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COASTAL NAME LISTS

Paper submitted by the Government of the  
United States of America

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## COASTAL NAME LISTS

The publication of a series of gazetteers covering the coastal areas of the United States is being planned and readied by the National Ocean Survey. It will comprise a number of paper-bound booklets covering the various coastal Coast Guard districts of the nation, and each booklet will give the name, designation, state, and geographic coordinates of each and every coastal feature of any significance within its area. The names in the lists will come from all available map series covering the areas, including NOS nautical charts, to make certain that no named feature of possible significance is overlooked. These names will, of course, be processed to constitute standard names, and alternate names will be cross-referenced. The first of these booklets should be ready in a number of months.

It should be noted that this series serves a very definite need. The rescue operations of the Coast Guard have been expanded in recent years to meet an unprecedented demand for such services brought on by a dramatic increase in the use of coastal areas by small-craft operators. The incidence of mishap has naturally increased manifold, and often rescue operations have been delayed by inadequate location of mishap sites. If a Coast Guard center receives a message that a drowning is taking place in a certain cove, the personnel there may or may not know the location of this feature. If they do not, they might have to take time out to find it laboriously on charts, possibly delaying fatally the radioing of an emergency craft to the rescue. A names list as just described would serve well that situation and many more of the like.

These coastal gazetteers will naturally serve more ends than life rescue, although that end alone might well justify them. A survey made among small-craft owners showed that these boat operators definitely desired them, particularly to find the small places they often wish to visit. Even shippers and shipping associations want them for billing purposes and many others for a variety of other reasons. Inasmuch as the limits of the Coast Guard districts are in general coincident with state boundaries, these lists, according to response to an inquiry, are acceptable to the various coastal states. Some districts cover only one, two, or three states; and such lists could serve reasonably individual state needs.

# COAST GUARD DISTRICTS

