

NOAA Nautical Charting Calendar

Chart Overlap¹

There is an old military adage that battles always take place at the junction of two maps. Many navigators believe that this applies equally to nautical charts.

NOAA uses 4 methods to minimize problems at the transition from one chart to another. First, nautical charts are sized and aligned to insure that dangerous passages are not located near chart borders. This lowers the likelihood of a vessel entering a hazardous area when it is necessary to shift from one chart to the next.

Second, adjoining charts of the same scale generally have an inch or two of overlapping coverage. The amount of overlap varies from chart to chart but is sufficient to include enough common prominent features, aids to navigation, etc., to facilitate the quick transfer of a plotted course and position from one chart to the next.

Third, if there are important features located just outside the chart border, a border break is used. The border break is an extension of the charted area outside the chart neat lines to depict a particularly important feature. Border breaks also reduce the need to print additional charts.

Fourth, notes identify the adjoining charts so mariners can quickly move to it. For example, "JOINS CHART 12214" if the adjoining chart is the same scale, or "CONTINUED ON CHART 12311" if the adjoining chart is a different scale, in black capital letters outside the neat line.

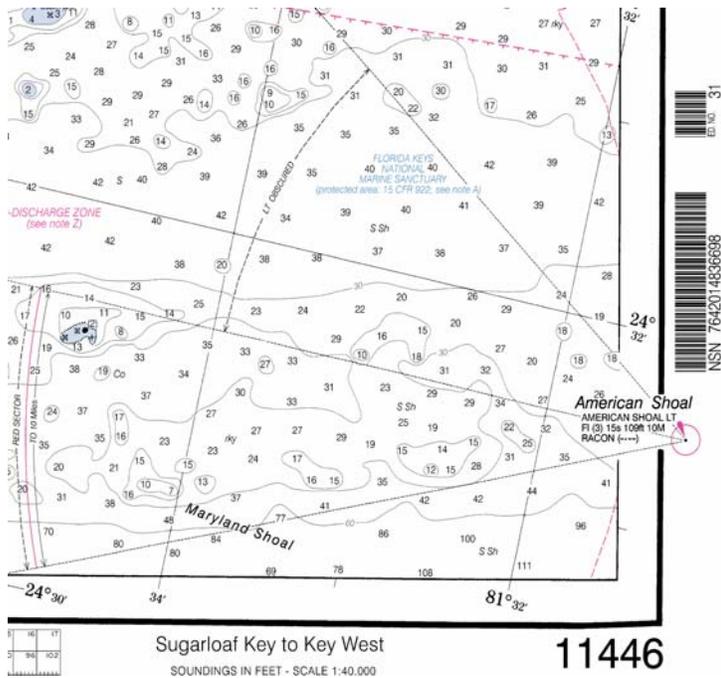


Figure - Example of a border break to include an important light on NOAA chart 11446.

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
¹ Text adapted from "Nautical Chart Users Manual," which is available for free at http://chartmaker.ncd.noaa.gov/staff/ncum/ncum.htm .						1	2	3	4				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
26	27	28	29	30	Prepared by the Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, NOAA, www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov , 1-301-713-2770								