15th CHRIS MEETING
IHB, Monaco, 10-13 June 2003

REGULATORY STATUS OF ECDIS IN THE USA
(June 2003)

United States (NOAA)

1. On May 2, 2001, the United States Coast Guard amended the chart carriage regulations to permit government vessels to use electronic charting and navigation systems in lieu of paper charts.

2. On August 15, 2002, the United States Coast Guard issued a statement of policy to bring its regulations into agreement with SOLAS Chapter V (as amended by the changes taking effect July 1, 2002). The policy statement said that, if a ship has an approved ECDIS installed according to SOLAS, Chapter V, the ECDIS will be considered as meeting the ship's nautical chart carriage regulations. The ships that are affected are:

   a. U.S.-flagged ships of 150 or more gross tons that engage on international voyages.
   b. U.S.-flagged ships certificated solely for service on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River.
   c. Foreign-flag ships to which SOLAS, Chapter V, applies that are operating on the navigable waters of the United States.

   This policy is not applicable to U.S.-flag ships engaged only on domestic voyages. These ships must continue to comply with existing navigation equipment requirements until the chart carriage regulations are formally amended.

3. On June 10, 2002, the National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a statement of policy that the raster navigational charts (RNCs) made by Maptech, Inc., under the authority of NOS, met the requirements for RNCs to be used in the Raster Chart Display System mode of operation of an ECDIS.

4. On May 21, 2003, the National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a statement of policy that NOS intended to remove the "provisional" label from the electronic navigational charts (ENCs) it was distributing over the Internet. Those ENCs will then meet the requirements for ENCs to be used in an ECDIS. This action is expected to be effective on or about June 20, 2003