

**17<sup>th</sup> CHRIS MEETING  
Rostock, Germany, 5-9 September 2005**

**PRINT ON DEMAND NAUTICAL CHARTS STATUS IN THE U.S.A. (NOAA)  
(July 2005)**

United States (NOAA)

1. Summary

<b><i>Executive summary:</i></b>	The USA (NOAA) is continuing to make Print on Demand nautical charts under a new contract. The “official” status of the Print on Demand charts will continue. The technology has been applied to prototype a new product named the BookletChart that recreational boaters may print at home for free.
<b><i>Actions to be taken:</i></b>	None
<b><i>Related documents:</i></b>	None

2. Introduction / Scope

The Office of Coast Survey, NOAA and OceanGrafix, LLC of St. Paul, Minnesota, collaboratively developed, and jointly produced Print-on-Demand (POD) nautical charts for the USA under a cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA). Print-on-Demand charts are up to date with all Notices to Mariners corrections when they are printed. POD has become an important and successful contributor to safe, efficient, and environmentally sound marine transportation in the USA. They meet U.S. federal chart carriage and updating regulations for all vessels.

3. Analysis/Discussion.

The NOAA/OceanGrafix CRADA expired in June 2005. To provide for the continued availability of official Print-on-Demand nautical charts, NOAA competitively awarded a contract for the production of official POD. The successful offeror was OceanGrafix, LLC. Under the contract, OceanGrafix will continue to print and sell POD for all USA (NOAA) charts using digital files updated daily by NOAA. They will also continue to support remote printing of the POD charts in chart agents’ stores, and will add additional remote printing sites as appropriate. OceanGrafix will be compensated from the sale of the charts, and the cost of the contract to NOAA will be zero.

4. Benefits.

Print-on-Demand permits the manufacture of charts that are up to date with all Notices to Mariners. As implemented in the USA, it also permits:

- customization of charts down to the individual chart (e.g. with or without LORAN),
- printing on a variety of materials as desired by the mariner,
- multiple versions of charts

- new products
- point-of-purchase printing
- lower inventory and warehouse costs
- guaranteed availability of all charts
- elimination of destruction of obsolete charts
- avoidance of reprints

The Print-on-Demand technology, and supporting electronic commerce technology, developed by USA (NOAA) can be shared with interested hydrographic offices.

5. Working Groups.

Not Applicable.

6. Other relevant information.

Using Print-on-Demand technology and principals, USA (NOAA) has improved its chart catalog functionality. The new catalogs are organized by state rather than by region. They are posted on the Internet as Adobe .pdf files, and may be downloaded and printed on any home printer. These state nautical chart catalogs are accessible at:  
<http://NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov/mcd/ccatalogs.htm>.

USA (NOAA) has also developed a prototype new product using print-on-demand technology. The product is named the BookletChart™. The BookletChart™ is made to help recreational boaters locate themselves on the water. It has been reduced in scale and divided into pages for convenience, but otherwise contains all the information of the full-scale nautical chart. Files used to print BookletCharts are always up to date with Notices to Mariners. Excerpts from the United States Coast Pilot have been included. Chart notes are consolidated on a single page for easy reference. Emergency information for the charted area is printed on the back cover. BookletCharts are available on the Internet, and can be downloaded for free as Adobe .pdf files, and printed on any home printer by recreational boaters. The prototypes are accessible at: [www.NauticalCharts.gov/bookletcharts](http://www.NauticalCharts.gov/bookletcharts).

7. Priority.

Not Applicable.

8. Target completion date.

Not Applicable.

9. Action Required.

CHRIS members are invited to visit the 2 web sites listed in paragraph 6. above, and to provide comments on the print-on-demand chart catalogs and BookletCharts to USA (NOAA) at [BookletChart@noaa.gov](mailto:BookletChart@noaa.gov).