



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

### **National Report (November 2010) - JAMAICA**

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#### **1. HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE:**

- **Reorganization**

NO CHANGE SINCE THE LAST REPORT

Jamaica is a member State of the IHO and the Meso-America and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission (MACHC). A National Hydrographic Committee (NHC) constituted of membership from key maritime interest groups and stakeholders including the Hydrographic office (NLA), Jamaica Defence Force Coast Guard (JDFCG), Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ), Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ), Caribbean Maritime Institute (CMI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFA&FT), The University of Technology (UTech) and the Centre for Marine Sciences at the University of the West Indies was established in 2006 as a committee of the National Council on Ocean and Coastal Zone Management. This council is an advisory body to the Cabinet and is chaired by the Minister of State in the MFA&FT.

Terms of reference for the National Hydrographic Commission (NHC) were developed based on the framework provided by the IHB.

The National Land Agency of Jamaica (NLA) has responsibility for hydrographic surveying. The NLA was recently re-assigned to the Office of the Prime minister, from the Ministry of Agriculture, under Government's restructuring arrangements. There has been no significant impact on the operations of the NLA or the Hydrographic Unit as a result of this reorganization.

## 2. SURVEYS:

- **Coverage of new surveys.**

Since our last report to the MACHC, the following activities occurred:

- a. Post dredge survey of the Falmouth Harbour Port Development have been completed and the data will be forwarded to the UK HO for the updating of the relevant charts.
- b. Other small surveys included ongoing monitoring of the Gypsum Pier in Kingston Harbour subsequent to weather events that had impacted that area and berths 9 and 10 of the Kingston Container Terminal had dredge related small surveys completed.
- c. A submarine cable route survey was carried out on behalf of Telecommunications Company from the Ocho Rios coastline on the north coast to the Cuba/Jamaica maritime boundaries. A copy of the data obtained was submitted to the UKHO and it is expected that it might be useful for future chart updating.

- **New technologies and /or equipment – NOTHING TO REPORT**

## 3. CHARTS AND PUBLICATIONS:

### a. Charts

Charts for Jamaica are produced by the UKHO. The Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) and the National Land Agency (Hydrographic Division) provide new data as it becomes available for chart updating. The UKHO can speak more authoritatively to the production of ENCs for Jamaica as well as on RNCs and other charts

US charting agencies continue to 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 are routinely dispatched to the UKHO.

## 4. MSI

- **Existing infrastructure for transmission**

The Jamaica Defence Force Coast Guard (JDFCG) broadcasts marine weather information and navigational safety warnings five times daily on both marine VHF and HF. This is done from their 24X7 operational centre in Kingston. Over the 12 months period preceding this report, the JDFCG promulgated thirty-seven (37) Safety CQ broadcasts relating to various extinguished buoy lights, activation of new lights or other matters of interest to navigation.

Notices to Mariners are generated by the Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) and promulgated locally and internationally in keeping with our obligations under SOLAS V, regulation 9. MSI notices are conveyed to the JDFCG for immediate broadcast in the interest of safety of ships and small crafts. In addition these notices are also communicated directly to yacht clubs, Fisheries Department agents and other known interest groups to ensure the widest possible distribution.

The timely passage of relevant information to both the JDFCG and the PAJ can be improved and the NHC will address this deficiency. Arrangements to expand transmission to include standard WWNWS methods are being pursued with JDFCG as the lead entity.

- **New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan.**

- a. The JDF CG does not have a capability to monitor DSC transmissions as well as to transmit NAVTEX and SAFETY messages. All MSI messages are done by voice on the related VHF and HF circuits with prior announcements made on Ch. 16 and 2182 KHz. It would be ideal for the Coast Guard to have at least a system to cover Sea Area A1.
- b. An Automatic Information System (AIS) was installed for Kingston Harbour and its approaches. This system is linked to the United States Maritime Security and Safety Information System (MSSIS) which provide unclassified maritime related information to participating members.

## 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**

Jamaica continues to benefit from the training of personnel in hydrography through various bi-lateral cooperative arrangements as well as through the IHO and MACHC.

IHO/MAJ hosted a Basic ENC & ENC PRODUCTION COURSE AT Caribbean Maritime Institute (CMI) in Jamaica IN September 2010. It was attended by participants from the Caribbean and Central America. The course was presented by two instructors from the UKHO.

One participant from the NLA attended a course in Ocean Observation and Hydrographic Surveying, courtesy of the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the national Oceanographic Research Institute (NORI) of South Korea, in South Korea in SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 2010

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

Dredging works and post dredge surveys have been completed in Falmouth Harbour (north coast of Jamaica) in relation to the development of a new cruise ship pier facility. The development of Cruise ship pier facilities continue.

## 6. S-55 LATEST UPDATE

The UKHO provides the information for the updating of the S-55 database. This data is current.

## 7. OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

- General
- GEBCO/IBC's activities - Nil

Tide gauge at the JDFCG base at Port Royal in Kingston is fully operational.

- New equipment- Nil

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

The most significant activity has been the ongoing development of the Falmouth Harbour Cruise Ship Facility which will soon be completed.

All hydrographic data relevant to this development will be provided to the UKHO for future chart updating to include ENC. This will be submitted after all aids to navigation are in place for this port.

The coordination of activities relating to hydrographic work and MSI in Jamaica are now being facilitated much better with the oversight by the NHC which conducts regular meetings with the key stakeholders in Jamaica.

The hydrographic office, the NLA, continues to play its part in providing hydrographic data to facilitate safety of navigation in Jamaica's territorial waters, within the resources available. The pressing need for a dedicated craft will be articulated by the NHC to the Government so that critical close-shore work can be carried out in accordance with the prioritized programme of surveys.

Jamaica's capability to disseminate MSI is better coordinated and focused through the JDFCG with oversight provided by the NHC. Concerted efforts will also be made to identify funding to implement the obligations for GMDSS within Area 1.