

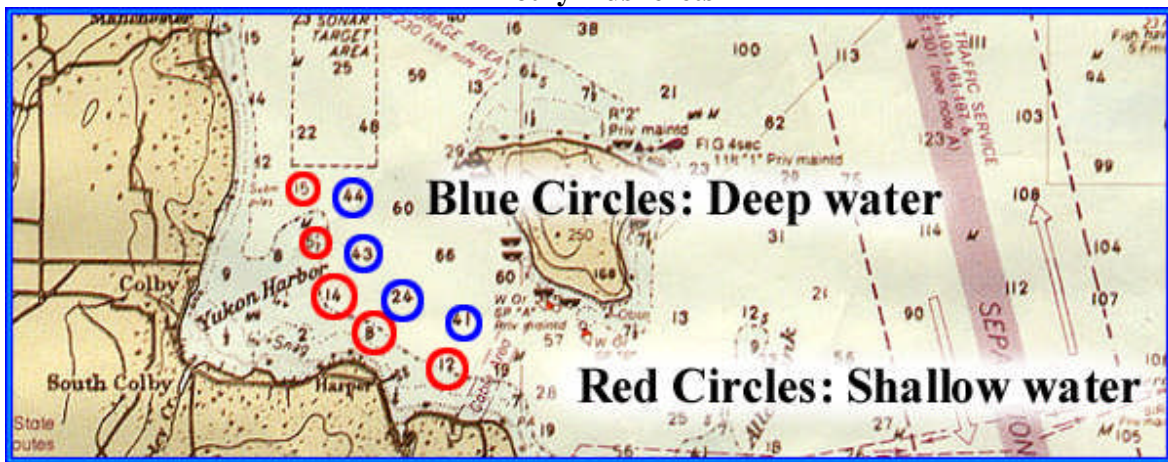
TOP FISHING SECRETS

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Nautical Charts: *What they are & How to Use*

Find Secret fishing spots that cannot be seen with the naked eye. This brief and easily understood article will show you how to read a Nautical Chart to find the best holds anytime of the year.

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- 1) Fathoms indicate depth. One fathom equals six feet.
- 2) 120 fathoms equal 1 Cable.
- 3) 8.44 cables equal 1 Nautical mile.
- 4) 1 nautical mile equals 6076 feet and one minute of latitude.
- 5) 60 nautical miles equals 1 degree of Latitude.
- 6) 1 compass point equals 11.25 degrees.
- 7) 32 points equals 360 degrees.
- 8) Nautical miles x .87 equal statute miles.
- 9) Statute miles x 1.15 equal nautical miles
- 10) 1 knot equals Speed of 1 nautical mile per hour
- 11) 1 nautical mile = 1.85200 kilometers
- 12) 1 nautical mile = 1.150779 miles

The “legend” at the top or bottom of the map, which will vary from chart to chart, will direct you to particular items of interest. Almost all highlighted red areas are warning signs for both shore fishermen and boaters. The legend will show you where to look for storm warnings, cable areas, nautical miles, and the declination of the compass.

The meat of the nautical chart are the “soundings” that are reflected in numbers that represent fathoms. Each fathom is a measurement of six feet. Every number that you see on the map can be multiplied by six and that gives you the true measurement of depth in feet. The higher the number is, the lower the depth; conversely, the lower the number is the higher the depth. If the number 6 appears on the map then the depth is thirty-six feet. If the number on the map reads 42 then the depth is two hundred fifty-two.

Fish will gravitate to areas that abruptly change from deep to shallow and more than that, they will also, at the same time, hold in areas that afford them time to rest and that means back-eddies.

A predictable thing about open water is there aren't too many places for fish to hold that can be seen by fishermen, but a nautical chart shows these areas increasing the chance of hookups tremendously. In some places out in a flat part of the sea floor depth increases sharply, and because of the abrupt depth change, an oasis of sorts is created by drop-offs. Fish along the edge of the drop and then fish the far side where depth increases keeping offerings near the face of the drop. Remember that the higher the number is the deeper the location.

Nautical Chart Links from respected authorities of the United States, Canada, and United Kingdom:

[National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) **United States:**

Accurate up-to-date nautical charts for United States inland and oceanic fishing.
(Detailed nautical charts for All the Great Lakes Midwest Region).

[Federal Publications Inc.](#) **Canada:**

Nationwide Nautical Charts for fresh and saltwater fishing in Canada.

[Fisheries and Oceans of Canada](#) **Canada:**

Canadian charts, maps, and tide tables: (Paper and Electronic publications). Canadian Hydrographic Service

[Admiralty Charts and Publications](#) **United Kingdom:**

United Kingdom Nautical and Thematic publications: Paper and Electronic Charts

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