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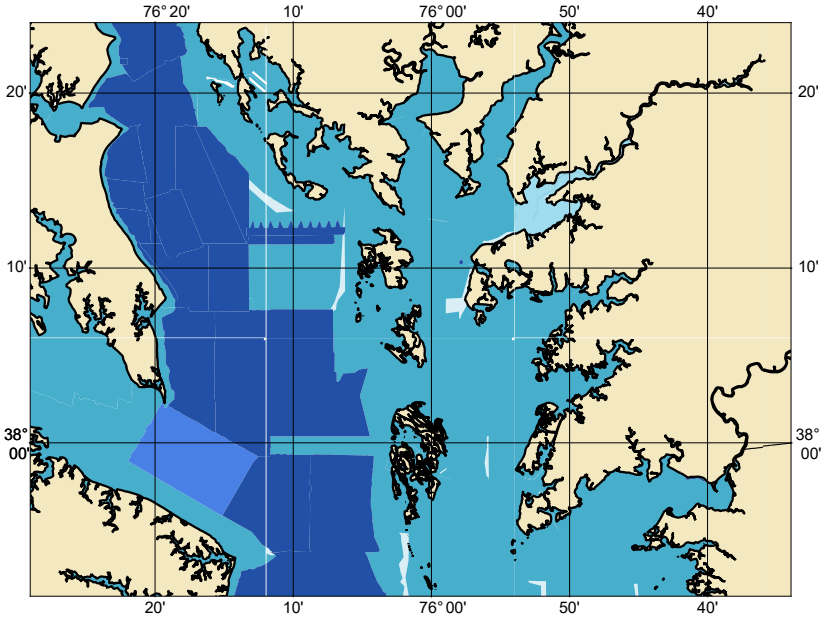
Zone of Confidence (ZOC) Diagram



ZOC CATEGORIES

ZOC	COLOR	POSITION ACCURACY	DEPTH ACCURACY	SEAFLOOR COVERAGE
A1		± 5 m + 5% depth ± 16.4 ft + 5% depth	= 0.50 m +1% d = 1.6 ft +1% d = 0.3 fm +1% d	All significant seafloor features detected.
A2		± 20 m ± 65.6 ft	= 1.00 m +2% d = 3.3 ft +2% d = 0.6 fm +2% d	All significant seafloor features detected.
B		± 50 m ± 164.0 ft	= 1.00 m +2% d = 3.3 ft +2% d = 0.6 fm +2% d	Uncharted features hazardous to surface navigation are not expected but may exist.
C		± 500 m ± 1640.4 ft	= 2.00 m +2% d = 6.6 ft +2% d = 1.1 fm +2% d	Depth anomalies may be expected.
D		Worse than ZOC C	Worse than ZOC C	Large depth anomalies may be expected.
U		Unassessed - The quality of the bathymetric data has yet to be assessed.		

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NOAA CUSTOM CHART
NOTES GEOSPATIAL DATABASE
VERSION 3.0C - 17 MARCH 2026

The records of the NOAA Custom Chart Notes Geospatial Database are current as of March 17, 2026. Subsequent additions and refinements are to be expected. Please refer to all available navigational publications for complete information about the charted area.

CAUTION
CHART UPDATES

This NOAA Custom Chart contains up-to-date information only as of the time of creation, and will become outdated. Mariners are advised to visit https://distribution.charts.noaa.gov/navigation-updates/ to check for critical and routine updates, and to render a new NOAA Custom Chart when the ENC data used to make the chart is updated. Notices to Mariners are not issued for corrections to this NOAA Custom Chart.

AUTHORITIES

Hydrography and topography by the National Ocean Service, Coast Survey, with additional data from the Corps of Engineers, Geological Survey, U.S. Coast Guard and National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

COMMENTS REQUESTED

NOAA encourages users to submit inquiries, discrepancies, or comments about this chart via NOAA's ASSIST tool at https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/customer-service/assist/ .

CAUTION
AUTOMATED CHART GENERATION

This NOAA Custom Chart has been automatically rendered from NOAA Electronic Navigational Chart (NOAA ENC®) data. Mariners using this NOAA Custom Chart are advised that this is a static reproduction of the NOAA ENC®. This NOAA Custom Chart has not been individually quality checked or adjusted for optimal use for navigation. The portrayal may be at a different scale from that of the original NOAA ENC®. Mariners are advised to use caution when using this NOAA Custom Chart for navigation and are encouraged to use the latest NOAA ENC® to access the most up-to-date information. Mariners must also comply with all applicable regulatory requirements.

HEIGHTS

Heights of fixed aids to navigation and vertical clearances of overhead obstructions will be shown in feet if the units are set to feet or fathoms. If units are set to meters, heights will be shown in meters. Land elevation values are shown in meters only.

WATER LEVELS, CURRENTS, AND TIDES

Real-time water levels, tide predictions, and tidal current predictions are available on the internet from NOAA’s Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) at https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/water_level_info.html and https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/currents_info.html .

ABBREVIATIONS

For complete list of Symbols and Abbreviations, see Chart No. 1.

POLLUTION REPORTS

Report all spills of oil and hazardous substances to the National Response Center via 1-800-424-8802 (toll free), or to the nearest U.S. Coast Guard facility if telephone communication is impossible (33 CFR 153).

WARNING

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

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Consult U.S. Coast Pilot 3 for important supplemental information.

VERTICAL DATUM

Overhead clearances are referred to Mean High Water (MHW).

NOTE A

Navigation regulations are published in Chapter 2, U.S. Coast Pilot 3. Additions or revisions to Chapter 2 are published in the Notices to Mariners. Information concerning the regulations may be obtained at the Office of the Commander, 5th Coast Guard District in Portsmouth, VA or at the Office of the District Engineer, Corps of Engineers in Norfolk, VA.

Refer to charted regulation section numbers.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Consult U.S. Coast Guard Light List for supplemental information concerning aids to navigation.

RADAR REFLECTORS

Radar reflectors have been placed on many floating aids to navigation. Individual radar reflector identification on these aids has been omitted from this chart.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained at www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov

SOUNDING DATUM

Soundings referred to Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW).

NOTE A

Navigation regulations are published in Chapter 2, U.S. Coast Pilot 3. Additions or revisions to Chapter 2 are published in the Notices to Mariners. Information concerning the regulations may be obtained at the Office of the Commander, 5th Coast Guard District in Portsmouth, VA or at the Office of the District Engineer, Corps of Engineers in Baltimore, MD.

Refer to charted regulation section numbers.

SMALL CRAFT WARNINGS

During the boating season small-craft warnings will be displayed from sunrise to sunset on Maryland Marine Police Cruisers while underway in Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries.

OYSTER AQUACULTURE

Oyster bed aquaculture leases may exist within the limits of this chart. Mariners are cautioned that numerous markers may exist and watermen may be active in the area. Caution should be exercised when navigating in or near these areas, not to anchor or ground, in order to avoid damage to the beds. Depths may be shallower than the soundings shown. For more information, contact the local department of natural resources.

CAUTION
LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF RADIO SIGNALS

Limitations on the use of radio signals as aids to marine navigation can be found in the U.S. Coast Guard Light Lists and National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Publication 117.

Radio direction-finder bearings to commercial broadcasting stations are subject to error and should be used with caution.

CAUTION
SUBMERGED CABLES AND PIPELINES

Additional uncharted submarine pipelines and submarine cables may exist within the area of this chart. Not all submarine pipelines and submarine cables are required to be buried, and those that were originally buried may have become exposed. Mariners should use extreme caution when operating vessels in depths of water comparable to their draft in areas where pipelines and cables may exist, and when anchoring, dragging or trawling.

Covered wells may be marked by lighted or unlighted buoys.

TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME

One-way traffic lanes present on this chart in the vicinity of Smith Point are RECOMMENDED for all vessels except small craft. They have been designed to aid in the prevention of collisions but are not intended in any way to supersede or alter the applicable Rules of the Road. The recommended route is marked by a fairway buoy and separates the courses of inbound and outbound vessels. Vessels should leave the buoy on their port hand.

CAUTION
FISH TRAP AREAS

Uncharted stakes, piles and, fishing structures, some submerged, may exist within this area.

CAUTION
GAS AND OIL WELL STRUCTURES

Numerous uncharted gas and oil well structures, pipes, piles, and stakes exist within the obstruction area. Uncharted structures may exist outside the obstruction area.

CAUTION
FISH TRAPS AND STRUCTURES

Mariners are warned that numerous uncharted duck blinds and fishing structures, some submerged, may exist in the fish trap areas. Such structures are not charted unless known to be permanent. Regulations to assure clear passage to and through dredged and natural channels, and to established landings, are prescribed by the Corps of Engineers in the Code of Federal Regulations. Definite limits of fish trap areas have been established in some areas. Where definite limits have not been prescribed, the location of fishing structures is restricted only by the regulations.

CAUTION

USACE conducts hydrographic surveys to monitor navigation conditions. These surveys are not intended to detect underwater features. Uncharted features hazardous to surface navigation are not expected but may exist in federal channels. For more information visit https://navigation.usace.army.mil/Survey/Hydro.

POCOMOKE SOUND

The white and orange buoys and white daybeacons marking the state boundary are maintained by the states of Maryland and Virginia.

CAUTION

Mariners are warned to stay clear of the protective riprap surrounding navigational light structures.

CABLE FERRY

Cable across the river may be at or near the water surface. Mariners should exercise caution when navigating in this area.

CABLE FERRY

Cable across the river may be at or near the water surface. Mariners should exercise caution when navigating in this area.

COURSES

Courses are TRUE and must be CORRECTED for any variation and compass deviation. The mileage figures on courses are international Nautical Miles.

CAUTION

Improved channels are subject to shoaling, particularly at the edges.

CAUTION

Temporary changes or defects in aids to navigation are not indicated on this chart. See Local Notice to Mariners.
During some winter months or when endangered by ice, certain aids to navigation are replaced by other types or removed. For details, see U.S. Coast Guard Light List.

CAUTION

Mariners are warned to stay clear of the protective riprap surrounding navigational light structures.

RESEARCH BUOYS

Numerous research buoys can be found north of Cove Point in the Chesapeake Bay.

CABLE FERRY

Cable across the river may be at or near the water surface. Mariners should exercise caution when navigating in this area.

POTOMAC RIVER

Numerous markers, established and maintained by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, mark the Maryland and Virginia jurisdictional fishing boundaries.
The markers display identifying letters "PRM" and "PRV" and numbers.

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NOAA WEATHER RADIO BROADCASTS

The NOAA Weather Radio station listed below provides continuous weather broadcasts. The reception range is typically 20 to 40 nautical miles from the antenna site, but can be as much as 100 nautical miles for stations at high elevations.
Lewes, DE WXJ-94 162.550 MHz

NOAA WEATHER RADIO BROADCASTS

The NOAA Weather Radio station listed below provides continuous weather broadcasts. The reception range is typically 20 to 40 nautical miles from the antenna site, but can be as much as 100 nautical miles for stations at high elevations.
Salisbury, DE KEC-92 162.475 MHz

NOAA WEATHER RADIO BROADCASTS

The NOAA Weather Radio station listed below provides continuous weather broadcasts. The reception range is typically 20 to 40 nautical miles from the antenna site, but can be as much as 100 nautical miles for stations at high elevations.
Accomack, VA KJY-99 162.525 MHz

NOAA WEATHER RADIO BROADCASTS

The NOAA Weather Radio station listed below provides continuous weather broadcasts. The reception range is typically 20 to 40 nautical miles from the antenna site, but can be as much as 100 nautical miles for stations at high elevations.
Heathsville, VA WXM-57 162.400 MHz