

Shoreline Surveys not Keeping Pace with Rate of Shoreline Change

Shoreline is not accurately depicted in many areas on U.S. nautical charts, resulting in mariners navigating across vast expanses of water charted as land. This is the result of both the age of the shoreline as well as the rate of change. The rate of change of shoreline in much of the U.S. is faster than the rate at which it is surveyed and charted, resulting in miles of difference between shorelines depicted on U.S. charts and the current location of the shoreline. The following image illustrates the charted location of Fitzpatrick Island on the Lower Columbia River relative to a recent aerial photo. The charted location of Fitzpatrick Island is presently open water.

