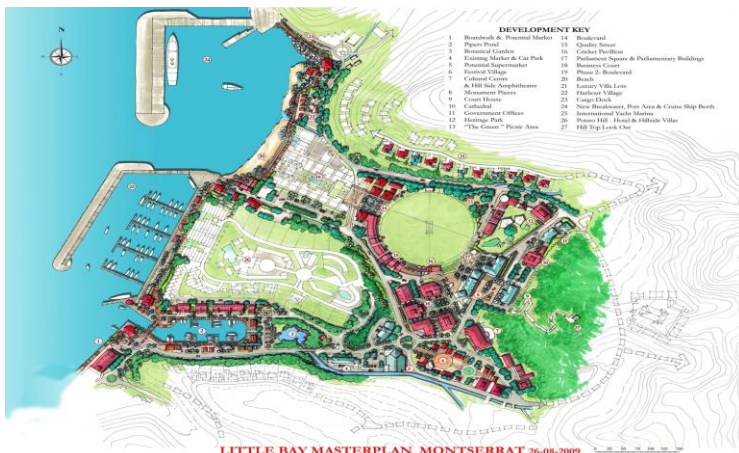


# Montserrat National Report



**12<sup>th</sup> Meso American & Caribbean  
Sea Hydrographic Commission  
Meeting**



**5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011-12-06**

**Basseterre, St. Kitts**

## **1. Background**

Montserrat is a very small island in the Caribbean Sea of about 40 square miles with a population of just over 5000 persons. It is volcanic and has had an active volcano since 1995 which has made just over 2/3rds of the island inhabitable. As a result a maritime exclusion zone of roughly 2 (two) nautical miles is in force around that portion of the island. Montserrat is covered by British admiralty chart # 254

There is no single department or institution in Montserrat that deals with maritime affairs but responsibility is shared jointly with several government departments, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Transec and the Maritime and Coast Guard agency in Montserrat.

At present the responsibilities for hydrography as well as certain other maritime matters resides with the Ministry of Communication and Works through the Montserrat Port Authority. This is set to change in the near future as Montserrat is working assiduously to implement a Maritime and Coast Agency recommendation to create a single maritime administration to encompass the maritime affairs spectrum.

## **2. Status of Surveys**

The most recent hydrographic survey in Montserrat was conducted in 2002, however because of the ongoing consultancy for the Port Development Project in Little Bay a number of bathymetric surveys were conducted between 2009 and 2011.

Some information contained in chart 254 dates back to the late 1800's, while other areas indicate that they have been inadequately surveyed. Similarly the ongoing volcanic activity in Montserrat has significantly altered the features on Montserrat to the extent that the last quarter of 2011 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Maritime and Coast Guard Agency tentatively agreed that there is a need to update the hydrographic information available for Montserrat, and a project has been scheduled for the first half of 2012.

## **3. Status of recent Port Audits**

Two audits were undertaken at the Port in 2010:- one relating Port Security and the other Vessel Inspection and Surveys.

Port Security obligations in Montserrat are monitored by TRANSEC in the UK. The regional aviation and maritime security advisor visits Montserrat bi-annually and uses that opportunity to review the Port's compliance with the ISPS. Except for some very minor issues the Port continues to maintain its ISPS certification and compliance

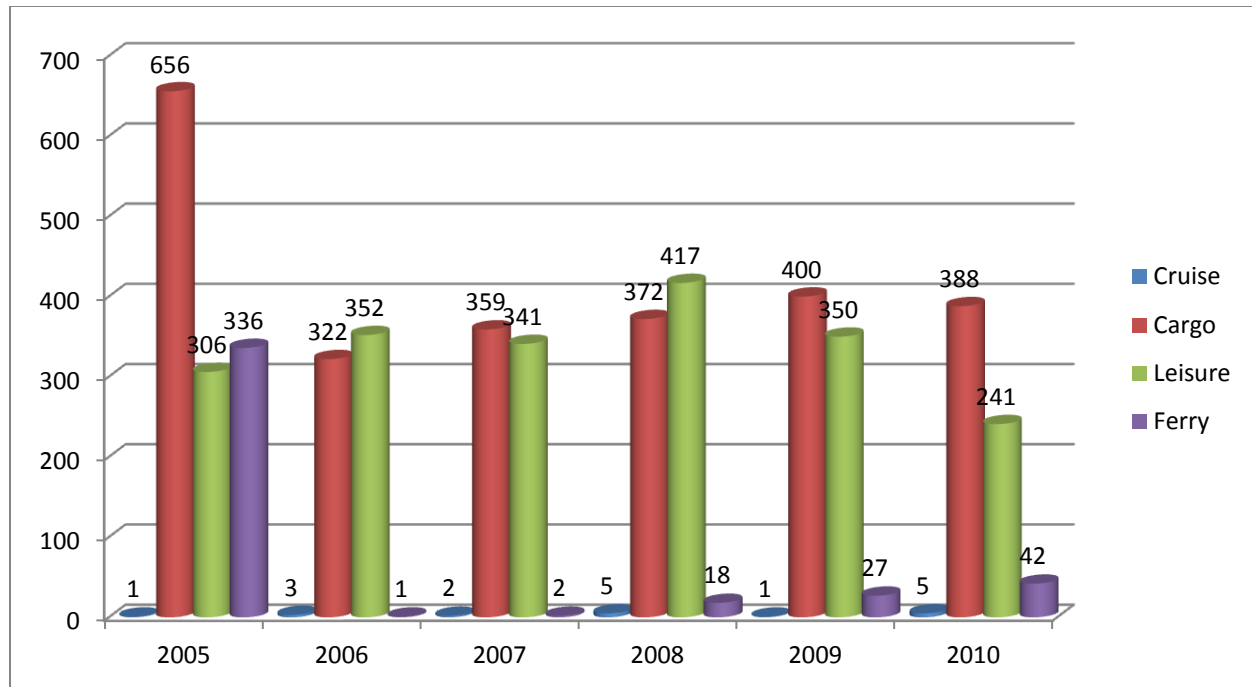
The Maritime and Coast Agency conducted an audit in 2010 in relation to the country's obligations under Red Ensign Group flag. The port has the responsibility for Port state control inspections and this audit found that Montserrat was not meeting its targets under Port State Control.

#### **4. Port Statistics**

Port operations are undertaken from Little Bay in the north of the island as a result of the relocation from the main capital Plymouth due to volcanic activity. The port although very small accommodates container vessels, RO- RO vessels, General Cargo operations and bulk export of sand and aggregate via barges. Fuel tankers are accommodated in Carr's Bay via floating pipe transfers and much reduced Passenger ship Operations are undertaken via tenders as the port is too small to even accommodate the smallest class of cruise vessels.

<b>Comparative Tonnage 2006-2010</b>					
<b>INBOUND</b>					
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
Cement	3924	5,613	4,730	4,246	5,950
Fuel	8278	8,771	9,029	8,428	7,370
Containerised Lumber	803	759	1,209	915	845
Lumber		6	98	169	358
Steel/BRC	62	484	948	417	752
Vehicles	908	1,572	1,213	1,758	2,334
Heavy Equipment	264	253	2,157	918	358
General Cargo - Break Bulk	2097	2,482	4,537	4,658	5,662
Containerised Cargo	13929	16,163	14,880	11,982	11,820
Ferry Cargo	33	1	3	0	0.34
	<b>30,298</b>	<b>36,104</b>	<b>38,804</b>	<b>33,491</b>	<b>35,449</b>
<b>EXPORTS</b>					
Aggregate & Sand	<b>30,500</b>	125,943	142,250	169,550	83,169
Steel/BRC	0	0	222	0	0
Vehicles	26	153	9	8	160
Heavy Equipment	226	527	205	9	0
General Cargo - Break Bulk	77	355	208	121	972
Containerised Cargo	115	138	127	76	274
Fuel	0	0	43	0	0
	<b>30,944</b>	<b>127,116</b>	<b>143,064</b>	<b>169,764</b>	<b>84,575</b>
<b>Total Throughput</b>	<b>61,242</b>	<b>163,220</b>	<b>181,868</b>	<b>203,255</b>	<b>120,024</b>

## Shipping statistics



Shipping in Montserrat is dominated by cargo vessels under 1000 gross tonnes and leisure craft (yachts).

### **05. Current problems**

- Capacity
- Resources
- Finance
- Lack of relevant maritime legislation

### **06. Three things that keep us awake at night**

- I. Lack of Proper port facilities for imports and exports
- II. Lack of resources to effectively undertake maritime obligations
- III. Lack of relevant maritime legislation

### **12. Where hydrography/hydrographic skills have/could have been of benefit in a non-navigational context**

- Port Development Project
- Little Bay Town Centre Development Project