Future of NOAA Nautical Charting

NOAA Industry Day
Annapolis, Maryland

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National Charting Plan

• Changes to chart formats, scales, and data compilation
  • ENC Rescheming
  • RNC Channel Project Depths
  • Import USCG AtoN Data Directly
  • Resolve Charted Discrepancies
  • Compile ENC Depth Contours in Meters
  • Small Craft Chart Coverage Migration
New Charting Perspective

• Changing approach to maintaining paper and ENC product suites
• Increasing use of electronic marine navigation capabilities by both commercial mariners and recreational boaters
• Paper charts still used as a back-up, but electronic charts are increasing used as the primary means of navigation
• ENC updates can be made and distributed faster and more easily to users than through raster charts
• ENCs are considered NOAA’s premier navigational product, not co-equal with paper charts as in the past
• Updating ENCs will have the highest production priority
  • Information on paper charts may be up to one month behind

• Any new or larger scale coverage will be created through new ENCs only

• ENCs will continue to provide minimum “controlling” depths for federally maintained channels
  • Paper charts will only show the “project depths.”
  • Controlling depths can be shoaler than project depths
• New regular, gridded ENC scheme being developed
  • Will replace current assortment of over 1,200 irregularly shaped ENCs
  • ENCs will be recompiled into a dozen standard scales
    • Down from current mix of over 130 different scales
  • Depth contours will be recompiled into integer metric intervals
  • ENC rescheming is expected to take 5 to 10 years

• Fewer scales enables more effective:
  • Edge matching of adjacent ENCs
  • Checking consistency of data between scales
Changes to the Raster (Paper) Chart Suite

• No new paper charts will be added to the current suite of paper nautical charts
• Over time, a number paper nautical charts will be cancelled as their use diminishes
• In the future, only small scale paper charts may remain
  • For general overview and preliminary voyage planning
• New Web-based "NOAA Custom Chart" application is being prototyped
  • Enables users to select the location, extent, and scale of a customized raster (PDF) chart generated from ENC data
Thank you very much!