

# Welcome to the Northwest District *Navigation Systems Division Aids Verifier Program*

The Prevention Department, Navigation Systems Division program encourages the checking of every Federal Aid to Navigation and Bridge by any Auxiliarist at any time. Members are encouraged to check an Aid or Bridge and report any observed discrepancies to the Coast Guard. *“Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized assignment to duty to support and augment the Coast Guard’s navigation systems (NS) program. This includes verifying position and characteristics of private aids-to-navigation (PATON), after qualifying as an aid verifier (AV). Auxiliarists may assist and support aids-to-navigation (ATON) units... Auxiliarists may also help NOAA and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in updating nautical and aeronautical charts and publications. ... Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized assignment to duty to support and augment bridge surveys, investigate and provide information regarding waterways safety and navigation situations pertaining to the bridge program, ...”* (Excerpted from Chapter 2, Sections B.4 & B.5, “Programs/Activities Authorized for Auxiliarists” of the Auxiliary Manual.)

**1. The approach of the Aids Verifier program is on accuracy, credibility, professionalism and service to the Coast Guard,** and it builds the competency level and professionalism of the Auxiliary members in the eyes of Coast Guard. Guidelines are provided for taking fixes and depths accurately, including pre-underway and on-scene validation of measuring equipment, credible quality on-scene observations and measurements, and professional report preparation. This activity is accomplished via fixes taken with WAAS-GPS (or cell phone app if acceptable), depths corrected to the charted vertical datum, physical measurements, photographs and drawings and the validation of all observations to the Light List, the Coast Pilot and on the NOAA Nautical Chart/s. It can by no means be achieved by a cursory glance.

**2. Aid to Navigation/Aids Verifier tools are provided.** A list of the Aids Verifier tools that are available for download to your home computer follow (organized by Source):

**-NS- AV-Program Handout (this):** Reference this resource or print it out as a handout to promote the Federal Short Range Aid to Navigation program to your members.

## **National CGAux-NS (+NE District-NtrnRegn)**

**-ATON 2013 Study Guide.** 56 pg. This guide is full of illustrations and photos of various Aids to Navigation. Guidelines for taking and reporting fixes and depths are explained in detail, as well as reporting NS-Navigation Systems activities to AUXDATA. Use this guide as a self-training tool and for introducing new members to “Navigation Systems”. This Guide should be printed/reviewed by prospective AV Workshop attendees before class. Source: national NS webpage.

**-AV-PQS.pdf** (last 13 pages of updated **AV Program Handbook, 16500.16** . Needs to be printed out and reviewed by prospective AV Workshop attendees before class. Strongly recommend that prospective attendees also find an AV mentor and get ~30% of PQS signed off before attending the Workshop. Source: <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP&category=guides-and-handbooks>] Needs to be completed/submitted to become qualified as an Aids Verifier.

**-AN05-BasicATON-Training.ppt:** 90 ppt slides, created by NE District/NtrnRegn, modified by Pam CK. Included in AV Workshop. Source: DSO-NS on NW District Webpage/Programs/NS/AV Workshop Folders. This presentation covers basics for the IALA-B System. It is a great self-learning tool and is used in an ATON Training Workshop. Use this for training volunteers in your Navigation Systems Program.

**-AN06-ATON-Discrepancy.ppt:** 83 ppt slides, created by NE District/NtrnRegn, modified by PCK. Included in AV Workshop. Source: DSO-NS on D13 Webpage/Programs/NS/AV Workshop Folders. This training tool is designed as an annual review of ATON verifications. It is included in ATON workshops. Every potential discrepancy found on Aids to Navigation is explained.

**-BP05-BridgeLighting.ppt:** 62 ppt slides, created by NE District/NtrnRegn, modified by PCK. Included in AV Workshop. Source: DSO-NS on NW District Webpage/Programs/NS/AV Workshop Folders. Since 1981, & in compliance with a USCG-CG Auxiliary MOU, Auxiliarists perform annual Bridge Surveys.

This presentation is about the basics of the bridge lighting/marking system. It is a great self-learning tool. Use this tool in workshops for training volunteers in your Navigation Systems Program's Bridge Surveys.

**-PN03-05-PATON-CFRs.ppt:** 15 ppt slides, created by NE District/NtrnRegn, modified by Pam CK. Included in AV Workshop. Source: DSO-NS on NW District Webpage/Programs/NS/AV Workshop Folders. This presentation covers the PATON regulations.

**-a7054 ATON ReportRev.pdf:** Source: national Forms website. Included in AV Workshop. This is the national P/ATON report form. Only used in D13 for 'come-upon' discrepancy reporting of Federal and of Class II and III PATONS.

### **National USCG**

**-LightList, Vol.6** (yearly/daily): Source: NavCen (download). <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov> Suggest printing your AOR's P/ATONS, plus the Preface. The Light List contains detailed information for all the Federal Aids, the Class I and II Private Aids, and the lighted Bridges in your AOR. It is updated daily, online. Recently reorganized to an alphabetical listing - by Waterway name plus a map-based reports.

**-Form/Aux-7030/Individual-Unit:** Source: forms.cgaux.org (Note: 7030/Individual is used to credit & document NS activity. Also, the member can enter into AuxData2 directly via an Activity Log.

**-NW District, Waterways Branch (dpw; Tim Westcott/Danny McReynolds):** NW District WW Branch provides info for Local Notice to Mariners (LNM): Source: NavCen: <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov> Issued weekly. Download for pre-mission planning. Provides updates on P/ATONS, bridges (esp. discrepancies), nautical charts, maritime activities, etc. Recently reorganized to an alphabetical listing by Waterway name.

### **NW District NS (DSO-NS – Pam C-K)**

**-SOP-NS** date: Source: NW District DSO-NS webpage, 3 pg, included in AV Workshop Handout & on NW District-DSO-NS webpage "Resources". Contains NW District -specific AV procedures and policies.

**-PATON Patrol Review/Position Comparisons:** Source: NW District-DSO-NS webpage. These 2 files (ppt, doc) are used together to review the specific pre-patrol, during, and post-patrol verification steps, focusing on some NW District forms and calculating position comparisons (between LL, chart, observed).

**-Chart Updating Training Guide-2025** update pdf; 55 pg, Source: national NS webpage. This guide has examples of nautical chart items that have a potential for review/update. Besides a review of the online ENC details, it includes several chart update examples with a short explanation about the type of problem and the specific things to look for that commonly go wrong. Plus, there are guidelines for pre-underway checks, taking depths, fixes, photos, planning a patrol, and more.

**-2025-CSchool-ChartUpdateTraining.ppt:** 116 ppt slides, Source: national NS. 2-hour chart updating training. This presentation enhances chart updating training when reviewed in conjunction with the "ChartUpdating TrainingGuide." It is also used as the basis for Chart Updating training workshops.

**-AccessingTides.ppt:** 23ppt slides; Source: DSO-NS (Pam C-K). Created from some AuxNav slides plus an explanation and demo of accessing online NOAA/NOS Tide Predictions or USGS Water Levels for their AOR. This presentation/student demo is satisfactory for signing-off on several Aids Verifier PQS items.

**Pre-Req's for AV Qualification:** BQ/AX, ICS/100, ICS/700; Core Training; IRM, TCT-Refresher

**Sources:** NE District/NtrnRegn: [www.uscgaan.com](http://www.uscgaan.com) NavCen: <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov>

**National NS webpage:** [pdept.cgaux.org](http://pdept.cgaux.org) Click on Navigation Systems, then desired products

**NW District WW Branch:** <https://www.pacificarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/District-13/District-Staff/-dpw/>

**NW District-NS:** <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=130&category=dso-home-pages>; Login, select NS

***3. If the Aids Verifier Program interests you,*** talk to your NS Staff Officers. Auxiliaries are encouraged to check each Federal Aid to Navigation that they pass while underway on an OPFAC. This allows you to take credit for your underway time and for all your activity in AUXDATA, whether or not you find a discrepancy. Generally, you need access to an OPFAC to participate in the NS program. New members are encouraged to join their Auxiliary Navigation Systems Team. Your skill, knowledge, and desire to make a contribution to a worthy endeavor are what is needed. We are always ready to train you.