

18th CHRIS MEETING
26-29 September 2006, Cairns, Australia

ON-LINE CHART VIEWER
(August 2006)
United States (NOAA)

1. Summary

<i>Executive summary:</i>	The USA (NOAA) has posted all of its nautical charts on the Internet for free, on-line viewing. Fast raster display software is used to permit speedy panning and zooming. Downloading and printing of the charts are not supported.
<i>Actions to be taken:</i>	The CHRIS committee is invited to discuss whether IHO should provide such a service for all member states' charts.
<i>Related documents:</i>	www.NauticalCharts.gov/viewer

2. Introduction / Scope

USA (NOAA) introduced, on July 4, 2006, a new public service called the On-Line Chart Viewer. The Viewer lets mariners display any nautical chart in NOAA's national suite using only an Internet browser. Each chart is updated weekly for Notice to Mariner corrections by NOAA's experienced nautical cartographers. The Viewer's fast, image displaying software permits rapid chart display, panning and zooming.

3. Analysis/Discussion.

The On-Line Chart Viewer uses the same digital chart files as NOAA's Print-on-Demand nautical charts and Raster Navigational Charts. Reformatting for the on-line raster display software is done automatically every time a chart is updated for Notices to Mariners or new editions. Downloading, printing of charts, and use of the files for electronic navigation are not supported because of the limited capabilities of the display software.

This service provides quick access to charts for reference. The On-Line Viewer can be used for voyage planning and research. Small boaters who only need a reference for visual navigation find screen printouts useful. Professional mariners can examine their intended routes for recent changes. Screen captures can be saved for inclusion in reports.

The work and expense to establish and maintain the On-Line Chart Viewer was small. NOAA already had raster images of its charts. Automatic reformatting of files when charts changed was available from Print-on-Demand. Raster display software suitable for this application is available at an affordable price.

The same capability could be offered for all the member states' charts. The IHO would be the appropriate organization to offer this service.

4. Benefits.

Increased access to chart information worldwide.

5. Working Groups.

Not determined.

6. Other relevant information.

Comments received from the public about the USA (NOAA) chart viewer are posted on the Internet for committee members to review. Click on “Your Comments” in the main menu at www.NauticalCharts.gov/viewer.

7. Priority.

Not determined.

8. Target completion date.

Not determined.

9. Action Required.

The CHRIS committee is invited to discuss whether IHO should provide such a service for all member states’ charts.


NOAA On-Line Viewer - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help

http://205.156.4.52/cgi-bin/EyeSpy.dll?getbrww&D:/EyeSpy/images/Online_Chart_View/18649.axs&650&500&4495&34E

Go

NOAA Web Mail

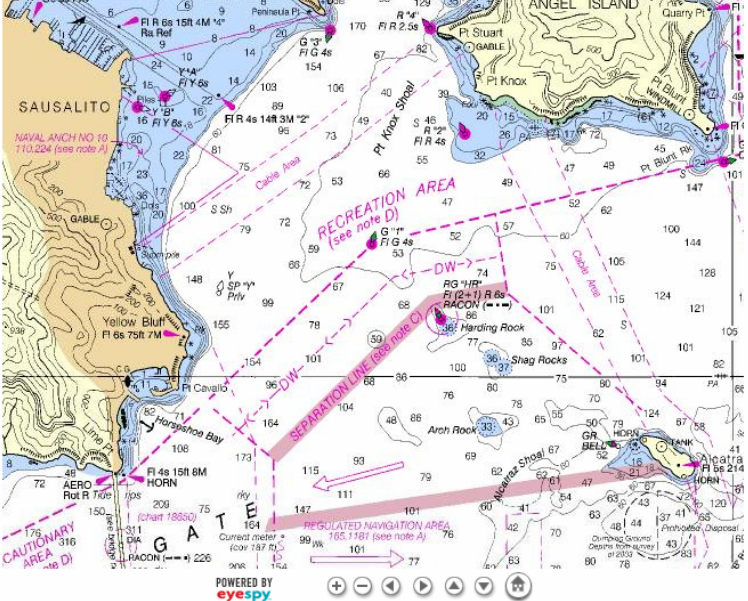


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NOAA On-Line Viewer

Use +/- on the overview above to zoom the image at the right. Click on any point in the overview above to center the right hand image on that point.

Alternatively, use the control buttons under the image at the right to manage its display.



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