

What to Report About Beacons, Daymarks and Small Lights.

Shapes, Numbers, and Colors of the Daymarks.

- **Square-shaped** daymarks, colored **green**, with odd **green** numbers mark the left side of channel when returning from the sea.
- **Triangle-shaped** daymarks, colored **red**, with even **red** numbers mark the right side of the channel when returning from the sea.
- **Octagonal-shaped** daymarks, vertically striped **red** and white with white letters in the red panel mark the outer limit of a channel toward the sea.
- Always verify that the aid conforms to the IALA-B System, the Light List, the abbreviations and symbols on the NOAA chart. Also review any comments in the Coast Pilot about the daymark.

Number or Letter on Daymark. [Per Light List and latest NOAA Chart]

- Usually, each daymark has a number or occasionally has a letter.
- The color of the retroreflective material used for numbers and letters on daymarks will reflect the use of the aid. Triangular-shaped daymarks will have red characters and square-shaped daymarks will have green characters.
- Always verify that the charted number or letter is correct per the Light List and the NOAA chart.

Is Daymark awash at any time?

- Check and report the depth of water at charted datum on the navigable channel side of the aid only. Follow the guidelines for taking and reporting a depth as shown in the Federal Short Range Aid to Navigation Study Guide. “**Depths at datum**” that are less than the “**range of tide**” indicate that an aid can be awash or stranded at low water. “**Range of tide**” can be found on the almanac screen on your GPS.

Light colors and characteristics of Small Lights.

- When lighted, a daymark is considered to be a minor or small light, not a daybeacon.
- Light characteristics on small lights are the same as for lighted buoys. Verify the light characteristic that you observe against the light characteristics published in the Light List and on the latest NOAA chart.
- The height of a small light is measured from MHW to the focal-plane of the lantern..
- Check the small light’s range of visibility as shown on your NOAA chart and in the Light List.
- Always check for lantern, battery, and solar panel damage and/or vandalism on small lights,
- Check that the solar panel is oriented toward the sun—normally a southern direction.

Structural condition of Daymarks.

- Report all fixed aids to navigation that are leaning more than 15°.
- Report any aids that are knocked over.
- Check aid’s supports for rot either from the top down or the bottom up. This problem is more visible at lower tides. Always use your binoculars if you suspect shoaling near a fixed aid to navigation.
- Confirm that support and/or structural pieces on the daymark are not missing or broken.
- Confirm that the material around the structure has not washed away or eroded?
- Verify whether any dayboards are missing?

Purpose of the Daymark.

- When a dayboard is used as part of a range, check whether the panels are obstructed in any way?
- Verify whether the range panels mark the center of the navigable channel?
- Are the dayboard colors correct as advertised in the Light List and on your NOAA chart?
- Has the color of the daymark faded? This is very subjective. Report fading only when obvious color changes have occurred—green to yellow; red to light pink or white, etc.

Growth of brush or structures near the Daymark.

- Overgrowth of brush is usually corrected during annual Coast Guard maintenance.
- Check with the CG ANT/Unit and volunteer to remove the brush for the Coast Guard.
- Has the aid’s effectiveness been lessened by brush growth height, tree growth, or any new construction?