CHESAPEAKE BAY

PATUXENT RIVER AND VICINITY

SOUNDINGS IN FEET – SCALE 1:40,000

553-SC

CAUTION

Small craft should stay clear of large commercial and government vessels even if small craft have the right-of-way.

Small craft should avoid areas where the diver's flag, a red square with a diagonal white stripe, is displayed.

RULES OF THE ROAD

Motorless craft have right-of-way in almost all cases. A motorboat being overtaken has right-of-way.

Motorboats approaching head to head or nearly so should pass port to port.

When motorboats approach each other at right angles or obliquely the boat on the right has right-of-way.

Motorboats must keep to the right in narrow channels, when safe and practicable.

WHISTLE SIGNALS

Signal given by one boat is repeated by other boat if safe, and understood. Signal is prolonged blast followed by short blast, meaning "I am starting to right of the boat itself, or by night by showing its signal lights."

When approaching a blind, sound one long blast. If unaware! immediately upon sighting other boat give sound passing signals.

A long blast is used as a warning signal when leaving a slip.

1 SHORT BLAST
Meeting Nearness

Overtaking

2 SHORT BLASTS
Maintaining Course

Overtaking

3 SHORT BLASTS
Engine is going astern

4 OR MORE SHORT BLASTS
Danger, or that boat's signal not understood, or considered dangerous.

SPEED LIMITS

Regulations prescribe that all craft proceed at a speed which will not endanger other craft or structures and will not interfere with any work in progress incident to maintaining, improving, surveying or marking the channels.

Official signs indicating limiting speeds through critical portions of the waterways shall be strictly obeyed.

FOG SIGNALS

WHILE UNDERWAY

Motorboats. Prolonged blast every minute.

Sailboats. When on starboard tack one blast, port tack 2 blasts and wind abaft of beam 3 blasts.

Boats towing or towed. One prolonged and 3 short blasts every minute.

AT ANCHOR

All boats. 5 seconds of bell every minute.

DISTRESS SIGNALS

DAY: Slowly and repeatedly raise and lower arms outstretched to each side.

NIGHT: Flames on the boat as from a burning tar barrel, oil barrel, and so forth.

DAY OR NIGHT. Continuous sounding of fog signal apparatus, or firing a gun.

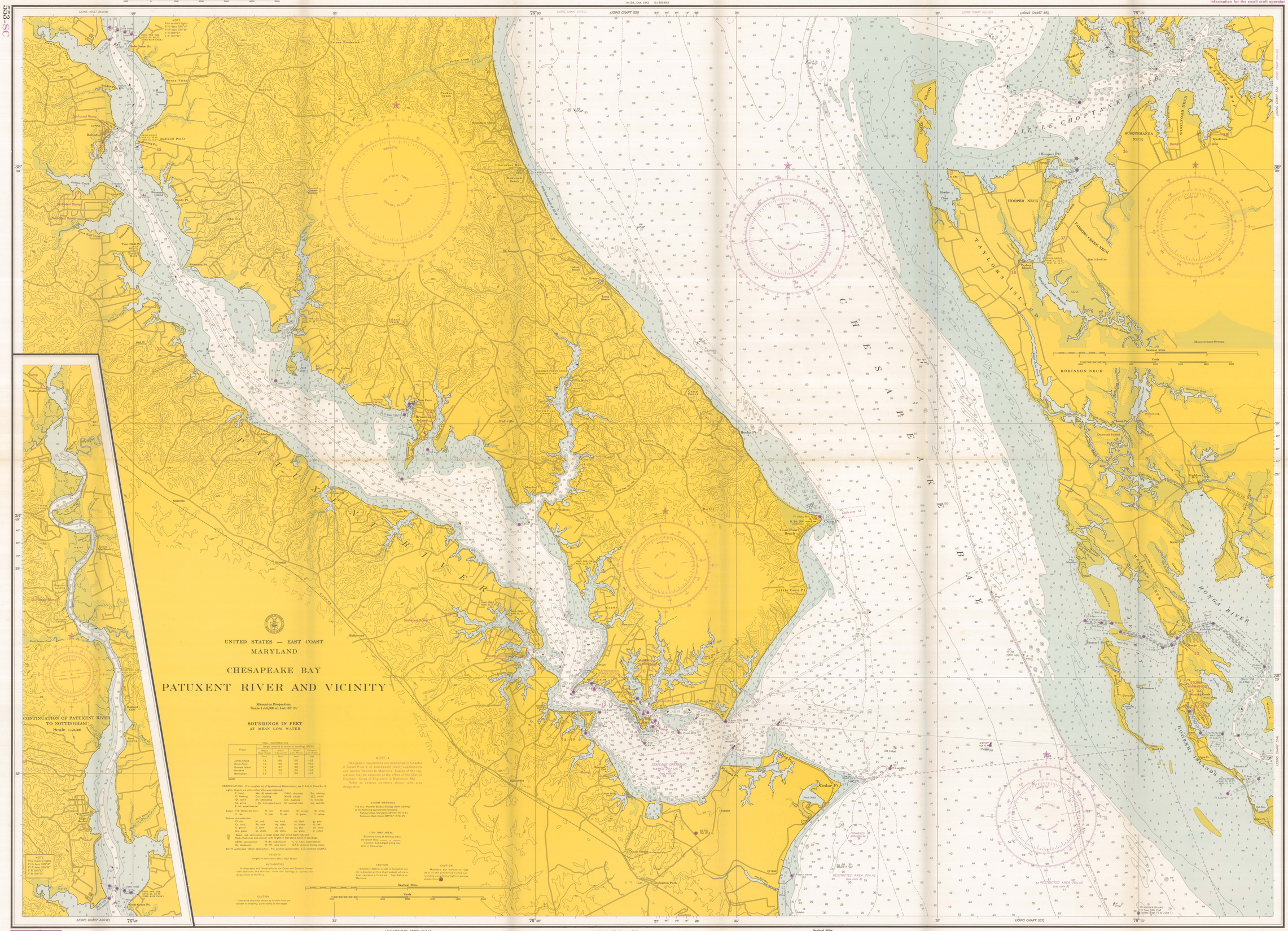
SAFETY HINTS

1. Keep your chart up to date by applying all Notices to Mariners corrections when you receive them.
2. Read carefully all notes printed on your chart, each is vital to your safety afloat.
3. Learn the meaning of each symbol and abbreviation on your chart from USC&GS Chart No. 1, price $0.25.
4. The compass on your chart shows the variation from true north, however you must also correct your bearing for the deviation of your boat.
5. Constantly use your chart from the beginning to end of each trip. Keep in mind the orientation of your boat with respect to the chart.
6. Maintain your position on the chart by relating charted features with those you can identify in your surroundings.
7. Store warning display locations and small craft warning signals have been charted for your safety.

CHESAPEAKE BAY SEA CONDITION REPORTS

NWAS, ADSU, Washington, D.C.

Seasonal, on-the-scene reports are broadcast during the day on weekends and holidays.


UNITED STATES — EAST COAST
MARYLAND
CHESAPEAKE BAY
PATUXENT RIVER AND VICINITY
Mercator Projection
Scale 1:40,000 at Lat. 38° 24'
SOUNDINGS IN FEET
AT MEAN LOW WATER
CONTINUATION OF PATUXENT RIVER TO NOTTINGHAM
Scale 1:40,000
(LOWS CHART ABOVE)
(LOWS CHART 553)
(LOWS CHART 557)
(LOWS CHART 554)
(LOWS CHART 553-SC)
Nautical Miles
Yards
1st Ed., Oct. 1942 © 1953-833
Chart 553-SC provides additional information for the small craft operator
LITTLE CHOPTANK RIVER
HOOPER NECK
TAYLORS ISLAND
ROBINSON NECK
HONGA RIVER
HOOPER ISLANDS
CHESAPEAKE BAY
PATUXENT RIVER
Prince Frederick
Benedict
Broomes Island
Solomons
Cove Pt.
Cedar Pt.
Little Cove Pt.
Hooper Pt.
Rocky Pt.
Lexington Park
Leonardtown
Hollywood
Callaway
Oakville
Mattapoisett
Lower Marlboro
Deale
Galesville
Shady Side
Tilghman
Oxford
Cambridge
Hoopers Island
Fishing Bay
Wingate
Hudson
Mt. Vernon
Tangier Sound
Pocomoke Sound
Smith Island
Crisfield
Dividing Creek
Nanticoke River
Wicomico River
Potomac River
Chesapeake Beach
Solomons Island
Point Lookout
Cove Point Beach
Drum Point
Cedar Point
Fishing Bay