



National Report - Jamaica

**16th MEETING OF THE MESO-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**ST. JOHNS, ANTIGUA
DECEMBER 8 – 12, 2015**

**MESO-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SEA
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

16th Meeting – December 8-12, 2015

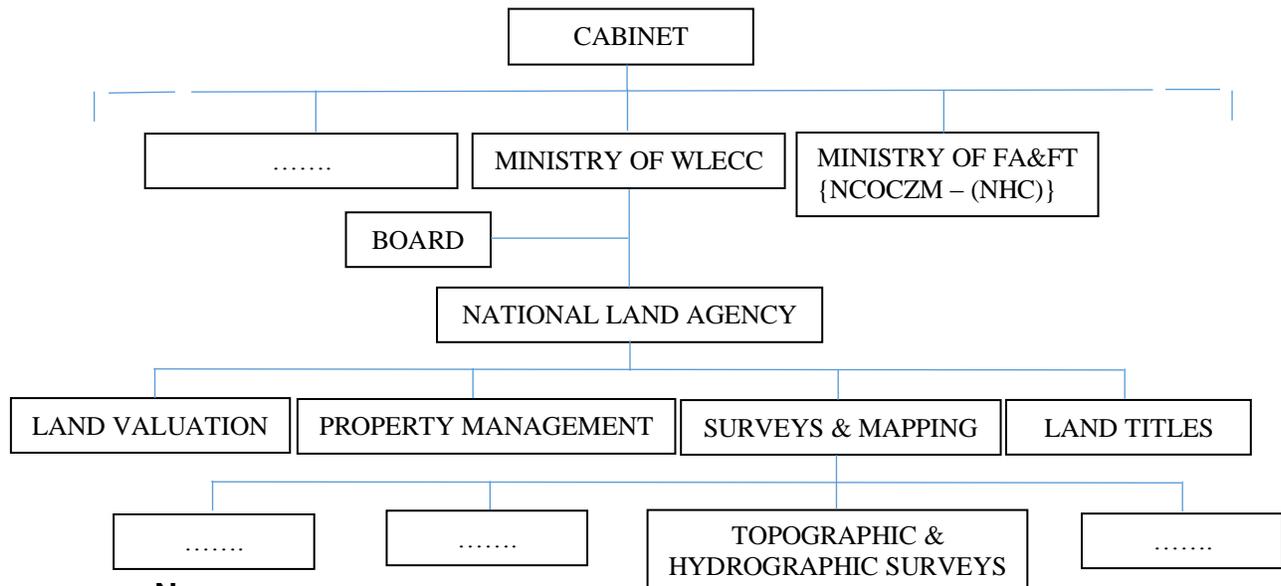
St. Johns, Antigua

National Report 2015 - Jamaica

1. HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE:

- **Reorganization**

Hydrographic Office – The Hydrographic Office for Jamaica is the National Land Agency of Jamaica. This is an Executive Agency in the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change (WLECC). The reporting arrangement and organizational structure is indicated in the chart below:



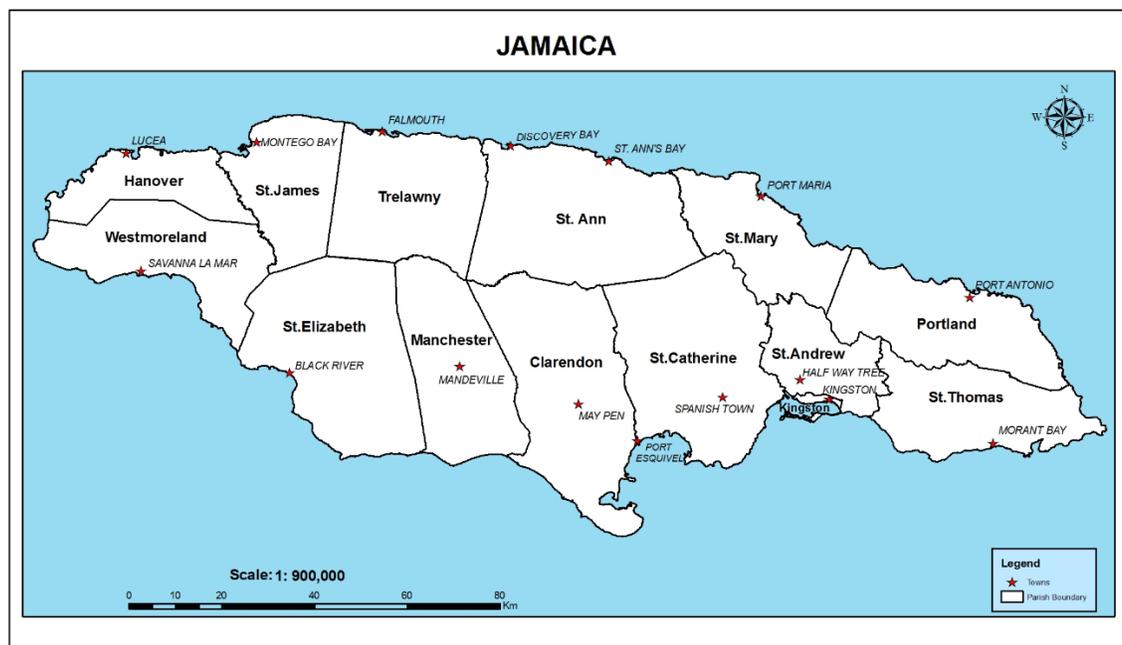
National Hydrographic Committee (NHC) – Established in 2006 as a committee of the National Council on Ocean and Coastal Zone Management (NCOCZM), a Cabinet advisory council in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (FA&FT).

IHO – Jamaica is a Member State of the IHO and the MACHC

2. SURVEYS:

- **Coverage of new surveys.**

Since our last report to the MACHC, three major hydrographic surveys have been carried out. The approach channel and harbour at Port Rhoades, Discovery Bay, on the north coast of Jamaica, was surveyed by the National Land Agency in March of this year, after the completion of major dredging works. The Port Antonio East and West Harbours and the Falmouth Harbour were surveyed between September and October of this year with the assistance of the US Naval Oceanographic Office Fleet Survey Team. Other routine investigative surveys have been carried out in Kingston Harbour and at Port Esquivel on the south coast of Jamaica (see locations on the map below).



- **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 13th MACHC meeting.

- **New ships**

Currently Jamaica has no vessels dedicated to carrying out hydrographic survey work. Surveys are carried out using hired vessels of opportunity.

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

- In June, 2013 the National Hydrographic Committee (NHC) revisited the issue of MSI reporting procedures based on reports to the MACHC that there was a lack of reports from Jamaica and other regional countries to the NGA. The NHC drafted and promulgated a comprehensive set of guidelines setting out the reporting procedures for the various types of alerts and clearly identified the responsible Agencies and their roles (the draft MSI reporting guidelines is attached to this report at **ANNEX A**).

The Jamaica Defense Force Coast Guard (JDFCG) was identified as the focal point for the broadcast of short term Safety Messages on the internationally assigned marine radio frequencies and for all e-mail alerts to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) for NAVAREA IV.

The Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) has responsibility for disseminating long term messages to the print media, the charting agency, shipping agencies and to the JDFCG for transmission to the NGA.

The Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ) will monitor and coordinate MSI activities. Both the MAJ and the NLA are to be copied on all messages promulgated to facilitate reporting requirements. In this regard, the NLA is aware of three MSI alerts and an equivalent number of cancellation notices promulgated to the NAVAREA IV in 2015.

- **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 received training in the FIG-IHO-ICA accredited Category A (Cat. A) Master of Science Programme in Hydrography held at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), USA and funded by the Republic of Korea (ROK) between August 2013 and July 2014. He has since received his degree and Cat. A certification and is now Jamaica's Chief Hydrographer.

Jamaica continues to seek opportunities for training in Basic Hydrography and Marine Cartography in order to develop our capacity to meet our national and international charting obligations.

- **Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with hydrographic component. (In progress, planned, under evaluation or study)**

Jamaica has been invited to participate in technical introductory workshop for the project "Strengthening of Hydrographic Capacities in MesoAmerica and the Caribbean (FOCAHIMECA)" in Vera Cruz, Mexico, December 1-4, 2015. We welcome the opportunity and our Chief Hydrographer has been earmarked to participate. We hope that the exposure from this workshop will assist us in improving the organization, composition and function of our hydrographic office.

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 (see **ANNEX B**).

7. OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

- No update on oceanographic activity is available at this time.

8. Other

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 small team of trained hydrographic personnel.

Resource constraints continue to limit our progress towards building the capacity of the hydrographic office and 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

Jamaica's hydrographic office, the NLA, continues to grapple with the issue of resource constraint, while making every effort to satisfy our mandate for the collection of hydrographic data to facilitate safety of navigation in Jamaica's maritime space. Thankfully, we continue to benefit from capacity building support in hydrography, through the generosity of IHO Member States, the MACHC and our bi-lateral partners.

ANNEX A

NATIONAL MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) REPORTING PROCEDURE

1. **INTRODUCTION:** - At the National Hydrographic Committee (NHC) meeting held at the Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ) on Friday June 21, 2013 it was agreed that a National MSI reporting procedure is to be established. This procedure would outline the formal manner that all MSI messages should be promulgated to all relevant Maritime interests both internationally and locally. MSI entails the awareness that an important aid to navigation is dysfunctional or an obstruction/hazard to safe navigation exists and an alerting procedure is activated to inform shipping in general and small craft operators of the situation. There can be two types of alerting which are:
 - 1.1 **Short Term Alerting:** - Navigational warnings that are not expected to remain in force for any extended length of time, e.g. extinguished light, temporary closure of a port, etc.
 - 1.2 **Long Term Alerting:** - Notice to Mariners with an assigned number which involves port operations that will require an extended duration to complete, e.g. Dredging operations, major repairs to port infrastructures, hydrographic surveys being conducted etc.
 - 1.3 **Messages not required for alerting:** - Aids to navigation that do not affect International Shipping, e.g. local Marina/Yacht clubs channel markings, are not required to be sent to the International Agency responsible for alerting International Shipping.

2. **Responsible Government Agencies:** - Two Government Agencies are appointed by the NHC to alert the relevant Maritime interests that a Safety hazard exists. They are: - the Jamaica Defence Force Coast Guard (JDFCG) and the Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ). Additionally, the Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ) and the National Land Agency (NLA) are to be informed by e-mail of all MSI messages issued by the JDFCG & PAJ. The responsibilities of the four Government Agencies follow:
 - 2.1 **JDFCG:** - The JDFCG is the **focal point** on all MSI matters for Jamaica. It is the responsibility of the JDFCG to broadcast all short term Safety Messages on the internationally assigned marine radio frequencies and the alerting by e-mail to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) for NAVAREA IV. All alerts to the NGA are to be channelled through the JDFCG. A dedicated file (Hard & soft copy) is to be maintained by the JDFCG on all MSI messages handled by this Unit.
 - 2.2 **PAJ:** - It is the responsibility of the PAJ's Harbours Department for the dissemination of long term alerting Safety Messages to the print media and informing the JDFCG on this type of MSI alerts by email or any other means available. The JDFCG in turn is responsible to inform the NGA and also the broadcasting by wireless means to Maritime interests. Additionally, the PAJ is responsible for alerting the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO), Taunton on the following:

- a. Long term and permanent Notice to Mariners.
 - b. Establishments of new piers or new ports.
 - c. Chart corrections.
 - d. Hydrographic surveys being conducted.
 - e. Hydrographic surveys completed.
- 2.3 The PAJ is to inform all shipping agents of current long term MSI messages issued and ask them to forward these messages to their ships enroute or departing Jamaica's maritime space.
- 2.4 MAJ: - Copies of all MSI messages are to be e-mailed to the MAJ from both the JDFCG and PAJ. The MAJ shall file all communications and to monitor the progress of current MSI messages until each is issued with a cancellation notice.
- 2.5 NLA: - Copies of all MSI messages that concern hydrographic matters are to be copied to the NLA. The NLA in turn is required to monitor the progress of this type of operation and to inform the NHC of any concerns that may arise. The NLA is also required to report on all MSI activities in its country report to the MACHC.
3. **Cancellation of MSI Alerts**: - It is the responsibility of the agency that issued the alert message to also issue a cancellation message when the situation no longer exists.
- 3.1 At all times the JDFCG is to be informed if they were not the originator of the alert.
 - 3.2 The NGA and any other agency so affected are to be informed of all cancellations by the originator.
 - 3.3 The PAJ is responsible for issuing cancellation messages that were issued to the Media and the shipping agents.
 - 3.4 All cancellation messages are to be sent to the MAJ and duly filed by the JDFCG.
4. **Alert Reporting Formats**:
- 4.1 NGA: - A Model Format is attached at Annex 'A'
 - 4.2 Safety Message Broadcast by Wireless Means: - A Model Format is attached at Annex 'B'
5. **Contact Details**:
- 5.1 **JDFCG**: -
 - 5.2 E-mails: - jdfcgradioroom@yahoo.com jdfcgodo@gmail.com jdfcgopso@gmail.com
 - 5.3 Phone Numbers:
 - 5.4 Operations Duty Officer – 1-876-967-8193
 - 5.5 **PAJ**:
 - 5.6 E-mail: - hdelisser@portjam.com gmendes@portjam.com
 - 5.7 Phone Number:
 - 5.8 Captain H. Dellisser – 1-876-322-1276
 - 5.9 Captain Gimenes Mendes – 1-876-822-7817
 - 5.10 **NLA**:
 - 5.11 E-Mail: - calvin.thompson@nla.gov.jm

5.12 Phone Numbers:

5.13 Mr. Calvin Thompson – Cel. 1-876-295-8912, 1-876-750-4008 or 1-876-946-5263 Fax:- 1-876-967-1010.

5.14 **MAJ:**

5.15 E-Mail: - safety@jamaicaships.com htomlinson@jamaicaships.com

5.16 Phone Numbers:

5.17 Lt. Cdr. (Ret'd.) Henry Tomlinson – Cel: 1-876-379-7169, 1-876-967-1060-5 Fax:- 1-876-922-5765.

5.18 **NGA (USA):**

5.19 E-Mail: - navsafety@nga.mil Phone Number:

5.20 Maritime Safety Office – 1-571-557-8384

5.21 **UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO)**

5.22 E-Mail: - SDR@UKHO.gov.uk

5.23 Phone Number: - +44(0)1823 337 900 Fax:- +44(0)1823 723 380

6. **Cancellation of MSI Messages:**

6.1 Whenever defective Aids to Navigation or Maritime Operations that affected Maritime Traffic no longer pose a threat to shipping and local movements, a cancellation notice shall be communicated to the Maritime public and the NGA (if applicable) by the JDFCG.

6.2 A model Safety Message to this effect is attached at Annex 'C'.

6.3 A model cancellation notification to the NGA is attached at Annex 'D'

6.4 Cancellation of long term alerts that were published in the print media is to be issued by the PAJ and copied to the JDFCG, NLA and MAJ.

ANNEX 'A'

MODEL REPORTING MESSAGE
E-MAIL TO NGA

Date-Time-Group (UTC)

FROM: - (Reporting Agency)

TO: - * **Watchstander**

Text: (General Area affected; Name/Area of MSI; position in Latitude and Longitude; brief description of the situation).

SAMPLE

241557Z/Jun'13

FROM:- Operations Duty Officer -Jamaica Coast Guard

TO: - ***Watchstander**

Jamaica- South Coast/Pedro Banks. Southwest Rock light in position 16° 46.5'N 078° 11.5'W is extinguished

* Denotes Mandatory entry into the message/e-mail

ANNEX 'B'

MODEL RADIO REPORTING SAFETY MESSAGE
TO ALL SHIPPING

SE'CURITE' (Pronounced SAY-CUR-I-TAY)

Date-Time-Group (UTC)

Text:- * **All Shipping**; (General Area affected; Name/Area of MSI; position in Latitude and Longitude; brief description of the situation).

Signature

SAMPLE

SE'CURITE'

TIME - 241557 Coordinating Universal Time/Jun'13

***All shipping** Jamaica- South Coast and Pedro Banks, the Southwest Rock light in position 16° 46.5'N 078° 11.5'W is extinguished. Mariners operating in the vicinity of this light are requested to navigate with caution.

Signed – JAMAICA COAST GUARD

* Denotes Mandatory entry into the message/e-mail

ANNEX 'C'

MODEL RADIO REPORTING
CANCELLATION OF A SAFETY MESSAGE

SE'CURITE' (Pronounced SAY-CUR-I-TAY)

Date-Time-Group (UTC)

Text:- ***All Shipping**; (General Area affected; Name/Area of MSI; position in Latitude and Longitude; brief description of the situation; * **THIS CANCELS SAFETY MESSAGE DATED (DATE-TIME-GROUP (UTC)) OF THE INITIAL ALERTING SAFETY MESSAGE**)

Signature

SAMPLE

SE'CURITE'

***TIME** – 301345 Coordinating Universal Time/Jun'13

***All shipping** Jamaica- South Coast and Pedro Banks the Southwest Rock light in position 16° 46.5'N 078° 11.5'W has been repaired. This cancels Safety Message dated 241557 Coordinating Universal Time/Jun'13.

Signed – JAMAICA COAST GUARD

* Denotes Mandatory entry into the message/e-mail

ANNEX 'D'

MODEL CANCELLATION MESSAGE
E-MAIL TO NGA

Date-Time-Group (UTC)

FROM: - (Reporting Agency)

TO: - * **Watchstander**

Text: (General Area affected; Name/Area of MSI; position in Latitude and Longitude; brief description of the situation). ***E-Mail dated** (Date-Time-Group of initial alerting e-Mail) * **is CANCELLED**.

SAMPLE

301345Z/Jun'13

FROM:- Operations Duty Officer -Jamaica Coast Guard

TO: - *Watchstander

Jamaica- South Coast/Pedro Banks. Southwest Rock light in position 16° 46.5'N 078° 11.5'W has been repaired. E-Mail dated 241557Z/Jun'13 is cancelled.

* Denotes Mandatory entry into the message/e-mail

ANNEX B

C-55_2015 JAMAICA

Field to display: 31 (change this field only)				Comments on Charts:
Country: Jamaica				Much of the paper chart coverage was converted to WGS84 datum in 2004.
Region: B				
Last updated: 16/05/2007				
Provided by:				
Charts	Passage	Coastal	Port	
INT	100	100	100	
RNC	100	100	100	
ENC	100	100	100	
Paper metric	0			Comments on Surveys:
Paper satellite	0			
Surveys	Adequate	Resurvey	No survey	Top priority is modern survey with sidescan sonar of the shoals on the S coast and the banks to eastwards.
0-200m	40	60	0	
> 200m	15	0	85	

MSI	Y/N	Comments:
Local warning		
Coastal warning		
Nav warning		
Port warning		
GMDSS	Y/N	Comments:
Master Plan	YES	
Area A1	YES	
Area A2	N/A	MF transmissions are ineffective in the Caribbean due to climatic conditions and A2 coverage therefore cannot be achieved.
Area A3	NO	
NAVTEX	NO	
SafetyNet	NO	