

NOAA/Auxiliary Chart Updating Program



The Navigation Systems SC - 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 and they provide great opportunities for establishing, updating, and discontinuing Small Craft Facility reports.

Unfortunately, there are areas throughout the States that do not use NOAA Navigational Charts and there are areas that use NOAA Charts but do not have any SC-Small Craft Charts. These areas will not have any SC-Small Craft Facility updating activity.

Through the years the number of SC facilities listed on Small Craft Charts has shrunk while, in actuality, the total number of facilities has actually grown. These SCF guides and training tools shown below 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 SC program is on prevention, accuracy, credibility, and professionalism and is directed toward building the Auxiliary’s credibility in the eyes of NOAA. Guidelines are provided 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 SC 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 programs, you will find that the SC Program is a key for developing an overall chart updating plan. SC reports 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 for review and update. Natural add-on tasks to a SC 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 to increase the quality of your reports to NOAA.

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2. New SCF criteria have been established. Not every marine facility can be classified as a Small Craft Facility -SC. There are a number of criteria that it must meet. The data for facilities that fail these SCF tests are normally not included in Coast Pilot updates. However, all is not lost. If facilities are large enough to be charted, they usually become great chart-updating opportunities.

The Small Craft Facility must:

- **Be located within the scope of a Small Craft Chart.**
- **Be a public facility. Private clubs will 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-uscgaaan.com.

NS-SC01 - SMALL CRAFT FACILITY PROGRAM HAND OUT – Use this word document to promote your Small Craft Facility Program with your members.

NS-SC02 - SMALL CRAFT FACILITY PROGRAM TRAINING GUIDE – This word document provides the guidelines needed for conducting a Small Craft Facility Owner/Manager interview. Read this guide to get up to speed on the Small Craft Facility program quickly.

NS-SC03 - SMALL CRAFT FACILITY FIELD REPORT – This EXCEL form is designed for collecting and reporting specific data about a Small Craft Facility. This form is designed as a guide with space provided for recording every aspect of the SCF interviewing process. Also, there is a place on this form to order a NOAA Nautical Chart. Pop-up information blocks and drop-down menus for each field assist you with the preparation process. Prepare this document with a computer and forward your report to NOAA via your DSO-NS (or designate) by government mail with all the necessary evidence attached.

NS-SC04 - SMALL CRAFT FACILITY FIELD REPORT SAMPLE – This is a sample SCF Field Report that demonstrates how a SC field report should be prepared.

NS-SC05 - SMALL CRAFT FACILITY PROGRAM TRAINING PRESENTATION – This PowerPoint training presentation 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 area.

4. Encourage each Division to form a “*Chart Updating Team.*” Include every FSO-NS as a part of this team. You can start contributing quality reports to NOAA in the time that it takes you to familiarize yourself with the program’s guidelines. The SCF program is a year round Auxiliary activity, and a boat is not needed for participation. All that is necessary is a strong desire to make a contribution to the marine public.

Please forward a copy of this document to your members, especially your Navigation Systems Team Members. Refer any questions and comments to DVC-MN, Frank Larkin at FrankJLarkin@verizon.net or BC-MNC, Ed Martin at Ed.Martin@NOAA.gov.