How to Obtain Chart Books and Updates

Chart books can be purchased in person or over the phone (shipping charges will apply):

Mississippi River Visitor Center
(Adjacent to Lock and Dam 15 on Arsenal Island)
Rock Island, IL 61204
(309) 794-5338

Charts and updates can be downloaded for free as individual chart pages or as an entire book. The charts are available as Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (pdf) files, and the chart page files each contain georeferencing information to allow location-based interaction.

Download from: [http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/NIC2/mrcharts.cfm](http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/NIC2/mrcharts.cfm)

QR code for enabled devices:

Links and information about chart books available for other inland waterways can be found here:


Lock Contacts and Information

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Inland Electronic Navigation Charts

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers produces Inland Electronic Navigational Charts (IENCs) for the Inland Waterway System, including the Upper Mississippi River up to River Mile 866.

These IENCs are created for use in Electronic Chart Systems (ECS) to position a vessel upon the electronic navigational chart display. Use of ECS in conjunction with IENCs does not eliminate the USCG paper chart carriage requirement. Until such guidance and policy is established, IENCs provide a valuable adjunct to the 2011 Navigation Charts.

IENCs offer significant benefits to vessels including accurate and real-time display of vessel position relative to waterway features, voyage planning and monitoring tools, Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) integration, and training tools for new personnel and integrated display of river charts, radar, and AIS.

IENC chart products, services, and information are available for download at: [http://www.agc.army.mil/echarts](http://www.agc.army.mil/echarts)

IENC Maintenance

All Mississippi River IENCs are maintained with updates of new or corrected Local Notice to Mariner information as it becomes available. IENCs are updated at least annually and monthly maintenance is currently underway.

Port Series Report Books

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Navigation Data Center, produces the Port Series Report Books that describe the physical and inter-modal (infrastructure) characteristics of the coastal, Great Lakes, and inland ports of the United States. Imagery sheets are included that reference the Port Series facility numbers for easy of locating individual facilities. Port Series products are may be obtained from:

Port Series Reports
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers CEIWR-Navigation Data Center 7701 Telegraph Road, Casey Building Alexandria, VA 22315-3686


Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center under the authority of the Rivers & Harbors Act of 1922, collects, processes, distributes, and archives vessel trip and cargo data.

Under Federal law, vessel operating companies must report domestic waterborne commercial movements to the Corps.

Data summaries include origin to destination information of foreign and domestic waterborne cargo movements by region and state, and also waterborne tonnage for principal ports and state and territories. Internal waterway tonnage indicators are updated monthly on the NDC web site.

This acquired vessel movement data is primarily for Corps and other government agencies’ use. However, summary statistics, which do not disclose movements of individual companies, are also released to private companies and to the general public.

The Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center's summarizes this data in the publication, Waterborne Commerce of the United States. It is issued in five parts (one to cover each coast and a national summary). A database that aggregates information of foreign and domestic waterborne cargo movements is available on CD. The publication Transportation Lines of the United States contains listings of domestic vessel operators, details their equipment and references their service areas. Most data are available in both hard copy and electronic form. Specialized data processing requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Products and services may be obtained by request to:

Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center (WCSC)
P.O. Box 61280 New Orleans, LA 70161-1280
(504) 862-1424 or (504) 862-1404

MARINE INFORMATION

The Eighth Coast Guard District is continuously alert for circumstances, which affect safe and efficient passage of river traffic. The Aids to Navigation Office in New Orleans receives reports from mariners and government agencies and distributes information to mariners through various marine information channels.

The four primary means of passing marine information in the Eighth Coast Guard District:

1. Broadcast Notice to Mariners
2. Local Notice to Mariners
3. Channel Reports
4. Directly from Lockmaster

There are four basic marine information publications printed by either the Coast Guard or U. S. Army Corps of Engineers which should be on all vessels:

1. Corps of Engineers Navigation Charts
3. Light List, Volume V, Mississippi River System and Volume IV, Gulf of Mexico
4. Corps of Engineers Regulations (Bluebook) 33 CFR 207

HOW TO OBTAIN LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS

Local Notice to Mariner may be obtained by:

One-way e-mail service, via subscription through the U. S. Coast Guard Navigation Center website, Local Notice to Mariners link at: http://www.navcen.uscg.gov

Or downloaded from the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center website, Local Notice to Mariners Link at: http://www.navcen.uscg.gov

The U. S. Coast Guard, Eighth District offices may be contacted at:

Commander, (DPW)
Eighth Coast Guard District
Hale Boggs Federal Building
500 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130-3396
(504) 671-2107

Mariners may contact the U. S. Coast Guard Command Center, 24-hours a day at (504) 589-6225.

In case of emergency or accident, contact the appropriate Coast Guard sector office:

1. Sector Upper Mississippi River, (314) 524-7511, Ext. 0
2. Sector Lower Mississippi River, (901) 544-3912, Ext. 4122
3. Sector Ohio Valley, (800) 253-7465
4. U. S. Coast Guard Command Center, 24-hours a day, at (504) 589-6225

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Aid to Navigation - The term Aid to Navigation means any device external to a vessel intended to assist a navigator to determine position or safe course, or to warn of dangers or obstructions to navigation.

Western Rivers System of Buoyage

The Western Rivers System – a variation of the standard U.S. Aids to Navigation System is employed on the Mississippi River and its tributaries above Baton Rouge, LA and on certain rivers which flow toward the Gulf of Mexico. For more information on aids to navigation access the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center website.

NOTES REGARDING AIDS TO NAVIGATION

The U.S. Coast Guard is responsible for placing and maintaining all aids to navigation. Buoy information is set to mark project depths taking into consideration the prevailing river stages and obstructions. Buoy positions as shown on the charts are approximate, and subject to change depending on prevailing river stages and obstructions.

Buoy positions are replaced at the earliest opportunity.

Lights and daymarks are also shown in approximate location.

DGPS FREQUENCIES

The U. S. Coast Guard Navigation Center (NAVCEN) operates the Coast Guard Maritime Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) Service and the developing Nationwide DGPS Service, consisting of two control centers and over 60 remote broadcast sites. The Service broadcasts correction signals on marine radio beacon frequencies to improve the accuracy of and integrity to GPS-derived positions. The Coast Guard DGPS Service provides 10-meter accuracy in all established coverage areas.

St. Paul
Alma, WI
Antenna Location 44-18.23N, 91-54.21W
Transmit Frequency (KHz) 317
Transmit Rate (bps) 200
Signal Strength 100uV/m at 241 KM

Rock Island
Andover, IA
Antenna Location 42-00.73N, 90-13.52W
Transmit Frequency (KHz) 311
Transmit Rate (bps) 200
Signal Strength 100uV/m at 241 KM

St. Louis
Summerfield, IL
Antenna Location 38-36.68N, 89-45.52W
Transmit Frequency (KHz) 322
Transmit Rate (bps) 200
Signal Strength 100uV/m at 184 KM

Additional information may be obtained from the U. S. Coast Guard Navigation Center website, http://www.navcen.uscg.gov