

Harmonisation of Small Scale Coverage

Revised generalization practice for ENC DE11000 (Overview Baltic Sea) It is already known that for safe and comfortable navigation, a uniform chart pattern is more than necessary. This requires permanent work on the unification of both paper and electronic charts.

Before going into further details about the unification of the Electronic Navigational-Charts (ENCs), it is important to have a closer look at the differences and functions of the ENCs compared to the paper charts.

ENC data is classified to different usage bands, which are assigned to different navigation standards according to their special purposes. Similar to the data on paper charts, there are small scales representing a generalized larger area and large scales that provide a more detailed description of a smaller area.

Compared to printed charts, ENCs have the advantage that you can easily switch between usage bands and details with only one mouse click. On the other hand, the view on the data of ENCs is restricted by the size of the monitor. That means that the system loads the optimum scale and corresponding data which are available of this area and displays them at the screen. In this procedure, the system can use quite different data of different scales and of different origin (usage Bands) which are simultaneously displayed on the monitor.

For a simultaneous display of different data, a uniform appearance is necessary, because it ensures the quality of the charts. The significance will be illustrated with the aid of navigational light.

In the small-scale paper chart, such as the Baltic overview, the navigational light selection is reduced to those with a range of more than 10 nm, furthermore there are no details of identification or sectors represented. Detailed information is left out, because small-scale charts are only used for route planning.

In the corresponding ENC, the cell overview of the Baltic Sea is also highly generalized, but navigational lights with all the corresponding details are displayed here. The comparison of the ENC usage overview of the German coasts (Baltic Sea and North Sea) already shows an irregular picture. So the overview of the German part of the North Sea, which was provided by Norway, contains no details of navigational lights. The overview cell of the the Baltic Sea, which is maintained by Germany, contains all details of navigational lights.

Because of these previously mentioned reasons, the BSH will delete the details of the navigational lights in the particular ENC (usage overview) of the Baltic Sea from the next new edition.

The Conference is invited to take note of this information.
