

NO MORE NOAA PAPER AND RASTER NAUTICAL CHARTS

John Collins USCGAux SBOS ADSO-PE

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is undertaking a multi-year program to end production and maintenance of its suite of over 1,000 traditional paper nautical charts and all associated raster chart products and services, including: Print-on-Demand (POD) paper nautical charts, Full-size chart PDF files, BookletChart™ PDF files, NOAA raster navigational charts (NOAA RNC®), the NOAA RNC tile service, and the online RNC viewer.

Six months notice of the intent to cancel a specific chart will be provided in a “Last Edition” notice. The final cancellation of a chart is made in a “Canceled” notice. Both types of notices will appear in Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) Section IV, “Chart Correction.” You can see a comprehensive list of all canceled NOAA charts at: <http://www.charts.noaa.gov/MCD/Dole.shtml>. Traditional paper nautical chart production is ending to enable the creation and maintenance of larger scale, more up-to-date, higher quality coverage of NOAA’s electronic navigational chart (NOAA ENC®) product. This will significantly enhance the amount of charted detail available to you.

You can see more information about NOAA’s program to sunset traditional paper charts that is on the NOAA Coast Survey website at: <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/charts/farewell-to-traditional-nautical-charts.html> An online NOAA Custom Chart application at: <https://devgis.charttools.noaa.gov/pod> is available for you to create chart images from ENC data, which you may then print. Notices to Mariners will not be issued for NOAA Custom Charts.