

# GOVERNMENT/INDUSTRY AERONAUTICAL CHARTING FORUM 03-01

April 30-May 1, 2003

## Recommendation Document

**SUBJECT:** Marine Navigation Lights on VFR Chart Products

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

The Visual Chart Branch presently depicts certain marine navigation lights on the TACs, Sectionals and WACS. IACC Specifications detail which of the thousands of these lights are to be depicted. Maintenance of these lights now occurs primarily through the monitoring of the annual NIMA and U.S. Coast Guard Light Lists, augmented by the weekly Notice to Mariners. The maintenance of the light information involves a substantial amount of cross-checking with these publications. An email query was recently sent to the Supervisors and Team Leaders of the Visual Chart Branch to determine if there was any user correspondence or telephone inquiries concerning these marine navigation lights (i.e. missing lights, incorrect light characteristics, decommissioned lights, etc.). The fact that there was no user input seems to indicate that not much user attention is paid to these features. If these lights are less important to safe navigation, eliminating them on Visual Charts would declutter the charts and make more important information easier to locate.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

If these lights are not particularly useful as navigation aids, we recommend no longer depicting them on the Visual Charts. This would result in a substantial saving of maintenance time in the long run. Additionally, as the Visual Chart Branch moves closer to the production of automated products, deleting these features would represent one fewer database that would have to be maintained in the automation effort.

**COMMENT:** This recommendation affects all visual charts.

**SUBMITTED BY:** National Aeronautical Charting Office (NACO)

**ORGANIZATION:** FAA/AVN-513, Visual Chart Branch

**DATE:** April 11, 2003

**PHONE:** 301 -713-2631

---

**03-01 MEETING:** Mr. John Moore presented this issue relating to suggested removal of marine navigation lights on visual charts. The recommendation is to remove the marine navigation lights to reduce clutter and reduce maintenance costs. Mr. Dave Lewtas stated that ICAO has a specification for charting these lights. **ACTION:** NIMA and AOPA.

---

**03-02 MEETING:** Meeting canceled.

---

**04-01 MEETING:** Mr. John Moore, AVN-503, recommended the removal of marine navigation lights on the visual charts to reduce chart clutter and maintenance costs. He stated that currently there are several hundred marine navigation lights charted on the visual charts, and

that the source for this data is the Coast Guard Light List. Ms. Heidi Williams, AOPA reported the results of their membership survey. AOPA concurs with the removal of the navigation lights from the sectional charts. Mr. Mike Riley, NGA non-concurred stating that DoD does not chart marine beacons on their products. But, as a user of FAA visual charts they are requesting that they remain on the chart for situational awareness. HAI concurred stating that from a user perspective they should remain on the charts. **ACTION:** HAI.

---

**04-02 MEETING:** Mr. Charles Chung, HAI, confirmed the HAI position stating that offshore aircraft operators still use the marine navigation lights for navigation. Mr. Chung stated that from a user's perspective they should remain on the charts. Mr. Mike Riley, NGA, concurred stating that as a user of FAA visual charts DoD is requesting that they remain on the charts for situational awareness. Mr. Dick Powell, Aeronautical Information Services, stated that NGA and HAI have both expressed the need for marine navigation lights on the visual charts. ACF consensus is to retain this information on the charts. **CLOSED**

---