

B STRATEGIC ASPECTS OF THE WORK OF HOs – TECHNICAL ISSUES

B5 Reference Datum and Positioning Systems

Vertical Offshore Reference Framework
Update and potential usefulness to NSHC colleagues

The UKHO has developed a vertical surface separation model for UK and Irish Waters called VORF (Vertical Offshore Reference Frame). The model was delivered to UKHO in January 2008 and is currently being tested and developed so it can be used operationally.

VORF will deliver the capability to transfer heights and depths from one vertical reference system to another.

It will enable the UKHO to

- Directly support SOLAS and Defence needs by improving the quality of survey data in UK and Irish Waters;
- Handle depth data from surveys which is referred to a WGS84 compatible datum rather than Chart Datum.
- Output data to meet user-defined criteria.
- Offer an accurate set of vertical transformation values suitable for licensing and/or inclusion in developing partner products and services.

It will enable Hydrographic surveyors to survey without the need to measure tides.

The business case for project “VORF2 Delivery” is currently being developed. It is aiming to deliver VORF to the UK’s Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and to the Royal Navy (RN) by the end of 2008.

A presentation will be provided at the NSHC meeting. For any further information please contact Ruth Adams at ruth.adams@ukho.gov.uk.
