

2<sup>nd</sup> NCWG MEETING  
 Monaco 26-29 April 2016

Paper for Consideration by the Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG)

U.S. Response to INT1 subWG paper, "Vacant Entries in INT1"  
 regarding entries for Fathoms and Compass Terms

<b>Submitted by:</b>	United States (NOAA)
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	Proposal to retain INT1 symbol row for fathoms at B48 and the magnetic compass terms at B60-67
<b>Related Documents:</b>	INT1, <i>Symbols, Abbreviation and Terms used on charts</i> <a href="#">NCWG2-11.A</a> , "Vacant Entries in INT1"

**Introduction / Background**

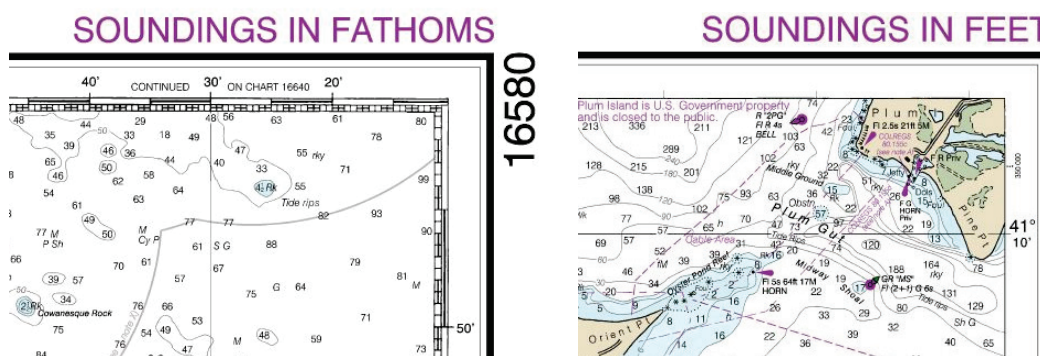
It is a worthy undertaking to clean out unnecessary "place holder" rows in INT1, but there are a few instances where it would be better to retain the empty row or to "fill in the held place" than to delete it.

**Analysis / Discussion**

There doesn't need to be an INT1 entry for a row to be worth keeping in the INT1 scheme, which scores of nations follow in their own chart 1 documents. The row can still be an important placeholder where many nations show their own term or symbol in the "nationally used representation" column. For some important items, such as depth units and magnetic compass terms, this is preferable to "burying" the terms at the end of a section where the lettered entry might be missed.

B48 Fathoms

Although much of the world charts depths in meters, there are 3.4 million square nautical miles of our planet's waters portrayed on over one thousand nautical charts that the United States shows in fathoms and feet. As Section B already has an entry for "feet," it would make sense to also show the entry for fathoms nearby. It would also appear that "fm" and "fms" could readily be adopted as the international abbreviation for fathom and fathoms.



Two examples of the more than 1 000 charts depicting depths in fathoms and feet.

B60-67 Magnetic Compass Terms

Even if there is no international abbreviation for these items, they are nevertheless important terms used on nearly every nautical chart. Having a prominent, easy to find location to see all the compass terms in one place with the English translation that is also shown in all INT1s and many chart 1 documents is very useful. This provides a common point of reference for these terms for mariners using charts in a language that they may be less familiar with.

Looking up individual terms in an index or hoping that they appear in the list of supplementary national symbols at the end of the section adds unnecessary complexity to conveying important information about the national language term or abbreviation used in various charts for these important terms. If these rows are deleted, there will not be entry for these terms in INT1 at all and the possibility of

seeing the English term that is used as a common reference language will be lost.

## **Conclusions**

These symbol rows have lived quietly in INT1 and chart 1 documents for years. While there is good reason to delete some vacant INT1 rows, there are better reasons to retain the entries for fathoms and magnetic compass terms.

## **Recommendations**

1. Retain the INT1 entry for fathoms at B48,
2. Adopt "fm" as the international abbreviation for fathoms,
3. Retain the INT1 entries for magnetic compass terms at B60-67,

## **Action required of NCWG**

NCWG is invited to:

- a. consider implementing the recommendations stated above and
- b. consider any other actions that could improve the standardization and efficiency of providing mariners reliable guidance on the symbols used on raster nautical charts.