aids to navigation may have be damaged or destroyed. Buoys may have been moved from their chart positions, damaged, sunk, extinguished or otherwise made inoperati Mariners should not rely upon the position or operation of an aid navigation. Wrecks and submerged obstructions may have been displac from charted locations. Pipelines may have become uncovered or moved

Mariners are urged to exercise extreme caution and are requested report aids to navigation discrepancies and hazards to navigation to t nearest United States Coast Guard unit.



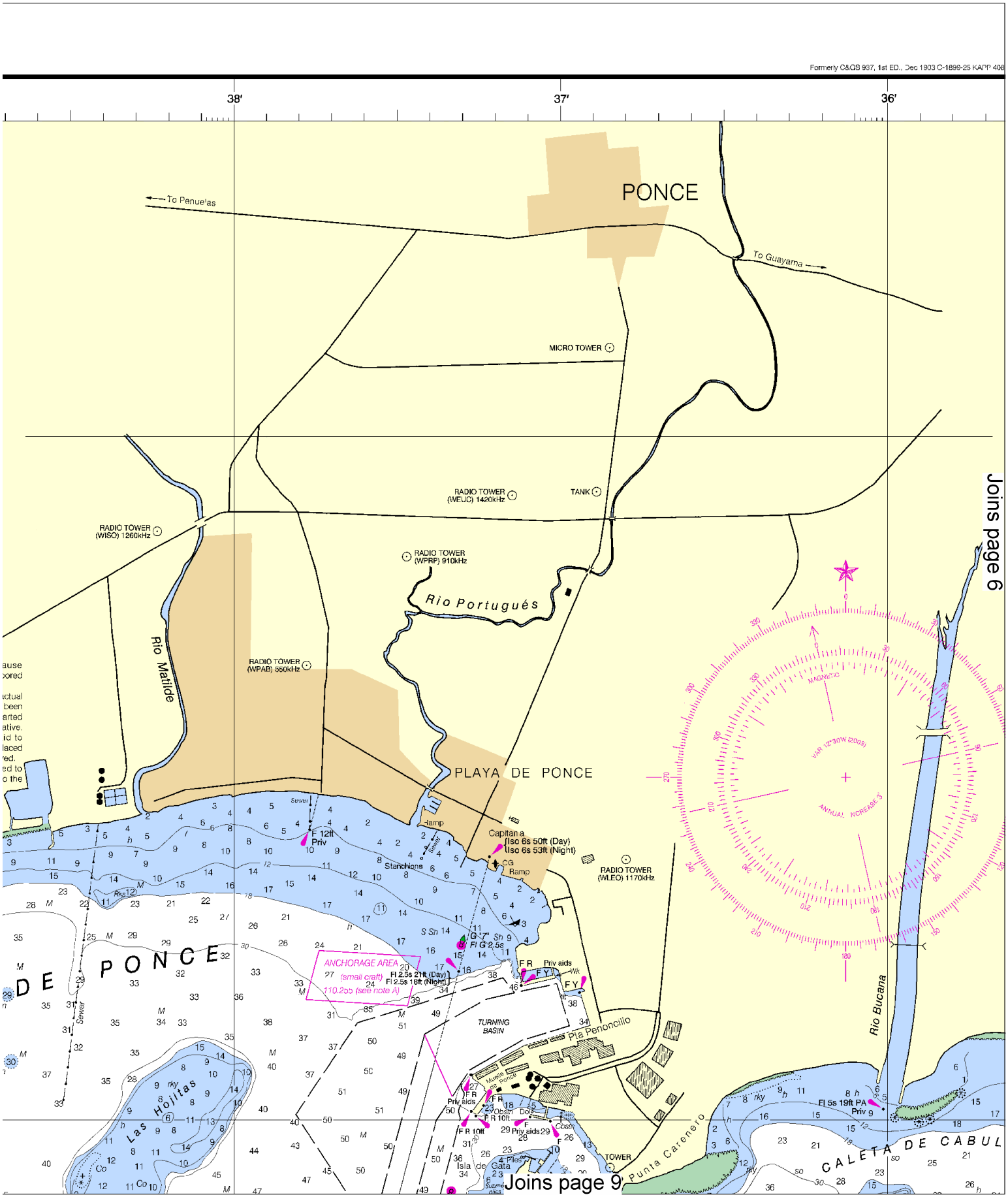
4

North

Printed at reduced scale. ~~SCALE 1:20,000~~ See Note on page 5.

Nautical Miles: 0 1 1½

Yards: 500 0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500



This BookletChart was reduced to 75% of the original chart scale.
The new scale is 1:26667. Barscales have also been reduced and
are accurate when used to measure distances in this BookletChart.

erly C&GS 937, 1st ED., Dec 1903 C-1899-25 KAPP 408

36′ 35′ 34′

THE NATION'S CHARTMAKER SINCE 1807

PUERTO RICO

BAHÍA DE PONCE AND APPROACHES

Mercator Projection
Scale 1:20,000

North American Datum of 1983
(World Geodetic System 1984)

SOUNDINGS IN FEET
AT MEAN LOWER LOW WATER

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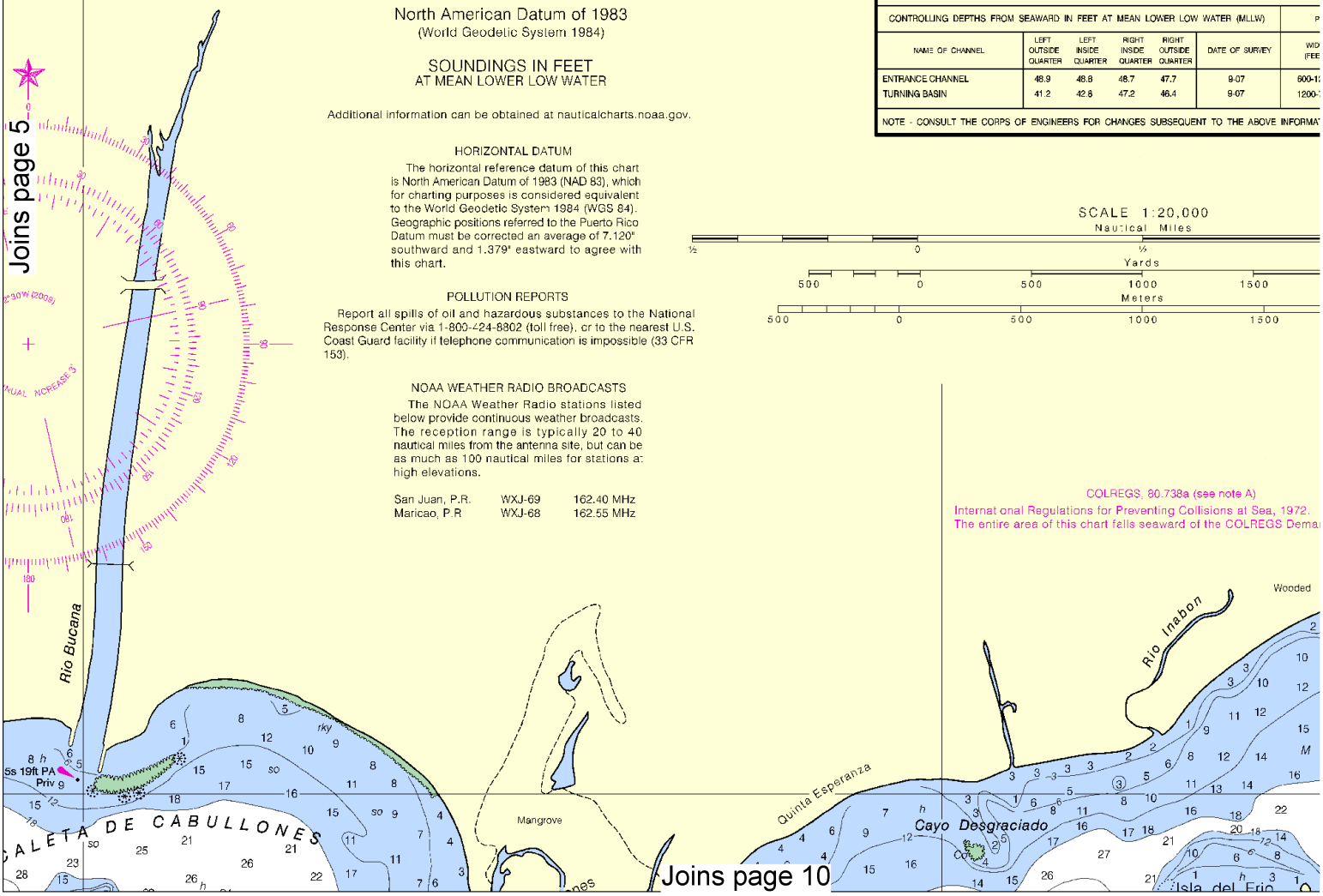
PONCE HARBOR CHANNEL DEPTHS
TABULATED FROM SURVEYS BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS - SURVEYS TO SEP 2007

CONTROLLING DEPTHS FROM SEAWARD IN FEET AT MEAN LOWER LOW WATER (MLLW)						P
NAME OF CHANNEL	LEFT OUTSIDE QUARTER	LEFT INSIDE QUARTER	RIGHT INSIDE QUARTER	RIGHT OUTSIDE QUARTER	DATE OF SURVEY	WID (FEE
ENTRANCE CHANNEL	48.9	48.8	48.7	47.7	9-07	600-1
TURNING BASIN	41.2	42.8	47.2	46.4	9-07	1200-

NOTE - CONSULT THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR CHANGES SUBSEQUENT TO THE ABOVE INFORMAT

SCALE 1:20,000
Nautical Miles
½ 0 ½
Yards
500 0 500 1000 1500
Meters
500 0 500 1000 1500

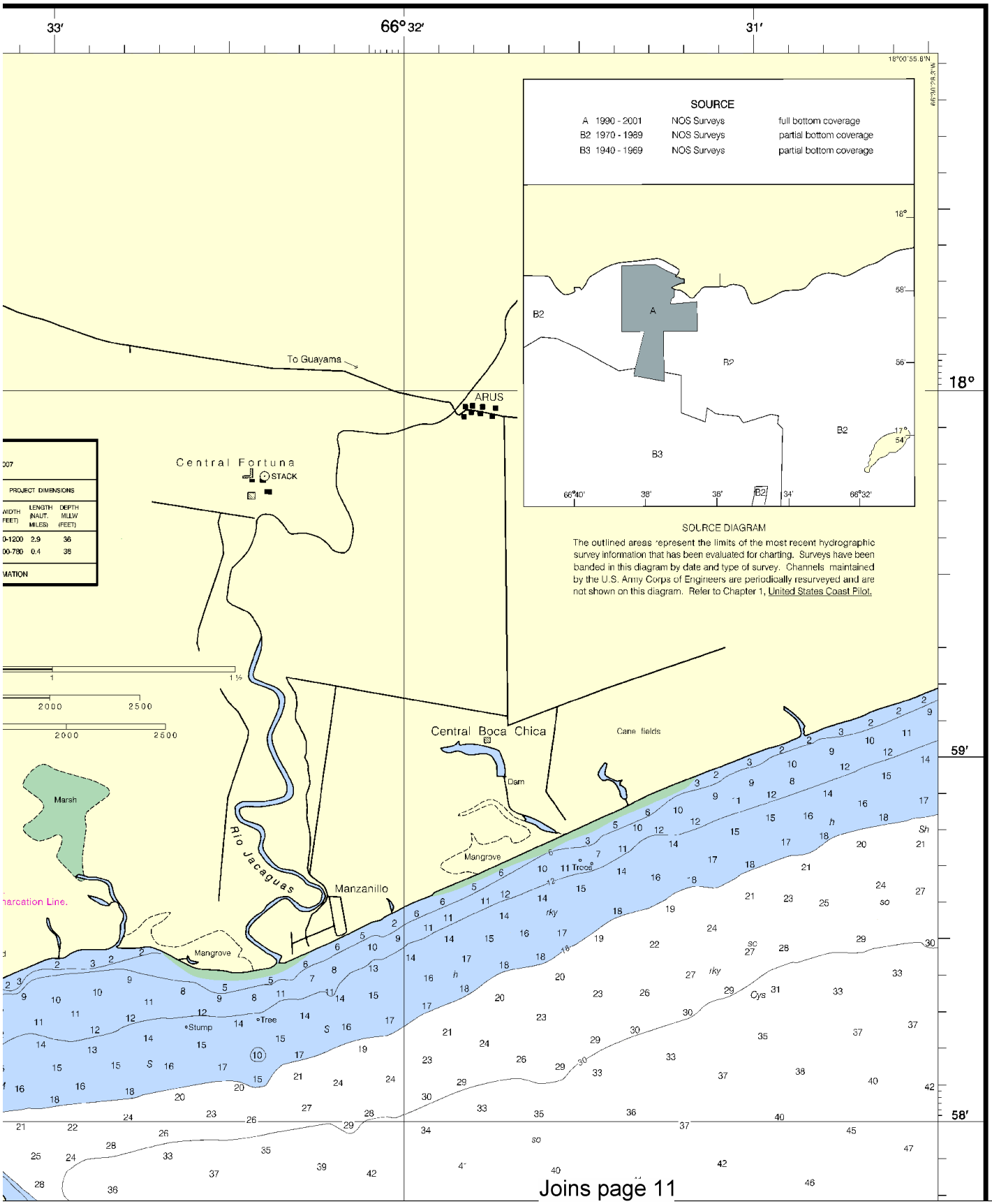
COLREGS, 80.738a (see note A)
Internat onal Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972.
The entire area of this chart falls seaward of the COLREGS Dema



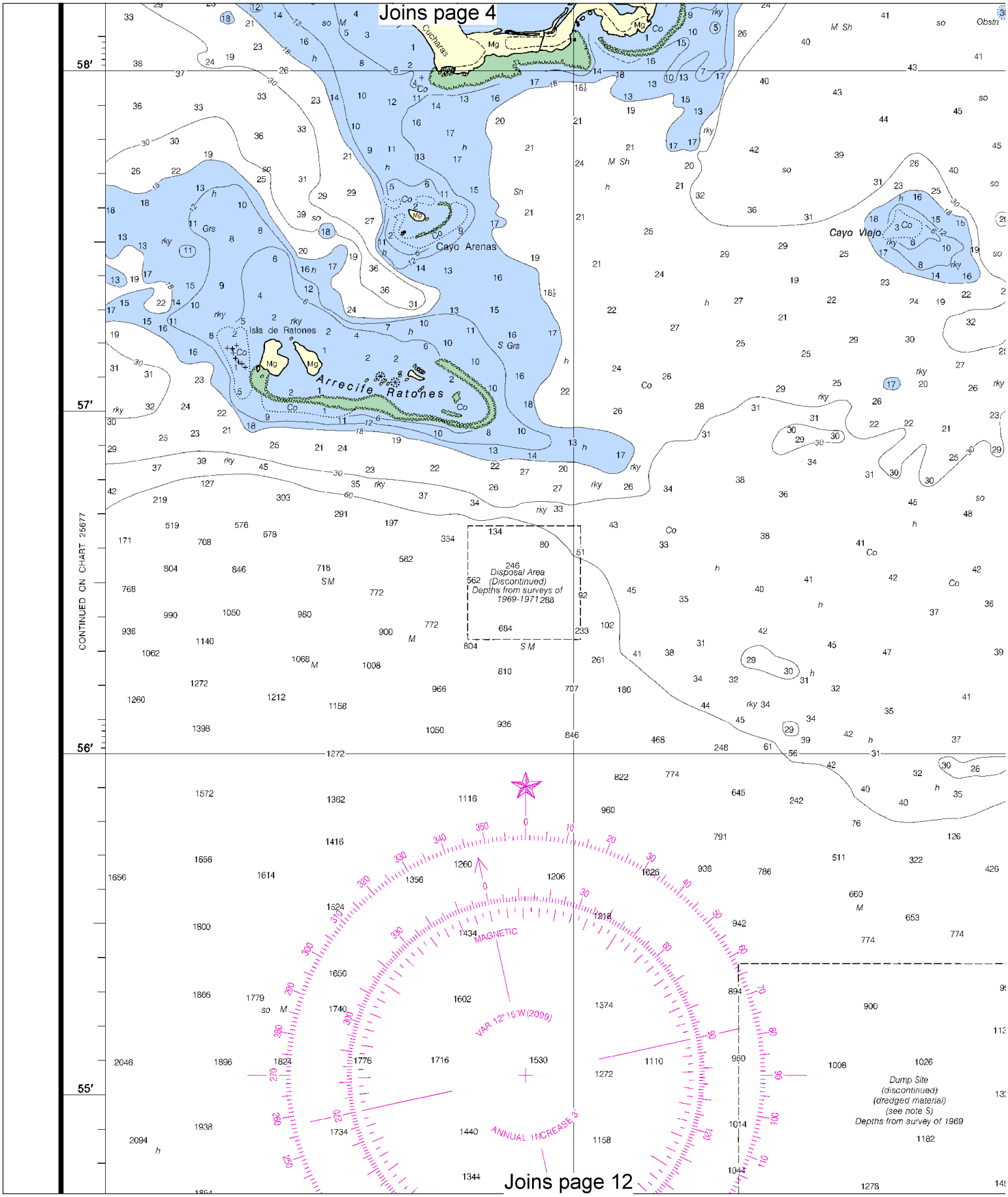
North

Printed at reduced scale. ~~SCALE 1:20,000~~ See Note on page 5.

Nautical Miles
0 1 1½
Yards
500 0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500



This BookletChart has been updated with: Coast Guard Local Notice To Mariners: 0710 2/16/2010,
NGA Weekly Notice to Mariners: 0910 2/27/2010,
Canadian Coast Guard Notice to Mariners: n/a .



8

North

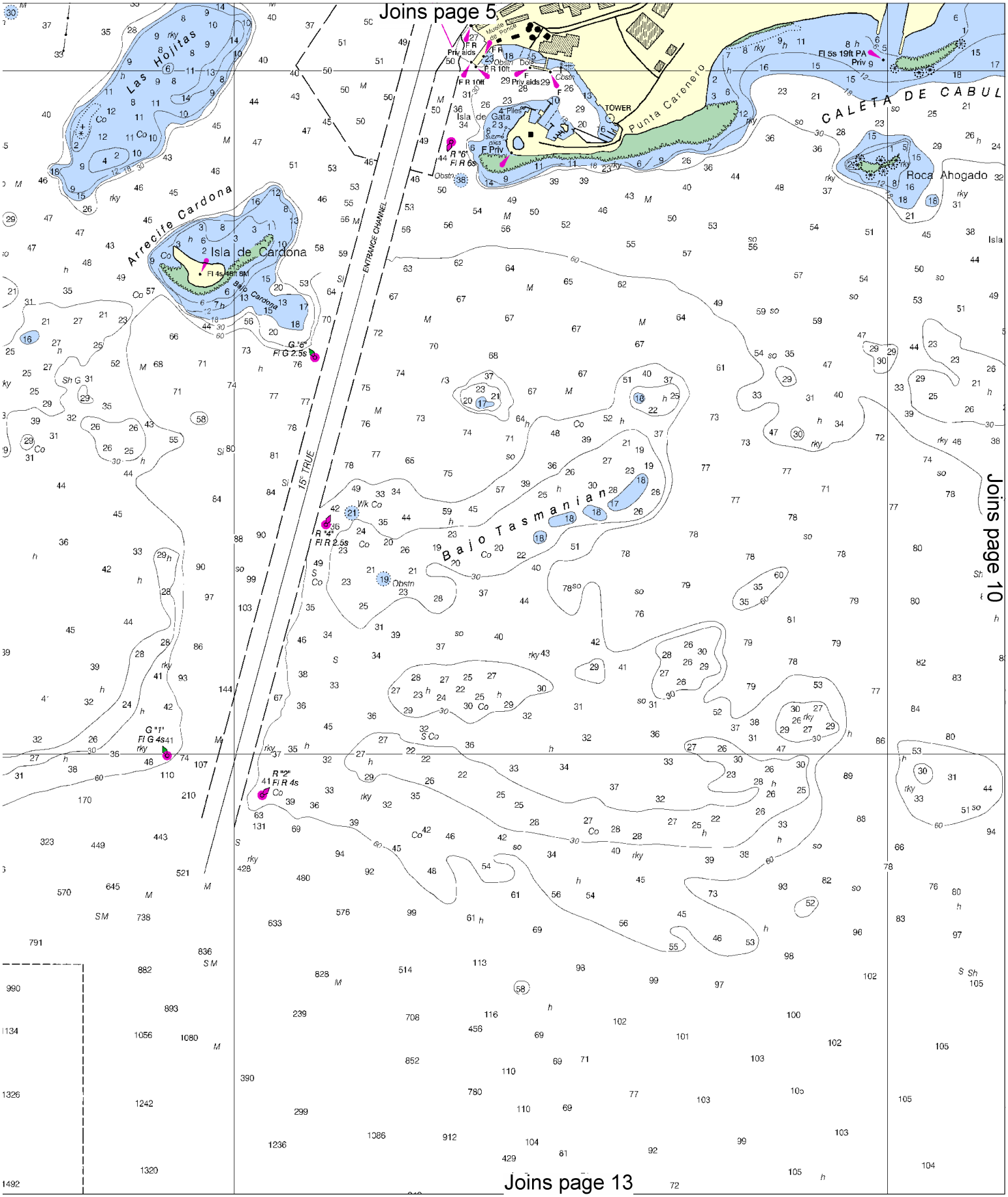
Printed at reduced scale. ~~SCALE 1:20,000~~ See Note on page 5.

Nautical Miles

0 1 1½

Yards

500 0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500


Joins page 5
Joins page 10
Joins page 13
Las Hojitas
Arrecife Cardona
Isla de Cardona
Bajo Cardona
Isla de Gata
Punta Carenero
CALETA DE CABUL
Roca Ahogado
Bajo Tasmanian
ENTRANCE CHANNEL
15° TRUE
TOWER
Musite de Ponce
Fl 4s 46ft 8M
G "6"
Fl G 2.5s
R "4"
Fl R 2.5s
G "1"
Fl G 4s
R "2"
Fl R 4s
R "6"
Fl R 6s
F Priv
Priv aids
Fl 5s 19ft PA
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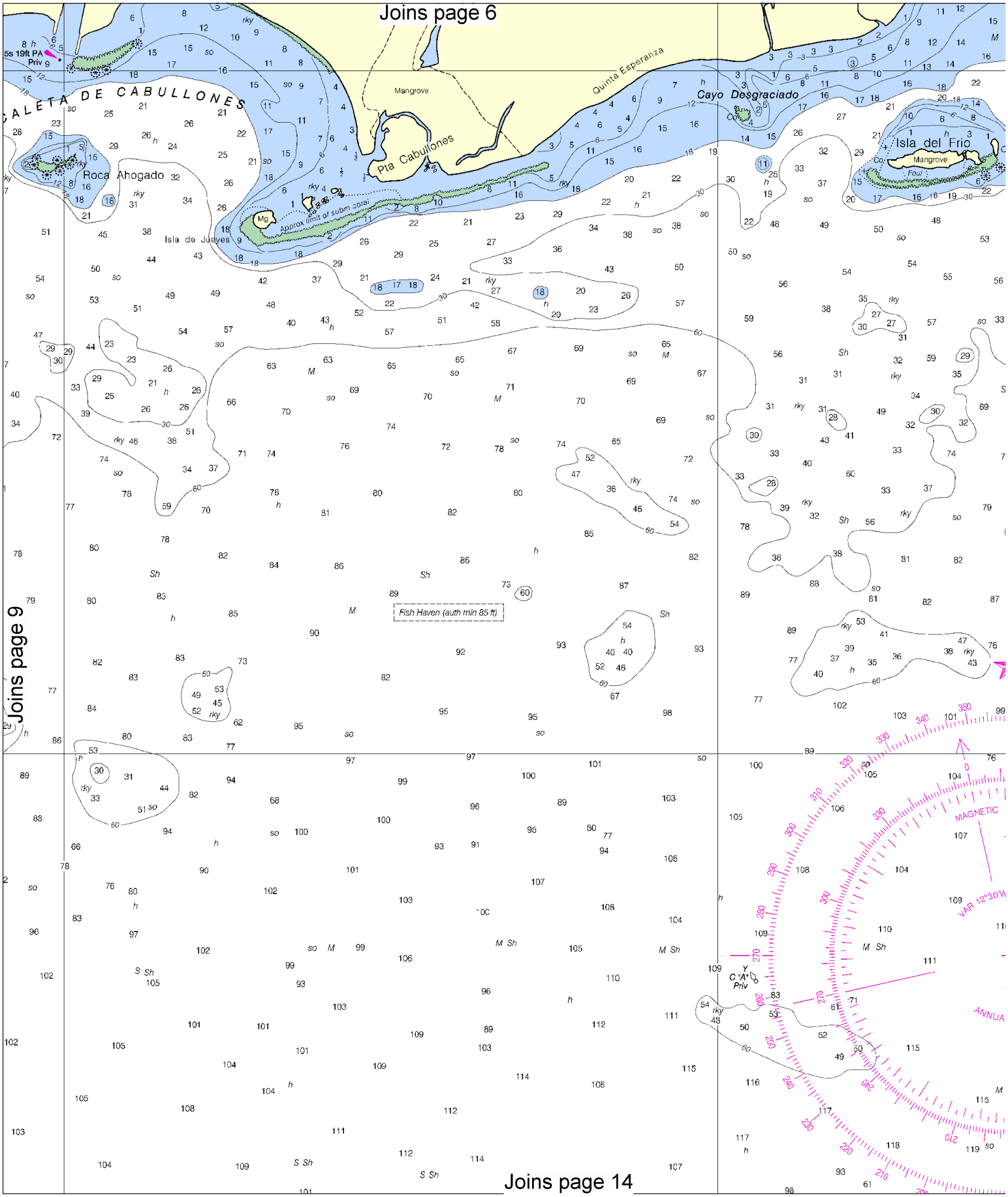

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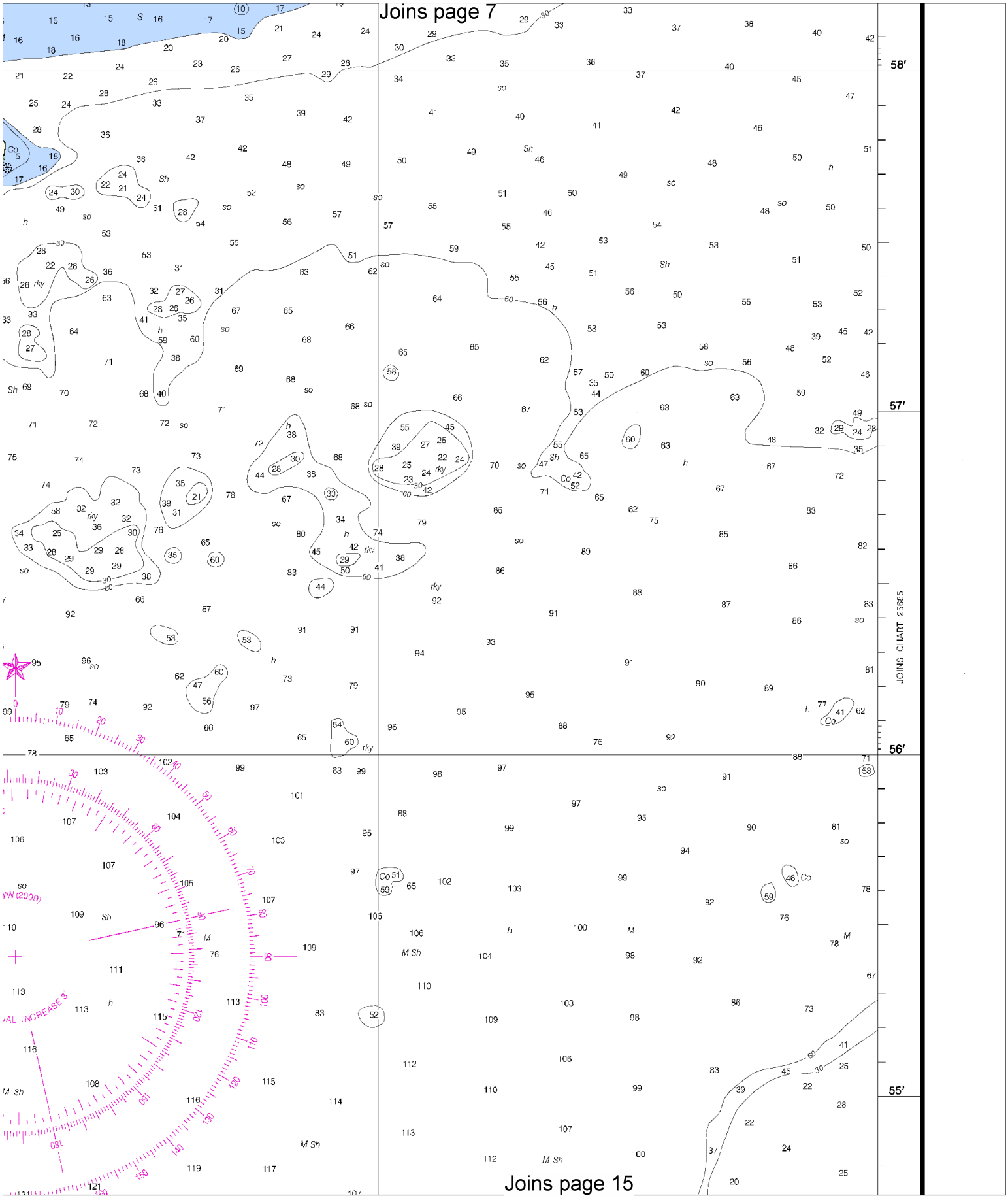
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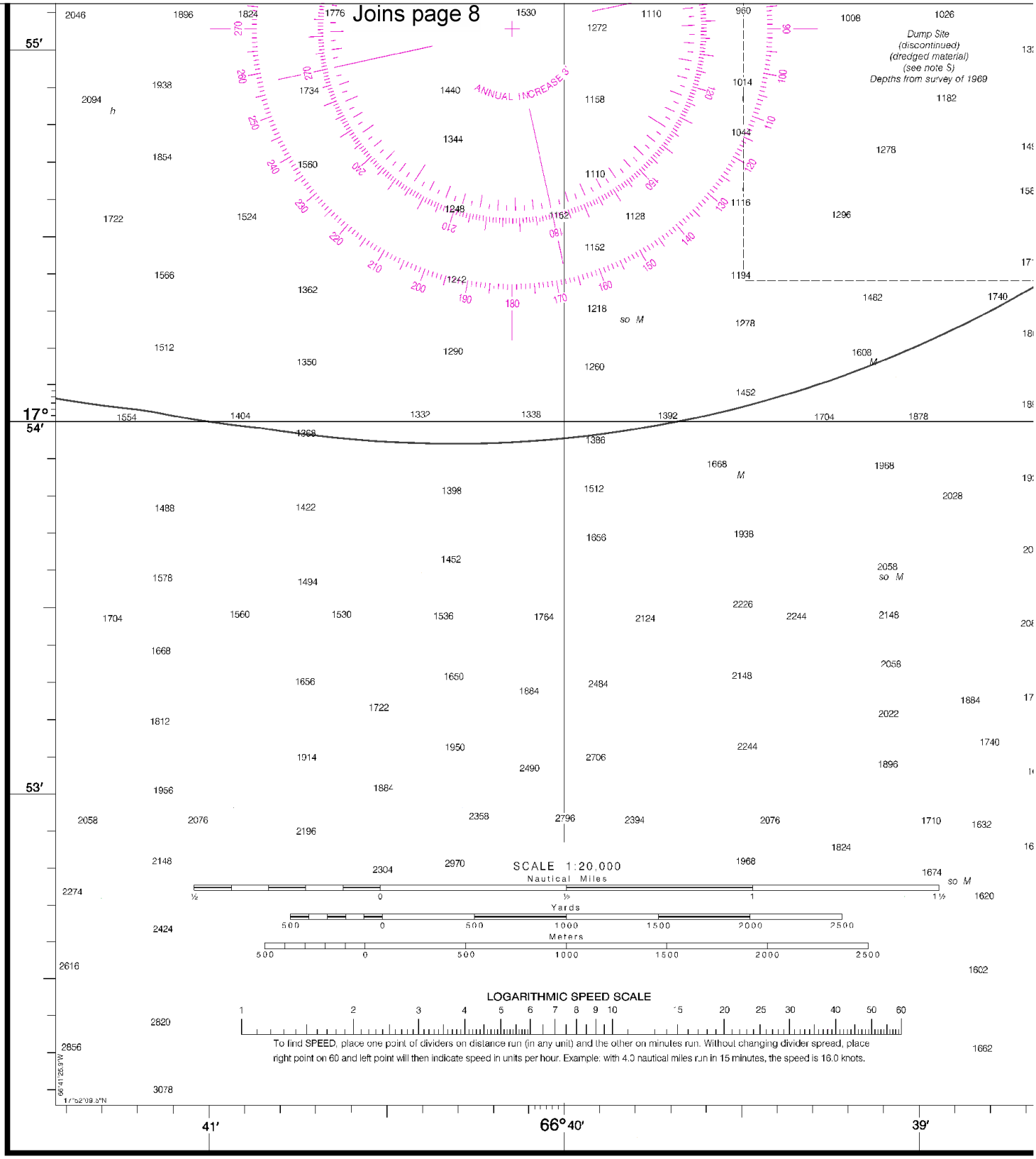
57′
56′
55′
JOINS CHART 25885
Joins page 15



19th Ed., May/ 09 ■ Corrected through NM May 30/09
Corrected through LNM May 26/09

25683

CAUTION

This chart has been corrected from the Notice to Mariners (NM) published weekly by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) issued periodically by each U.S. Coast Guard district to the dates shown in the lower left hand corner. Chart updates corrected from Notice to Mariners published after the dates shown in the lower left hand corner are available at nauticalcharts.noaa.gov.

This nautical chart has been designed to promote safe navigation. Ocean Service encourages users to submit corrections, additions, or c improving this chart to the Chief, Marine Chart Division (N/CS2), Na Service, NOAA, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282.

North

Printed at reduced scale. ~~SCALE 1:20,000~~ See Note on page 5.

Nautical Miles 0 1 1½

Yards 500 0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500

Joins page 9

THREE NAUTICAL MILE LINE (see note X)

Dump Site
(dredged material)
(see note S)
Depths from survey of 1969

M A R C A R I

38′ 37′ 36′

Joins page 14

on. The National
r comments for
National Ocean

PRINT-ON-DEMAND CHARTS

NOAA and its partner, OceanGrafix, offer this chart updated weekly by NOAA for Notices to Mariners and critical corrections. Charts are printed when ordered using Print-on-Demand technology. New Editions are available 5-8 weeks before their release as traditional NOAA charts. Ask your chart agent about Print-on-Demand charts or contact NOAA at 1-800-584-4683, http://NauticalCharts.gov, help@NauticalCharts.gov, or OceanGrafix at 1-877-56CHART, http://OceanGrafix.com, or help@OceanGrafix.com.

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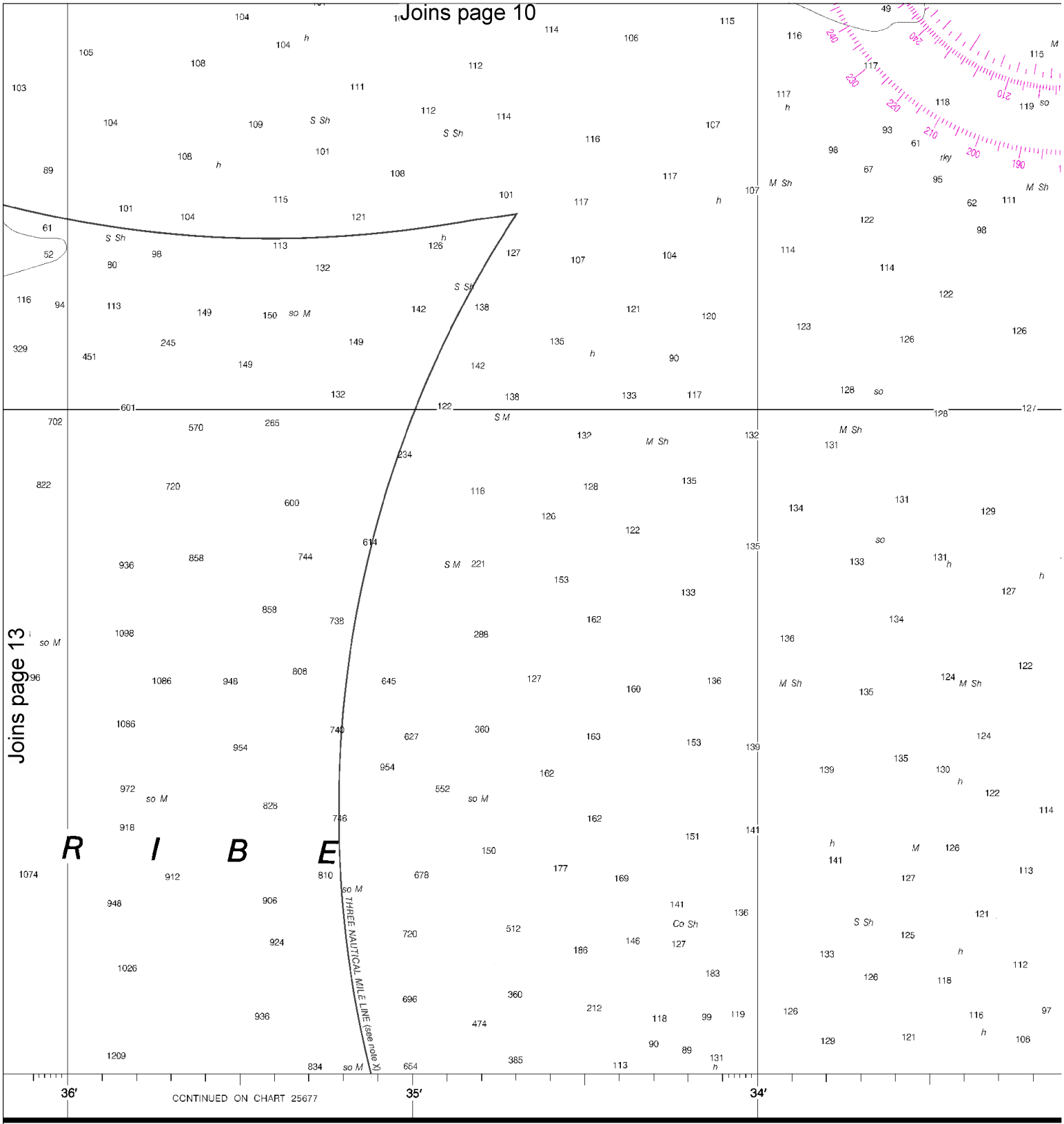
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
COAST SURVEY



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PARTMENT OF COMMERCE
C AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
TIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
COAST SURVEY

SOUNDINGS IN FEET

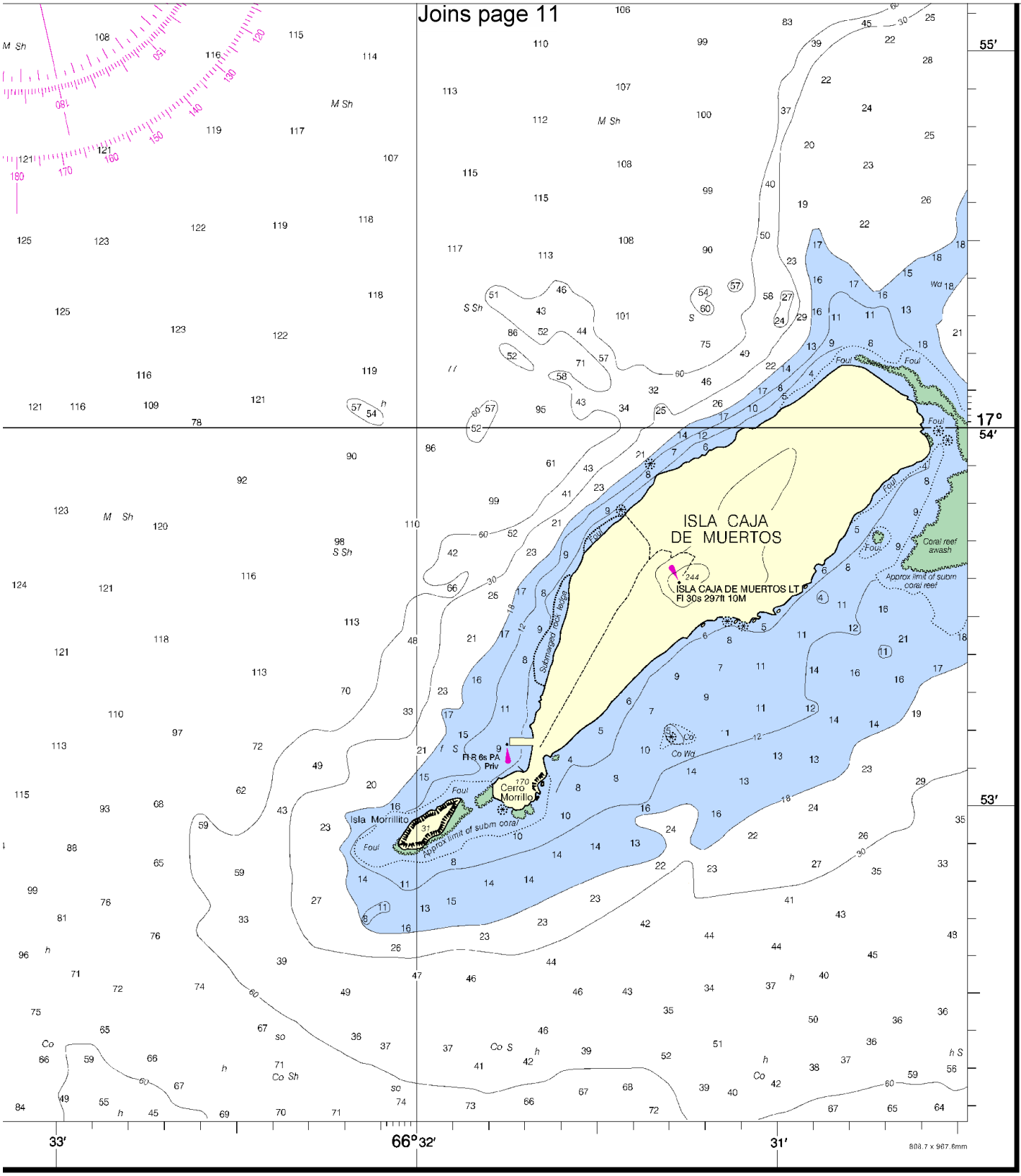
FATHOMS	1	2	3
FEET	6	12	18
METERS	1 2 3 4 5		

North

Printed at reduced scale. ~~SCALE 1:20,000~~ See Note on page 5.

Nautical Miles: 0 1 1½

Yards: 500 0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500



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SOUNDINGS IN FEET - SCALE 1:20,000

25683

ED NO. 19

NGA REFERENCE NO. 25AHA25683

NSN 7642014012039

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

VHF Marine Radio channels for use on the waterways:

Channel 6 – Inter-ship safety communications.
Channel 9 – Communications between boats and ship-to-coast.
Channel 13 – Navigation purposes at bridges, locks, and harbors.
Channel 16 – Emergency, distress and safety calls to Coast Guard and others, and to initiate calls to other vessels. Contact the other vessel, agree to another channel, and then switch.
Channel 22A – Calls between the Coast Guard and the public. Severe weather warnings, hazards to navigation and safety warnings are broadcast here.
Channels 68, 69, 71, 72 & 78A – Recreational boat channels.

Distress Call Procedures

1. Make sure radio is on.
2. Select Channel 16.
3. Press/Hold the transmit button.
4. Clearly say: "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY."
5. Also give: Vessel Name and/or Description; Position and/or Location; Nature of Emergency; Number of People on Board.
6. Release transmit button.
7. Wait for 10 seconds – If no response Repeat MAYDAY Call.

HAVE ALL PERSONS PUT ON LIFE JACKETS !!

Mobile Phones – Call 911 for water rescue.
Coast Guard Puerto Rico – (787) 289-2041

NOAA Weather Radio – 162.400 MHz, 162.425 MHz, 162.450 MHz, 162.475 MHz, 162.500 MHz, 162.525 MHz, 162.550 MHz.

Getting and Giving Help – Signal other boaters using visual distress signals (flares, orange flag, lights, arm signals); whistles; horns; and on your VHF radio. You are required by law to help boaters in trouble. Respond to distress signals, but do not endanger yourself.

NOAA, The Nation's Chartmaker

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Internet Sites: www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov, www.NOAA.gov, www.TidesandCurrents.NOAA.gov, www.NOS.NOAA.gov.