



United States Coast Guard Historian's Office

Preserving Our History For Future Generations

Large Navigational Buoy (LNB)

Early in the 1970s the Coast Guard developed the Large Navigational Buoy or LNB as a replacement for lightships. The buoys were operated and monitored electronically.

About 40 feet high with a like diameter, these buoys had a 7,500-candlepower xenon gas flashing light which was visible at a distance of 10 miles. It also had a foghorn that could be heard 3 miles away. As they were unmanned, they were far more economical than operating a lightship.

