



International Hydrographic Organization



Practical Initiatives to Improve Hydrographic Charting and Nautical Charting in Antarctica

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Presentation Overview



- A summary of the unique difficulties
- The role of the IHO HCA;
- Practical initiatives to improve the current situation relating to hydrography & charting in Antarctica





Résumé of problems facing charting & surveying in Antarctica



- Weather & geography;
- Charting scheme exists but there is currently no established charting timeline
- SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 9 does not strictly apply to Antarctic territories – akin to “high seas”
- There is no recognised coastal state - no clear responsibility for surveying and charting
- National resources and charting priorities directed elsewhere
- Access, storage & maintenance of data – more effective sharing



Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS)



Chapter V, Regulation 9

Contracting Governments undertake to arrange for the **collection and compilation** of hydrographic data and the **publication, dissemination** and keeping **up to date** of all nautical information necessary for safe navigation.



Role and Aims of the IHO HCA



- The HCA is the coordinating body for hydrographic surveying and nautical charting matters in Antarctica.

- The aims of the HCA are:
 - to promote technical cooperation;
 - to encourage hydrographic activity in the region;
 - to facilitate information exchange;
 - to implement the INT chart scheme and monitor its suitability;
 - define needs for new surveys;



Why do we need to improve?



- Incident avoidance;
- Risk and harm minimisation;
- Scientific research and exploration depends upon access to accurate data;
- Increase in vessel size and amount of traffic leads to a greater demand for charts



Practical Initiatives to Improve Hydrography in Antarctica:



- The IHO considers that, as a first step to improve the status of hydrography and nautical charting in Antarctica, all Antarctic Treaty Parties should:
 - Encourage their national Antarctic programmes to collect hydrographic & bathymetric data on all Antarctic voyages;
 - cooperate with the HCA to improve surveying in Antarctica;
 - forward any hydrographic or bathymetric data collected to the relevant chart producer for charting action, and
 - consider allocating additional resources towards improving surveying & charting in the Antarctic region





Practical Initiatives or possibilities?

- ATP to give advanced notice to the IHO for planned survey activity for the coming Polar Year
- ATP to consider and agree priority charting requirements
- Establishment of centralised international Antarctic survey team & programme and utilise a central data repository;
- Consider imposition of a levy on vessels entering Antarctic waters to fund centralised Antarctic survey work;





Practical Initiatives or Possibilities?



- ATPs to coordinate their National effort to combine hydrographic surveying and charting with other Antarctic activities;
- Encourage every ship to be a data collector with support for equipping vessels with hydrographic capability;
- Consider amending the Antarctic Treaty to recognise the critical importance of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting
- Review and recommend an adapted version of SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 9 specifically for Antarctic waters



What can you do?



- encourage national Antarctic programmes to collect hydrographic & bathymetric data on all Antarctic voyages
- cooperate with the HCA to improve hydrographic surveying and charting in Antarctica
- forward any hydrographic or bathymetric data collected to the relevant chart producer for charting action
- consider allocation of greater resources towards improving surveying & charting in the Antarctic





Practical initiatives



- encourage your national Antarctic programmes to collect hydrographic & bathymetric data on all Antarctic voyages
- cooperate with the HCA to improve hydrographic surveying and charting in Antarctica
- forward any hydrographic or bathymetric data collected to the relevant chart producer for charting action
- consider allocation of greater resources towards improving surveying & charting in the Antarctic

Any Questions?

