

A FYI for those who don't know it. Garmin now offers HomePort as a free download! This software allows one to open Garmin files in the computer. I believe all people who are even marginally serious about their fishing should use this technology, for several reasons.

For one, it allows one to store GPS data in the hard drive of the computer. Storing all data in the GPS, on a card and in the computer ensures it won't be lost.

For another, viewing GPS data in the safety of the home provides the best environment for studying it carefully, without the pressing need of paying attention to what lies ahead while out on the water, using it to navigate.

And last, by coupling it with Google Earth and viewing the GPS data on a real map of the earth, one can identify obstructions and sweet spots. It is possible to create new icons and even track lines using the software. Anyone creating waypoints and track lines using HomePort and Google Earth should be sure to use them cautiously at first, until their safety can be verified on the water.

People who maximize the potential of these two software systems (Homeport and Google Earth) will become better informed about the bottom features of the bay. By doing so, they will learn to navigate more safely, and catch fish more consistently.

As I stated in the previous blog: the angler with the most thorough knowledge of the bay system has the best chance at consistency. Utilizing these technologies aids in the quest for knowledge of the bays.