

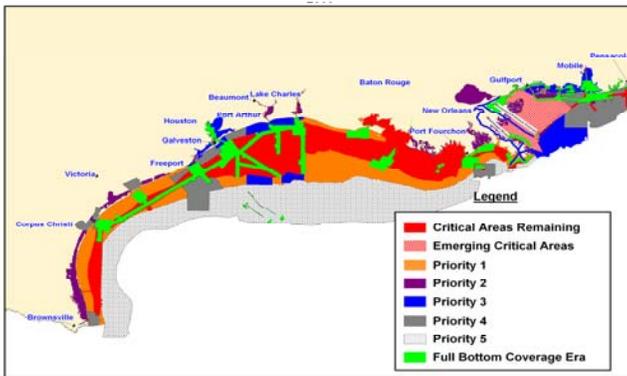
NOAA Nautical Charting Calendar

National Hydrographic Survey Priorities†

NOAA provides nautical charts and hydrographic information for 3.4 million square nautical miles of territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone.

The “NOAA Hydrographic Survey Priorities” prioritizes areas in need of surveying. Areas are evaluated based on water depth, draft of ships in the areas, and the potential for pinnacle rocks or other dangers to navigation due to irregular seafloor topography. Approximately 500,000 square nautical miles are designated ‘Navigationally Significant.’ These areas are then prioritized by shipping tonnage and trends, vintage of prior surveys, under-keel clearance of vessels, potential for unknown dangers due to dynamic bottom or human influence, and requests from mariners. The highest priority Navigationally Significant areas are critical areas. The remaining areas are assigned to five priority levels based on the age of the prior surveys and vessel usage.

The NHSP is used for long term scheduling. For short term scheduling, the critical areas are matched against urgent needs (recent groundings, accidents...), compelling requests from users, traffic volume, and potential for dangers to navigation. Seasonal weather conditions, platform mobilization and transit costs, logical project succession, and opportunity for multipurpose projects are also considered. An annual survey plan is finalized six months before the beginning of the survey field season.



Survey Priorities – Gulf of Mexico West

	Navig. Signif.	Critical	Emerging Critical	Priority 1 Areas	Priority 2 Areas	Priority 3 Areas	Priority 4 Areas	Priority 5 Areas
East Coast	53,383	3,603	0	7,138	5,832	15,620	14,579	0
Gulf of Mexico	73,494	9,224	2122	11,369	8,066	14,509	8,629	14,492
West Coast	5,349	268	13	71	2,244	906	750	0
Alaska	324,324	5,833	3638	24,253	94,358	34,615	28,486	117,567
Great Lakes	46,128	216	0	4,915	3,002	32,594	5,346	0
Hawaii, Pacific Is.	6,617	25	0	1	4,286	962	648	0
Carib. Islands	1,546	36	0	38	207	341	627	0
Total	510,841	19,205	5,773	47,785	117,995	99,547	59,065	132,059

Square Nautical Mile Breakout of NHSP Priority Categories

<div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">March 2010</div>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	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	Prepared by the Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, NOAA, www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov , 1-301-713-2770. †The current NHSP is posted on the Internet at http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsd/NHSP.htm .		