



Atlantic Coast—Including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands
Catalog of Charts & Publications

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Nautical charts are designed to promote safe navigation. The National Ocean Service encourages users to submit corrections, additions or comments for improving charts to the Nautical Discrepancy Reporting System at www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nds/services.htm

Color Key for Charts

Type of Chart	Scale	Purpose
HARBOR CHARTS (outlined in red)	1:50,000 and larger	For navigation and anchorage in harbors and small waterways.
COAST CHARTS (outlined in purple)	1:50,000 to 1:150,000	For coastal navigation inside the offshore reefs and shoals, entering bays and harbors of considerable size, and navigating certain inland waterways.
GENERAL CHARTS (outlined in blue)	1:150,000 to 1:600,000	For use when a small course is well offshore but when its position can be fixed by landmarks, lights, buoys, and characteristic soundings.
SAILING CHARTS (outlined in green)	1:600,000 and larger	Plotting charts used for offshore sailing between distant coastal ports and for approaching the coast from the open ocean.
SMALL-CHART CHARTS (outlined in yellow)	1:80,000 and larger	Specialty designed with small cut information.

The scale of a chart is the ratio of a given distance on the chart to the actual distance that it represents on the earth. (Example: One unit of measurement on a 1:50,000 scale chart is equal to 50,000 of the same unit on the earth's surface.) Large scale charts show greater detail of a relatively small area. Small scale charts show less detail, but cover a larger area. Certain hydrographic information may be omitted on smaller-scale charts. Mariners should always obtain the largest scale coverage for near shore navigation.