ECDIS Handbook
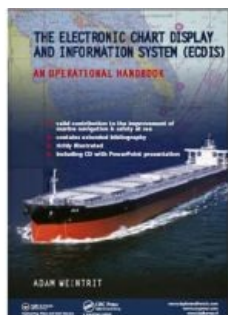

Adam Weintrit, Dean of the department of Navigation of Gdynia Maritime University (Poland), has written a handbook on Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems, aiming to provide answers to some of the most frequently asked questions regarding electronic charts (ENC, RNC, DNC) and electronic chart systems (Ecdis, RCDS, ECS). The IAMU model course on training in the operational use of Ecdis presented in this book may be used by staff and students of any maritime university, navigational faculty and training institution as alternative or supplement to IMO Model Course 1.27.

Electronic navigation is becoming increasingly more common, particularly onboard commercial vessels. Today's mariner needs a tool of a similar quality standard as the traditional standard paper chart (SNC), yet which fits the demands of a new navigational age. The electronic chart provides significant benefits in terms of navigation safety and improved operational efficiency. More than simply a computer display, an electronic chart system is a real-time navigation system that integrates a variety of information that is displayed and interpreted by the mariner. It is an automated decision aid capable of continuously determining a vessel's position in relation to land, charted objects, aids-to-navigation, and unseen hazards. There are two basic types of electronic chart systems. Those that comply with the IMO requirements for Solas class vessels, known as the Electronic Chart Display and Information System (Ecdis), and all other types of electronic charts, regarded generically as, Electronic Chart Systems (ECS).