

Digital Charting CD's

The Maptech digital charting CD distributed in the Boating, Chart Smart, Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses are intended for instructional purposes. A number of the charts on the CD also include associated tide and current data. The materials on the CD are intended for learning and instruction and although they may be updated whenever our HQ supply runs low, they are not intended to be current editions for navigation.

USPS members may download the very latest actual NOAA charts from Maptech from the USPS Educational Department web page for their digital charting needs and use the software contained on the instructional CD for this purpose. However, these charts do not contain tide data. There is no cost for these downloads – it is another of your USPS member benefits. Plotted tidal data is one of those added features offered by Maptech to those who purchase their digital chart packages along with a host of other types of charts not available for free. That is how they generate revenues to continue their business.

Some P and AP instructors have asked about obtaining updated CD's in order to instruct their next year's courses using current data. This is not necessary to teach the methods of digital chart use. If an instructor does desire to download a local chart to demonstrate local tides and currents, they are certainly welcome to do so. We do NOT however intend to either annually update or re-distribute the digital charting instructional CD.

Ed Dept.