

NOAA/Auxiliary Chart Updating Program



Welcome to the Navigation Systems SCF - Small Craft Facility Updating Program

A Small Craft Facility is any marine organization, corporation or business that offers services to the mariner and is charted on a NOAA SC-Small Craft Charts that depict the recreational waterways of the United States. There are hundreds of these facilities that provide great opportunities for establishing, updating, and discontinuing Small Craft Facility reports. Throughout the years the number of facilities listed on Small Craft Charts has shrunk while, in actuality, the total number of facilities has actually grown. This SCF guides and training tools are designed to help you learn more about this Auxiliary program and to assist you to get it started in your Division and Flotillas. The program has recently been greatly updated and simplified.

“The Auxiliary may also help the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in updating nautical charts and publications.” (Excerpted from Chapter 2, Section B3 of the Auxiliary Manual.) A Memorandum of Understanding exists between NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

1. The focus of the SCF program is on prevention, accuracy, credibility, and professionalism and is directed at building the Auxiliary’s credibility in the eyes of NOAA. There are guidelines for visiting a SC facility. Since Auxiliarists are recognized as representatives of the Coast Guard, they must always portray a professional presence and attitude. Use the SCF tools and guidelines to insure that the interviewing process with the SCF owner/manager is conducted correctly and effectively.

As your leadership and planning role increases in the Navigation Systems Program, you will find that the SCF Program is the key for developing a successful chart updating plan. SCF reports will stimulate additional chart updating opportunities and Coast Pilot updates. Since small craft facilities can range from a simple boat ramp to a full service marina, there are a lot of opportunities out there to review. Natural add-on tasks to the SCF update are the checking of the channels that lead to small craft facility with their associated problems of obstruction, shoaling, marking, shifting, etc. Use the *NS-SC-03 Small Craft Facility Field Report* as one of your important chart updating tools for increasing the quality of your reports to NOAA.

2. New SCF criteria have been established. Not every marine facility will be classified as a Small Craft Facility. There are a series of criteria that it must meet. However, all is not lost. Facilities that fail these SCF tests are normally updates to ENC-Electronic Nautical Charts. When facilities are large enough to be charted, they become chart-updating opportunities.

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The Small Craft Facility must:

- Be located on a Small Craft Chart.
- Be a public facility. Private clubs do not comply.
- Have a navigable approach channel leading to the marine facility.
- Have navigable water alongside the marine facility's dock.
- Provide either transient moorings or berths.
- Have a pump-out station at the facility or available nearby.
- Provide fuel (diesel or gas) sales to the public or be available nearby.

3. SCF tools are available for download on the SCF web page at: [www-uscgaa.com](http://www.uscgaa.com).

NS-SC01 - SMALL CRAFT FACILITY PROGRAM HAND OUT – Reference this information to promote your Small Craft Facility Program with your members, especially your new members.

NS-SC02 - SMALL CRAFT FACILITY PROGRAM TRAINING GUIDE – Use these guidelines for conducting a Small Craft Facility Owner/Manager interview. Reading this guide is a quick way to get up to speed on the Small Craft Facility program

NS-SC03 - SMALL CRAFT FACILITY FIELD REPORT – This worksheet is designed for reporting data about a Small Craft Facility. Space is provided for recording every aspect of the SCF interviewing process. There is a place on this form to order a NOAA Nautical Chart. This form features pop-up information or drop-down menus for each field to assist you with the preparation process. Always prepare this document on-line and forward it to NOAA to the DSO-NS by government mail with all the necessary evidence.

NS-SC04 - SMALL CRAFT FACILITY FIELD REPORT SAMPLE – This is a sample SCF Worksheet in order to demonstrate what a completed report looks like.

NS-SC05 - SMALL CRAFT FACILITY PROGRAM TRAINING PRESENTATION – This PowerPoint training opportunity enhances the Small Craft Facility learning experience when used in conjunction with the *NS-SC02-SCF Program Training Guide*. Use this presentation as part of a Small Craft Facility workshop or a Division Chart Updating Team meetings. Ask your NS staff officers for information on scheduled Chart Updating workshops in your Division or Flotilla.

4. If the SCF-Small Craft Facility Program interests you, speak to your NS staff officers. Each Division is encouraged to form a “*Chart Updating Team.*” Every FSO-NS in the Division should be included as a part of this team.

Start contributing quality reports to NOAA in the time that it takes you to familiarize yourself with the program's procedures. SCF is a year round Auxiliary program, and a boat is not needed for participation. All that is necessary is a strong desire to make a contribution.

