BookletChart™

St. Johns River – Jacksonville to Racy Point
NOAA Chart 11492

A reduced-scale NOAA nautical chart for small boaters
When possible, use the full-size NOAA chart for navigation.

- Complete, reduced-scale nautical chart
- Print at home for free
- Convenient size
- Up-to-date with Notices to Mariners
- Compiled by NOAA’s Office of Coast Survey, the nation’s chartmaker

Approximate Page Index
Nautical charts are a fundamental tool of marine navigation. They show water depths, obstructions, buoys, other aids to navigation, and much more. The information is shown in a way that promotes safe and efficient navigation. Chart carriage is mandatory on the commercial ships that carry America’s commerce. They are also used on every Navy and Coast Guard ship, fishing and passenger vessels, and are widely carried by recreational boaters.

**What are Nautical Charts?**

This BookletChart is made to help recreational boaters locate themselves on the water. It has been reduced in scale for convenience, but otherwise contains all the information of the full-scale nautical chart. The bar scales have also been reduced, and are accurate when used to measure distances in this BookletChart. See the Note at the bottom of page 5 for the reduction in scale applied to this chart.

Whenever possible, use the official, full scale NOAA nautical chart for navigation. Nautical chart sales agents are listed on the Internet at http://www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov.

This BookletChart does NOT fulfill chart carriage requirements for regulated commercial vessels under Titles 33 and 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

**Notice to Mariners Correction Status**

This BookletChart has been updated for chart corrections published in the U.S. Coast Guard Local Notice to Mariners, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Weekly Notice to Mariners, and, where applicable, the Canadian Coast Guard Notice to Mariners. Additional chart corrections have been made by NOAA in advance of their publication in a Notice to Mariners. The last Notices to Mariners applied to this chart are listed in the Note at the bottom of page 7. Coast Pilot excerpts are not being corrected.


(Selected Excerpts from Coast Pilot)

**St. Johns River**

The largest in eastern Florida, is about 248 miles long and is an unusual major river in that it flows from south to north over most of its length. It rises in the St. Johns Marshes near the Atlantic coast below latitude 28°00’N., flows in a northerly direction, and empties into the sea north of St. Johns River Light in latitude 30°24’N. The river is the approach to the city of Jacksonville and a number of towns near its shores. Some of these places are winter resorts while others are centers of farming districts and citrus groves. Deep-draft vessels go as far as just below the Main Street Bridge. Many pleasure craft navigate this part of the river, usually going only as far as Sanford, though small boats have navigated the river as far as Lake Washington, 188 miles south of Jacksonville.

**Intracoastal Waterway**

The Intracoastal Waterway crosses the St. Johns River at nearly right angles about 5 miles above the mouth, at about 30°23’.N., 81°27’.W. Jacksonville has expanded by consolidation to include most of Duval County and is now the largest city in the United States in terms of area; its extent along the St. Johns River is from the ocean to the town of Orange Park on the west side of the river and to Julington Creek on the east side. Most of the marine terminals are on the west side of the river about 21 miles above the entrance, just above the point where the river first turns southward. The deepwater port is the largest on the east coast of Florida. It is a major southeastern bulk-handling, distribution, and railroad center. Both general and bulk cargoes are handled, and Jacksonville is a leading southeastern container port. The principal exports are paper products, phosphate rock, fertilizers, chemicals, citrus products, naval stores, tallow, clay, scrap metal, feed, and general cargo. The principal imports are petroleum products, coffee, iron and steel products, limestone, pulpwod, cement, automobiles, lumber, chemicals, alcoholic beverages, and general cargo.

**Caution.** Navigators should be aware of the prevailing northerly current in this area, which is felt well beyond the 10–fathom curve, except with northeasterly or northerly winds.

**North Atlantic Right Whales.**

Approaches to the St. Johns River entrance lie within designated critical habitat for endangered North Atlantic right whales (see 50 CFR 226.203(c), chapter 2.) The area is a calving ground from generally November 15 through April 15. It is illegal to approach right whales closer than 500 yards. (See 50 CFR 224.103(c), chapter 2, for limits, regulations, and exceptions.) **Recommended two-way Whale Avoidance Routes** have been established in the approach to the St. Johns River entrance to reduce the likelihood of ship strikes of endangered North Atlantic right whales. All vessels are encouraged to use recommended routes when traveling into or out of the port of Jacksonville. (See North Atlantic right whales, indexed as such, in chapter 3 for more information on right whales and recommended measures to avoid collisions.)

All vessels 65 feet or greater in length overall (L.O.A.) and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States are restricted to speeds of 10 knots or less in the Southeastern United States Seasonal Management Area between November 15 and April 15. The area is defined as the waters bounded to the north by 31°27’N., to the south by 29°45’N., and to the east by 80°51.6’W. (See 50 CFR 224.105 in chapter 2 for regulations, limitations, and exceptions.)

**St. Johns Light (30°23’10”N., 81°23’53”W.)** is shown from a white square tower on the beach about 1 mile south of St. Johns River north jetty. A tower at Jacksonville Beach and a red and white checkered water tank at Mayport Naval Station are prominent off the entrance, and water tanks are prominent along the beaches to the southward.

Four areas in the St. Johns River are considered to be particularly troublesome. These areas are listed in order of ascension when proceeding from sea. Vessels should make every effort to avoid meeting at these areas, and should give Security calls on VHF-FM channel 13 (165.65 MHz) 15 minutes prior to arriving at any one of these areas. The vessel with the fair current should initiate a proposal for meeting or passing and the vessel stemming the current should hold as necessary.
NOAA's navigation managers serve as ambassadors to the maritime community. They help identify navigational challenges facing professional and recreational mariners, and provide NOAA resources and information for safe navigation.

For additional information, please visit nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/service/navmanagers.

To make suggestions or ask questions online, go to nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/inquiry.
To report a chart discrepancy, please use ocsdata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/discrepancy.aspx.

Lateral System As Seen Entering From Seaward on navigable waters except Western Rivers

For more information on aids to navigation, including those on Western Rivers, please consult the latest USCG Light List for your area. These volumes are available online at http://www.navcen.uscg.gov.
AND HUNTING STRUCTURES: Fl sh and wildlife harvesting structures such as fish traps, crab traps, and duck blinds, rged, may exist in the area of this chart. Please proceed with caution.
VHF Marine Radio channels for use on the waterways:

Channel 6 – Inter-ship safety communications.
Channel 9 – Communications between boats and ship-to-coast.
Channel 13 – Navigation purposes at bridges, locks, and harbors.
Channel 16 – Emergency, distress and safety calls to Coast Guard and others, and to initiate calls to other vessels. Contact the other vessel, agree to another channel, and then switch.
Channel 22A – Calls between the Coast Guard and the public. Severe weather warnings, hazards to navigation and safety warnings are broadcast here.
Channels 68, 69, 71, 72 and 78A – Recreational boat channels.

Getting and Giving Help — Signal other boaters using visual distress signals (flares, orange flag, lights, arm signals); whistles; horns; and on your VHF radio. You are required by law to help boaters in trouble. Respond to distress signals, but do not endanger yourself.

Quick References

Nautical chart related products and information — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov
Interactive chart catalog — http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml
Chart and chart related inquiries and comments — http://ocsdata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/inquiry.aspx?frompage=ContactUs
Chart updates (LNM and NM corrections) — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/updates/LNM_NM.html
Coast Pilot online — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/cpdownload.htm
Tides and Currents — http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov
Marine Forecasts — http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/home.htm
National Data Buoy Center — http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/
NowCoast web portal for coastal conditions — http://www.nowcoast.noaa.gov/
National Hurricane Center — http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/
Pacific Tsunami Warning Center — http://ptwc.weather.gov/
Contact Us — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/contact.htm

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