

## MARINE INFORMATION

## NOAA CHART NEW EDITIONS AND THEIR AVAILABILITY

NOAA recognizes two paper nautical chart products:

- the Charts-on-Demand Chart distributed by OceanGrafix ([www.OceanGrafix.com](http://www.OceanGrafix.com)), and
- the Traditional NOAA/NOS paper Chart distributed by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA).

The Charts-on-Demand Chart is available the day after NOAA clears a New Edition for release. The Traditional Chart is available two to eight weeks later. Each is official, should be put into service immediately, and meets Federal chart carriage requirements immediately upon its release. For questions contact NOAA at [help@nauticalcharts.gov](mailto:help@nauticalcharts.gov) or call 301-713-1773 x105. Dates of Latest Edition for both charts are listed at <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov>.

This week's new editions released by NOAA are listed below:

11349	41 <sup>st</sup> Ed. Mar 2004 NEW EDITION 11BCO11349 LA-VERMILLION BAY AND APPROACHES (New edition due to numerous Notice to Mariner changes and various general changes.)	NAD 83	(NOS Silver Spring, MD) 1:80,000/LORAN-C
12235	30 <sup>th</sup> Ed. Mar 2004 NEW EDITION 12AHA12235 VA-CHESAPEAKE BAY-RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER ENTRANCE- PIANKATANK & GREAT WICOMICO RIVERS (New edition due to numerous Notice to Mariner changes.)	NAD 83	(NOS Silver Spring, MD) 1:40,000
13286	30 <sup>th</sup> Ed. Mar 2004 NEW EDITION 13AHA13286 ME-NH-CAPE ELIZABETH TO PORTSMOUTH INSETS: Cape Porpoise Harbor Wells Harbor Kennebunk River Perkins Cove (New edition due to changes in hydrography.)	NAD 83	(NOS Silver Spring, MD) 1:80,000/LORAN-C 1:10,000 1:20,000 1:10,000 1:10,000
14805	24 <sup>th</sup> Ed. Mar 2004 NEW EDITION 14XCO14805 NY-LAKE ONTARIO-LONG POND TO THIRTYMILE POINT INSETS: Point Breeze Harbor (New edition due to numerous Notice to Mariners and change in format.)	NAD 83	(NOS Silver Spring, MD) 1:80,000/LORAN-C 1:10,000
14918	27 <sup>th</sup> Ed. Mar 2004 NEW EDITION 14XHA14918 WI-HEAD OF GREEN BAY (New edition due to numerous Notice to Mariner changes and various general changes.)	NAD 83	(NOS Silver Spring, MD) 1:25,000
14994	11 <sup>th</sup> Ed. Mar 2004 NEW EDITION 14XHA14994 MN-BORDER LAKES-EASTERN KABETOGAMA LAKE- WESTERN NAMAKIN LAKE (New edition due to numerous Notice to Mariner changes.)	NAD 83	(NOS Silver Spring, MD) 1:42,240
17436	7 <sup>th</sup> Ed. Mar 2004 NEW EDITION 17BHA17436 AK-SOUTHEAST COAST-CLARENCE STRAIT-CHOLMONDELEY SOUND AND SKOWL ARM (New edition due various general changes and change in format.)	NAD 83	(NOS Silver Spring, MD) 1:40,000
18539	9 <sup>th</sup> Ed. Mar 2004 NEW EDITION 18XHA18539 OR-WA-COLUMBIA RIVER-BLALOCK ISLANDS TO MCNARY DAM (New edition due to various general changes and change in format.)	NAD 83	(NOS Silver Spring, MD) 1:20,000
19007	18 <sup>th</sup> Ed. Mar 2004 NEW EDITION 19ACO19007 HI-HAWAIIAN ISLANDS -HAWAII TO FRENCH FRIGATE SHOALS (New edition due to numerous Notice to Mariner changes and change in format.)	WGS 84	(NOS Silver Spring, MD) 1:1,650,000

**DISCONTINUANCE OF 121.5 AND 243 MHZ FOR SATELLITE DISTRESS ALERTS**

The Cospas-Sarsat Program has announced plans to terminate satellite processing of distress signals from 121.5 and 243 MHz emergency beacons on February 1, 2009. Users of the system will have to switch to emergency beacons operating at 406 MHz, which are more reliable and provide search and rescue agencies complete information that they need to do their job, in order to be detected by satellites.

Reasons for the Cospas-Sarsat program to discontinue use is driven by guidance from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). These two agencies are responsible for regulating the safety of ships and aircraft on international transits and handle international standards for maritime and aeronautical search and rescue missions. In addition, 121.5 MHz false alerts inundate search and rescue resources which impact the effectiveness of lifesaving services.

Individuals who plan on buying a new distress beacon may wish to take the Cospas-Sarsat decision into account.