



NOAA's Office of Coast Survey ENC Quality improvements through IC-ENC Partnership

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September 27, 2017

Overview

Improving the quality of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs), now that they are primary product of the NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, is a top priority. In the fall of 2016 the Office of Coast Survey (OCS) entered into a partnership with the International Centre for ENC's to improve quality of our ENCs through an off site validation process and parallel distribution.

Goals

1. To improve quality of NOAA ENCs using IC-ENC's expertise, resources and partnership with other countries.
2. Improve the skills and knowledge of NOAA cartographers through IC-ENC training and expertise.
3. IC-ENC's distribution network helps ensure NOAA ENCs are used when they should be by a variety of mariners.

Specifications

Every ENC new edition and update is sent to IC-ENC for validation. The New Editions and Updates are tested for usability and functionality within the NOAA suite. The ENCs are also validated against surrounding countries ENCs, a validation test that NOAA did not have the resources before this partnership to perform. This should greatly improve the usability of NOAA's ENCs as mariners rarely stay within one country's chart suite. Before this partnership NOAA had limited abilities to validate ENCs with no ability to check overlaps with other countries. NOAA had no resources to load ENCs into variety of navigation software packages to test viability. Problems like overcrowding of text and symbols as well as disjointed data due to the cartographers inability to see ENCs working together in navigation software are now well on the way to being solved through IC-ENC's resources and this partnership.

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NOAA

Format and Distribution Systems

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IC-ENC

<http://www.ic-enc.org/>

Office of Coast Survey

<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/>

Electronic Navigational Charts

<http://www.charts.noaa.gov/ENCs/ENCs.shtml>

http://www.charts.noaa.gov/ENCs/ENCProdCat_19115.xml

<http://www.charts.noaa.gov/ENCs/ENCProdCat.xml>

<http://www.charts.noaa.gov/ENCs>

Biography

Sean Legeer is a Lead Nautical Cartographer for NOAA's Office of Coast Survey in the Format and Distribution Systems Branch of the Marine Chart Division. He has worked for NOAA as a Nautical Cartographer for almost 20 years. Sean has a Bachelor's of Science from the University of Maryland in geography and a certification for Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS) operation from Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies.

Sean is the Vice Chair of the IHO Data Quality Working Group and a Member of the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services (RTCM) Special Committee (SC) 129 on Portrayal of Navigation-Related Information on Shipboard Displays.