

NOAA Nautical Charting Calendar

Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) Encoding

ENCs are not charts in the traditional sense but are a database of objects and attributes. Each cartographic object is entered explicitly into the database and all the attributes that detail the object are also entered following IHO Standards. The database is then “read” by navigation software to produce a chart-like display and to monitor that database to determine when to issue alarms and indications.

Entering the data the first time is a tedious, manual process. Maintenance of an ENC involves updating, usually manually, objects and attributes as new data become available. Each ENC then goes through a series of quality control checks. A sample of the information encoded for “platforms” is shown below from the NOAA “Digital Capture and Classification Guideline.”

L.1 Offshore platform				
IHO Definition: OFFSHORE PLATFORM. A permanent offshore structure, either fixed or floating, used in the production of oil or natural gas. (IHO Dictionary, S-32, 5 th Edition, 3895)				
Graphic	S-57 Geo Object	S-57 Attribute	Allowable Encoding Value	Attrib. Type
	OFSPLF (P, A)	CATOPF	1 : oil derrick/rig 2 : production platform 3 : observation/research platform 4 : articulated loading platform (ALP) 5 : single anchor leg mooring (SALM) 6 : mooring tower 7 : artificial island 8 : floating production, storage and off-loading vessel (FPSO) 9 : accommodation platform 10 : navigation, communication and control buoy (NCCB)	E
		COLOUR	1 : white 2 : black 3 : red 4 : green 5 : blue 6 : yellow 7 : grey 8 : brown 9 : amber 10 : violet 11 : orange 12 : magenta 13 : pink	L
		COLPAT	1 : horizontal bands from top to bottom 2 : vertical stripes 3 : diagonal stripes 4 : squared 5 : stripes (direction unknown)	E



Offshore Platform

Photograph, courtesy of the Atlantic Hydrographic Branch



Offshore Platform

Photograph, courtesy of the Atlantic Hydrographic Branch

Paper & Raster Chart Depiction

“Platforms” on paper charts are shown as a solid black square at the platform location, e.g.  NOAA does not label the symbol with the platform name because the data are unreliable, and to reduce chart clutter. Mariners were disinterested in detailed information about each platform.

	6 : border stripe	
CONDITN	1 : under construction 2 : ruined 3 : under reclamation 4 : wingless 5 : planned construction	E
CONRAD	1 : radar conspicuous 2 : not radar conspicuous 3 : radar conspicuous (has radar reflector)	E
CONVIS	1 : visually conspicuous 2 : not visually conspicuous	E
NATCON	1 : masonry 2 : concreted 3 : loose boulders 4 : hard surfaced 5 : unsurfaced 6 : wooden 7 : metal 8 : glass reinforced plastic (GRP) 9 : painted	L
STATUS	1 : permanent 2 : occasional 3 : recommended 4 : not in use 5 : periodic/intermittent 6 : reserved 7 : temporary 8 : private 9 : mandatory 10 : destroyed/ruined 11 : extinguished 12 : illuminated 13 : historic 14 : public 15 : synchronized 16 : watched 17 : un-watched 18 : existence doubtful	L
PRODCT	1 : oil 2 : gas 3 : water 4 : stone 5 : coal	L



December 2009



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Prepared by the Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, NOAA, www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov , 1-301-713-2770.		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Note: Add your information to the Calendar using Adobe Reader 7 or later. The tools are found at the Tools -> Commenting, and Tools -> Drawing Markup features of Adobe Reader.	