

IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA (HCA)

12th Meeting, Montevideo, Uruguay (10 – 12 October 2012)

National Report – Germany –

Surveys:

During the austral season 2011/12 two cruises of the German RV “POLARSTERN” led into the Southern Ocean. Only single beam sonar data along with ship positions were collected during the expeditions. Data is available via <http://www.awi.de/or>
<http://www.pangaea.de>

In 2013, during the expedition ANT-XXIX/3, 2013-01-20 to 03-19, Polarstern will visit the Weddell Sea and will collect Multibeamdata, which can be utilized to further improve nautical charting in the area of INT 905.

Update on INT 905:

One of Germany’s areas of responsibility for preparing INT charts in Antarctica is the central part of the Weddell Sea. INT chart 905 is defined as purpose 1 – overview:

- INT 905 “South Sandwich Islands”
- National chart number: 1700
- 59°10’ S – 71°00’ S, 59°00’ W – 11°00’W
- 1:2,000,000 at reference latitude of 66° S, Geodetic Datum: WGS 84

The paper chart and the corresponding ENC are produced in a joint project by the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) as national HO, and the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (AWI), which holds much of the bathymetric data for this region. Since 1983 the RV “POLARSTERN” is visiting the Weddell Sea frequently and an extensive dataset of swath bathymetry was recorded since.

Furthermore a scientific bathymetric chart of the Weddell Sea was produced at AWI (AWI-BCWS). Experiences of its processing and data validation will be incorporated in the INT 905 chart.

Data evaluation and processing was carried out at AWI following S-44 standards. The development of the data base, the cartographic editing of the paper chart and ENC were completed at AWI and the BSH until 2012. Due to internal re-organization and staffing shortage at BSH, the validation of the ENC and the printed version could not be finalized in 2012. The target completion date is now scheduled for 2013.