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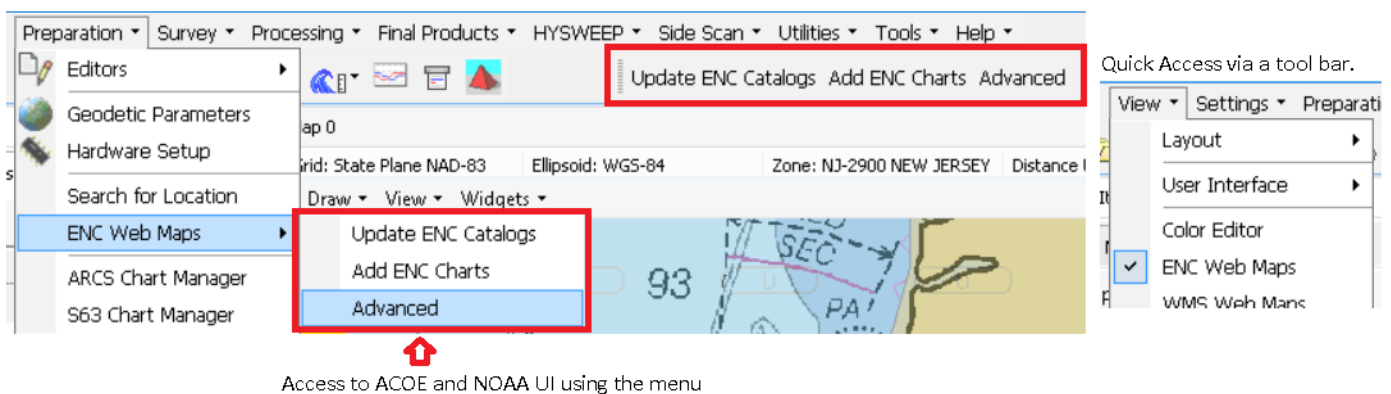
Getting Background Charts Made Easy

By Bill Bergmann

In the U.S., The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provide charts suitable for use in navigation free of charge. Both agencies have setup web pages where one may browse their chart catalogs and download one or more charts of interest. The download is typically in compressed ZIP format. The content is then extracted and the charts added to your HYPACK® project.

Built in access to the chart databases provided by these agencies is already available in HYPACK®. Instead of opening a browser, navigating to each web site, selecting charts, downloading, unzipping and adding charts manually, HYPACK® provides a one-click approach. Highlight the charts in the available list, click download and your done. All the other steps are handled for you. The following picture shows how to access the interface:

FIGURE 1. Access to ACOE and NOAA UI



The chart database is driven off of chart catalogues. Each catalogue provides information about the chart type, name, location and an address of the server where it may be acquired. The database supports IENC, ENC and now RNC Charts. The RNC or Raster Nautical Chart is provided in un-encrypted BSB format. The following is the HYPACK® interface for ENC charts.

FIGURE 2. Loading ENC Charts

Agency	Type	Name	Date	Status
NOAA	RNC	12367	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	12368	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	12369	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	12370	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	12371	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	12372	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	12373	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	12374	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	12375	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	12377	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	12378	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	12401	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	12402	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	13003	09/11/2017	Downloaded
NOAA	RNC	13006	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	13009	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	13200	09/11/2017	Update Available
NOAA	RNC	13203	09/11/2017	Update Available

ACOE IENC Catalog	http://ienccloud.us/ienc/products/catalog/IENCU37ProductsCatalog.xml
NOAA ENC Catalog	http://www.charts.noaa.gov/ENCs/ENCProdCat_19115.xml
NOAA RNC Catalog	http://www.charts.noaa.gov/RNCs/RNCProdCat_19115.xml

Refresh Catalogs: Download the latest version from the chart servers.

Add ENC Charts: Download and add selected charts to your project

Zoom Button: Zoom Extents of all selected charts in the list.

Show Borders: Draw outline in map window of border for all charts.

List of all charts available from each catalogue. Agency, Type and Name fields show chart provider, chart type and name.

Status: If you have downloaded the most current version of the chart, the status will be “Downloaded”. If you have not downloaded the chart or a more current version exists, it will say “Update Available”.

These fields hold the location on the Internet of the chart catalogues. They rarely change, but if they do, you can update the location and click the catalog button to record the change.

The most convenient approach: In the menu and toolbar mentioned at the start, you may have noticed an Add ENC Charts option. This option searches the charts database for you and finds all charts which fall within your current map view. These charts are downloaded and added to your project without further user interaction.

You will most likely receive a number of charts at various levels of detail. In the Project Items list, simply uncheck those charts which are not currently needed and you are off and running. No sweat!