

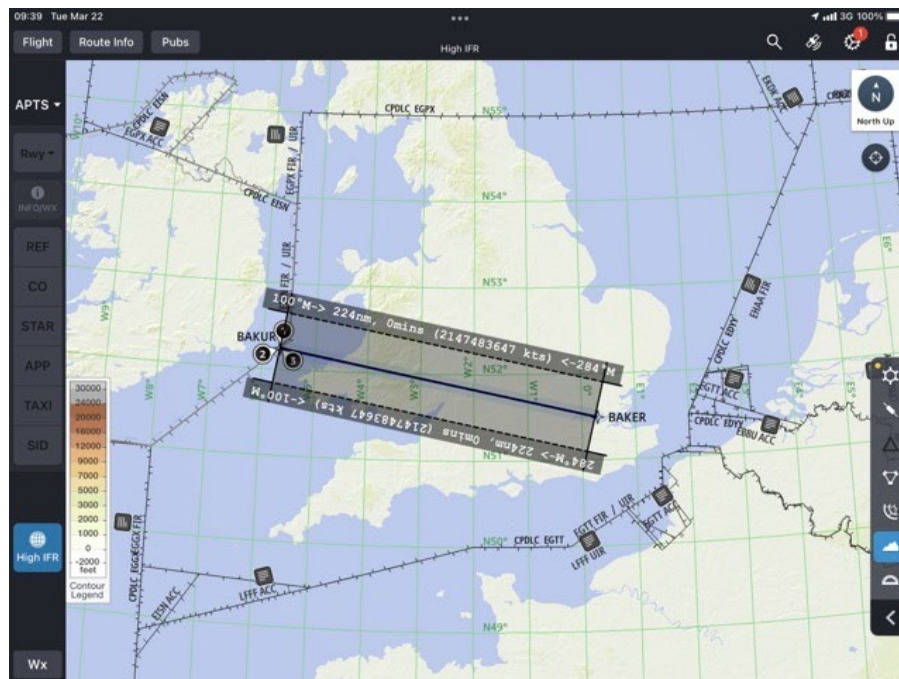
Identifying Waypoints

Recently, an IFALPA pilot experienced what could have resulted in a navigational error after exiting the North Atlantic Oceanic airspace, headed eastbound.

Pilots should maintain awareness that occasionally there may be Waypoints (WPs), intersections, fixes that are pronounced similarly, but spelled differently.

When receiving a voice clearance to a fix that is not already loaded in the Flight Management System (FMS), be aware that to avoid entering the incorrect fix, a phonetic spelling of the fix may be the most prudent practice.

The attached screenshot shows BAKUR and BAKER Waypoints, both pronounced the same but clearly spelled differently and only 226 NM apart.



Manual Waypoint entry to the FMS requires the highest flight crew coordination and discipline to prevent navigational errors. Pilots should consider requesting a phonetic spelling of a Waypoint from ATC, that is not already loaded in the FMS.