

Updating Paper Nautical Charts

This guide provides a simple step-by-step process for mariners using the Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) [website](#) to:

- check that they hold the correct edition of a Paper Nautical Chart, and
- identify and apply any [Notices to Mariners](#) (NtM) required to keep the chart up to date.

The AHO issues NtM every fortnight. Updates to Paper Nautical Charts are derived from changes made to Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC) produced and maintained by the AHO.

Why charts must be updated

Nautical charts are **living documents**. New information affecting the safety of navigation is received continually. This information may include:

- newly discovered dangers,
- relocated, added, or removed buoys and beacons, or
- large-scale changes such as the results of a new hydrographic survey.

The AHO has a responsibility to publish new or changed information that may affect navigational safety. In turn, many mariners have a legal obligation to ensure their charts are kept up to date. Numerous incidents demonstrate the risks of navigating with outdated information – across all vessel types, from large commercial ships to racing yachts.

Are charts up to date when purchased?

If you purchase charts from an AHO-authorized Correcting Agent, the charts should be up to date for NtM at the time of sale. From that point on, you are responsible for applying further updates until a new edition is released.

If you purchase charts from an AHO-authorized Non-Correcting Agent, NtM issued since printing may not have been applied. You should update the charts before use and continue to keep them current until a new edition is released.

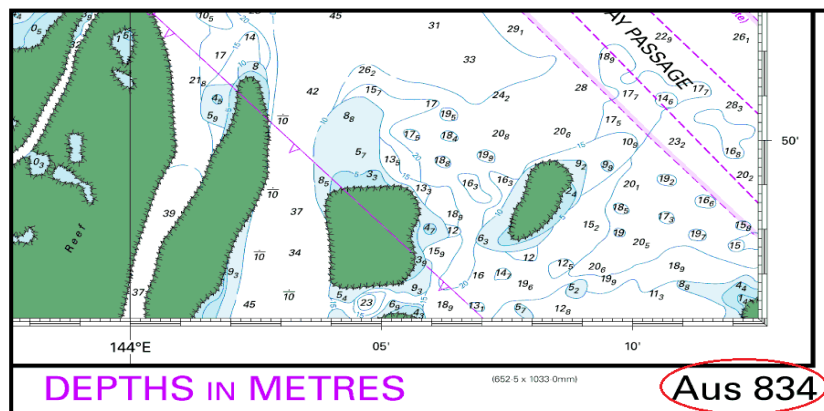
Authorized agents are listed on the AHO website under [Distribution Agents](#) and are identified as either Correcting Agents or Non-Correcting Agents.

How to check if you have the current edition

Changes between chart editions are usually substantial. The AHO only issues a new edition when changes are too significant to be published as incremental updates.

Step 1: Identify the chart number.

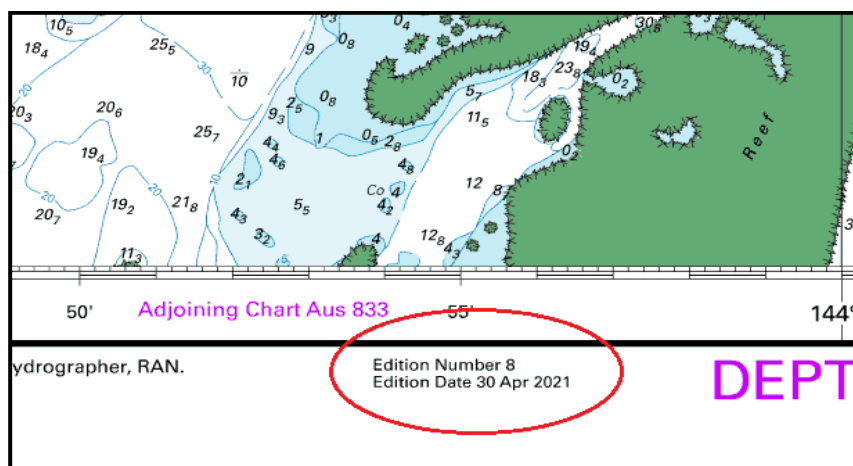
The chart number appears in the corners of the chart.



Example: AUS 834.

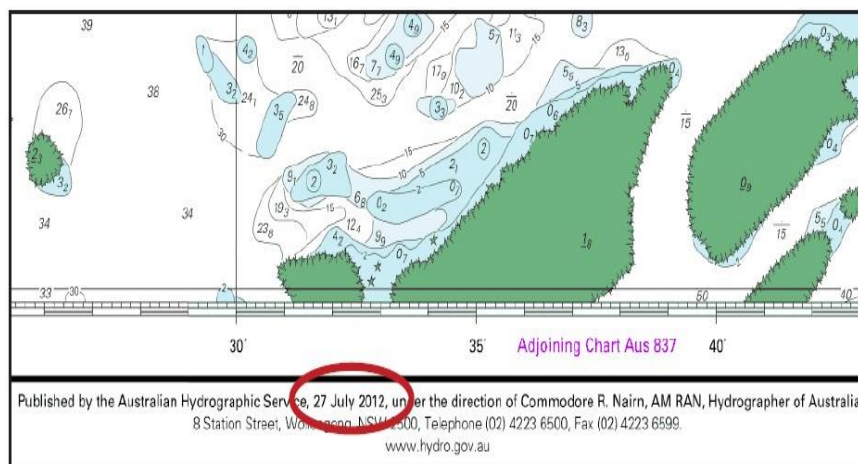
Step 2: Identify the edition date

The edition date is normally shown in the lower margin, towards the right-hand side. If the edition number is not "Number 1", the edition date appears directly beneath it.



Example: Edition date 30 April 2021

If the edition number is "Number 1", the edition date is included in the *Published by* information in the center of the lower margin.



Example: Published 27 July 2012.

Step 3: Confirm it is the latest edition

Compare your chart's edition date with the edition date listed on the AHO website:

1. Go to Charts → Australian Chart Index (ACI)
2. Choose a paper chart list (e.g. *Aus Paper Chart List*)
3. Scroll to your chart number

The dates must match. If the edition date on your chart is earlier than the website listing, your chart is obsolete and should not be used. Contact your [distributor](#) for a replacement before proceeding further.

How to check Notices to Mariners status

Once you confirm you hold the correct edition, check whether any NtM are still outstanding.

Step 4: Identify the latest NtM affecting your chart.

Locate your chart in the paper chart list (Step 3) and select 'View' to open the Chart Details page.

Aus833	Australia - East Coast - Queensland - Barrow Point to Claremont Isles	1:150000	2021-04-30 (Edition 4)	728/2025	view
Aus834	Australia - East Coast - Queensland - Claremont Isles to Cape Weymouth	1:150000	2021-04-30 (Edition 8)	968/2025	view
Aus835	Australia - East Coast - Queensland - Cape Weymouth to Cairncross Islets	1:150000	2015-09-25 (Edition 5)	533/2025	view



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CHART DETAILS FOR AUS834

Chart Number	Aus834
Title	Australia - East Coast - Queensland - Claremont Isles to Cape Weymouth
Geog Location	Australia
North Lat	12 22.00 S
South Lat	13 54.00 S
East Long	144 12.50 E
West Long	143 13.20 E
Scale	1:150000
Projection	other
Edition Date	30-Apr-2021
Edition Number	8

CHART IMAGE



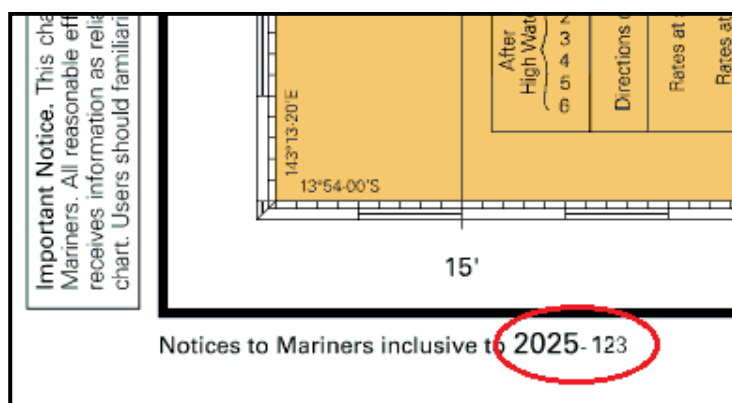
NOTICES TO MARINERS

2025	968 772 123
2024	92
2022	771
2021	424 354

Example: Aus834

Step 5: Identify the last NtM applied to your chart

Applied NtM are recorded in the lower left corner of the chart under *Notices to Mariners inclusive to*. NtM are numbered sequentially each calendar year, starting from '1'. The larger number indicates the year; the smaller number is the NtM number for that year.



Example: Aus834 is NtM '123' of the year '2025'.

Step 6: Compare applied and required NtM

Compare the last NtM recorded on your chart with the most recent NtM listed on the AHO website for that chart. If the numbers match, your chart is up to date. If not, the missing NtM must be applied.

A screenshot of the Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) website. The header includes the Australian Government logo, the text "Defence", and the AHO logo. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: "ABOUT US", "PRODUCTS & SERVICES", "FACT SHEETS", "CONTACT US", and a search bar. The main content area is titled "CHART DETAILS FOR AUS834" and "CHART IMAGE". The chart details table lists the following information: Chart Number (Aus834), Title (Australia - East Coast - Queensland - Claremont Isles to Cape Weymouth), Geog Location (Australia), North Lat (12 22.00 S), South Lat (13 54.00 S), East Long (144 12.50 E), West Long (143 13.20 E), Scale (1:150000), Projection (other), Edition Date (30-Apr-2021), and Edition Number (8). The chart image shows a map of the East Coast of Australia. Below the chart image is a section titled "NOTICES TO MARINERS" with a table listing the following information: 2025 (968 772 23), 2024 (92), 2022 (771), and 2021 (424 354). The 2025 row is circled in red.

Example: '2025: 968' and '2025: 772' are missing so the chart requires two NtM updates.

Applying outstanding Notices to Mariners

Step 7: Apply missing NtM in order

Apply missing NtM in ascending numerical order, as later notices may amend earlier ones. In the example at Step 6 above, the earlier NtM '2025: 772' must be applied before '2025: 968'.

Each NtM can be viewed by selecting its number on the Chart Details page.



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Notices to Mariners for Aus834, Year 2025

772 AUSTRALIA - QUEENSLAND - Great Barrier Reef - Quoin Island Entrance - Depth.
Geoscience Australia

Aus834 [123/2025]
Replace depth, 110m, with depth, 26.6m 12° 24.850 S 143° 51.000 E

Example: NtM for Aus834 '2025: 772'



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Notices to Mariners for Aus834, Year 2025

968 AUSTRALIA - QUEENSLAND - Great Barrier Reef - Ferguson Reef - Nomenclature southeastwards.
Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development QLD

Aus834 [772/2025]
Insert name, Monument Reef, centred on 12° 23.514 S 143° 52.359 E

Example: NtM for Aus834 '2025: 968'

Step 8: Apply corrections to the chart

You may apply corrections by:

- annotating the chart by hand in the position specified in the Notice,
- using a downloadable NtM tracing to position the correction accurately, or
- applying a Block Correction (printed, cut out, and pasted over the affected area) for large or complex changes.

Refer to the [Chart and Publication Maintenance Handbook](#) for guidance on symbology and correct printing scale.

Step 9: Record the NtM number

After applying the correction, record the NtM number in the '*Notices to Mariners inclusive to*' list at the lower left corner of the chart.

Important Notice. This chart includes information received from the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, and is published for the use of mariners. All reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the information is reliable, but the user receives information as reliable, how it is presented in this chart. Users should familiarize themselves with the information and use it as a guide only.

143°13.20' E
13°54.00' S

15' 20'

High Water	Directions of streams	Rates at spring tides	Rates at neap tides
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
-1		285	0-2 0-1
0		271	0-1 0-0
+1		124	0-2 0-1
+2		077	0-5 0-2
+3		091	0-5 0-2
+4		072	0-3 0-1
+5		054	0-2 0-1
+6		060	0-1 0-0

Notices to Mariners inclusive to 2025-123-772-968

Example: individual correction numbers hand written in

If the year has changed since the last recorded NtM, also record the year. NtM numbering resets to '1' at the start of each calendar year, so recording the year avoids confusion.

Regulatory requirement

Maintaining and being able to demonstrate the correction status of navigation charts is mandatory for:

- all SOLAS vessels,
- most other commercial vessels, and
- some offshore racing yachts.

Final check

Repeat this process for all paper charts in your portfolio.

If this process seems time-consuming, consider transitioning to Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC) through the [AusENC](#) service or another AHO-authorized ENC [distributor](#). With ENCs, the AHO applies all NtM for you. You simply download and install the weekly cumulative update file, along with ENC permits provided as part of your subscription.