

NOAA Begins Transition Exclusively to Electronic Navigation Charts



NOAA will begin to implement its sunset plan for paper nautical charts this month, starting with the current paper chart 18665 of Lake Tahoe. After August, NOAA's electronic navigational chart will be the only NOAA nautical chart of the area.

This is the first traditional paper chart to be fully supplanted by an electronic chart as part of NOAA's Office of Coast Survey [Raster Sunset Plan](#), which includes a new process to notify mariners of the transition from individual paper charts to [electronic charts](#). These charts are easier to update and maintain, keeping mariners safer with up-to-date information on marine hazards.

Transition Years

As part of the sunset plan, [released in 2019](#), mariners will be officially notified of this chart's cancellation in the U.S. Coast Guard Local Notice to Mariners. A note in the lower left corner of the chart will state that it is the last paper edition and it will be cancelled six months later on 26 August.

NOAA will continue to announce the cancellation of additional paper charts as the sunset plan progresses, initially based on volume of sales or downloads, and in regions with improved NOAA electronic navigational chart coverage. Cancellation of all traditional paper and associated raster chart products will be completed by January 2025.

NOAA announced the start of a five-year process to end traditional paper nautical chart production in late 2019 via a Federal Register Notice. While NOAA is sunsetting its traditional nautical chart products, it is undertaking a major effort to improve the data consistency and provide larger scale coverage within its electronic navigational chart product suite.

Over the next four years, NOAA will work to ease the transition to electronic products by providing access to paper chart products based on electronic data. The online [NOAA Custom Chart tool](#) enables users to create their own paper and PDF charts from the latest NOAA ENC data.