

CHAPTER 2 - AIDS TO NAVIGATION, NAVIGATION CHARTS, AND RELATED DATA

2-1. Purpose. This chapter establishes the policy on aids to navigation, chart data, and publication of information on related USACE civil works water resources activities.

2-2. Policies. It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers that:

a. Applicable elements shall cooperate in the communication of navigation-related information of specific interest to the recreational and commercial marine industries, users, and other related government entities. Specific guidance is provided in EP 1130-2-520.

(1) MSC/district commanders shall furnish direct to the appropriate U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) district commanders, for their immediate information, any facts which may come to their attention in connection with their duties which shall be of benefit to the USCG in maintaining its system of aids to navigation. This should include statements as to the displacement of or defects in any such aids to navigation.

(2) MSC/district commanders shall consult with the USCG district commander during design of channel and harbor improvement projects to discuss the aids to navigation requirements and all other facets of the projects that involve USCG responsibility. In all cases where permanent aids to navigation are installed by the USACE, MSC/district commanders shall provide charts showing aid locations, with X-Y coordinates, to the appropriate USCG district. MSC/district commanders shall coordinate this policy with the requirements of ER 1110-2-4401, Clearances for Power and Communication Lines Over Reservoirs, as appropriate.

b. USCG standards for aids to navigation shall be used for any aids installed or used by the USACE. These standards are consistent with the International Navigation Waterways Marking System. All USACE-installed temporary or permanent navigation lights, daymarks, or buoys, including dredging buoys, shall conform to the USCG and international standards for color, shape and light characteristics. Regulatory marks and information which are not considered aids to navigation shall conform to USCG standards where practical; however, USACE standards in the Sign Standards Manual (EP 310-1-6a&b) shall take precedence.

c. MSC/district commanders are responsible for preparing navigation charts for the inland waterways over which the MSC/district has responsibility, which are maintained by the Corps, and which are not charted by the National Ocean Service (NOS). MSC commanders may consolidate charting functions across district boundaries for efficiency. Specific guidance and samples are provided in Chapter 2 of EP 1130-2-520.

(1) Changes or corrections to a chart (e.g., new bridges or other structures extending over or into the waterway, new obstructions to navigation, change in the course of a river, change in permanent aids to navigation, etc.) shall be published by means of a Notice to Navigation Interests (NTNI). The NTNI shall provide sufficient detail to permit the chart users to correct the chart, or shall provide an overlay for correction of the affected area on the chart. A separate request shall be made for a USCG Local Notice to Mariners, advising mariners where they can obtain the chart correction. Existing charts shall be revised to conform with these standards when the maximum update interval has been reached (seven years since the last edition), or when the nature and extent of changes require republication in fewer than seven years.

(2) HQUSACE (CECW-OD) shall maintain a current listing of all USACE charts, and shall publish an annual catalog with information on cost, availability (source), and next planned update. (PL 85-480, approved 2 July 1958, authorizes the Commander, HQUSACE to publish information pamphlets, maps, brochures, and other material on river and harbor, flood control, and other civil works activities, including related public park and recreation facilities that may be of value to the general public.)

d. MSC/District commanders shall cooperate in dissemination of operational navigation notices and marine information to the marine industry, the public, and other government agencies, through notices and special reports/notifications.

(1) The principal mechanisms for disseminating operational navigation information to industry and to mariners shall be USCG broadcasts and publications (Broadcast and Local Notices to Mariners, Light List) and NOS publications (coastal navigation charts, U.S. Coast Pilot). In areas where these are appropriate, the USACE shall provide information to the responsible agencies and minimize redundant publication of separate navigation information.

(2) MSC/district commanders shall use bulletins or NTNI for corrections and updates to Corps charts, changes in USACE navigation regulations, proposed/planned changes to a navigation project, and in cases where Notices to Mariners or other publications may not be appropriate or adequate. The primary focus is information for industry/other-agency planning and operations management. While there may be cases where both USACE notices NTNI and USCG notices may be issued, NTNI shall generally not be issued for real-time operations information which is principally for use by the navigator (aids to navigation discrepancies, obstructions, etc.) Specific guidance is provided in Chapter 2 of EP 1130-2-520.

(3) District commanders are authorized to publish and to sell pamphlets, maps, brochures, and other material on river and harbor, flood control and other civil works activities, including related public park and recreation facilities that may be of value to the general public. Except for material specifically prepared for free distribution to the general public, the charges for such other published information will not be less than the cost of its reproduction.

(4) In the event of accidents or equipment failures at Corps locks and dams or along navigable waterways that will result in closure of the lock or waterway for 24 hours or more, or result in a significant impact to navigation, district commanders are to forward an incident report to HQUSACE (CECW-OD) through their MSC office as soon as possible following the incident. Reporting of navigation incidents to CECW-OD is required even though the districts may be sending situation reports to the HQ Emergency Operations Center during natural disasters (drought, flood, hurricane, typhoon, ice, earthquake, volcanic eruption, etc.) or more regional events (spills of hazardous materials, etc.). Timely reporting of navigation incidents to CECW-OD is necessary for preparation of navigation "Green Sheets" - the reporting fact sheet for HQ and ASA (CW).