

MARINE INFORMATION

DIGITAL NAUTICAL CHART (DNC®) DATABASE

BACKGROUND: The National Imagery and Mapping Agency DNC® is a vector database of nautical features collected individually and attributed to support use by marine navigation and geographic information systems (GIS). The current database is a digital replication of the feature content of NIMA's portfolio of hard copy *Harbor, Approach, Coastal* and *General* charts.

Database completion to support initial Navy requirements is scheduled for early 2000. The database consists of data captured from approximately 5,000 U.S. (NOAA and NIMA) paper charts. The database will eventually include additional coverage of U.S. Ports and the Great Lakes region to support U.S. Coast Guard electronic chart requirements. Upon its completion, the database will provide for global navigation between 84° North and 81° South.

OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY: The DNC® database is currently available on CD-ROM to military and government agencies. At this time, DNC® only supports situational awareness, mission planning and GIS applications. NIMA is in the process of bringing the database up-to-date from initial production to current chart data. In the near future, NIMA plans to make the DNC® database accessible through Internet and other commercial and military telecommunication networks. NIMA and U.S. Navy are developing digital updating for DNC® to be tested in late 1999.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY: U.S. statutes require that NIMA make safety of navigation products available to the public. NIMA eventually intends to make DNC® available as the database is brought up-to-date and a routine updating system is brought on-line. NIMA is now evaluating options for making DNC® available to the general public. One option under consideration is to offer DNC® to commercial chart distributors for public sale.

DATABASE AVAILABILITY ON CD-ROM: The DNC® database is subdivided into a footprint consisting of 29 Geographic regions, which makes up the global database. At the end of June 1999, NIMA had distributed advance DNC® data sets on 27 separate CD-ROMs to its military and government customers. The 27 CD-ROMs contain data captured from approximately 2,200 hard copy charts, or 44% coverage of initial base charts. The database captured on the 27 CD-ROMs is depicted on the DNC® graphic shown on page **III-2.2**. Note, initial global coverage will eventually be distributed on 29 individual CD-ROMs to provide worldwide coverage. As mentioned earlier, NIMA expects to complete initial database population in early 2000.

DNC® INFORMATION ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB:

Public Site: www.nima.mil/dncpublic

DoD Site: www.nima.mil/dnctest

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