

MESO-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SEA
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

13th Meeting – November 19-23, 2012

Antigua, Guatemala

National Report 2012 - Jamaica

1. HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE:

- **Reorganization**

Hydrographic Office – National Land Agency (NLA), Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change (January, 2012). There has been no significant impact on the operations of the NLA as a result of the ministerial reorganization.

National Hydrographic Committee – Established in 2006 as a committee of the National Council on Ocean and Coastal Zone Management (a Cabinet advisory council in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade).

IHO – Member State

MACHC – Member State

2. SURVEYS:

- **Coverage of new surveys.**

Since our last report to the MACHC, one major hydrographic survey has been carried out of the Lucea Harbour, on the north coast of Jamaica. Other small routine investigative surveys have been carried out in the main ship channel in Kingston Harbour

- **New technologies and/or equipment**

No new hydrography related technology or equipment has been acquired by the NLA since the last National Report to the 12th MACHC meeting.

- **New ships**

Currently Jamaica has no vessels dedicated to carrying out hydrographic survey work

3. CHARTS AND PUBLICATIONS:

a. Charts

Charts for Jamaica are produced by the UKHO, under cooperative arrangement. The Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) and the NLA provide data for new charts or chart updating as it becomes available. ENC's and RNC's for Jamaica are produced by the UKHO in accordance with IHO transfer standards for digital hydrographic data

US charting agencies also produce a number of charts for general use in Jamaica's maritime space.

b. Publications

- New publications
No update on new publications is available at this time.
- Updated publications
Information for updating of hydrographic publications is routinely dispatched to the UKHO.

4. MSI

- **Existing infrastructure for transmission**
The Jamaica Defense Force Coast Guard (JDFCG) broadcasts marine weather information and navigational safety warnings five times daily on both marine VHF and HF. This is done from their 24X7 operating centre in Kingston.

Notices to Mariners are generated by the PAJ and promulgated locally and internationally in keeping with our obligations under SOLAS V, regulation 9.

The timely passage of relevant information to both the JDFCG and the PAJ to include standard WWNWS methods are being pursued with JDFCG as the lead entity. MSI notices are conveyed to the JDFCG for immediate broadcast to the NAVAREA IV Coordinator, in the interest of safety of ships and small crafts. In addition these notices are also communicated directly to yacht clubs, Fisheries Department agents and other known interest groups to ensure the widest possible distribution.

No update/report on the communication of MSI messages by the JDFCG to the NAVAREA IV Coordinator for this period is available at this time.

- **New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan.**
No update is available at this time

5. CAPACITY BUILDING

- **Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building**
The hydrographic office continues to experience some degree of difficulty in programming hydrographic survey activities due to the lack of a dedicated survey vessel.
- **Training received, needed, offered**
One member of the NLA's hydrographic survey staff participated in the IMO/IHO sponsored Regional Training Course in Basic ENC and ENC Production, hosted by the Secretaria de Marina de Mexico in Mexico City in May 2012.
- **Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with hydrographic component. (In progress, planned, under evaluation or study)**
No update available at this time.

6. C-55 LATEST UPDATE

There has been no change to the status of Jamaica's hydrographic coverage and the C-55 database reflects the current status.

7. OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

- Two (2) new permanent tide gauges were installed at Port Antonio and Montego Bay, on the north coast of Jamaica, to supplement the one at Port Royal, Kingston on the south coast.
- A new Integrated Coral Observing Network (ICON) station was installed at Discovery Bay on the north coast of Jamaica in February 2012, with the support of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre. The station will upload wave and tidal data to the NOAA website.

8. Other

IMO – VIMSAS Audit

As reported at the last meeting, Jamaica participated in the Voluntary IMO audit in September of last year (2011). Although, there has been positive feedback on the results of the audit, the final results are not available at this time.

Two things that keep us awake at night

The Hydrographic Office does not have the benefit of a dedicated hydrographic survey vessel, which would improve efficiencies, facilitate a more prioritized programme of hydrographic survey activities and more effectively utilize its cadre of trained hydrographic personnel.

Resource constraints continue to limit our progress towards upgrading the quality of the hydrographic data available for two of our ecologically and economically important offshore fishing banks – the Morant and Pedro Banks, which are in need of systematic surveys to modern standards.

9. CONCLUSIONS

The hydrographic office, the NLA, continues to play its part in providing hydrographic data to facilitate safety of navigation in Jamaica's territorial waters, within the resources available. However, Resource constraints continue to mitigate against us playing a greater role in providing more comprehensive hydrographic data sets.