

New Zealand Raster Navigational Charts: RNCs

Important information: Promotion of NZ ENC Service and Georeferenced Raster Chart Images as preferred alternatives to NZMariner

Toitū Te Whenua, LINZ is actively promoting the uptake of the [NZ ENC Service](#) for navigation and the use of Georeferenced raster chart tiff images ([geoTIFFs](#)) for non-navigational purposes. It is planned to withdraw *NZMariner* at some point in the future.

[NZ ENC Service](#)

NZ has full Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) coverage, replacing the need for official raster navigation chart products. NZ ENCs are available freely through the subscription-based NZ ENC Service.

[GeoTIFF Chart Images](#)

Georeferenced raster chart TIFF images (GeoTIFFs) are also available on the LINZ Data Service for non-navigation use.

Format, Availability

NZMariner is the product name of the official Raster Navigational Chart (RNC) folio for NZ and is published by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ). It is a digital coloured facsimile of NZ paper navigational charts and can be used in Electronic Charting Systems (ECS) and approved Electronic Chart Display & Information Systems (ECDIS). The RNCs are published in BSB version 3 format and are not encrypted.

LINZ issues a base file (Base Disk) for the whole folio of charts in a single zip file which is re-issued annually in July. Updates to the Base Disk are issued monthly (Update Disk) and contain updates in the form of full BSBs to replace charts which have been superseded in the 'Base Disk' and any new charts. The update file is a cumulative update which contains all the updates which have accrued since the initial Base Disk was published. Any chart that is withdrawn is removed from the Base and Update Disks and the user is required to remove it from their local chart folder.

These files can be downloaded from the LINZ website:

<https://www.linz.govt.nz/sea/charts/information-about-charts#nzmariner>

Installing Charts

Depending on your software, the location and how charts are stored on your system may vary. Please consult your software provider and documentation for the specific chart installation requirements for your software.

Updating Charts

1. Download the Update Disk zip file from the LINZ website to a suitable location.
2. Right click on the zip file you have downloaded and choose 'Extract to here'.
3. Copy the extracted charts from the BSB_ROOT folder, into the current chart folder for your chart viewer or navigation program, replacing any previous versions of files with the same name.
4. Remove any withdrawn charts from your chart folder if present. Retired charts are announced in fortnightly Notices to Mariners.
5. Reload the charts into the chart viewer or navigation program.
6. Verify if the new files are being used by looking at the Notices to Mariners date information for any charts replaced in the update procedure.

Raster Chart Viewing or Navigation Software

NZMariner is capable of being used in ECS/ECDIS which support BSB version 3 products and is a format widely supported by software manufacturers. Viewing software can be acquired from a number of popular suppliers.