

Maps VS Nautical Charts

What are Maps?

A map usually shows topographical information - the arrangement of the natural and artificial physical features of an area. Maps are helpful when used as a reference guide that shows predetermined routes such as roads and highways. However, unlike nautical charts, they do not provide any information about the conditions of those roads/routes.

What are Nautical Charts?

Detailed information concerning water depths, shoreline, tide predictions, obstructions to navigation such as rocks and shipwrecks, and navigational aids. Charts are used by mariners to arrange courses through both open bodies of water and highly trafficked areas. The charts are able to depict many unprecedented dangers that may come with the journey. Since they are such a critical element in the realms of safe navigation, the charts have a certain degree of legal standing and authority.

Anchorage area: a special place designated for anchoring and mooring of ships

Bridge: vessels might need to watch out for bridges too low for them to pass under

Caution area: can indicate whether there's a rock shelf, mud flat, sand bar, etc.. that sailors should be cautious off

Dredged area: an area where excavation of material is taking place (might be for commercial use like building dams)

Dumping ground: places where wastes are disposed

Fairway: an unobstructed passage, no obstacles in the way

Magnetic variation: the angle between magnetic north and true north (true north, the direction towards the north pole, does not always align with the earth's magnetic field lines)

Obstruction: an obstacle that ships should avoid (like a wreck, or rock shelf...)

Pipeline area: a location where pipeline releases could have greater consequences to health/safety of the environment.

Pylon/bridge support: tower like vertical structure that supports the cables of a suspension bridge or a cable stayed bridge

Recommended track- portion of "navigation line" that a ship is recommended to use for navigation

Restricted area: defined water space prohibiting or limiting public access to the area

Sea area/named water area: the amphibious objective area made for stationing of task force ships

Seabed area: portion of the ocean where the nature of bottom is homogenous (ocean floor)

Sounding datum: the selected level of water where all depths of water shown on chart are calculated from (reference plane)

Unsurveyed area: area that shows little to no charted data because accurate information is limited or not available

Coastline: outline of a coast (part of land near sea) with regard to its shape and appearance

Depth contour: line connecting points of equal depth

Dike: embankment along a coast providing low lying land protection against flooding

Navigational line: a straight line extending to the area of interest

Pipeline: series of pipes connected to transport matter (mainly oil or gas)

Shoreline construction: structures built to protect buildings near the shore to prevent the waves from pulling the sand away and making the shore smaller and smaller

Slope topline: separation line between two different gradients, the marking at the top of the slope on a map

Lateral Beacon: indicates port/starboard side of the route

Beacon: a light/fire to warn//signal/guide people at sea

Lateral Buoy: sea mark indicating the edge of a channel

Safe water Buoy: red and white striped buoys signaling that you are in safe waters.

Caution area: a warning to the people in the area that there are dangers in navigating here

Daymark- marker visible to sailors as a indication of daylight

Distance mark- distance measured from origin consisting of either a solid visible structure or a distinct location

Fog signal- signal used as a warning vessels navigating in fog or mist

mooring/warping facility- equipment or structure used to secure a vessel

Offshore platform- large structure containing facilities for drilling to observe petroleum and natural gas that lies in rock formations beneath the sea bed

Pile: a wood, metal, or concrete pile driven into the seabed

Pilot boarding place: where ships can go to board

Radar transponder beacon: used to identify landmarks generally areas of hazard, when triggered by radar transmissions it sends a signal identifying itself

silo /tank: used to store bulks of products

Sounding: the process of measuring the amount of fluid in the tanks of a ship

Top mark- one or more small symbols of characteristic placed on top of a navigational mark to identify it