

Maritime Administration of Latvia
Hydrographic Service
National Report to Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission
2008

Executive summary

1. Hydrographic Office / Service:

Latvian Hydrographic Service is one of the Departments of the Maritime Administration of Latvia (MAL). MAL is under the supervision of Ministry of Transport. To optimise resources and improve operational processes Maritime Administration of Latvia has a status of a State Stock Company.

Latvian Hydrographic Service (LHS) is a civil organisation and consists of three divisions – Hydrographic Surveying, Cartography, Aids to Navigation. Division of Aids to Navigation is responsible for Maritime Safety Information, NtMs, Control of Aids to Navigations in Latvian waters.

There are some changes in the organisation with regard to staff. Ms Diana Pakalne has left the Office. Mr. Mikus Ranka has been appointed as a new Head of Cartographic Division. Mr. Aigars Gailis has taken over the post of Deputy Head of Hydrographic Service.

Separate department under Hydrographic Service had been created – Land surveying department. This is clearly a commercial structure.

2. Surveys:

Coverage of new surveys	2007-340km ² 2008-80km ² (1 st Semester)
New technologies and equipment	DGPS compass: Hemisphere (Crescent V100, Crescent VS110)
New ships	New small survey boat has been received for shallow water surveying, surveying in ports.
Problems encountered	

3. New charts & updates:

ENCs:	Total: 21 cell in navigational purpose bands 2 – 5. ENCs are updated on a monthly basis.
ENC Distribution method:	PRIMAR (BA with Norwegian HS), Transas DataCo Ltd, Jeppesen, Garmin, Tridentnav, Hamilton Global Management Ltd
RNCs:	Not produced
INT charts	8(Eight) of Latvian charts are included in INT Series
National paper charts:	There are 23 currently updated nautical charts for the Latvian waters charts produced in accordance to international standards. The Latvian HO has issued 6 new editions of these charts in the period of 2007 -2008.
Other charts	In 2002 “Set of Charts of Latvia for Yachts” was published and reprinted several times, also in 2008 and. This publication is not being updated.

4. New publications & updates:

New Publications	New chart covering Irbe Straight in Scale 1:50000 is being compiled. It is planned to release new editions of all charts covering Irbe Straight in 01 st March 2009.
Updated publications	Updated List of Lights are planned to be released this year, digital publication only. (Details of distribution, updating, format and user fees still in discussion)
Means of delivery	BA with UKHO, BSH
Problems encountered	

5. MSI

Existing infrastructure for transmission.

National GMDSS VHF network along coastline for local Navigational Warnings. Service is provided by Latvian Navy twice per day on VHF in Latvian and English..
NAVAREA 1 Baltic sea sub area Co-ordinator Sweden is responsible for NAVTEX Service over Latvian waters and messages are transmitted by Swedish and/or Estonian transmitters. NAVTEX information available on the web.
Notices to Mariners are published every month and Shipping Regulations at the beginning of every calendar Year.

New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan

No new construction during the last Year.

Problems encountered

Nothing to report

6. S-55 Latest update (Tables)

7. Capacity Building

LHS is experiencing lack of personnel and adequately training for new employees. Recently LHS received training provided by UKHO in Cartography, but there still need to have either Cat B or basic training for cartographers.
There is also need for training for hydrographers, but it is very difficult to find adequate candidates. Shallow MBES, data processing, survey planning would be necessary.

8. Other activities

Participation in IHO Working Groups

LHS is represented in all the working groups under BSHC. Head of LHS is the Vice-Chair of CBC.

Meteorological data collection – responsibility of different organisation

Geospatial studies – LHS is following IHO activities and also is engaged in National activities introducing INSPIRE