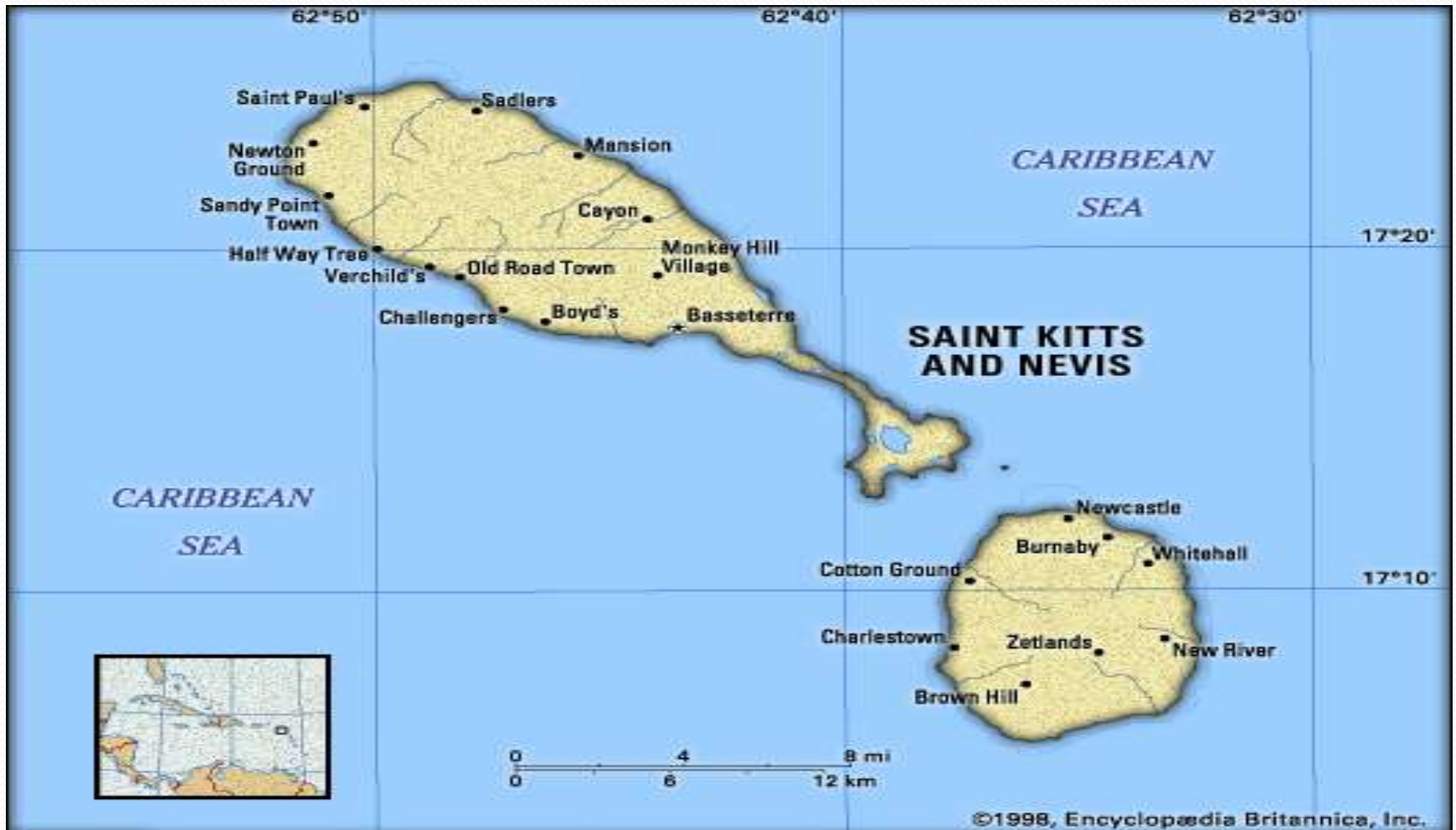


# 13TH MESO AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETING

19<sup>th</sup> - 22, November, 2012, Antigua, Guatemala.

## National Report - St. Kitts & Nevis



## INTRODUCTION

As a contracting party to the SOLAS Convention, St. Kitts and Nevis, is determined to fulfill its obligations of providing timely and adequate hydrographic information to guide mariners and support other activities such as Maritime Boundary Delimitation



# HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

The office responsible for hydrography in St.Kitts –Nevis is :

- Department of Maritime Affairs (DMA),  
Ministry of Tourism and International Transport

- **National Hydrographic Committee**

The DMA is currently putting in place the necessary frame work to formally establish the St.Kitts and Nevis National Hydrographic Committee.

- **MACHC Member State**

St. Kitts and Nevis is an Associate Member of MACHC.

# Surveys

- Apart from surveys done by the UKHO several years ago, St.Kitts and Nevis do not have the capability to extensively survey its waters on a regular basis. The current data needs updating.
- Most surveys are conducted in the harbours and shipping lanes using existing equipment (led line and basic depth sounder), which are not accurate in regards to data collection.
- The initiative was taken to seek assistance from the United States Navy through foreign affairs, but yet to receive any confirmation on the matter.

## Charts & Publications

- United Kingdom is the primary charting authority for St. Kitts and Nevis.
- Once an extensive survey of the waters of St. Kitts and Nevis has been achieved, it would aid in the ability to update the current paper charts and assist in the transition to ENC'S.

# MSI

- St.Kitts -Nevis lies within Area IV of the World Wide Navigation Warning System. Information regarding navigation which impinges upon the safety of vessels are issued nationally by the St.Kitts-Nevis Defence Force Coast Guard in collaboration with the SCASPA and NASPA.
- The information is expeditiously forwarded to NAVAREA IV coordinator (USCG) who broadcast the information internationally.

# Capacity Building

- Training - St.Kitts and Nevis has volunteered to host the next MACH MSI in 2013.
- Requesting basic hydrographic training.
- Training Received – An employee of the Department of Maritime Affairs attended the IMO / IHO regional training course on basic electronic navigational charting (ENC) and electronic navigational chart production, held in Mexico City, 14 to 25 May 2012.
- As the cost of equipment is severely impacting the capability of St.Kitts and Nevis to deliver an efficient hydrographic service, St.Kitts and Nevis will be seeking to approach the delivery of this service in conjunction with other states of the eastern Caribbean (OECS).

# Oceanographic Activities

## MARINE ZONING

- To promote multi-use of the coastal waters of St.Kitts and Nevis and avoid user conflict, St.Kitts and Nevis in conjunction with Nature Conservancy of the U.S has embarked on pilot project to create marine zones. Ultimately hydrographic surveys will help to establish these zones.
- Discussions have commenced on the establishments of Marine Protected Areas in St.Kitts and Nevis.



## Other Activities

### **IMO VIMSAS Audit**

- In preparation to effectively fulfil its obligations as a responsible flag, port and coastal state, St.Kitts and Nevis has volunteered to undergo the IMO Voluntary Audit Scheme. The outcome of this audit will be used as a plot form to ensure full compliance to all the instruments of IMO, of which St.Kitts and Nevis is a party.
- St.Kitts and Nevis currently developing a national maritime policy to ensure a more integrated approach to managing the marine resources of St.Kitts and Nevis.
- St.Kitts and Nevis is expected to commence maritime boundary delimitation with the Netherlands in the case of St.Eustatius and France in relation to St.Barthelemy, early next year.

# Conclusion

- Conscious of the constraints and challenges, St. Kitts and Nevis remain committed to fulfilling its obligation under SOLAS Chapter V, recognizing that modern and reliable data is fundamental to the development of hydrographic capability within the federation.
- Any assistance that can be rendered by developing states or organizations to improve hydrography within the federation of St. Kitts and Nevis would be greatly appreciated.