Intracoastal Waterway – Albemarle Sound to Neuse River
NOAA Chart 11553

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

| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
What are Nautical Charts?

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 vessels 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 is a BookletChart™?

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 Local 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)

Albemarle Sound is about 45 miles long in an east-west direction, and in width ranges from 11 miles near its eastern end to 3 miles about 10 miles from the western end. The sound has good navigable depths for any vessel able to pass through the canals and, with its numerous tributaries, forms the approach to many towns and landings. Albemarle Sound Herring Management Area, a Marine Protected Area (MPA), includes Albemarle, Currituck, Roanoke and Croatan Sounds.

There are depths of 10 to 15 feet along the routes from North River and Pasquotank River to Croatan Sound and Alligator River, and less water farther eastward. Fish stakes and nets, extending long distances from shore are often found on the shoals, especially at the northern entrance to Croatan Sound. The shores of Albemarle Sound are low and generally wooded; there are no prominent natural features. A naval aircraft bombardment target area is on the south side of Albemarle Sound westward of the entrance to Alligator River. (See 334.410, chapter 2, for limits and regulations.)

The eastern end of Albemarle Sound, which is separated from the Atlantic Ocean by the barrier beach about 15 miles north of Bodie Island Light, is connected northward with Currituck Sound and southward with Croatan and Roanoke Sounds, and by the latter sounds with Pamlico Sound.

Westward of Laurel Point, about 33 miles from the east end of Albemarle Sound, the water is usually fresh or slightly brackish. The rise and fall of the water level depends on the direction of the winds.

Alligator River is on the south side of Albemarle Sound directly opposite Pasquotank River. For about 18 miles above the mouth (see also chart 11548), Alligator River has a southerly direction, is 2 to 3 miles wide, and has general depths of 8 to 11 feet. Above this, the river has a further length of about 24 miles, is narrow and crooked, but, in 1983, had a reported centerline controlling depth of 8 feet to Cherry Ridge Landing; the upper part, however, is too narrow to turn in.

Good anchorages in depths of about 6 to 8 feet are reported in Milltail Creek, Whipping Creek, and Swan Creek, which make into the east side of Alligator River about 10 miles, 19 miles, and 20 miles above its mouth, respectively. Mariners should take care to avoid stumps along the banks. The entrance to Alligator River is full of shoals, but the channel of the Intracoastal Waterway, described in chapter 12, has been dredged through the shoals and along the entire length of the wider part of the river. Numerous fish stakes are reported to exist on the east side of the river extending about 0.5 mile offshore.

On the eastern side of Alligator River and just above the mouth is the entrance to East Lake and South Lake (see also chart 12204), which in July 1983, had reported depths of 6 feet. The village of East Lake is on the east side of Alligator River, 4 miles above the mouth. U.S. Route 64 highway bridge crossing the river at East Lake has a swing span with a clearance of 14 feet. VHF-FM channel 16 and 13 are monitored at the bridge.

Little Alligator River empties into Alligator River from westward just inside the entrance. The narrow, crooked channel of Little Alligator River, in 1983, had a reported controlling depth of 4 feet to the head of the river, 6 miles above the mouth. The river is reported to be a good anchorage for boats drawing 3 feet or less.

Pungo River empties into Pamlico River from northward about 5 miles above the mouth. The channel through the lower 15 miles of the river, part of the Intracoastal Waterway, is well marked by lights and daybeacons. Above the Intracoastal Waterway, the river narrows. In 1983, the reported centerline controlling depth in this section of the river was 5 feet to Leechville, a town 18 miles above the mouth. The U.S. Route 264 highway bridge at Leechville has a 30-foot fixed span with a clearance of 7 feet. An overhead power cable on the north side of the bridge has a clearance of about 28 feet. Tributaries to the Pungo River include several navigable creeks. The most important in order of ascension are Wright, Slade, Pungo, Pantego, and Wilkerson, which empty into the northeast end of the river. The route of the Intracoastal Waterway, described in chapter 12, follows Pungo River from Wilkerson Creek to and across Pamlico River.

U.S. Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center

24 hour Regional Contact for Emergencies

RCC Miami Commander 7th CG District (305) 415-6800
Miami, FL
To make suggestions, ask questions, or report a problem with a chart, go to https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/customer-service/assist/

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
HURRICANES AND TROPICAL STORMS

Hurricanes, tropical storms and other major storms may cause considerable damage to marine structures, aids to navigation and moored vessels resulting in submerged debris in unknown locations.

Charted soundings, channel depths and shoal lines may not reflect actual conditions following these storms. Fixed aids to navigation may have been damaged or destroyed. Buoys may have been moved from their charted positions, damaged, sunk, extinguished or otherwise made ineffective. Mariners should not rely upon the position or operation of an aid to navigation lines and isodiameters of aids to navigation may have been displaced from charted locations. Pipelines may have become uncovered or mixed.

Mariners are urged to exercise extreme caution and are requested to report aids to navigation discrepancies and hazardous to navigation to the nearest United States Coast Guard unit.
Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.
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Printed at reduced scale. Scale 1:40,000. See Note on page 5.
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.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/

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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This Booklet chart has been designed for duplex printing (printed on front and back of one sheet). If a duplex option is not available on your printer, you may print each sheet and arrange them back-to-back to allow for the proper layout when viewing.