

13th CHRIS MEETING
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ENC DEVELOPMENT IN INLAND WATERS
(by Dave Enabnit, August 2001)

United States (NOAA)

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to produce electronic navigation charts of the entire Mississippi River Inland Waterway System as well as other rivers and tributaries that are heavily used by commercial and recreational craft. They have produced a test product for the Atchafalaya River in Louisiana. The resulting data set is available for free on the Internet at <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/ENG/s-57/atchafalaya.asp>. A description of the sources of data used, and the methods used to convert them to S-57, can be found at the URL in the document titled "Conversion of Atchafalaya River SDS Data to IHO S-57 Ed. 3 Data Format, Final Report". The document also describes the S-57 objects that are included.
2. Further, the Corps of Engineers has contracted for the production of the entire Lower Mississippi River as ENCs. The project will involve resurveying of the river and photogrammetric resurvey of the bankline as well as preparing ENCs.
3. An important issue that has not been resolved is whether the existing ENC Product Specification is adequate for inland waterways use, or if a new product specification is required. Also, would an inland waterways Product Specification be a subset of the existing Product Specification or a completely new document. The CHRIS should consider whether it would be possible to use the existing ENC Product Specification but allow the navigation system to use different nomenclature for S-57 features. The result would be to use a nomenclature that is more familiar to inland users.