

4. Fixed Aids to Navigation

An Aid to Navigation is anything that helps

- fix a position
- find a safe channel
- avoid hazards

It is an object,

- natural or man-made
- on land or water
- seen from a vessel
- marked on a chart

Which aid to use is determined by its

- location
- visibility
- sea and weather conditions

Three Categories

- Natural (islands, isolated trees, cliffs, depth of water)
- Structural (buildings or towers)
- Government (lights, day beacons, ranges, buoys etc.)

Letters in Table 4.1 refer to references in Chart 1

Visible Range

Nominal Range given in charted description

This is the distance the light can be seen at night when meteorological visibility obtained from the marine weather report is 10 nm.

Geographical Range

When the observer's height of eye above sea level increases, the horizon appears farther away. The greater the height of eye, the greater is the distance to the horizon.