



User Manual

AQUA MAP SUPPORT

Basic · Main features · Advanced tools · Sharing & Communities

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01

SECTION 01

Basic

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Downloading charts for offline navigation

When you first install Aqua Map, your device comes preloaded with a worldwide basemap. It's fine for getting your bearings, but it's not detailed enough to actually navigate by. For that, you'll need to download the full nautical charts for the area you're heading to, and you do that using the Manage Charts button in the bottom-left corner of the screen.

How to download charts

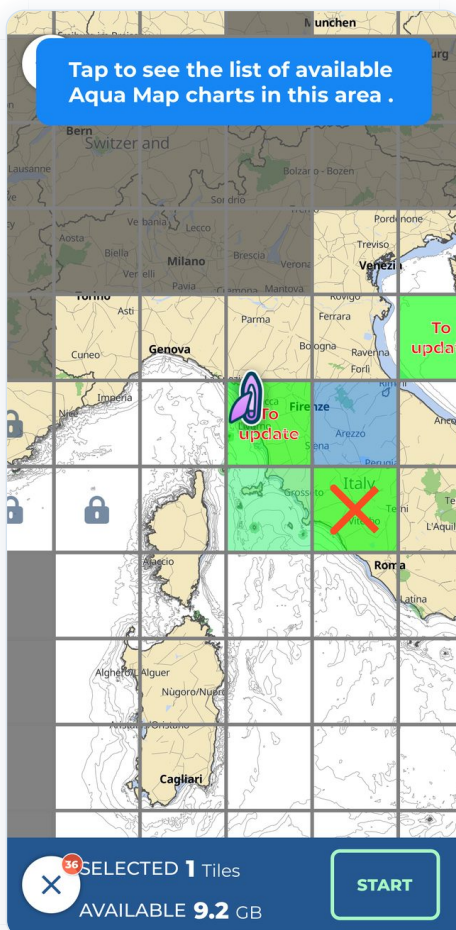
Tap the Manage Charts button, or simply zoom in far enough that detailed charts become necessary, and a dedicated grid layer appears over the map, showing you the chart tiles available for that area.

To download a tile, tap it (it turns blue), then press Start. Once the download finishes, the tile turns green and is stored on your device for offline use, so you can zoom in and get the full level of detail even without a connection.

Each tile's color tells you its current status.

- **Blue** means the tile is selected and ready to download.
- **Green** means it's already downloaded and available offline.
- **Gray** means it can't be downloaded, usually because it falls outside your current coverage.
- **A lock icon** means the tile isn't included in your current purchase.
- **"To update"** appears inside a tile when a newer version of that chart is available.

Tapping a green tile again deletes it, marked with a red cross before it's removed.



Keeping your charts up to date

Chart data changes over time, so it's worth keeping an eye on updates. If any downloaded tiles need refreshing, a red dot with a number appears on the Manage Charts button , telling you exactly how many tiles are flagged "To update".

If you instead see a blue dot , it means Aqua Map already took care of it, automatically updating that number of tiles in the background. You can fine-tune how this works on the [Automatic Download](#) page.

A note for iOS users

On iOS, downloaded chart tiles are stored by default in a protected area of your device, so they won't get deleted automatically if you're running low on storage. If you'd rather change that behavior, you can adjust it from the [Settings](#) page.

Allow iOS to delete maps in case of low available space



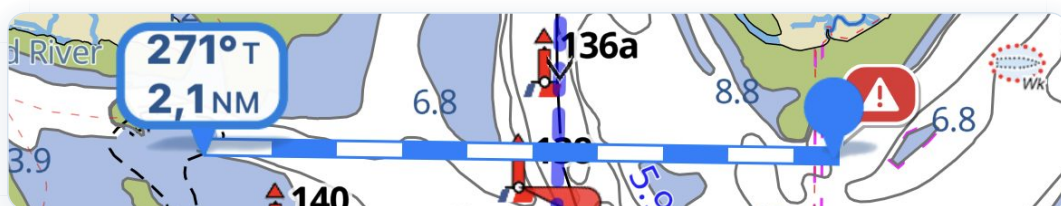
Want to see it in action?

For a full walkthrough of downloading and managing charts, check out our [video tutorial](#).

Distance Tool: measuring distance and bearing on the chart

Sometimes you just need a quick answer to "how far is that, and in what direction?", without setting up a full route. That's exactly what the Distance Tool is for.

Press and hold the distance icon  inside the zoom and scale window, and a ruler appears directly on the map. It instantly shows you the accurate distance and bearing between two points, no route planning required.



From there, you can drag the starting point, the end point, or the ruler line itself, and the distance and bearing update in real time as you move. While dragging, your selected point sits with a slight offset from your finger, so your view isn't blocked and you can position it precisely.

It may seem like a small tool, but it's a genuinely handy one whenever you need a fast distance check between two spots on the chart.

GPS in Aqua Map: how it works and what it shows you

Your position on the water is the single most important piece of information any navigation app gives you, and it all starts with GPS. Aqua Map connects to your device's internal GPS and compass sensors to show exactly where you are on the chart, in real time, and it gives you a few different ways to view that position depending on how you like to navigate.

This page walks you through how GPS works in Aqua Map, the three display modes you can switch between, and how to read the info box that appears once your GPS is active.

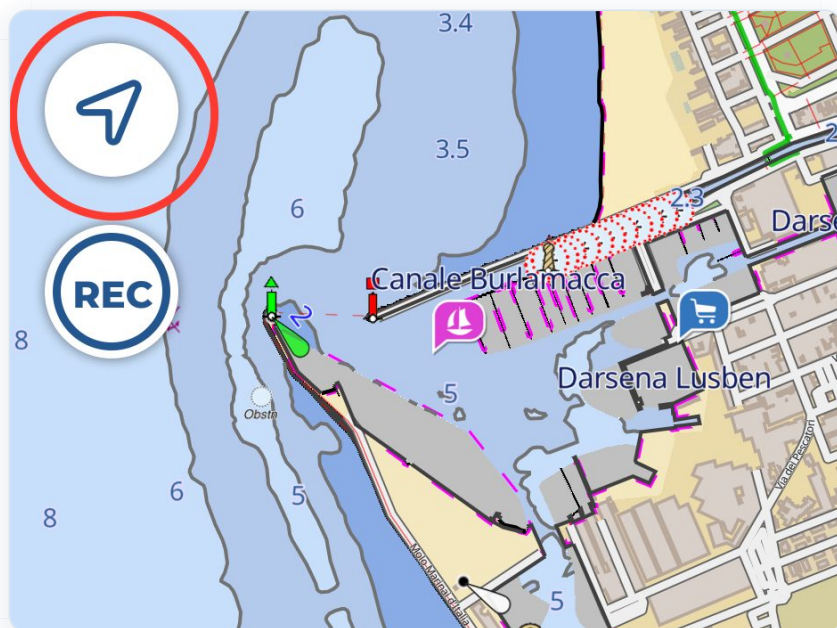
A quick note on GPS accuracy

Most smartphones and tablets have a built-in GPS chip, but not all of them do. Some devices, like WiFi-only iPads, don't have internal GPS hardware. In that case, Aqua Map will estimate your position using WiFi and cellular data instead. This works fine for general reference, but it's not accurate enough to rely on for actual navigation.

If precise positioning matters for what you're doing, whether that's threading a narrow channel or anchoring close to a reef, always check that you're getting a real GPS fix rather than a network-based estimate. Aqua Map can also connect to an external GPS device over a [Wi-Fi connection](#) for even more reliable positioning, which is worth considering if your device doesn't have built-in GPS.

The three GPS modes

Managing GPS in Aqua Map comes down to a single button in the upper left corner of the map. That same button also shows you which mode is currently active, so you always know how the map is behaving without digging through menus.



Tap the button and it cycles through three modes, one after another:

Not centered. The map stays where you left it and doesn't automatically follow your GPS position. This mode kicks in automatically whenever you pan or zoom manually, except when you use the plus and minus buttons in the scale box. It's useful when you want to look ahead on the chart or check something without losing your current view.

North-up mode. The map continuously re-centers on your GPS position, with cartographic North fixed at the top of the screen. This is the classic chart-plotter view many mariners are used to. One thing to know: if your Perspective View setting (found on the [Settings page](#)) is set to Automatic, Perspective Mode will be disabled while you're in North-up mode.

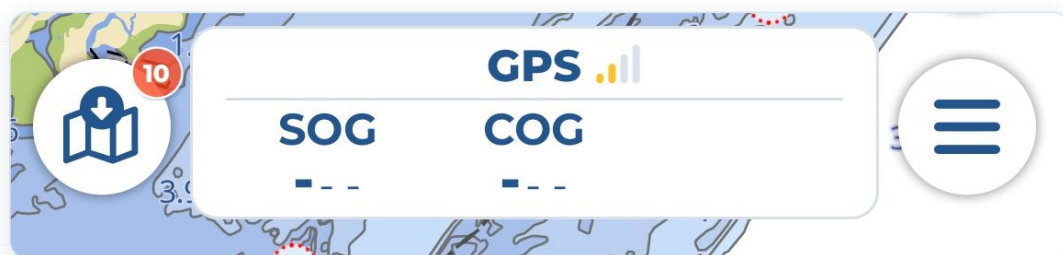
Heading-up mode. Like North-up, the map keeps following your GPS position, but now it also rotates so the top of the screen always points in the direction you're actually moving, either your Course Over Ground (COG) or your compass heading (HDG). Your position is placed slightly below center rather than dead center, so you get a better view of what's ahead of you rather than what's behind. If Perspective View is set to Automatic, this is the mode that will switch Perspective Mode on.

If you want the map to actively follow you as you move, North-up or Heading-up are the modes to use. Not centered is really a manual browsing mode.

One more icon worth knowing: if you see a small overlay icon on the GPS button itself, it means your position is coming from an external GPS device connected over Wi-Fi, rather than your device's built-in sensor.

Reading the GPS info box

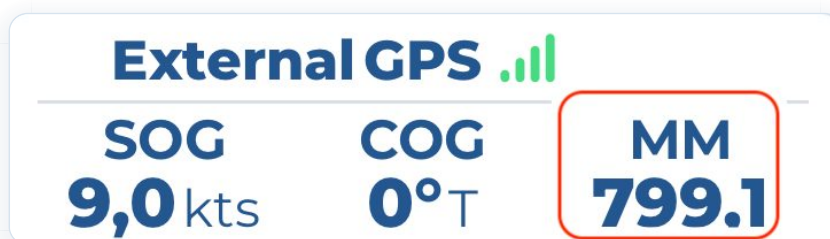
Once GPS is active, a small info window appears on top of the map. It's compact, but it packs in the data you'll actually use while underway.



Here's what you'll find in it.

- **GPS quality**, shown as a color-coded indicator. Green means a good, reliable fix. Yellow and red mean lower quality, which can translate into real inaccuracies in your displayed position, so it's worth keeping an eye on this rather than assuming your dot on the chart is always exactly right.
- **SOG (Speed Over Ground)**, your boat's speed relative to the earth's surface, not the water. If you've set your boat type to "Sail" on the [MyBoat page](#) and you're actively following a route, SOG automatically alternates with VMG (Velocity Made Good), showing your effective speed toward the next waypoint rather than your raw speed over ground.
- **COG (Course Over Ground)**, the actual direction your boat is moving, which isn't necessarily the same as where your bow is pointed.

In most US canals and rivers, you'll also see a third figure appear in the info box: the **Mile Marker** (MM) that corresponds to your current GPS position, a handy reference if you're navigating waterways where mile markers are the standard way locals and charts describe location.



Why this matters beyond the basics

GPS is the foundation everything else in Aqua Map builds on. Your position feeds into route planning, anchor alarms, AIS collision detection, and how weather data is matched to your exact location. A good, stable GPS fix isn't just about the dot on the screen looking right, it's what makes every other safety feature in the app trustworthy.

If you're navigating in areas where signal can be inconsistent, offshore, in canyons, near tall structures, it's worth pairing your device's GPS with Aqua Map's [official offline nautical charts](#), so you're never left without a reliable picture of where you are, connection or not.

Map gestures: navigating Aqua Map with touch

Aqua Map's chart works just like any map app you're already used to on your phone or tablet. Zooming, panning, and rotating all rely on the same simple touch gestures, so if you've ever used Google Maps or Apple Maps, you'll feel right at home here.

Here's the full list of gestures Aqua Map supports.



Tap with one finger to pull up [Map Information](#) for whatever point you tapped.



Pinch with two fingers to zoom out, and spread them apart to zoom in.



Double-tap with one finger to zoom in quickly.



Double-tap with two fingers to zoom out quickly.



Swipe up with two fingers to enable Perspective View, and swipe down to disable it.

Worth knowing: if your Perspective View setting on the [Settings](#) page is set to "Never", this gesture won't do anything, so check there first if it doesn't seem to work.



Rotate with two fingers to rotate the map to any angle you like.

None of these gestures require any setup, they work straight out of the box, so the fastest way to get comfortable with them is just to open the chart and try each one.

Map information: querying anything on the chart

Every element on your Aqua Map chart is tappable, and tapping it is the fastest way to find out what it is, where it sits, and what you can do with it. Depending on what you select, you'll get the two most relevant actions for that object shown as icons on either side of the pop-up.

The Map information pop-up

Tap anywhere on the chart, and a map information pop-up appears, with its content changing based on whatever you selected. When you tap an empty spot with no specific object nearby, you'll see a basic Quick Info box instead.

That default box includes the following options.

- A button on the left to start [creating a new route](#) from that exact point.
- A middle section showing, top to bottom, the description of the most relevant object at that location, the Mile Marker for that point (currently US waterways only, where available) along with the bearing and distance from your current GPS position, and finally the point's coordinates.
- A button on the right to drop a new marker at that position.

Depending on what you've tapped, you may see additional actions too, as follows.

- Open a dedicated info page with everything known about the selected object.
- Edit an existing [route](#).
- [Share](#) the selected object.
- Start a chat with a [Live Sharing](#) user.
- Run a [Tide & Current](#) prediction simulation.
- Open a linked photo, when one is available for that object.

If the pop-up is sitting somewhere inconvenient, just press and hold the small blue cross below it, then drag it anywhere on the screen you like.

The map information details page

Tap the center of the pop-up, and a new page opens listing every object near the point you selected, useful when several things overlap in the same spot.

This page always includes a few fixed elements. At the top, you'll see the exact coordinates of the tapped point, tap them to edit and jump straight to a new location. Just below that, a weather summary for the selected position, tap it for a full [weather forecast](#). Getting the forecast requires an active internet connection and an [Aqua Map Master](#) subscription.

Below the weather row, you'll find a list of everything else at that position, users, map objects, and other data layers, each with a brief description. Tap any row to dig into the full details.

Map symbols: reading Aqua Map's nautical charts

Aqua Map charts are designed to be clear and intuitive, using realistic colors and standardized symbols so you can read the water at a glance, whether you're a first-time boater or a seasoned captain. This page is your full reference legend, covering every symbol category used across Aqua Map's charts.

One thing worth knowing before you dive in: these symbols apply to vector charts. If you're viewing a raster chart, symbols will appear exactly as they do on the original paper chart it was scanned from.

Buoys and beacons: lateral marks

Lateral marks show you the edges of a channel, and their meaning depends on which IALA buoyage region you're navigating in (more on that below).

- **Green lateral mark (buoy or beacon).** Under IALA "A," this marks the port side of a channel. Under IALA "B," it marks the starboard side.
- **Red lateral mark (buoy or beacon).** Under IALA "A," this marks the starboard side. Under IALA "B," it marks the port side.
- **Bifurcation mark (buoy or beacon).** This indicates a channel splits in two, a preferred channel on one side (typically the deeper channel, suited for heavier traffic) and a secondary channel on the other. The color on top tells you which channel is preferred, and the color below indicates the secondary one.

Understanding the IALA system

Here's the part that trips a lot of people up: lateral marks mean the opposite thing depending on where in the world you're sailing. The world is split into two IALA buoyage regions:

- **IALA "A"** covers Europe, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and most of Asia (with the notable exceptions of Japan, the Koreas, and the Philippines);
- **IALA "B"** covers the Americas, Japan, the Koreas, and the Philippines.

If you're used to navigating in one region and find yourself in the other, it's worth double-checking your lateral marks before you rely on habit.

Buoys and beacons: cardinal marks

Cardinal marks tell you which compass direction (North, South, East, or West) you need to pass on to stay in safe water, relative to the mark itself. Aqua Map shows all four: North, South, East, and West cardinal marks, each as both a buoy and a beacon icon.

You can identify a cardinal mark three ways as follows.

- **The orientation of its top-marks.** Two cones pointing up mean North, pointing down means South, pointing toward each other means West, and pointing away from each other means East.
- **Its black-and-yellow stripe pattern,** which follows the same logic as the cones, for example, the black stripe sits at the top on a North mark and in the middle on a West mark.
- **Its light-flash sequence,** where applicable. The number of flashes corresponds to a clock face: three flashes for East, nine for West. North flashes continuously, and South often adds a long flash to avoid confusion with West in low visibility.

Cardinal marks are used to point out where the deepest water lies relative to the mark, flag the safe side to pass a hazard, highlight channel features like bends or shoal ends, or warn of a brand-new danger, like a recent grounding, that hasn't made it onto official charts yet. In that last case, you'll often see two identical cardinal marks placed together.

Other buoys and beacons

Beyond lateral and cardinal marks, Aqua Map also displays the following ones.

- **Isolated danger marks,** flagging an isolated hazard with navigable water around it.
- **Safe water marks,** indicating open, navigable water on all sides.
- **Special purpose marks,** used for anything from anchorage areas to traffic separation zones.
- **Buoy installations** and **mooring buoys.**

Lights

Lighted aids to navigation appear with their own dedicated symbols, including single-color lights, multi-colored lights, floodlights, strip lights, and light vessels. Fog signals, covering bells, horns, whistles, gongs, and similar sound devices, are also marked with their own distinct icon.

Dangers

Hazards are grouped into a few clear categories:

- **rocks:** emerged, submerged, or flagged as dangerous;
- **wrecks:** emerged, submerged, or flagged as dangerous;
- **bottom obstructions,** marking anything else hazardous on the seabed;
- **cables,** shown as a line if it's a single cable, or as a boundary if it covers a wider area.

Restricted and regulated areas

These symbols flag zones with specific rules or restrictions, including areas where anchoring, diving, fishing, or general entry is prohibited or restricted, as well as military practice areas and designated seaplane landing zones.

Other marine objects

This category covers everything else you might encounter on the water: marshes and swamps, offshore platforms, piles, radar reflectors and radar stations, radio call-in points, and areas of water turbulence.

Marine points of interest

Aqua Map also marks practical points of interest for mariners, including boat ramps, coast guard stations, ferry crossings, marinas, and ports or port agencies.

Landmarks

Onshore landmarks help with visual navigation and orientation, and Aqua Map includes a wide range of them: benchmarks, buildings, cemeteries, checkpoints, chimneys, churches, cranes, dams, dish aerials, flagpoles, flare stacks, fortified structures, lighthouses, masts (lit and unlit), observation points, parks and forests, silos, triangulation points, towers (lit and unlit), waterfalls, and water towers.

Fishing chart symbols (Italy only)

For users navigating Italian waters, Aqua Map includes a dedicated set of fishing chart symbols: onshore fishing spots, boat fishing spots, spearfishing areas, warning areas, forbidden areas, regulated areas, coast guard stations, fishing shops, and general information points.

Symbols for land data

For symbols used specifically in Aqua Map's land data layers, see the [Terra Map legend](#).

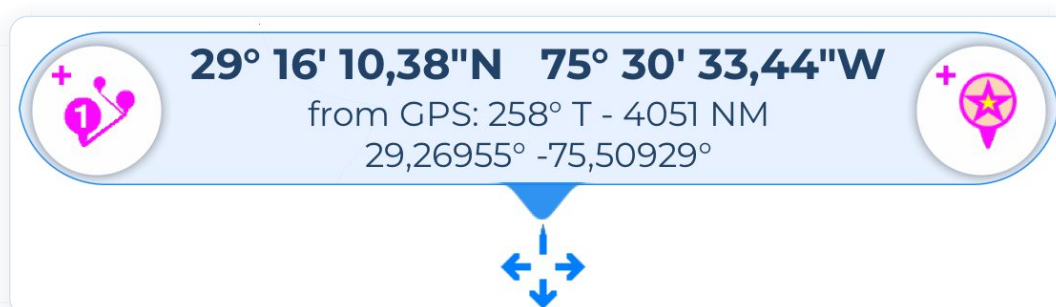
Markers: saving and managing points on your chart

Markers are how you save specific points on your chart in Aqua Map, whether that's a favorite anchorage, a fishing spot, or a hazard you want to remember. Alongside the position itself, a marker can hold a name, a description, a color or symbol, and a linked photo, so you can build up a detailed picture of the places that matter to you.

Creating a marker

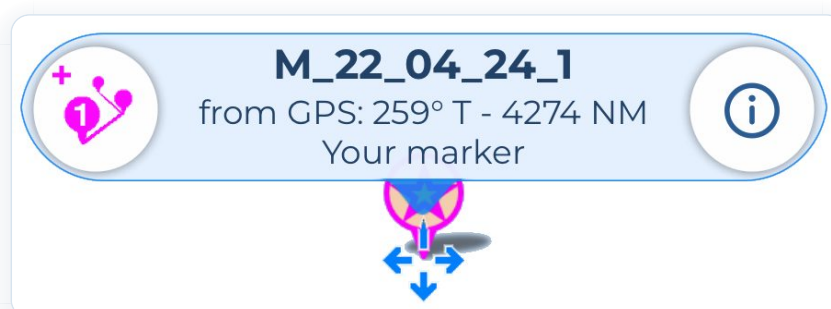
There are two ways to drop a new marker on the chart:

- **tap the map** to open the pop-up menu, then select the marker button on the right  to place a marker right where you tapped. You can also drag the cursor to fine-tune the exact position before confirming;
- **tap the Camera button**  to take a photo on the spot. This automatically creates a marker at your current GPS position with the new photo attached. Worth knowing: any photo taken this way is also saved to your device's regular photo gallery.



The marker info page

Tap any marker on the chart, and a quick pop-up appears, letting you either start a new route from that marker  or open its full info page . If you tap the marker's name in the center of that pop-up instead, you'll get a list of everything else nearby, see the [Map information](#) page for more on that.



From the full marker info page, you can:

-  open **marker settings** to edit the name, description, icon, and visibility;
 - view and edit the marker's **coordinates**;
 - view any **photos** linked to the marker, and add or change them directly from this page, either by taking a new one or pulling from your photo library.

The bottom menu gives you the following actions.

-  **Share** the marker in GPX or KMZ format, via your GEC Account, email, or other apps. See the [sharing page](#) for the full rundown.
-  **Center** the map on the marker, zooming in and closing the info page.
-  **Go to**, which creates a route to or from the marker's position.
-  **Create** a new [ActiveCaptain](#) marker, available only if you have ActiveCaptain data enabled.
-  **Duplicate** the marker, which creates an identical copy, automatically set to a white color so you can tell it apart from the original.
-  **Delete** the marker permanently.

Adding geo-tagged photos

You can attach a geo-tagged photo to your chart at any time, either by tapping the Camera button  on the main screen or by editing an existing marker's photo from its info page.

Using the Camera button creates a brand new marker with the photo attached and its coordinates set to your GPS position at the moment you tap "Use photo", so the location is captured right as you confirm the shot, not before.

Tracks: recording and managing tour trips

Tracks let you record everything worth remembering from a trip: where you went, how fast, and how long it took. You can share them with others, use them as safety references for future navigation, or import tracks from elsewhere to help plan a route through unfamiliar waters.

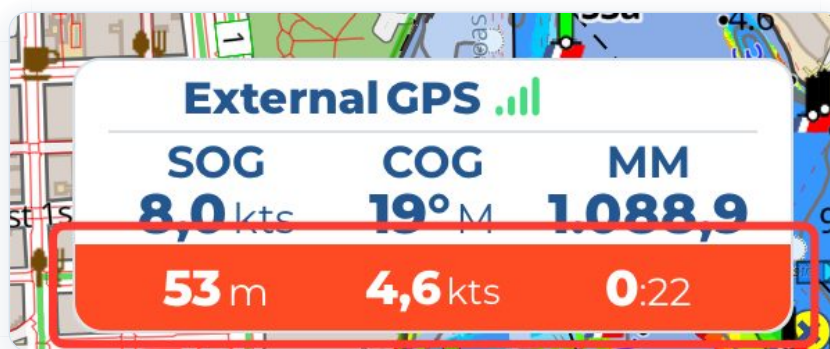
Recording a track

To start recording, tap the record button . It immediately begins tracking your position, and the button switches to a red circle  to show it's active. Tap it again to pause, and tap once more to resume right where you left off.

One useful detail: any marker or photo you add while a track is recording gets automatically linked to that track, and when you share the track later, you'll have the option to include all of those linked markers and photos too.

The track info box

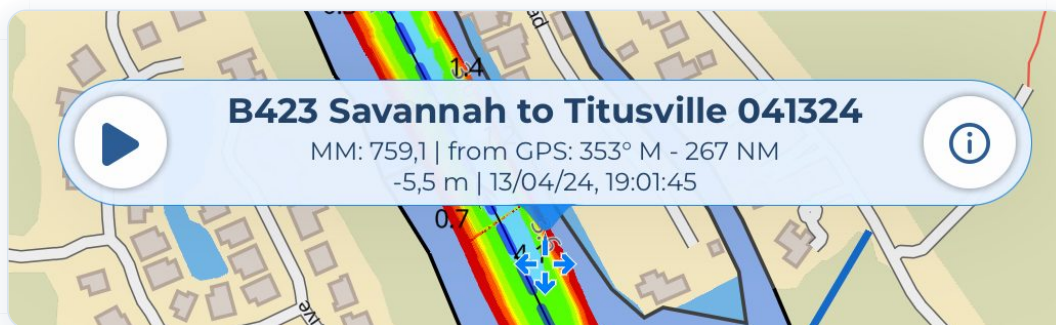
While a track is recording, a new section appears in the [GPS info box](#), showing, from left to right, the track's total length, its average speed, and its total time so far. Tap this box at any point to jump straight to the track's full info page.



The track pop-up

Tap anywhere along a track on the chart, and a pop-up window opens with a quick snapshot of that point. From here, you can activate the track for navigation  or open its full info page  (you can also reach the same info page from the "User Data" tab on the [Search](#) page).

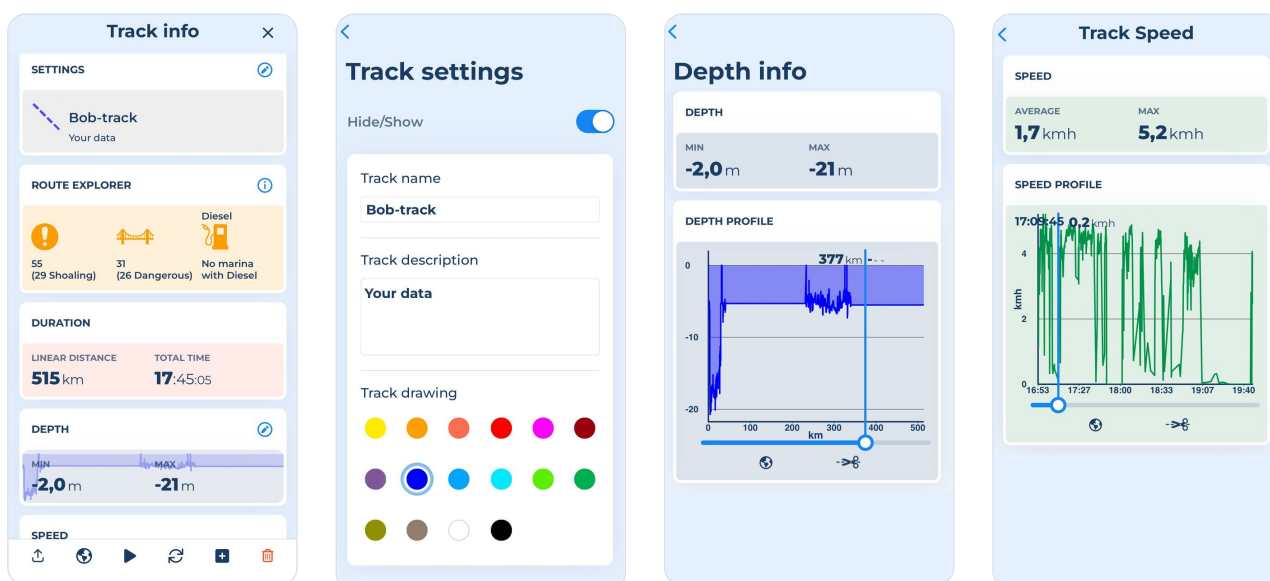
The pop-up itself shows the track's name at the top (for example, "B423 Savannah to Titusville"), followed by the distance and direction of the point you tapped relative to your current GPS position, along with the corresponding mile marker if you're navigating US waterways. Below that, you'll see the depth, time, and date recorded at that exact point. Depth data only appears here if you had an active [Wi-Fi connection](#) to your boat's depth instrumentation while recording.



The track info page

This is where you manage everything about a saved track. From here you can:

- ✎ open **Track settings** to edit the name, description, color, and visibility;
 - view the track's **duration**, including total distance and total time;
 - open **Route Explorer** for deeper analysis of the track (this requires an active [Aqua Map Master](#) subscription);
 - open the **Depth** page to view a depth graph, if the track has depth data attached. From here you can also delete specific portions of the track;
 - open the **Speed** page to view a speed graph, if speed data is available, also with the option to trim portions of the track.



The bottom menu gives you a set of core actions, as follows.

↑ **Share** the track in GPX or KMZ format, via GEC Account, email, or other apps. See the [sharing page](#) for details.

📍 **Center the map** on the track, closing the info page and zooming in. On the Depth or Speed graph pages, this centers the map on whatever exact point the slider is currently pointing to.

 **Activate** the track for navigation, just like you would a route. Once active, this button switches to a stop button , and navigating a track works the same way as navigating a route, with dummy waypoints automatically generated along the way to guide you.

 **Reverse** the track's direction, swapping start and end and recalculating all track information accordingly. This option isn't available while you're actively navigating or recording the track.

 **Duplicate** the track, creating an identical copy automatically set to a white color. Also unavailable while navigating or recording.

 **Delete** the track permanently.

Depth and speed graphs

Both the Depth and Speed pages share the same bottom menu, letting you:

 **center the map** on the track at the exact point matching the graph's cursor position.

 **cut or split** the track. Tapping this opens a choice: delete everything from the cursor to the end, delete everything from the cursor to the start, or split the track into two at that point. Splitting creates a new track with an "_X" suffix, the original keeps everything from the selected point onward, while the new one holds everything before it. All track data is recalculated either way.

One important warning here: this action can't be undone, so it's worth duplicating the track first if you want to keep the original intact.

Want to see it in action?

For a full walkthrough of recording and managing tracks, check out our [video tutorial](#).

SECTION 02

Main features

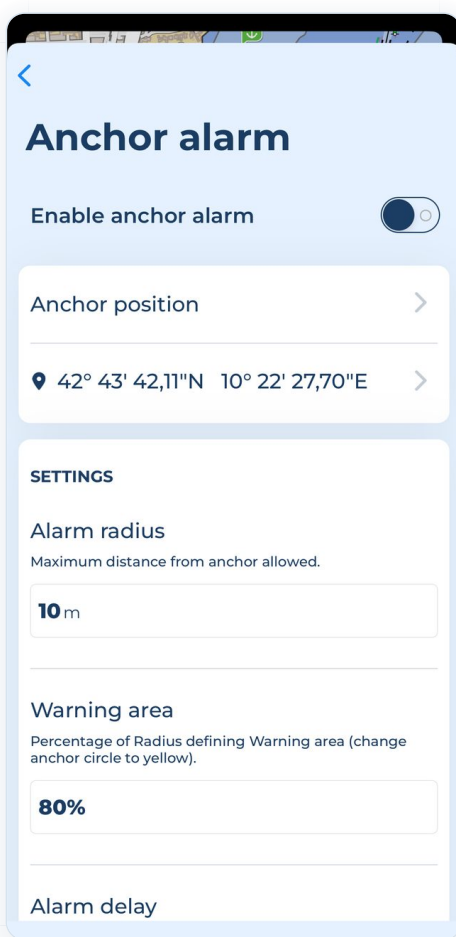
Anchor Alarm	24
Automatic download	29
Customize map	31
Fishing charts	36
My Boat	40
Route Planner	45
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Anchor Alarm: rest easy while you're at anchor

Anchor Alarm keeps a constant watch on your GPS position relative to where you dropped anchor. Drift too far from that spot, and it sounds an alarm and puts a clear warning on screen, so you'll know the moment your boat starts moving somewhere it shouldn't.

Anchor Alarm settings

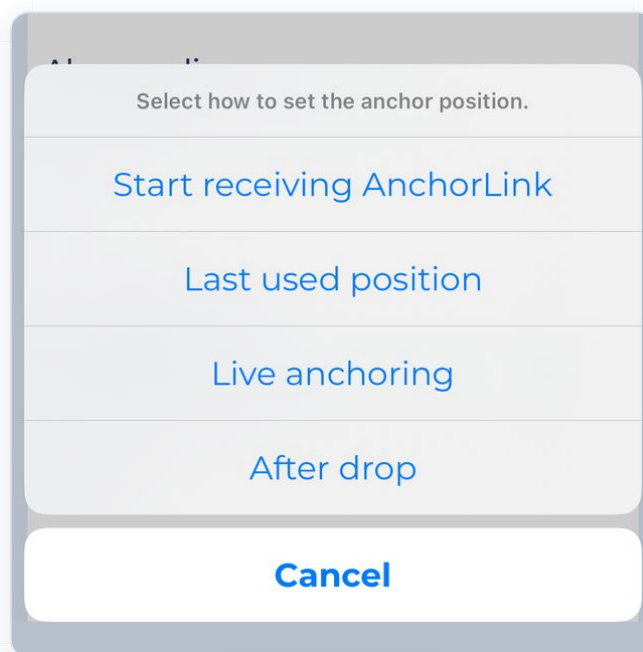
Open the main [Settings](#) page and tap "Anchor Alarm" to get into its dedicated setup page.



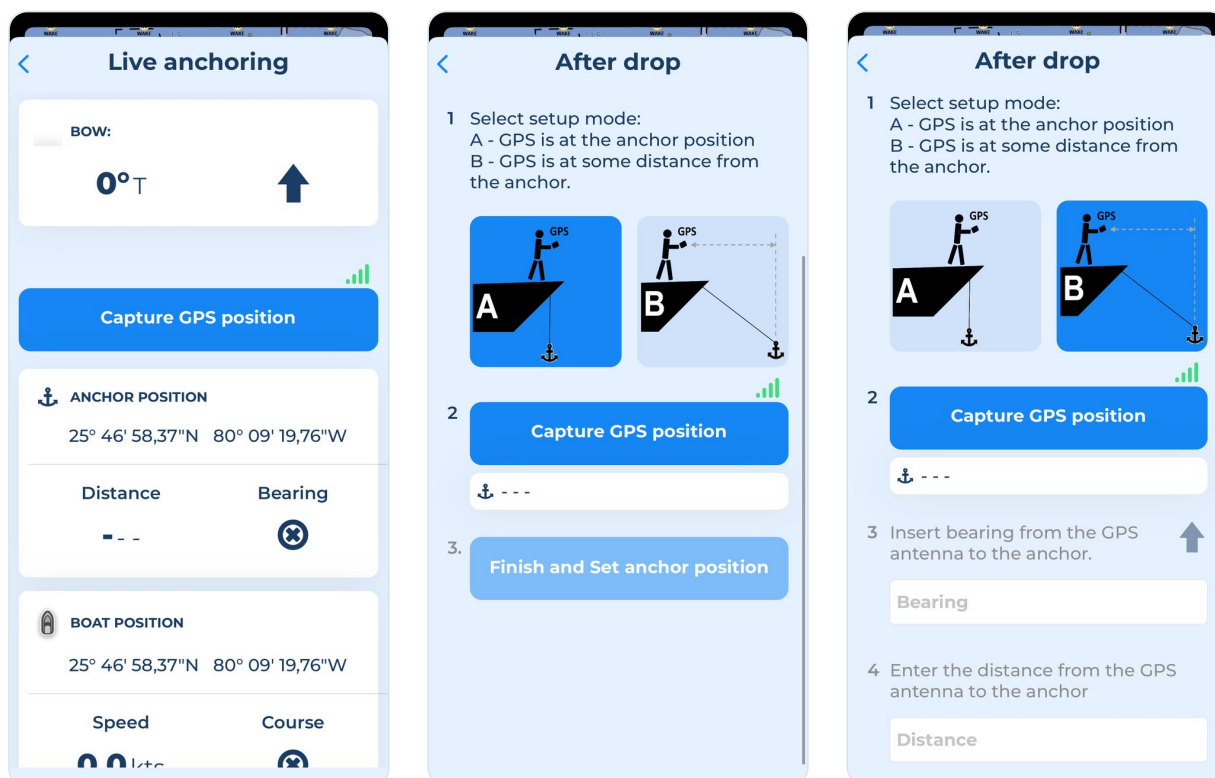
Setting the anchor position

Getting the anchor position right matters more than almost anything else here, since the whole alarm is built around calculating drift from that exact point, meaning the spot where your anchor actually rests on the seafloor, not where your boat happens to be sitting.

Every time you activate anchoring mode, you'll be asked to choose how to set that position.



- **Start receiving AnchorLink.** Available only if you've already enabled [AnchorLink](#) Mirroring on another device logged into the same [GEC Account](#). This starts your remote Anchor Alarm mode, see the AnchorLink page for the full picture. It requires an active [Advanced Tools subscription](#).
- **Last used position.** It starts the alarm using whatever anchor position you set last time (this option won't appear if you've never used the feature before).
- **Live anchoring capture.** Lets you define a brand new anchor position while you're in the middle of anchoring, walking you through helpful prompts along the way. For the full breakdown of best practices here, see our article on [the anchoring process before setting the Anchor Alarm](#).
- **After drop capture.** For when you've already released the anchor and just need to record its position. If you're currently sitting directly above it, choose Option A, capture your GPS position, and you're done. If you're not directly above it, choose Option B instead, capture your GPS position, then enter the distance to the actual anchor position to complete the setup.



You can restart this whole process anytime by tapping "Set with GPS" next to the "Anchor position" label, or enter coordinates manually by tapping directly on them. You can also adjust the anchor position straight from the map once the alarm is active: tap the Anchor Alarm circle to open a pop-up with a draggable pointer.



One more tip worth knowing: connecting your boat's own instruments through a [Wi-Fi connection](#) noticeably improves the alarm's accuracy and stability. Using your boat's GPS instead of your phone's one cuts down on false alarms caused by simply moving around the boat, and it also lets you check depth and wind from bed if you're leaving the alarm running overnight. Just remember to switch on airplane mode to save battery.

Setting the alarm parameters

The alarm triggers once your GPS position drifts outside the radius you've set from your anchor position. You can fine-tune a few things here:

- **alarm radius**, how far you're comfortable drifting before the alarm sounds, in feet or meters depending on your app settings;
- **warning area**, an earlier heads-up as you approach the alarm radius, with the display shifting from green to yellow so you notice before it's too late;
- **alarm delay**, how many seconds the app waits after you drift outside the zone before actually sounding the alarm, giving you a chance to drift back in without triggering a false alert.

There's also Anchorage Tracking, which quietly records your boat's movement while anchored so you can review how much it swung overnight. This track is drawn as a thin, light gray line, deliberately understated so it doesn't clutter your screen, different from a standard recorded track. If you'd rather see it in the usual track style, you can switch that on separately.

Beyond distance, you can also enable:

- **low battery alarm**, a reminder to plug in when your device is running low, worth knowing if you're leaving the alarm running overnight, since charging beforehand is always the safer bet;
- **GPS quality alarm**, which alerts you if your GPS signal stays weak for more than 5 minutes straight.

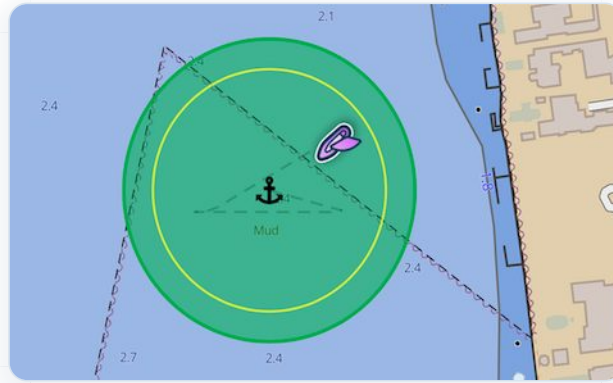
AnchorLink settings

[AnchorLink](#) lets you monitor your boat's anchor status remotely, sending all the relevant information to a second device you bring with you when you're off board. Head to the dedicated AnchorLink page for the full setup and settings.

Anchor Alarm status on the map

While active, Anchor Alarm shows a colored circle on the map, centered on your anchor position, so you can read your status at a glance.

- **Green** means your GPS is inside the warning area.
- **Yellow** means you're between the warning area and the alarm radius.
- **Red** means you've drifted outside the alarm radius entirely.
- **Gray** means there isn't enough GPS data available right now.



A yellow line marks exactly where the warning area begins. Once active, a dedicated info window also appears on screen, keeping the key anchorage details visible at a glance.

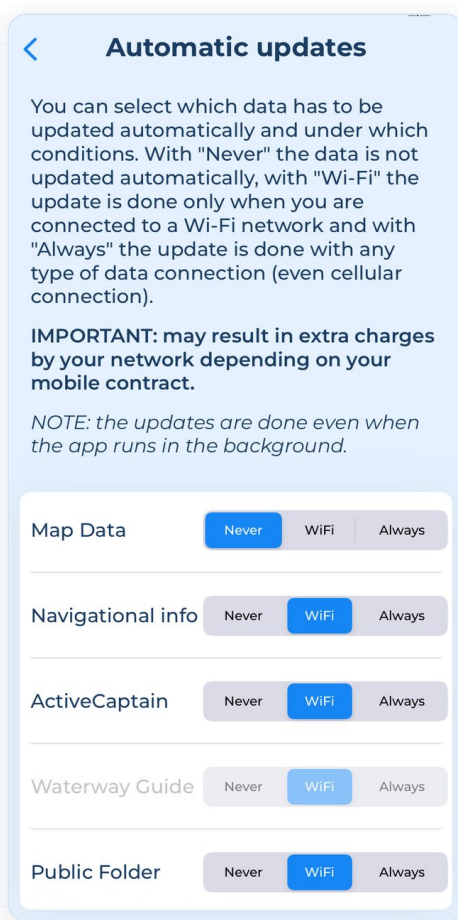


Want to see it in action?

For a full walkthrough of Anchor Alarm, check out our [video tutorial](#).

Automatic Download: keeping your data current

This page is where you control how, and whether, your downloaded maps and data get updated automatically. A few features manage their own automatic updates from their own dedicated settings pages instead, Navigational Info (which covers USCG data), [ActiveCaptain](#), and [Waterway Guide](#) all have their own update controls. And if you're looking for how automatic sync works for shared data specifically, that's covered on the [Public Folder](#) page.



Your update options

For each type of data covered on this page, you'll choose between three options:

- **Never**, no automatic updates, you'll need to update manually;
- **WiFi**, updates only happen when your device is connected to a WiFi network;
- **Always**, updates happen over any connection, including cellular. Worth knowing: depending on your mobile plan, this could mean extra data costs.

Map data updates even when the app isn't in the foreground, while other data types only update while the app is actively open.

A note on iOS VS Android

Update behavior differs slightly between the two platforms. On iOS, the app needs to be running in the background for updates to happen, this isn't a requirement on Android. Practically, that means if you power your iOS device off and back on, updates won't resume automatically, since iOS doesn't relaunch apps on its own. In that case, you'll need to manually open the app and then close it, so it's running in the background, for updates to pick back up.

Customizing your map: layers, colors and icon sizes

Aqua Map gives you a lot of control over how your chart actually looks, from adding extra data layers like satellite imagery, to adjusting depth coloring, to fine-tuning the size of every icon and text label on screen. This page walks through all of it.

Additional layers

Here's the full list of extra data you can add on top of the basic nautical chart, all available from the main [Settings](#) page.

- **Land data**, the complete land-side cartography: streets, highways, buildings, forests, and more.
- **Online satellite images**, a satellite imagery layer over the map, with an opacity slider appearing on screen once enabled.
- **Paper charts overlay**, additional raster charts layered over the vector charts, also with an opacity slider. Available only in certain areas.
- **Tides & Currents**, [tide and tidal current](#) stations shown as icons on the map. Currently available for North America and Oceania only.
- **Fishing charts**, a dedicated set of charts built specifically for fishing, currently available in the US and Italy. See the Fishing Charts settings page for the full details.
- **Marine forecast**, weather data overlaid on the map, surface currents, wind, waves, gusts, sea surface temperature, and salinity. See the [Marine Forecasts](#) page for the full breakdown.
- **Weather buoys**, icons showing real-time weather conditions at buoy locations. Also covered on the [Marine Forecasts](#) page.
- **AIS targets**, targets received through your Wi-Fi connections. See the [AIS Integration](#) page for details.
- **USACE surveys**, US Army Corps of Engineers hydrographic survey data. See the [USACE Surveys](#) page for details.
- **Navigational info**, official safety data from national coast guards and maritime authorities. See the [Navigational Info](#) page for details.
- **Live Sharing**, showing other Aqua Map users on the map. See the [Live Sharing](#) page for details.
- **ActiveCaptain**, community data from ActiveCaptain. See the [ActiveCaptain](#) page for details.
- **Waterway Guide**, community data from Waterway Guide. See the [Waterway Guide](#) page for details.

Map coloring

You'll find three ways to adjust your map's coloring from the main [Settings](#) menu.

- **Map appearance**, Day or Night drawing style, or "Auto" to match your device's Light or Dark setting. Night mode works best in low-light conditions, under direct sunlight the contrast can end up too low.
- **Depth coloring**, "Standard" mimics traditional paper charts, blue for shallow water, fading to white past 20m. "Natural" mimics real sea colors instead, white for shallow water, darkening to deep blue past 3.500m. Neither option applies to areas using Raster charts.
- **Safety depth**, sets the threshold for blue-shaded depth areas. Anything deeper than your safety depth shows as white, anything shallower stays shaded blue. Also doesn't apply to Raster chart areas.

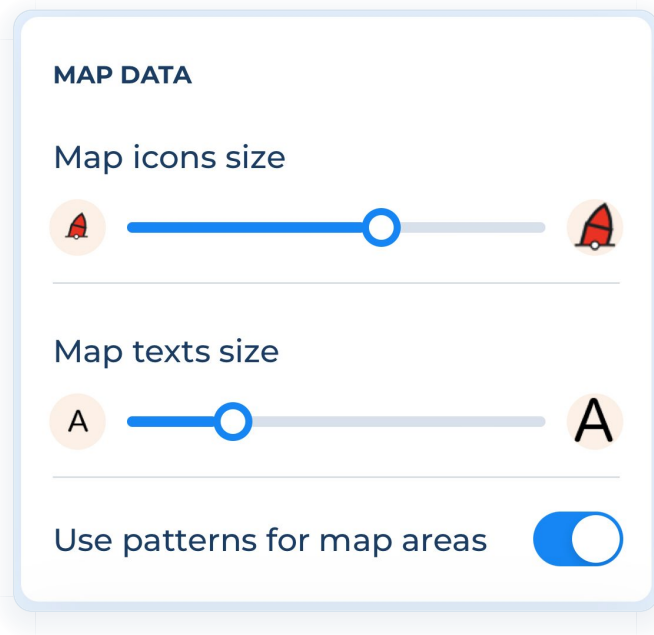
Map visibility

There's a dedicated page for adjusting the size of most icons and text on the map, reachable from the main [Settings](#) menu. Options are grouped into clear categories to keep things manageable, and a "Restore Defaults" button at the bottom resets everything back to its original size.

Map data

This first group covers the elements that make up the base cartography:

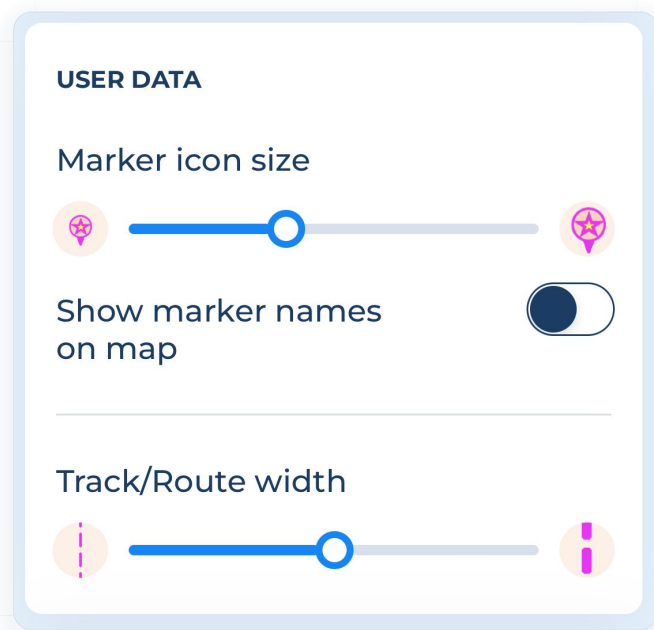
- **map icons size**, adjusting most icons in the base cartography proportionally, keeping smaller icons smaller relative to larger ones. Some land data icons stay fixed at a small size regardless, to avoid clutter;
- **map texts size**, working the same way for text elements, proportional scaling, with some land data text kept intentionally small.
- **use patterns for map areas**, filling certain areas, like restricted zones or anchorages, with representative icon patterns. It improves clarity at the cost of some extra visual clutter, so it's worth toggling based on your own preference.



User data

This group covers everything that belongs to you: [routes](#), [tracks](#), and [markers](#).

- **Marker icon size**, your preferred marker icon size.
- **Show marker names on map**, displaying each marker's name just below its icon.
- **Track/route width**, the line thickness used for tracks and routes on the map.

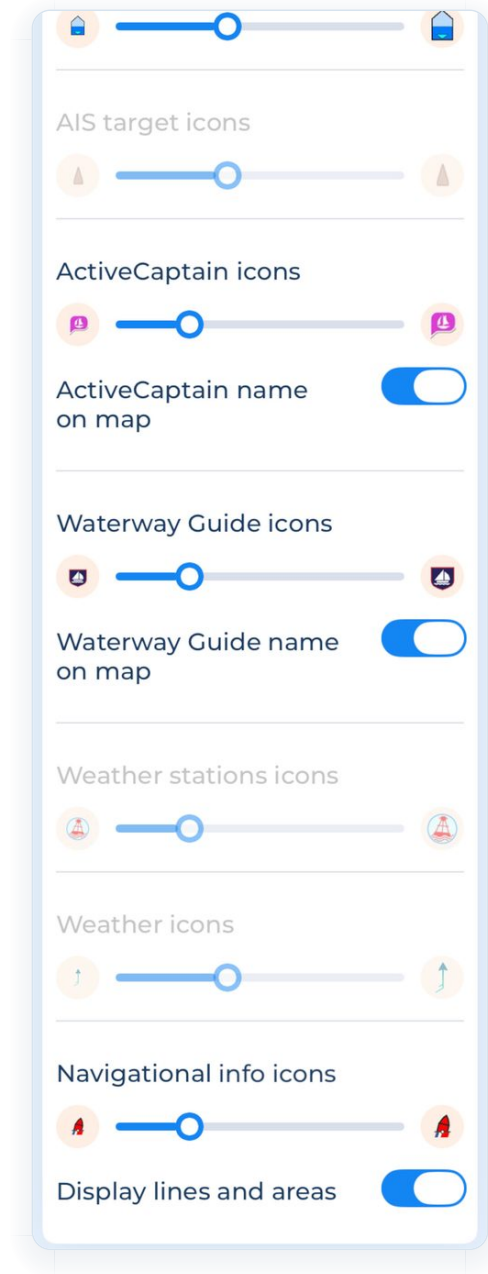


Additional data

This group covers every extra data layer you can overlay on the base chart. If a setting here appears grayed out, it just means that data type isn't currently enabled.

- **Live Sharing icons**, size for other users' icons on the map.
- **Tide & Current icons**, size for tide and current station icons.

- **AIS target icons**, size for [AIS target](#) icons. Changing this also changes the size of the boat name text shown alongside them.
- **ActiveCaptain icons**, size for [ActiveCaptain](#) icons, which may also affect the object name text size if that's enabled. A separate **ActiveCaptain name on map** switches controls whether those names display at all, only visible at detailed zoom levels when enabled.
- **Waterway Guide icons**, size for [Waterway Guide](#) icons, with the same relationship to text size. A separate **Waterway Guide names on map** switch controls whether object names display, also only at detailed zoom levels.
- **Weather stations icon**, size for weather buoy icons.
- **Weather icons**, size for weather overlay icons (surface currents, wind, waves, gusts, sea surface temperature, and salinity).
- **Navigational info icons**, size for [Navigational Info](#) icons, which also affects the buoy number text shown nearby. A separate **Display lines and areas** switch lets you show every object type or limit the display to points only, useful for reducing clutter.



Want to see it in action?

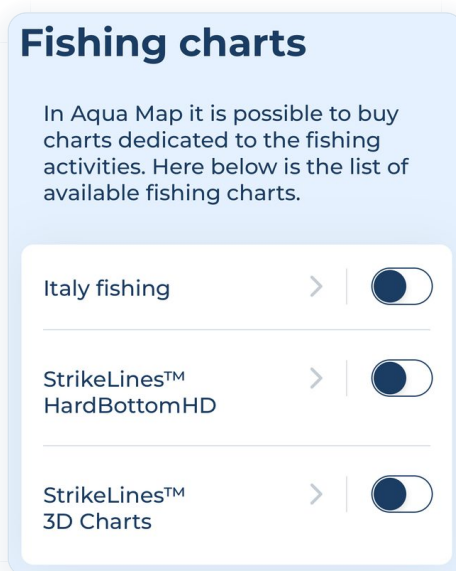
For a full walkthrough of customizing your map, check out our [video tutorial](#).

Fishing Charts: specialized data for better catches

In certain areas, Aqua Map offers dedicated fishing charts on top of the standard nautical charts, giving you access to exclusive information: fishing spots by species, general restrictions and special regulations, sea bottom details including natural and artificial reef categories, and a lot more. If fishing is part of why you're on the water, these charts are genuinely worth having.

The Fishing Charts menu

You'll find the Fishing Charts settings page from the main [Settings](#) menu, where you can view the three types of fishing charts currently available in Aqua Map. Each one has its own on/off toggle, plus a "Settings" arrow leading to a dedicated page with the full set of options for that data type.



Aqua Map Italy Fishing Charts

Italy's entire coastline is covered by official nautical charts sourced from the IIM (the Italian Navy's Hydrographic Institute), plus Corsica, sourced from the SHOM (the French Hydrographic Institute). These provide depths, spot soundings, navigational aids, port plans, and everything else needed for safe navigation, along with detailed land-side information like roads, points of interest, and trails.

On top of those official charts, the Fishing Charts layer adds fishing-specific information from both boat and shore, plus spearfishing data, covering hundreds of fishing points and areas across the country, as follows.



Fishing points and areas, covering fish species, techniques, bait types where available, plus any special instructions or restrictions.

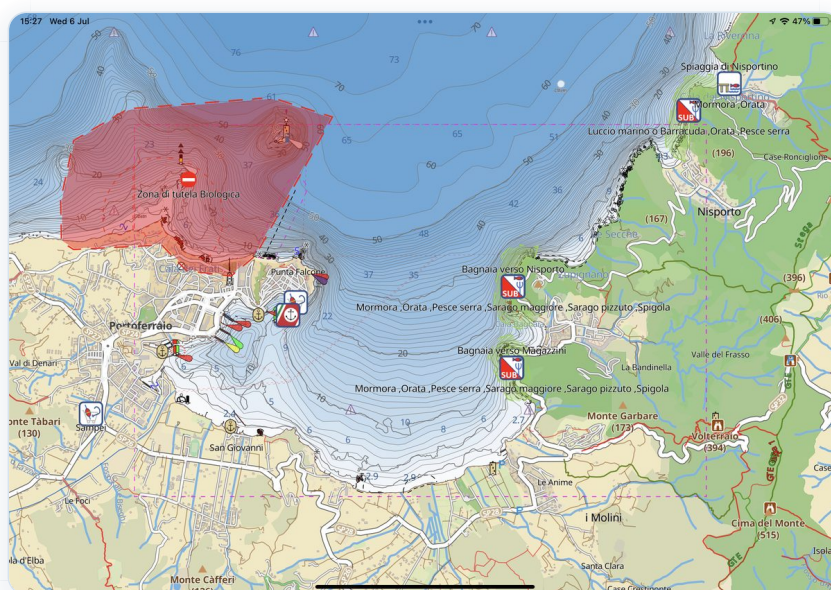
   **Special regulation zones**, including Marine Protected Areas and other fishing-related restrictions.

 **General location info** not typically found on standard nautical charts, like shoal names and other local references.

 **Italian Coast Guard offices**, every District, Captaincy, Local Office, and Beach Delegation, complete with address and phone number.

 **Fishing equipment stores** along the coast, also with address and phone number.

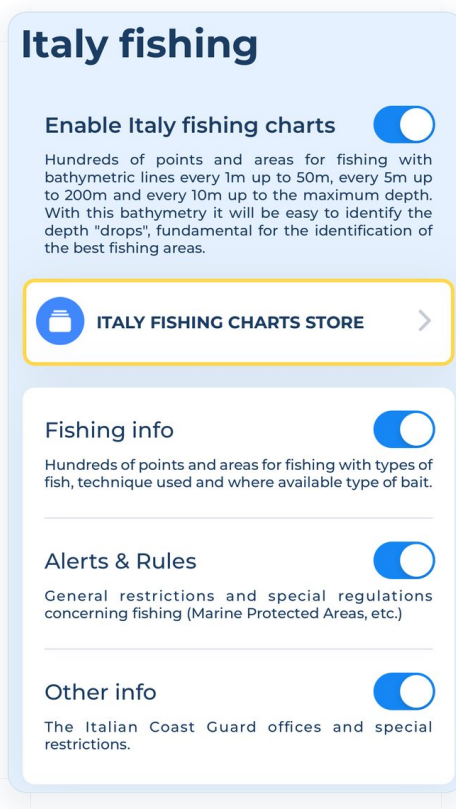
- **Bathymetric lines** at 1-meter intervals down to 50 meters, 5-meter intervals down to 200 meters, and 10-meter intervals beyond that, paired with realistic depth coloring (darker shades for deeper water). This level of detail makes sudden depth changes easy to spot, exactly the kind of feature worth knowing about when you're hunting for a good fishing spot.



Coverage spans every Italian marine region, including the upper Adriatic.

Italy Fishing Charts settings

From the dedicated settings page, you can enable the fishing charts overlay, access the Italy Fishing Charts store to purchase specific chart areas, and enable or disable individual layers within the fishing charts.



StrikeLines HardBottomHD

[StrikeLines](#) HardBottomHD charts offer the most detailed mapping available of fish habitat on Florida's Gulf side, covering more than a dozen categories of natural and artificial reef, each labeled and color-coded by type, namely:

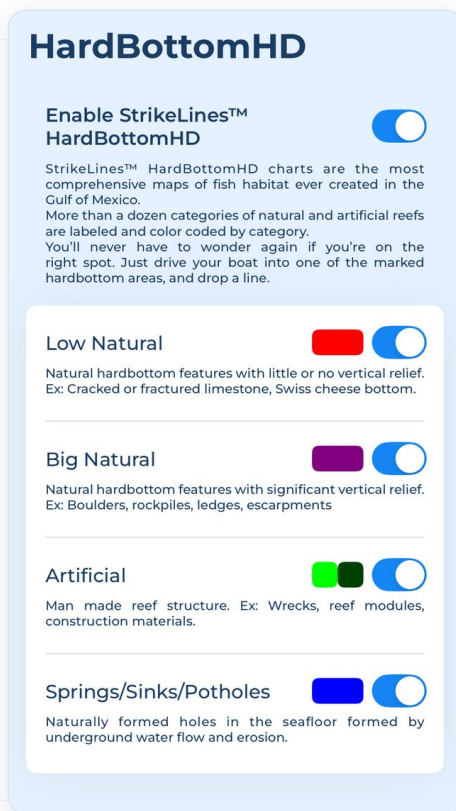
- **Low natural**, natural hardbottom with minimal vertical relief, like cracked limestone or "Swiss cheese" bottom;
- **Big natural**, natural hardbottom with significant vertical relief, boulders, rockpiles, ledges, and escarpments;
- **Artificials**, man-made reef structures like wrecks, reef modules, and construction materials;
- **Springs, sinks, and potholes**, naturally formed seafloor holes from underground water flow and erosion. Springs typically have freshwater outflow, sinks usually don't, and potholes are smaller depressions formed by surface erosion or fish activity.

With these charts, you'll never have to guess whether you're in the right spot, just navigate to one of the marked hardbottom areas and drop a line. Coverage covers more than 130.000 marked hardbottom areas and artificial reefs, from the Florida Panhandle down to the Keys, many of which have never been published anywhere before.

StrikeLines HardBottomHD charts are produced by StrikeLines Tampa LLC and distributed through Aqua Map.

StrikeLines HardBottomHD Settings

From the dedicated settings page, you can enable the HardBottomHD overlay and enable or disable individual layers within it. Worth knowing: these charts can also be purchased directly through the [StrikeLines website](#).



StrikeLines 3D charts

StrikeLines 3D charts take things a step further with high-resolution seafloor mapping, letting you see exactly where rocks, reefs, ledges, and other structures sit, in real time, right on your device.

Built for serious anglers, these high-definition maps turn your chart into a genuine tool for finding hidden fishing spots, highlighting both natural habitat (hardbottom rocks, ledges, reefs) and artificial structures like pipelines and shipwrecks. The Aqua Map version is continuously updated with the latest seafloor data.

These charts are produced by StrikeLines Tampa LLC and, unlike HardBottomHD, are distributed exclusively through the [StrikeLines website](#), not through Aqua Map directly.

My Boat: setting up your vessel profile

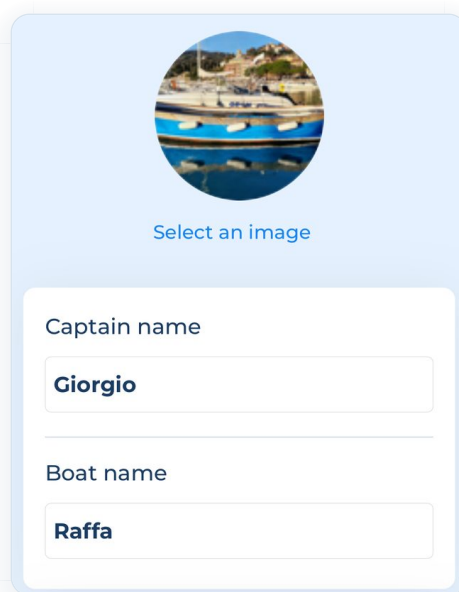
The My Boat page is where you tell Aqua Map about your vessel, its name, type, dimensions, average speed, and more. This isn't just profile information either, several features across the app rely directly on these details to calculate things accurately, from how your boat displays on the chart to how Route Explorer searches for fuel and clearance.

You'll find My Boat from the main [Settings](#) menu. Two things worth knowing upfront: most of what you enter here syncs automatically across every device logged into the same [GEC Account](#), and if you enable [Live Sharing](#), most of this information becomes visible to other Aqua Map users too.

GEC Account settings

The first section covers the basics tied to your account:

- **image**, your avatar, shown to other users if you're active on Live Sharing;
- **captain name**, your preferred nickname (this doesn't need to be unique, other users can share the same one);
- **boat name**, whatever you'd like your vessel to be called.



Boat display settings

This section controls how your boat icon, meaning your current GPS position, appears on the chart:

- **icon**, the symbol used to represent your position;
- **icon color** and **icon size**, self-explanatory;

- **GPS direction (COG) line length**, the length of the line showing your Course Over Ground. Unlike the Timestick below, this line stays fixed regardless of zoom level or boat speed, making it a clear, constant heading indicator.
- **timestick**, similar in direction to the COG line, but built for a different purpose: showing where your boat will actually be in the near future. Set it to 5 minutes, and the tip of the line shows your projected position 5 minutes ahead, assuming you hold your current course and speed. It carries a larger mark every 5 minutes and a smaller one every minute, for the first 10 minutes. Set the value to 0, and the Timestick simply won't display;
- **Variable Range Marker (VRM)**, an optional circle around your boat at a distance you choose, useful for judging at a glance whether anything on the chart is closer than that. Set to 0, it's hidden.

The screenshot shows a settings menu for a boat in Aqua Map. At the top, there are three icons: a blue square with a white boat icon, a blue circle with a white anchor icon, and a blue triangle with a white arrow icon. Below these are several settings sections:

- Icon**: A section with three icons (a blue square with a white boat, a blue circle with a white anchor, and a blue triangle with a white arrow).
- Color**: A row of six colored circles: red, orange, green, purple (selected), white, and black.
- Size**: A horizontal slider bar with a blue circle in the middle.
- GPS Direction (COG) line length**: A horizontal slider bar with a blue circle near the right end.
- Timestick**: A section with a description "The line drawn correspond to X minute at the current speed and course (from 1 to 60)" and a text input field containing "10 min."
- Variable Range Marker (VRM)**: A section with a description "A circle drawn around the boat at a defined distance (set = 0 to not display it)." and a text input field containing "0".

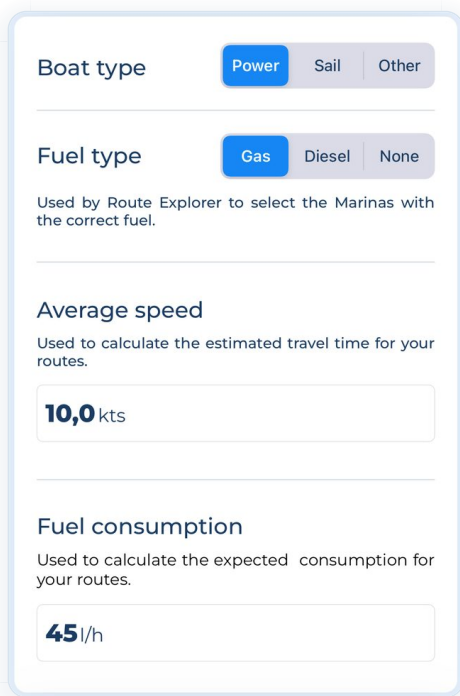
Boat parameters

This section covers your boat's type and default navigation figures:

- **boat type**, choose the closest match, with "Other" available for anything that doesn't fit the standard power or sail categories;
- **fuel type**, used by [Route Explorer](#) when searching for marinas that carry fuel. For marinas that list a specific fuel type, Route Explorer only surfaces the ones matching what you've set here;
- **average speed**, used to calculate every time-related estimate for your routes. You can also set a specific average speed per route from that [route's own settings](#) page. Worth knowing: this

figure only applies to routes that aren't currently active, once you start navigating a route, Aqua Map switches to your real-time GPS speed instead;

- **fuel consumption**, used to calculate estimated fuel usage for your routes, with the same option to override it per route from that route's settings page.

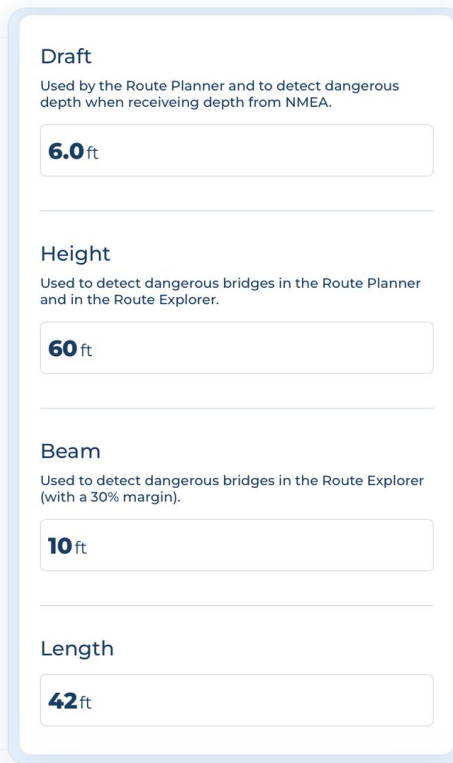


The screenshot shows a settings panel for a boat. It has three sections: 'Boat type' with buttons for 'Power' (selected), 'Sail', and 'Other'; 'Fuel type' with buttons for 'Gas' (selected), 'Diesel', and 'None', followed by a note 'Used by Route Explorer to select the Marinas with the correct fuel.'; and 'Average speed' with a text input field containing '10,0 kts' and a note 'Used to calculate the estimated travel time for your routes.' Below this is a 'Fuel consumption' section with a text input field containing '45 l/h' and a note 'Used to calculate the expected consumption for your routes.'

Boat size

This is where you enter your boat's key dimensions, and getting these right really matters, since several safety features depend on them directly:

- **draft**, your boat's maximum depth below the waterline. Used by [Route Planner](#) to calculate safe water, and by your [Wi-Fi connection](#) to trigger a depth alarm;
- **height**, your boat's maximum height above the waterline. Also used by Route Planner for safe-water calculations, and by Route Explorer to work out clearance under bridges. Worth keeping in mind: while Aqua Map adds a margin on top of the value you enter, factors like tides, waves, and wind can still affect your actual available clearance, so this figure is a starting point, not a guarantee;
- **beam**, your boat's width, also used by Route Explorer for bridge clearance calculations;
- **length**, your boat's total length. This currently isn't used in any calculation, but it's still worth entering accurately for your own reference.



Draft
Used by the Route Planner and to detect dangerous depth when receiveing depth from NMEA.

6.0ft

Height
Used to detect dangerous bridges in the Route Planner and in the Route Explorer.

60ft

Beam
Used to detect dangerous bridges in the Route Explorer (with a 30% margin).

10ft

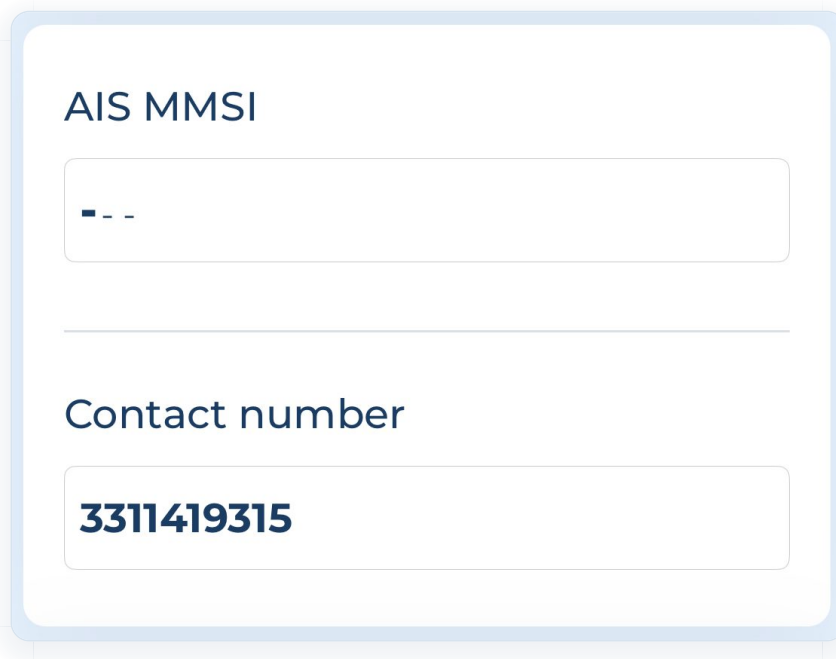
Length

42ft

Contact info

These details help other users get in touch with you or identify your boat, and like the rest of this page, they're only shared with the community if Live Sharing is enabled:

- **AIS MMSI**, your boat's Maritime Mobile Service Identity number;
- **contact number**, a phone number other Aqua Map users can reach you on.



AIS MMSI

- - -

Contact number

3311419315

Boating lifestyles

Here you can select up to 3 boating lifestyles that describe how you use your boat. Shared with the Live Sharing community, this is what lets other users search for and find boaters with similar interests to their own.

BOATING LIFESTYLES

	Diving	☒
	Family on board	☐
	Pet on board	☐
	Snorkeling	☒
	Liveaboard	☐
	Baby on board	☐
	Solo Sailor	☐
	Kid on board	☐
	Fishing	☒
	Teenager on board	☐

If you ever want to start fresh, the "Delete Settings" button clears everything on this page at once.

Route Planner: plan, edit and navigate every route with confidence

Planning a route is where safe navigation really begins, and Aqua Map's Route Planner is built to give you full control over that process, however you like to work. You can let the app calculate the optimal path automatically, build every leg by hand, or mix both approaches within the same route.

Route Planner can also draw on the tracks and routes already saved on your device, using them as your preferred path when calculating a route automatically. And where local data such as USACE Surveys or Coast Guard information is available for your area, Aqua Map factors that in too.

Before you start: download your chart tiles

Route Planner needs chart data to work. Before you start plotting, make sure the chart tiles covering your journey are downloaded, otherwise the route simply won't calculate, and you'll get a pop-up message if you try to place a waypoint on an area you haven't downloaded yet.

To download the tiles you need, tap the Charts icon in the bottom-left corner of the map to open Grid View. For the full walkthrough, check the [chart download guide](#).

Creating a new route

To start a new route, long-press anywhere on the chart where you'd like your first waypoint to sit. Alternatively, tap the chart and select the route icon  from the pop-up menu. Either way, you'll be asked to choose between two starting options:

- **Start from**, which uses the point you placed as the beginning of your route.
- **Navigate to**, which uses that point as your destination, with your current GPS position as the starting point.

Once you make your choice, Aqua Map creates the new route and drops you into Route Planner mode. From here, the app automatically shows the Route editing info window, displays the AUTO/MANUAL toggle at the bottom of the screen, and hides the Search and Camera icons so you can focus on the route itself.

Adding, moving and deleting Waypoints

User Waypoints VS Automatic Waypoints

Every waypoint you place yourself is a User Waypoint. These appear in the Route editing info window and are marked on the map with a distinct symbol  (the start and end points get their own unique icons too  ). When Auto mode calculates a path between your waypoints, it also

generates Automatic Waypoints along the way, shown with a much subtler symbol  and not listed in the editing window. If you want more control over one of these calculated points, just drag it, and it becomes a User Waypoint you can edit freely.

Adding a Waypoint

You can add a waypoint two ways: tap the "Add Waypoint" button  in the Route editing info window, or long-press directly on the map (or tap and select the waypoint icon from the pop-up ). Either method adds the new point to the end of your route. You can also tap any Active Captain or Waterway Guide point of interest and use the same button to drop a waypoint right on that location.

Want to insert a waypoint mid-route instead of at the end? Tap directly on the route line to split it. Aqua Map will confirm the split, and you can then drag the new waypoint into the exact position you want.

Deleting a Waypoint

Only User Waypoints can be deleted (Automatic Waypoints exist purely as calculation output). Tap the waypoint on the map and select the trash icon  from the pop-up, or find it in the Route editing info window and tap the trash icon on its row.

Moving a Waypoint

Same rule applies: only User Waypoints can be repositioned. Drag it directly on the map, or open the Route editing info window and edit its coordinates field manually.

Auto Mode, Manual Mode, or a bit of both

The AUTO/MANUAL toggle  at the bottom-center of the screen controls how Aqua Map calculates your route, and you're not locked into one choice. You can switch between the two modes freely within the same route, which is what makes Route Planner genuinely flexible rather than just automated or just manual. Auto segments are drawn in dark purple  and Manual segments in magenta , so it's always visually obvious which parts of your route were calculated and which you built yourself.

Auto Mode

In Auto mode, Aqua Map calculates the optimal path between your User Waypoints automatically. Add, move, or delete a waypoint, and the app recalculates that portion of the route on the fly, based on your vessel's specifications and the routing preferences set on the Route Planner settings page and the [My Boat](#) page. It's worth checking both of those pages before running any calculation, since the accuracy of the suggested route depends entirely on them.

While calculating, the Route editing info window shows a progress bar and percentage, and you won't be able to interact with the map except to hit Cancel. If part of your route can't be calculated, Aqua Map will tell you so, usually because your vessel specifications don't match the available chart data, or because a chart tile is missing. The app will also flag any waypoint you place in a non-navigable area.

One important reminder: automatically calculated routes are suggestions, not guarantees. Always review the full route carefully before using it for actual navigation.

Manual Mode

Prefer to build the route yourself, point by point? Manual mode gives you complete control. Aqua Map will still check your route for hazards as you go, even though nothing is calculated automatically, so you're never editing blind.

Hybrid Mode: mixing Auto and Manual

Here's where Route Planner gets genuinely useful: you can switch between Auto and Manual as many times as you like while editing the same route. Switching modes doesn't retroactively change anything you've already plotted. If you move from Manual to Auto, nothing that came before gets recalculated, and vice versa. Each mode only affects what you do from that point forward.

The logic behind each mode differs too:

- **In Auto mode**, moving, adding, or deleting a User Waypoint always triggers a recalculation of the path to the previous and next User Waypoint, regardless of what type those segments were before.
- **In Manual mode**, nothing is ever recalculated. Adding, moving, or deleting a waypoint simply creates a manual segment to the previous and next point.

A good approach is to set your start and end points (and maybe a few key intermediate points) in Auto mode, let Aqua Map suggest a route, then switch to Manual mode to review it and adjust any sections where you'd rather chart your own path. That combination gives you the speed of automatic calculation with the judgment only you can bring, and reviewing the suggested route is always essential before you rely on it.

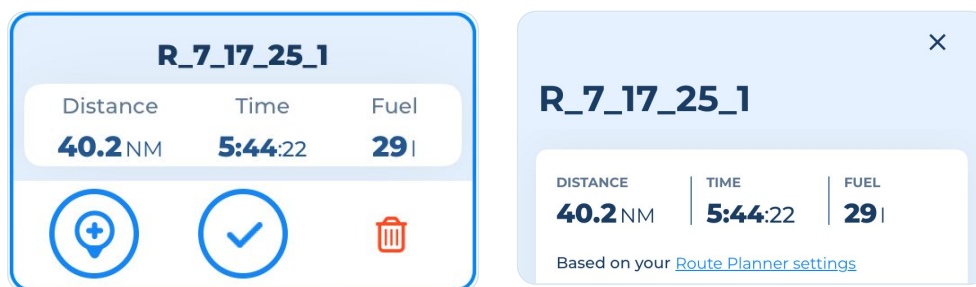
Editing an existing route

To edit a route you've already saved, tap it on the chart and select the edit icon from the pop-up . What happens next depends on how the route was originally created. If it's an "old style" route, built before Route Planner existed or imported from elsewhere, Aqua Map treats every segment as manual. If it was created with Route Planner, all your previous editing history is restored, and you pick up right where you left off.

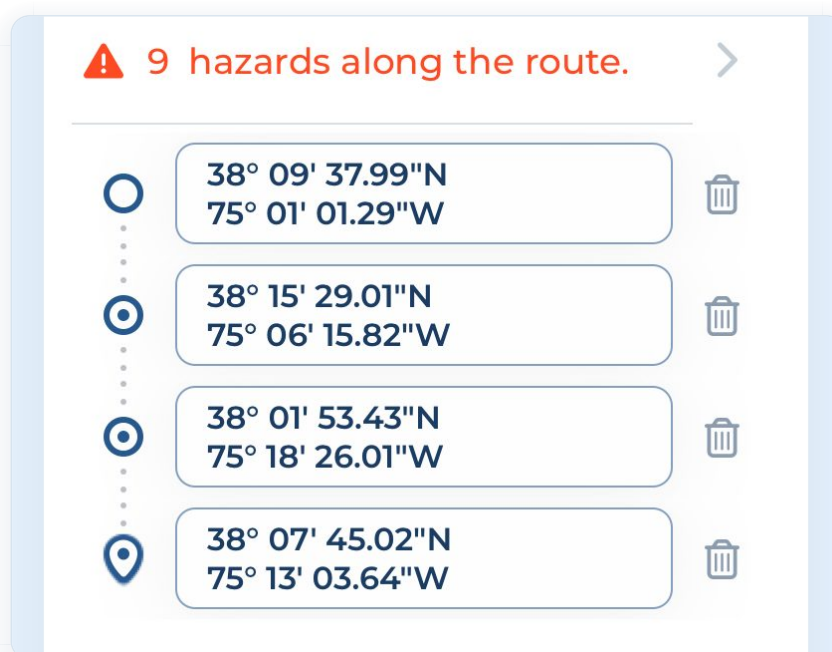
One thing to note: hazards are always fully recalculated when you reopen a route, to account for any chart updates since you last touched it. The automatically calculated segments themselves, however, are not recalculated just because you've reopened the route.

The route editing info window

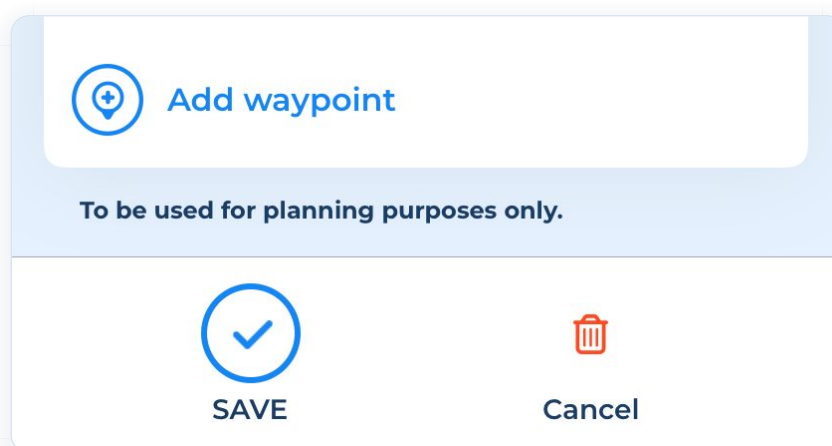
As soon as you enter Route Planner mode, a window appears summarizing your route and giving you control over the editing process. It comes in two versions: a compact summary and an extended view with full detail. On a smartphone, you'll see the compact version by default (tap it to expand); on a tablet, the extended version is shown by default on the left side of the screen.



The window includes the route name (which you can only change after saving, from the [Route Info](#) page), along with distance, estimated duration, and estimated fuel consumption, calculated using the average speed and fuel data set on the My Boat page. You'll also see a reminder to check your Route Planner settings, with a direct link to that page.



Further down, if any hazards are detected, you'll see how many, along with the full list of your User Waypoints in sequence. From each waypoint's row, you can select it to center the map on it  , tap its coordinates to edit position and name, or delete it with the trash icon.



At the bottom of the window: an Add Waypoint button, a Save button (which also lets you start navigation immediately), and a Cancel button that discards all your changes and restores the route to its original state.

How hazards are calculated and displayed

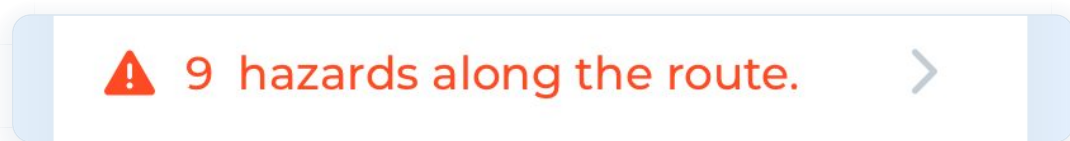
Hazard detection is one of the most valuable parts of Route Planner. Whenever you're in Auto mode, Aqua Map searches for the shortest path with the fewest possible dangers. Sometimes a compromise is unavoidable, especially if you've enabled the Weak Safety checks option, and in those cases the app flags the hazards it found rather than pretending they don't exist.

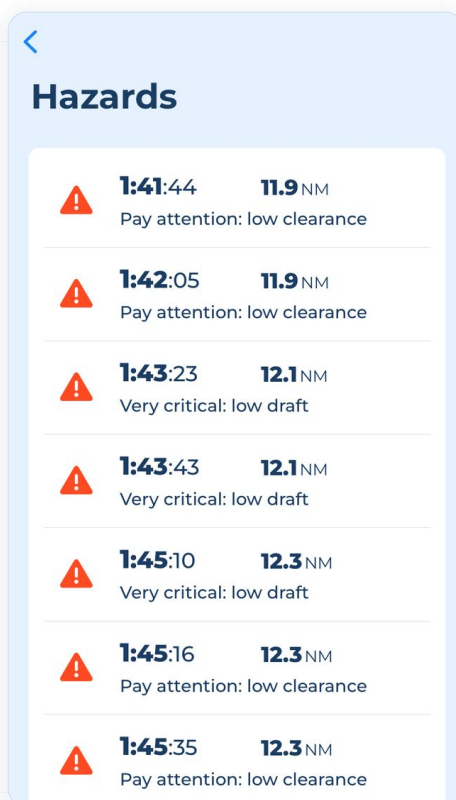
Importantly, hazard checking isn't limited to automatically calculated segments. Even a route built entirely in Manual mode gets the same hazard analysis, so nothing slips through unreviewed.

On the map, hazards appear as a dedicated symbol  placed at the center of the affected area, and the route itself changes color depending on severity:

- **Gray, "You cannot pass":** a completely non-navigable segment. Auto-calculated routes will never cross these, aside from short stretches needed to reach a destination that isn't directly on the water, like a marina restaurant.
- **Orange, "Very critical":** a very hazardous segment, caused either by shallow water (your draft setting exceeds the safe depth range for that area) or low clearance under an undeclared structure like a bridge or cable. If you've selected Strong Safety checks, Auto mode avoids these areas entirely.
- **Yellow, "Danger: low clearance":** the route passes under an opening bridge that must be raised to let your boat through.
- **Yellow, "Pay attention: low clearance":** the route passes under a bridge or cable with enough clearance to pass, but with a margin tight enough to warrant caution.

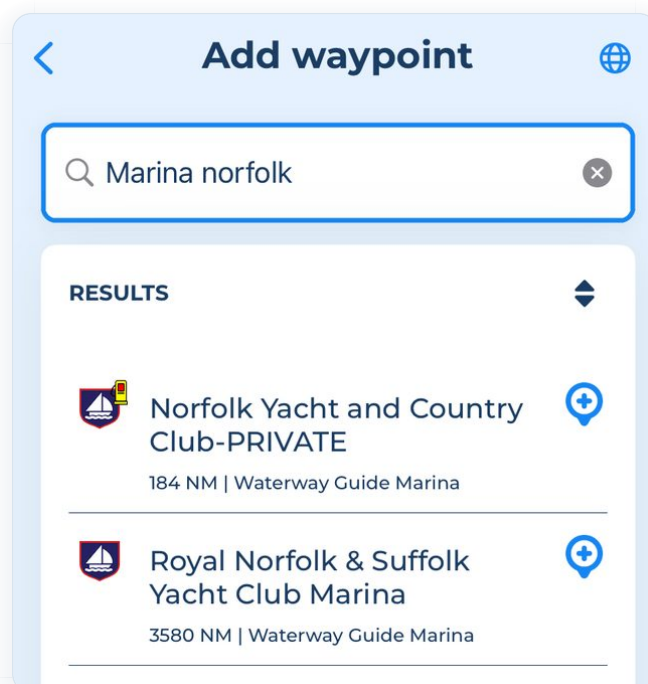
You can also review every hazard in list form from the Route editing info window. Each entry shows the time and distance from the start (based on your average speed from the My Boat page) along with a description, and tapping any row centers the map on that hazard.





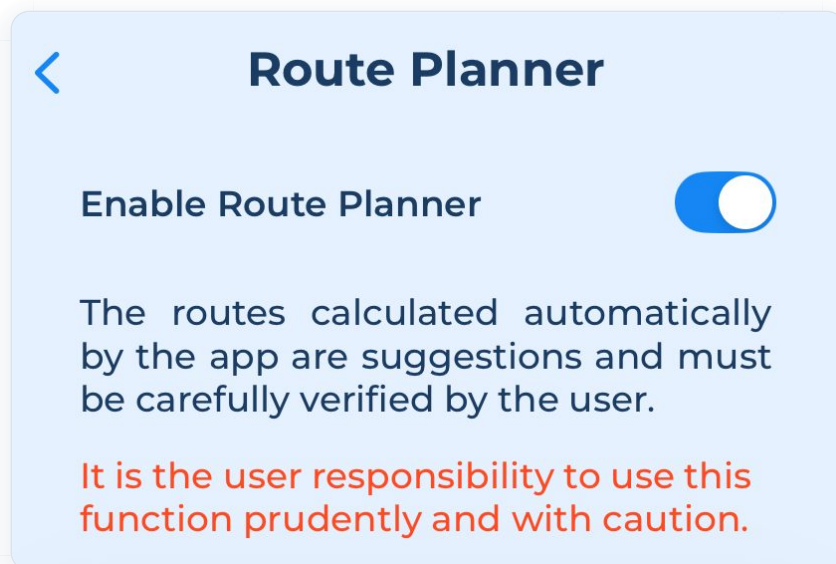
Adding Waypoints from points of interest

Tapping the Add Waypoint button  opens a dedicated search page where you can look up points of interest or pick from your saved markers. In the top-right corner, a globe icon  opens the Set Coordinates window, so you can enter exact latitude and longitude if you already know where you want to go. From the results list, tap any item to center the map on it, or tap the Add Waypoint icon to insert it as the last point on your route.

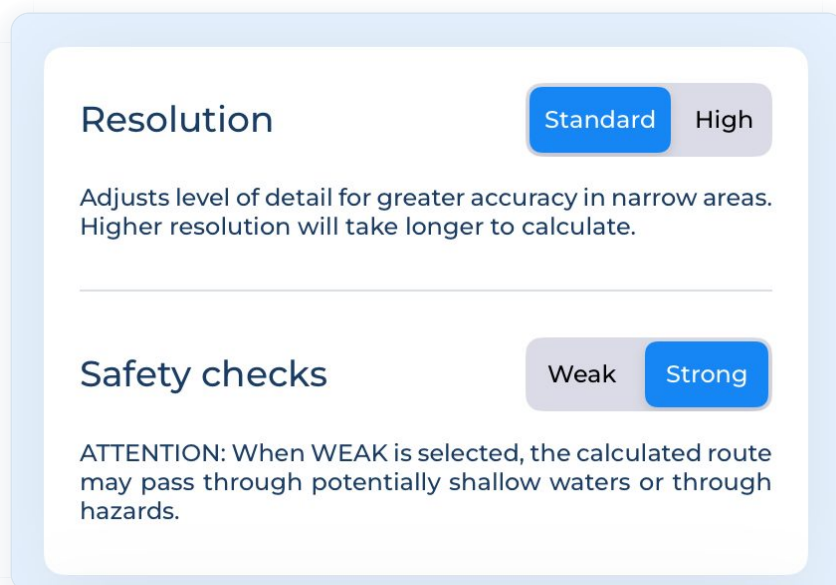


Route Planner settings

You'll find Route Planner settings from the main [Settings](#) page. This is where you fine-tune how Auto mode calculates routes and how hazards are flagged, and it's worth reviewing before you rely on any automatically generated route.



Turning Route Planner off entirely still lets you create and edit routes, but you lose access to Auto mode and, more importantly, all hazard calculation. In other words, with it disabled, you won't be warned about hazards at all while editing or navigating.



Resolution and safety checks. Resolution controls how much detail goes into calculating a route. Standard works well for most navigation, while High resolution helps with narrow channels and tight passages, at the cost of longer calculation time. Safety Checks determine how cautious the algorithm is: Strong keeps the route strictly within safe areas based on available chart data, while Weak may route you through potentially shallow water or hazards, so use it carefully and only when you understand the trade-off.

Use visible Tracks & Routes ☒

AUTO planning will prioritize visible tracks and routes as preferred paths.

Skip Track safety check ☒

Tracks will be used without applying any safety checks.

Tracks/Routes priority Standard High

This setting determines how much priority is given to tracks and routes. When set to High, they will be used even if the resulting route is longer.

Using your own tracks and routes. If you enable "Use visible Tracks & Routes," Auto mode will treat any track or route currently visible on your device, including imported ones, as your preferred path. "Skip Track safety check" removes safety validation from those tracks entirely, which should only be used with tracks you already trust for your specific boat. Track/Routes priority controls how strictly the algorithm follows them: Standard treats them as a guide and will suggest something more efficient if it finds one, while High follows them closely, even if that means a longer route.

Draft setting

My Boat		ADDITIONAL MARGIN		
5.0 ft	+	0.7 ft	=	5.7 ft

Clearance setting

My Boat		ADDITIONAL MARGIN		
16 ft	+	20 ft	=	36 ft

Draft and clearance margins. Here you set extra safety margins added on top of your boat's draft and height, as defined on the My Boat page. Draft setting adds margin when checking depth data, and Clearance setting adds margin when checking passage under bridges, cables, or other overhead structures. Getting your boat's actual draft and height right on the My Boat page first is essential, since these margins are calculated on top of those numbers, not instead of them.

Local data. Aqua Map factors in any local data currently displayed on your screen when calculating routes and hazards. If USACE Surveys are switched on, for instance, Auto mode uses them (respecting the same age-filtering settings from the [USACE Surveys](#) page). Turn that layer off, and it's left out of the calculation entirely.

Want to see it in action?

For a full walkthrough of Route Planner in use, check out our [video tutorial](#).

Routes: navigating and managing your saved routes

A route is simply a series of waypoints guiding you to your destination. Aqua Map makes it easy to create, edit, and navigate routes, with plenty of detail available along the way to keep you informed at every step.

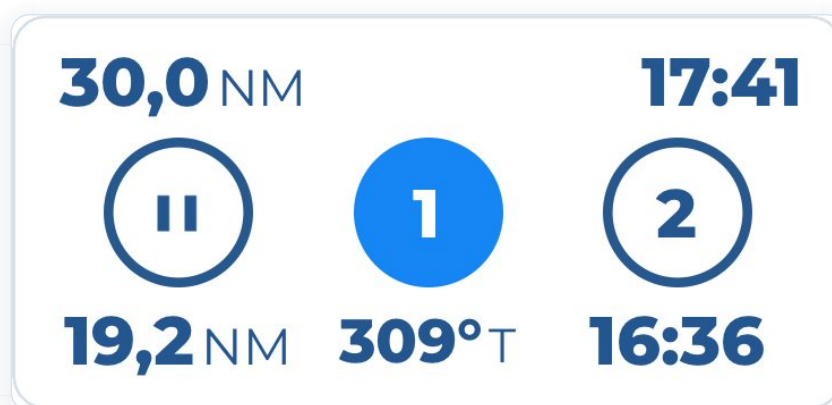
Creating or editing a route

For everything on creating a new route or editing an existing one, head over to the [Route Planner](#) page.

Navigating a Route

To start navigating, hit the play button  on the route's info page. A window pops up at the top of your screen with all the key details as follows.

- **At the top**, your total distance and estimated time of arrival (ETA).
- **In the middle**, how many waypoints your route has, with your current one highlighted in blue. Use the left and right buttons to move between waypoints manually, or tap any waypoint on the map to switch directly. Tap the blue active waypoint button to open the Route Info page.
- **At the bottom**, the distance, direction, and ETA to your current active waypoint. As long as your GPS is on and the route is active, Aqua Map automatically figures out which waypoint you're at and guides you to the next one.

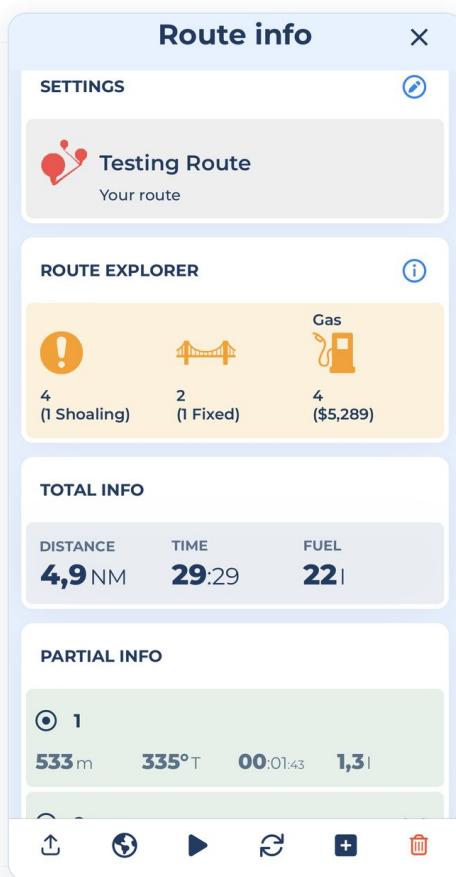


Worth knowing: if you've set your boat type to "Sail" on the [My Boat](#) page and you're actively sailing a route, the ETA switches to using your current VMG (Velocity Made Good), your effective speed toward the next waypoint, rather than raw speed.

The Route info page

You can reach a route's info page three ways: tap the route directly on the map, tap the Route Navigation window described above, or find it from the [Search](#) page. Tapping a route on the map opens a pop-up with an info button , tap the route's name in the center of that pop-up instead, and you'll get a list of every object nearby.

From the Route info page, you can:



 open **Route settings** to edit the name, description, color, and visibility, or adjust the route's average speed and fuel consumption;

 open **Route Explorer** for detailed analysis of the route. This requires an active [Advanced Tools subscription](#);

- view **Total/Remaining info**: total or remaining distance, time/ETA, and fuel consumption. If the route is active, time is calculated from your current GPS speed;
- browse the **Partial info list**, covering every waypoint on your route, segment distance and direction, estimated duration for that segment (or ETA if the route is active), fuel consumption for that segment, plus cumulative distance, time, and fuel from the start of the route (or from your active waypoint, if navigating).

The bottom menu gives you the core actions listed below.

 **Share** the route in GPX or KMZ format, via GEC Account, email, or other apps.

 **Center** the map on the route, zooming in and recentering the view.

 **Navigate** the route, this button switches to pause  once the route is active, letting you stop navigation with a single tap.

 **Reverse** the route's direction, swapping start and end points. Not available while actively navigating.

 **Duplicate** the route, creating an identical copy automatically set to a white color.

 **Delete** the route permanently.

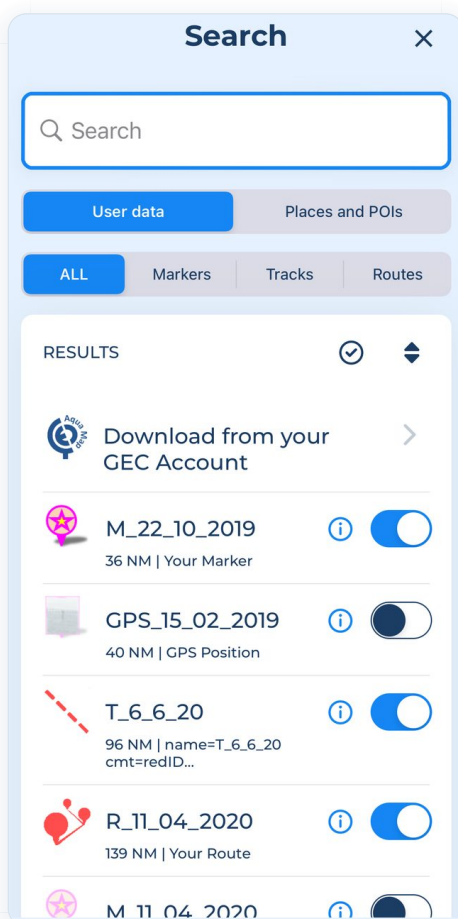
Search: finding anything on your chart, fast

Whether you're after your nearest marker, a specific marina, or a route you saved months ago, Search is the fastest way to find it. Tap the magnifying glass icon  in the upper-right corner of the screen to open it, and you'll be searching across two distinct sets of data.

- **User data**, everything you've personally created or imported, markers, tracks, and routes.
- **Places and POIs**, a curated set of geographic places and points of interest.

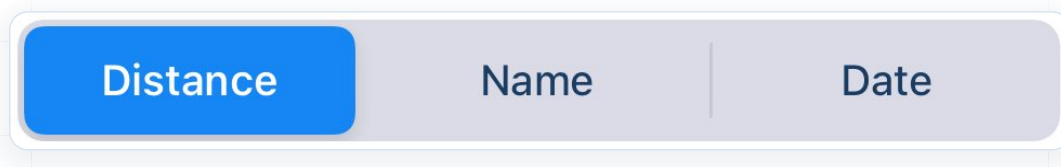
Searching your User data

Open Search, and you'll land on this tab first by default, with a search box up top and two tab switches to move between User Data and Places and POIs.



- **Search by name**, typing in the box filters your list to anything containing that text (not just items that start with it) in either the name or description.
- **Switch data sets** between User Data and Places and POIs at any time. One detail worth knowing: your search text stays in the box when you switch, it doesn't reset automatically.

- **Filter by type**, choosing "All" or narrowing down to just Markers, Tracks, or Routes.
- **Edit mode**, tap the edit icon  to select and manage multiple objects at once (more on this below).
- ◆ **Sort the list**, by Distance (from the center of your current map view), Name (alphabetically), or Date (last modified).
- **Download from your GEC Account**, which opens your GEC archive if you're already logged in, or the login page if you're not. See the [GEC Account page](#) for the full picture.



For each item in the list, you can tap its name to center and zoom the map on it, tap the info button  to open its full details page, use the toggle to hide or show it on the map, or, on iOS only, swipe right to left to delete it directly  (on Android, deleting requires opening the item's details page first).

Edit mode

Tap the edit button, and you can act  on several objects at once instead of one at a time. Tap the radio button on each item you want to include, then use the bottom toolbar to:

- **select or unselect all** items currently shown in the list;
- **show or hide** every selected item on the map at once;

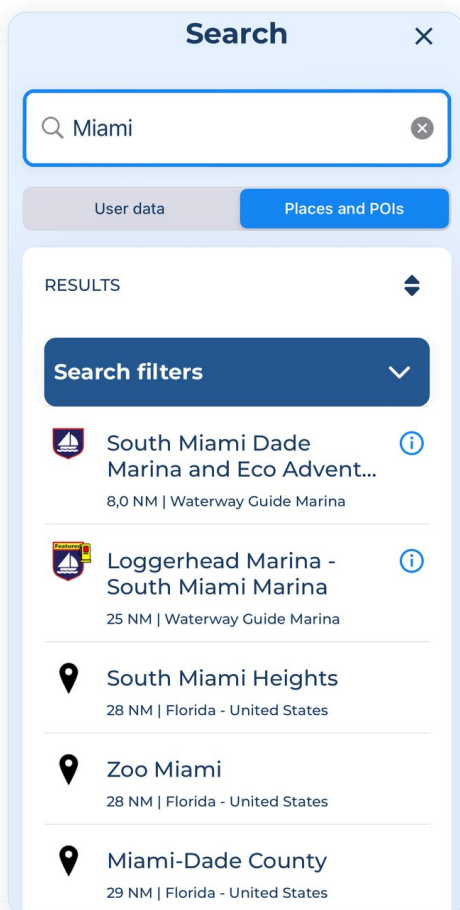
 **share** every selected item together in a single file. This is genuinely handy for archiving a batch of items to your [GEC Account](#) in one go, though it's worth knowing that once bundled this way, the file is stored as a single combined item, so you won't be able to re-import just part of it later;

 **delete** every selected item at once.

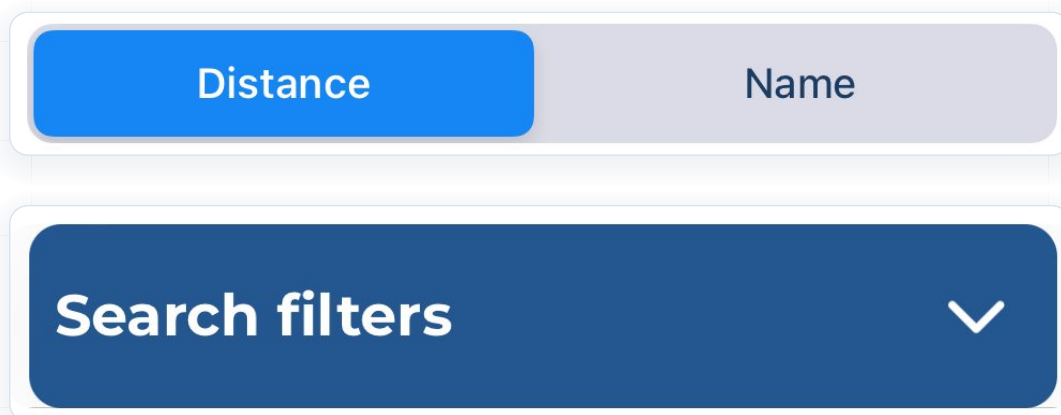
Tap the edit button again  to exit Edit Mode.

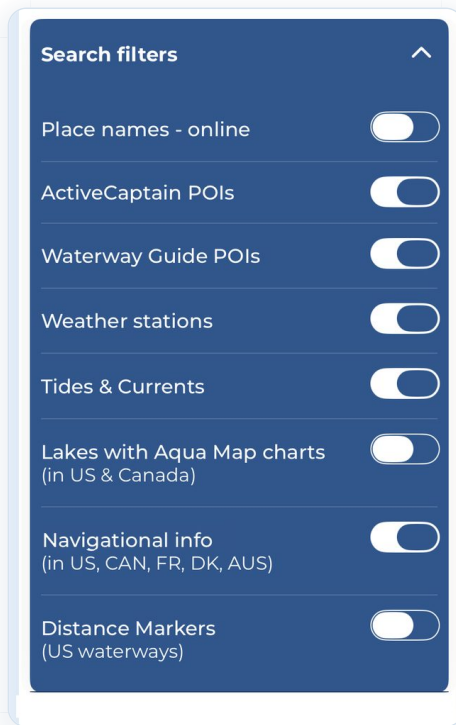
Searching places and POIs

Switch to this tab, and you're searching a broader set of geographic categories, community points of interest, place names, and more.



- **Search by name** works the same way as on the User Data tab.
- **Switch data sets** back to User Data whenever you like, your search text carries over here too, even after closing and reopening the Search page.
- ◆ **Sort the list**, by Distance or Name.
- **Search filters**, tap the filter button to open a full list of categories you can enable or disable for your search. If an option appears grayed out, it usually means that data type either isn't downloaded yet or isn't enabled in your settings.





For each result, tap it to center the map on that location, or tap the info button, when available , to open its full details page. No info button means there's nothing further to show for that item.

Want to see it in action?

For a full walkthrough of Search, check out our [video tutorial](#).

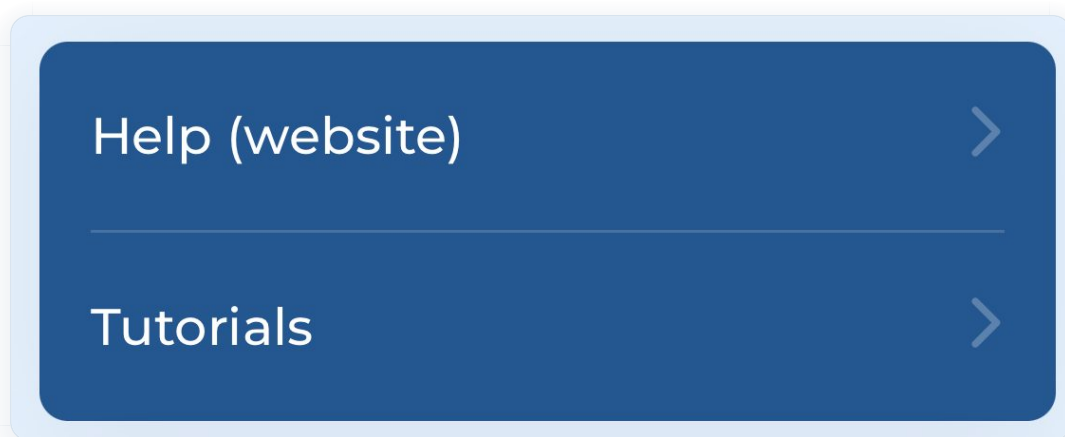
Settings: your complete guide to the Aqua Map menu

The Settings menu is command central for Aqua Map, tap the button in the bottom-right corner of the screen  to open it, and you'll find every feature of the app organized into clear sections. Most items give you a quick on/off switch for that data layer or function, and many also include a "Settings" arrow leading to a dedicated page with the full set of options.

This page walks through every section, top to bottom, so you know exactly where to find what.

Help

Right at the top, you'll find two help options: one takes you to our website's Support section, and the other opens quick in-app tutorials explaining what each element in Aqua Map actually does.



Aqua Map charts store

Tap here to browse our full chart catalog, organized by continent and country, view your existing purchases, or restore charts you've bought previously.



My Boat

This is where you set up your personal and boat details, type, average speed, draft, and more. Most of what you enter here feeds directly into other Aqua Map features, helping personalize the data and calculations you see elsewhere in the app. For the full breakdown, see the [My Boat](#) page.

**MY BOAT**

Route Planner

Activate and configure [Route Planner](#) here, including the parameters that shape how automatic route calculation behaves.

**ROUTE PLANNER**

Anchor Alarm

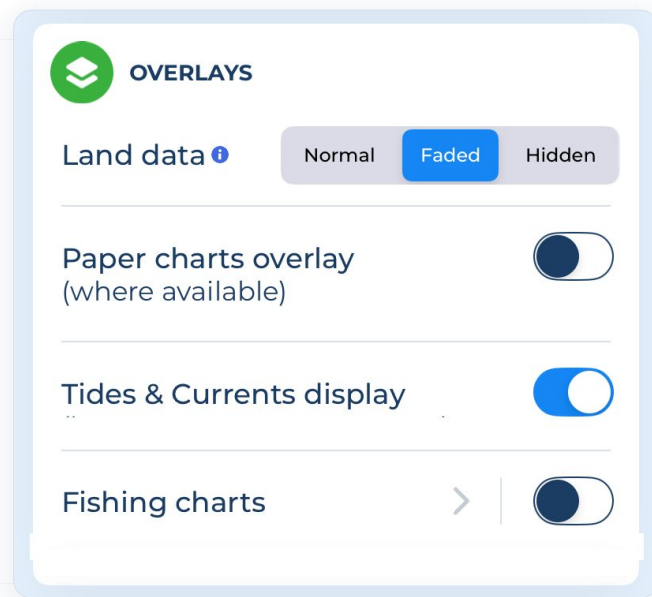
Turn on and configure [Anchor Alarm](#), including your anchor position and all alarm parameters, from this section.

**ANCHOR ALARM**

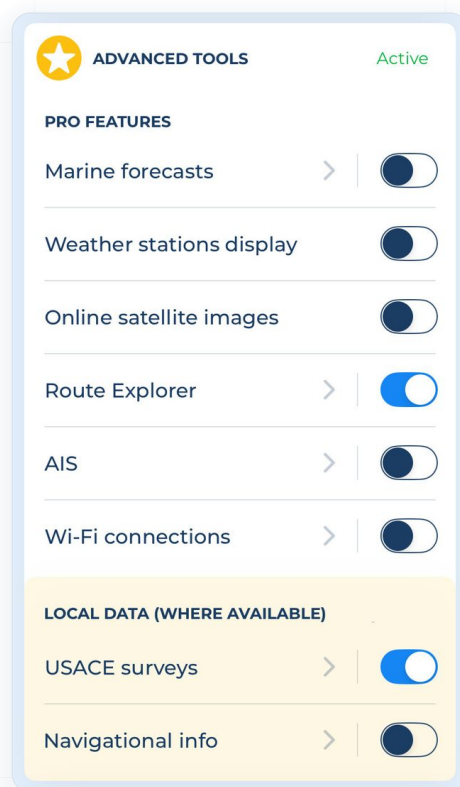
Overlays

Control which extra data layers show up on top of your chart.

- **Land data**, how the land portion of the map is displayed: "Normal" for the full road network and POIs, "Faded" for a semi-transparent version, or "Hidden" to remove it entirely. This has no effect on nautical data, and it isn't available in areas where charts are in Raster format.
- **Paper charts overlay**, adds supplementary raster charts on top of the map, with a slider in the lower-right corner to adjust opacity. Only available in certain areas.
- **Tides & Currents display**, shows tide and tidal current stations as icons on the map.
- **Fishing Charts**, displays and configures any Fishing Charts you've purchased, providing supplementary detail in specific areas.



Advanced Tools



This section covers everything included in an Advanced Tools subscription. On the right of the "Advanced Tools" row, you'll see your current status: "Active" means one of the subscriptions is currently running, "Purchase" means you don't have one yet. Tap "Purchase" to head to the Store, or tap "Active" to review your current subscription.

Pro Features

- **Marine Forecast**, overlaying weather data on the map, currently supporting surface currents, wind, waves, salinity, and sea surface temperature. See the [Marine Forecasts](#) page for the full rundown.
- **Weather stations display**, showing weather buoy icons on the map, giving you real-time conditions at their exact locations.
- **Online satellite images**, overlaying satellite imagery on the map, with an opacity slider in the lower-right corner.
- **Route Explorer**, enabling the on-map Route Explorer window while you're navigating. Turning this switch off doesn't disable Route Explorer entirely, the information stays available from any track or route's detail page. See the [Route Explorer](#) page for full configuration options.
- **AIS**, overlaying AIS targets on the map, which requires receiving an AIS data stream through a Wi-Fi connection. See the [AIS Integration](#) page for display and collision avoidance settings.
- **Wi-Fi connections (NMEA)**, letting you create and manage connections between Aqua Map and your boat's devices transmitting NMEA or Signal-K data over Wi-Fi. See the [Wi-Fi Connections](#) page for setup.

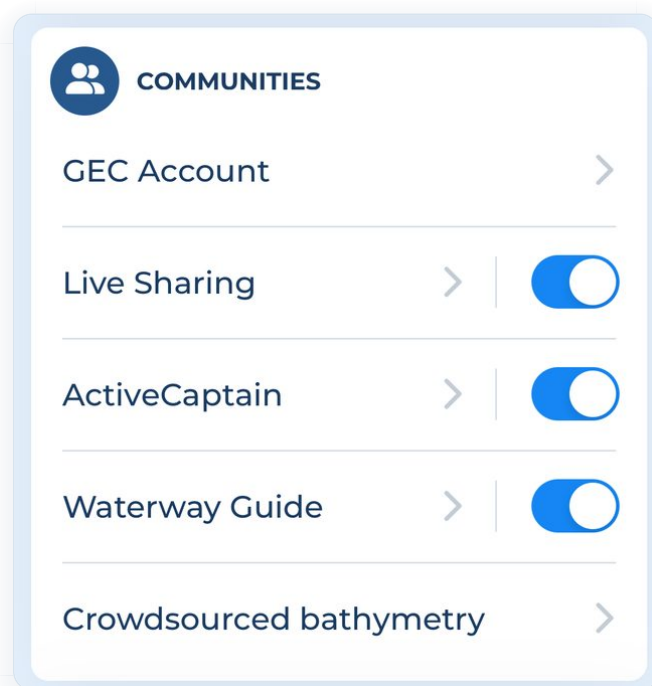
Local Data

Available only for customers in the US or Canada:

- **USACE surveys**, overlays US Army Corps of Engineers hydrographic survey data on the map. See the [USACE Surveys](#) page for configuration;
- **Coast Guard data**, overlays US Coast Guard data (Local Notice to Mariners and List of Lights) and Canadian Coast Guard NAVWARNs. See the [Navigational Info](#) page for the full picture.

Communities

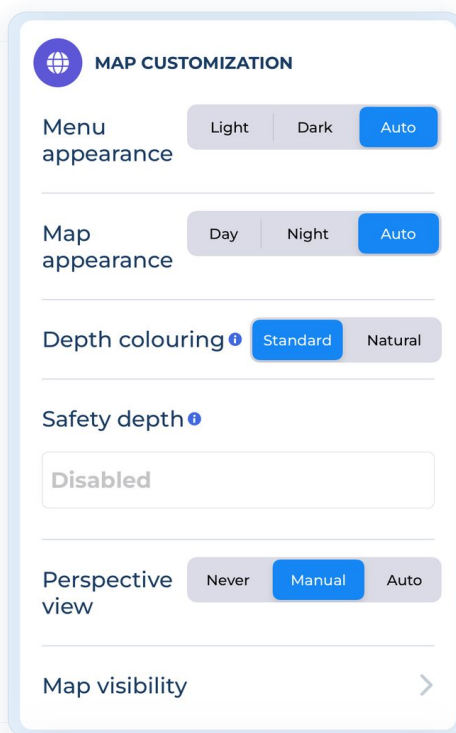
This section houses your GEC Account and every community data source available in Aqua Map.



- **GEC Account**, your official Aqua Map account, letting you archive your user data (routes, markers, tracks) and share purchases free across up to 5 devices, iOS and Android alike. Access it directly by tapping the arrow, or by logging in on our website. See the [GEC Account](#) page for details.
- **Live Sharing**, connects you with the Aqua Map community. See the [Live Sharing](#) page for setup.
- **ActiveCaptain**, overlays data from the ActiveCaptain community. See the [ActiveCaptain](#) page for downloading and display options.
- **Waterway Guide**, overlays data from the Waterway Guide community. See the [Waterway Guide](#) page for downloading and display options.
- **Bob423 tracks**, automatically imports and keeps every Bob423 ICW track synced. Just enable it once, future updates sync automatically with no further action needed.
- **Crowdsourced Bathymetry**, lets you participate in the IHO's Crowdsourced Bathymetry Initiative. See the [Crowdsourced Bathymetry](#) page for setup.

Map customization

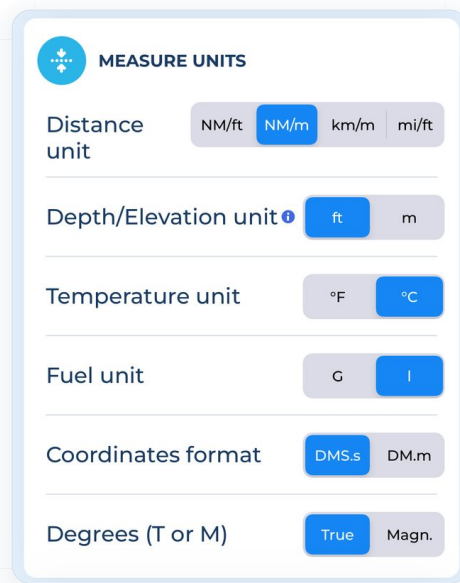
Set up the map's overall appearance and shading:



- **Menu appearance**, Light, Dark, or "Auto" (matching your device's own setting) for menus, buttons, and windows. iOS only.
- **Map appearance**, Day or Night drawing style, or "Auto" to match your device. Night mode is best in low-light conditions, since contrast can be too low under direct sunlight.
- **Depth coloring**, "Standard" mimics traditional paper charts (blue for shallow, shading to white past 20m), while "Natural" mimics real sea colors (white for shallow, shading to dark blue past 3,500m). Doesn't apply to Raster charts.
- **Safety depth**, sets the depth threshold for shaded areas, anything deeper than this shows as white (Standard) or dark blue (Natural), while shallower depths stay shaded. This one does apply to Raster charts.
- **Perspective View**, choose when the bird's-eye Perspective View activates: "Never" to disable it entirely, "Manual" to toggle it with a two-finger swipe, or "Auto" to enable it automatically in Heading-up mode and disable it in North-up mode (you can still toggle it manually even with Auto selected).
- **Map visibility**, controls icon and text size across the map, see the dedicated settings page for the full set of options.

Measure units

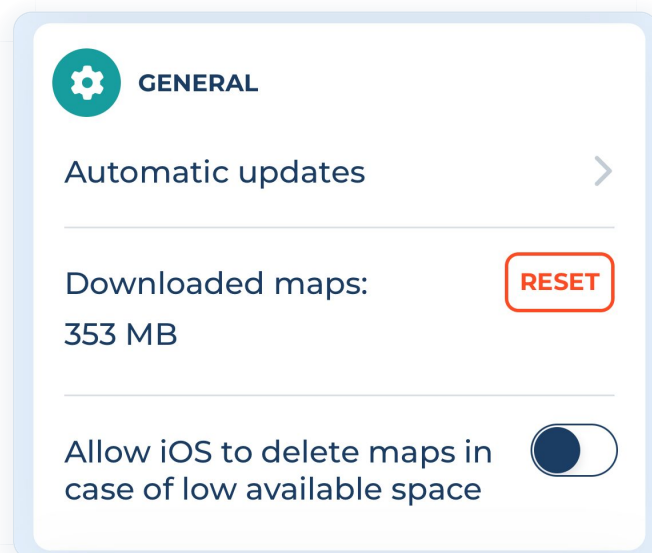
Choose your preferred units across the app:



- **distance unit**, Nautical Mile (NM), kilometer (km), or statute mile (mi). NM/m is a special option for anyone who prefers meters generally but wants NM for longer distances.
- **depth/elevation unit**, foot or meter. This setting doesn't affect display in areas using Raster charts.
- **temperature unit**, Fahrenheit or Celsius.
- **fuel unit**, gallon or liter.
- **coordinates format**, DMS.s (Degrees, Minutes, Seconds and fraction of a second) or DM.m (Degrees, Minutes and fraction of a minute).
- **degrees (T or M)**, True or Magnetic as your reference for direction. True means every angle is relative to the actual North Pole, while Magnetic corrects for the Earth's magnetic field using the current WMM2020 model.

General

Manage automatic updates and how much storage Aqua Map is using:

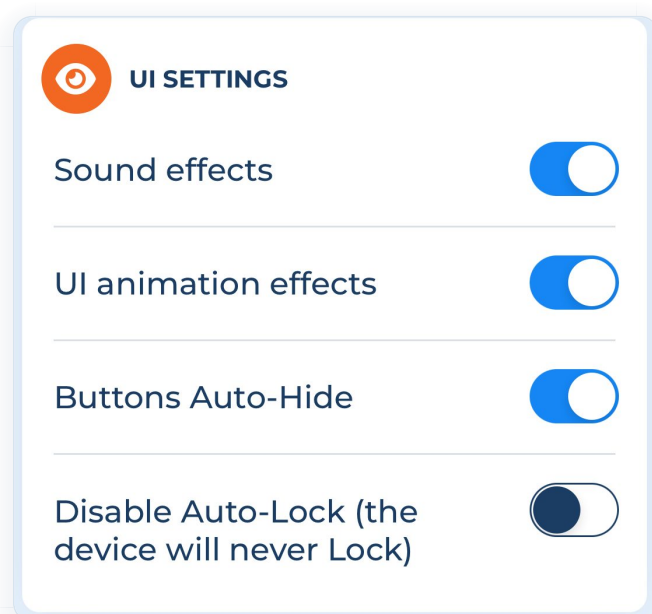


- **automatic updates**, controls how and when your downloaded maps and data update. See the dedicated Settings page for the full options.
- **downloaded maps**, shows how much storage your downloaded maps are using, and lets you clear all of them at once with the "Reset" button, or remove individual tiles from the [Charts](#) page instead.

Important note: allow iOS to delete maps in case of low available space, turn this on, and iOS may automatically remove downloaded map tiles if your device is running low on storage.

UI settings

Fine-tune how the app itself behaves:

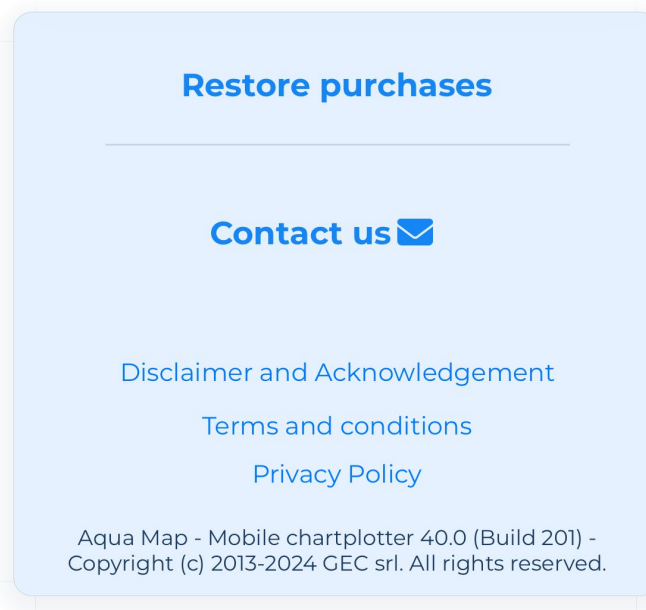


- **sound effects**, turns on sounds for button presses and interactions. Doesn't affect the Anchor Alarm sound, and iOS only.
- **UI animation effects**, enables animations when opening and closing windows. iOS only.

- **buttons auto-hide**, automatically hides map buttons after 10 seconds of no touch input, just tap the screen to bring them back.
- **disable auto-lock**, keeps your device from locking automatically. Worth knowing: this can noticeably increase battery usage, since the screen stays on.

Footer

At the bottom of the menu, you'll find a few standing options: **Restore purchases**, to recover any past in-app purchases, **Contact support**, which opens a direct email to support@aquamap.app for help, bug reports, or feature suggestions, and links to our Disclaimer and Acknowledgement, Terms and Conditions, and Privacy Policy.



Tides & Currents: predictions from all over the world

Aqua Map gives you access to worldwide forecasts from over 14.000 tide and tidal current stations. Beyond the standard graph view, you can also see tide and current data directly overlaid on your chart, right where you're navigating.

To turn the Tides & Currents overlay on or off, head to the main [Settings](#) menu.

Reading the icons on the map

Once the feature is active, you'll see two types of icons on your chart: one for a real-time tide prediction , and one for a real-time tidal current prediction .

Tide icons

Each tide icon shows a number, the current tide value in feet or meters, alongside a simplified graph indicating the tide phase. If the graph sits on the right side of the icon, the tide is rising , if it's on the left, the tide is falling .

The graph itself is split into dark blue and light blue sections showing what percentage of the total tide range you're currently at, a fully dark blue graph means high tide, a fully light blue one means low tide. One detail worth knowing: if the number appears in red, that's a negative tide, meaning it's below the Mean Low Sea Level.

Tidal current icons

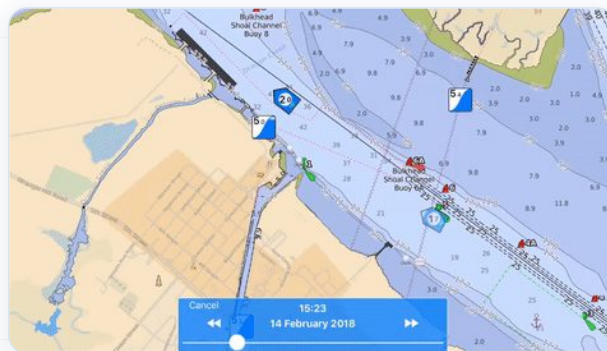
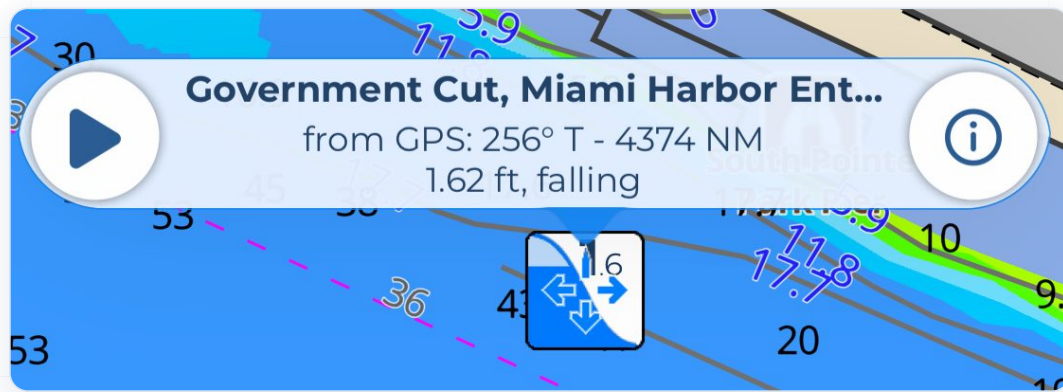
Each tidal current icon  shows a number, current speed in knots or kilometers per hour, along with an arrow pointing in the direction the current is flowing. Inside that arrow, a small cyan symbol tells you whether the current is strengthening (pointing the same direction as the arrow)  or weakening (pointing the opposite way) .

Like the tide icons, the arrow is split into dark blue and light blue sections showing how close the current is to its peak strength, fully dark blue means it's at its strongest right now, fully light blue means it's at its weakest.

You might also notice these icons looking somewhat transparent on the map . That's intentional, it reflects how far below the surface that particular current prediction sits, the more transparent the icon, the deeper the reading.

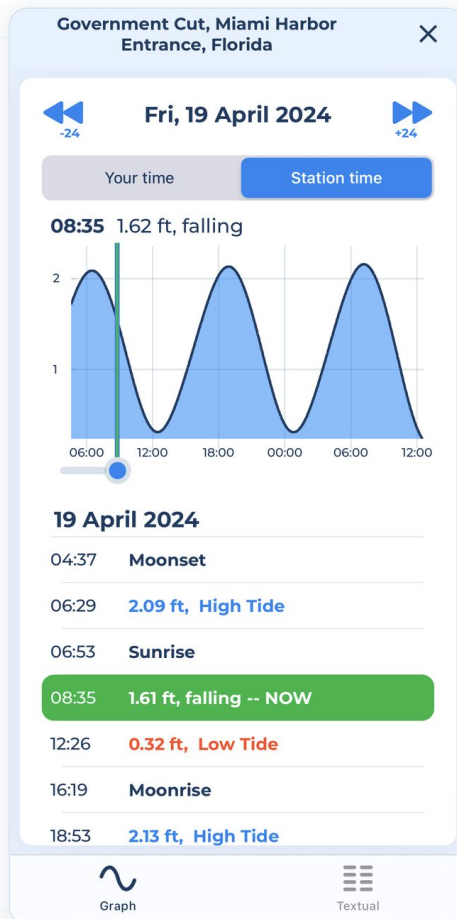
Running a time simulation

Tap any tide or current icon, and a pop-up window appears. Tap the play icon  inside it to start a simulation across every tide and current icon currently on screen, letting you watch conditions shift over the course of the day using the slider. To jump between days, tap the arrows in the blue box, or tap the date/time label directly to pick a specific date or time.



The station detail page

From that same pop-up, tap the info button to open the full detail page  for that station, broken into five sections, namely:



1. **Station name**, shown at the top;
2. **Date selection**, move backward or forward 24 hours using the arrows, or tap the date label to jump to a specific one. Worth checking here: the "Your Time" and "Station Time" switch, which lets you choose which time zone the predictions are shown in;
3. **Graph**, the overall tide or current behavior, with a slider to check values at specific times and a green vertical line marking the current time;
4. **Main station events**, listing each major event with its time, value, and description;
5. **Bottom menu**, letting you switch between a graphical or a plain text view of the prediction.

03

SECTION 03

Advanced tools

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AIS integration: tracking targets and avoiding collisions

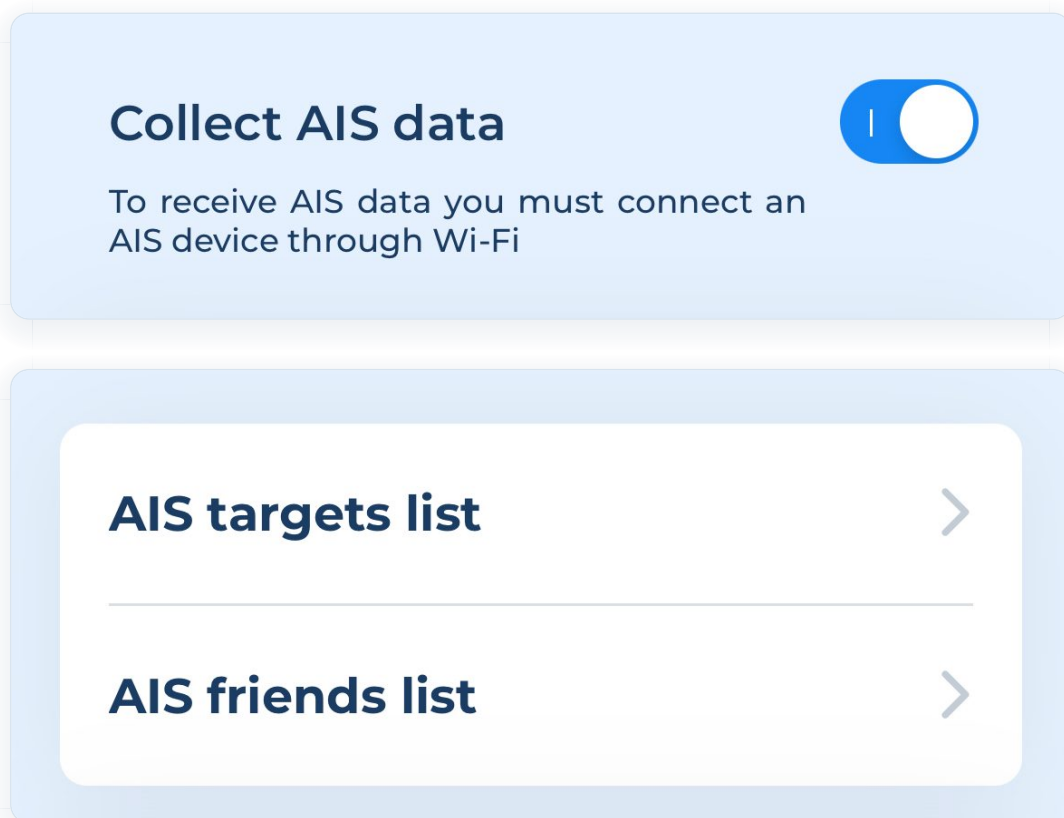
Connect your AIS device to Aqua Map through a [Wi-Fi Connection](#), and every received AIS target shows up directly on your chart, with automatic collision detection running in the background the whole time.

AIS Integration requires an active [Advanced Tools subscription](#).

AIS Settings

You'll find AIS Settings from the main [Settings](#) page, where you can view every received target, configure how AIS is drawn on the map, and set up Collision Avoidance.

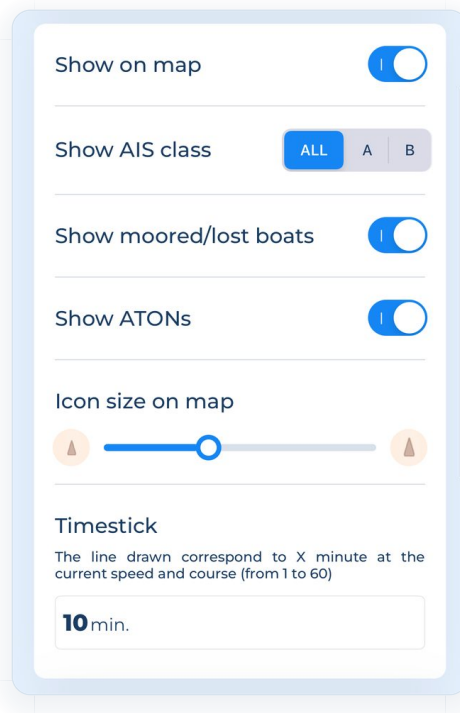
At the top of the page, a switch turns the entire AIS functionality on or off. Below that, you'll find two lists:



- **AIS targets list**, showing every AIS target currently being received;
- **AIS friends list**, showing only the targets you've marked as friends. Once you flag a target as a friend from its info page, Aqua Map recognizes it automatically every time it's received going forward.

Configuring the AIS display

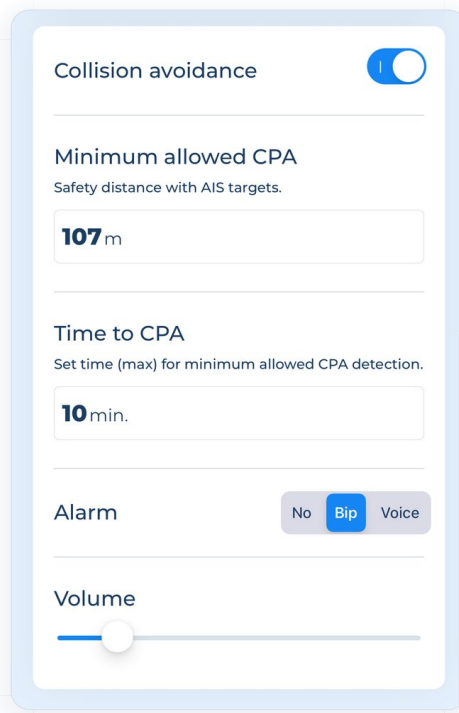
This section controls how targets appear on the map:



- **Show on map** turns the AIS overlay on.
- **Show AIS class** lets you choose which transponder classes to display, Class A and Class B, depending on the type of AIS transponder transmitting the data.
- **Show moored/lost boats** displays targets currently moored or lost (meaning no data received for over 3 minutes).
- **Show ATONs** displays Aids to Navigation, real or virtual (iOS only).
- **Timestick** sets the length, in minutes, of each target's course line. Set it to 5 minutes, for example, and the tip of the line shows where that target will be in 5 minutes if it holds its current bearing and speed. The line itself carries a larger mark every 5 minutes and a smaller one every minute, for the first 10 minutes.

Collision avoidance

This section defines how Aqua Map calculates and warns you about potential collisions as follows.

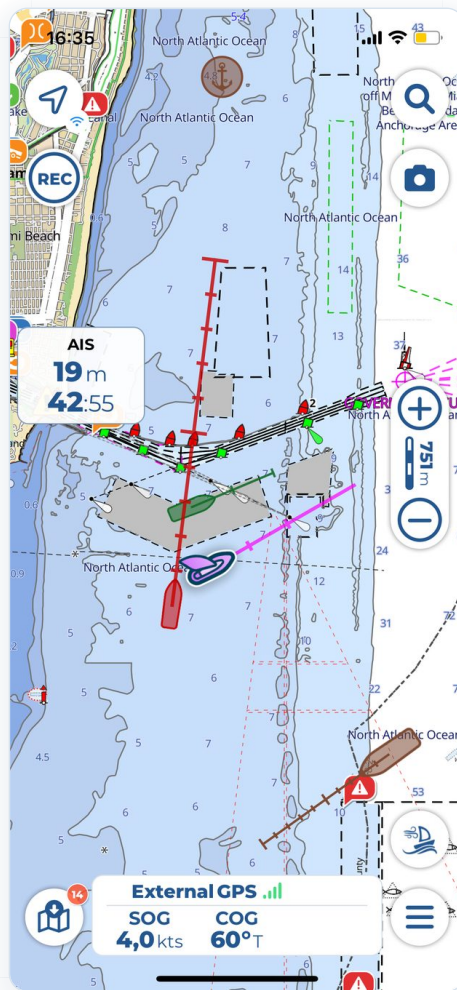


- **Collision avoidance** turns on the full alarm system, flashing red targets, flashing red AIS info boxes, and sound alerts.
- **Minimum allowed CPA** sets your Closest Point of Approach, the minimum distance you're comfortable with between your boat and another, assuming both hold their current course and speed. This is calculated against the window set in "Time to CPA." Set it to 350 feet, for example, and you'll get an alarm if any boat is projected to come within that distance over the next 10 minutes. One important caveat: this calculation relies on GPS position plus an estimated boat size, since actual boat size in AIS data is often missing or unreliable, so undetected collisions can still happen, particularly with larger vessels.
- **Time to CPA** sets how far into the future Aqua Map searches for potential collisions.
- **Alarm sound** and **volume** let you choose and adjust the sound used for collision alerts.

Reading AIS on the map

Once your AIS device is connected and "Show on map" is switched on, every received target, boats, ATONs, SARTs, appears directly on your chart.

Icon size scales with the reported boat size (larger boats get larger icons), and color reflects status: brown for a normal target, green for a friend, red for a tracked target, and flashing red when a collision is detected. Each boat also displays a course line, its length set by your Timestick setting and its visual length adjusting with the target's actual speed. Icon transparency shifts based on distance too, targets further from your position appear more faded.

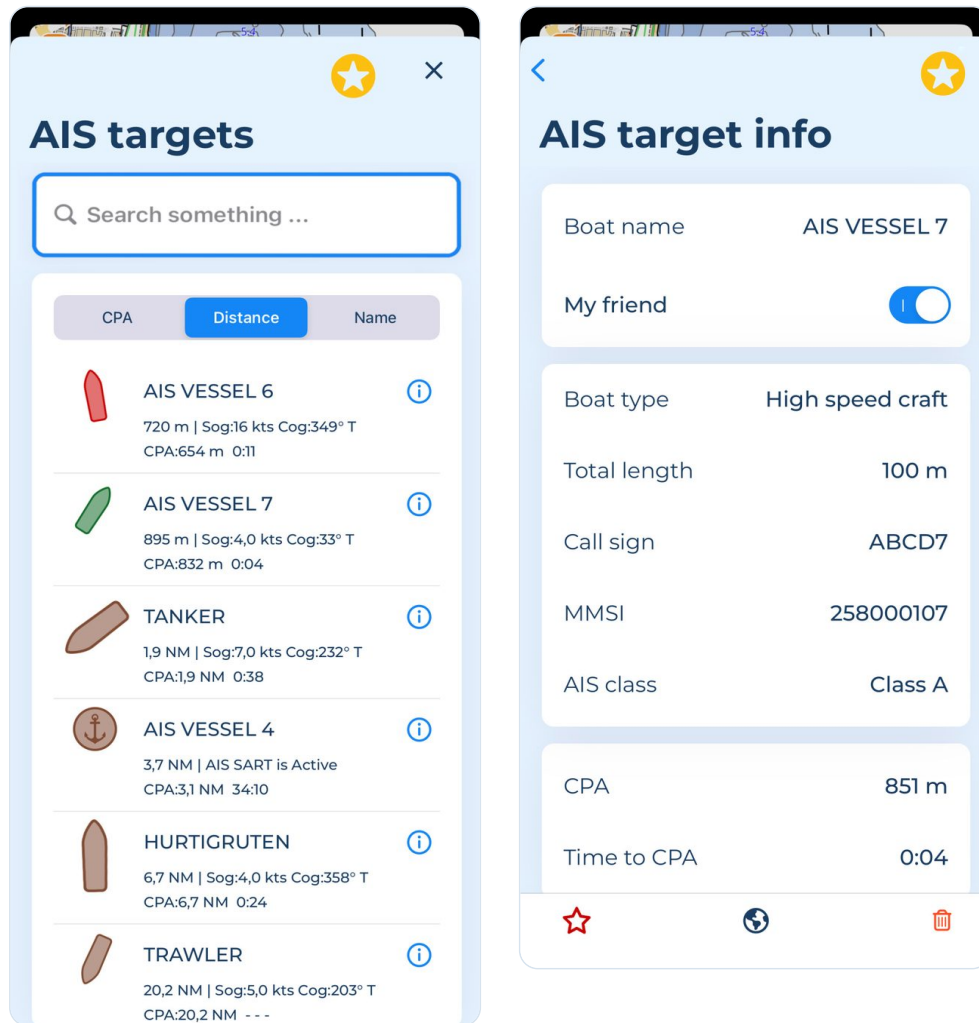


You'll also find a dedicated AIS box on the left side of the map, showing real-time CPA and TCPA for whichever target currently poses the most immediate risk, the one with the smallest CPA. If Collision Avoidance is active, this box starts flashing red the moment a collision is detected. Worth knowing: if a SART target is present, this box prioritizes showing SART information over any colliding target, since search-and-rescue transponders take precedence. Tap the box at any time to jump straight to the full target list.

AIS target info

There are two ways to open a target's full info page: tap its icon on the map and select the info button from the pop-up ⓘ, or tap the info icon next to it ⓘ in the target list.

The target list itself lets you search and filter by name, and sort targets by CPA, distance, or name, handy for quickly finding whichever target matters most right now.



From a target's info page, you'll see its full AIS data along with calculated CPA and TCPA, plus a "My friend" switch. Once flagged, that target is remembered permanently and recognized as a friend automatically from then on.

The bottom menu gives you three more actions:

- ★ **Tracked**, which marks the target and draws it in red on the map, with no distance-based transparency, so it stands out clearly;
- 🌐 **Center**, closing the info page and zooming the map to that target's position;
- 🗑️ **Delete**, removing the target from your current list. This only clears it locally, if the same target is received again, it'll simply reappear, so it's best used for targets you know are gone for good.

Want to see it in action?

For a full walkthrough of AIS Integration, check out our [video tutorial](#).

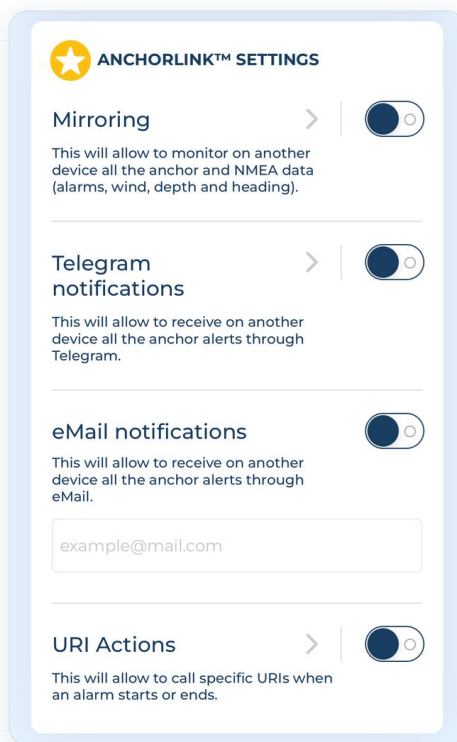
AnchorLink™: monitor your anchor alarm from anywhere

Dropping anchor and heading ashore doesn't mean you have to stop keeping an eye on your boat. AnchorLink™ lets you monitor your anchor alarm status remotely, sending all the relevant information to a second device you can take with you, so you'll know immediately if something changes while you're off board.

AnchorLink™ requires an active [Advanced Tools](#) subscription.

Where to find AnchorLink™ settings

AnchorLink™ settings sit at the bottom of the [Anchor Alarm settings](#) page.



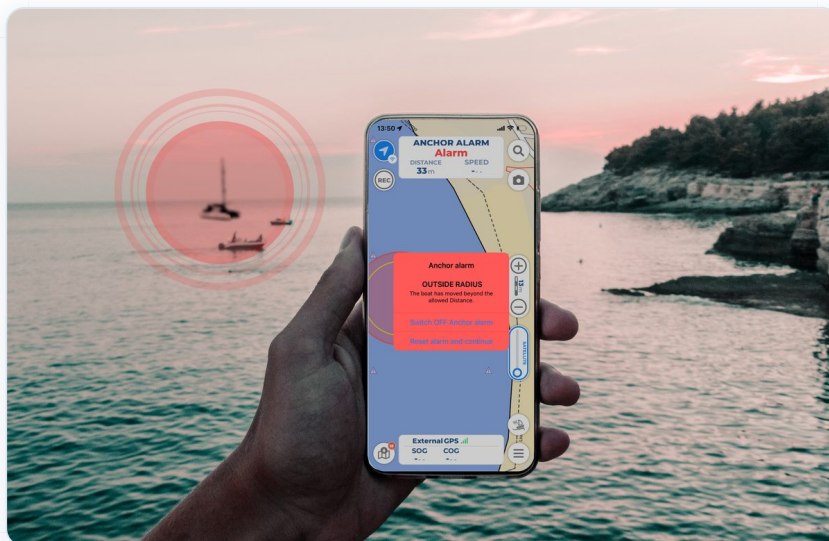
Mirroring: AnchorLink™'s core feature

Mirroring is the feature most people reach for first, and it's easy to see why. Turn it on, and the Anchor Alarm behavior from your main device (the sender, left on board) gets replicated in real time on a second device (the receiver, the one you bring with you). That means you'll see your boat's position and anchoring status remotely, along with any additional sensor data coming through, wind, depth, and heading.

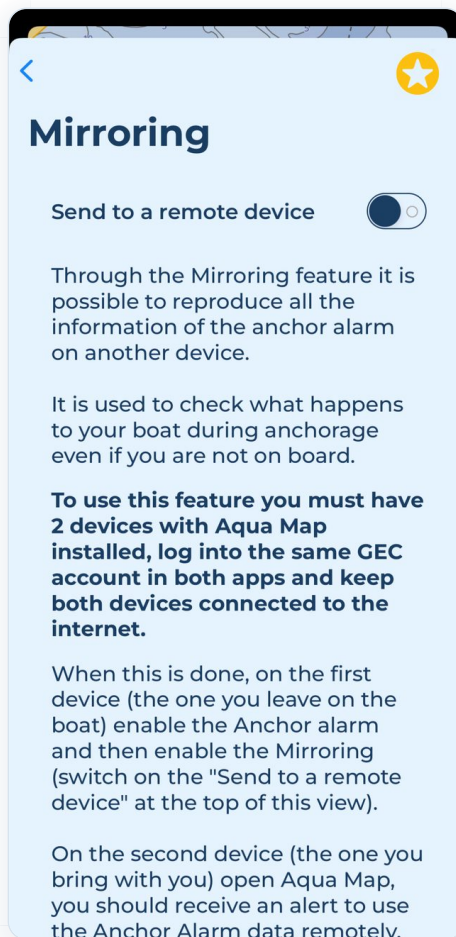
To use Mirroring, you'll need two devices with Aqua Map installed, both logged into the same GEC Account, and both connected to the internet throughout.

Once active, the sender shares the following with every connected receiver device, essentially letting the receiver act as if it were on board:

- **Anchor Alarm information**, including status, distance from the anchor, and boat speed;
- **any alarms triggered**, based on your anchoring parameters;
- **additional sensor data** coming in through a [Wi-Fi connection](#), including depth, wind, and heading.



The link between sender and receiver runs entirely through your GEC Account, which is why both devices need to be logged into the same one. Setting it up takes three steps:



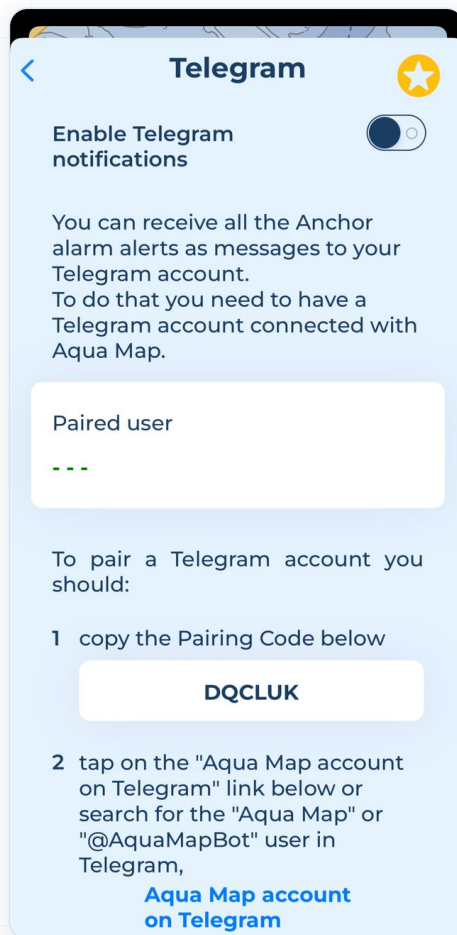
1. Log in to the same GEC Account on both devices.
2. On the sender device (the one staying on board), set up your Anchor Alarm, open the Mirroring settings page, and activate "Send to a remote device".
3. On the receiver device (the one you're taking with you), if it's logged into the same GEC Account, you'll get a prompt to use Anchor Alarm remotely. Tap "Start receiving".

Once the receiver device starts receiving, it enters a dedicated mirroring mode that disables every other menu and function. To exit that mode, tap the alarm info window on screen and switch off the Anchor Alarm.

Telegram notifications

Prefer alerts through Telegram instead? Turn this on, and you'll get Anchor Alarm alerts from your sender device sent directly to your Telegram account. This also requires two devices connected to the internet, and you'll need Telegram installed with notifications enabled on the receiver device.

To pair your Telegram account with Aqua Map, follow the in-app setup process from the Telegram settings page, then switch on "Enable Telegram notifications" once pairing is complete.



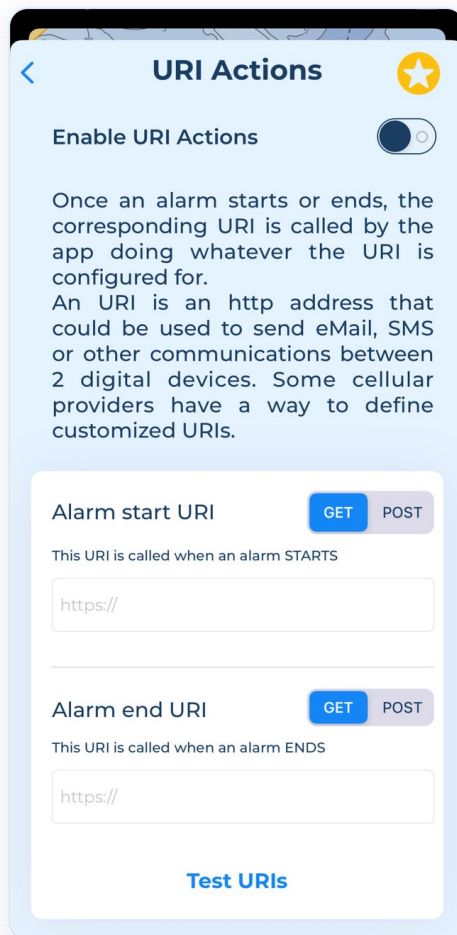
Email notifications

Same idea, but by email: enable this option, and Anchor Alarm alerts from your sender device get sent straight to your inbox. Again, you'll need two internet-connected devices, with your email account set up and notifications enabled on the receiver device. Just enter your email address in the designated field and switch the function on.

URI actions

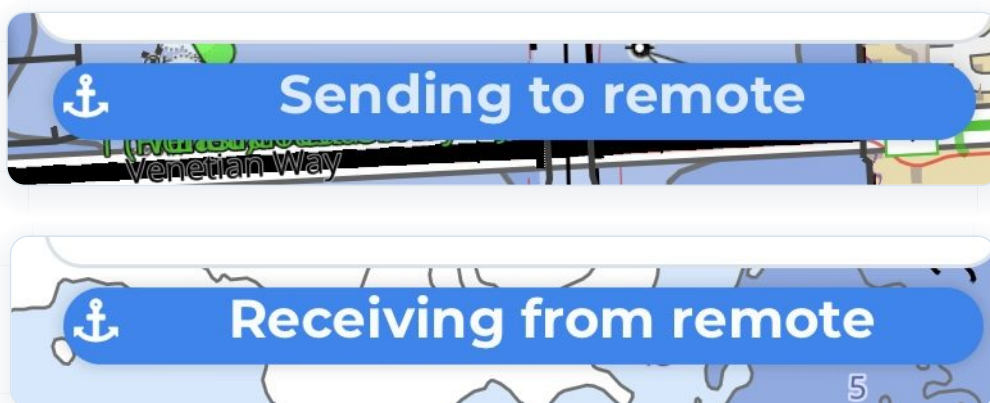
This is a more advanced option: AnchorLink™ can call a specific URI whenever an alarm starts or ends, triggering whatever action that URI is configured to perform. A URI is essentially an HTTP address that can be used to send emails, SMS messages, or other alerts between devices, and some cellular providers let you set up your own custom ones.

Two things worth knowing here: this requires an internet connection to work, and URI Actions are currently available on iOS only. Set your URI up from the URI Actions settings page, and use the "Test URIs" button to simulate an alarm start and end before relying on it.



The AnchorLink™ window

When Mirroring is active, a small blue flashing window appears on the main map view. It tells you at a glance whether the device you're looking at is the sender or the receiver, and tapping it opens the Anchor Alarm settings page directly. On the receiver device, this window is the only thing you can access while mirroring mode is active.



Want to see it in action?

For a full walkthrough of AnchorLink™, check out our [video tutorial](#).

Expert and Master subscriptions: unlocking Aqua Map's Advanced Tools

Advanced Tools is where Aqua Map's Pro Features and Local Data live, the tools built for mariners who want more than the basics: real-time weather overlays, AIS integration, hazard detection along a route, and official navigational safety data straight from national coast guards. There are two subscription tiers available, Expert and Master, and which one you need depends on how deep you want to go.



Aqua Map Expert: Pro Features

Expert unlocks Aqua Map's full set of Pro Features, namely:

- **Marine Forecasts**, displaying wind, waves, currents, salinity, sea temperature, and gusts directly on the map. Tap the Marine Forecasts icon  to bring up the most relevant weather overlays right where you're navigating;
- **online satellite images**, which overlay satellite imagery on top of the chart. Once activated, a slider appears in the lower-right corner of the map so you can adjust how much of the satellite layer shows through;
- **Route Explorer**, which scans your route or track for hazards, alerts, locks, bridges, marinas, anchorages, and fuel stations, so you can plan fuel stops, time your bridge approaches, and catch potential hazards ahead of time. Route Explorer is also integrated with Marine Forecasts, pulling the latest weather straight into your route analysis;
- **Wi-Fi Connections**, letting you connect your NMEA0183 and Signal-K devices (iOS only) to Aqua Map, so you can view AIS, depth sounder, wind sensor, autopilot, external GPS, and compass data right in the app;
- **AIS Integration**, which uses your Wi-Fi Connection to bring your boat's Automatic Identification System into Aqua Map, showing every nearby vessel directly on your chart.
- **AnchorLink™**, which sets an anchor alarm and lets you monitor your boat's status while at anchor, even from another device when you're not onboard.



Aqua Map Master: Pro Features plus Local Data

Master includes everything in Expert, plus Local Data, official navigational safety information sourced directly from national maritime authorities. Local Data currently covers the United States, Canada, France, Denmark, and Western Australia.

- **USACE Surveys (US only)**, overlaying more than 90.000 US Army Corps of Engineers surveys, integrated and updated weekly, to help you navigate complex or shifting areas with more confidence.
- **USA: LNMs and List of Lights**, displaying over 54.000 US Coast Guard lights, buoys, and beacons, with daily updates from the Local Notice to Mariners and weekly updates on shoaling, dredging, and scheduled events.
- **Canada: NAVWARNs**, covering changes to navigational aids and current marine activities or hazards, straight from the Canadian Coast Guard.
- **France: Warnings and Notices**, sourced from PING, France's national nautical information platform, covering mainland France, the Antilles, French Guiana, and the North-East Atlantic (NAVAREA II).
- **Denmark: Warnings and Notices**, sourced from the Danish Maritime Authority (DMA), covering both Denmark and Greenland.
- **Western Australia: Warnings and Notices**, sourced from Transport WA, the state's Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure, covering both regional and statewide maritime information.

For a full side-by-side breakdown of what's included in each tier, along with current pricing, check the comparison table on the [subscriptions page](#). Pricing can vary slightly depending on your currency and location.

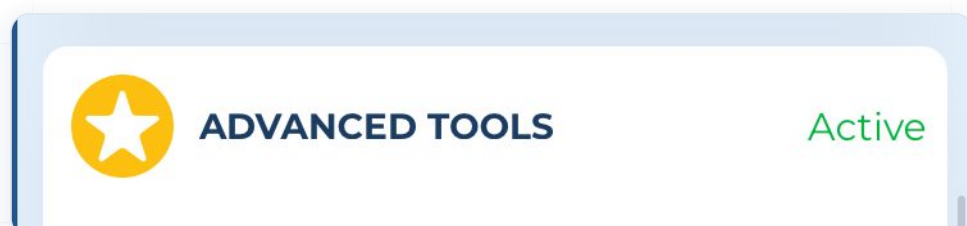
Advanced Tools	Expert	Master Available in USA, Canada, France, Denmark, West Australia
Pro Features		
AnchorLink	✓	✓
Marine Forecasts	✓	✓
Weather Stations	✓	✓
Route Explorer	✓	✓
WiFi Connection	✓	✓
AIS Integration	✓	✓
Autopilot Connection	✓	✓
Satellite Overlay	✓	✓
Local Data		
🇺🇸 USACE surveys		✓
Navigational Information:		
🇺🇸 USA- LNM and Lights List		✓
🇨🇦 Canada - NAVWARNs		✓
🇫🇷 France - Warnings and Notices		✓
🇩🇰 Denmark - Warning and Notices		✓
🇦🇺 Western Australia - Warning and Notices		✓
Price	\$14.99	\$24.99

Getting started

To activate Expert or Master on your device, open the Main Settings Menu. If you haven't subscribed yet, you'll see a "Purchase" option there. Tap into it, and Aqua Map shows you the subscription options available in your region. You can try Advanced Tools free for the first 14 days before committing.



Once your subscription is active, that same menu option will show "Active" instead.



A couple of details worth knowing before you subscribe: Advanced Tools requires an active charts subscription to work, and it renews automatically each year at the same price unless you turn off auto-renewal at least 24 hours before your current period ends. Your account is charged for renewal within that same 24-hour window. You can manage your subscription or turn off auto-renewal anytime from your Apple or Google account settings.

Marine Forecasts: weather data right on your chart

Knowing what the weather's going to do is half the battle in planning any trip on the water, whether that means deciding if today's even a good day to head out, or figuring out how conditions might shift over the next couple of days. Marine Forecasts puts that information directly on your Aqua Map chart, so you're not switching between apps to piece it together.

With Marine Forecasts, you can view wind, waves, currents, gusts, salinity, and sea temperature overlaid on the map with a 40-hour prediction window, pull a detailed 7-day forecast for any point in the world, and check real-time conditions from more than 1,000 weather buoys.

Marine Forecasts requires an active [Advanced Tools subscription](#).

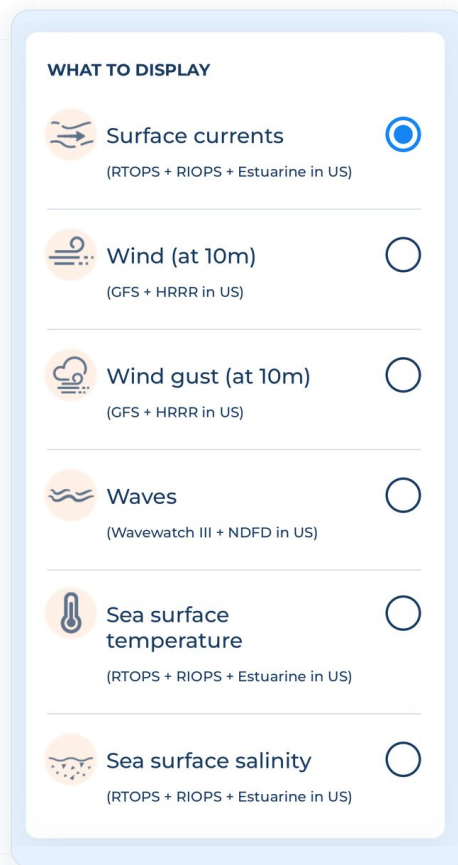
The Marine Forecasts settings page

You'll find dedicated Marine Forecasts settings from the main [Settings](#) menu, where you can customize exactly how forecast data looks and behaves on your chart.

At the top of the page, a single switch turns the map overlay on or off. Below that, you can choose which data to display, one option at a time:

Enable overlay

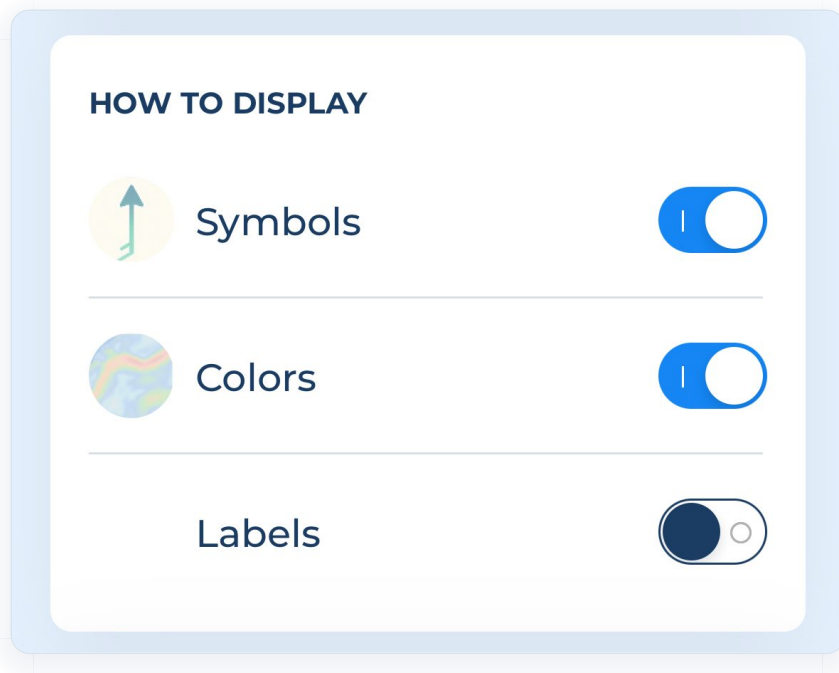




- **Surface currents**, speed and direction across all oceans and major seas, sourced from the RTOPS and RIOPS models, plus highly detailed coverage of the primary US estuaries, sourced from NOAA.
- **Wind (at 10m)**, speed and direction worldwide, using the HRRR model for the US and the GFS model everywhere else.
- **Wind gust**, using the same HRRR/GFS split as wind.
- **Waves**, height, direction, and period, using the NDFD model for the US and Wavewatch III for the rest of the world.
- **Sea surface salinity**, sourced from RTOPS and RIOPS, with detailed US estuary coverage from NOAA.
- **Sea surface temperature**, sourced the same way as salinity.

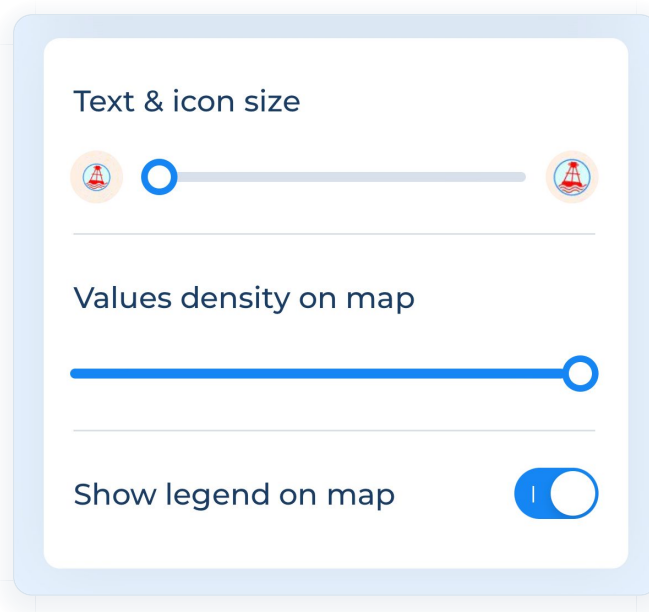
Choosing how data is displayed

Below the data type, you can pick how you want it shown, and here you're free to select more than one at once:

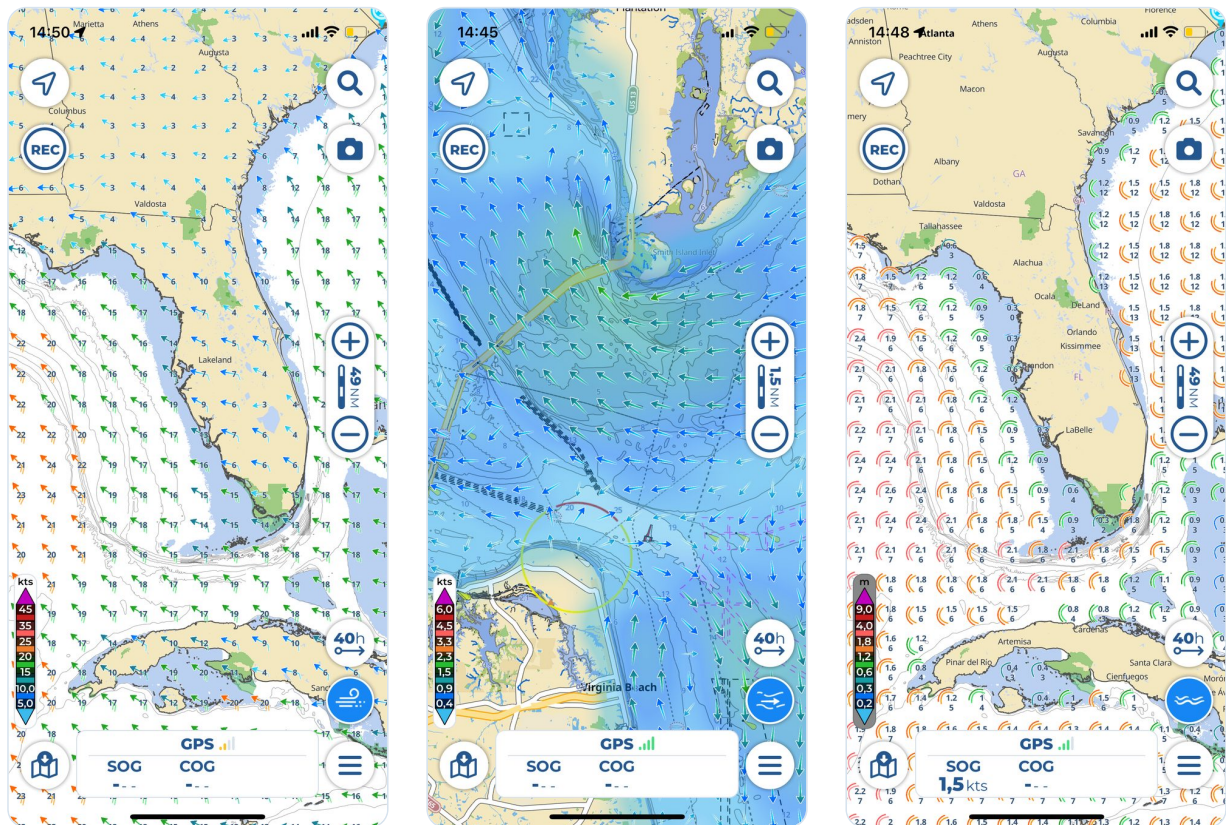


- **symbols**, directional icons whose color and size reflect the key value, like wind speed or wave height;
- **colors**, a colored overlay representing that same key value;
- **labels**, the actual numbers shown as text, layered on top of the symbols if both are enabled.

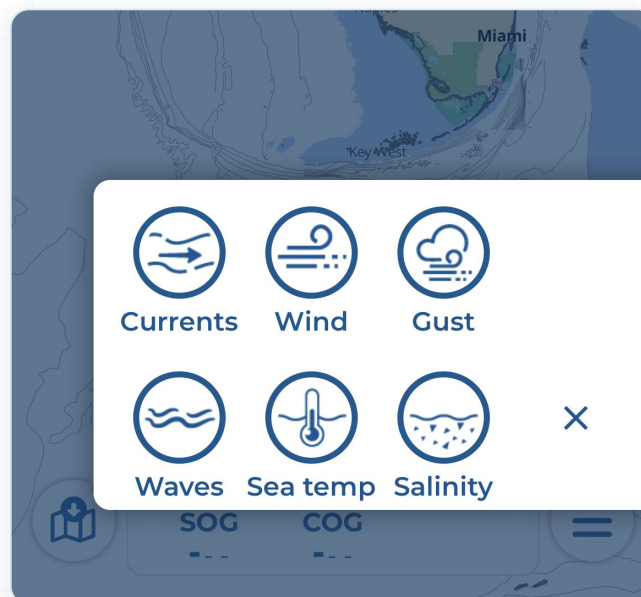
You can also fine-tune the display itself: text and icon size, and icon density on the map. One thing worth knowing, pushing both of these to their maximum at the same time will make the map genuinely cluttered, so it's worth experimenting to find a balance that's still readable. Finally, you can choose whether or not to show the legend on the map.



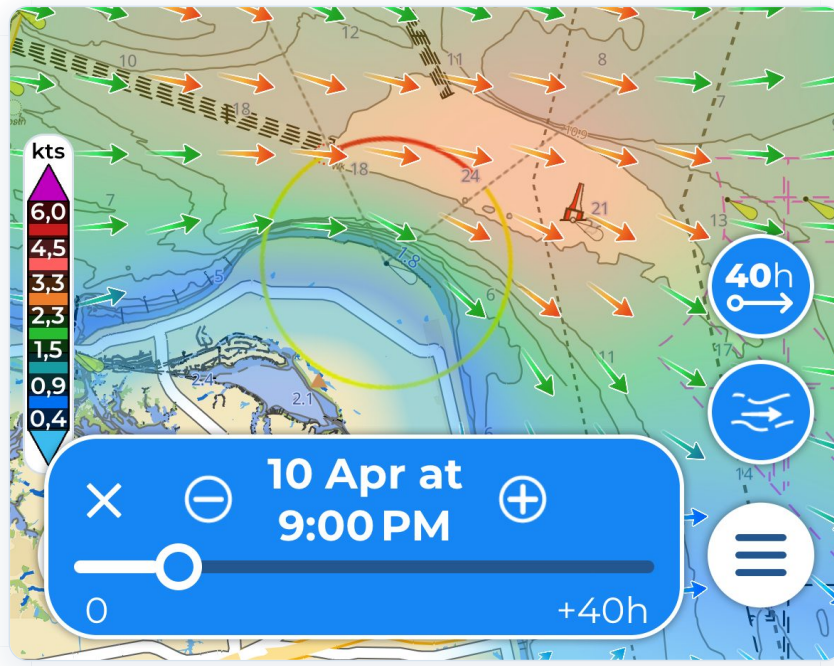
Viewing Marine Forecasts on the map



You can enable the overlay from the settings page described above, or faster, just tap the Marine Forecasts icon , found just above the Settings button in the bottom-right of the map. Tapping it brings up the available data types to overlay, and once you pick one, the icon itself updates to reflect your current selection. To turn the overlay off again, tap the same icon and select the currently active option.



By default, the overlay shows real-time conditions, but you can also look ahead. Tap the forecast simulation button  to step through the next 40 hours in 1-hour increments, using the slider or the forward and backward buttons   to move through time. Keep in mind that this data downloads from the internet as you request it, so give it a moment to load, especially if you're jumping around a lot. To exit the simulation and return to real-time data, just tap the stop button .



One general note: all Marine Forecast data comes from the internet, so you'll need a stable connection to use any of it.

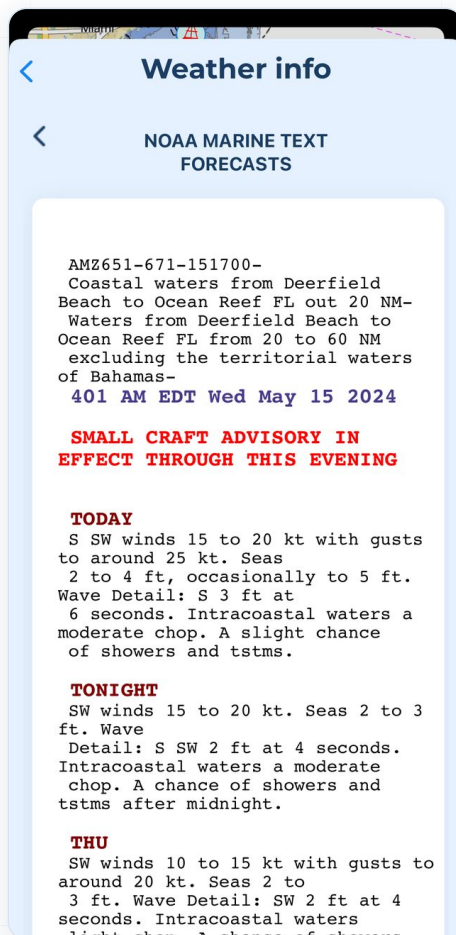
Getting a detailed forecast for any point

From the [Map Information](#) page, you'll see a row with a quick weather summary for whatever location you've selected. Tap it, and you'll get a full forecast page for that exact point (again, this pulls from the internet, so you'll need a connection).



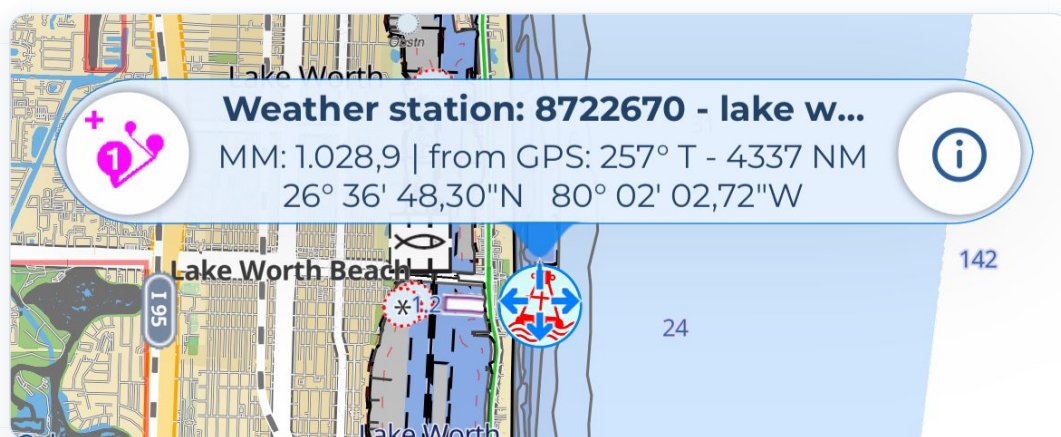
That page is broken into three or four sections, depending on where you are.

- **NOAA Marine Text Forecasts** (US only), NOAA's own text-based weather updates and navigational guidance for specific US areas.
- **Current weather**, the main conditions for that location right now, plus sunrise, sunset, moonrise, and moonset times at the bottom. The background even shifts, light blue during the day, dark blue at night.
- **Hourly forecasts**, covering the next 48 hours, in 3-hour steps for the US and 1-hour steps everywhere else. Scroll horizontally to see further ahead.
- **Daily forecasts**, a condensed 7-day outlook.

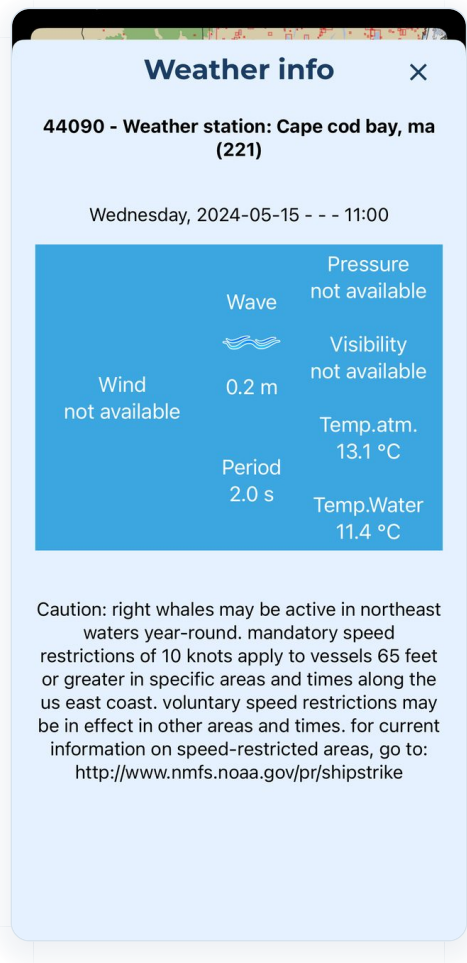


Weather buoys

There's a dedicated switch on the main Settings page to display weather buoys on the map, shown with their own distinct icon . These buoys report real-time conditions at their exact location, and tapping one brings up a quick pop-up, with a full info page available from there  (again, requiring an internet connection).



Depending on the specific buoy, you might find wind speed and direction, wave height, direction, and period, pressure, visibility, air and water temperature, and sometimes a written summary of conditions in the surrounding area too.



Looking for a specific buoy? Head to the [Search](#) page, open the "Places & POI" tab, and filter for weather buoys to find exactly the one you need.

Want to see it in action?

For a full walkthrough of Marine Forecasts, check out our [video tutorial](#).

Navigational Info: daily updated safety data on your chart

Official nautical charts are essential, but they're not updated in real time, and a lot can change between chart editions: a buoy gets moved, a channel starts shoaling, a temporary hazard appears overnight.

Aqua Map's Navigational Info feature fills that gap, pulling changes to navigational aids, marine activities, hazards, regulations, and restricted areas straight from official sources like national coast guards, then updating the app daily so you're always working with current information, even when it hasn't made it onto the official chart yet.

Right now, coverage includes the United States, Canada, France, Denmark, and Western Australia, and we're actively working to add more countries.

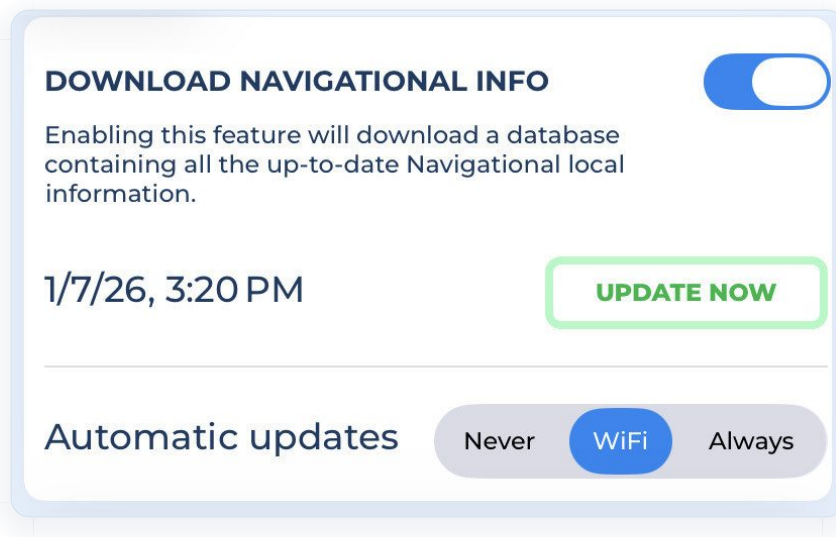
Navigational Info requires an active [Master subscriptions](#).

Setting up Navigational Info

You'll find the Navigational Information settings from the main [Settings](#) page. Since Aqua Map can display data from several countries at once, this page is organized with shared controls at the top and country-specific settings below.

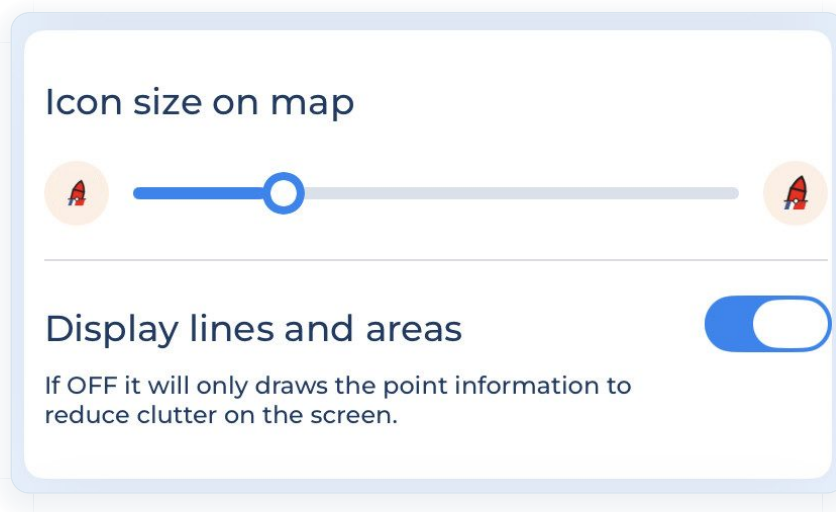
At the top, you control how data is downloaded and refreshed:

- **download Navigational Info** turns downloading and updating on for all Navigational Information;
- **update now** forces an immediate download of the latest available data;
- **automatic update** lets you choose how updates happen going forward. Set it to "Never" and you'll need to tap Update now manually. Set it to "WiFi" and updates download automatically whenever the app is active on a WiFi network. Set it to "Always" and the app updates daily over any connection, including cellular, which is convenient but worth knowing about if your mobile plan has data limits.



Just below, you can adjust how this information looks on the map:

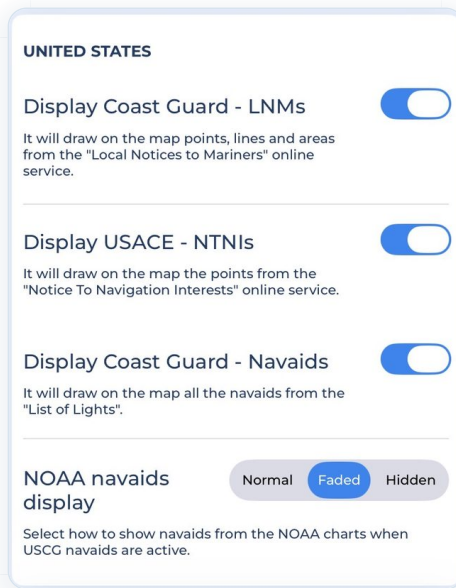
- **icon size on map** sets how large the Navigational Information icons appear.
- **display lines and areas** lets you show every type of data (points, lines, and areas) or limit the display to points only, which is useful if the map is starting to feel cluttered.



United States: USCG aids and Local Notices to Mariners

Across the country, US Coast Guard districts maintain over 54,000 navigational aids and keep them current by publishing an updated List of Lights daily. On top of that, the USCG issues Local Notices to Mariners (LNMs) and Notices to Navigation Interests (NTNIs) multiple times a day, covering shoaling, dredging, scheduled events, and other changes that affect safe passage.

Aqua Map brings both of these together, so captains get timely updates on navigational aids and the practical details they need for a safe trip. The settings here are:



UNITED STATES

Display Coast Guard - LNMs ☒

It will draw on the map points, lines and areas from the "Local Notices to Mariners" online service.

Display USACE - NTNIs ☒

It will draw on the map the points from the "Notice To Navigation Interests" online service.

Display Coast Guard - Nav aids ☒

It will draw on the map all the nav aids from the "List of Lights".

NOAA nav aids display Normal **Faded** Hidden

Select how to show nav aids from the NOAA charts when USCG nav aids are active.

- **Display Coast Guard - LNMs** shows Local Notices to Mariners on the map and makes them searchable;
- **Display USACE - NTNIs:** Shows all the NTNIs from the USACE directly on the map. Enabling these options also allows you to search for them in our search section;
- **Display Coast Guard - buoys** shows USCG buoys pulled from the List of Lights;
- **NOAA buoys display** controls how standard NOAA navigation aids appear alongside USCG buoys. This matters because the two can occasionally conflict: NOAA also sources from the USCG List of Lights, but updates it less frequently, so USCG data is generally the more accurate of the two.

USCG: NW on pile worded DANGER SUBMERGED JETTY

Fisher Island Breakwater East Obstruction Light; q
w; LLNR:10645

Worth knowing: the display settings you choose here are the same ones [Route Planner](#) uses to calculate safe areas for navigation, with the exception of icon size.

Reading USCG buoys on the map

Once "Display Coast Guard - buoys" is switched on, every buoy, beacon, and light from the USCG appears on your chart. They look similar to standard NOAA icons, but each one carries a small USCG flag so you can tell them apart at a glance.

You may also see a small info icon in the top-left corner of a buoy symbol 🚨, flagging something you should know about the following ones.

- **Navigation alert**, meaning there's a potential hazard in the area.

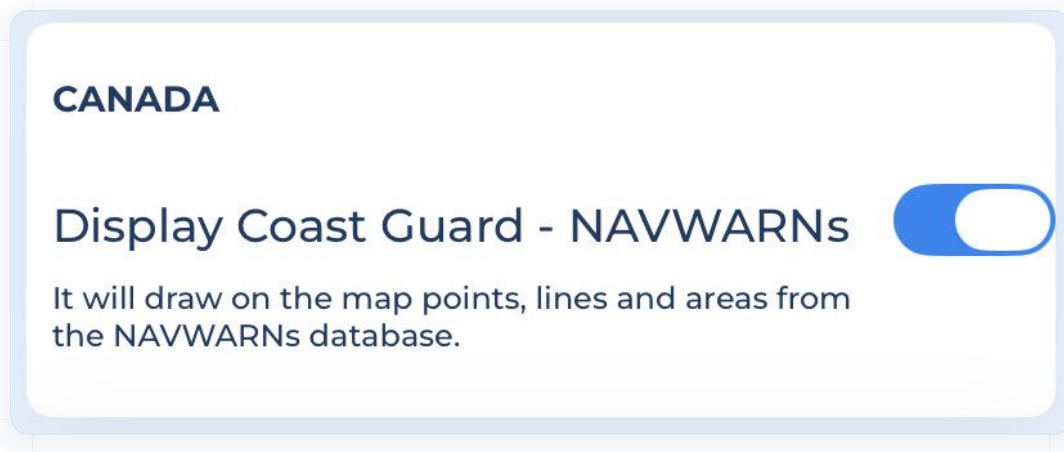
-  **Missing aid**, meaning a buoy should be there but currently isn't.
-  **Out of position aid**, meaning a buoy has drifted from where it's meant to be.
-  **General information**, meaning there's useful navigation info attached.
-  **Temporary aid**, meaning the buoy is temporary and due to be removed.

Tap any USCG buoy to pull up its full details.

Canada: NAVWARNs

The Canadian Coast Guard continuously publishes NAVWARNs, warnings covering changes to navigational aids, currents, marine activities, and other hazards. Aqua Map displays these directly on the map and refreshes the data daily.

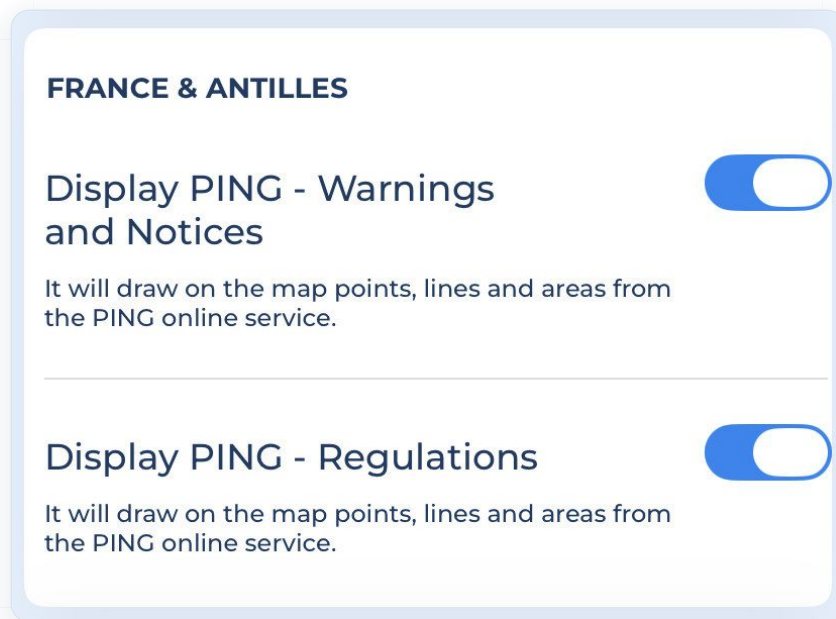
The relevant setting: **Display Coast Guard - NAVWARNs**, which shows all Canadian NAVWARNs on the map and makes them searchable.



France: PING

In France, the PING (National Nautical Information Platform) is the official government service publishing warnings, notices, and regulations for mainland France, the Antilles, Guyane, and the North-East Atlantic (NAVAREA II). Aqua Map displays this data on the map and updates it daily.

Two settings apply here:

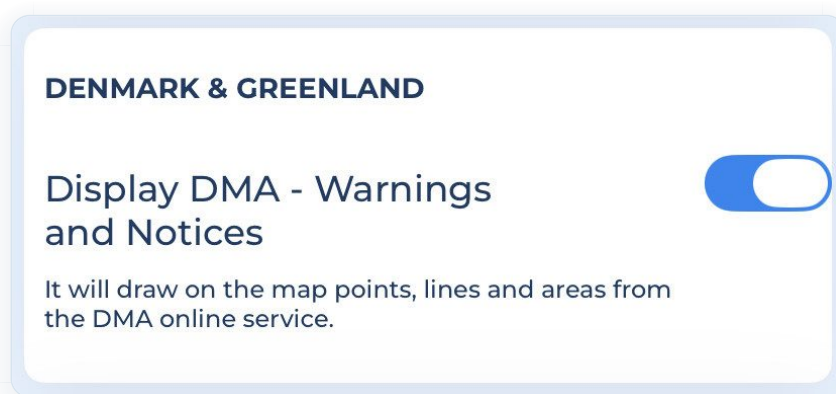


- **Display PING - Warnings and Notices** showing warnings and notices on the map and enabling searching for them.
- **Display PING - Regulations** showing regulations separately, kept apart from warnings and notices because multiple overlapping regulations in one area can otherwise clutter the display.

Denmark: DMA

The Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) is Denmark's official source for navigational warnings and notices to mariners, covering both Denmark and Greenland. Aqua Map pulls this data in and updates it daily.

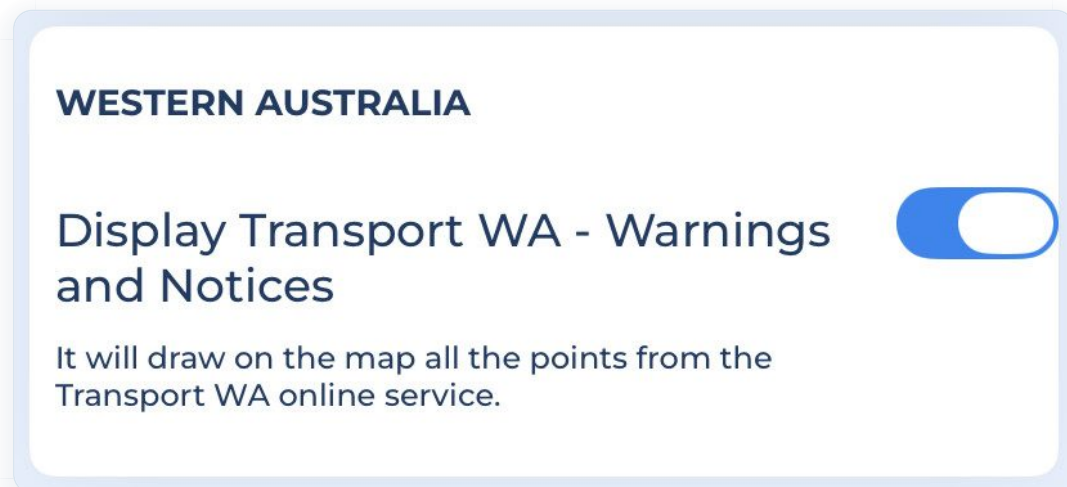
The setting: **Display DMA - Warnings and Notices**, which shows the data on the map and enables searching.



Western Australia: Transport WA

Transport WA, the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure for Western Australia, publishes temporary notices and navigational warnings across the state. Aqua Map displays this data and keeps it updated daily.

The setting: **Display Transport WA - Warnings and Notices**, which shows the data on the map and enables searching.



Recognizing Navigational Info on the map

With the exception of the US List of Lights and buoys (covered above), Navigational Info uses a consistent set of map symbols, though line patterns can vary slightly by country.



Warning icon: a point with a navigation hazard.



Notice icon: a point where navigational information is available.



Line pattern: a notice or warning tied to a specific line, like a channel edge.



Warning area: a zone with potential danger.



Notice area: a zone with relevant navigational information.

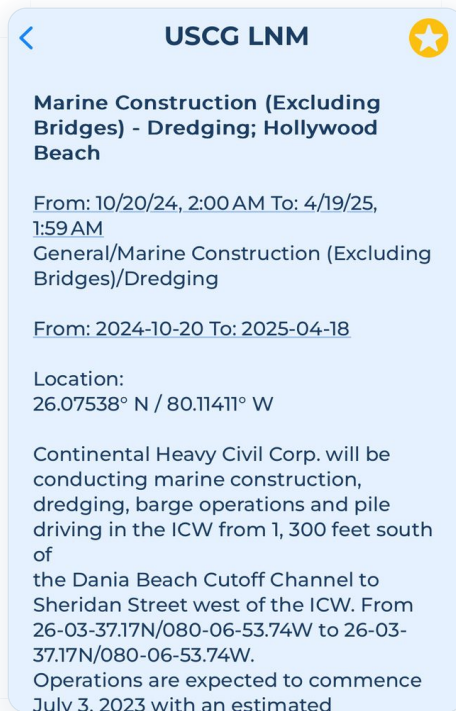


Regulation area: a zone with specific rules to follow.

Viewing the details

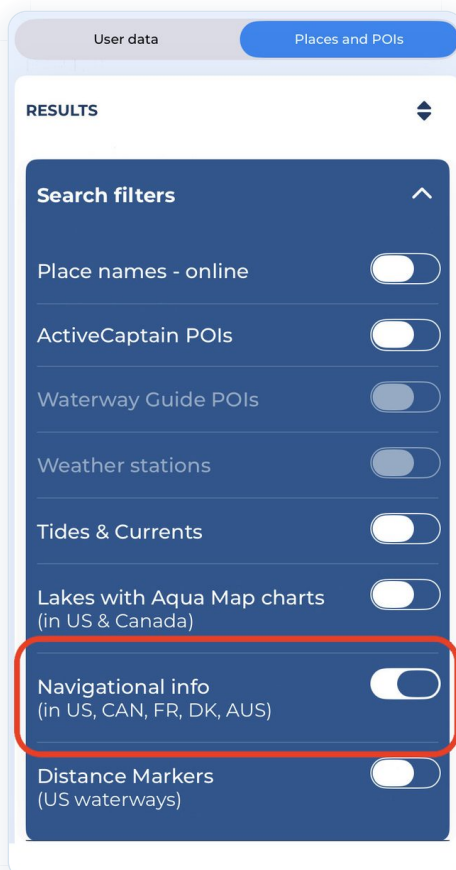
Tap any Navigational Info object on the map, and the info page opens with everything available about it, from the type of warning to when it was issued.

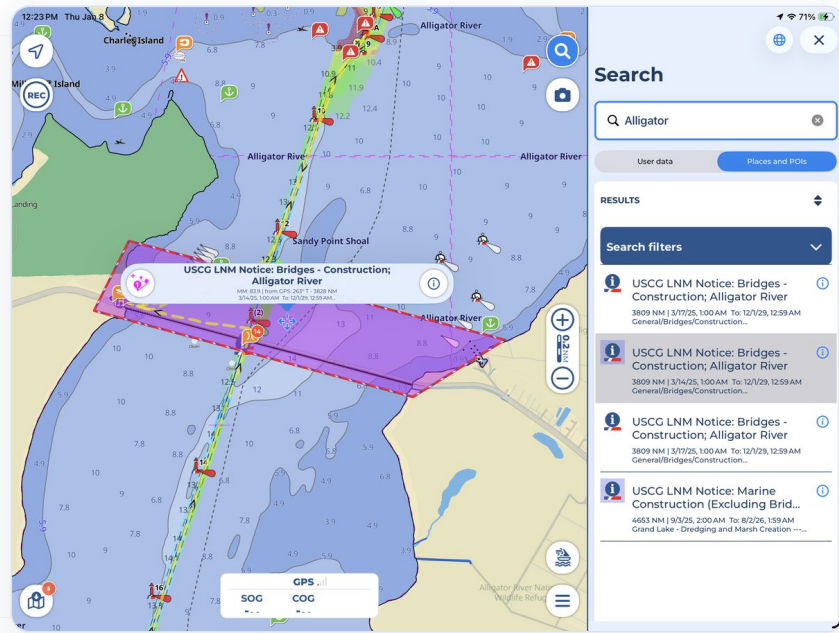




Searching Navigational Info

Navigational Info is fully searchable. Head to the [Search](#) page, choose "Places and POIs", then select Navigational Info under Search filters. From there, type your query, searching for a place name like "Alligator", for example, will surface every navigational notice or warning containing that term.





Tap a result to highlight it on the map in magenta, and the same highlight appears if you open its details from the info icon . To clear the highlight, just tap anywhere else on the map.

Route Explorer: everything along your route, at a glance

Route Explorer pulls together everything worth knowing about your route or track before and during a trip: distances, estimated arrival times, hazards, bridges, fuel prices, and more, all in one place. For a deeper dive into how it handles bridge timing specifically, Bob423 (Robert Sherer) wrote an excellent breakdown in [this article](#), worth a read if bridges are a regular part of your cruising.

Route Explorer requires an active [Advanced Tools subscription](#).

What Route Explorer calculates

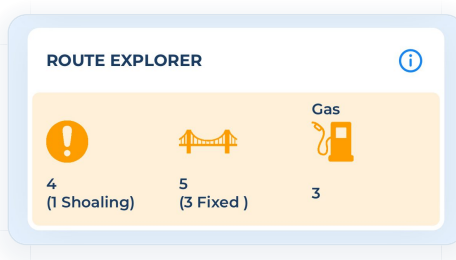
Draw a new route, or select an existing route or track, and Route Explorer automatically works out:

- **alerts and hazards**, sourced from Waterway Guide and ActiveCaptain, near your route or track.
- **warnings and hazards calculated by Route Planner** along your route. This extra layer of detail only applies to routes, not tracks.
- **bridges and locks** intersecting your path, flagging which ones could be a problem for your specific boat.
- **anchorages**, from ActiveCaptain and Waterway Guide, along the way.
- **fuel stations** carrying your selected fuel type, with prices shown where available and the cheapest option highlighted.
- **marinas**, from ActiveCaptain and Waterway Guide, along your route or track.
- **the weather forecast** for your route or track.

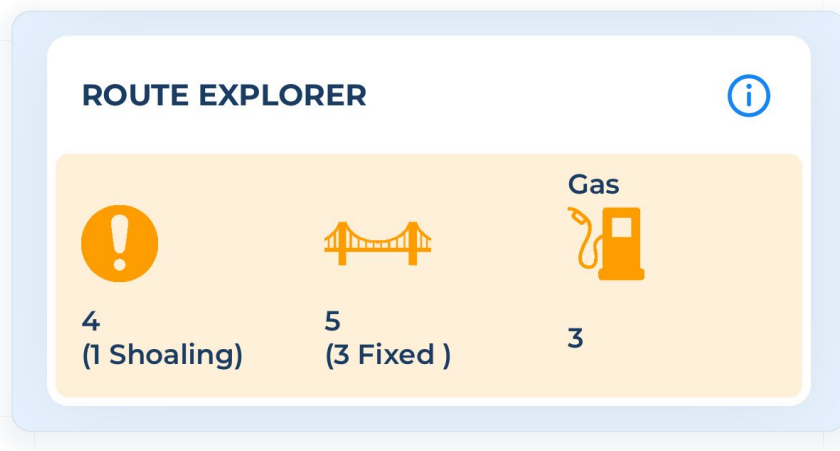
All of this is calculated using the details you've entered on the [My Boat](#) page, your boat's beam and height for flagging dangerous bridges, and your chosen fuel type for filtering marinas. Getting those details right on My Boat first is what makes Route Explorer's output actually useful.

The Route Explorer info page

Open the info page for any route or track, and you'll see a summary row covering hazards and alerts, bridges and locks, and fuel stations matching the fuel type you selected on My Boat. Tap the info button, and you  'll get the full detailed list.



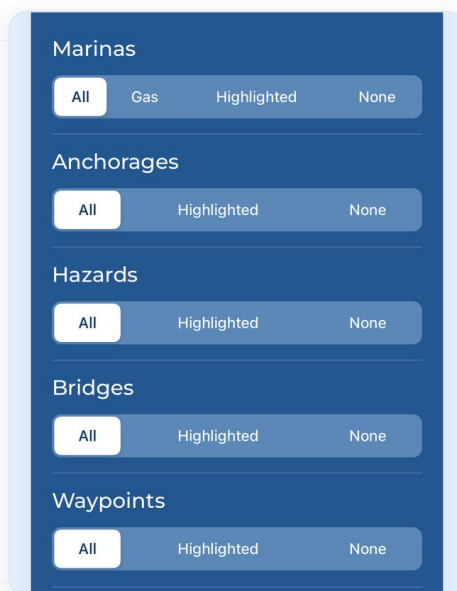
Each row in that list shows an icon for the object type, its ETA, its distance from your current GPS position, and a short description. The marina with the lowest fuel price, when applicable, is highlighted so it stands out.



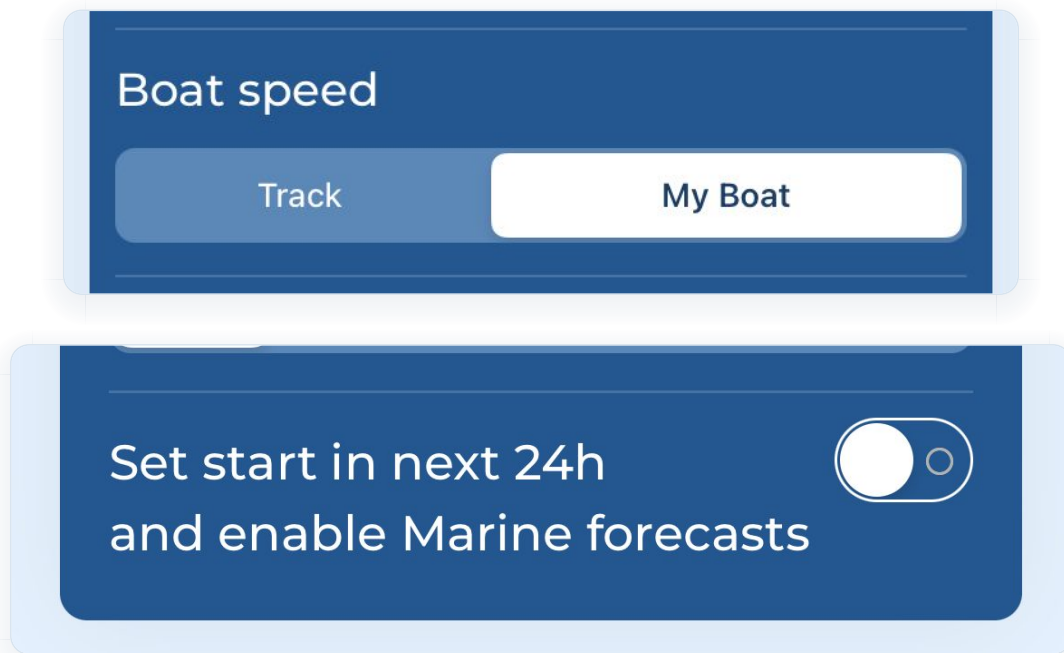
If you're not actively navigating the route or track, and you haven't set a simulated start time within the next 24 hours, distances are measured from the starting point instead, and you'll see elapsed time rather than an ETA. Tap the info button on any row for full details, or tap the description itself to close the list and center the map on that object.

The Preferences panel

At the top of the info page, the Preferences panel lets you configure exactly what Route Explorer calculates. The first section controls which object types get included, which also affects what shows up in the Route Explorer boxes while you're actively navigating.

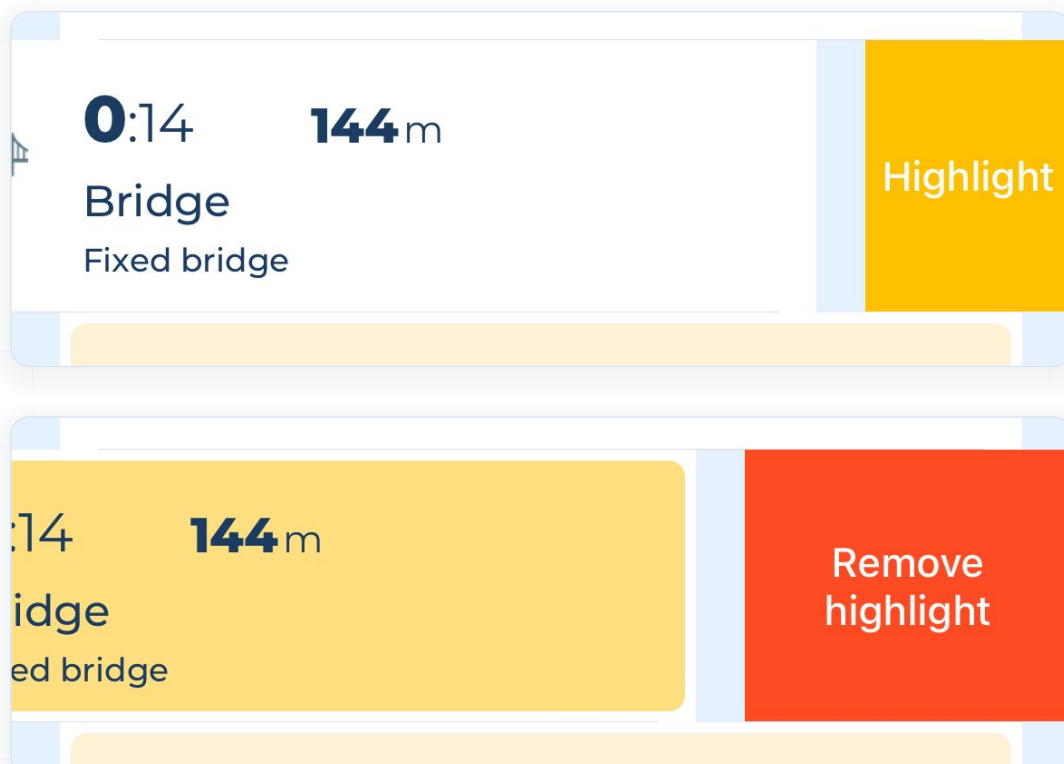


If you're viewing a track that isn't currently active (not being navigated or recorded), you'll also see an option to choose which speed to use for time calculations. And for any inactive route or track, you can set a simulated start time, which is also what unlocks the weather forecast information for that route or track.



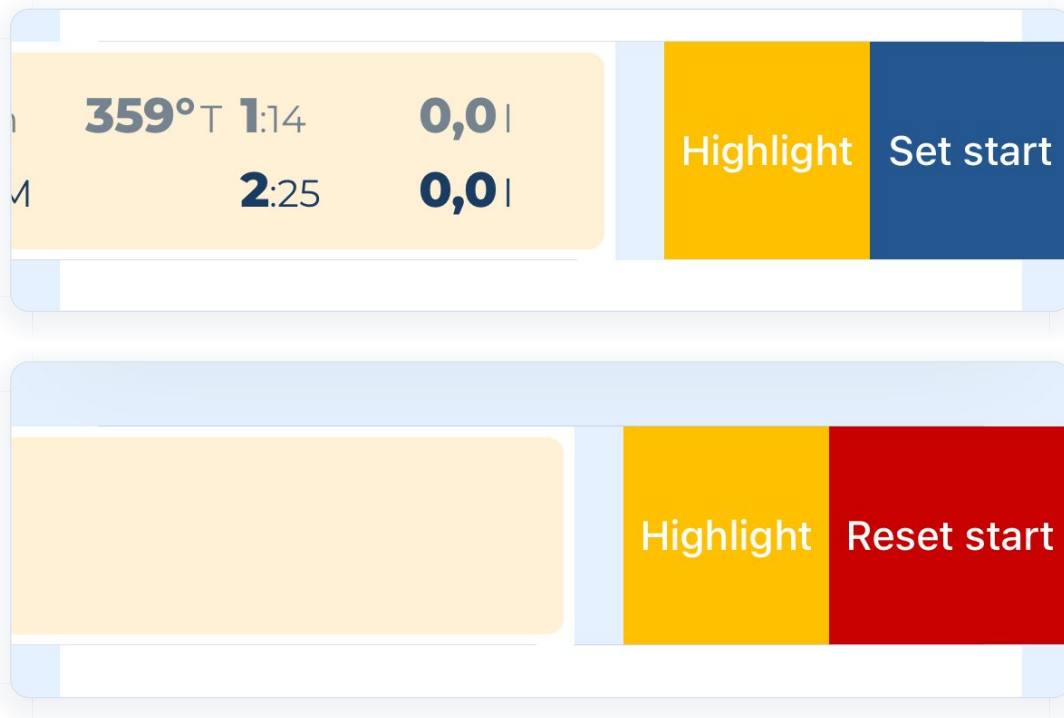
Highlighting specific objects

Want to keep an eye on one particular bridge, hazard, or marina? Swipe left on its row in the Route Explorer list and select "Highlight." Swipe again to remove it. Highlighted objects get their own dedicated info box on the map, showing distance and ETA for the next one in sequence, handy when there's one specific thing along your route you want to track closely. One limitation to know: for tracks, waypoints can't be highlighted, since they're simulated rather than real waypoints.



Setting a new starting point

This one's iOS only. For any route or track that isn't currently active, you can swipe on a waypoint to set it as a new simulated starting point, and swipe again to reset it. Once set, every calculated figure, distance, fuel, ETAs, gets recalculated relative to that new starting point instead of the route or track as a whole.



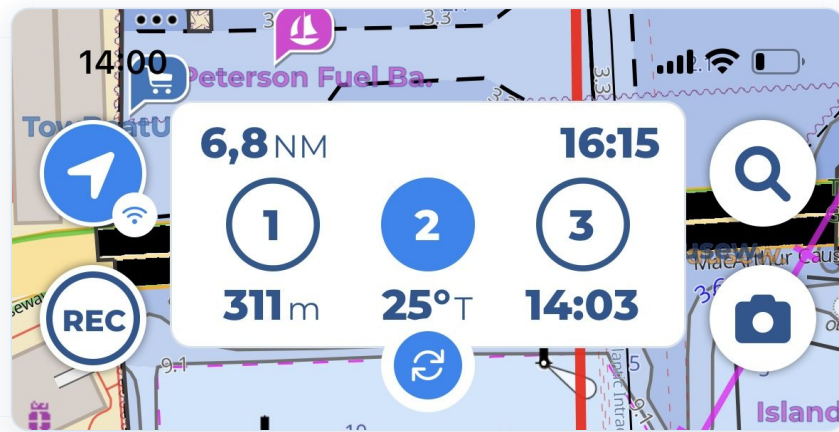
Info boxes while navigating

While you're actively navigating a route or track, two additional info boxes appear alongside the standard one:

- **highlighted objects**, showing the next highlighted item along your route, with distance and ETA;
- **Route Explorer info**, showing the next hazard or alert, marina, and bridge or lock, each with distance and ETA.

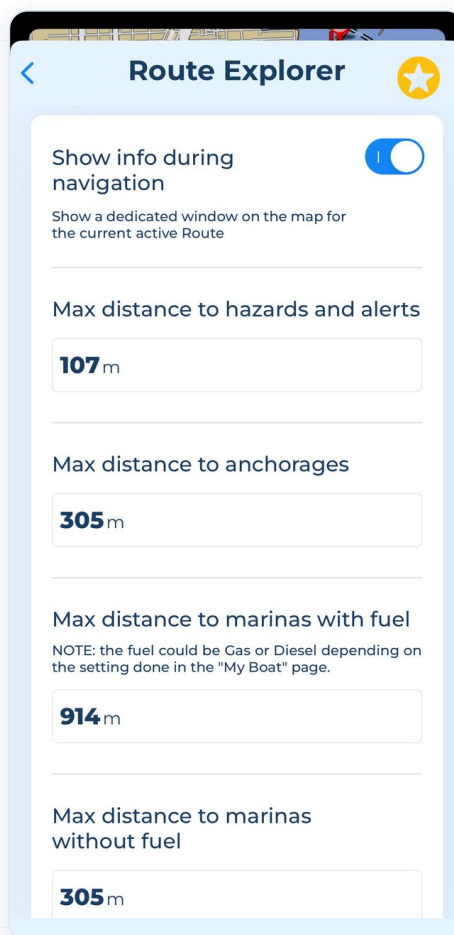


On a tablet, all three boxes display at once, side by side. On a phone, they alternate one at a time, and you can either let them cycle automatically or lock one in place using the loop button.



Route Explorer settings

You'll find Route Explorer settings from the main [Settings](#) page. From here, "Show info during navigation" toggles whether the special Route Explorer boxes overlay the map while you're navigating.



You can also set the maximum search distance for each category: hazards and alerts, anchorages, marinas with fuel, and marinas without fuel, giving you control over how far ahead Route Explorer looks for each type of object.

Want to see it in action?

For a full walkthrough of Route Explorer, check out our [video tutorial](#).

USACE Surveys: the latest depth data for US inland waters

Official nautical charts can't always keep pace with how quickly conditions change in US inland waterways, especially in areas where the bottom shifts due to weather or river dynamics. That's exactly where USACE Surveys come in. Aqua Map overlays more than 80,000 US Army Corps of Engineers surveys directly onto your charts, integrated and updated weekly, so you can see the most current depth picture available for complex or shifting channels.

USACE Surveys require an active [Master subscription](#).

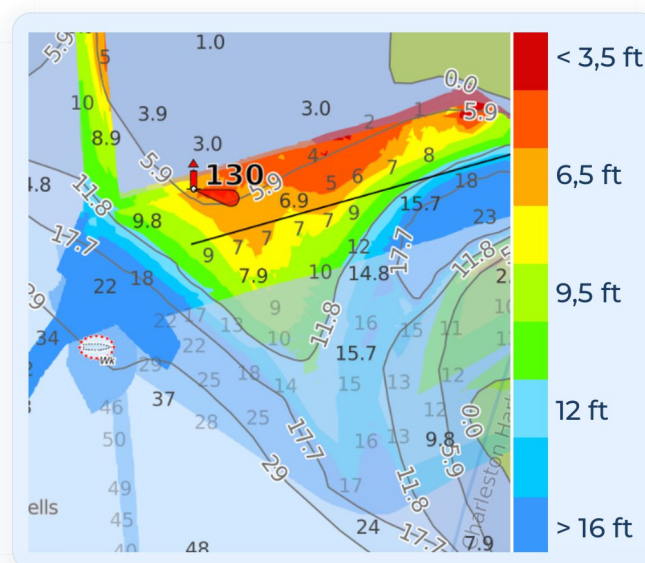
Where the data comes from

USACE districts across the country are responsible for regularly surveying the inland navigation channel system, running depth surveys and publishing them as quickly as possible, particularly in areas prone to frequent change. Aqua Map's USACE integration is built to get that data in front of captains as soon as it's available, overlaying it on the official chart so you can better judge risk and plan your route through tricky stretches with more confidence.

One thing worth knowing: while every USACE district is responsible for uploading its surveys to the eHydro database promptly, upload speed varies district by district. Some publish new surveys within days, while others have taken several weeks. Aqua Map pulls in whatever is available in eHydro, so the freshness of the data you see partly depends on how quickly each district uploads.

Reading the survey colors

USACE surveys appear as depth areas in bright, easy-to-read colors, ranging from dark red (very dangerous, typically below 3 feet) through to blue (above 15 feet), along with individual spot soundings. You'll find the full color scale on the USACE Settings page.



Aqua Map's USACE layer integrates surveys going back to the late 1990s, right up to the most recent data available, and always displays the newest survey on top wherever coverage overlaps.

USACE Settings

You'll find USACE Settings from the main [Settings](#) page, where you can configure exactly how this data displays.

At the top, a switch turns USACE data on for your charts. Below that, you'll find a set of display options. One important note here: these are the same settings [Route Planner](#) uses to calculate safe navigable areas, with the exception of the fading setting, which Route Planner doesn't factor in.

Enable USACE surveys (US coverage only)



Activating this feature you will receive more frequent map updates.

This data is provided for general information only. Data can contain inaccuracies and be out of date.

It is the user's responsibility to use this information with caution.

Show USACE



Select max age

ALL 3 yr 1.5 yr months

Select the maximum age of the surveys to be shown.

Enable fading



Surveys are overlaid with a different transparency depending on the age. Older = more transparent.

- **Display USACE** turns the overlay on or off. If you switch the overlay off but leave USACE functionality itself on, the app keeps updating data in the background, so it'll be current

whenever you turn the display back on. Switch the functionality off entirely, and updates stop altogether.

- **Select max age** filters surveys by how recent they are: "All" (no filter), "3yr" (nothing older than 3 years), "1yr" (nothing older than 1 year), or a custom number of months of your choosing.
- **Enable fading** makes older surveys progressively more transparent on the map, giving you a quick visual sense of a survey's age at a glance. You can always get the exact survey date by tapping directly on the depth data.

Wi-Fi Connections: bringing your boat's instruments into Aqua Map

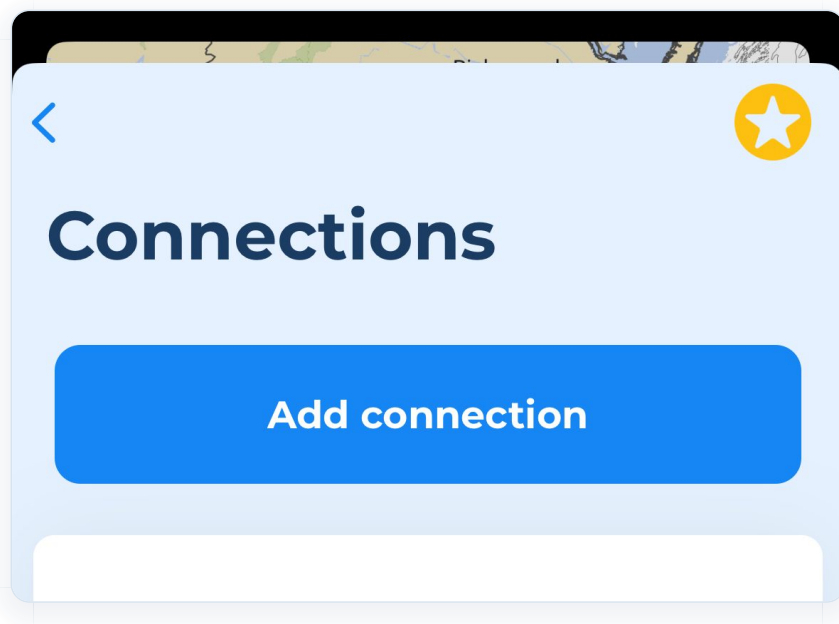
Aqua Map can connect directly to your boat's own instruments, AIS, depth sounder, wind sensor, compass, and GPS, and pull all of that live data straight into the app. Instead of glancing between separate displays, you get everything on the same chart you're already navigating with.

To set this up, you'll need Aqua Map running on your device, plus a Wi-Fi gateway or onboard device capable of transmitting NMEA0183 or Signal-K data (Signal-K is iOS only) over Wi-Fi. There are several gateways and devices on the market that support this, and you'll find a list of those specifically tested with Aqua Map toward the bottom of this page.

Wi-Fi Connections require an active [Advanced Tools subscription](#).

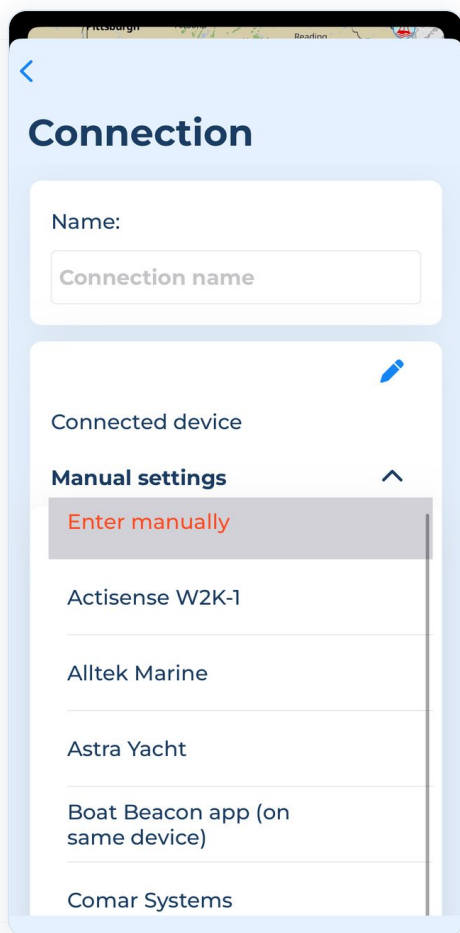
Setting up a connection

You'll find Wi-Fi Connections settings from the main Settings page. Tap the blue button in the middle of the page to add a new connection, or tap an existing connection's name to edit it.



The Connection settings page

This is where you choose your device or manufacturer from a list of predefined options. Pick one, and Aqua Map automatically configures the default settings and connects for you.



If your device isn't listed, select "Enter manually" and configure it yourself. You'll need to provide:

- The protocol (TCP or UDP).
- The IP address, if required.
- The port number.
- Whether your connection uses the NMEA checksum.

Connection

Connected device

Manual settings

Data format: **NMEA** SignalK

NMEA sentences supported: RMC, GGA, GLL, HDG, HDT, HDM, DPT, DBK, DBT, MWV, MWD, VDM

Wi-Fi protocol: **TCP** UDP

IP address: eg 192.168.1.14

Port N°: Port #

NMEA checksum: ☒

SAVE changes

Status

Once you've entered everything, tap "Save changes," then "Start connection" to connect to your device. To edit an existing connection later, tap the pencil icon .

When the connection is working, you'll see a green "Active - Receiving" label. If something's wrong, you'll see a red error label instead. Tap the status box at any point to open the Log page, showing every sentence received (if things are working) or error reports (if they're not). If you need help troubleshooting, tap "Send log to support" at the bottom of that page to email the log directly to our support team.

Status **Active - Receiving**



Autopilot Connection

Below the status box, you'll find the Autopilot Connection switch. Turn it on, and while you're navigating a route (tracks aren't supported here), Aqua Map automatically sends NMEA0183 sentences through this connection, the kind of data an autopilot controller uses to follow your selected route.

AUTOPILOT CONNECTION - BETA

Send output (APB, RMB, XTE) when Route is active



A couple of important warnings on this one. First, autopilot systems vary a lot across brands and configurations, and we've seen different behavior depending on the setup, so this feature is currently in beta. Go carefully the first time you use it, and reach out to support@aquamap.app if you run into anything unexpected. Second, and more importantly: never leave the helm unattended while using this function, especially with a route calculated automatically by [Route Planner](#). Autopilot is a tool to assist your navigation, not a replacement for keeping watch.

Transducer settings

If your connection is actively receiving depth data, a Transducer section becomes available, letting you:

Transducer offset

Adjust offset for your depth sensor until depth is water surface to channel bottom.

Vocal depth alarm

No Draft Manual

Sound a vocal alarm if external depth is less than

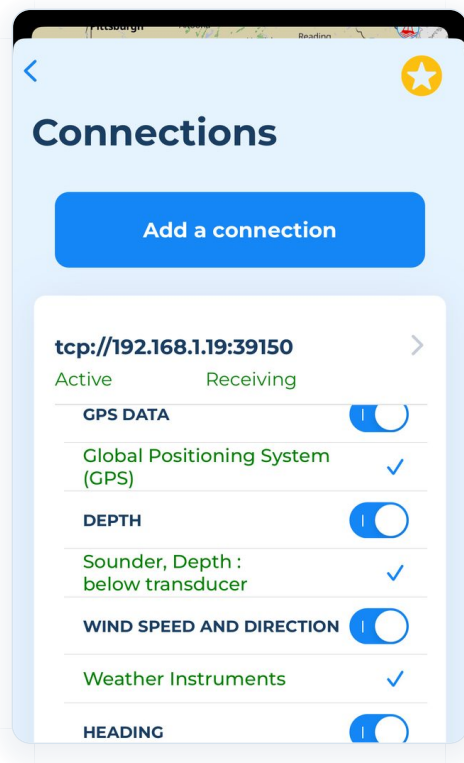
Play a vocal message for the depth each 5 sec.

☐

- Set a transducer offset, added or subtracted from the received depth to calculate actual depth from the water's surface.
- Choose whether and how you want a depth alarm to trigger, either when depth drops below your boat's draft (set on the [My Boat](#) page) or below any custom value you choose.
- Decide whether you want to hear the depth reading announced every 5 seconds.

The Connections list page

This page lists every connection you've set up, since Aqua Map supports connecting multiple devices at once, and shows exactly what data each one is sending. If more than one device sends the same type of data, a blue switch lets you choose which source to use, or you can simply switch a data type off entirely. Tap any connection's name to jump back into its settings.

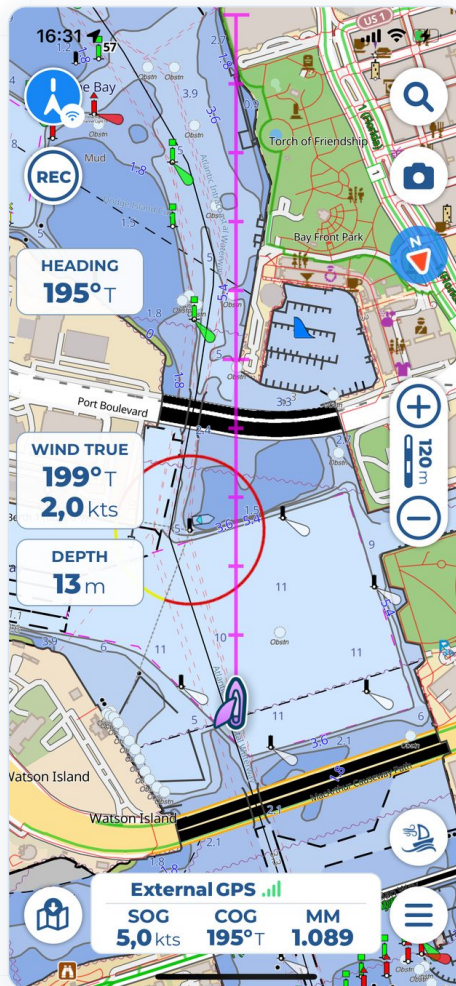


How external data is used in the app

Once connected, each type of data behaves a little differently:

- **GPS.** When an external GPS is connected, Aqua Map uses it for everything GPS-related, position, speed, direction, and signal quality, powering every function that depends on it, from the map display to anchor alarms and track recording. You'll see a distinct icon on the GPS button and an "External" label in the GPS info box to confirm it's active. Over NMEA0183, Aqua Map reads RMC, GGA, and GLL sentences;
- **compass.** External compass data substitutes your device's internal sensor when needed, for instance, displaying the map in Heading-up mode, and adds a dedicated box on the left side of the screen. Over NMEA0183, this uses HDG, HDT, and HDM sentences;
- **depth.** Depth appears in its own box on the left of the screen. If you've set your boat's draft on the My Boat page, a "Low water alarm" voice alert triggers automatically once depth drops below your draft (plus a 20% margin), and the depth box turns red at the same time. If you're recording a track, depth data gets saved with it too, so you can view a full depth graph later from the [Track Info](#) page. Over NMEA0183, this uses DPT, DBK, and DBT sentences;
- **wind.** Wind data also gets its own box on the left of the screen. Aqua Map prioritizes True Wind Direction, calculating it itself when it isn't received directly, particularly when GPS data is available. Over NMEA0183, this uses MWV and MWD sentences.

- **AIS.** AIS targets appear directly on your chart. For the full picture, see the dedicated [AIS Integration](#) page.



Devices tested with Aqua Map

The following gateways and devices have been specifically tested and confirmed to work with Aqua Map:

- [Actisense W2K-1 Wi-Fi gateway](#)
- [Alltek Marine B600W](#)
- [Boat Beacon](#)
- [Comar Systems I300W](#)
- [Digital Yacht NMEA to Wi-Fi adaptors](#)
- [Digital Yacht iKommunicate \(NMEA to Signal K gateway\)](#)
- [MailASail Redbox](#)
- [nke Wi-Fi Box](#) (multi input/output interface with bidirectional Wi-Fi communication)
- [PredictWind DataHub](#)
- [Quark-Elec multi-device NMEA 0183 multiplexers](#)

- [Rose Point Nemo Gateway](#)
- [SailTimer Air Link](#)
- [Shipmodul MiniPlex-3 Series](#)
- [Vesper WatchMate XB-8000](#) (NMEA to Wi-Fi transponder)
- [Vesper WatchMate Vision2](#) (smart AIS touchscreen transponder with Wi-Fi and NMEA 2000 gateway)
- [Yacht Devices NMEA 0183 Wi-Fi Gateway YDWN-02](#)

Autopilot systems tested with Aqua Map

- [PredictWind DataHub](#) bridged to an NMEA 2000 bus with a Raymarine EV-1 course computer, ACU400 actuator, and two p70Rs control heads
- [PredictWind DataHub](#) bridged to an NMEA 2000 bus with a Raymarine AP system (RS130 GPS, EV-1 course computer, p70Rs AP control head, Jefa AP drive)
- Digital Yacht NAVLINK2 bridged to an NMEA 2000 bus with a Simrad autopilot and AC-40 computer (a Digital Yacht iKonvert box was needed to convert N2K commands to NMEA0183 for the AC-40)
- [Yacht Devices YDWG-02](#) bridged to an NMEA 2000 bus with a Raymarine e-Series and Evolution autopilot
- [Yacht Devices YDEN-02](#) bridged to an NMEA 2000 bus with a Raymarine AP system (RS130 GPS, EV-1 course computer, p70Rs AP control head, Jefa AP drive).

Want to see it in action?

For a full walkthrough of setting up Wi-Fi Connections, check out our [video tutorial](#).

SECTION 04

Sharing & Communities

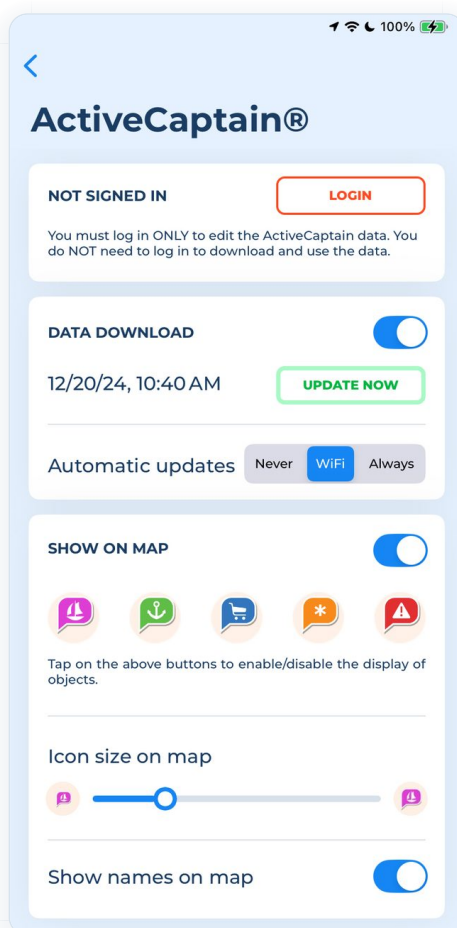
ActiveCaptain	120
Crowdsourced Bathymetry	123
GEC Account	125
Live Sharing	134
Public folder	141
Sharing	145
Waterway Guide	148

ActiveCaptain: real-world knowledge from fellow boaters

Aqua Map integrates over 70.000 points of interest from the [ActiveCaptain](#) community, a network of boaters sharing exactly the kind of on-the-water knowledge that makes navigation safer and a lot less stressful. Marinas, hazards, anchorages, and genuine local know-how, all right there on your chart.

ActiveCaptain settings

You'll find the ActiveCaptain settings page from the main [Settings](#) menu.

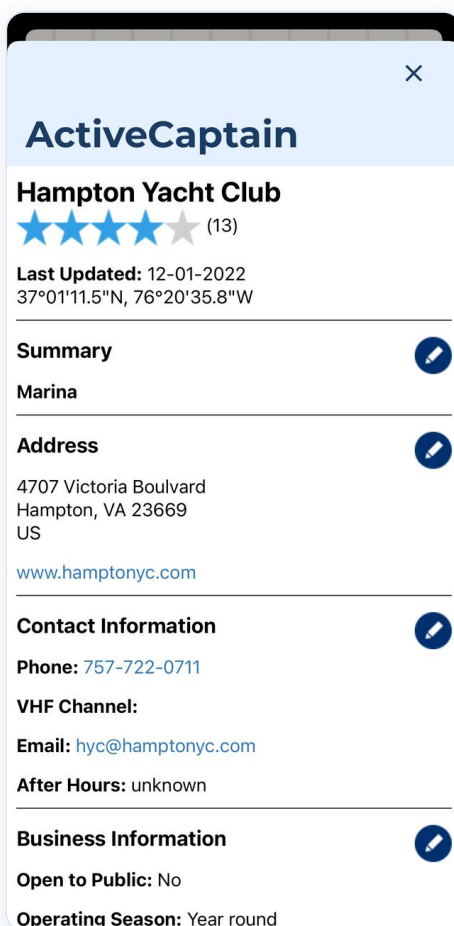


- **Sign in** lets you log into your ActiveCaptain account. You don't need to be signed in to view the data, only if you want to edit it later.
- **Data download** turns ActiveCaptain on and downloads its database for offline use. The first download can take a few minutes, but you can keep using the app while it finishes.
- **Update now** triggers an immediate download of the latest available data.

- **Automatic update** controls how future updates happen: "Never" requires manually tapping "Update now," "WiFi" updates daily whenever you're active on a WiFi network, and "Always" updates daily regardless of connection type, worth knowing if that could mean extra cellular costs on your plan.
- **Show on map** turns the ActiveCaptain overlay on, with five object types you can toggle individually: marinas, anchorages, businesses, local knowledge (covering boat ramps, bridges, dams, ferries, inlets, and locks), and hazards. As with Waterway Guide, these settings also control what [Route Explorer](#) can search for, hide an object type here, and Route Explorer won't find it either.
- **Icon size on map** adjusts how large ActiveCaptain icons appear.
- **Show names on map** displays object names beneath their icons, though only once you're zoomed in to a detailed scale.

The object info page

Tap any ActiveCaptain icon on the map, then select info ⓘ, to open its full details page, covering the object's name, description, opening hours, and ratings from other users.



Beyond just browsing, you can also contribute directly:

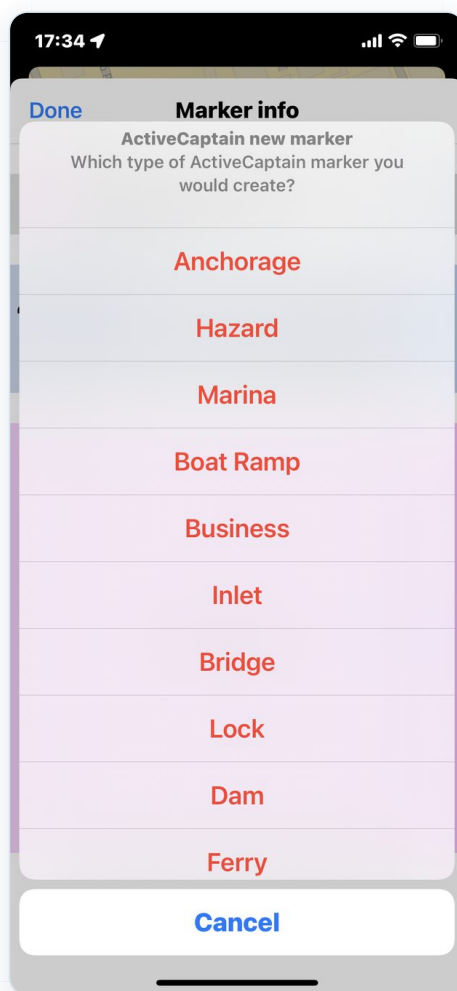
- **edit**, tap the pen icon ⓘ to update any section of the listing;

- **review**, tap "Write review" (or "Write comment") at the bottom of the page to add your own feedback;
- **delete**, available from the Summary section's edit view (requires being signed in to your ActiveCaptain account), using the "Delete marker" button.

Creating a new ActiveCaptain object

To add a new listing, start by creating a regular Aqua Map [marker](#), or use an existing one, at the position you want to mark. Open that marker's info page, and select the ActiveCaptain icon from the bottom menu  (this only appears if ActiveCaptain data is enabled).

You'll be asked to confirm, then choose which type of ActiveCaptain object you're creating (signing into your ActiveCaptain account is required for this step). The new listing is created at the same position and with the same name as your original marker, and once it's created, you're taken straight into its info page to fill in the rest of the details.



Want to see it in action?

For a full walkthrough of ActiveCaptain, check out our [video tutorial](#).

Crowdsourced Bathymetry: help improve charts for everyone

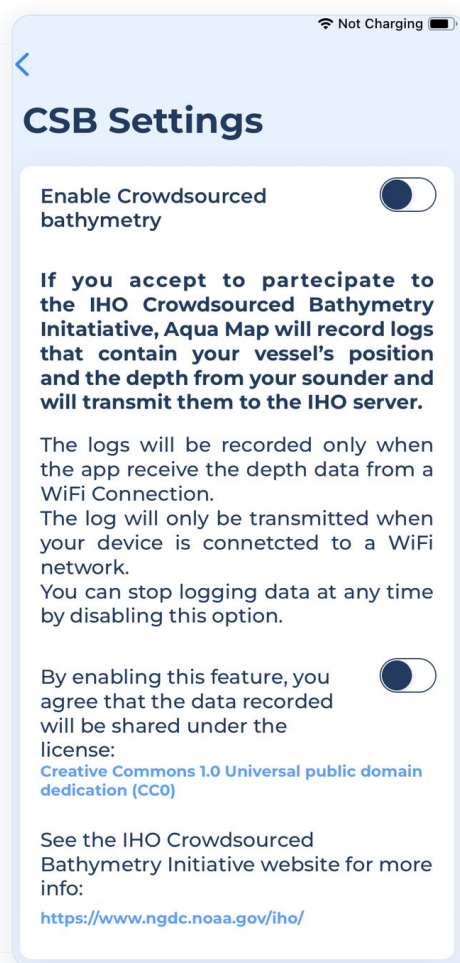
Every trip you take with a connected depth sounder can help make nautical charts more accurate, not just for you, but for every mariner who comes after. Aqua Map lets you participate directly in the [Crowdsourced Bathymetry Initiative](#), run by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), aimed at keeping chart data more current and more accurate over time.

Turn this feature on, and Aqua Map records your vessel's position along with depth readings from your depth sounder, then transmits that data to the IHO server through NOAA.

There are two conditions for this to work: your depth sounder needs to be connected to Aqua Map through a [Wi-Fi Connection](#), and to avoid eating into your mobile data, accumulated data only gets transmitted once your device connects to a WiFi network.

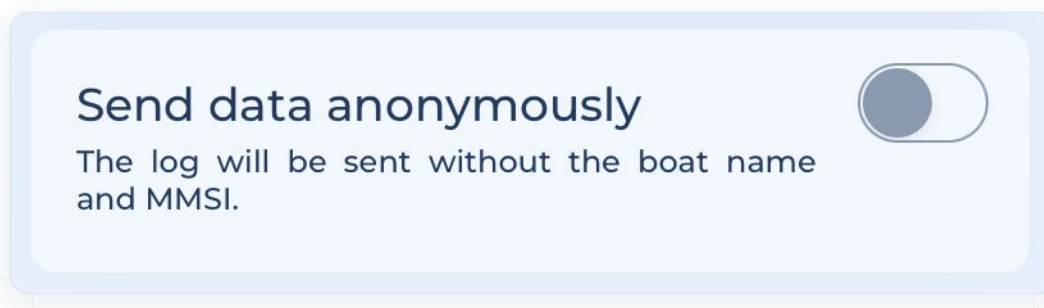
Crowdsourced Bathymetry settings

You'll find these settings from the main [Settings](#) page, where you can opt in to contribute to the project.



All data recorded and shared through this feature is released under the Creative Commons CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication license, meaning it becomes freely available to anyone working to improve navigational charts.

If you'd rather not share identifying details about your boat, like MMSI or boat name, you can turn on "Send data anonymously" and contribute without attaching any of that information.



GEC Account: sync, store and share your Aqua Map data

Your GEC Account is the hub that connects everything you do in Aqua Map across devices and, if you want, with the wider Aqua Map community. It's free to set up and unlocks a handful of features that are genuinely useful once you're managing more than one device or want to keep your markers and routes safe somewhere other than your phone.

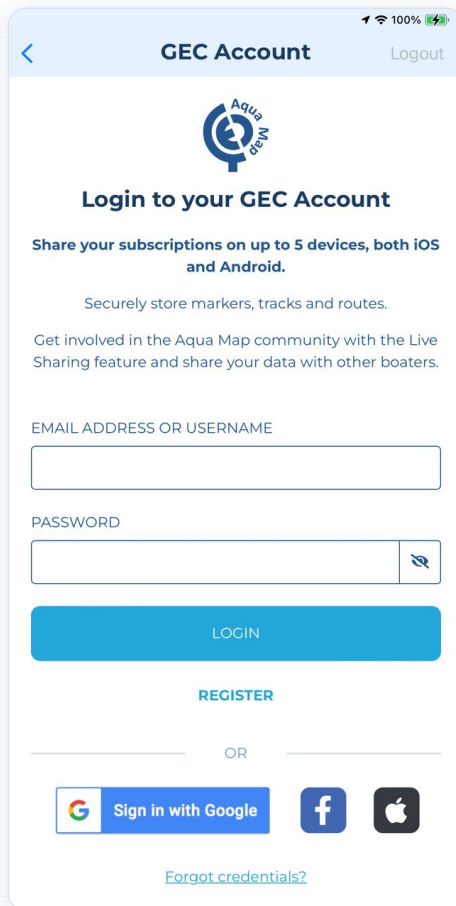
What you get with a GEC Account

- Purchases shared across up to 5 devices, Apple and Android alike. Buy something once and it follows you.
- A secure place to store your markers, tracks, and routes. One important distinction: this isn't a typical cloud service that automatically backs up or syncs your data in the background. You need to actively save items to your GEC Account using the [sharing](#) function, and saving the same item more than once creates separate copies rather than overwriting the original.
- Access to the Aqua Map community through [Live Sharing](#).
- An easy way to share your data publicly with other Aqua Map users via the [Public Folder](#).

Using your GEC Account in the app

Register and login

You'll find the GEC Account login page from the main [Settings](#) menu. From there, log in with your existing GEC Account credentials, or if you're new, register directly on the same page, either the standard way or through your Google, Facebook, or Apple account.



GEC Account Logout



Login to your GEC Account

Share your subscriptions on up to 5 devices, both iOS and Android.

Securely store markers, tracks and routes.

Get involved in the Aqua Map community with the Live Sharing feature and share your data with other boaters.

EMAIL ADDRESS OR USERNAME

PASSWORD

LOGIN

REGISTER

OR

 Sign in with Google  

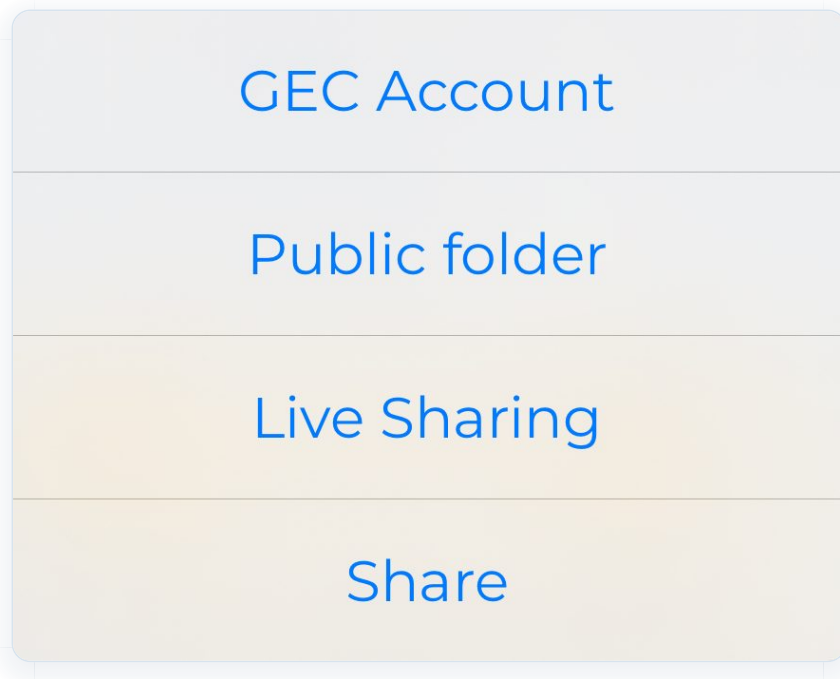
[Forgot credentials?](#)

Prefer to register from a browser instead? You can do that too, from our website, more on that in the "GEC Account on the Website" section below.

Once you're logged in, you'll land on your Profile page (covered in detail further down), and from that point on, all your Aqua Map purchases sync automatically across every device you log into, up to five. You can also start using your GEC Account as storage for the data that matters most: markers, tracks, routes, and photos.

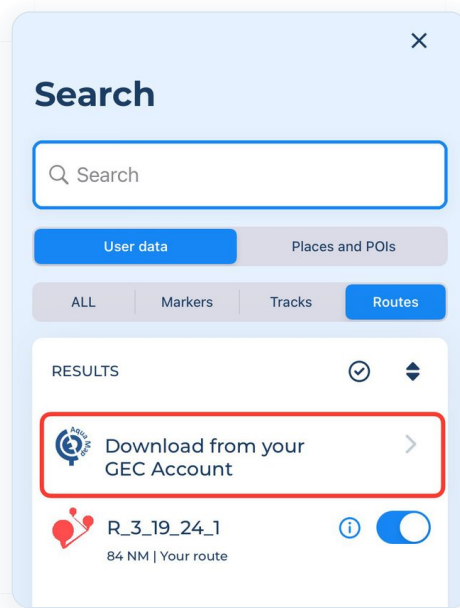
Saving data to your GEC Account

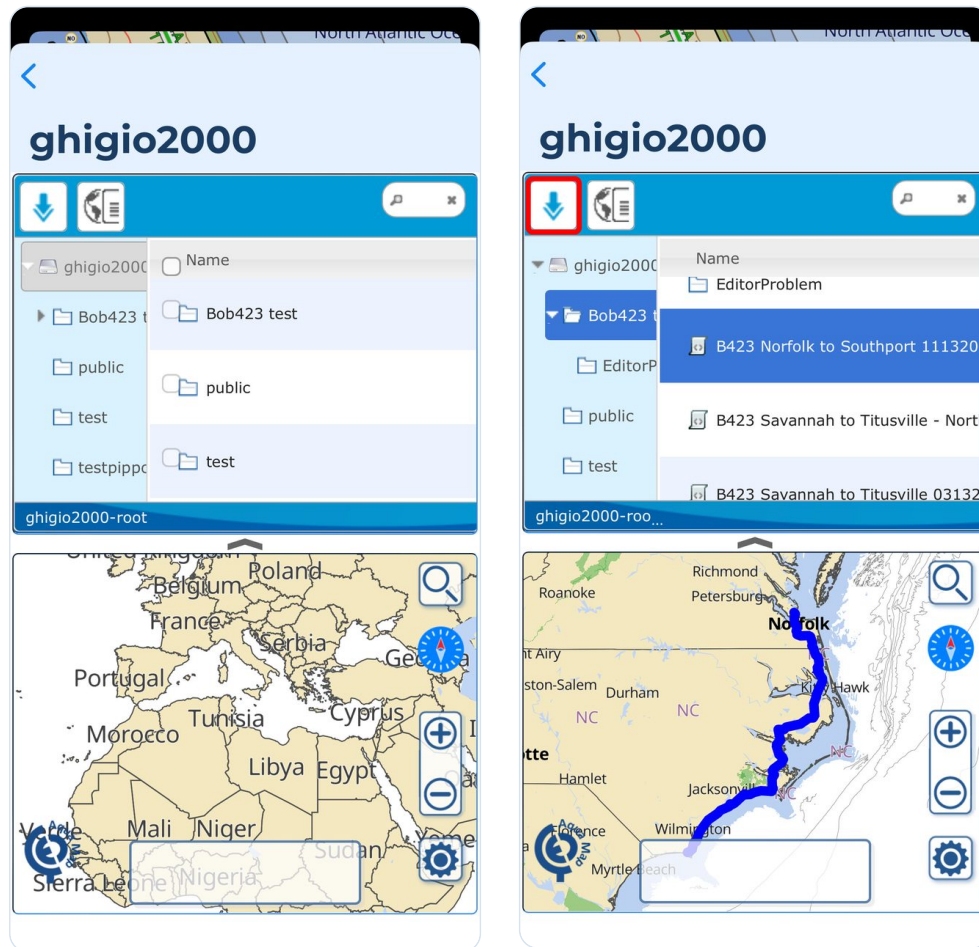
To back up an item to your GEC Account, use the [sharing](#) function and choose "GEC Account" as the destination. You'll need to be logged in for this option to appear.



Importing data from your GEC Account

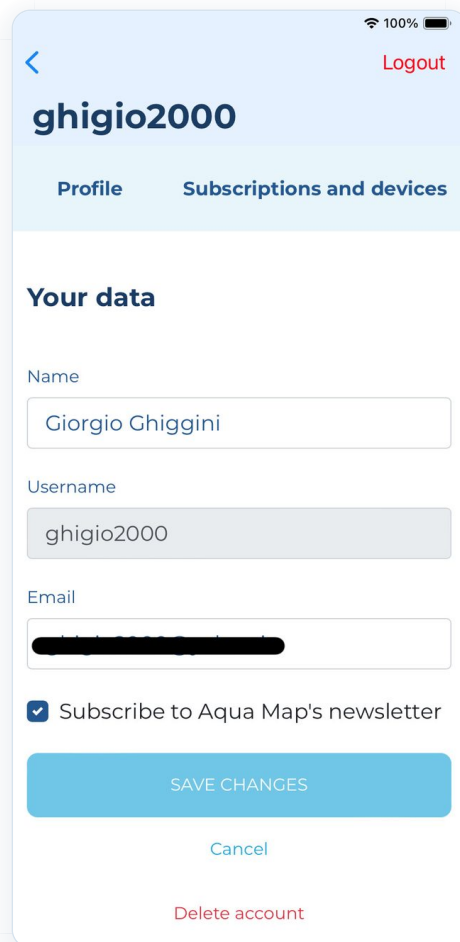
Go to the [Search](#) page, open the "User data" tab, and select "Download from your GEC Account". This opens a browser window showing everything saved in your account. Tap a file to preview it on the map, then hit the import button in the top-left corner to bring it into the app.





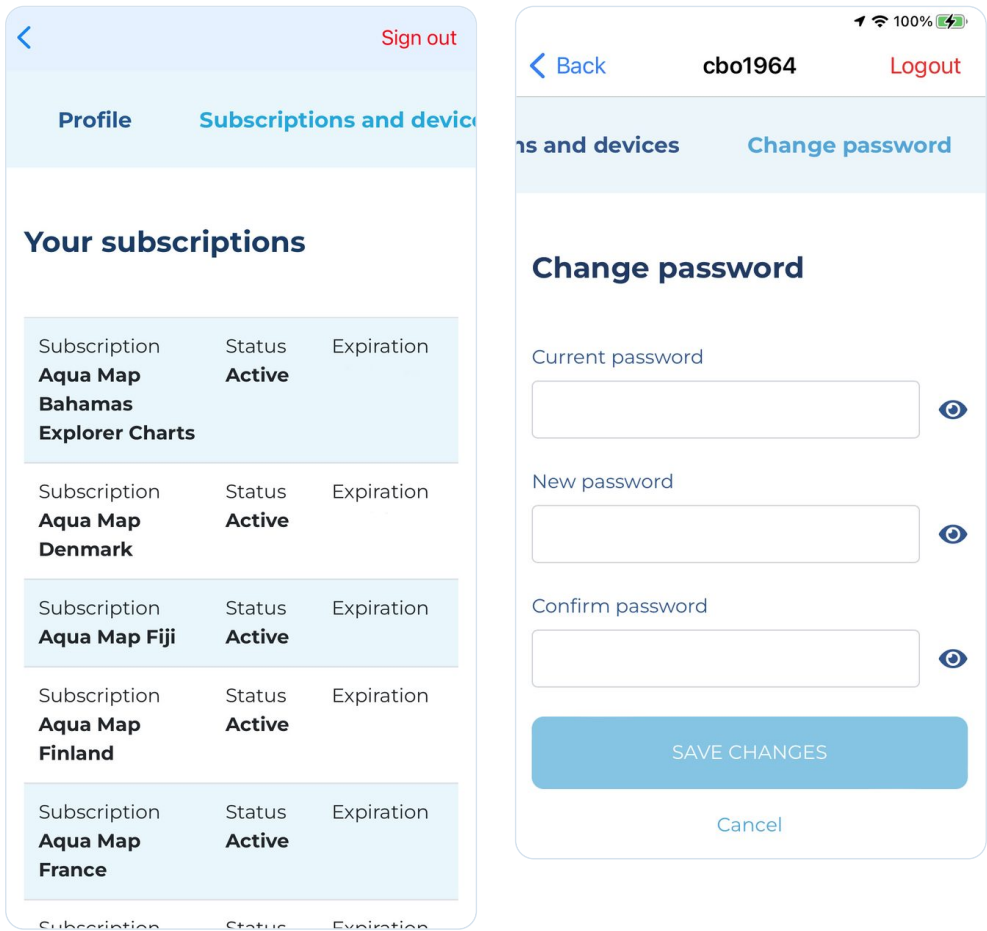
Managing your profile

From Settings, tap the GEC Account option to open your Profile, where you can:



- **Log out** using the button in the top-right corner.
- **Update your account details**, like name and email. Your username, however, can't be changed once set.
- **Request account deletion.** This triggers an email confirmation step, and once confirmed, the deletion is final and can't be undone.

Two more tabs live here worth knowing about. "Subscriptions and devices" shows every purchase currently tied to your GEC Account and is also where you redeem any promo codes you might have. "Change password" does exactly what it says.



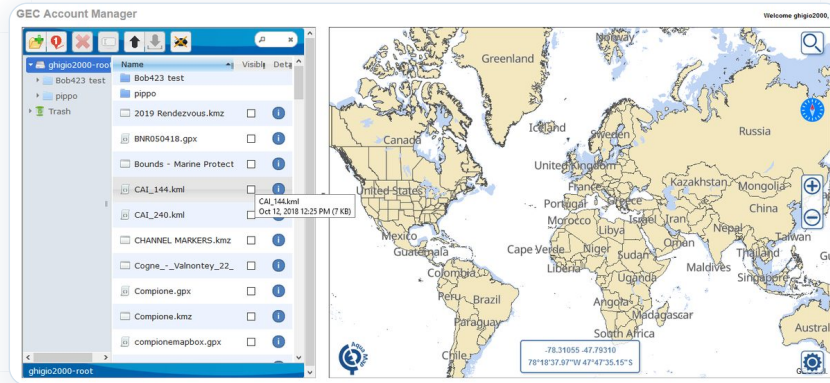
Using Your GEC Account on the Website

Register and login

The quickest way to register is right from our website: hit the Login button in the top-right corner of the homepage.

Your archive

Once logged in, your archive appears in the file manager panel on the left side of the [Chart Viewer](#) page. From there, you can:



- Select one or more files (hold Shift or Ctrl to multi-select), then drag and drop them into folders or subfolders.

 Create a new folder or subfolder.

 Create a new route or itinerary directly in your archive.

 Delete selected files, which moves them to the trash folder rather than removing them instantly.

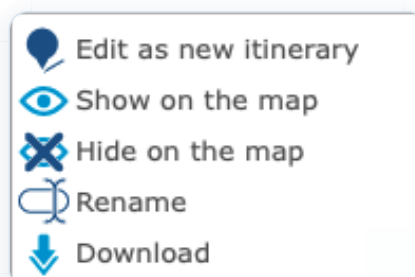
 Rename a selected file or folder, though changing a file's extension isn't allowed.

  Upload new files (KMZ, KML, or GPX only) using the upload icon, or just drag them in from your computer. To download, select one or more files and use the download icon; selecting multiple files bundles them into a zip.

 Hide every file currently shown on the map with a single click, or toggle individual files on and off using their checkboxes.

 View a file's details by clicking the info icon or double-clicking its name, which isolates it on the map.

Right-clicking any selected file also opens a context menu with quick access to these same commands. One worth calling out: "Edit as new itinerary," which is how you modify an existing route or itinerary file, since it lets you start a new itinerary pre-loaded with everything from the file you selected.



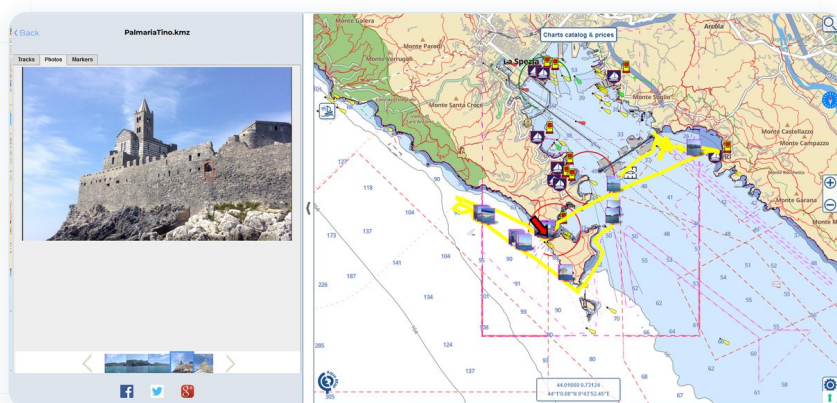
On the map side, you can zoom and pan freely, search for any location worldwide , and adjust map settings  from the same panel.

The Public Folder

Inside your GEC Account, you'll find a folder simply called "public." It's created automatically and can't be renamed or deleted. Everything else in your account stays private, but anything you move into this folder becomes visible to the entire Aqua Map community. For the full picture, see the [Public Folder](#) page.

Reliving your trips

Double-click any file in your archive, and it overlays directly on the map. From there you can dig into everything the file contains, track statistics, markers, photos, routes, plus depth and speed graphs where available, so you can relive the trip step by step, right down to where each photo was taken.



Creating or editing an itinerary

Building a new itinerary means pulling together tracks, markers, routes, and photos into a single file (GPX, KML, or KMZ), which the system then saves to your archive under whatever name you choose (with automatic numbering if that name is already taken). Once saved, you can download it, share it on social media, or load it straight back into Aqua Map.



While editing on the Chart Viewer, a set of tools becomes available. Each one turns orange when active  and stays active until you press it again or switch tools:

- **Edit geometry** by clicking directly on an object to drag, add, or remove points.



Add a marker, which you can then name, describe, assign an icon to, and attach a photo to, all editable up until you save.



Digitize a new route, clicking point by point on the map to place waypoints . A helper dialog tracks distance and bearing as you go, and lets you undo, redo, save, or cancel. Once placed, you can name, describe, and color the route.



Split a track or route into two separate objects: select the feature, then click where you want the split to happen.



Join two or more lines of the same type (route with route, track with track) into one.



Reverse a line's point order with a single click.



Delete any object from the itinerary you're building. There's no undo here, so double-check before removing anything.



Save, which stores the finished itinerary in your archive and closes the editing session. You'll be asked to name the file and choose GPX and/or KMZ/KML as the format.

A couple of ground rules apply throughout: an itinerary can only be edited before it's saved, and duplicate names aren't allowed for items of the same type within one file, so the system will rename yours automatically if needed.

Watch the tutorial

For a full walkthrough of GEC Account features, check out our [video tutorial](#).

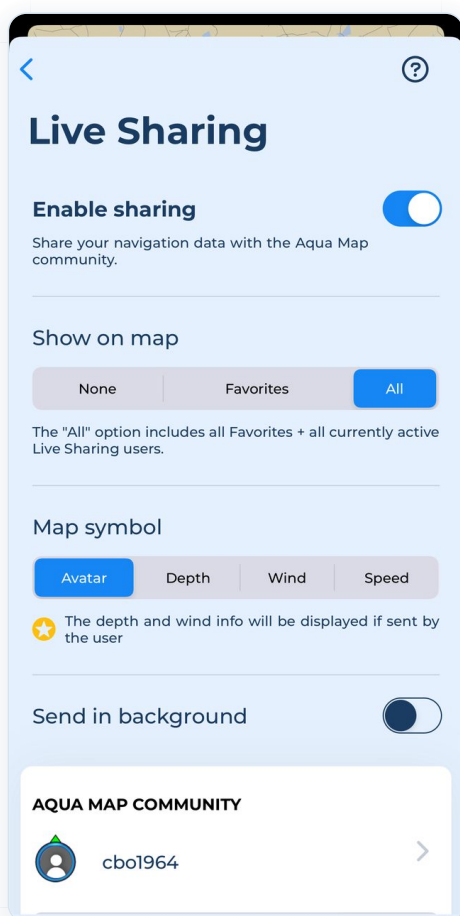
Live Sharing: connect with the Aqua Map community

Live Sharing connects you with the wider Aqua Map community, every user logged into a [GEC Account](#) who's opted in to share their info. Turn it on, accept the Privacy Policy, and you'll share your boat and navigation details with the community while seeing every active Live Sharing user on your own map, along with their [My Boat](#) details and live navigation data: speed, course, and, when available, depth and wind.

While connected, you can also chat directly with other users and swap routes, tracks, and markers right through the conversation.

Getting started with Live Sharing

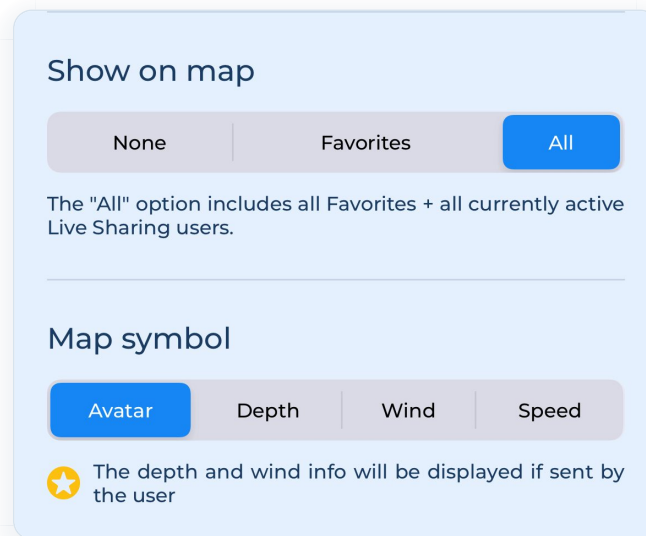
You'll find the Live Sharing page from the main [Settings](#) menu, where you can manage every setting, your own shared data, and the full list of connected community members.



A single switch at the top turns the whole feature on or off. Enabling it requires explicitly accepting the dedicated Privacy Policy first. On iOS, you'll also be prompted to enable push notifications, worth accepting if you want to actually be notified when a new chat message comes in.

Choosing what you see on the map

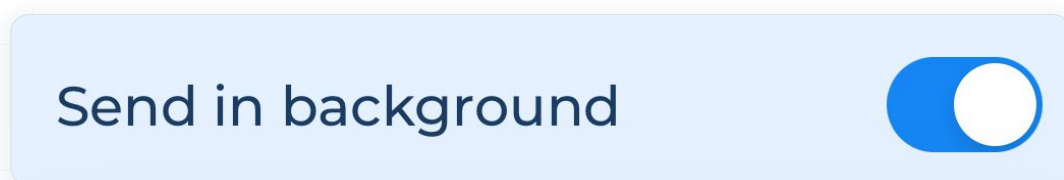
Two settings control how other users appear on your chart.



- **Show on map** controls who you see: "None", "Favorites" only, or "All", which shows your favorites plus every currently active user (meaning anyone who's sent a position update in the last 24 hours).
- **Map symbol** controls what each user's icon displays: their avatar, or a live data value instead, "Depth" shows their current depth reading, "Wind" their true wind direction and speed, and "Speed" their current speed. Depth and wind data only show up if that user has an active [Wi-Fi connection](#) feeding NMEA or Signal-K data for those readings. These three data options also require you to have an active [Advanced Tools subscription](#), without one, only the Avatar option is available.

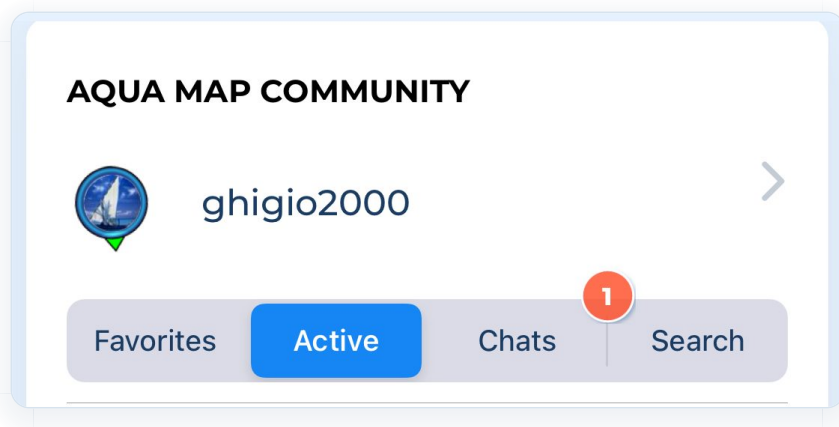
Sharing your data in the background

One more setting worth knowing about: enabling background sharing keeps sending your data to the Live Sharing server even after you close the app. It doesn't change what you receive, you'll only get updates while the app is actually open, but it does mean other boaters can still see your live position even when you're not actively using Aqua Map, with only a minimal impact on your cellular data usage.



The Aqua Map community list

The bottom half of the Live Sharing page shows everything happening in the community around you. The very first row shows exactly what you're currently sharing, essentially, what other users can see about you.



Below that, four tabs let you filter the list:

- **Favorites**, everyone you've starred , sorted by distance from your GPS position.
- **Active**, every currently active Live Sharing user, also sorted by distance, with an additional text filter available in this view;
- **Chats**, every conversation you've had, most recent first. A red circle on this tab means you have unread messages, with the number showing how many separate chats have something unread;
- **Search**, lets you search all users, active or not, by name or by boating lifestyle, or both together. Searching by name alone requires at least 3 characters. Results here are sorted alphabetically rather than by distance.

Reading a User row

Each row in the Favorites, Active, or Search tabs follows the same layout:



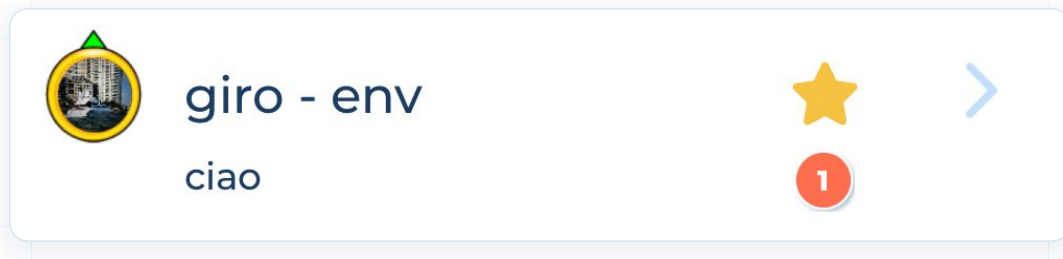
- **Avatar**, the user's chosen image (or a default one), surrounded by a colored border: yellow for an active favorite, blue for an active non-favorite, and gray for someone currently inactive. A small green arrow shows their direction of movement;



Favorite star, tap to toggle a user's favorite status. From the Favorites tab specifically, tapping it removes them from the list;

- **User info**, tap this section to close the list and center the map on that user;
 - **Boating lifestyles**, icons pulled from the user's My Boat settings;
-  **Info button**, opens that user's full details page.

Rows on the Chats tab look a little different: instead of user info and lifestyles, you'll see a preview of the first unread message (or the most recent one, if everything's read). Tap the row to jump straight into that conversation.

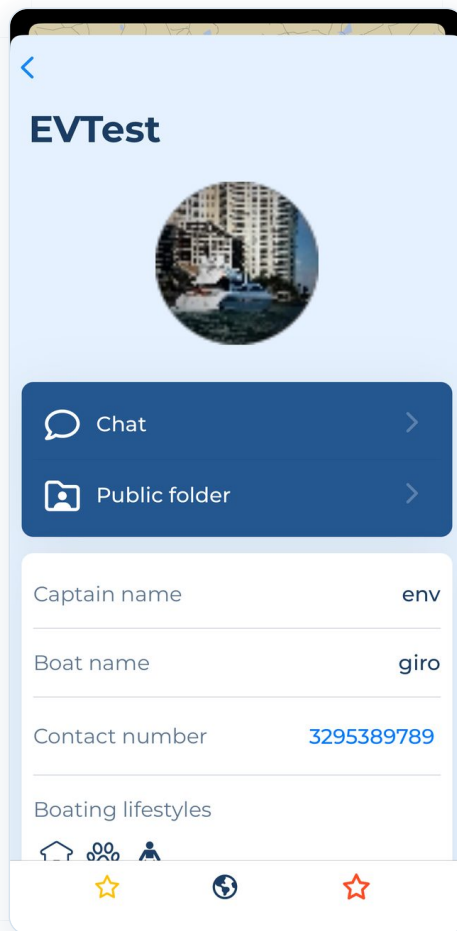


The user details page

Open a user's details page either by tapping their icon on the map and selecting the info button from the pop-up , or by tapping the info button next to their name  in the community list.



This page shows their GEC Account username, avatar, personal and boat info (including their boating lifestyles from My Boat), and their most recent navigation data along with distance from your current position. As with the map symbol settings above, depth and wind readings only appear if that user has an active Wi-Fi connection sending that data.

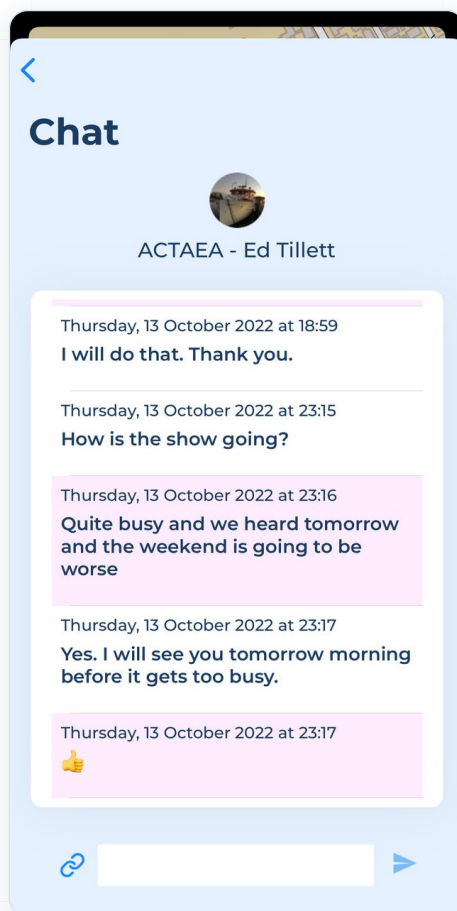


From here, you can also open a chat with them , open their [Public Folder](#) , mark or unmark them as a favorite  , center the map on their position , or highlight them .

Highlighting is worth knowing about: it flashes their icon red on the map and keeps the arrow and distance in your Live Sharing info box always pointing to them, useful if there's one specific person you want to keep track of. You can only highlight one user at a time.

The user Chat page

You can reach a chat in a few different ways: tap a user's icon on the map and select the chat button from the pop-up , open it from the Chats tab, or tap the chat button from that user 's details page.



Messages are listed chronologically, most recent at the bottom, with your messages shown in pink and theirs in white. Type your message in the text field at the bottom and hit send ➡. You can also attach a route, track, or marker to any message using the link button 🔗, and if you receive one, an "Import" button lets you bring it straight into the app.

Live Sharing on the map

Once Live Sharing is active, other users appear on your chart based on your "Show on map" setting, with icon style reflecting their status:

 **Active favorite**, a user you've starred who's sent a position in the last 24 hours.

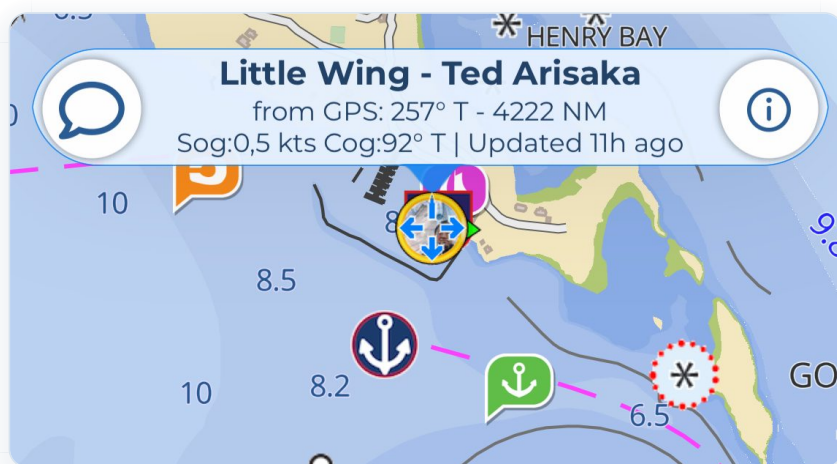
 **Inactive favorite**, a favorite who hasn't sent a position recently. Worth noting: only favorites still show when inactive, non-favorite inactive users don't appear on the map at all.

 **Highlighted user**, flashing on screen, and limited to one at a time, set from the user's details page.

 **Active user**, anyone active who isn't one of your favorites.

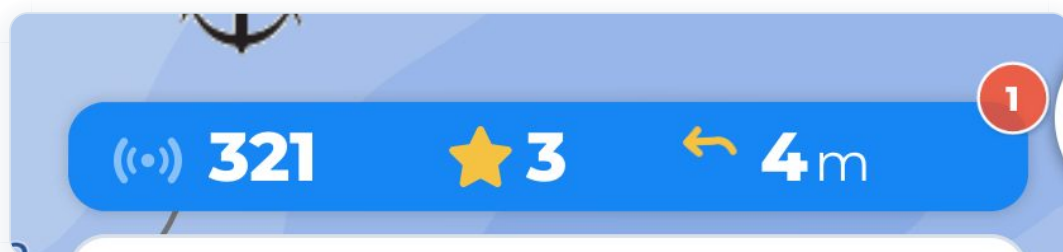
Each icon shows the user's avatar, or the data value you selected in Map symbol settings, at its center. Zoom in far enough, and their boat name appears below the icon (or their captain name, or their GEC Account username, whichever is available first).

Tap any icon, and a pop-up lets you start a chat  or open that user's details page, tapping the center of the pop-up also shows a list of every nearby object, not just that user.



The Live Sharing info box

Just above the GPS info box, you'll find a dedicated Live Sharing box showing, from left to right: the Live Sharing icon (flashing while actively receiving data), the total number of active users worldwide (if "All" is selected), your favorites icon with the count of currently active favorites, and an arrow with distance pointing to whichever user matters most right now, a highlighted user (red arrow) takes priority, followed by the nearest active favorite within 10 nautical miles (yellow arrow), or, lacking either, the nearest active user overall (white arrow). A red circle here, just like on the Chats tab, flags unread messages and opens the Chats list when tapped.



Tap anywhere on this box at any time to jump straight to the Live Sharing settings page.

Want to see it in action?

For a full walkthrough of Live Sharing, check out our [video tutorial](#).

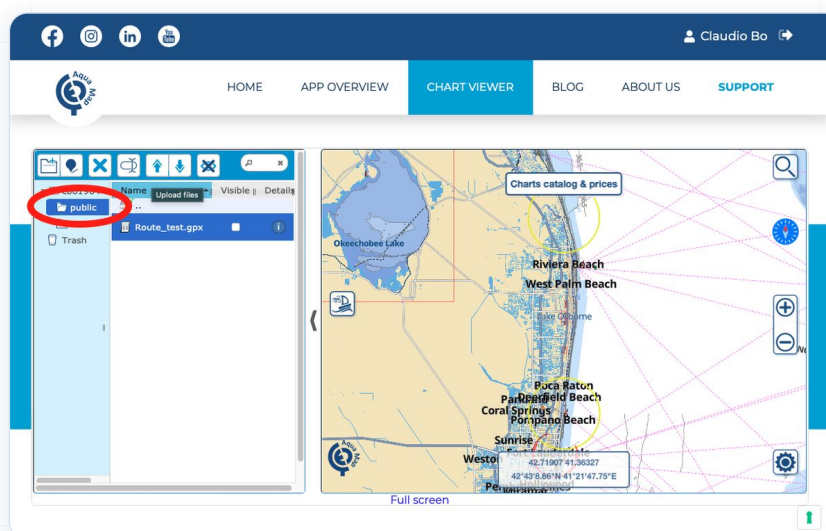
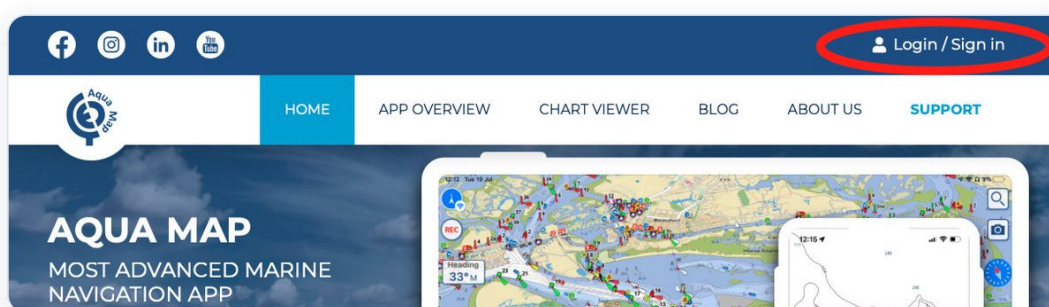
Public Folder: share your data with the whole community

The Public Folder is Aqua Map's most powerful way to share your data with the entire community at once. Drop something into the "public" folder inside your [GEC Account](#), and every [Live Sharing](#) user who syncs with you gets automatic, ongoing access to it, no re-sharing needed every time you make an update.

Uploading to your Public Folder

You can upload content to your Public Folder two ways: from a browser using the Chart Viewer on our website, or directly from the app using the "Public Folder" option in the [Share menu](#).

To upload from a computer, log in to your GEC Account at www.aquamap.app, then select the "Chart Viewer" tab to open your account area. In the file manager on the left, you'll see a folder called "public," created automatically by the system and one that can't be renamed or deleted. Anything you place here becomes visible to the whole Aqua Map community using Live Sharing, while everything else in your GEC Account stays completely private. Want to stop sharing something? Just remove it from the folder whenever you like.



Only GPX, KMZ, and KML files can be uploaded, whether to your GEC Account generally or specifically to the Public Folder. To upload a file, use the upload button  in the top menu bar, or simply drag and drop it straight into the folder. From there, you can delete, move, and rename files just like anywhere else in your account.

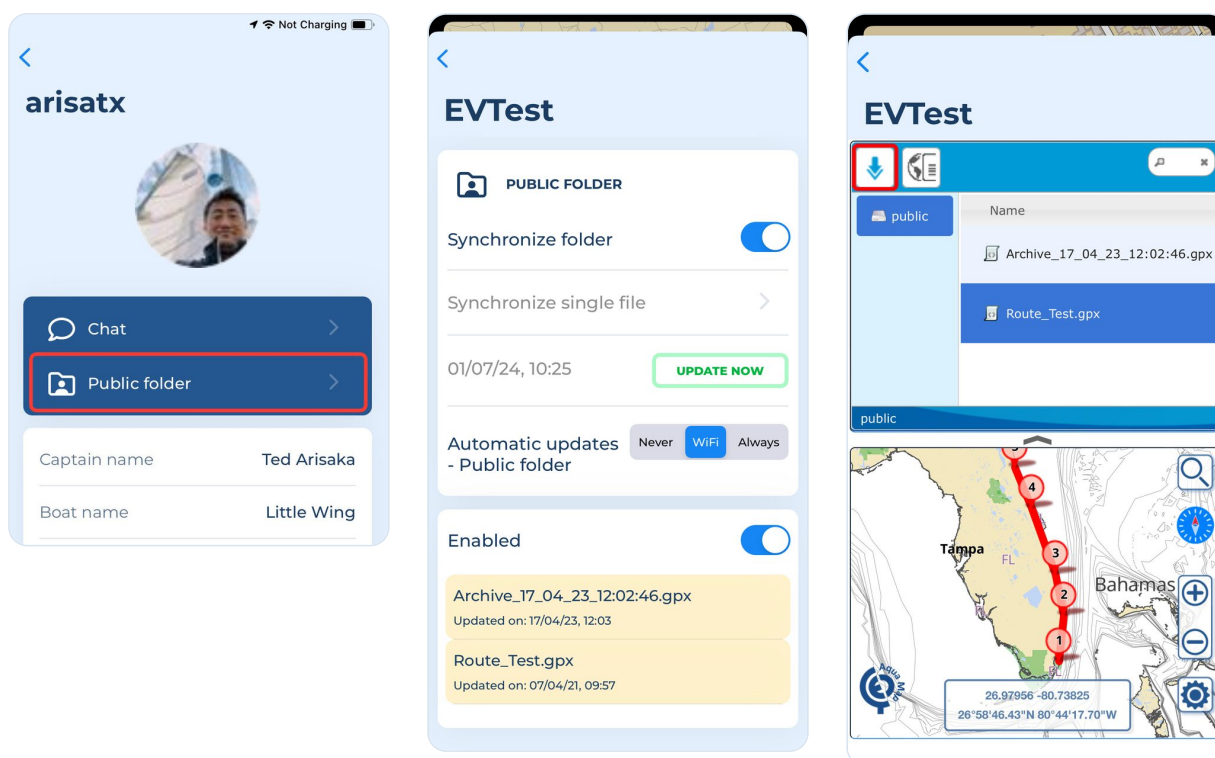
Keeping your public files updated

Here's the useful part: anyone who's synced with your Public Folder stays automatically up to date, as long as you don't change the file's name. To push an update, create the new version of the file elsewhere, give it the exact same name as the original, and upload it to replace the existing one in the folder.

One detail worth being careful with: file names are case-sensitive, so double-check capitalization matches exactly before you upload.

Accessing someone else's Public Folder

Want to see what another user has shared? Open their User Details page from the Live Sharing page, and tap the Public Folder icon.



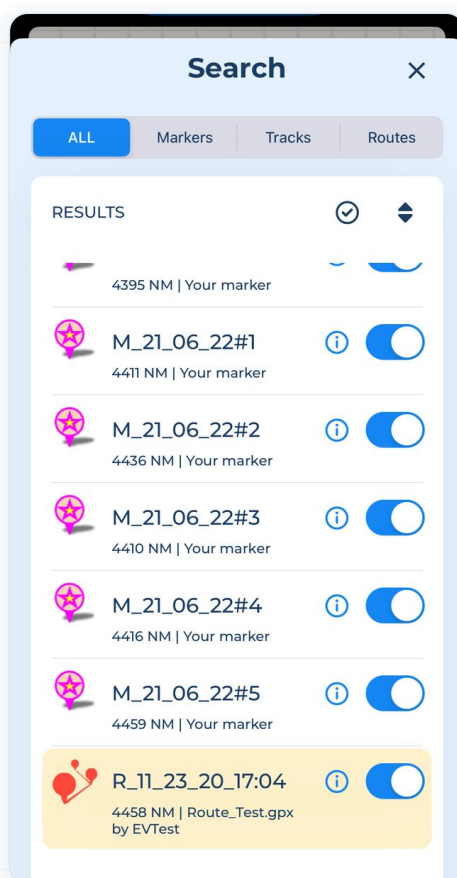
From there, you have two options:

- **Synchronize folder**, importing that user's entire Public Folder into your app and keeping it synced going forward.
- **Synchronize single file**, letting you pick and choose just the files you actually want, rather than importing everything.

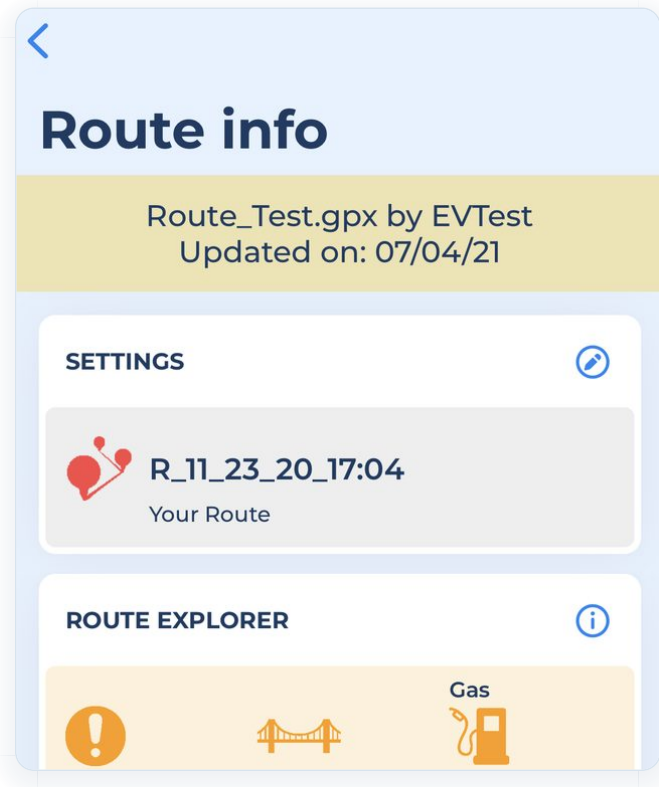
Either way, imported files stay synced according to your Automatic Download settings ("Never," "WiFi," or "Always," see the [Automatic Download](#) page for details), or you can force an immediate update anytime with the "Update now" button. At the bottom of the page, you'll find a list of every file you've imported from that user, each with an "Enabled" switch so you can quickly turn individual files on or off, disabled files won't appear on the map or in [Search](#).

Using synced data in the app

Once enabled, synced items show up alongside your own data, marked with a light yellow background so you can tell at a glance where they came from. You can use them just like your own, navigate with them, hide them, search for them, with one key difference: you can't modify them, aside from changing their display color, and even that resets automatically the next time the file updates.

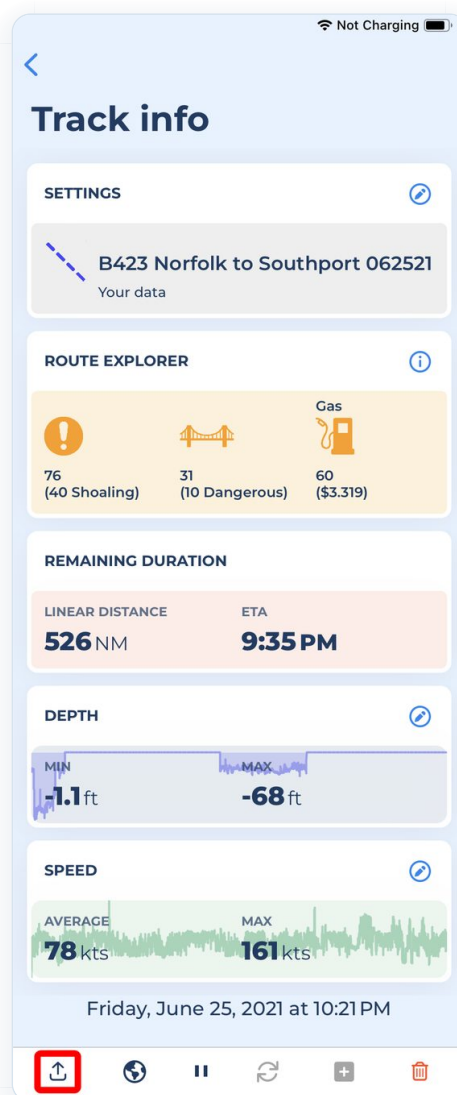


Open the details page for any synced item, and you'll see a dedicated section at the top showing which file it came from, the Live Sharing username of whoever shared it, and when it was last updated in your app.



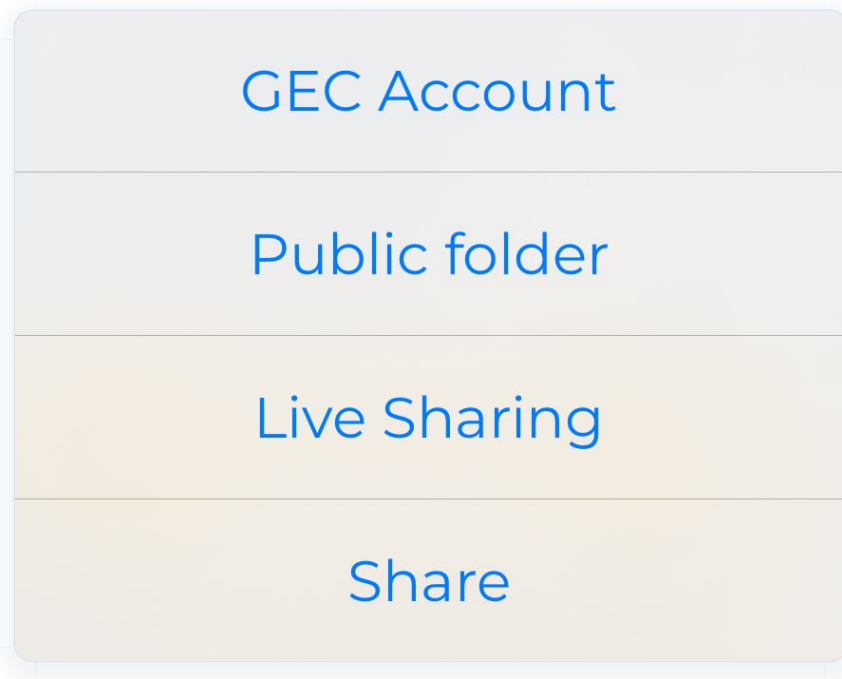
Sharing: sending your data anywhere you need it

Every marker, track, route, and photo you save in Aqua Map can be shared, whether that's with another device of your own, a friend, or the wider Aqua Map community. You'll find the sharing button on the info page of any of these items, or from the [Search](#) page in Edit mode, where you can select multiple items at once and share them together.



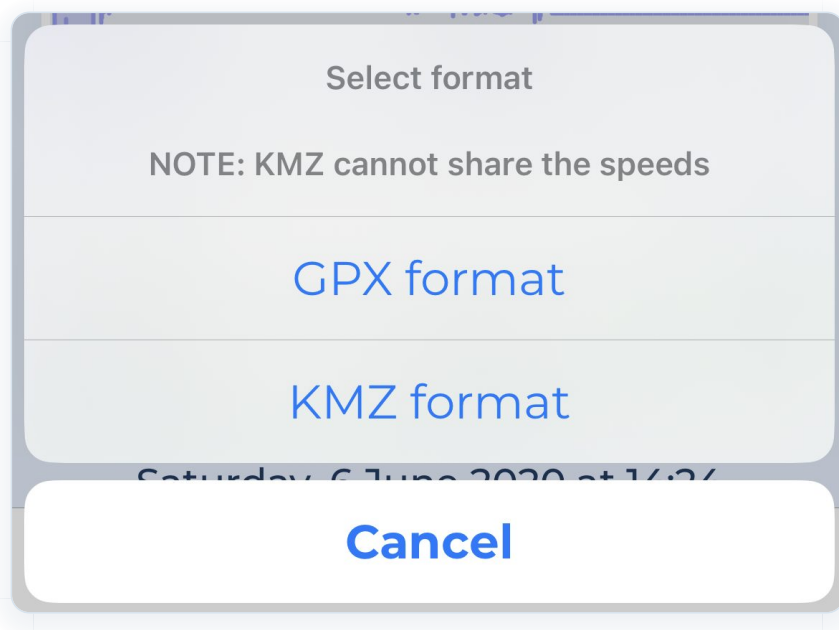
Your Sharing Options

Tap the share button  , and you'll be given four destinations to choose from:



- **GEC Account.** If you're logged in, upload your markers, tracks, photos, and routes straight to your [GEC Account](#). Handy for reviewing a trip later with friends, or just freeing up space on your device without losing anything;
- **Public Folder.** Also requires being logged into your GEC Account, this uploads your data to the [Public Folder](#) section of your account, making it visible to every Live Sharing user and keeping anyone following it automatically synced to your latest version;
- **Live Sharing.** If [Live Sharing](#) is enabled, send data directly to another Live Sharing user through Aqua Map's built-in chat;
- **Share.** This opens your device's standard sharing screen, letting you send the file to any app you like, email, Dropbox, another navigation app, whatever you need.

Whichever option you pick, you'll be asked to choose a format: GPX or KMZ. Both come with a small trade-off worth knowing about: GPX can't export photos, and KMZ can't export speed information, so pick whichever format keeps what matters most for that particular file.



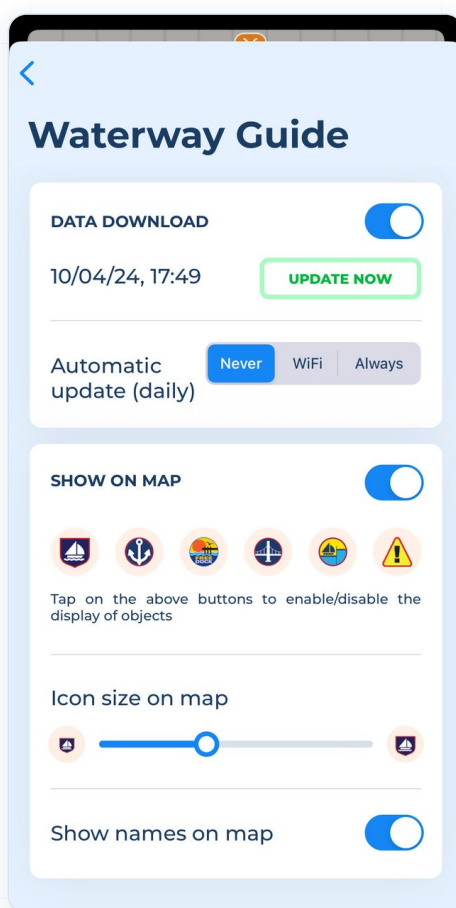
Once you've chosen a format, uploading to your GEC Account finishes the job right there. For every other option, you'll get one more step: choosing exactly who or where the data goes.

Waterway Guide: trusted cruising data on your chart

The team behind [Waterway Guide](#) has spent years building up real, on-the-water boating expertise, and Aqua Map brings that knowledge directly onto your chart. It's a genuinely useful layer for plotting a course, picking out the best marinas and anchorages along the way, and finding the right fuel stop, complete with current fuel prices. You'll also get information on bridges, locks, and navigation alerts, everything you need to make an informed call about your route.

Waterway Guide settings

You'll find the Waterway Guide settings page from the main [Settings](#) menu.



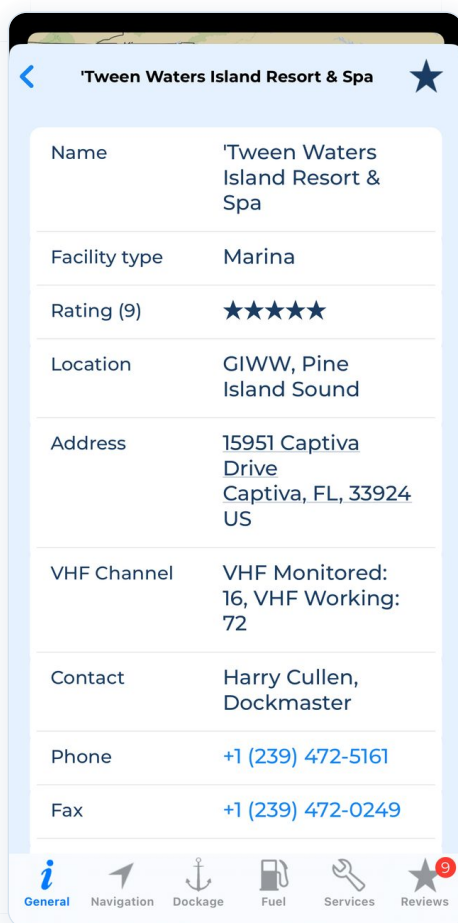
- **Data download** turns Waterway Guide on and downloads its database for offline use. The first download can take a few minutes, but you're free to keep using the app while it finishes in the background.
- **Update now** triggers an immediate download of the latest available data.
- **Automatic update** controls how future updates happen. "Never" means you'll need to update manually. "WiFi" updates the database daily whenever the app is active on a WiFi network.

"Always" updates daily over any connection, including cellular, worth knowing if your data plan has limits.

- **Show on map** turns the Waterway Guide overlay on, with six object types you can toggle individually: marinas, hazards, anchorages, bridges, free docks, and gates. One important detail: these same settings also control what [Route Explorer](#) can find, if an object type is hidden here, Route Explorer won't search for it either.
- **Icon size on map** adjusts how large Waterway Guide icons appear.
- **Show names on map** displays each object's name beneath its icon, though names only appear once you're zoomed in enough for a detailed scale.

The object info page

Tap any Waterway Guide icon on the map, then select the info button , to open its full details page.



You'll find six tabs covering different aspects of that object: General, Navigation, Dockage, Fuel, Service, and Reviews, with a red circle on the Reviews tab showing how many reviews are currently available. Want to leave your own review? Tap the star icon  in the top-right corner, which takes you directly to the Waterway Guide website to submit it.

Want to see it in action?

For a full walkthrough of Waterway Guide, check out our [video tutorial](#).



About Aqua Map

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TUTORIALS

youtube.com/@AquaMap
