BookletChart™

Lake St. Clair
NOAA Chart 14850

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

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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=14850

(Selected Excerpts from Coast Pilot)

The main vessel route across Lake St. Clair is through the dredged channel that leads from the head of the Detroit River NE for about 16 miles to St. Clair Cutoff Channel at the mouth of the St. Clair River. The channel is well marked throughout its length by lights and lighted and unlighted buoys, and its lower end by a 227.8° lighted range NE of Peche Island. A racon is at the front range light. The front range light is protected by riprap and should not be passed close aboard, even by vessels of shallow draft. Lake St. Clair Light (42°27.9’N., 82°45.3’W.), 52 feet above the water, is shown from a white square tower on a cylindrical base on the NW side of the channel at the slight turn near its midpoint. A radar beacon is at the light. The W, or Michigan shore of Lake St. Clair, has been extensively developed with homes, yacht clubs, and marinas. The communities of Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Shores, and St. Clair Shores, suburban to Detroit, are on the W lakeshore extending from Windmill Point at the head of Detroit River N for about 10 miles. Several piers, some marked by private lights, extend as much as 0.5 mile into the lake with depths of 6 to 10 feet alongside.

St. Clair Shores Coast Guard Station is 0.7 mile N of the light.

Cutoff Canal empties into the lake 7.5 miles N of Gaultier Point. The canal extends about 2 miles NW to a weir just below the junction with the Clinton River at Mount Clemens. During flood conditions, the canal diverts a major part of the flow of Clinton River. The canal has depths of 9 feet just inside the mouth, thence 6 feet to just below the weir, thence 2 feet and 1 foot below and above the weir, respectively.

Dangers.–In October 1999, a sunken wreck, covered 28 feet, was reported in the St. Clair River about 350 feet E of Fort Gratiot Range Front Light in about 42°59.36’N., 82°25.34’W.

Fluctuations of water level.–Each year the St. Clair River has a seasonal rise and fall of about 1 foot, generally in consonance with the seasonal variations of Lake Huron. High winds may cause rapid fluctuations of up to 2 feet above or below normal.

Currents, St. Clair River.–The following currents are based on averages of water flow through the entire cross section of the river, that is from bank to bank and from the surface to the bottom during normal flow conditions. Normal water flow conditions are encountered when there is no wind, Lake Huron is at a stage of 578.9 feet (176.4 meters), and Lake St. Clair is at a stage of 573.9 feet (174.9 meters) above mean water level at Rimouski, Quebec, on International Great Lakes Datum 1985 (IGLD 1985), that is 1.4 feet (0.4 meter) and 1.6 feet (0.5 meter) above their respective Low Water Datums. The current encountered at midstream is usually about 1.5 times the average velocity. Greater velocities may be expected when the difference between the lake levels is greater, or the lake stages are higher.

Currents for the following locations in the St. Clair River are given at high water flow of 230,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), medium water flow of 188,000 cfs, and low water flow of 130,000 cfs, respectively.

Algonac: 2.0 mph (1.7 knots), 1.6 mph (1.4 knots), and 1.3 mph (1.1 knots); Port Lambton: 2.0 mph (1.8 knots), 1.7 mph (1.5 knots), and 1.3 mph (1.1 knots); Marine City: 2.0 mph (1.7 knots), 1.6 mph (1.4 knots), and 1.3 mph (1.1 knots)

Ice.–The only need for icebreaking in the St. Clair River occurs when the ice bridge that forms across the S end of Lake Huron breaks and the broken mass of ice travels down the river to the lower end where it meets the natural ice cover and forms a massive ice jam. When this occurs, ice can clog the entire 27-foot depth of the channel and cause serious flooding. (See Winter Navigation, chapter 3.)

Navigation regulations.–The State of Michigan enforces the following speed limits for recreational craft within its jurisdictional boundaries from the mouth of Black River downstream to the mouth of St. Clair River: slow-no wake for vessels less than 26 feet long within 200 feet of any shore, dock, or pierhead, and slow-no wake for vessels 26 feet or longer within 600 feet of any shore, dock, or pierhead.

A vessel traffic reporting system and related navigation regulations have been established for the connecting waters from Lake Erie to Lake Huron.
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.
NOAA encourages users to submit inquiries, discrepancies or comments about this chart at http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/chartcontact/rem.

CAUTION
Due to periodic high water conditions in the Great Lakes, some features charted at Low Water Datum may be submerged, particularly in the near shore areas. Mariners should proceed with caution.

POLLUTION REPORTS
Report all spills of oil and hazardous substances to the National Response Center via 1-800-433-8472 (toll free), or to the nearest U.S. Coast Guard facility if telephone communication is impossible (33 CFR 103).

POTABLE
Vessels operating shall not discharge water within such water intakes as a missioner of Food & Culinary U.S. Coastal Environmental Protection.

LAKES ST. CLAIR
Latitude and Longitude Plotting Interpolator

NOAA WEATHER RADIO BROADCASTS
The NOAA Weather Radio station listed below provides continuous weather broadcasts. This reception range is typically 20 to 40 nautical miles from the antenna site, but can be as much as 168 nautical miles for stations at high elevations.

Detroit, MI KEC-03 162.550 MHz (Channel W4-1)

RACING BUOYS
Racing buoys within the limits of this chart are not shown herein. Information may be obtained from the U.S. Coast Guard District Offices as racing and other private buoys are not all listed in the U.S. Coast Guard Light List.

COPYRIGHT
No copyright is claimed by the United States Government under Title 17 U.S.C. However, other nations may claim intellectual property rights in the compilation of data depicting the foreign waters shown on this chart.

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See Note on page 5.

Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.

Printed at reduced scale. Scale 1:60,000 Nautical Miles

1 2 3 4 5
Yards
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.

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**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/

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**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.