Delaware Bay
NOAA Chart 12304

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
Published by the
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
Office of Coast Survey
www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov
888-990-NOAA

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 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 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 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.

For latest Coast Pilot excerpt visit the Office of Coast Survey website at http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/searchbychart.php?chart=123

(Delaware Bay and Delaware River form the boundary between the State of New Jersey on the east and the States of Delaware and Pennsylvania on the west. The bay is an expansion of the lower part of Delaware River; the arbitrary dividing line, 42 miles above the Delaware Capes, extends from Liston Point, Del., to Hope Creek, N.J. Deep-draft vessels use the Atlantic entrance, which is about 10 miles wide between Cape May on the northeast and Cape Henlopen on the southwest. Mileages shown in this chapter, such as Mile 0.9E and Mile 12W, are the nautical miles above the Delaware Capes (or “the Capes”), referring to a line from Cape May Light to the tip of Cape Henlopen. The letters N, S, E, or W, following the numbers, denote by compass points the side of the river where each feature is located.

Cape May is the extensive peninsula on the northeast side of the entrance to Delaware Bay. Cape May Light (38°55'59"N., 74°57'37"W.), 185 feet above the water, is shown from a white tower with a red cupola and two white dwellings nearby on Cape May Point. The shoals off Cape May are mixed clay and sand and have the consistency of hardpan; the ridges run in approximately the same directions as the currents. Cape May Channel, 1 mile southwest of the cape, is an unmarked passage between shoals, with depths from 2 to 4 feet on either side. The channel is seldom used, and then only by fishing vessels and pleasure craft; local knowledge is required for safe passage.

Lower River and Bay.—1. The maximum fresh water draft for river transit from sea to Delair, New Jersey is 40 feet.
2. All vessels arriving with a fresh water draft in excess of 37 feet are to transit during flood current only.
3. All vessels over Panamax size beam (106 ft) having a fresh water draft in excess of 35°-06" shall only transit during flood current.
4. Vessels outbound from Paulsboro, NJ and above, having a fresh water draft of 37 feet and up to 40 feet should arrange to sail 2 hours after low water. Due to the extended time of transit for these particular deep draft vessels, two (2) river pilots will be arranged for transit to sea.
5. The maximum salt-water draft for entrance into Delaware Bay and Big Stone Beach anchorage is 55 feet, as per federal regulation. Qualified offshore advisors with portable DGPS units are available upon request from the Pilots’ Association for the Bay and River Delaware.
6. Safe Under-Keel Clearance (UKC) should be assured for all transits, taking into consideration the vessel’s squat and variations of actual tidal levels due to high winds, barometric pressure, and other atmospheric conditions. Actual tidal heights for many points in the Delaware Bay and River can be determined on the NOAA PORTS web site at http://co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/dbports/dbports.html, or by calling 1-866-307-6787 (1-866-30-PORTS).
7. Actual tidal levels and currents will vary from predicted heights due to high winds, barometric pressure, and other atmospheric conditions. Actual tidal heights, current, and bridge air gaps, and other data can be determined for many points in the Delaware Bay and River on the NOAA PORTS web site at http://co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/dbports/dbports.html, or by calling 1-866-307-6787 (1-866-30-PORTS).
8. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers periodically surveys the bottom conditions of the Delaware Bay and River main channel and anchorages, publishing the results of these surveys at http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/channel/list.htm.

Vessel Reporting.—It is recommended that vessels report their position and status to the Maritime Exchange over VHF-FM channel 14 in the following situations:
1. When anchoring.
2. When getting underway.
3. When passing through Marcus Hook.
4. When entering or exiting the C&D canal.
5. When making fast to the dock.
6. Tugs operating without a barge are exempt from this recommendation. Tugs with barges are requested to report to the Philadelphia Maritime Exchange when anchoring and leaving all anchorages.
It is important to stand by on VHF-FM channels 14 and 16 at all times. And AIS should always be on if the vessel is equipped with it.)
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 useocsdata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/discrepancy.aspx.

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.
Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.
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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.