



CANADIAN HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICE

Products and Services

For over a century, the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has been providing accurate and up-to-date information on the hazards, currents, tides and water levels of Canada's oceans, lakes and rivers.

If you operate a power or sailing vessel, or even a kayak, and have a CHS navigational chart in hand, you are well equipped to protect your own safety and the safety of your passengers, your property and the environment.

CHS is responsible for surveying Canada's waters, gathering and updating data – and producing information aimed at increasing public knowledge.

Through our activities, we ensure that Canadian and international markets receive official, authoritative and helpful information products and services.



Our Public Information Program

Navigational Charts

The *Canada Shipping Act* specifies that, with few exceptions, everyone operating a vessel on Canadian waters must carry navigational charts. They are available for purchase in a variety of formats:

- 900 print-on-demand nautical charts cover Canada's three coastlines and major inland waterways.
- CHS Digital Charts in Raster Format (BSB format), tailored to the needs of recreational boaters, enable a Global Positioning System (GPS) to position users' vessels on screen, in real time.
- Electronic Navigational Charts (vector charts in the international S-57 standard) provide information best suited to the needs of mariners. In combination with GPS technology, these "smart charts" provide geospatial intelligence and a built-in database of associated information that could trigger alarms when vessels go outside of their safe navigation zones.

Subscribers to CHS products may also register to receive automatic updates of critical navigational information.

Data of a higher resolution than is available on existing charts (or our other products) may be requested from CHS.

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Other CHS Publications

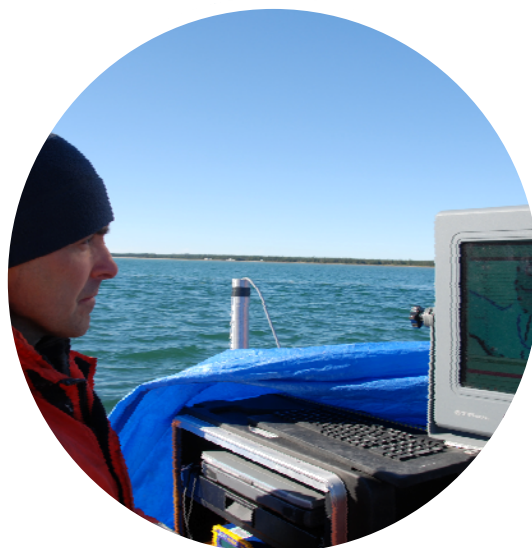
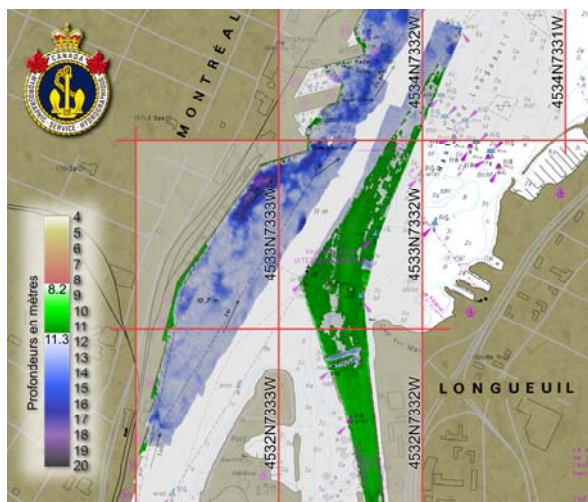
(Mandatory under the Canada's Shipping Act)

- **Sailing Directions** provides information that complements CHS charts. It is a series with more than 60 booklets and four *Small Craft* guides.
- **Chart 1** is an online glossary of symbols and terminology used in hydrography to help people interpret CHS nautical charts. *Also available in paper format.*
- Other CHS information products include **Canadian Tide and Current Tables**, **Chart Catalogues**, **Tidal Current Atlases** and **The Canadian Tidal Manual**.

Most of these products are available online at the CHS website: www.chs-shc.gc.ca. The site also includes a list of CHS dealers from whom you may purchase paper and/or digital products.

Bathymetric Maps and Data

CHS also produces maps and gridded data depicting the nature of the seafloor – its surface and what lies beneath it. These maps are generally of interest to users whose prime focus is not navigation.



Notification Services

- CHS maintains a Water Level Observation phone service (1-877-775-0790).
- Water levels and tidal information may also be obtained online at: www.tides.gc.ca.
- DFO/CHS administers **Notices to Mariners**, providing registered users with critical information about CHS charts and publications, advisories, help features and other information at: www.notmar.gc.ca.
- The Canadian Coast Guard, DFO, issues **Notices to Shipping** to inform mariners about hazards to navigation and to share other important information. Available at: www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/eng/CCG/Notship.

For more information about the data and information available from the Canadian Hydrographic Service, please visit:

www.chs-shc.gc.ca

