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Overview

Thank you for choosing Charts&Tides. Charts&Tides is a versatile marine navigation product for the iPad and the iPhone. It features a continuous and consistent offline chart database, quick search of features by name, 3d bathymetry, real time tide/current predictions for any date and time, access to weather stations, integration with the ActiveCaptain interactive cruising guidebook and a number of features useful for marine navigation.

The Charts&Tides complete feature set is available on both the iPad and the iPhone and it is optimized for the particular device and screen format it is running on.

Conventions

Charts&Tides utilizes a number of well-accepted international conventions and standards relating to marine cartography and navigation.

Symbology

Charts&Tides uses symbology from the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). This is the worldwide-accepted standard for rendering marine chart data on computer displays. The symbols are documented in the US Chart No 1.

Units

Below are the various units used:

- Soundings: either feet (ft) or meters (m) based on configuration.
- Obstructions (rocks, wrecks, etc): either feet (ft) or meters (m) based on configuration.
- Tides: either feet (ft) or meters (m) based on configuration.
- Currents: always in knots (kn or kt).
- Elevations, bridge clearances, beacons/lights: always in meters (m).
- Distances: always in nautical miles (M).

- Bearings, tracks, etc: either magnetic or true degrees based on configuration.
- Speeds: always in knots (kn or kt).

Tides

Tides in the United States are measured from MLLW (Mean Lower Low Water).

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Main Chart View (iPad)



Search View (iPad)





Main Chart View (iPhone)



Search View (iPhone)



Starting Charts&Tides

When you start Charts&Tides you are presented with the **Main Chart View**. At the same time the software will use the device's GPS hardware (if available) to find your current location. Once a GPS signal is acquired, your vessel will be displayed on the chart, if the **Main Chart View** is currently positioned over the area of your location. Charts&Tides will continuously track the location of your vessel and update its location on the chart accordingly.

Repositioning The Chart

You can use your fingers to reposition the chart.

Use one finger to move the chart without changing its scale or orientation. Use two fingers to move, scale or rotate the chart in a natural manner. Just put two fingers on the screen, drag them to a new location and see what happens! Note that if the **Track Vessel** button is currently selected, it will be deselected after you reposition the chart with your fingers.

You can also double tap the screen to zoom the chart in. If the **Track Vessel** button is currently selected, it will remain selected after a double tap.

Locking North Up

Tap the **Lock North Up** toolbar button to disallow rotation of the chart. The chart will be displayed with North always up. Tap the button again to allow rotation of the chart.

This is what the **Lock North Up** button looks like:



Tracking Your Vessel

Tap the **Track Vessel** toolbar button to center the **Main Chart View** on your vessel. This will also change the orientation of the chart to keep the vessel pointing upwards (towards the top of the screen). This can help the mariner's orientation when in unfamiliar waters. Tap the button again to stop tracking the vessel. Note that if the **Lock North Up** button is selected, the chart will remain displayed with North up even when tracking the vessel.

This is what the **Track Vessel** button looks like:



Searching For Features

Charts&Tides includes powerful search functionality accessible through the **Search Bar**. Using the **Search Bar** you can search for features (e.g. places, marinas, buoys, tides, currents, weather stations, etc.) by name, bookmark features, find nearest tides and currents, find nearest weather stations, etc.

To search for features simply tap the **Search Bar** then start typing the name of a particular feature. Charts&Tides will start looking for likely names once you type in two (2) characters. To filter your search results you can use the **Scope Bar** underneath the **Search Bar**. For example, if you select "Tides" you will only be searching for tides and currents.

Tap on the desired feature in the search results and Charts&Tides will either center the **Main Chart View** on the feature with that name or it will present additional information about that feature. If you wish you can also bookmark a particular feature for later by tapping on the blue "add bookmark" button at the right side of the feature name.

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You can access your bookmarks at any time by tapping on the blue bookmark icon at the right side of your **Search Bar**. Charts&Tides will present you with the **Bookmark View**, which allows you to select any of your bookmarked features. Additionally there may be a number of "smart" bookmarks (in blue color), with additional functionality (e.g. find tides and currents near your vessel).



Getting Feature Information

You can get more information about features at a particular location. Make sure that the **Ruler** button is not selected and simply tap the **Main Chart View** and a list of features will be displayed.

Some features will have additional information attached to them, such as NOAA notes or tides. Such features will be marked with a chevron symbol. Tap on these features to access the additional information.

.II Car	rier ବ	6:24 PM				I Carrier 🤶	6:24 PM		
		Features	Done			Features	Notes	Done	
Chart Location 48°24.451'N, 122°38.375'W				Boats should plan to make the Pass at slack water, as the velocity of the					
	Sea are Deception	a/named water area				stream at other times makes passage			
1	Caution	area	>						
1	Caution	area	>						
	Depth a	rea							

Sky Calendar

Charts&Tides includes a sky calendar that will compute sun and moon position information for any location or date. Just tap at a particular location and select "Chart Location" (the first item) on the feature list.

The information shown by **Sky Calendar** includes times of nautical and civil twilights, sunrise and sunset, time at noon, sun declination and moon phase. To see the sun and moon positions for a different day, just use the date picker at the bottom.



Tides/Currents

Charts&Tides includes tide harmonics data that can be used to compute tide and current levels in real time. Tides/currents are accessible through the **Search Bar** as explained earlier. You can search for tides/currents by name, bookmark them and search for tides/currents near your vessel or current chart location. Choosing a tide/current station presents you with the **Tide View**.



On the top of the **Tide View** there is a graph that shows the tide/current levels for a full day (midnight to midnight in local time). The tide/current level for the current time is also displayed at the bottom of the tide graph. You can tap or drag your finger anywhere on the graph and you will get the tide/current level for that particular time of the day. On the bottom of the **Tide View** there is a date picker that allows you to choose any date you want and see the graph for that date.

Weather Stations

Charts&Tides provides access to current weather conditions through the NDBC (National Data Buoy Center) station network. NDBC stations are also accessible through the **Search Bar**. The full **Search Bar** functionality is available, including search by name and nearest station searches. Choosing an NDBC station presents you with the **NDBC Station View**.



The **NDBC Station View** includes information about the current weather conditions at that particular station. It will usually include information such as wind/gust speed and direction, barometric pressure, temperature and dew point and it may also include information about wave heights and periods.

Please note: Since weather is a highly dynamic process that cannot be computed from data stored in the device, this particular feature requires an active EDGE, 3G or WiFi connection to access current weather conditions.

ActiveCaptain Markers

Charts&Tides supports integration with the Interactive Cruising Guidebook from activecaptain.com. Once Charts&Tides loads the ActiveCaptain data (see **ActiveCaptain Integration**) you will have access to the wealth of ActiveCaptain information, which includes detailed information about marinas and anchorages and local knowledge not available on charts.

ActiveCaptain markers will appear on your chart as one of the following icons:

Marina Anchorage Local Knowledge Hazard



С	arrier 奈 6:31 PM	Ē				
<	Features Shilshole Bay	Done				
	Gen Nav Dock Fuel Svc F	Rev(7)				
	NAME Shilshole Bay Marina					
	FACILITY TYPE Marina, Fuel, Repairs	٥				
	ADDRESS 7001 Seaview Ave N.W. Seattle WA 98117 US					
	PHONE 206-787-3006/800-426-7817, ext. 3006					
	AFTER HOURS 206-601-4089					
	SEASONAL Year-round	٥				

Editing ActiveCaptain Markers

You can edit most of the information about a particular ActiveCaptain marker. You can edit existing fields, add new fields and most importantly add your own ratings, reviews and comments.

It is important to understand how editing ActiveCaptain markers works. There is a difference between editing primary information about a marker and submitting your own review or comment.

When you edit primary information about a marker (e.g. a marina's phone number), your changes are submitted to the ActiveCaptain service for approval. These "pending" changes will be shown on your device in a different color to show that these are temporary changes that you have made, but have not yet been approved by the ActiveCaptain service. When at a later time you update your local data with data from the ActiveCaptain service (see ActiveCaptain Integration), your pending changes will have been integrated into the master ActiveCaptain service. This can mean that your changes were accepted, accepted with additional editing or rejected. This process ensures that ActiveCaptain has always quality cruising data.

On the other hand when you add a review or comment to a marker, your review or comment gets accepted immediately. This ensures that your opinion and voice is heard. [In rare cases ActiveCaptain will reject a review or comment because of the use of abusive language.]

Ruler Tool

The **Ruler Tool** allows you to measure distance and bearing on your chart. The distance is measured in nautical miles (denoted by M) and the bearing is measured in degrees.

To start measuring distances tap the **Ruler Tool** button. To measure distance and bearing tap on one location on the chart, then tap on another location. The distance and bearing between the two points will be displayed at the bottom of the **Main Chart View**. To stop measuring distances tap the **Ruler Tool** button again.



New Waypoint

It is possible to set waypoints and navigate towards them. You create a new waypoint by holding your finger on the screen without moving it. The **New Waypoint View** pops up asking you to save a new waypoint. At this time you can accept the default name and location for your new waypoint or you can tap on them to edit them.

Once you are satisfied with your new waypoint you can tap on the **Save** button. If you prefer you can tap on the **Save and Goto** button, in which case Charts&Tides will immediately start navigating you towards the new waypoint.



Goto/Edit Waypoints

To access previously saved waypoints tap the **Waypoints** toolbar button. This is what the **Waypoints** button looks like:



You will be presented with a list of waypoints. You can simply tap on a waypoint to start navigating towards that waypoint or you can tap on the blue chevron button to edit the waypoint. On the **Edit Waypoint View** you can edit the waypoint name and location and tap **Save** or you can delete the waypoint by tapping the **Delete** button and confirming a second time.



Waypoint Navigation

Charts&Tides includes a navigation instrument called a Horizontal Situation Indicator (HSI). This instrument is usually found in aircraft and it can graphically display the vessel's current track, desired track and cross-track error information. To show the HSI instrument press the **PAGE** button. Press the **PAGE** button again to hide the HSI instrument.

The HSI instrument works as follows: The red arrow points to the current vessel track. The yellow arrow points to the current desired track. The body of the yellow arrow can deviate to the left or to the right. This graphically shows the current cross track error. Each yellow dot represents $1/5^{th}$ of the Maximum HSI Deflection; the default Maximum HSI Deflection is 1.0M, but this can be changed in the Settings View.

During waypoint navigation the objective is to keep the body of the yellow arrow centered. If the arrow body is moving to the left of its head you are deviating from your course to the right; to correct change your heading to move your vessel to the left. If the arrow body is moving to the right of its head you are deviating from your course to the left; to correct change your heading to move your vessel to move your vessel to the right.



Information And Instruments

To access the **Information/Instruments View** tap on the **Information** toolbar button. This button looks like this:



You will be presented with the following view:



You can tap on the **Settings** button to access the **Settings View**, which allows you to modify how Charts&Tides presents you with information. You can also tap on the **ActiveCaptain** button to instruct Charts&Tides to load ActiveCaptain data (see **ActiveCaptain Integration**).



ActiveCaptain Integration

Tapping on the **ActiveCaptain** button in the **Information/Instruments View** will present the **ActiveCaptain Integration View**. From here you can sign into ActiveCaptain and gain access to the Interactive Cruising Guidebook and the wealth of information that it provides.

To sign into ActiveCaptain you must have an ActiveCaptain account. The ActiveCaptain service is completely free and is definitely worth your time to register. You can register at http://activecaptain.com. Once registered enter your credentials under **Account** and press the **Update Now** button to instruct Charts&Tides to update its local database with the ActiveCaptain data.



The first update can take a long time as much as 30-60 minutes on older devices. We recommend you perform this update over Wi-Fi because of the volume of data that must be downloaded. Subsequent updates should be done much faster.

Once the update is complete you will have detailed information about thousands of marinas and anchorages, local knowledge and hazards not available on any chart.