

Welcome to the  
***Navigation Systems Division***  
**Federal - Short Range**  
**Aids to Navigation Program**



This Prevention (Marine Safety) Department, Navigation Systems Division program encourages the checking of every Federal Aid to Navigation by any Auxiliarist at any time. Nothing restricts any member from checking a Federal Aid and reporting any observed discrepancies to the Coast Guard. *“Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized assignment to duty to support and augment the Coast Guard Aids to Navigation (ATON) Program. Auxiliarist may assist and support ATON Units in servicing Federal Aids after receiving proper Coast Guard training.”* (Excerpted from Chapter 2, Section B.3 Aids to Navigation of the Auxiliary Manual.)

**1. The approach of the Federal Short Range Aid to Navigation “ATON” program** is on **accuracy, credibility, professionalism** and **service to the Coast Guard**, and is directed toward building the competency level and professional view of the Auxiliary members in the eyes of Coast Guard. Guidelines are provided for taking fixes and depths accurately. These guidelines involve pre-underway and on-scene validation of all measuring equipment used, credible quality on-scene observations and measurements, and for professional report preparation. This activity takes the form of fixes taken with GPS sets using WAAS, depths corrected to the charted vertical datum, physical measurements, photographs and drawings and the validation of all observations to the Light List, the Coast Pilot and on the NOAA Nautical Chart. It can by no means be achieved by a cursory glance.

**2. Aid to Navigation “ATON” tools are provided.** A list of the ATON tools that are available for download to your home PC follow:

**AN01 - ATON PROGRAM HAND OUT** - Reference this resource or print it out as a handout to promote the Federal Short Range Aid to Navigation program to your members.

**AN02 - FEDERAL SHORT RANGE AID TO NAVIGATION STUDY GUIDE** – This guide is full of illustrations and photos of the various Aids to Navigation that are found on a Nautical Chart. The IALA-B Aids to Navigations are depicted along with non-lateral and special aids. Guidelines for taking and reporting fixes and depths are explained in detail, as well as the reporting of NS-Navigation Systems activity to AUXDATA. Use this guide as a self-training tool and for introducing new members to your Navigation Systems Team.

**AN03 - ATON KIT** – Make this kit available to the OPFACs in your flotilla or division. It is a great on-scene reference and training tool for the IALA-B Aid to Navigation System and provides a series of drawings that illustrate the typical discrepancies that are found on an aids to navigation. Add this tool to your personal navigation kit.

**AN04 - 7054 AID TO NAVIGATION DISCREPANCY REPORT** – This report format is available on the National Forms Web Site.

**AN05 - BASIC ATON TRAINING PRESENTATION** – PowerPoint – This is a 79-slide presentation about the basics of the IALA-B System. It is a great self-learning tool or can be the basis of an ATON Training Workshop. Use this tool in workshops for training volunteers in your Navigation Systems Program.

**AN06 - ATON DISCREPANCY REVIEW PRESENTATION** – PowerPoint - This great training tool that is designed for an annual review of the ATON Program. It is often

included as part of annual ATON workshops. Every potential discrepancy found on an Aid to Navigation is explained.

**AN07 - ALL ABOUT BUOYS** – PowerPoint – This is an advanced presentation that builds upon the “AN05 - Basic ATON Training Presentation” above. Use this training tool to fill in some details about Aids to Navigation to assist your members to become more conversant with Coast Guard terminology. Normally this presentation is used as a self-training tool.

**AN08 - EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BEACONS PRESENTATION** – PowerPoint – Use this presentation to expand your knowledge of beacons. Normally, this presentation is used as a self-learning tool.

**AN10 - AID OBSERVATION WORKSHEET** – This worksheet is designed for use by an observer while on-scene collecting data about an aid. Data fields are provided for all of the necessary pre-underway and on-scene reviews. The observer simply checks off any observed discrepancies. This worksheet is referenced to the data on the revised “AN04 – ANSC 7054 Aid to Navigation Discrepancy Report.”

***3. If the Federal Short Range Aid to Navigation Program interests you,*** talk to your NS Staff Officers. Each Auxiliarist is encouraged to check each Federal Aid to Navigation that they pass while underway on an OPFAC. Provision is provided to take credit for your underway time and for all your activity in AUXDATA, whether or not you find a discrepancy. Checking aids to navigation is a year-round Auxiliary program in some Districts and seasonal in the northern Districts. Generally, you need access to an OPFAC to participate in this program. New members are encouraged to join their local Auxiliary Navigation Systems Team. Your skill, knowledge, and desire to make a contribution to a worthy endeavor are all that is needed. We are always ready to train you.