



HCA11-07.4An

UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL REPORT



11TH HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARTICA (HCA) MEETING

HOBART, TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA
5th – 7th October 2011

This report supplements the UK Generic National Report, posted on the UKHO website (www.ukho.gov.uk/AboutUs/Documents/UK-Generic-National-Report-2010.pdf), and describes UK's activities of direct relevance to the HCA region.

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1. UNITED KINGDOM HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE (UKHO)

UK Delivery of Hydrographic Services

1.1 The UK delivery of hydrographic services is described in the UK Generic National Report. However, it is worth highlighting the close liaison which exists between UK's hydrographic office (UKHO) and UK's maritime administration (MCA) in providing a co-ordinated approach to hydrographic and maritime safety representation both nationally and internationally.

UKHO Governance and Targets

1.2 This is described in the UK Generic National Report to the IHO, see (www.ukho.gov.uk/AboutUs/Documents/UK-Generic-National-Report-2010.pdf),

UKHO Organisation



1.3 Details of the UKHO's organization are provided in the UK Generic National Report (section 1) together with general contact details. Specific contact details relevant to the HCA region are included at the end of this report.

Production Systems

1.4 This is described in the UK Generic National Report to IHO.

Cooperation and Partnerships



1.5 The UK is committed to the bilateral arrangements which it has developed in cooperation with other international government hydrographic authorities, covering a range of topics, including the use of copyright data, and also promotes other forms of co-operation between the participants, helping to enhance international maritime safety and protection of the environment.

2. SURVEYS

2.1 Details of the management of civil hydrographic surveys in UK Home Waters are provided in the UK Generic National Report, and on the UKHO website. UK's National Hydrographic Committee (known as the UK Civil Hydrography Annual Seminar (CHAS)) meets on an annual basis and provides the necessary breadth of interests to ensure that all surveying requirements are taken into account when prioritizing the work of the Civil Hydrography Programme (CHP). CHAS was expanded in 2007 to include a much wider range of organisations which conduct hydrographic survey, and has been considerable successful in promoting co-operation between these organisations.

2.2 The Royal Navy has commissioned HMS PROTECTOR as the replacement for HMS ENDURANCE for the next 3 years. HMS PROTECTOR was built in 2001 as an Arctic research ship but has undergone a refit for its new role, including relocation of the flight-deck structure and installation of a state-of-the-art multibeam echo sounder survey system. The ship, formerly under the Norwegian flag as MV POLARBJØRN, was officially named HMS PROTECTOR on 1 June 2011. Following further improvements, she is due to commence her inaugural deployment to Antarctica in late 2011 – the austral summer, and the 100th anniversary of Capt Scott's fateful attempt to reach the South Pole.

The name Protector has a historic connection with Britain's Antarctic commitment as it was the name of the ship which preceded the first HMS ENDURANCE. HMS PROTECTOR will carry out all the functions of an Antarctic patrol ship involving close links with the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK FCO), the UKHO and the British Antarctic Survey (BAS).

The new HMS PROTECTOR was built as a commercial icebreaker and polar research ship. She was originally based in Bergen, but has recently been operating in the Caribbean as an oil platform support ship. Displacing 4,985 tons, she can act as a polar research ship or subsea support vessel, and has 100 berths. She is around 1,000 tons smaller than HMS ENDURANCE but, unlike HMS SCOTT (the Royal Navy's principle temperate-region survey ship, which was on temporary secondment to the Antarctic region), she has a flight deck, her hull is reinforced for ice breaking, and she has a heavy-duty crane for transferring ice-vehicles ashore.



2.2.1 HMS PROTECTOR



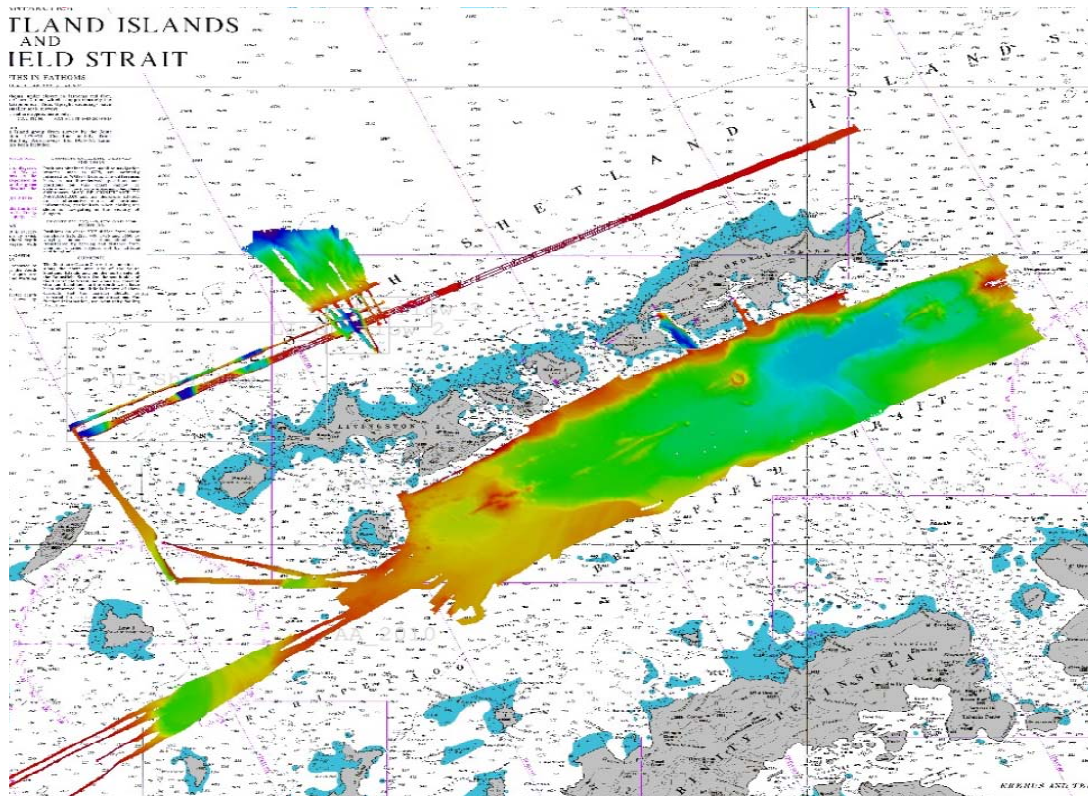
2.2.2 HMS PROTECTOR

HMS PROTECTOR has also embarked a new-build survey motor boat, JAMES CAIRD IV. This will be used for in-shore work, for landing land-based survey parties, and other bathymetry data-gathering independent of HMS PROTECTOR.

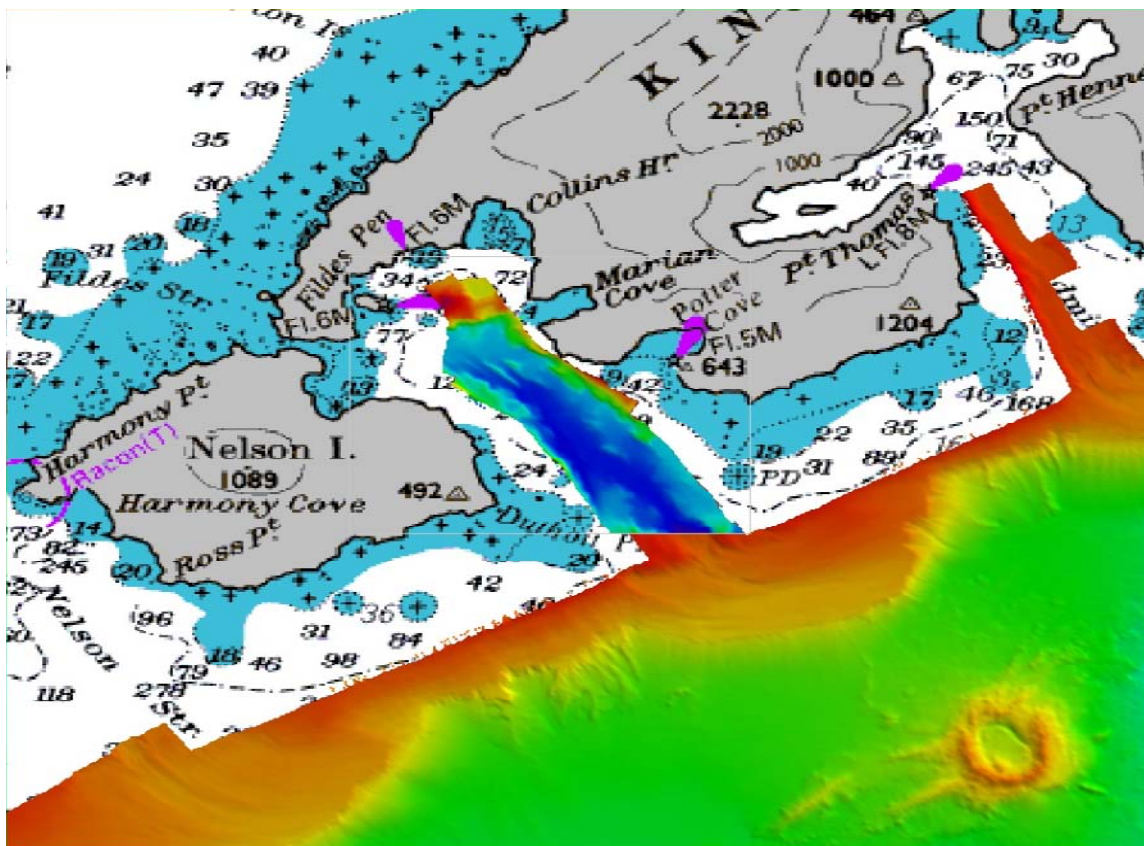


2.2.3 Survey Motor Boat, JAMES CAIRD IV

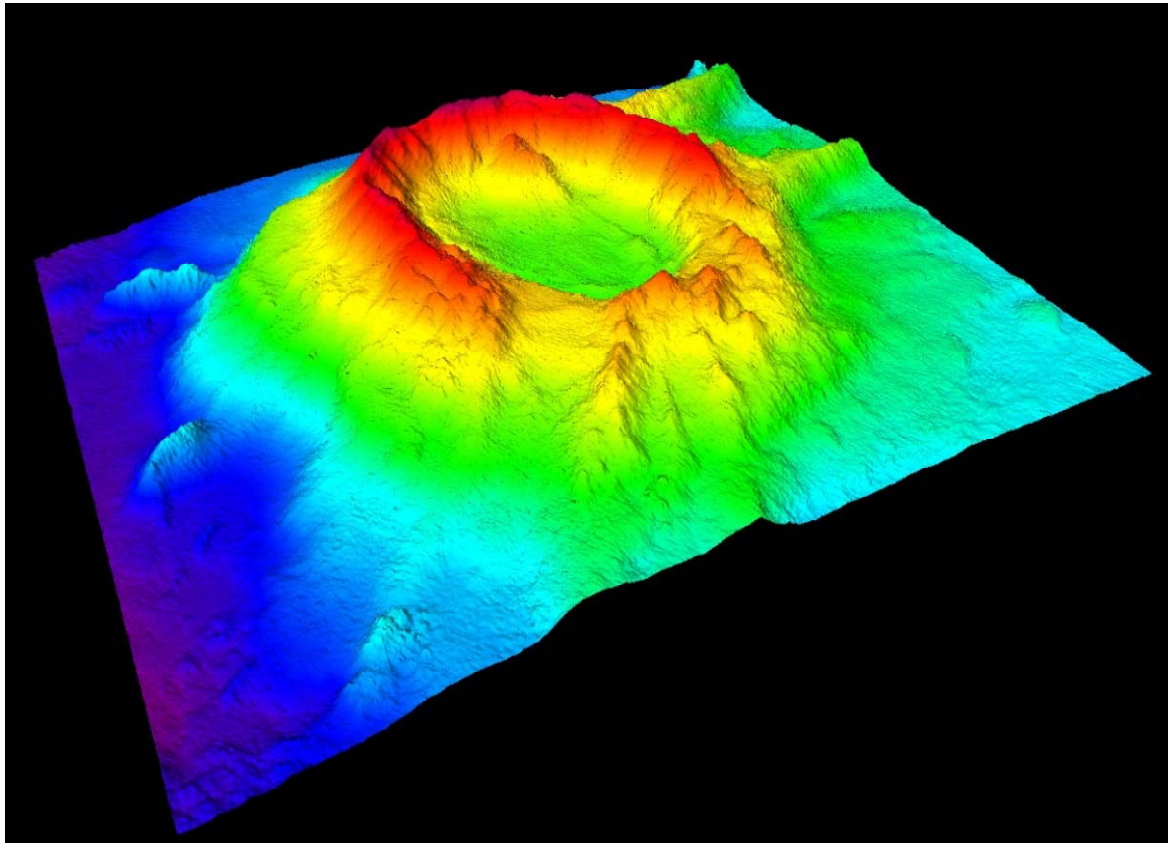
2.3 HMS SCOTT carried out a number of Hydrographic surveys during 2010/11, in support of the UK's commitment to bathymetric data-gathering in Antarctica. In particular, surveys to the southern side of Shetland Islands, MSR 17, have now been completed. The composite images below illustrate the survey areas:



2.3.1 Indication of HMS SCOTT survey programme 2010/11



2.3.2. Detail of HMS SCOTT surveys South of South Shetland Islands

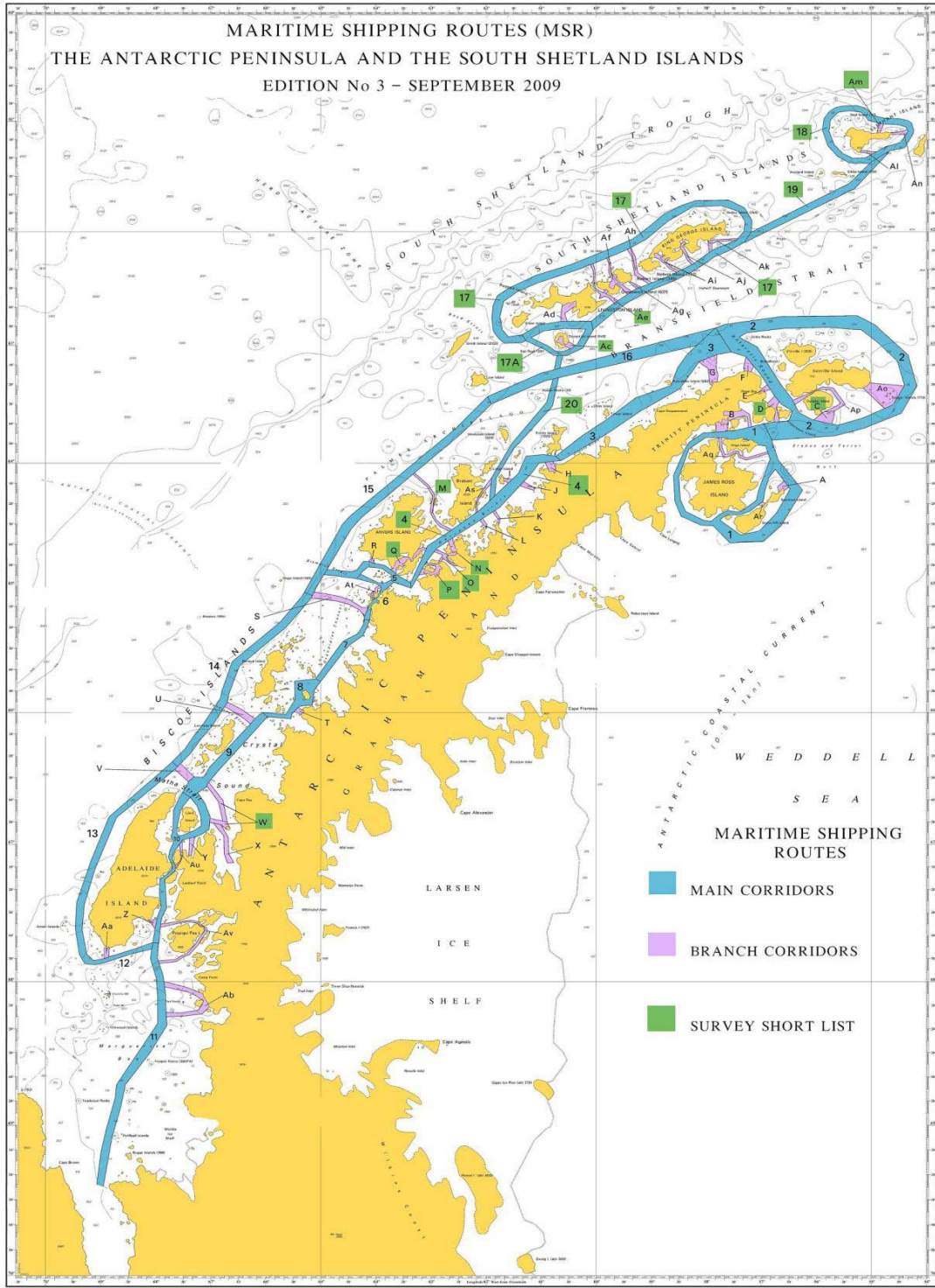


2.3.3 Detail of HMS SCOTT surveys south of South Shetland Islands

The surveying by HMS SCOTT and HMS PROTECTOR forms an integral part of the HCA's Survey Prioritisation Working Group (HSPWG) co-ordinated data-gathering programmes.

The HSPWG has a remit to create and maintain a prioritised marine survey plan for the Antarctic region, to support safety of life and the protection of the environment. A series of priority Maritime Shipping Routes (MSR's) have been identified, together with a ranking of the current status of bathymetric data for each route. The resulting plan has reduced duplication of data gathering by HCA member nations, and aided the on-going production of a series of INT charts.

The Maritime Shipping Routes are illustrated below.



3. CHARTS

3.1 UK's Generic National Report provides information on UK's portfolio of chart products and services. The following paragraphs provide information specifically relevant to the HCA region.

Paper Charts



3.2 GB chart 226 NC [INT 9120], Deception Island, was published on 31/03/2011

3.3 The following charts are in the work programme for preparation during the next twelve months:

- GB 2974 NC [INT9163], Adelaide Island to Neny Fjord
- GB 225 NE [INT 9154], Joinville Island to Cape Ducorps and Church Point
- GB 227 NE [INT 9153], Church Point to Cape Longing, including James Ross Island

Digital Charts



3.5 As noted in section 3.1, UK's Generic National Report provides information on UK's portfolio of chart products and services. The following paragraphs provide information specifically relevant to the HCA region.

ENCs

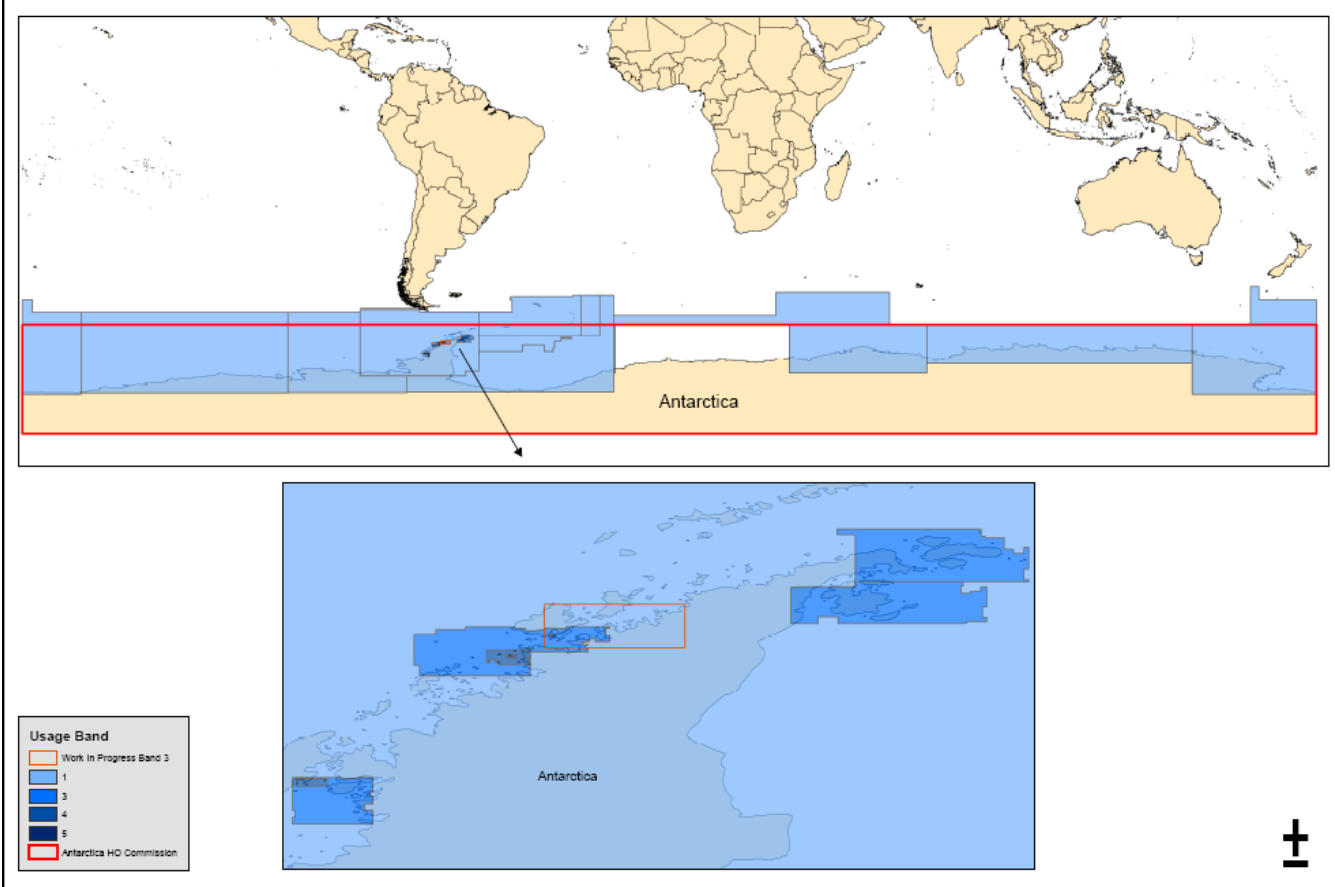
3.6 Within the HCA Region, UK has so far published 18 ENC cells, of which 10 are band 1 cells. The diagrams overleaf show their coverage.

New ENC cells are expected to be released in conjunction with the forthcoming INT charts noted in 3.3 above.

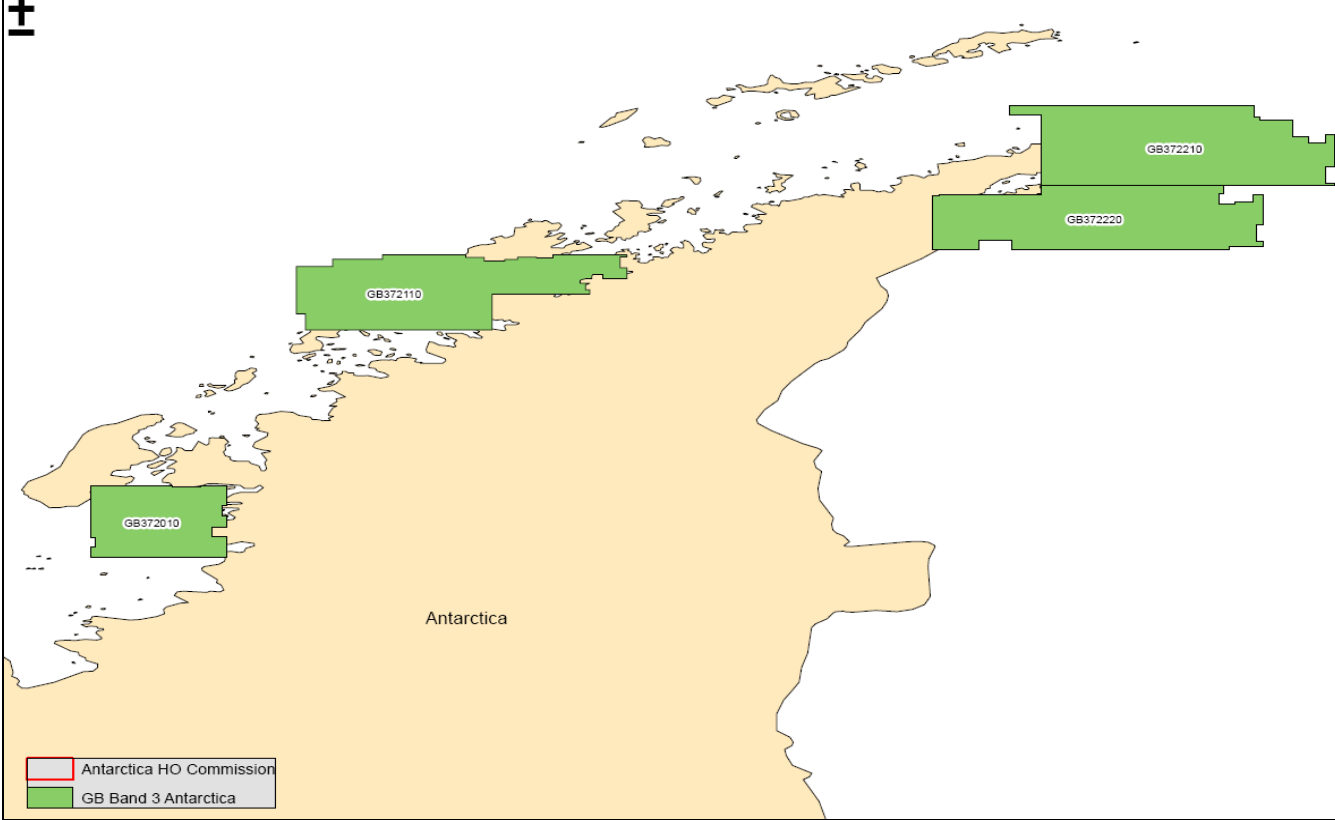
ENC Distribution

3.7 The UKHO, along with other European hydrographic offices, was a founder member of the IC-ENC RENC. IC-ENC (International Centre for ENCs) concentrates its efforts on the validation and consistency of ENC data and leaves the marketing of ENCs to the shipping industry to its value-added resellers and chart agents. Additional details can be found on the IC-ENC website (www.ic-enc.org).

GB ENC Cells in Antarctica - WK33 - 2011



GB Band 3 ENC Cells in Antarctica - WK33 - 2011



4. PUBLICATIONS

4.1 Paper Publications



The current status of Admiralty Sailing Directions in the HCA region is as follows:

The present edition of NP 9, Antarctic Pilot, was published in 2009 [corrected to Wk.35/09]. The next New Edition of this publication is due to be released in July 2014.

4.2 Digital Publications



The UKHO continues to develop digital equivalents to its existing paper publications; these have advantages to the mariner of providing additional functionality and minimising the task of updating.

4.3 The Admiralty digital catalogue may be downloaded free from the UKHO website (www.ukho.gov.uk); it includes details of all paper and digital charts and publications and is updated weekly. It is a useful tool to check on the ENC coverage within the region and to show the latest edition dates of both charts and publications.

5. MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION



5.1 The UK's principal responsibility within the HCA region is for its British Antarctic Territory.

5.2 The HCA region lies within NAVAREAs VI, VII, X, XIV and XV, co-ordinated by Argentina, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Chile respectively. The UKHO maintains close liaison with all coordinators in the region and any information, received at UKHO, which requires urgent promulgation, is passed to the appropriate NAVAREA co-ordinator.

6. C-55 (previously known as S-55) LATEST UPDATE

6.1 As described in the UK Generic National Report, the UKHO is committed to providing regular updates to the C-55 entries for UK Home Waters and its Overseas Territories, including British Antarctic Territory within the HCA area. For the latest update see C-55; we have incorporated the additional breakdown of chart coverage (percentage of metric and WGS84 charts) as requested in IHO Circular Letter 102/2008.

6.2 UK has also provided assistance to update C-55 entries to other countries, where the UKHO retains the primary charting responsibility, recognizing that local input remains critical to the maintenance of C-55 as an up-to-date and authoritative reference document.

7. CAPACITY BUILDING

7.1 As described in the UK Generic National Report, the UK is committed to fully supporting the IHO CBSC strategy. In particular UK continues to progress getting Phase 1 and appropriate Phase 2 capacity in place, to enable coastal states to meet their obligations under SOLAS Chapter V Regulations 4 and 9. UK will continue to contribute resources to both CBSC initiatives and to providing bilateral assistance. Further information on UKHO capacity building initiatives can be obtained from Mr. Jeff Bryant, UKHO Capacity Building Manager.

7.2 No new capacity building initiatives relating to the HCA region have been undertaken since the last HCA.

7.3 Cartographic Training provided by UKHO



A general description of training provided by UKHO is included in the UK Generic National Report. Further details of the training opportunities offered by the UKHO can be found on the UKHO website.

7.4 ENC Training and Assistance



The UKHO strongly supports the successful uptake of ECDIS using ENC, and is happy to assist other nations to produce, maintain and distribute ENCs. Details of courses, sponsorship, venues and options for bespoke training provided by the UKHO are included in the UK Generic National Report.

7.5 Survey Training at Flag Officer Sea Training - Hydrography, Meteorology and Oceanography (FOST-HM)

Nationally and internationally certified courses delivered by FOST-HM in Plymouth, are described in the UK Generic National Report.

8. OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

This is described in the UK Generic National Report.

9. OTHER ACTIVITIES

UK Celebrations for World Hydrography Day

The IHO theme for the 2011 World Hydrography day was "Human resources – The important element to the success of Hydrography".

The UKHO celebrated World Hydrography Day 2011 at a reception held on board HMS PRESIDENT in London on June 22, hosted by Mr Mike Robinson (Chief Executive, UKHO) and Rear Admiral Nick Lambert (National Hydrographer, UKHO).



The annual presentation of the Alexander Dalrymple award was made at the reception and this year presented to US National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Hydrographer, Rear Admiral Chris Andreasen, for his outstanding contribution to Hydrography. The award is a symbol of recognition for outstanding dedication and contribution to world hydrography and as such is an extremely prestigious award in this sector. It takes its name from Alexander Dalrymple who established the Hydrographic Office in 1795 and is regarded as a leading figure in the history of the development of hydrography.

Building on the theme of this year's World Hydrography Day Celebrations, and in order to recognise the importance and significance of the contribution of Hydrographic Staff to the success and recognition of Hydrography, the UKHO hosted a celebration in recognition of its staffs' contribution to the success of World Hydrography on Friday, September 16.

10. CONCLUSION

The UKHO continues its commitment to carrying forward hydrographic activities through the work of the IHO's Regional Hydrographic Commissions, and notes that each commission has its own particular opportunities and challenges.

UK commitment to the Antarctic and the HCA has been reinforced through the recent commissioning of HMS PROTECTOR. This vessel will continue to carry out all the functions of an Antarctic patrol ship, involving close links with the UK FCO, the UKHO and the BAS. The present challenges facing HCA are those of co-ordinating both the diverse data gathering being undertaken by different nations, and the provision of adequate chart coverage for the region. The provision of adequate ENC coverage, in support of the IMO carriage requirement for ECDIS that comes progressively into force from 2012, presents a significant challenge in the HCA region as well as others.

Taunton, September 2011

UKHO POINTS OF CONTACT

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