

MESOAMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

12th Meeting, St. Kitts and Nevis, 07-10 December 2011

NATIONAL REPORT – The Netherlands

1. Hydrographic Office

Hydrographic Service of the Royal Netherlands Navy (NLHO)

2. Surveys

2011 Hydrographic survey deployment of bays around Curacao, validation of data in progress.

3. New charts and updates

3.1 Coverage overall

- ENC coverage Windward Islands has been completed for all appropriate usage bands. UK and FR are producer nations for the overview and general usage bands.
- ENC coverage Leeward Islands has been completed for the approach, harbour and berthing usage bands. There is still no ENC coverage of Leeward Islands for coastal and general usage bands (VE300100 and VE300200); this has been mandated to VEN as producer nation. According to ECCWG2 report VE should provide coverage from Nov 2011 onwards. NLHO remains concerned about the lack of progress and transparency with regard to the procedures. NLHO is still ready to offer an intermediate solution for the ENCs on short notice in close cooperation with VEN.

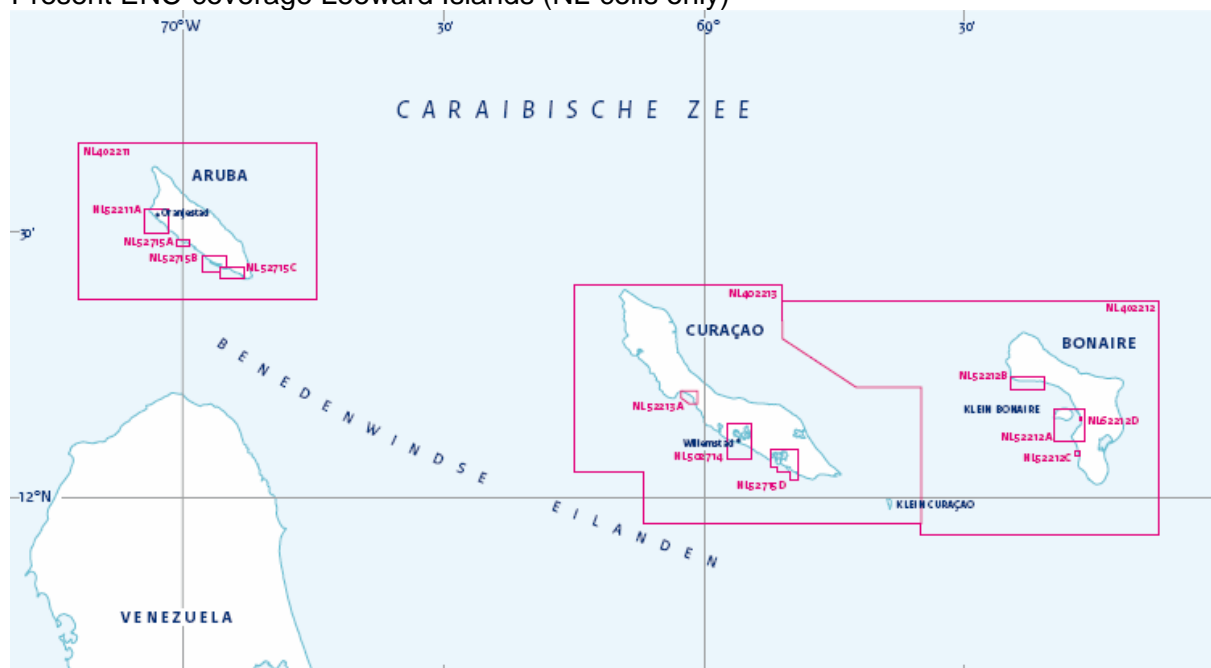
3.2 New ENC's (first release)

ENC NL402110, St. Eustatius Approach (1:90000)

ENC NL302014, Surinam (1:180.000) expected dec 2011

ENC NL402218, Surinam River (1:45.000) expected dec 2011

Present ENC-coverage Leeward Islands (NL-cells only)



Present ENC-coverage Windward Islands (NL-cells only)



3.3 New editions of national charts and corresponding ENCs

NL2211 (Aruba) December 2010

NL2715 (plans Curacao and Aruba) Feb 2011

NL2110 (Anguilla to St. Christopher) expected early 2012

NL2218 (Suriname River) expected early 2012

4. New publications

Not applicable; UK, FR and US promulgate nautical publications of NL waters

5. MSI

Sufficient and in accordance with C55

6. C55

6.1 Hydrographic Surveying

Leeward Islands (Curacao, Aruba, Bonaire)

Adequately surveyed A1 / A2: 14% / 40%

Required re-survey B1 / B2: 86% / 60%

Never systematically surveyed C1 / C2: 0 / 0

Windward Islands (St Maarten, Saba, St Eustatius)

Adequately surveyed A1 / A2: 90% / 98%

Required re-survey B1 / B2: 10% / 02%

Never systematically surveyed C1 / C2: 0 / 0

6.2 Nautical charting

Leeward Islands (Curacao, Aruba, Bonaire)

100% coverage INT-charts

100% coverage RNC (via UKHO ARCS)

100% coverage ENC approach, harbour, berthing usage bands

0% coverage ENC coastal, general usage bands (VEN producer nation). According to ECCWG2 report VE should provide coverage from Nov 2011.

Windward Islands (St Maarten, Saba, St Eustatius)

100% coverage INT-charts

100% coverage RNC (via UKHO ARCS)

100% coverage ENC

6.3 Input C-55 Last NLHO update for IHO Publication C-55 has been sent to IHB august 2010. No significant changes since then.

7. Capacity Building

7.1 Training needed: not applicable

7.2 Training offered: practical traineeship on board NL survey vessels

7.3 In September 2011 the update of the Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Maritime Authority of Surinam (MAS) and Netherlands Hydrographic Service, with specific arrangements for the production of ENC's and paper charts by NLHO based on MAS data.

8. Oceanographic activities

Not applicable

9. Other

- Status of recent port audits. Last successful IMO VIMSAS audit performed in 2008.
- Port and Shipping statistics. No adequate figures are available at NLHO other than the facts and figures of the former studies of ECCWG2. NLHO will address a new requirement for the statistical analyses of shipping in the Caribbean home waters based on AIS-tracking and other means. If appropriate a common MACHC approach could be considered with a combined effort to achieve the required harmonized MACHC statistics.
- Chairman asks for items that keep Member States awake at night. First and foremost NLHO is concerned from 2009 onwards about the lack of progress and transparency with regard to the production of ENCs by VEN of the Leeward Islands. Cooperation in this context means especially the exchange of source data and mutual verification of the concept ENCs before the validation at IC-ENC. NLHO is still ready to offer an intermediate solution for the ENCs on short notice in close cooperation with VEN.

Besides this also the persistent practice of exclusively available ENCs within the UKHO AVCS product is worrisome. This undermines the fundamentals of our public hydrographic services and hampers a level playing field for other distributors and value added resellers. There are also examples of GB ENCs in this AVCS product without even the permission of the fellow HOs. Although NLHO very much appreciates many of the UKHO contributions to the IHO work program, this practice should change favorably well before the oncoming International Hydrographic Conference in 2012 to guarantee a more positive attitude of the Conference towards the RENC-concept with a level playing field for all to deliver the integrated services as required.

Furthermore the significant budget cuts within the Dutch government are a realistic threat. This will have a major impact on the resources for hydrographic services. NLHO is now studying additional financing by the maritime community to compensate these budget cuts in order to guarantee the continuation of nautical charting and systematic hydrographic surveying up to the highest standards.

10. Conclusions

- Satisfactory Netherlands achievements for surveying and nautical charting in the MACHC area.
- New source information exchange and subsequent production of ENC's for Surinam.
- No progress in the cooperation with Venezuela and production of ENC's.
- Exclusively available ENC's within AVCS should come to an end well before the oncoming IHC.
- NLHO has to anticipate significant budget cuts and explores compensation by the maritime community.