

Hydrographic Surveys in Disputed Areas

It seems to be important to submit for discussion and consideration the problem of surveying works in sea areas claimed by coastal states. We are of the opinion that procedures for hydrographic surveys and general hydrographic works, done in disputed areas, should be worked out. In spite of the fact that Hydrographic Services have not been established to resolve disputes of any kind, which are in the domain of diplomacy, the Services remain responsible for surveying such areas. However, how can this responsibility be fulfilled when there are no procedures explicitly regulating particular hydrographic activities in the areas? If such circumstances sustain, sooner rather than later, the safety of navigation will suffer.

An example of this problem exists between Danish Bornholm Island and the Polish Coast in the Baltic Sea. The *Zone* is a result of the unsettled dispute between Poland and Denmark over limits of Exclusive Economic Zones. Both Polish and Danish Hydrographic Services are obliged to survey areas the limits of which have been established by their respective national authorities, but in the case of the *Zone*, unacceptable to the neighbouring state.

Even with no clear-cut limits, when it comes to paper charts, it makes no problem since they frequently cover not only national waters, but waters of neighbouring states as well. However, when it comes to ENCs and surveys, which collect ENCs updating data, or to Navigational Warnings Service, it becomes a matter of serious concern. Furthermore, this Agenda item is a result of concerns raised by HOPN some years ago - how sea areas, claimed by coastal states, should be demonstrated on charts because they have no relevant symbol in the S-4 Publication.

The purpose of the Agenda item is to draw attention of IHB and this Commission to the issue.