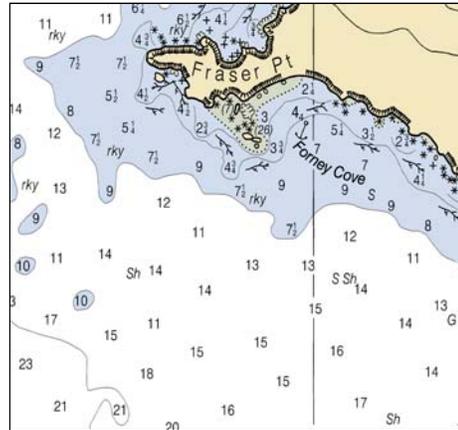


NOAA Nautical Charting Calendar

Bottom Characteristics

The character of the bottom is identified on all nautical charts, particularly in harbors, designated anchorages, and other areas where vessels may anchor. Bottom characteristics are charted to provide the following information;

- The suitability of the area for anchoring, and the type of anchor best suited to the area.
- To help fishermen select areas where fish may be found and avoid places where nets and equipment may be damaged.
- In tidal areas, they show where vessels may safely take the ground at low water.
- In shoal areas, they help navigators to assess the stability of shoals and to distinguish rocky areas from areas of unconsolidated materials.



Noun	Source Abbreviation	Chart Abbreviation
Boulders	Blds	<i>Blds</i>
Clay	Cl	<i>Cy</i>
Coral	Co	<i>Co</i>
Coral Head	Co Hd	<i>Co Hd</i>
Gravel	G	<i>G</i>
Grass	Grs	<i>Grs</i>
Mud	M	<i>M</i>
Ooze	Oz	<i>Oz</i>
Pebbles	P	<i>P</i>
Sand	S	<i>S</i>
Shells	Sh	<i>Sh</i>
Shingle	Sn	<i>Sn</i>
Silt	Silt	<i>Si</i>
Stones	St	<i>St</i>
Seaweed	Wd	<i>Wd</i>

Adjective	Source Abbreviation	Chart Abbreviation
Broken	brk	<i>bk</i>
Coarse	crs	<i>c</i>
Dark	dk	<i>dk</i>
Fine	fine	<i>f</i>
Gritty	gty	<i>gty</i>
Hard	hrd	<i>h</i>
Large	lrg	<i>lrg</i>
Light	lt	<i>lt</i>
Rocky	rky	<i>rky</i>
Small	sml	<i>sml</i>
Soft	sft	<i>so</i>
Speckled	spk	<i>spk</i>
Sticky	stk	<i>sy</i>

Bottom characteristics are charted in black italic type. Nouns and their abbreviations begin with a capital letter; adjectives or qualifying words and their abbreviations are composed of lowercase letters only. The most commonly used bottom characteristics on nautical charts are shown in the table. Sand, shell, gravel, and rocky can be found in the Santa Cruz Channel chart segment shown here (chart 18728).



December 2007



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Prepared by the Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, NOAA, www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov , 1-301-713-2770						1
Note: You can add your own information to the Charting Calendar using Adobe Reader 7 or later. The tools are found at the Tools -> Commenting, and Tools -> Drawing Markup features of Adobe Reader.						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					