

Trevor David Clifton.

I was skippering a very quick racing yacht, heading for Guernsey in a fair wind, and sailing fast towards the rocky passage between Guernsey and Herm. A mist blew across the sea reducing visibility to less than a mile, and we could hear the sound of the foghorn on the coast. But nothing was visible through the mist. At the navigation station however, the computer, loaded with a Transas digital chart and connected to the GPS, showed us exactly where we were and projected our course and speed ahead of the little yacht icon moving across the screen. We navigated our course between the hazards and came safely into harbour. That passage would have been much more demanding and so much slower without the computer and digital chart I was convinced. From that moment on I have extolled the benefits of computerised charts, my own navigation is quicker and easier and I can concentrate more time on teaching people to sail and manage an offshore or ocean-going yacht, which is my job.