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
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 to 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 Channel empties into the lake about 7.5 miles N of Gaukler Point. The channel 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.

U.S. Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center
24 hour Regional Contact for Emergencies

RCC Cleveland          Commander
9th CG District          (216) 902-6117
Cleveland, OH
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

PORT SIDE
ODD NUMBERED AIDS

- GREEN LIGHT ONLY
- FLASHING (2)
- FLASHING OCCULTING
- QUICK FLASHING
- ISO

PREFERRED CHANNEL
NO NUMBERS – MAY BE Lettered
PREFERRED CHANNEL TO STARBOARD
TOPMOST BAND GREEN
- GREEN LIGHT ONLY
- COMPOSITE GROUP FLASHING (2+1)

PREFERRED CHANNEL
NO NUMBERS – MAY BE Lettered
PREFERRED CHANNEL TO PORT
TOPMOST BAND RED
- RED LIGHT ONLY
- COMPOSITE GROUP FLASHING (2+1)

STARBOARD SIDE
EVEN NUMBERED AIDS

- RED LIGHT ONLY
- FLASHING (2)
- FLASHING OCCULTING
- QUICK FLASHING
- ISO

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.
The Russom River Channel is subject to continual change. The buoys are not shown because they are frequently shifted in position.

WARNING
The prudent mariner will not rely solely on any single aid to navigation, particularly en route aids. See U.S. Coast Guard Light List and U.S. Coast Pilot for details.

DINGS IN FEET

Published at Washington, D.C.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
COAST SURVEY
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.

Distress Call Procedures

• Make sure radio is on.
• Select Channel 16.
• Press/Hold the transmit button.
• Clearly say: “MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY.”
• Also give: Vessel Name and/or Description; Position and/or Location; Nature of Emergency; Number of People on Board.
• Release transmit button.
• Wait for 10 seconds — If no response Repeat MAYDAY call.

HAVE ALL PERSONS PUT ON LIFE JACKETS!

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.nco.na.gov/idrs/inquiry.aspx?frompage=ContactUs
Chart updates (LNMs 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.na.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

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.