



### **NAUTICAL CHARTS**

- Chart projections
- What is on a chart
- Symbols
- Abbreviations
- -Terms





#### **CHARTS**

- Ordered and produced by DMA
- Corrections published weekly by USCG's **Notice to Mariners**
- New editions issued when there are extensive corrections



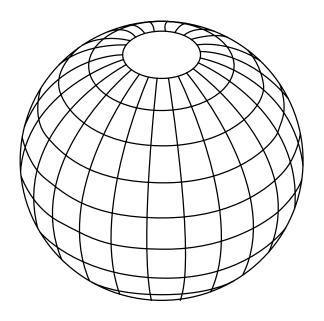


### SHAPE OF THE EARTH

- Oblate spheroid
- Bulge around equator

For this course assume the earth is a sphere.

- More spherical than a billiard ball







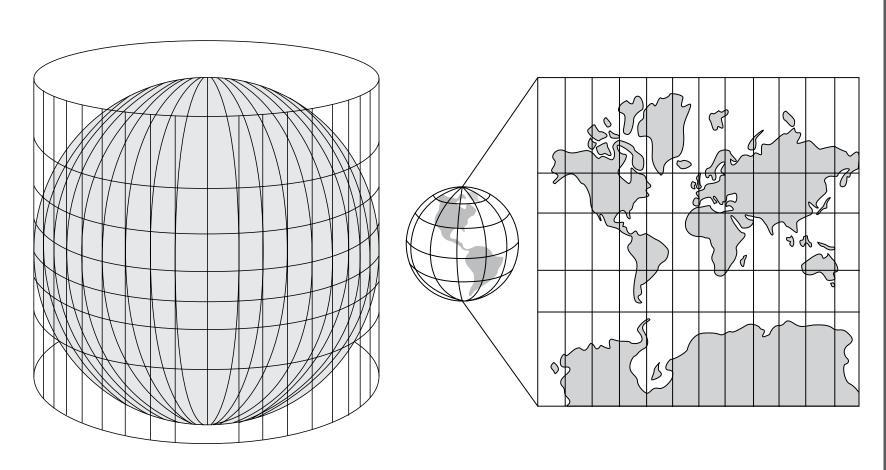
### **PROJECTIONS**

- Mercator
  - cylindrical projection
- Gnomic
  - plane projection
- Lambert Conformal
  - conic projection





### **MERCATOR PROJECTION**





#### **MERCATOR PROJECTION**

Wrapping a cylinder around the equator and then laying it flat as a two-dimensional projection.

#### Small distortions

- tolerable as charts usually cover small areas
- useful limit about 80° degrees of latitude

Course line plots as straight (rhumb) line

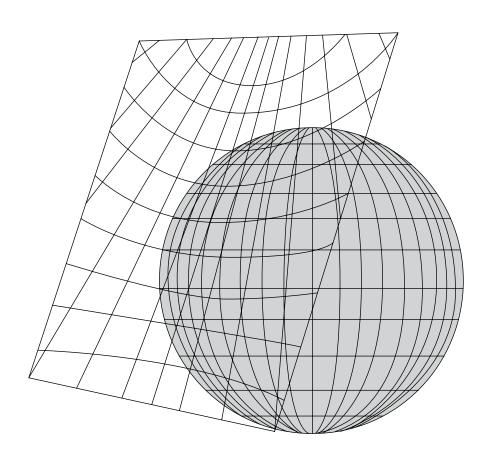
- unless long distance, then the rhumbline is not the shortest

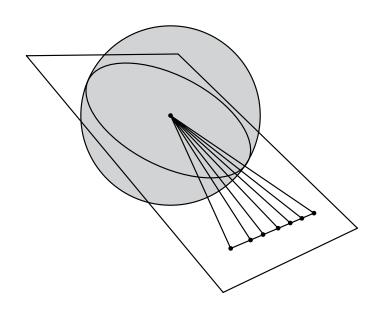
1nm = 1 minute latitude

- use closest



### **GNOMIC PROJECTION**







### **GNOMIC PROJECTION**

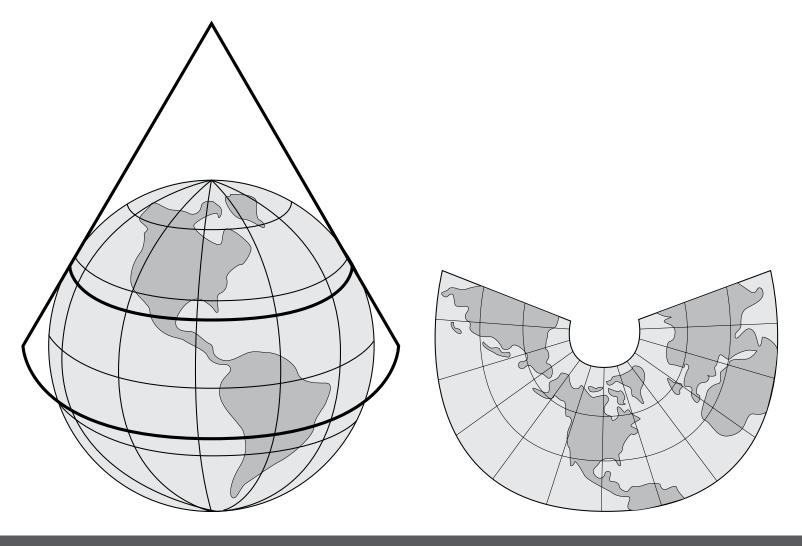
Projects earth's surface from the center onto a tangent plane.

Projects great circles (meridian and equator) as straight lines.

- Straight line does not cross all meridians at the same angles.
  - Great circle is a curve
  - Slow and continuous course change



### LAMBERT CONFORMAL PROJECTION





#### LAMBERT CONFORMAL PROJECTION

Transferring points from surface to a cone, or series of cones. Cone is then cut along meridian and spread flat.

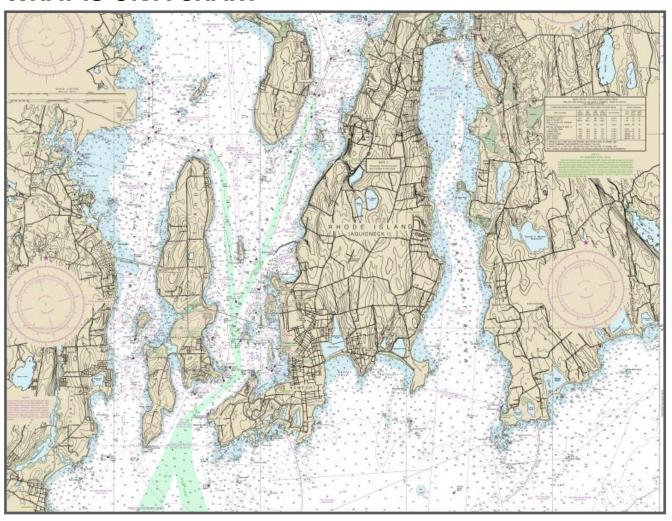
### Single Tangent Cone:

- Simple conic projections. Only parallel of latitude to which the cone tangent is correct in scale, all others are magnified.

Most often used for aeronautical charts.

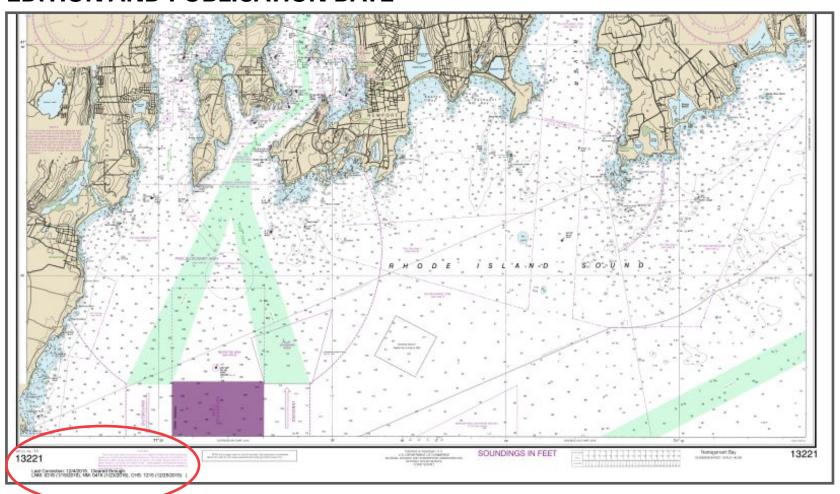


### WHAT IS ON A CHART





### **EDITION AND PUBLICATION DATE**

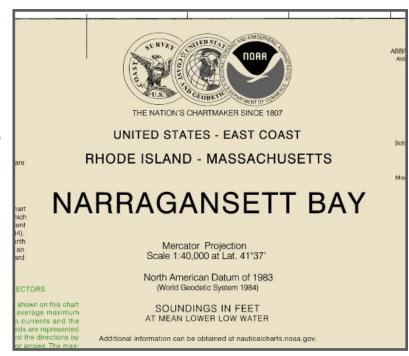


Lower left hand corner



#### TITLE

- Area covered
- Unit of measurement for soundings
- Scale
- Projection
- Datum
- Publisher





#### **CHART DATUM**

Charted Depth: vertical distance from chart sounding datum to the ocean bottom.

In the USA: mean low water is the reference (MLLW) - over 19 years

In the UK: Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT)

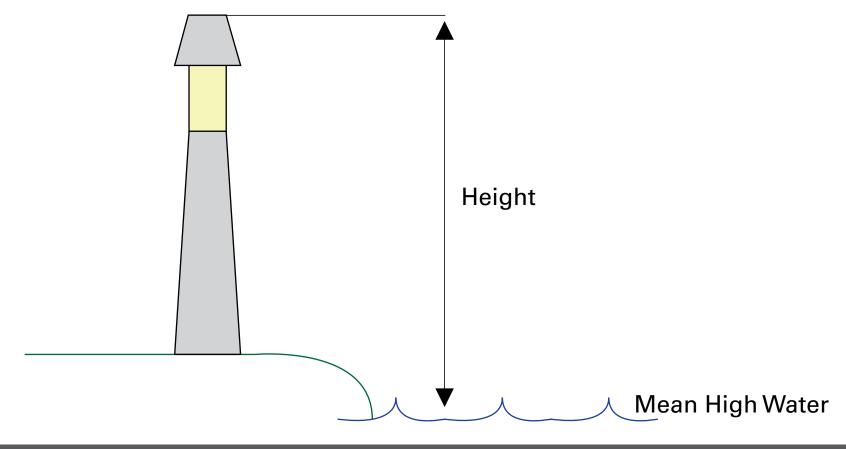
1 Fathom = 6 feet



#### LAND FEATURES

Height of topographical features:

reference datum is Mean High Water (MHW)



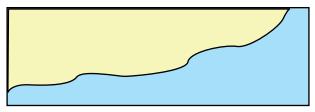


### LANDMARKS FOR PLOTTING

- Radio towers TOWER O Tr
- Spires SPIRE Spire
- Cupolas Cupola Cup
- -Tanks TANK TANK TANK TANK TANK
- Standpipes STANDPIPE
  - O Spipe

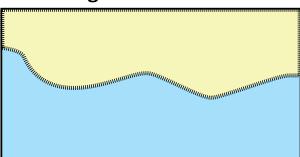
### **SHORELINE**

Solid line indicates land and water boundary at Mean High Water.



Dotted line may indicate low water mark.

Hatching indicates areas uncovered at chart datum.



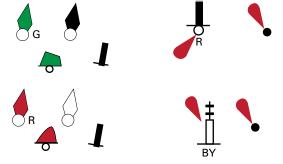


### **NAVIGATIONAL AIDS**

- Lighthouses

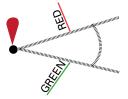


- Beacons



- Ranges







#### CHART #1

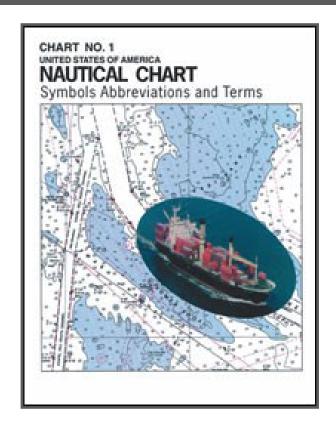
Nautical Chart Symbols, Abbreviations and Terms

This is a master list of all of the symbols and terms that you may find on a NOAA Chart, arranged by category.

Chart #1 is a great resource that you should have on your vessel.

Free PDF Version of Chart No. 1

http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/chart1/ChartNo1.pdf

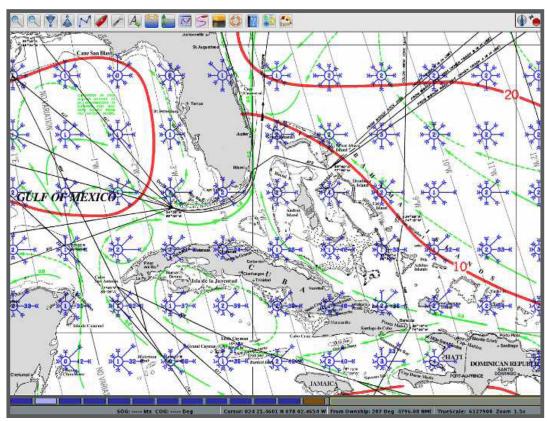




#### **PILOT CHARTS**

Transit and route information

- weather, currents, storms, ice...

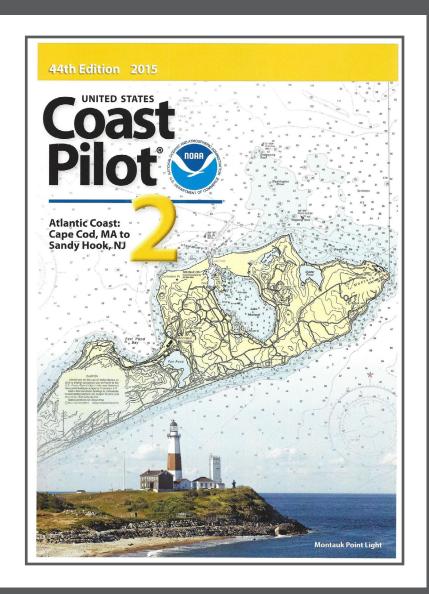


www.opencpn.org/ocpn/pilotcharts



### **US COAST PILOT**

- Port information
- Dangers and alert instructions
- Local weather
- Useful conversion information
- Distance table
- Geographic range table
- Downloadable Coast Pilot PDF:
- http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/ cpdownload.htm





#### **LIGHT LIST**

- Published in 7 volumes
- Contains additional information on lights and other aids to navigation in specific areas
- Downloadable Light List PDF:
- http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=lightlists





#### **LIGHT LIST**

Volume III

ATLANTIC and GULF COASTS

2016

Little River, South Carolina to Econfina River, Florida (Includes Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands)



#### TIDE TABLES

- Published in 4 annual volumes and contain information on the height and times of tides

#### Downloadable Tide Tables:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide\_predictions.html

