ADMIRALTY
Maritime Data Solutions

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did UKHO provide an indicative date of 2026 for paper chart withdrawal?	We made the initial announcement in July 2022 with an intention to remove paper charting by the end of 2026. This date was announced to provide our many stakeholder groups with a planning horizon. The feedback received has shown that changes to international regulation are required, which will significantly extend our withdrawal timeline.
Why did UKHO not foresee the need for international regulatory change?	The initial assumption was that national changes to regulation would be sufficient to meet our regulatory obligations. Following extensive feedback a clear requirement emerged to achieve regulatory change at an international level. This change in approach has extended the timelines initially planned significantly.
Why did UKHO believe the 2026 date was achievable?	Working with our regulator we agreed an initial ambitious but achievable timeline for the withdrawal of paper charts. Subsequently, the necessity to achieve a broader international consensus has required us to extend the period to ensure we meet our promise of leaving no one behind.
What feedback have we received following our initial announcement in July '22?	We've received extensive feedback from many different groups affected by our decision. In general the feedback has been supportive of the goal to sunset Paper Charting, but has focused on the challenges of getting there within the timescales. Particular areas of feedback have included: › Impact to international voyages from different regulatory regions › Access to digital products from areas with restricted internet access › Use of digital products on space and utility restricted bridges

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ADMIRALTY Maritime Data Solutions:

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Why has UKHO announced an extension to the timeline?	Since the announcement we have been gathering feedback from all stakeholders. Before the announcement we could not communicate our plans externally. Following extensive feedback and working with our regulator and other stakeholders it has become clear that regulatory change to support the sunset of Paper Charting is required at an international level, which cannot be achieved in time to meet our initial end of 2026 date for withdrawal.
Is our goal still to sunset Paper Charting?	Yes. The feedback we have received clearly supports our stated position that digital navigation offers the best way to conduct safe, efficient navigation. The timing of withdrawal is changing in response to the requirement to achieve international regulatory change.
How will this affect the POD service?	Print On Demand (POD) will remain the sole source for our charts during the new timeline. We remain committed to investigating the future uses of POD infrastructure.
How will this affect the ARCS service?	We will continue to look at the requirements for which ADMIRALTY Raster Chart Service (ARCS) is currently being used and define a roadmap to address these needs. In the meantime, ARCS will continue in the market.
How will this affect AIO service?	The need to continue to provide a value added assurance layer for Electronic Navigation Charts remains important for the UKHO and the services it offers. ADMIRALTY Information Overlay (AIO) remains the key product to make this available for ADMIRALTY Vector Chart Service users.
Why have we announced PAG withdrawal now that the timelines have changed?	The decision to sunset our remining Port Approach Guides would have been taken regardless of the changing timelines. Analysis shows that the PAG product is no longer in demand.
Where can I find out more about the UKHO's products and services?	More information is available at https://www.admiralty.co.uk/