

STRUCTURE FOR NATIONAL REPORTS TO REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS

References: 1. IHO CL 25a/2006 dated 27 February 2006 (Annex B)

2. IHO Administrative Resolution T1.3 (Para. 8)

The following structure is to be used for National Reports made to RHC meetings:

Executive summary

1. **Hydrographic Office / Service:** General, including updates for the IHO Yearbook e.g. Reorganization

There's no hydrography office in Liberia neither is there organization for hydrography services. However, the Liberia Maritime Authority is responsible for implementation of SOLAS where the provision of hydrographic services for Safety of Navigation falls within its function. The institutional framework relevant to hydrography and charting is very complex. There are several Ministries, Agencies and contractors involve including Liberia Maritime Authority, Ministry of mines and Energy, Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority, National Port Authority etc. The IHO conducted a technical visit to Liberia in 2016. National maritime technical committee has been established to implement the recommendations made by IHO.

Nautical charts (paper and ENC): UKHO is currently are providing paper charts and ENC for Liberian waters. As part of the recommendation from IHO Technical visit, the Liberia Maritime Authority and UKHO are in discussion to formalized cooperative agreement for UKHO to be the official Primary chart production authority for Liberia. The agreement is expected to be concluded in November.

2. **Surveys:** Coverage of new surveys. New technologies and /or Equipment New ships, Problems encountered

Liberia does not have hydrographic surveying capability. Some surveys are conducted in the port areas by private contractors in support of dredging operations. Exploration surveys are conducted by international oil companies in the Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) but the data are kept by private contractors in partnership with National Oil Company of Liberia. However, the Ministry of Mines and Energy provide Hydrological Service and has an ongoing Coastal Adaptation Project.

3. **New charts & updates:** ENCs (**produce by UKHO**)
ENC Distribution method (**electronic means**)
RNCs (**produce by UKHO**)
INT charts (**produce by UKHO**)
Liberia Maritime Authority collects information from Stakeholders (ex. National Port Authority) and forward it to UKHO.

National paper charts

Other charts, e.g. for pleasure craft

Problems encountered

There is no national capacity for either national paper or

- digital chart Production in Liberia.**
4. New publications & updates: New Publications (carry out by UKHO)
Updated publications (carry out by UKHO)
Means of delivery, e.g. paper, digital (through Agents, digital via internet)
5. MSI Existing infrastructure for transmission
New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan
Problems encountered.
- There is no capability for promulgation of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) in Liberia. However, a national MSI Coordinator has been appointed and is expected to partake in the an MSI course organized by IHO in Brazil from October 16-18. With support from NAVAREA II, the Liberia maritime Authority is also establishing national organization for promulgation of MSI. Liberia is also in the process of procuring and establishing coastal GMDSS systems including NAVTEX stations, MF/HF station, VHF station and Inmarsat Mini C. Meanwhile, all MSI messages are sent to NAVAREA II Coordinator through the regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (R-MRCC to be disseminated.**
6. S-55 Latest update (Tables) **not available**
7. Capacity Building: Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building
Training received,
needed, offered
Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with hydrographic component.
(In progress, planned, under evaluation or study)
Definition of bids to IHOCBC
Liberia needs capacity building in the areas of hydrographic Survey, charts production, promulgation of MSI, GIS, SDI Concept and other related services in term of development of national institutional framework, organization and standards. However, three persons from Liberia will be participating in the GIS Seminar in Nigeria and the National MSI coordinator will be participating in MSI course in Brazil.
8. Oceanographic activities: General
GEBCO/IBC's activities
Tide gauge network
New equipment

Problems encountered

There are no Oceanographic services currently being offered in Liberia.

9. **Other activities**

Participation in IHO Working Groups

Meteorological data collection: **National Early Warning Project.**

Geospatial studies: **Provided by Department of Survey and Cartography (DSC)**

Disaster prevention: **National Disaster Management Agency**

Environmental protection: **Environmental Protection Agency**

Astronomical observations: **(It's not carry out)**

Magnetic/Gravity surveys MSDI Progress International Etc. **(It's not carry out)**

10. **Conclusions:** Liberia is currently preparing for IMSAS Audit in 2020 and progress is being made to meet its coastal state responsibilities of which hydrographic services is a part. Therefore, there are high level of awareness at national level for the need to provide hydrographic services. However, to ensure the full implementation of the IMO instrument With regard to safety of navigation, protection of the Marine environment, Liberia needs international Cooperation and assistance in infrastructure and Capacity building.