# Aids to Navigation (ATONs) Private Aids to Navigation (PATONs)



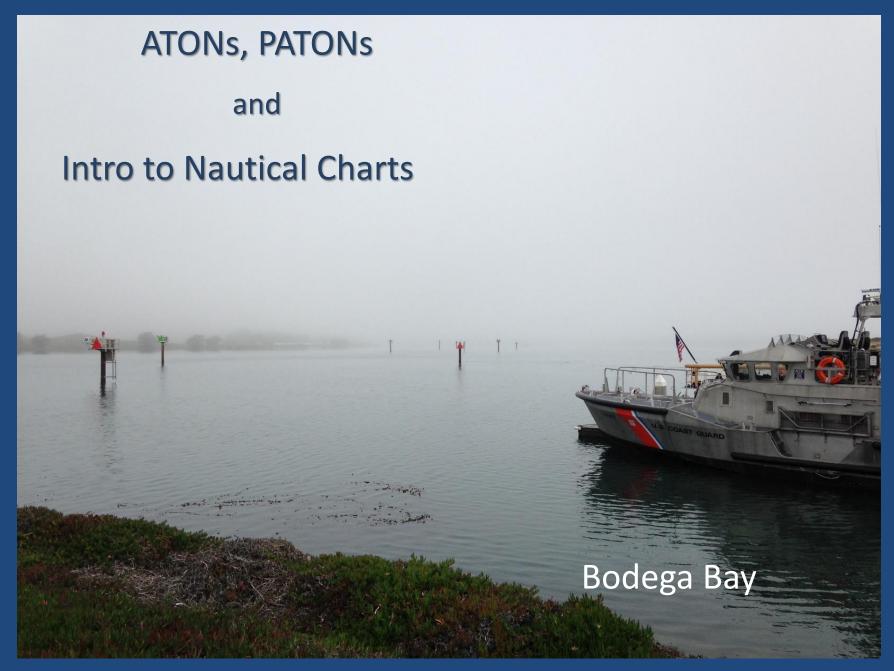


#### 29 March 2021

Cameras off

Mute your mic unless you have a question

 Please stay between the red and green buoys with comments / questions!



## **Chapter Objectives**

- Aids to Navigation (AtoNs)
- Cautions in the use of AtoNs
- The meaning of chart symbols
- The availability of electronic AtoNs
- Reference materials that alert you to changes in AtoNs



#### Coast Guard "Buoy Tender"



## **Definitions**

- Aid to Navigation (AtoN):
  - Any device external to a vessel intended to assist a navigator to determine their position, safe course, or to warn of dangers or obstructions to navigation.
- Short-Range Aids to Navigation:
  - Consist of Buoys & Beacons

## **Definitions**

#### Buoy:

An unmanned, floating aid to navigation moored to the seabed. They may be lighted or unlighted.

#### •Beacon:

Any **fixed** aid to navigation located on shore or marine sites. Lighted beacons are called lights, unlighted beacons are called daymarks.



#### There are six types of marks, or AtoN's

#### 1. LATERAL MARKS

Including Preferred Channel Marks

#### NON-LATERAL MARKS

- 2. Safe water marks
- 3. Isolated danger marks
- 4. Range marks
- 5. Regulatory marks
- 6. Special marks

## Definitions

#### Daymark:

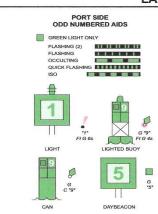
- —The <u>daytime identifier</u> of an aid to navigation presenting one of several colors, shapes, numerals or letters.
  - 1. Square, triangle, rectangle, diamond or octagon
  - 2. Top marks on buoys, and the buoy's shape

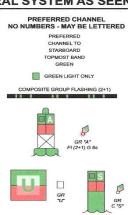


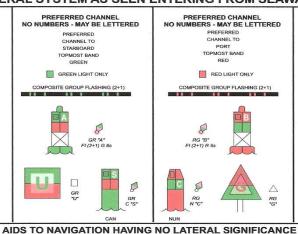
#### U.S. AIDS TO NAVIGATION SYSTEM

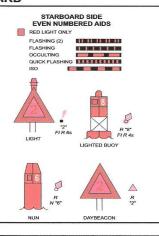
on navigable waters except Western Rivers

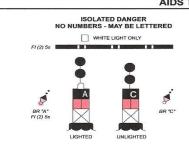
#### LATERAL SYSTEM AS SEEN ENTERING FROM SEAWARD





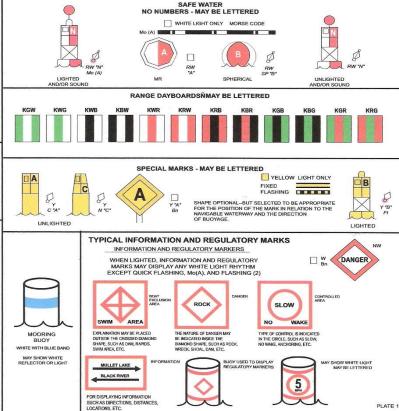








Aids to Navigation marking the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) display unique yellow symbols to distinguish them from aids marking other waters. Yellow triangles △ indicate aids should be passed by keeping them on the starboard (right) hand of the vessel. Yellow squares indicate aids should be passed by keeping them on the port (left) hand of the vessel. A yellow horizontal band provides no lateral information, but simply identifies aids as marking the ICW.



#### International Buoyage can be much different!

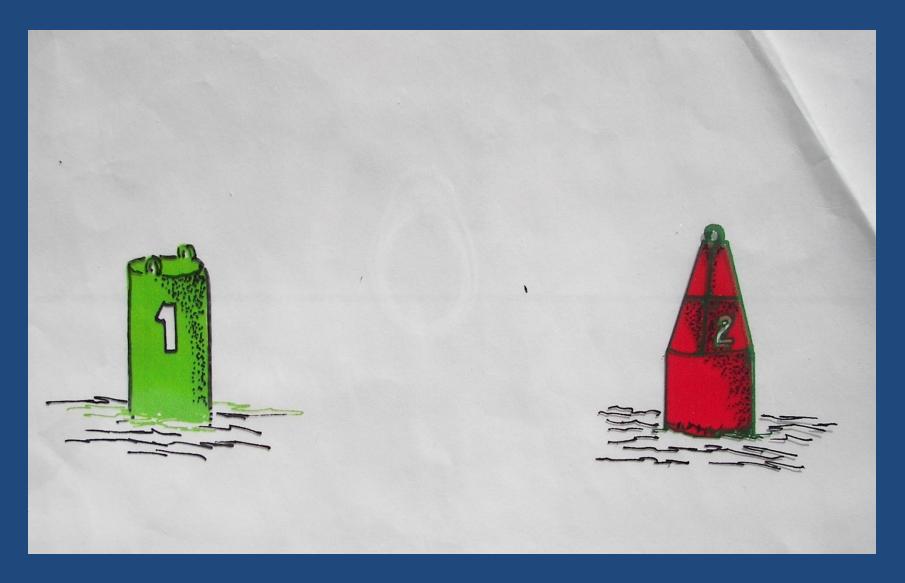


## <u>Lateral System</u>

 Employs a simple arrangement of colors, shapes, numbers and light characteristics to show which side an aid should be passed on.

• 3-R's

—Red Right Returning from sea



Can

Red, Right, Returning

Nun

LED Lighted can on Lake Tahoe "Watching Properly"

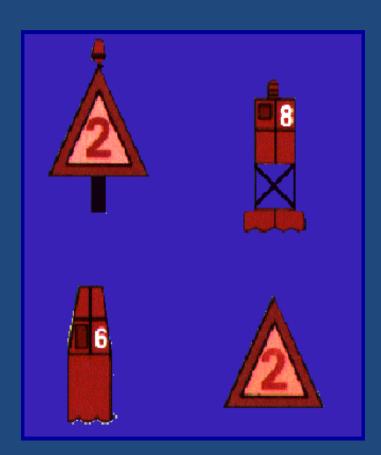




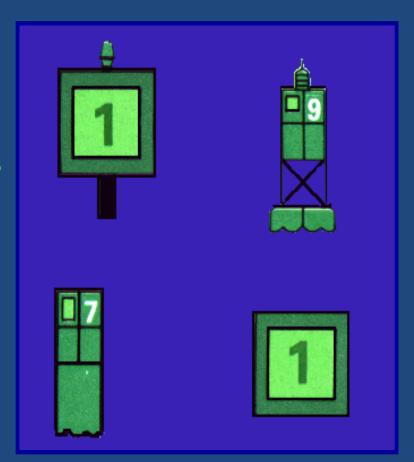
Nun watching properly

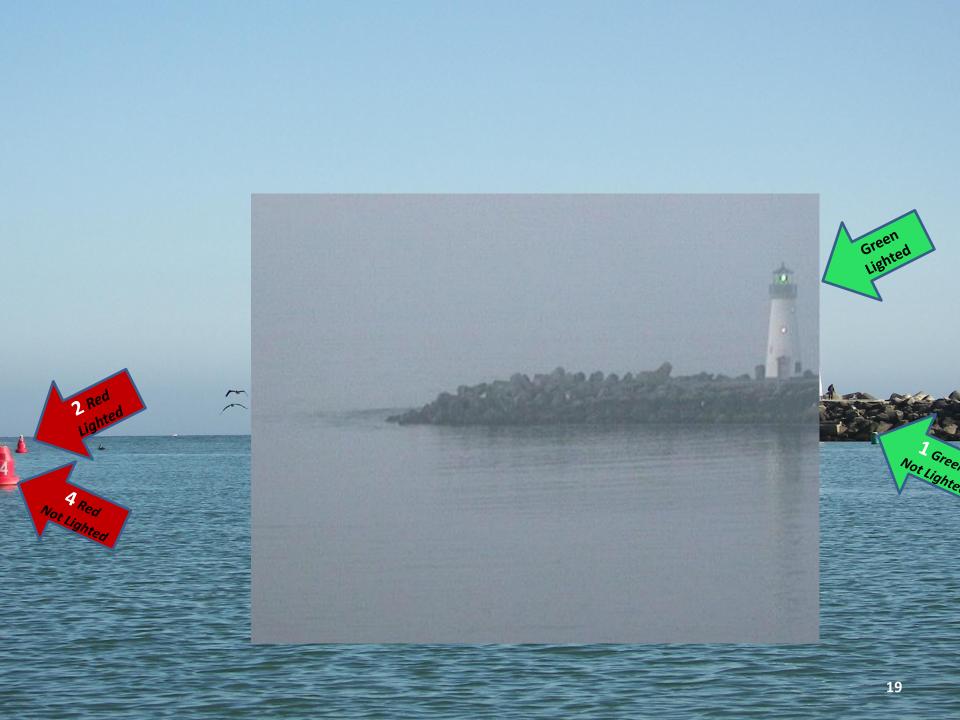


- Starboard Lateral Marks
  - Color: Red
  - Shape: Triangles and Nuns
  - Character: Even Numbers
  - Light: Red



- Port Lateral Marks
  - -Color: Green
  - —Shape: Squares and Cans
  - -Character: Odd Numbers
  - -Light: Green





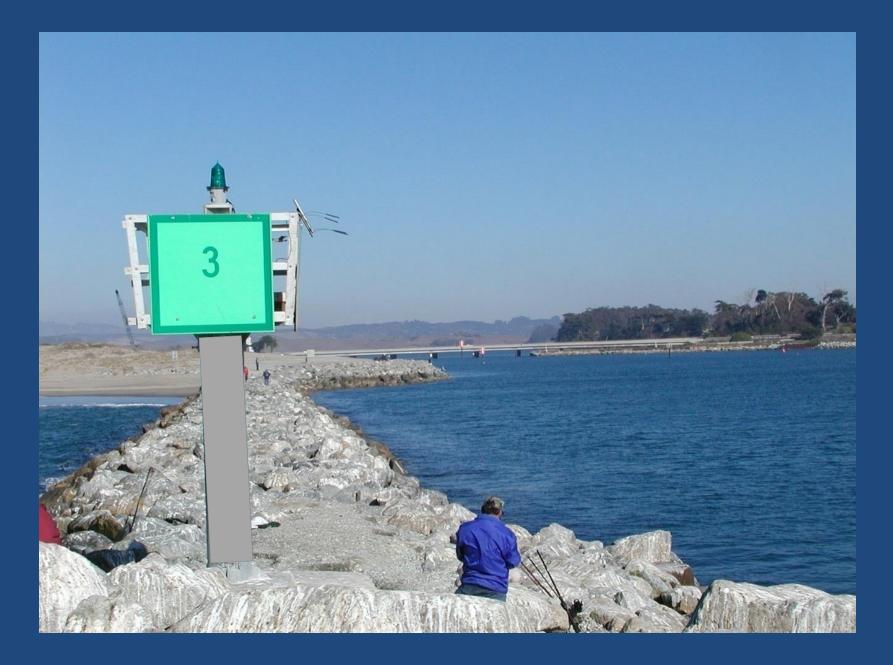


### Buoys aren't always where they should be!



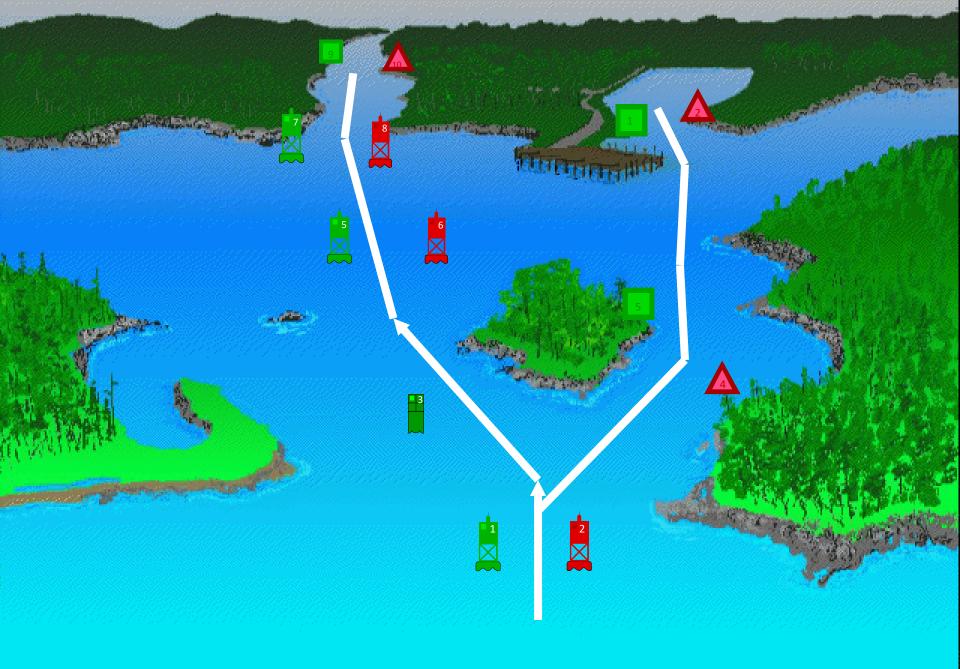
#### Buoys aren't always where they should be!











#### The name of the boat is "Temporary Insanity"

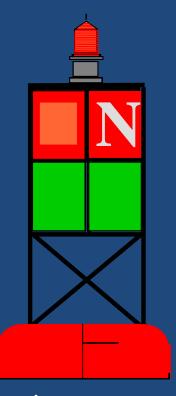
If you are unsure whether to pass on the port or starboard ... at least pick one or the other!





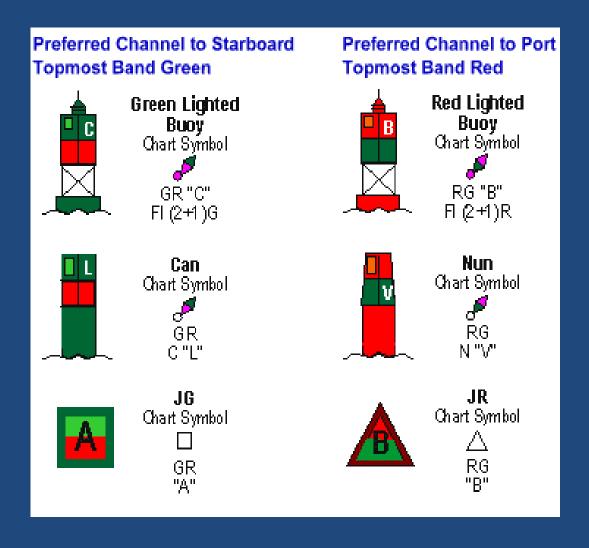
#### **Preferred Channel Marks**

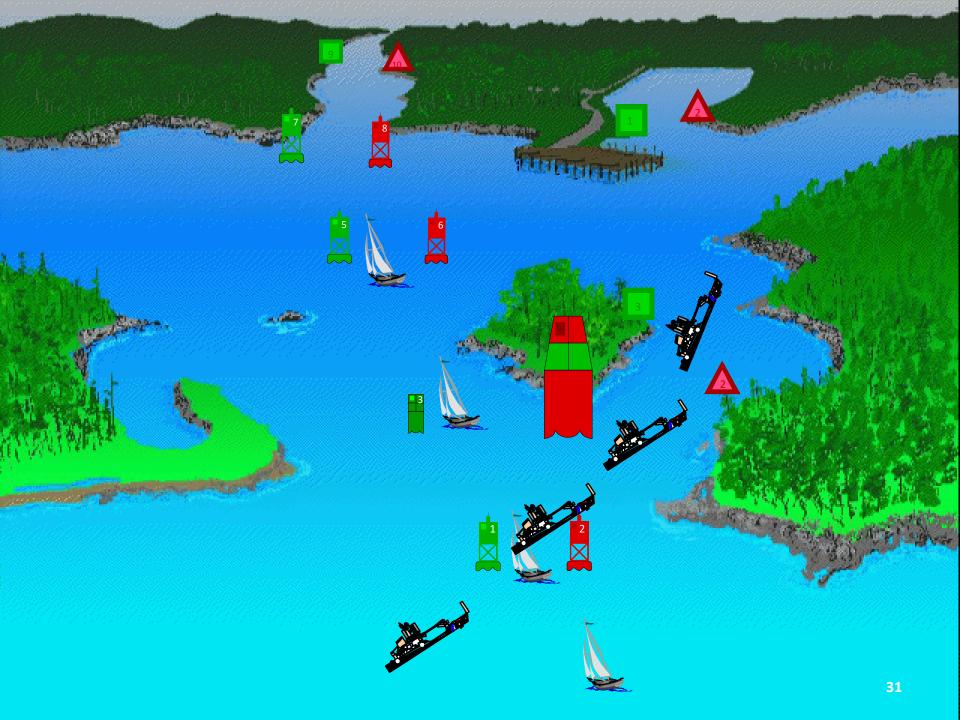
- Purpose: Marks junctions and bifurcations
- Description:
  - Color: Red & Green horizontally banded (uppermost band is preferred channel)
  - Shape: Same as preferred channel (uppermost band is preferred channel)
    - Daymark uppermost color is preferred channel
  - Letter identification White
  - Light Color: Same as uppermost band





#### Review of Preferred Channel Marks



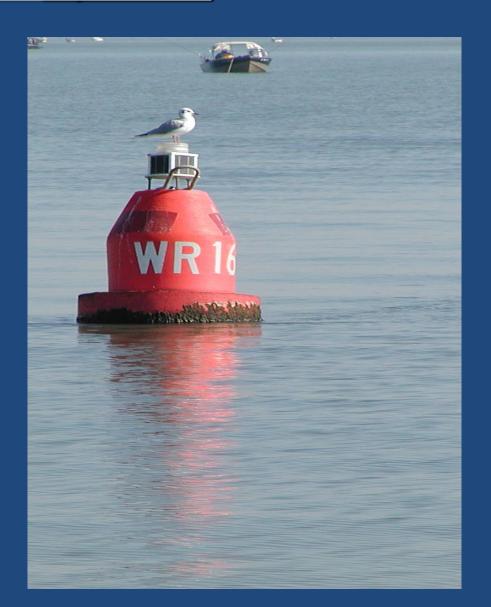


#### Monterey Harbor – Preferred Channel Buoy

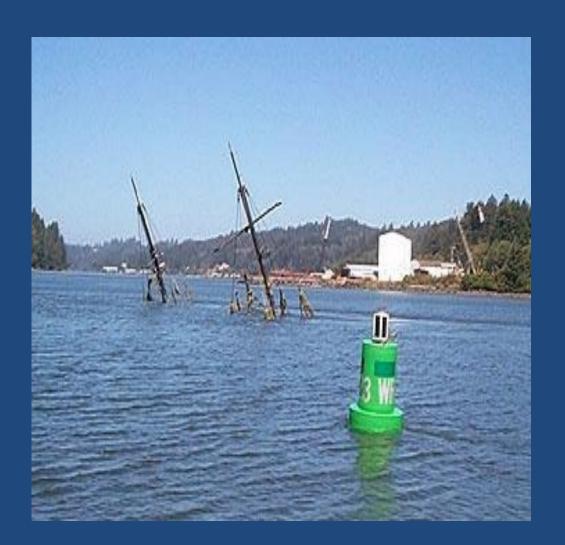




What is it?



What is it?



- WRECK MARKERS
- Purpose: To alert the mariner to wrecks



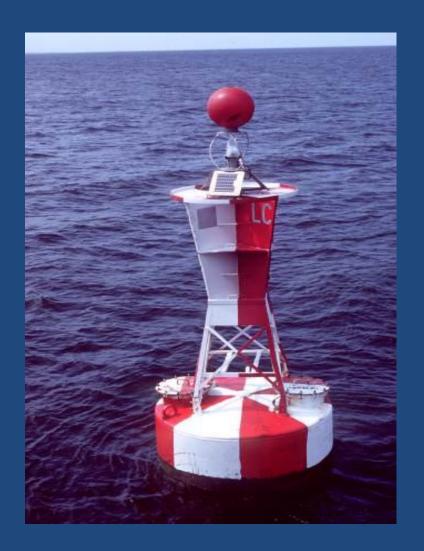


Having no lateral significance.

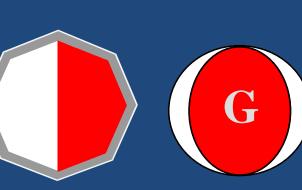
 Employs <u>buoys</u> and <u>beacons</u> with special colors, shapes, letters and minor lights.

- Types of non-lateral marks
  - Safe water marks
  - Isolated dangers marks
  - Range marks
    - Dayboards
    - Dual beacons
  - Special marks
  - Information and regulatory marks

What is it?



- SAFE WATER MARKS
- Purpose: Indicates there is navigable water all around the mark.
- Description:
  - Color: Red and White vertically striped
  - Shape: Sphere or Buoy with Red Topmark
  - Character: Letters (white)(ex. "GB" Galveston Bay)
  - Light: White
    - Characteristic: Mo(A)
      - Dot Dash



## Santa Cruz Safe Water Mark a.k.a. "Mile Buoy"



• What is it?



- ISOLATED DANGER MARKS
- Purpose: Marks isolated dangers or obstructions that can be passed on all sides.
- Description:
  - Color: Black and Red horizontally banded
  - Shape: Buoy with two Black Top marks
  - Character: Letters (white)
  - Light: White
    - Characteristic: Fl (2) 5 sec

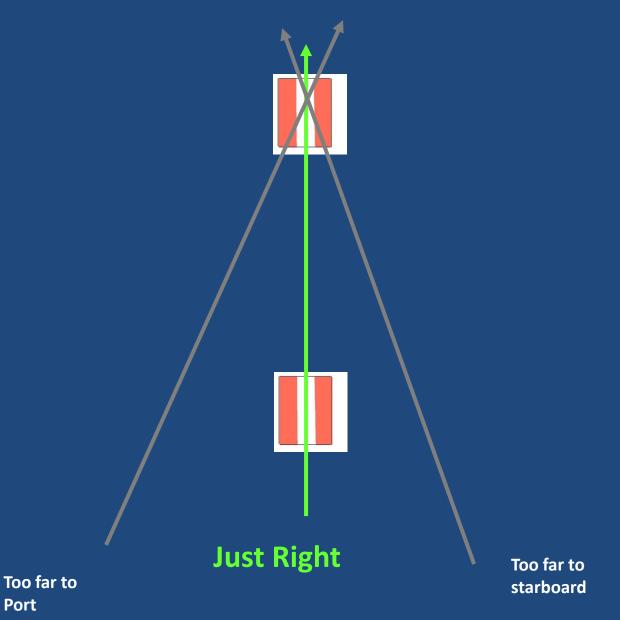
## **Definitions**

#### Range:

– Pairs of beacons or daymarks arranged so that when they are lined up, they indicate the center of the channel.

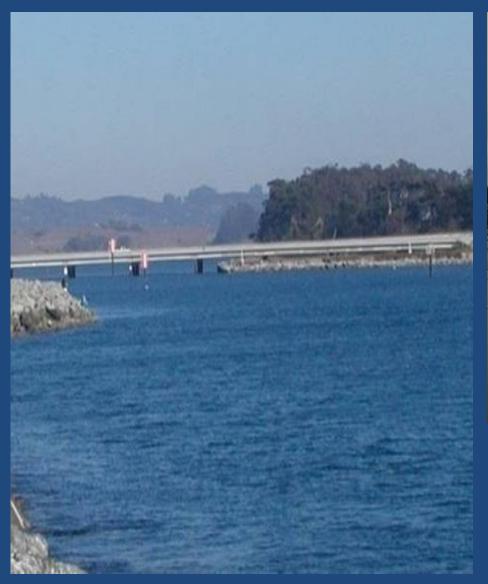
- RECTANGULAR RANGE DAYBOARDS
- Purpose: To mark center line of a channel
- Description:
  - -Color: Appropriate color for channel
  - -Shape: Appropriate to size for channel
  - Lights: Color: W, R, G, Y
    - Characteristic: F, Fl, Q, Oc, Iso

## Using Range Markings



**Port** 

## Moss Landing Harbor – Hwy 1 Bridge





What is it?



- NON-LATERAL MARKS
- Diamond dayboards
- Purpose: Non-lateral Daytime identifier
- Description:
  - Color: NB, NR, NG
  - Shape: Diamond-shaped divided 4 sectors
  - Character: Side sectors White, Top & Bottom Sectors colored
  - Letters: W, R & G
  - Light: White
    - Characteristic: Anything not otherwise reserved



What is it?



SPECIAL MARK AIDS

 Purpose: Not intended to assist safe navigation but to indicate special areas marked on charts. (anchorage, traffic separation, data gathering,

PWC operating boundaries)

• Description:

– Color: Yellow

– Shape: Various

– Character: Black letters

– Light: Yellow

Characteristic: Fixed or Flashing



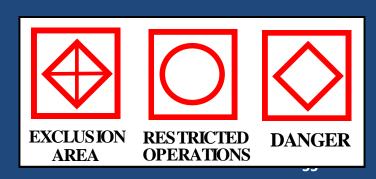
• What is it?



What is it?



- INFORMATION AND REGULATORY MARKS
- Purpose: Alert the mariner to such things as submerged pipes, no wake zones, etc.
- Description:
  - Color: White; Orange band or border
  - Shape: Square or Diamond
  - Character: Letters (Black, usually words)
  - Light: White
    - Characteristic: Anything not otherwise reserved



DANGER

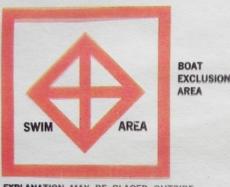
## Information & Regulatory Marks



#### UNIFORM STATE WATERWAY MARKING SYSTEM

#### STATE WATERS AND DESIGNATED STATE WATERS FOR PRIVATE AIDS TO NAVIGATION

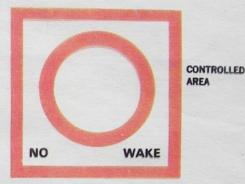
#### REGULATORY MARKERS



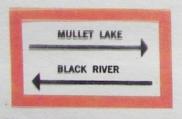
EXPLANATION MAY BE PLACED OUTSIDE THE CROSSED DIAMOND SHAPE, SUCH AS DAM, RAPIDS, SWIM AREA, ETG.



THE NATURE OF DANGER MAY BE IN-DICATED INSIDE THE DIAMOND SHAPE, SUCH AS ROCK, WRECK, SHOAL, DAM, ETC.



TYPE OF CONTROL IS INDICATED IN THE CIRCLE, SUCH AS SLOW, NO WAKE, ANCHORING, ETC.



INFORMATION

FOR DISPLAYING INFORMATION SUCH AS DIRECTIONS, DISTANCES, LOCATIONS, ETC.



BUOY USED TO DISPLAY REGULATORY MARKERS

> MAY SHOW WHITE LIGHT MAY BE LETTERED



AIDS TO NAVIGATION

DANGER

# Regulatory Marks may be used to create a "Boundary Line"



## <u> WARNING!</u>

# Give beacons and other fixed structures a wide berth.

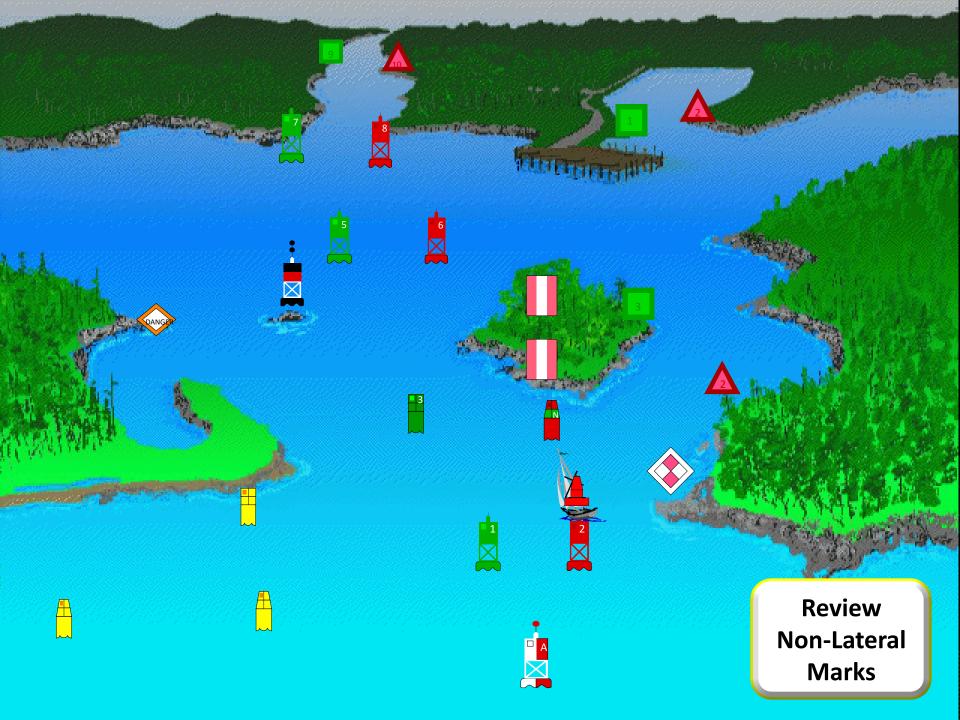
Boaters should not pass fixed ATONs close aboard due to the danger of collision with rip-rap or structure foundations, or with the obstruction or danger that is being marked.

## WARNING!



## <u>WARNING!</u>





## "Characteristics" of AToNs

 Light Characteristic (timing sequence) for a lighted aid to navigation.

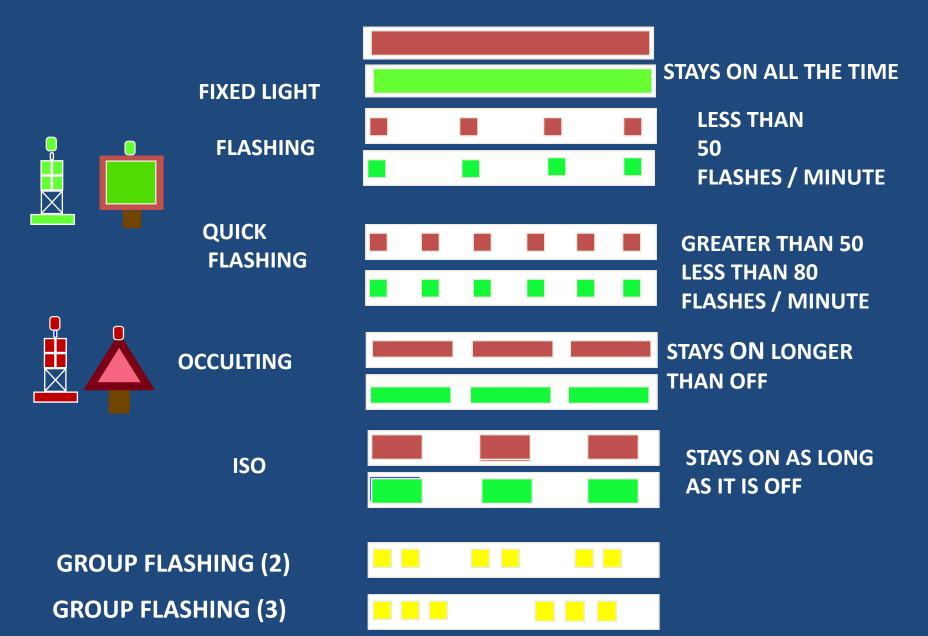
## **Light Characteristics**

- Red ATON's, when lighted have red lights
- Green ATON's when lighted have green lights
- ATON's with white lights rarely have lateral significance
- Most lights on ATON's have flashing patterns.
   Some are "fixed"

## **Light Characteristics**

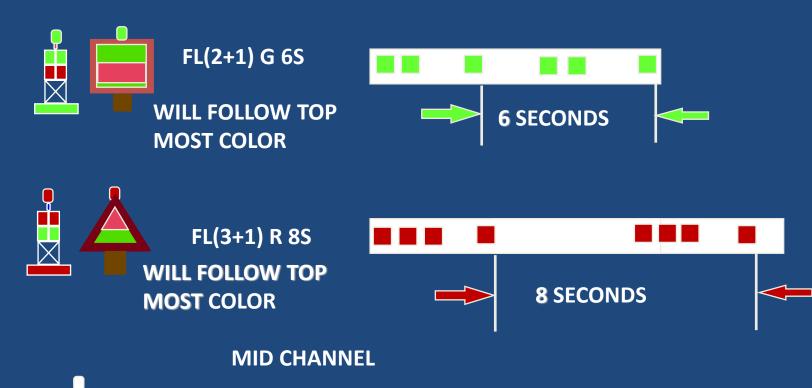
- A fixed light is on from dusk to dawn
- A flashing light flashes on while an occulting light blinks off.
  - In other words,
    - a flashing light is <u>off</u> more than on
    - an occulting light is on more than off
- An isophase, or iso, light is on for an interval equal to the time it is off

#### **LIGHT RHYTHMS**



#### LIGHT RHYTHMS

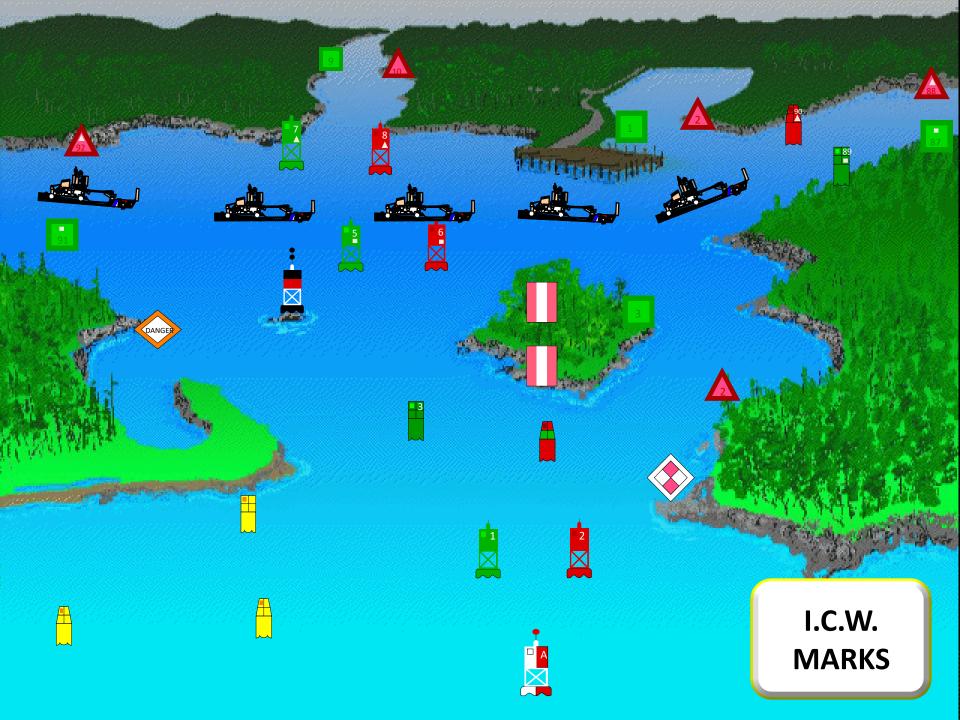
## PREERRED CHANNEL LIGHTED AIDS COMPOSITE GROUP FLASHING



MORSE "A"

**WILL BE WHITE** 





# PRIVATE AIDS TO NAVIGATION

## **PATONS**

## Private Aid to Navigation Definitions

- Short-Range Aids to Navigation:
  - Buoys
  - Beacons

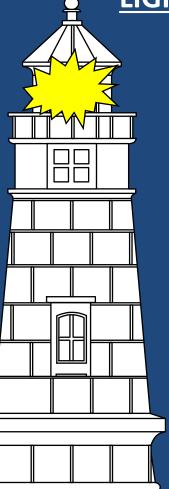
- Why are there Private Aid to Navigation?:
  - Required by the Coast Guard
  - For the benefit of a person, group, organization.

## **Definitions PATON CLASS I:**

- Legally Obligated by Owner
- Shall have Light List Number (LLNR) assigned
- Shall be Charted
- Shall be Checked every year.

## TYPICAL CLASS 1 AID

#### **LIGHTHOUSES**



All Navigation and Marine <u>STRUCTURES</u> to owners are legally obligated to establish, maintain, and operated as prescribed by the Coast Guard

#### **OBSTRUCTIONS**

HAZARDOUS SUNKEN VESSEL or WRECKS

or others prescribed by the District Commander



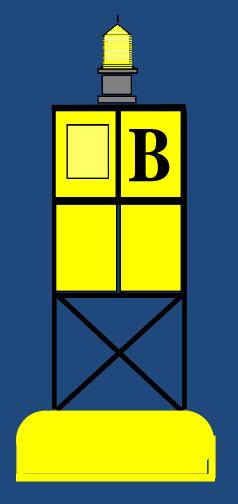
### **Definitions PATON CLASS II**

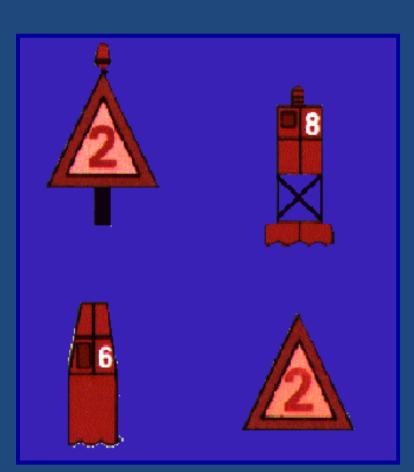
- Owner's convenience
- LLNR assigned to most but not all
- Light listed are charted
- In or near commercial waterways
- Must be verified once every 3 years

### TYPICAL CLASS II AID

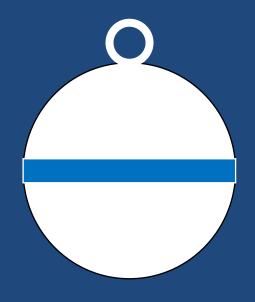
**SPECIAL AIDS** 







Large MOORING BUOY





Note: "M" = "Motorized"

## **Definitions PATON CLASS III**

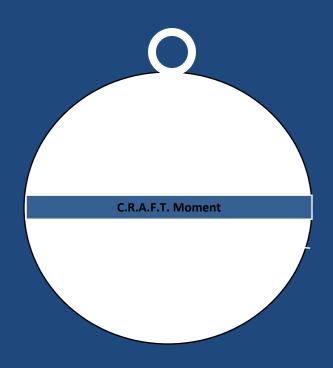
- Owner's convenience
- NEVER Assigned a LLNR
- Should never be Charted
- Non-Commercial waterways
  - Recreational waterways
  - Outside of commercial waterways
- Must be verified once every 5 years

## TYPICAL CLASS III AID

REGULATORY
Or
INFORMATIONAL
BUOYS







**SMALL MOORING BUOY** 

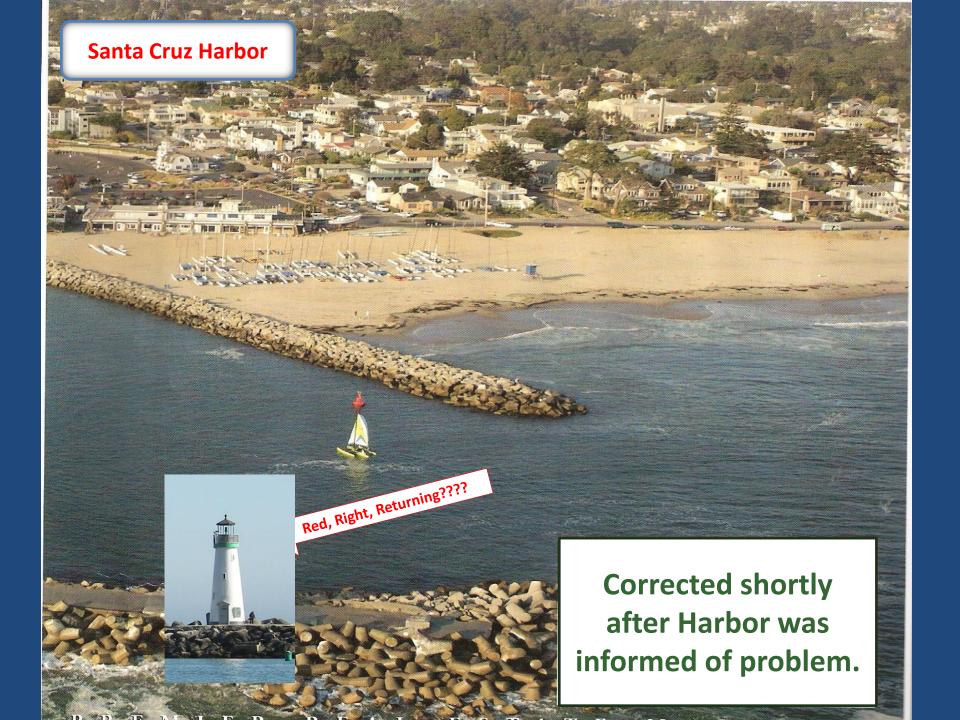
# Not all aids are regularly maintained or "Watching Properly"! They are "Discrepant"

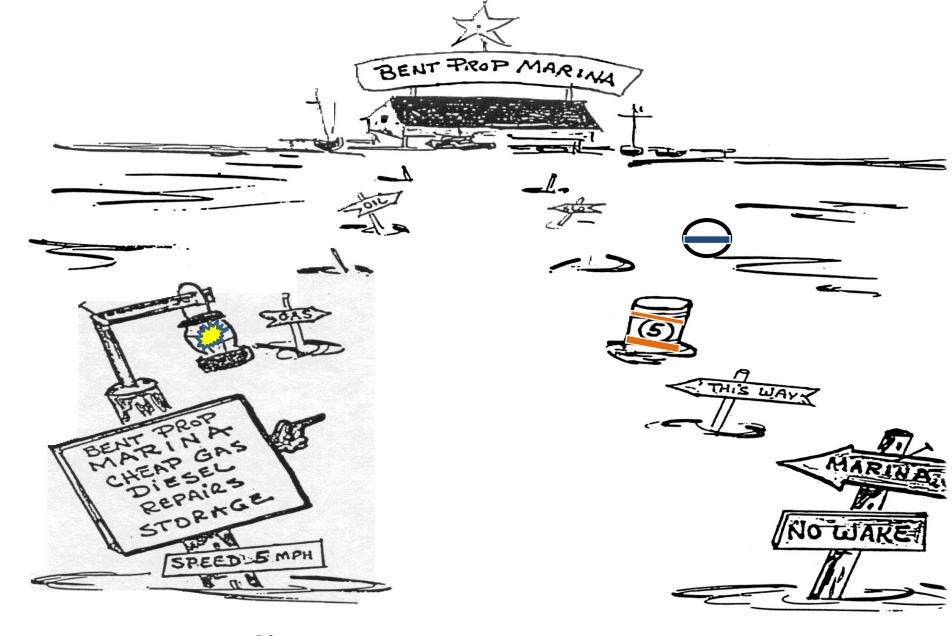




# Not all aids are regularly maintained or "Watching Properly"!







UNAUTHORIZED ESTABLISHMENTS

#### **Unauthorized PATON**





www.txt2pic.com

Lost

There!

of Latitude & Longitude:

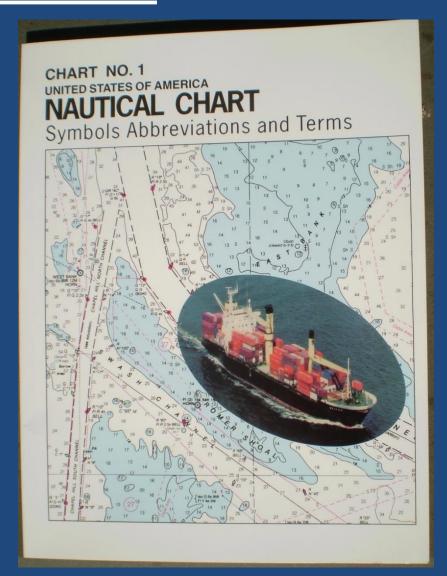
#### CHART No. 1

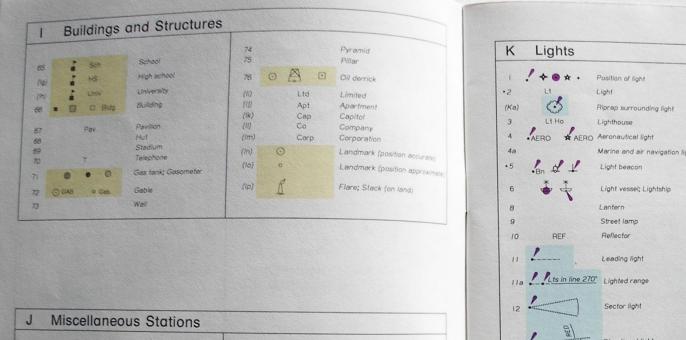
Complete Guide to Symbols, Abbreviations, and Terms

A "Must-Have" for all serious chart navigating

Available for under \$10

Available on-line from NOAA http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov





Ice signal station

station

Time ball

Mast

Signal mast

Flag tower

Observatory

Bell (on land)

Fireboat station

Notice board

Harbor entrance control pos

Marine police station

Signal

Office

Flagstaff; Flagpole

Time signal station

Manned oceanographic

Unmanned oceanographic

Ste

Sta

+ CG

O LOOK TR

+ LSS

Any kind of station

Coast Guard station (similar

Lookout station; Watch tower

to Lifesaving station, J 6)

Coast Guard station

(when landmark)

Lifeboat station

Lifesaving station

Rocket station

Pilot station/Pilots

Station

15

16

168

166

17

18

188

19a

20

21

22

(JC)

(Jd)

(Je)

(Uf)

(Ug)

o Mast

OFP OFS

OF TR OF Tr

Obsy

Off

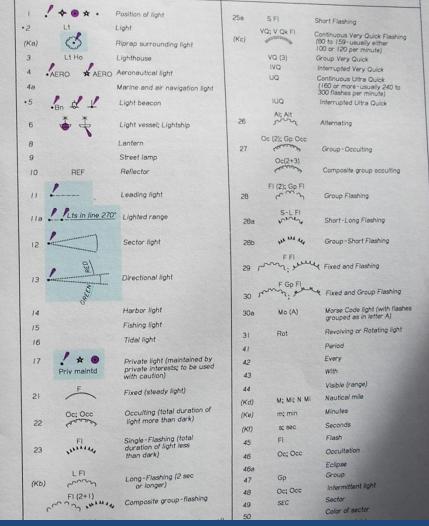
MARINE POLICE

O FIREBOAT STATION

O BELL

O HECP

OFS OFP



All Chart Symbols are found in Chart #1

#### **Charts**

- Floating Aids (Buoys) are denoted by Italic type
- <u>Fixed Aids (Beacons)</u> are denoted by <u>Block type</u>
- A magenta disk means that the <u>aid is lighted</u>
  - Lights are WHITE unless otherwise noted
- <u>Landmarks</u> that are shown on a chart must be visible to the boater from the water
- <u>Lighthouse</u> descriptions are in the LIGHT LIST
- - COLREGS = Collision Regulations (a.k.a. NAVRULES or Rules of the Road)
  - COLREGS Lines designate where "International Rules of the Road" separate from "U.S. Inland Rules"
    - The waters inside of the lines are governed by Inland Rules. The waters outside the lines are International waters
    - Chapters 6 & 7 will cover COLREGs more thoroughly



#### **Chart Number 18685**

**Check the key on the Chart** for additional information.



UNITED STATES - WEST COAST CALIFORNIA

#### MONTEREY BAY

Mercator Projection Scale 1:50,000 at Lat 36°48'N North American Datum of 1983 (World Goedetic System 1984)

SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS AT MEAN LOWER LOW WATER

#### TIDAL INFORMATION

Place		Height referred to datum of soundings (MLLW)			
Name	(LAT/LONG)	Mean Higher High Water	Mean High Water	Mean Low Water	Extreme Low Water
T Carrie		feet	feet	feet	feet
Monterey	(36°36'N/121°53'W)	5.3	4.6	1.1	
Moss Landing	(36°48'N/121°47'W)		4.5	1.0	-2.5
Santa Cruz	(36°58'N/122°01'W)		4.6	1.1	-3.5

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

Aids to Navigation (lights a	re white unless otherwise indicated):		
AERO aeronautical Al alternating B black Bn beacon	G green IQ interrupted quick Iso isophase LT HO lighthouse	Mo morse code N nun OBSC obscured Oc occulting	R TR radio tower Rot rotating s seconds SEC sector
C can DIA diaphone F fixed FI flashing	M nautical mile m minutes MICRO TR microwave tower Mkr marker	Or orange Q quick R red Ra Ref radar reflector R Bn radiobeacon	St M statute mile VQ very quick W white WHIS whistle Y yellow
Bottom characteristics:			

Blds boulders	Co coral	gy gray	Oys oysters	so soft
bk broken	G gravel	h hard	Rk rock	Sh shells
Cy clay	Grs grass	M mud	S sand	sy sticky

21, Wreck, rock, obstruction, or shoal swept clear to the depth indicated.

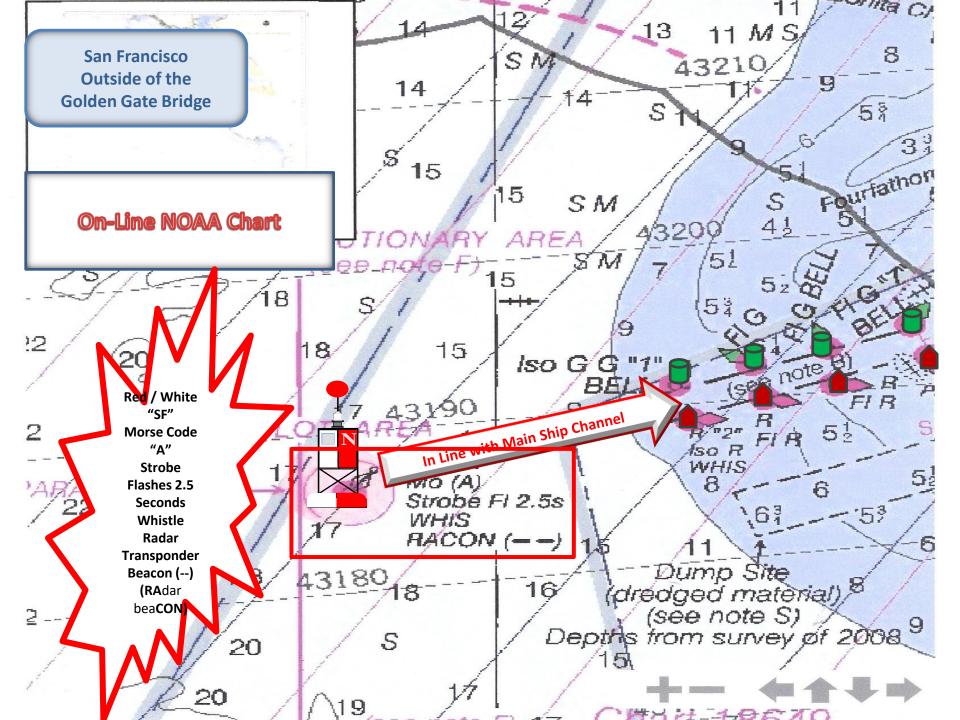
AUTH authorized Obstn obstruction ED existence doubtful PA position approximate PD position doubtful Rep reported

Subm submerged

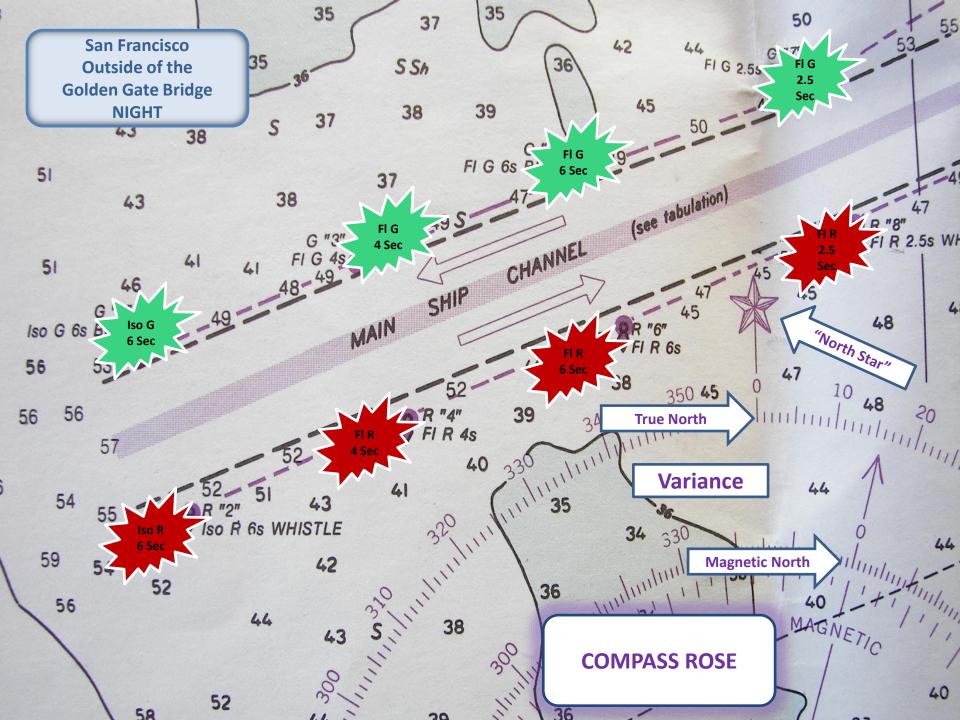
13

RED SAND

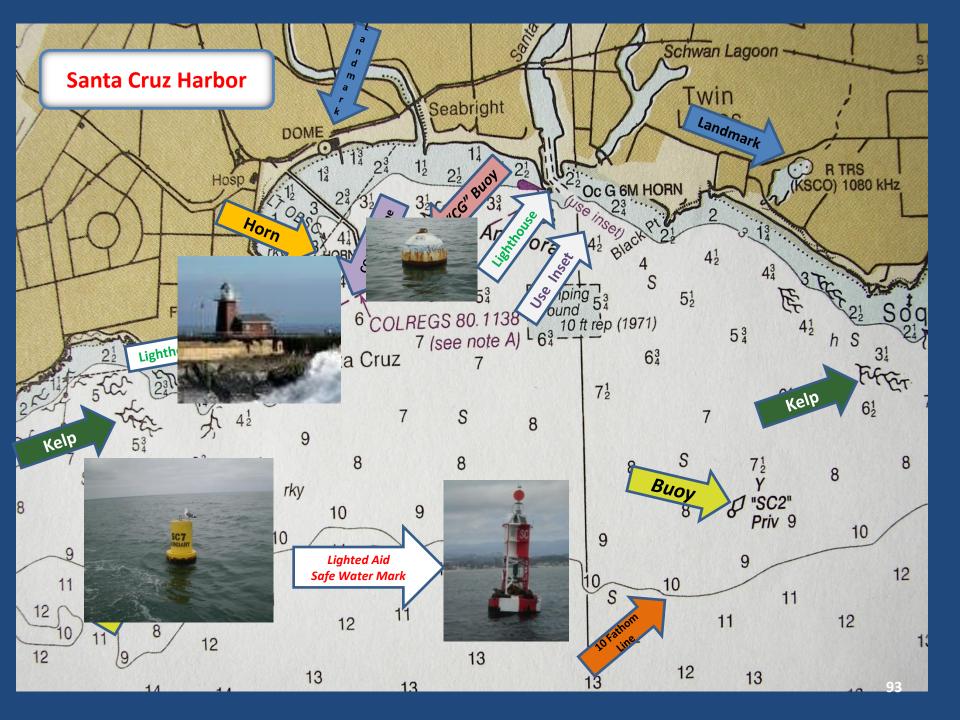
alm Beach

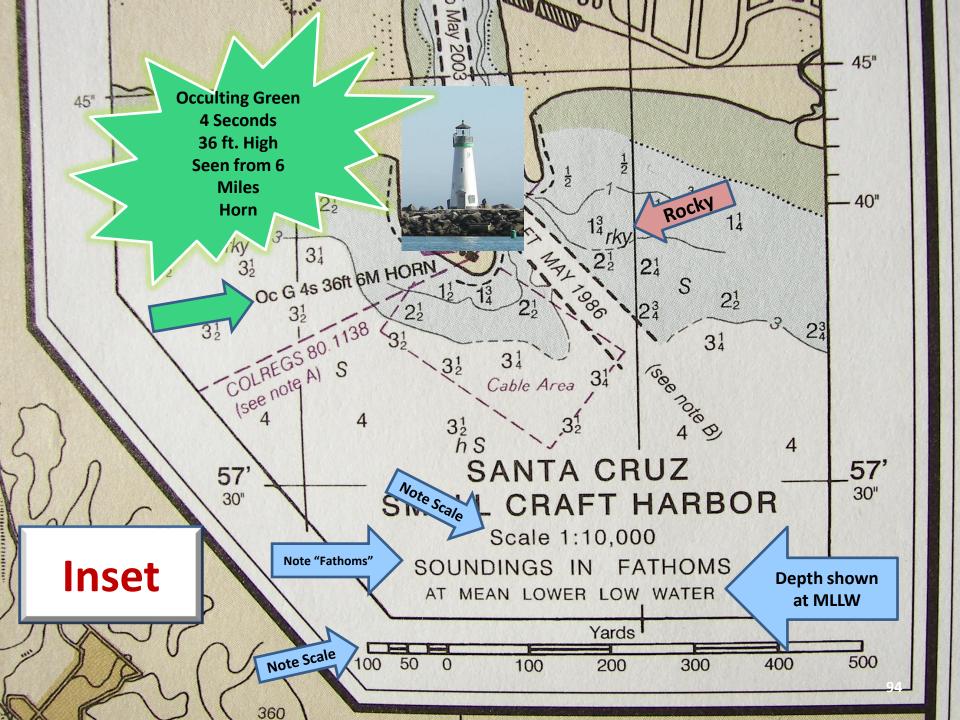


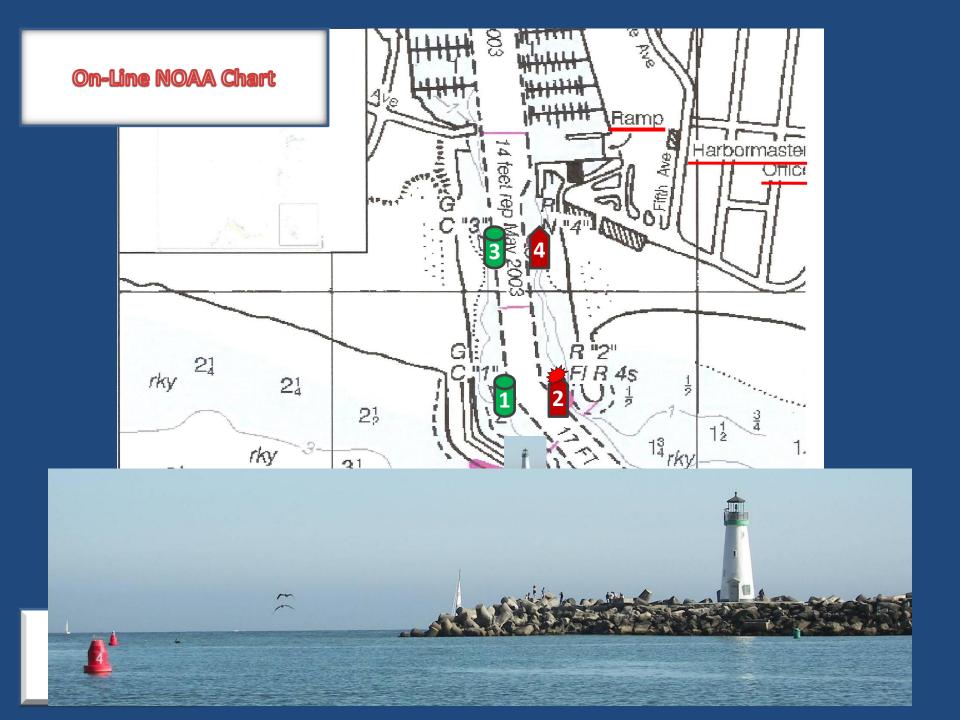


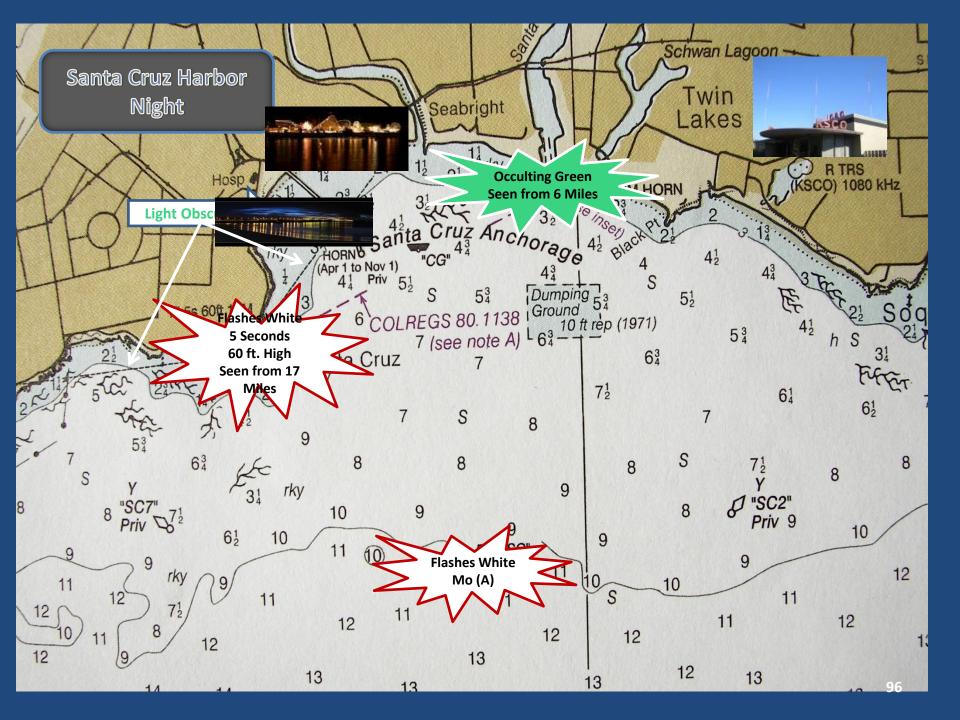


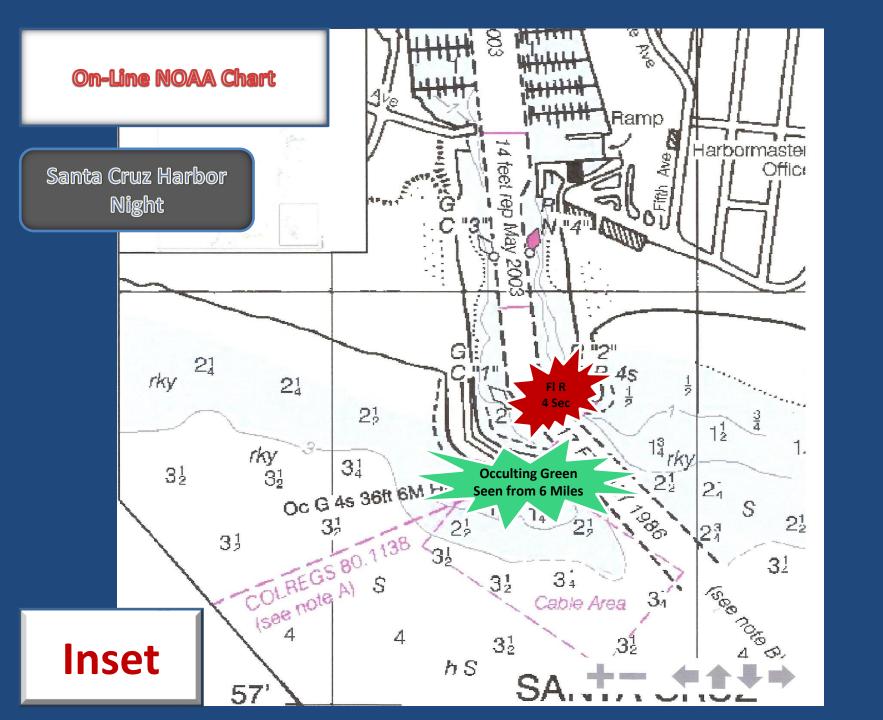














# U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY America's Volunteer Lifesavers \*\*\*

## Thank you!

#### **Time for Questions?**



#### **Production Credits:**

Jim Duncan

District Staff Officer – Navigation Systems Bruce Simpson

Division Staff Officer – Navigation Systems COMO Wally Smith

District Staff Officer - Operations Certified ATON Verifier

