

U.S. Chart No. 1

Symbols, Abbreviations and Terms used on Paper and Electronic Navigational Charts

12th Edition

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Prepared Jointly by

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Department of Defense
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency



New in Edition 12: ECDIS Symbols and Other ECDIS Information

Symbology for displaying Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) on an Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) has been added to U.S. Chart No. 1. See the Preface and Introduction sections for more details.

In addition to the ECDIS symbols shown in the traditional lettered sections of U.S. Chart No. 1, there are now several special pages devoted exclusively to providing important details about ECDIS. These pages are distinguished by the ECDIS icon, as shown in the top left corner of this page. The ECDIS pages are also listed in the table of contents in *italic type*.

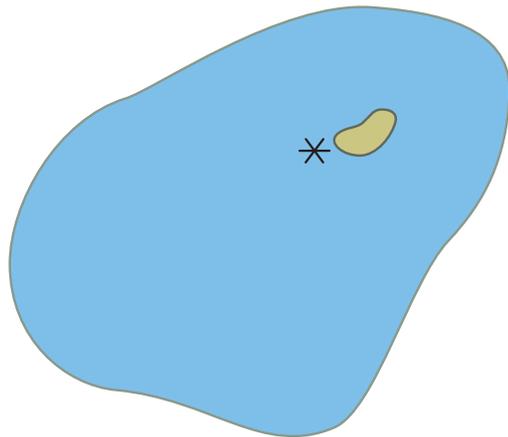


One major difference in the use of paper charts and ENCs is the ability of ECDIS to display the same feature differently depending on user settings and other conditions, such as a ship's draft. An important example is that ECDIS displays wrecks, rocks and other obstructions with their traditional "paper-chart" symbols if they are at or deeper than the depth of the safety contour set for the ship. Dangers that are shoaler are portrayed with the unique ECDIS "isolated danger" symbol shown at left. (See the ECDIS Portrayal of Depths page for more information about the ECDIS safety contour.)



Another advantage that ECDIS provides over paper charts is enabling users to obtain more information about a feature through a "cursor pick." Some feature attribute values that can be obtained by cursor pick are noted throughout U.S. Chart No. 1. This is especially true if a particular value, such as height, vertical clearance or the like is included in the INT symbol description. The cursor pick icon, shown at left, is used to indicate when a reference to a cursor pick is made.

There are many other attribute values that users may obtain through a cursor pick that are not specifically noted. These include, but are not limited to, the purpose, seasonality, periodicity, status, color, height, type of structure and the visual or radar conspicuousness of features; shape, color or color pattern of buoys; characteristics of lights; category of obstructions and wrecks; radar wave length, radio frequency, communication channel and call signs; the presence of AIS transmitted signals; information regarding pilotage services and many more.



No man is an island and no single reference document stands on its own. U.S. Chart No. 1 is a handy guide for ECDIS users, but it is no substitute for mandated ECDIS training.

The ECDIS user and developer communities are invited to help improve the presentation of ECDIS symbology and information in U.S. Chart No. 1. We want to know what you think works well, which parts are a little rocky, and what additional information you would like to have included in the next edition of U.S. Chart No. 1.

Please send any recommendations or corrections to:

USChart1@noaa.gov

or

National Ocean Service, NOAA (N/CS2)

Attention: U.S. Chart No. 1

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SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS

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Symbol Sections

GENERAL

- A Chart Number, Title, Marginal Notes
- B Positions, Distances, Directions, Compass

TOPOGRAPHY

- C Natural Features
- D Cultural Features
- E Landmarks
- F Ports
- G (Not currently used)

HYDROGRAPHY

- H Tides, Currents
- I Depths
- J Nature of the Seabed
- K Rocks, Wrecks, Obstructions, Aquaculture
- L Offshore Installations
- M Tracks, Routes
- N Areas, Limits
- O (Not currently used)

NAVIGATION AIDS AND SERVICES

- P Lights
- Q Buoys, Beacons
- R Fog Signals
- S Radar, Radio, Satellite Navigation Systems
- T Services
- U Small Craft (Leisure) Facilities

